



# 2014 PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM

18–19 June 2014  
Palais des Nations – Geneva

In collaboration with:



## *A Better World Economic Order for Equality and Sustainable Development Post-2015*

### BREATOUT SESSIONS CONCEPT NOTES

Wednesday, 18 June

1.00 – 2.30 p.m.

Room XVI

#### **HARNESSING TAX POLICIES FOR GREATER EQUALITY: EXAMINING RECENT PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHT STANDARDS?**

Led by RightingFinance, Action Aid

To offer a space for CSO, governments and intergovernmental organizations to discuss findings and recommendations emerging from two recently-released reports by the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty on the meaning of certain human rights obligations for the design and implementation of tax policy and its impacts on gender equality and women's rights.

1.00 – 2.30 p.m.

Room XXVI

#### **NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNCTAD IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA - TOWARDS OPTIMAL ALLOCATION OF THE WORLD'S RESOURCE FOR MAXIMUM GLOBAL WELFARE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Led by The Geneva Consensus Foundation

The current model of globalization is clearly yielding uneven results for the sustainable development of nations. The last decades saw a search for more effective and efficient global governance to tackle the challenges of globalization in a hierarchically divided world and to pursue the multifaceted goals of sustainable development, both at the national and global level. The quest for a new paradigm ensuring responsible intergenerational choices for the long term becomes morally imperative. The need for bridging the gap between science and policy and some mechanism of transparent decision-making based on empirical evidence is more obvious than ever.

The outcome will be a "Communiqué" summarizing the discussions. Recognizing that the national decision-making systems are heavily influenced by interconnected global environment revitalizing the United Nations and building a new effective system of global governance to support equitable sustainable development is an urgent need. An increased role must be played by the United Nations, the only supranational institution with a broad political legitimacy.

Key points:

1. Globalization as a factor of peace
2. A need for diagnostics for a globalized world: policy effectiveness, efficiency and equity
3. UN reform and the new role of UNCTAD in Post-2015 agenda

Thursday, 19 June

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Room XI

### **ALTERNATIVE TRADE AND FINANCE FOR A SOLIDARITY ECONOMY**

Led by the United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES)

This session will examine an emerging development model - based on myriad initiatives around the world - which is increasingly referred to as the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). Transcending conventional debates about the roles of the public and private sectors, the SSE movement (including cooperatives, community-based initiatives, agro-ecological projects, community development banks, the fair trade movement) contributes to economic activities that create decent jobs, while seeking to meet social and environmental objectives. They typically involve democratic economic management at the enterprise and community level, and (given that profit is not the primary motive) reinvestments in jobs and community projects. However, these new development actors need to be empowered with the appropriate legislative, institutional and financial support measures that will enable them to flourish and reach full potential. This session will examine concrete examples of SSE initiatives and public support measures and policies, notably in Latin America and Africa. It will also explore whether the principles that underpin the solidarity economy should also apply to transnational and macroeconomic issues pertaining to trade and finance. For example, can emerging regional financial arrangements contribute to a solidarity economy? Should fair trade and solidarity economy be integrated in a country's trade and export strategy? The session will enable Symposium participants to learn more about the potential of SSE to transform economic relations for equality and sustainable development, and more broadly, generate a better understanding of how the UN system, including UNCTAD, can support this emerging development movement.

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Room XVI

### **CIVIL SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES: HOW CIVIL SOCIETY CAN ENGAGE WITH CAPITAL MARKET STAKEHOLDERS TO PROMOTE CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Led by the Division on Investment and Enterprise, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

This session will provide civil society, academia and other participants an opportunity to look inside the workings of capital markets and learn how one can engage with companies, investors, regulators and exchanges to promote corporate responsibility and sustainable development. This session will take the form of an in-depth and interactive dialogue with one of the world's leading experts on responsible investment. The session will outline the key features of capital markets and demystify the jargon and complex financial mechanisms, giving participants guidance on how they can better engage. Participants are encouraged to raise questions about how their NGO can best engage, and how work on their particular issue area might be strengthened by working with financial markets.

2.00 – 3.30 p.m.

Room XXVI

### **THREATS TO THE POST-2015 AGENDA FROM "TRADE"**

Led by Our World Is Not For Sale Network (OWINS)

While governments and civil society have been discussing the Post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), other governments and corporations have been engaging in negotiations that would seriously circumscribe the same policy space that would be necessary to implement such goals, through so-called "trade" agreements. These agreements, including the proposed Trade in Services Agreement, the Doha Round of WTO Expansion, the Trade Facilitation Agreement within the WTO, and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) involve conforming domestic policy space in public and private services regulation and ownership, health care policy, shipping and customs procedures, and industrial and agricultural development policy to "trade" policies generally set to benefit the transnational corporations of developed countries. How can governments, academics, and civil society, together with UNCTAD, ensure that "trade" agreements can facilitate, rather than hinder, the achievement of the post-2015 agenda and SDGs?

The aim of the session is to increase the policy coherence among negotiators engaged in various trade agreements and the post-2015 agenda.