

Draft Minutes of the Advocacy Working Group (AWG) Meeting

May 31, 2016 – 10:00 – 11:30 am – WebEx video and audio conference

Attendees

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| 1. Adam Taylor (and Rachel) | World Bank Group |
| 2. Asavari Herwadkar | Ojus Medical Institute |
| 3. Azza Karam | UNFPA – IATF-FBO |
| 4. Fred Nyabera | Arigatou International End Child Poverty |
| 5. Genie Kagawa | NGO Committee on Spirituality |
| 6. Grove Harris | Temple of Understanding |
| 7. Husna Parvin Ahmad | Global One 2015 |
| 8. Imrana Umar | International Interfaith Peace Corps |
| 9. Joe Donnelly | Caritas International |
| 10. Rebecca Rios | Arigatou International |
| 11. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria | World Council of Churches (moderator) |
| 12. Ruth Messinger | American Jewish World Service |

Apologies

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| 1. Liberato Bautista | United Methodist Church -GBCS |
| 2. Lynnaia Main | The Episcopal Church – Global Relations Mission |
| 3. Sadhvi Bhagawati | Global Interfaith WASH Alliance |

No response to the call

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| 1. Andrew Hassett | World Vision International |
| 2. Cheryl Morrissey | Pax Christi International |
| 3. Francisco Alvarez | Catholic Church of Ecuador |
| 4. Gabriel Salguero | National Latino Evangelical Coalition |
| 5. Garret Grigsby | Christian Connections for International Health |
| 6. Mohamed Ashmawey | Islamic Relief Worldwide |

AGENDA

1. Update on Steering Committee Meetings and World Humanitarian Summit
2. Update on the “moral arguments” to the SDGs
3. Update on Human Rights and the Moral Imperative
4. MI event (retreat) in September 2016 (UNGA)
5. AOB (Any Other Business) – Guide to SDG Implementation (Adam)

UPDATE ON STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

AWG Moderator Rudelmar (WCC) reported that there have been two MI Steering Committee Meetings – on April 22nd and May 4th. The first meeting on April 22nd had updates on the three Working Groups (Advocacy, Collaboration and Evidence) and opportunity to open various topics of discussion. It was presented a draft document for country engagement criteria. Members of

the Steering Committee made suggestions to improve document, including choosing one country per region as the way to move forward. The second meeting on May 4th presented updates on the working groups and the Humanitarian Summit, and on the plans for an event commemorating one year after the MI Framework of Action Meeting in September 2015. Discussion was carried out concerning the need for short and long-term goals for moral engagement. Discussion ensued on possible events in September during the UNGA to bring together the signatories of the MI. Two different approaches regarding the event emerged – an internal meeting or a public meeting involving other stakeholders.

Country engagement was discussed, but no decisions were made concerning which countries would be chosen. Steering Committee members will send an update on that. There is a Steering Committee Meeting tomorrow, and they may come up with a draft for discussion.

UPDATE ON WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Upon request by Rudelmar (Moderator, WCC), Azza (UNFPA) introduced specific issues, outcomes and follow ups after the World Humanitarian Summit, recently held in Istanbul, Turkey. An Outcome Document put together by the administrative group in January was passed by consensus by the gathering of 160 FBO participants. It was a historic document. All the FBOs made the call, and expressed an international commitment to the Outcome Document. 250 FBO participants came, standing room only, with various distinguished representatives, such as, the Orthodox Pope, Cardinal Tagle from Philippines, political representatives from Germany, U.S. State Dept., Malta and FBOs from Kenya, Sri Lanka, Egypt and Liberia. The speakers were remarkable. It was disappointing that the Chairman's summary of the World Humanitarian Summit did not see fit to include the FBOs and the Committee in that summary. Azza raised the issue to the organizers who replied that they are still working on it. In any case, we should make sure that the documents are disseminated widely. During the UNGA, we need to assure that the FBO agreement is more publically well-known.

Rudelmar (WCC) added that the meeting was a good opportunity for networking and to connect with other organizations. He requested Azza to make the Outcome Document available for the members of the AWG. FBOs are uniquely positioned to give spiritual assistance. Joe Donnelly affirmed Azza's remarks that it was a magnificent meeting with great enthusiasm and spirit. His only regret was not enough time for dialogue after the presentations but, it garnered an appetite for people to talk to one another.

UPDATES OF MORAL ARGUMENTS TO THE SDGs

Rudelmar (WCC) contacted people about getting funding for facilitators to work on the moral arguments, but it has not yet materialized. He pointed out the template from Global One prepared by Husna. He emphasized that there are also other proposal for a different approach: starting with negations instead of affirmations. Rudelmar shared the template of Global One which is available already. We must work together with people of different faiths and discuss how to move that foundation. Rudelmar requested our observations and comments on how to move forward.

Grove Harris (TU) introduced a new proposal asking for volunteers to put up a webpage with some of the dates and documents that have been introduced so far to our working group. She is excited to see the Islamic perspective; however she thinks that the interfaith perspective is also good. She is appreciative if someone wants to work with her on that. She has a webpage and a tech person available for the job. This would involve tracking and on-going work. Presently, she only has the May 16th document. Rudelmar offered to make sure that Grove has additional documents. The NGO Committee on Spirituality could input different faith perspectives on the SDGs. We could use that document. We could discuss the topic in different contexts.

UPDATE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND MORAL IMPERATIVE

Rudelmar (WCC) introduced the background of the discussion on how the MI agenda could include discussion on human rights. Ruth Messinger sought clarification from the working group if there were advocacy positions that AWG wants to take to advocate to the World Bank, in order to augment the capability of the World Bank to deal with certain issues (for example, land rights in relationship to the curtailment and not expansion of extreme poverty). There had been previous meetings with the World Bank; however, Ruth expressed the desire for more verification of follow up. Azza suggested referring to the Mining Committee to see if any work had been done. Grove mentioned about a document prepared by the Mining Working Group, which is primarily faith based groups, which could be useful in designing our further advocacy trajectory. It was written by a lawyer working for the Franciscans, so the language has technical strengths (<https://miningwg.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/advocacy-brief.pdf>).

Adam suggested that our AWG must either be tied to the Social Environment Safeguards (a body that studies these issues), or specific projects. Specifically, our working group should follow up and have good interaction with specialists on land issues at the World Bank or get into specific examples where a project can be strengthened and improved.

Rudelmar (WCC) asked if Ruth could to put together a concept note on the land rights issue to send around to the working group for discussion. The concept note would summarize the following two inquiries: whether the AWG is open to further explanation on land rights around the world; and, what position our AWG would agree to endorse in talking to the Mining Committee or the Social and Environment Safeguards negotiators.

Azza sent around a link showing the linkage between land rights and the SDGs (<http://blog.chemonics.com/know-your-sdgs:-land-matters-for-sustainable-development>). By the 7th of June, Ruth will send around the draft concept paper with attached Minutes. Rudelmar will request another meeting two weeks from today.

MI EVENT (RETREAT) IN SEPTEMBER 2016 (UNGA)

The Steering Committee is proposing to bring together a large group of endorsers of the MI around the time of the UNGA in order to strengthen the commitment. The recommended topic

of the program is the role of FBOs in the Migrant Crisis. Rudelmar reported that there will be a Steering Committee Meeting the next day to discuss about this future program.

AOB (Any Other Business)

Rachel (WBG) reported that there is another project the World Bank is working on regarding the creation of a resource guide for FBOs concerning the implementation of the SDGs. They recognize that there is lack of understanding and a lot of confusion concerning the implementation of the SDGs among the FBOs. They would like this guide to be endorsed by the AWG. Umar give important inputs concerning the need to involve religious leaders of the informal sector in these discussions, not solely religions leaders of the top echelon. There is a need to make this guide relevant to the grassroots, thus making it more effective.

Notes by Genie Kagawa