

Minutes of the Advocacy Working Group (AWG) meeting

April 15, 2016 – 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. – WebEx video and audio conference

Attendees

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| 1. Asavari Herwadkar | Ojus Medical Institute |
| 2. Fred Nyabera | Arigatou International End Child Poverty |
| 3. Grove Harris | Temple of Understanding |
| 4. Husna Parvin Ahmad | Global One 2015 |
| 5. Imrana Umar | International Interfaith Peace Corps |
| 6. Joe Donnelly | Caritas Internationalis |
| 7. Liberato Bautista | United Methodist Church -GBCS |
| 8. Rebecca Rios | Arigatou International |
| 9. Rudelmar Bueno de Faria | World Council of Churches (moderator) |
| 10. Ruth Messinger | American Jewish World Service |
| 11. Sadhvi Bhagawati | Global Interfaith WASH Alliance |

Apologies

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| 1. Andrew Hassett | World Vision International |
| 2. Azza Karam | UNFPA – IATF-FBO |
| 3. Garret Grigsby | Christian Connections for International Health |
| 4. Genie Kagawa | NGO Committee on Spirituality |
| 5. Lynnaia Main | The Episcopal Church – Global Relations Mission |
| 6. Mohamed Ashmawey | Islamic Relief Worldwide |

No response to the call

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| 1. Cheryl Morrissey | Pax Christi International |
| 2. Francisco Alvarez | Catholic Church of Ecuador |
| 3. Gabriel Salguero | National Latino Evangelical Coalition |
| 4. Adam Taylor | World Bank |

Agenda

- a) Introduction of new members
- b) Update on Steering Committee Meeting
- c) Template for working on "moral arguments" to the SDGs
- d) Possible project to develop an Advocacy Toolkit
- e) AOB (Any Other Business)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

AWG Moderator Rudelmar (WCC) introduced the new member, Asavari Herwadkar from the Ojus Medical Institute, an Indian trust organization formed in the year 2002, with the purpose of providing sustainable solutions for women empowerment, health care, HIV education and

support, Children health and education, community and infrastructure development and advocacy for sustainable development.

UPDATE ON THE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Considering that the meeting of the Steering Committee meeting was postponed, there was no information to share with the members of the AWG. An update will be provided on the next monthly meeting.

TEMPLATE FOR THE MORAL ARGUMENTS

Rudelmar introduced the template by saying that it is intended to illustrate the religious anchorage of selected Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the range of moral arguments to motivate religious leaders and faith-based organizations (FBOs) to engage in the 2030 development Agenda at national level. He raised questions on the best way to pursue the next steps, and whether the AWG members would like to do this work or if we should engaged a facilitator/consultant to engage with a possible interfaith task force on the moral arguments (constituted from the Moral Imperative membership).

AWG members welcomed the template and provided substantial feedback to ensure it considers relevant issues and stakeholders. Although it was recognized the importance of focusing on the 6 SDGs stated in the template, it suggested to contextualize the SDGs to the emerging issues, like migration/human trafficking.

AWG members agreed that the best way is to **engage a facilitator** for this process, with the specific purpose of support the work of the interfaith task force on the moral arguments. Other suggestions included **to limit to 3 majors arguments**, instead of having a long list of arguments for each SDGs, recognizing that we need to **build on existing literature** (e.g. Bristol commitments, PaRD, etc.). The template should not include only sacred texts, but also **interreligious practices**. It was mentioned that we should also work in **counter-arguments**, emphasizing that religion doesn't prevent us to engage with issues (negation, instead of affirmation). It is crucial to relate this work to issues of **justice** and **human rights**.

It was agreed that at the next meeting it would be discussed the issues that came up from the conference from Dr. Kim at Union Theological Seminary, focusing on how do we move the needle on respecting people's rights in the face of development and change. Some questions to be considered are: To what extent can/cannot the World Bank use a human rights frame? What do we mean by Full Prior Informed Consent? Why is that not a stated expectation for every project?

It was also agreed that the moderator will explore with possible "donors" funding for hiring a facilitator to work on the moral arguments. It was also recognized that the other two working groups may have the same need, so Rudelmar will propose a meeting with the moderators of the 3 working groups to think on the best way to proceed.

POSSIBLE PROJECT TO DEVELOP AN ADBOCACY TOOL KIT

The proposal to develop a religious tool kit for SDG implementation (adapting existing resources/tools) for a religious and FBO audience will be also discussed with possible funders, but members were requested to share existing advocacy tools for FBOs.

AOB (Any Other Business)

The Moderator will send a Doodle survey to find the best date for a meeting.

Notes taken by: Rudelmar