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[Special Issue to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations]

Issue Editor –
Professor Sujit Kumar Paul



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President's Note:

The Intersectionality of the Global Goals

I must begin by putting in context the social timeline within which I am writing this - it is just over a year since the planet has been within the stifling grip of the current global pandemic, COVID 19, and there has been another period of unsettling reminders of the stark inequities in our world (however, this time around, modern day technologies such as camera phones, social media, etc., make the current reckoning more real and closer to home).

This past year has prompted many of us to become more introspective and to take stock of what really matters in making life on earth more meaningful. We have realized that so much of what we have believed to be “important” to make our lives meaningful is simply unnecessary. We are realizing that what we really need is to be safe, healthy and loved, to be treated fairly and equitably, and to be meaningfully occupied and engaged irrespective of the stage of life we are at (be it as lifelong learners, dedicated homemakers, engaged employees, retired grandparents, civic leaders, committed volunteers, impactful entrepreneurs, thoughtful artists and/or change agents).

As densely populated cities in India experienced days without smog due to reduced automobile emissions as a result of nationwide lockdown, as educators and learners had to turn to virtual classrooms in more technologically wealthy parts of the world, as the plight of refugees in camps around the world became far worse during a deadly pandemic because of the proximity of their living quarters, as migrant workers were dying and the wealthiest got richer because of the pandemic, as men and women of African descent were being brutally killed by those meant to protect the people and to enforce the law, the world has been waking up the intersectionality of it all.

For the first time, it is just not a handful of thinkers, philosophers or scientists, or change agents, or social activists, thinking of such intersectionality but it is also thousands and millions of other citizens from across the world who have begun to connect the dots and to pay close attention to the nuances and the layers that make up the inequities in our societies, that prevent us from committing to climate justice and that force us to remain ignorant and unengaged. Such new awareness is nudging citizens to seek knowledge that is value-added and to take action that is sustainable. As a result, more citizens are also discovering the intersectionality of the Global Goals. This is a profound shift. A shift that must be leveraged in order to put us on the right path toward achieving the Global Goals, also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As a small, and yet actively engaged, volunteer-run global NGO with members in 26 countries, the Association for World Education (AWE) has been attracting and engaging members (both individual and institutional) who have a passion for lifelong learning and sustainable

development. As an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), we have been working actively with the SDGs, especially with the goals for Quality Education, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Partnerships for the Goals (SDGs 4, 11 and 17 respectively). We not only see the intersectionality of these goals, we continue to engage in this important work with the same steadfast commitment we've had since we began our journey over 50 years ago.

Our work is to engage in or to develop relevant opportunities like the recent online plenary we had organized on "The relevance of SDGs in local contexts" attracting 138 registrants from 26 countries. It offered a very powerful platform for citizens from across the world to get a glimpse into other corners of this planet and to engage directly with each other from the comfort of one's home. The goal of this edition of the **World Education Journal** is to give you a glimpse into that important topic (thanks to the diverse papers and articles submitted by fellow members and partners of AWE) and to further your understanding of the intersectionality of the Global Goals. Hopefully, you will be inspired enough to get engaged in this work (in your own way, wherever you are and in any way you deem fit).

I will take this opportunity to invite you to check out our website, to learn more about our dedicated members around the world, to register for any of our upcoming education workshops, to track our efforts with the United Nations or to connect with us and to join our global family!

Finally, I need to thank **Professor (Dr.) Sujit Kumar Paul** of **Visva-Bharati University** (West Bengal, India) for his dedication and hard work in making this journal a reality. This is another accomplishment for our organization.

Noël Bonam B.Sc., M.P.M.
Global President
Association For World Education

Editor's Note

Sustainable development is the organizing principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which the economy and society depend. The result which is desired is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system. Sustainable development can be defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the upcoming generations to meet their own needs. Sustainable goals address the global challenges which include poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. The 17 SDGs are integrated- that is they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability. The SDGs are seventeen goals which are to be achieved by 2030. This at present is the most extensively recognized touchstone of development efforts by Government, Non-government organizations and donors. The SDGs present a number of time-bound goals associated with the significant successes in human development. The foot steps towards achieving the goals is steady but needs to be accelerated in order to succeed the march in the upcoming nine years that is by 2030. The process is fronting with a number of predicament situations occurred through social, economic, environmental, cultural and political spheres.

Global partnerships are expected to strengthen the combined actions for achieving the goals. Mainstreaming the SDGs in national development strategies and programme are attempted by international organisations, international funding agencies and the countries themselves, in order to make a remarkable progress in this corridor. Narrow achievements, even though contribution

genuine efforts to do SDG related activities, have not reached the expected upshot due to lack of awareness regarding its broad context among the communities, civil society organisations as well as governments. This has cornered the implementation of the various programme related to SDGs as need based ones. Fresh attitude with rigorous and systematic approach is in need to address SDGs. Focus is essential in planning, formulating and implementing its programme in both micro and macro level. Effective achievement presently requires comprehensive promotion, regular observation of various deeds related to the goal, and developing multi zonediscussion and interchange of the dialogue for enhanced consequences.

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, Association of World Education (AWE) organized a Global Plenary on Sustainable Development Goals on 30th October, 2020 through online mode. We invited lifelong learners from across the world to learn about the Global Goals (Sustainable Development Goals) of the United Nations and to understand the relevance of these goals in personal lives of individuals and organizations across the world. Many individuals, organizations and associations participated in the programme. This issue has been prepared based on the presentation made by the selected scholars, academicians, practitioners and researchers during this plenary. Association for World Education shows its eagerness in heartening the worldwide community through the articles in this issue. This will hopefully enlighten and accelerate the community to reach these goals in a much more fruitful manner.

Professor Sujit Kumar Paul
Vice president & UN Committee Member
Association for World Education

Use of Sustainable Development Goals to Structured Action

Jakob Erle

Many people walk around with the nice Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) pins, and that is a good thing. They remind us about the 17 goals and 169 targets that were adopted unanimously by all 193 UN countries in September 2015 and that is a good thing. It is even better that millions of private citizens, businesses, government agencies and NGO's try to take action related to the SDG's - all over the world. But to fulfil the promise of the SDG's much more is needed.



The core of the sustainability concept goes back to the 1987 Brundtland report and the Rio summit in 1992. There it was established that sustainable development is an organising principle for meeting human development goals in a way that makes it possible to sustain the natural resources and ecosystem services. This implies a balance between ecology, economy and social development and demands systematic thinking around synergies and tradeoffs between the different components. This thinking was made much more precise with the Sustainable Development Goals, where the issues were described in 17 goals subdivided in 169 targets - with 231 unique indicators to follow in order to document progress (or decline). This huge body of work must be seen as a whole because cherry-picking the targets to only work with those that fit in your own interest will have a great risk of hampering the overall progress.



Thus, it is of great importance to promote a holistic and nuanced understanding of the SDG's. To do this IAED has developed the “Sustainable Development Goals dialogue game for learning and action”. Here it is possible to relate to the goals and targets, discuss their interaction, and relate this to the political institutions and legislation at all levels from local, over national to global that have the responsibility to create rules and legislation that make it possible to realise the goals.



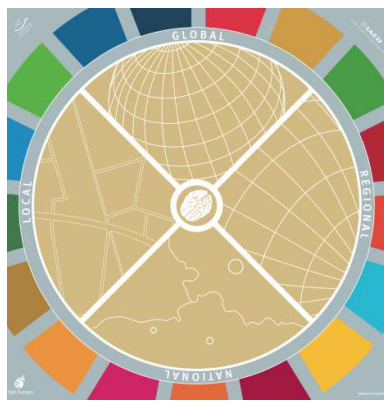
In order to relate to the goals and targets we must understand the challenges that are the reason for the development of each target. When target 14:1 says “Reduce marine pollution” we need knowledge about the state of marine pollution. How much plastic garbage is in the sea, where does it come from, what are the consequences? What is the impact of nutrients from agriculture that flow into the sea? What about oil spills from ships? These are issues that we can relate to, that we can measure - and where we can discuss action. And we can discuss how they are connected to other issues. How will the economy of farmers be affected if they need to use less fertiliser? How is fishery impacted by reduced marine pollution?

For some of the targets the related issues are quite diverse. Target 2:2 is “End all forms of malnutrition”. If we try to understand related challenges then one is hunger, too little food. We know that 149 million children are stunted - which has grave effects for the rest of their lives, including their intellectual capacity, and for the countries where they live. But the same challenge also related to obesity - and 40 million children in the world are obese with the negative consequences for their lives and their societies.

For a target like 6:1 “Safe and affordable drinking water” the related issue is the same for every single human being. Nevertheless this issue does not have a universal solution. In some parts of the world water is abundant - e.g. in temperate climates with high precipitation. Here there will be water in lakes and rivers, water in the underground. Here the issue of safe and affordable is easily taken care of in the local community. In other parts of the world this issue is much more

complex. An example is the city of Cairo in Egypt. 97% of all water comes from the river Nile. The river water has flowed thousands of kilometers from the 10 upstream countries, it is stored for two to three years in Lake Nasser behind the Aswan dam before the water flows through Cairo.

The goals and targets are the same everywhere, but the issues they relate to are very different, correspondingly the needed actions vary. Another essential difference is the level of the actions. Human societies have developed institutions and legislation at all levels from the global such as UNDP, WHO, IMF, over regional such as ASEAN, EU, AU, Mercosur to national governments and local authorities. The obligations to take action in relation to the action have been taken by



the 193 governments that constitute the United Nations, but in reality the responsibility is distributed at all levels - and in very diverse ways depending on the way the challenges emerge in different forms in different places.

This makes it relevant to think about what the term global implies. Frequently it is perceived as the opposite of local. But the etymology of the word tells that it comes from latin globus, what relates to all of the world at the same time. In that sense it is everywhere at the same time, relating to issues and challenges that are not only the same, but challenges that are the same AND challenges that need to be addressed through common global action. In that sense global is “here” just as much as local.

The SDG’s are about our mutual interdependence, and most of all they are a call for unity and action, to do something about the challenges of humanity in a coordinated and effective way. This underlines a need for strong and intelligent institutions at all levels - and that will only come about with active and informed citizens. The “Sustainable Development Goals dialogue game for learning and action” is a tool to do just that. It’s good to wear the SDG pin, especially if it signifies action.

Global to National to Local: Some Aspects in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals in Russia

Alla Nazarova
Yulia Skrupskaya

As reported by Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation in “Voluntary National Review of the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, Russia is committed to achieve the goals defined by the international community in the 2030 Agenda¹. The country has been making continued efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level. Russia is progressively improving its environmental policy and continuously implementing new strategies to protect the environment and manage waste. In this work, presentation will be made of the several results in sustainable development in Russia and the information about new eco-innovations in Moscow in the past 5-7 years in several spheres of life.

According to the latest research on achieving Sustainable Development Goals, Russia is quite successful in achieving goal number 4. The level of education of the adult population is 99.7%². A huge effort is needed in order to achieve other goals.

The environmental situation in different countries affects each other and since Russia is the largest country in the world, it has immense influence. There is a good impact - more than half of the territory of Russia is extremely valuable not only for Russia, but also for all of humanity. 70% of the world's wild forests are located in Russia and they purify the air, which is consumed by all living creatures on the planet. Therefore, it is strategically important to preserve these regions³.

¹ Voluntary National Review of the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by Analytical Center for the Government of the Russian Federation, 2020 [Electronic resource]. URL: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26962VNR_2020_Russia_Report_English.pdf

² Human Development Report for the Russian Federation. Analytical center for the government of the Russian federation [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://ac.gov.ru/archive/files/publication/a/11138.pdf>

³ The website on green party in Russia [Electronic resource]. URL: <http://greenparty.ru/news/1768>

At the same time, according to the experts' opinion, the territories of Russia, where the country's population live, have the main environmental problems, like:

- Air, water and soil pollution;
- Deforestation;
- Contamination of water resources with plastic, mainly cigarette butts (last year 65 million tons of waste were generated in Russia, which is 450 kg per person);
- Lack of waste recycling system.⁴

Since several years, in AWE, workshops on sustainable development practices have put forward the best experiences of different countries. Subsequently, the workshop participants have created great projects that have benefited in improving the environmental situation which can be used in Russia and in many countries.

A group of students made a project named I-WAY – eco-platform that unites businesses and individuals to build eco-conscious community and create sustainable future by every single action. They made MVP of the product (Telegram-bot). More than 200 people from Moscow joined it; they learnt about the ecological problems and formed new eco-habits. The team of developers of the project participated in Hult Prize which is an annual, year-long international competition for social entrepreneurship with the partnership with UN. They became the finalists (top-6) on Hult Prize Regionals – the international competition for social entrepreneurship in Lebanon and the winners of the Hult Prize Campus in Russia. The complete project is planned to be launched after the end of the quarantine measures.

Moscow: Current Challenges

In Moscow there are many problems that have been manifested in various districts. In some areas there is air pollution because of cars and factory exhausts. Industrial enterprises make a significant effect on the deterioration of the ecology of Moscow. Over the past decades, several large enterprises have been closed, but there still remains much dust with the inclusion of heavy metals in the environment.

⁴Expert opinions Greenpeace Russia [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://greenpeace.ru/publications/expert-opinions>

Furthermore, there is an environmental problem of landfills and excessive waste in Moscow.

Though a number of problems persist, desirable solutions with a number of innovations have also come in Moscow which has positively affected the life of the residents. The streets are cleaned by modern technology, the snow is removed on time, and the qualities of the lawns are improving. This paves a way of possibility to believe in a better future on the environmental situation in Moscow.

New Eco-innovations in Moscow for the last 5-7 years

Transport⁵

Electric Buses:

The first electric buses entered the streets of Moscow in the end of 2018. There are 509 buses in Moscow now and it is the largest electric bus fleet in Europe ahead of London's fleet. Statistics for October 2020 present that, there are 36 routes of electric buses in Moscow. Since the beginning of their work, they have carried over 55 million passengers and covered over 22 million kilometers on the roads of the city.

Figure 1: Electric buses in Moscow



Source: Mosgortrans [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://www.mosgortrans.ru/electrobus/>

⁵The official page of bikes rental and the website of the government of Moscow.[Electronic resource]. URL: velobike.ru; mos.ru




Scooter and Bike Rentals:

As for bicycles, more than 5 million rentals were made by users in 2019. In 2020, 629 stations and more than 530 bicycles were available. As for scooters, there are 2730 pieces from 3 companies. And there were more than 150000 users of scooters in 2020 in total.

Figure 2: Bicycle rentals in Moscow



Figure 3: The development of Bicycle infrastructure in Moscow 2012-2017

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Bicycle lanes 	Parks	25 km (+5)	49 km (+24) The first 16 km "transport" bicycle lane built	50 km (+1)	70 km (+20) New standards implemented	70 km (0)	95 km (+25 km)
	Streets	27 km v(+19)	99 (+72)	133 (+34)	133 (0)	133 (0)	140 km (+7 km)
Bicycle parking 		–	1 189	2 598 (+1409)	2 813 (+215)	2 828 (+15)	2 222 Optimized placement
City bicycle rental stations 		–	79 stations 550 bikes	150 stations (+71) 1 500 bikes (+950)	300 stations (+150) 2 600 bikes (+1 100) The number of trips increased 8 times since 2014	330 stations (6 electro) 3 200 bikes (+700 regular & 100 e-bikes) E-bikes pilot launch	380 stations (7 electro) 3 750 bikes (+520 regular & 30 e-bikes) More than 2 000 000 trips expected
Other	Bicycle infrastructure development is included in the Transport Strategy of Moscow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First amendments in law First official city bike events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bicycle development strategy Free bicycle transportation in public transport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amendment in law: Bicyclist are allowed to ride on public lanes The first mass public events: «To work on a bicycles» 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New public transport MCC with bicycle carriers launched The first winter bicycle parade (-25 C, 500 participants) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New plan of bicycle network development under creation >150 000 participants in bike parades 	

Source: Presentation by Moscow Transport [Electronic resource].

URL:https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/trans/doc/2017/wp5/WP5_30th_session_Ms_Maltseva_Part1.pdf

Waste Sorting⁶

In January, Moscow started rolling out its first citywide recycling scheme to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. Officials believe it will lead to more than 50% of waste being recycled, while currently around 88% goes to landfill. The separate waste collection in Moscow started at the beginning of 2020. Nowadays there are 2 fractions: recyclable materials (blue container) and general waste (grey container).

Figure 4: Waste sorting containers in Moscow



Source: The website of Ecological Movement Раздельныйсбор [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://rsbor-msk.ru/vnedrenie-rso-v-moskve/>

Figure 5: The car for recyclable materials in Moscow



Source: The website of Ecological Movement «Раздельныйсбор» [Electronic resource]. URL: <https://rsbor-msk.ru/vnedrenie-rso-v-moskve/>

⁶The website of recycle map [Electronic resource]. URL: recyclemap.ru

There is a very useful website to find places for recycling, named Recycle map made by Greenpeace Russia in collaboration with Urbica. This map helps people to find recycling points in their cities. This map covers more than 30 Russian cities, 15 fractions and has its frequent updates.

Eco – Organizations

Most of the eco-institutions are nonprofit; however there are some governmental ones as well. Below there is the list of the best-known ecological organizations in Moscow.

- Greenpeace Russia
- WWF Russia
- GPBU Mospriroda
- National Park "Losiny Ostrov"
- Ecocentre Reserves (Заповедники)
- rsbor.msk (Раздельный сбор)
- Bukvodom
- Tepertak
- Planet Z
- Fridays for future Moscow
- HSE Green

Currently the main goal for most of the environmental organizations in Moscow and in Russia is to raise public awareness on environmental issues. Nowadays, an increasing interest has been observed regarding ecology in different countries and particularly in Russia. Therefore, various eco-friendly and zero-waste products appear in the Russian market these days. Obviously, all our Russian environmental and social initiatives in the field of sustainable development are far behind in comparison to Europe, however, they are gradually establishing and developing. A variety of projects that have appeared in the last couple of years⁷ show that “being environmentally friendly” is becoming a trend as well as and are taking as social non-profit projects by large number of companies. More and more people now have an understanding that the time have come to have for positive changes, a conscious attitude to nature and its resources. There are many eco-oriented activists in Russia. Hundreds and thousands of volunteers go out to clean up garbage and plant trees. They help to foster a culture of respect for the environment. More state participation is needed to transfer the sustainable development to the next level.

⁷For example: Plastic dom – raincoats and bags made of plastic bags; Banner bag – bags and accessories made of used outdoor advertising banners and others

How can we Deal with the SDGs – Denmark as Example

Rikke Schultz

In this article, I will first look at what are the intentions behind the 17 world goals adopted at the UN in 2015. Then the article will look at some of the major challenges associated with achieving the goals. Then the article will further look at the specific actions that are being worked on in Denmark to achieve the objectives.

What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all **United Nations** Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

Why do we need SDG?

To build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, to protect human rights and to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, to ensure lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources, to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and to share prosperity and decent work for all.

- Around 800 million people still live in extreme poverty and suffer from hunger, with fragile and conflict-torn states experiencing the highest poverty rates,
- Between 2008 and 2012, 144 million people were displaced from their homes by natural disasters, the number is predicted to rise as the planet warms, bringing more extreme weather and rising seas,
- Water scarcity affects 40 percent of the global population and is projected to increase,
- Some 946 million people still practice open defecation,
- Gender inequality persists in spite of more representation for women in parliaments and more girls going to school.

If we meet the SDGs, how will the world improve?

The 17 goals aim to achieve these wider aims by 2030:

- End poverty and hunger everywhere,
- Combat inequalities within and between countries,
- Build peaceful, just and inclusive societies,
- Protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,
- Ensure lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources,
- Create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and decent work for all.

What's new and different about the SDGs?

The United Nations says the SDGs go much further than the previous goals, because they address the root causes of poverty and pledge to leave no one behind, including vulnerable groups.

They also emphasize the need to tackle climate change urgently and protect the environment through a shift to sustainable consumption and production. The SDGs are intended to be universal, applying to all countries rather than just the developing world. They recognize the key role of the private sector in pursuing and financing sustainable development, in partnership with governments and civil society.

SDG's from a Danish perspective

As a citizen in Denmark, you live in a society where daily life is safe and prosperous. Only few or even no people suffer from poverty and hunger. We have free access to health care and all levels of education. But still some people are left behind.

Who is left behind in Denmark

Equality can be divided into different spheres, such as equal possibilities in economic, social and cultural issues.

Equal access to education does not mean that everybody gets an education. Social and Cultural barriers mean that up to 20% of young Danes have not completed their education even when they are 30 years old.

Equal access to health does not mean everybody lives a healthy life. Social and cultural barriers also mean that the average life expectancy of unskilled workers is 10 years shorter than that of men and women with a longer education. This is due to the working conditions, but also due to healthy habits – such as consuming healthy food, sports, alcohol habits and smoking.

So even a welfare state leaves people behind, and our experience in Denmark is that inequality increases as society becomes richer. It is a consequence of the streamlining that drives development forward. Many cannot keep up with the pace of change, and they remain on the platform when the development train passes by.

This is a development that also increases economic inequality. In Denmark - like many other places in the world - the ongoing development means that some people become incredibly rich while others either experience a very small growth in their economic room for maneuver and others experience a stagnation or a direct decline in their standard of living.

Nature: A Big Loser

Streamlining is also tough by nature. Human activity - especially in the agricultural sector - has meant an unimaginable loss of biodiversity in a country like Denmark. In particular, the aggregation of fields, the cultivation of monocultures and the use of pesticides are a threat to biodiversity.

Today locally in the countryside region, there is almost as much focus on the conservation of biodiversity as on reducing CO2 emissions. It can be said that these are two movements that go hand in hand, especially when it comes to reducing agricultural CO2 emissions. New products and new ways to produce, ecological agriculture and forest agriculture, less animals and more vegetables are part of the green transition.

Two ways to look at the CO2 emission in Denmark

If you look at the individual citizen's CO2 emissions in Denmark, it is distributed as follows⁸:

Consumer goods	4,9 t
Food and drinks	3,0 t
Oil, gas and petrol	1,7 t
Electricity and heating	1,5 t
Communication and service	0,8 t
Flights	0.8 t
Emission from private consumption	12,7 t
Public and Community consumption pr Inhabitant	6,0 t
Total average consumption pr Inhabitant	18,7 t

The advantage of calculating CO2 emissions in this way is that it gives the individual consumer an opportunity to assess their own CO2 emissions and subsequently make personal decisions to reduce their personal CO2 footprint.

For Danish consumers, it is thus obvious that there is a significant reduction opportunity to their personal CO2 footprint by replacing a "buy and throw away" culture with an increased focus on repair and recycling.

Other options are to replace meat with vegetable foods, to replace the petrol car with an electric car, to reduce the heat consumption in the home and to replace long journeys by plane in favor of local tourism.

Such private actions will have a significant impact on overall global CO2 emissions. A spectacular news in today's newspaper is that 20% of young Danes have informed their families that they do not want to receive Christmas presents this year (2020) for the sake of the climate.

⁸ Figurs from 2012

Measurement of National CO2 Emission

However, according to the applicable international rules, such measures will only to a limited extent have a direct effect on the total Danish emission of CO₂ in accordance with the international calculation method and agreements.

Most production goods sold in Denmark are produced on the other side of the globe that is in China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh etc. A smaller consumption in Denmark therefore primarily affects CO₂ emissions in these countries.

If you look at the Danish national CO₂ accounts, the CO₂ emission based on activities in Denmark measured by the GNP(Gross National Product) **international shipping** accounts for 47% of the total accounts.

Other major sectors are agriculture 14%, Industry, commerce and service 19%, Household 10% and energy production 10% (figure 1).

The national effort to reduce CO₂ emissions is very much focused on a shift in energy consumption from fossil fuels to renewable energy. A special area of focus here is the development of methods that can convert electricity produced by e.g. wind turbines for liquid fuel that can be used by ships, aircraft and trucks.

Greenhouse gas emissions from Danish economic activities. 2019

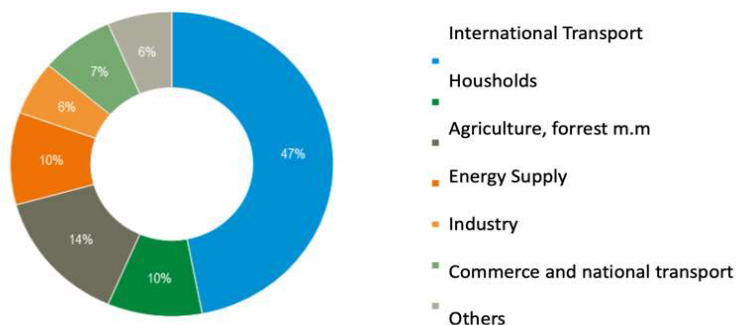


Figure 1

Conclusion

If one analyzes the information in this article, then together they draw several pictures of the possibilities of fulfilling the SDGs - both globally, nationally and locally.

Globally -

From a global perspective, there are two major challenges.

The biggest challenge concerns inequality. And here I am not thinking of the inequality between north and south, but much more of the difference between rich and poor in the individual countries.

It is a challenge that a global economy with a main focus on efficiency contributes to creating increased inequality in both rich and poor countries - and therefore leaves many behind. Policy regulations that ensure a decent income for everyone and / or a tax system that can even out income disparities are therefore required in all countries.

The other major challenge is cross-border trade. On the one hand, the transport of goods is in itself detrimental to the environment. On the other hand, the lack of geographical connection between production and consumption poses major challenges for the national inventories of CO2 emissions.

Nationally -

Thus, there is a great deal of discussion in Denmark about whether the extensive international shipping should be included in the Danish CO2 accounts. On the other hand, there is no discussion about how the CO2 emissions from the large imports of consumer goods should be included. They do not have to according to the international agreements. So, when Denmark claims 70% CO2 reduction in 2030 it only counts for the 53% of local activities.

It is therefore necessary to review the international agreements so that one finds ways to calculate the individual countries' CO2 emissions that take into account the specialized international division of labor.

Locally -

If one looks at the SDGs at a local level, then it is first and foremost individual decisions that need to be made. The local producer and the local consumer must make their personal choices on an informed basis. Here, knowledge of the consequences of our own choices for our common future means a great deal. Like knowing what your daily consumption choices mean for the global climate accounts.

The same goes for decisions in the local community, in regard to jointly create the best solutions regarding water supply, sewerage, electricity supply, waste management and recycling. The process to create the best solutions in agricultural production and to ensure biodiversity in your local environment is the best way.

Finally, if the world goals are to be achieved, it presupposes a new mindset in Denmark and Europe. This presupposes a lesser focus on efficiency and economic growth and a much greater focus on quality of life and not material things. Elsewhere in the world, where there are citizens who do not meet basic necessities of life, education and health on a daily basis, there will be other priorities.

Source:

UN/ UNDP

World Economic Forum about SDG's, an article published in collaboration with [Thomson Reuters Foundation trust.org](https://www.thomsonreuters.com). Publication does not imply endorsement of views by the World Economic Forum. Author: Megan Rowling is a journalist for the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

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House of science: CO₂ re-spekt, re-duce, re-use, re-think Læsehæftetil 7. – 9. kl.

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Promotion of Solar energy based Technologies for Sustainable Development

Reghu Rama Das

Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs is sustainable development. The Sustainable Development goals are designed as a blue print to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030. These global goals were adopted by all member states of the United Nations as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to have harmonies, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. All these goals aimed to transform our world. However, it needs planned action, popularization of SDGs, linkages and partnerships.

Affordable and clean energy is one of the global goals to be achieved as scheduled. Ensured access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all need planned effort at the national and grass root level. There are millions of people who lack electricity in our country (India). It is also essential to promote renewable energy along with conventional systems. Affordable and reliable energy is critical for health facilities too. Improving energy efficiency in conventional cooking, utilization of bio resources for energy generation and reduced use of fossil fuels are also in the focus in this particular goal.

The efforts of grass root level organizations/civil society organizations to work towards achievement of these goals are also required to supplement the efforts of the government. Keeping this in view, Mitraniketan is working in the field of education, poverty eradication, water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture along with promotion of non-conventional sources of energy since 1956. As a nonprofit development organization, Mitraniketan focus more on employment generation, empowerment, sustainable agriculture, better health and reducing the use of materials leading climate change.

Energy is the major concern in the present living era. Currently we are using fossil fuels and atomic energy for lighting, cooking, transportation and industrial purposes. This has already damaged our environment including air, water, forests and other resources. It is time to promote non-conventional energy sources which are sustainable and harmless. There are many initiatives going on to utilize non-conventional energy sources like solar, wind energy, tide and bio gas. However, still there is a long way to go to achieve the expected results.

The article is trying to describe the experiences of Mitraniketan in promoting Micro Solar Dome (MSD) Technology for lighting the houses in un-electrified villages, and also our experiences in developing a Solar Dryer for drying fruits and vegetables.

Micro Solar Dome(MSD)

A large number of households in India are still un-electrified and are dark after 6 pm. This has affected the activities of the households including education of the children. Most of these houses use kerosene lamps which badly affects the health of women and children due to inhaling of carbon emitted from the kerosene lamp.

To eradicate the darkness within the households, an innovative technology using solar energy has been developed by NB Institute of Rural Technology, Kolkotta called Micro Solar Dome (MSD). The Micro Solar Dome is a day and night lighting device that has a transparent semi spherical upper dome and a lower dome made of acrylic. The Dome is fixed on the top of the roof in such a way that the lower dome pierced inside the roof while upper dome remains in the top of the roof with P.V module to capture solar energy. There is a shutter in the bottom of the lower dome which can be closed, if light is not required in the day time. It is leak proof and works throughout the day and 4 hours continuously after sun set.

Micro Solar Dome is integrated with PV module fitted in the dome charges a battery during day time which in turn provides light during night time from the MSD for about 4 hours through LED fitted in the lower dome.

MSD has been adopted in different locations in India by various organizations working at the grassroots level. Mitraniketan has also adopted this technology for selected tribal villages of Trivandrum and Wayanad districts in Kerala for lighting un-electrified houses.

In Wayanad, we have introduced the MSD in 250 houses of Tirunellipanchayat which is a tribal dominated area. This has been done by training the local tribal youth from beneficiary families. The trained youth will take care of the repair and maintenance of the MSD and also these technicians can find job in the solar energy sector. The trained youth along with Master technician installed all the MSDs in tribal households.

The feedback we have received from tribal women and children are very positive as the outcome is productive including education of their children. Earlier it was difficult to cook inside the room, and household works had to be done with kerosene lamps even in day time. Now they can easily do all the work during day and night. Children can study in the evening after the school hours. Most importantly the usage of kerosene lamps has been avoided which not only reduce

the health risks but also the danger involved in it. Removal of kerosene lamp from these houses reduced the carbon emission. Tribal households in the fringe forest areas of Trivandrum are having thatched roof and the side walls are also mostly made of plated coconut leaves. This has provided no opportunity for sun light to enter inside the house even during day time. MSD is a relief to most of these houses to do their household chores including cooking after the work hours in the evening.

Mitraniketan's Experience with Solar Dryer – An Innovation:

Drying of fruits and vegetables is a common preservation method followed in the processing units. The small processing units run by women normally dehydrate the raw materials in open sun drying. Though this method involved no cost, there are more chances of contamination and colour change in addition to loss of material due to birds and rodents.

Mitraniketan has innovated a low cost Solar Dryer by integrating a pre heater and a chimney in the existing system. Poly carbonate transparent sheet is used in the drying chamber. The problem with the protected solar drying in Kerala is its high humidity. To overcome the humidity inside the drying chamber we have introduced a pre heater and a chimney connected on the bottom and upper side of the solar drying cabinet, so that the continuous air flow from the heater through chimney is ensured. The air with moisture will be drawn out through the chimney which



Solar dryer- drying jackfruit slices

gives more opportunity for fresh air to enter the drying cabinet and pass through the chimney. The dryer works based on increasing air temperature and thereby increasing its moisture holding capacity and also based on its improved air flow. The new dryer has been tested with tapioca slices, banana slices and jack fruit

which have given positive results in terms of the quality and color of the material dried when compared to the same product dried in open sun. The time taken to dry inside the chamber is much lesser than the in the open sun drying. The cost of the direr is USD 300. The capacity of the direr is 20kg which means 4 trays of 1 sq. meter space available to hold 5 kg of material each. This has been developed for jack fruit processing units promoted by Mitraniketan among

rural woman. The recurring cost for drying is zero. Mitraniketan is promoting livelihood activities among woman using locally available fruits and vegetables. The application of solar drying technology has increased the income and reduced the drudgery of women engaged in these livelihood activities.

In addition, the use of solar dryer will replace the use of electric dryers and smoke rooms from small processing units due to its running cost and thereby control the carbon emission.

Introduction of both Micro Solar Dome for lighting and Solar Dryer for drying fruits and vegetables contribute to, reduction in carbon

emission and the Sustainable Development Goal. India is a country that has tremendous potential in solar energy due to its convenient location near the Equator. India receives nearly 3000 hours of sunshine every year, which is equivalent to 5000 trillion kWh of energy. As the nation is facing an increasing demand – supply gap in energy, it is important to tap the solar potential to meet the energy needs which consequently result in sustainable development.



Women workers loading jack fruit for drying

UN 75 Years

Guido-Henri De Couvreur

On the occasion of 75 years of United Nations, it is probably good to look into the two achievements which were very important in the evolution of humankind. First was the Human Rights Treaty, and the second was the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Perhaps it is time to make some evaluation.

What about Sustainable Development Goals?

If we meet the SDGs, how will the world improve? Only 2 points:

1. protect human rights and promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls
2. to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies

But primary to these two points there is something the contribution that is really guidance for ‘all humans’ on earth, namely the Human Rights Agreement. We cannot execute any SDGs if we forget something namely the Human Rights Agreement.

Is there something overlooked in the application Human Rights agreement?

Article I of this agreement: *“All human beings are born free and **equal in dignity and rights**. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*

Let’s have a closer look at this primary article. For this first article, there are at least two serious remarks to make. What does it mean **equal in dignity and rights**? And the second is what with the word **brotherhood**. It looks for years that most people are sleeping while walking around on the Earth. Many people claim that we are all equal. Isn’t this a lie? None of us is equal. Look at ourselves, look at our faces, look at our skins, and look at our cultural knowledge. It is a strange interpretation, that all human beings are equal. Coming from the French Revolution? What is mentioned very right in this HR-article is that we are **equal in dignity and rights**? That means we have to strive for **equity** and **not equality**. Because, the last is impossible even not in 10,000

years. But that we have to strive for being equal in dignity there is still a long way to go. And then we can look at the word **brotherhood**. What a strange situation to live in brotherhood while other members of the family are talking a different language and even cannot understand each other. It is strange indeed, if we are living in the spirit of brotherhood, how come that all brothers and sisters are not having the same vehicle to communicate namely the same **supranational language that** is not giving anybody or any country privileges? Am I dreaming? Maybe?

As a European and convinced European of the European Union, I can see that there are 27 countries and 20 languages to talk about. But what did I see when I entered in big auditoria there are only 4,5,6 boxes for translators? What happens to the minorities? Is this the way democracy functions? Do some languages seem to be more important than others? On what grounds? Is that what Marianne Thun, an EU parliament and commissioner, meant when she said: *“Language is power and as we have to talk another language then we lose influence”*.

Language justice

Philippe Van Parijs, a philosopher, once came to speak in the Club of Rome EU in Brussels, argues that there is **linguistic injustice** with 3 consequences:

- disturbed collaboration between people
- unequal opportunities for users
- unequal dignity of persons¹

(As we can see this is in a struggle with the first article of the human rights agreement.) What were his observations? Nevertheless, he stated that, along with many of the world, Europe is converging rapidly towards adopting English as its sole ‘lingua franca’. Perhaps in some places in Europe, it is. But what to do in other places in the world? Or is this a reborn **Eurocentrism**? Can it be that this philosopher made a wrong conclusion? Wasn’t he only looking to the privileged persons belonging to the academic world, politics, travelling, business on a certain level, diplomacy, and some more groups...? A kind of upper top lucky guys!?

Because it raises several serious **ethical problems**, at least three of which can be formulated in terms of *linguistic injustice*:

- as **unfair co-operation**,
- as **unequal opportunity**,
- as **unequal dignity**.

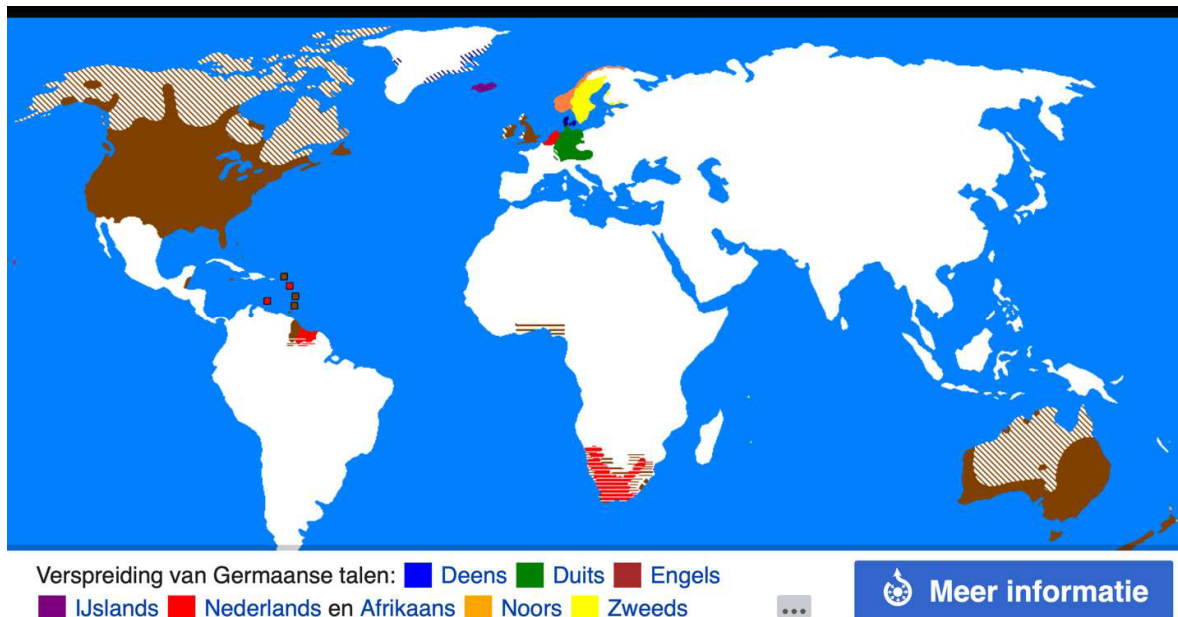
Aren't that serious complaints? How do they fit in with the rights of human beings? In other words, it is a **discriminating** underflow **process that is undermining a great deal with all other processes**: like to turn climate change, ecological issues, gender equivalence, democracy, fight against poverty, etc. so SDG's will work very slowly, not efficiently and perhaps not achieved because of no oil in the machine.

Indeed, many people do not perceive the problem. So, let's wake up. For the sceptics among us, the chaos of languages, don't forget there are about 6000 languages in the world, is in no way any possibility to come to a better world. For years I was naïve I thought languages are for communication. I was not seeing that languages are many times exactly doing the opposite namely: dividing people. Therefore, a supranational language would be the oil in the machine that is not the case now. And how is a machine without oil running?

As we can see in the second point above, how can we ever, come to **peaceful, just, and inclusive societies**, on a **democratic basis**, if we deny minorities and impose a very strange, difficult, and time-consuming language on them to learn? Is that dignity? Are that inclusive societies? Respectful? Lack of empathy? Suppose that 'Western Europeans' have to learn Chinese, Malayalam, Russian, Japanese, or Arabic? What would become of that? Only then we will understand what we are imposing on other people of the world. Is English a leftover of colonialism? ("Let us make Britain great again," said Boris Johnson, Prime Minister of the UK.)

As stated before, there are 6000 languages in the world but not efficient for international communication at all. For that purpose, we need a **supranational language** that cannot belong to any country. Is that existing? Many assume that everybody can speak English. According to Mark Fettes, a USA researcher tells that only 7% of Europeans do speak English! Is that everybody? It is overlooked discrimination? So many times, people do forget that all those who belong to the German language group are very much favoured. See the spreading of the German languages on the world mapⁱⁱ: Danish, German, English, Icelandic, Dutch, Afrikaans, Nordic, and Swedish. This language group is privileged above all the rest of the world. Is English really a 'world language' as claimed so many times? Or is there any language hegemony? Only on the

'brown surfaces' there is English spoken. (SEE map please.) And what with the white places on the map? And don't forget this map is still Eurocentric it is not reflecting appropriately. So, the difference is even bigger. In fact, Africa is in square kilometre much bigger than it is suggested by this map.



Research showed that 94-96% of those, who are usually regarded as connoisseurs of foreign languages, do not actually know languages that much and can only communicate with each other at a primitive level in the foreign language.ⁱⁱⁱ

Am I dreaming? In history, there were always thinking dreamers. Are we far from the moment when mankind's age-old dream of resolving international communication through a **neutral auxiliary** language? Considering that in the last centuries, several dozens of attempts were made to create an **auxiliary language** for all humanity, besides a mother tongue. Many attempts have already been made to create an auxiliary language for all of humankind, and that serious thinkers have participated in it, such as Renatus Descartes, Benedictus de Spinosa, Albert Einstein, and many others.

Of all **rationally created** language projects, only one remained alive and successful: **Esperanto**. (Means the one who hopes)

“In terms of expression, no national language I know can measure up to Esperanto,” explained the linguist Paul Ariste, who knew several dozen other languages in addition to Esperanto.

An **auxiliary language Esperanto** gives finally after centuries people more **dignity more equity** and **feeling leading** to an inclusive society. But how many among us know is that it is already mentioned in 1954 to use a supranational language as auxiliary language decided in the United Nations womb? The Montevideo Resolution, on December 10, 1954, by the General Conference of UNESCO. The resolution officially supports the constructed language Esperanto as an international auxiliary language. The Montevideo Resolution was the result of a long campaign by Ivo Lapenna. Shouldn't we, as a kind of ethical obligation, strive for dignity, equity, and inclusive societies?

Lejzer Zamenhof (1859-1917), a Polish eye physician, was the first constructor of the supranational auxiliary language Esperanto. In a report entitled *Esperanto as an International Auxiliary Language*, published in 1922, we can find: “*It can be said with absolute certainty that Esperanto is eight to ten times easier to learn than any foreign language.*” Esperanto is a supranational constructed language used as a ‘lingua franca’ by people from at least 120 countries around the world. Esperanto helps establish a neutral bridge between cultures and speakers. Requiring a short learning period to be usable, Esperanto is thus presented as an efficient and economically equitable solution to the problem of communication between people of different mother tongues. Communication through a neutral auxiliary language becomes a reality if...

Founded on a regular grammar and peacekeeping

Esperanto is a globally agglutinating language where words combine to form a rich and precise vocabulary from a limited number of lexical roots and affixes.

These peculiarities make it easily adaptable to the most varied requirements and facilitate learning at any age... Let us not forget that the grammar of Esperanto is only 3 pages long. While most ethnic languages need the whole book. And the worst thing is that like in French there are still 4000 exceptions.

Who of you knows, that all over the world every day there is a conference, a meeting, a symposium in Esperanto? You can find it on the Internet. Even some universities have as the leading language: Esperanto. Do you know that in the Russian Federation for some years now Esperanto is recognized as an auxiliary language that may be taught in schools... there are even more countries in this situation but it is leading us too far here.

The JUSTO University, together with the Russian Esperanto Union, has prepared a list of persons, who have considerable experience in teaching Esperanto. These people are willing to realize a weekly course for teaching the basics of Esperanto for teachers of schools and colleges. After that course, the teachers themselves will teach in schools and colleges, already for a fee.

Strange that dictators like Mr. Adolf Hitler and Mr. Yosef Stalin have forbidden Esperanto? For evident reasons: it is better not to be able to communicate to the 'enemy'. Then it can become clear that the people are not the enemies but the leaders are. Indeed, Esperanto has a function as peacekeeping as well as the so called 'enemies' can speak with each other peace is coming... near. Not misled by leaders who are concerned about more power than for their own people. Besides, the supranational language comes into conflict with nationalism; this last contradicts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Hence there is an alternative that is already existing a hundred years, but are we going ahead as we did in the last decades, with no rational basis and in non-equity of languages? In the European Union, according to the source, 10 to 40% of the whole budget is used for translating! Are we going ahead in that **irrational way**? Who is paying the bill in the end? Or is it just spoiling money of the citizens and being inefficient?

Esperanto is a special language because it was designed to be easily and cheaply learned, to allow everybody **accesses to the global community**. The UNESCO, Wikipedia, Google, Facebook, Duolingo, and many other global and online organizations recognize and include Esperanto. While searching on the Internet, 11,300,000 results related to Esperanto can be found. So, it is not only a dream of a grey philosopher but all over the globe, there are people concerned about more dignity, more respect for minorities, and more equity. Isn't that nice?

In my opinion, it was/is a great capital failure of the whole school and educational system not to learn a supranational language. We did learn a lot of things but the most important thing for communication we did not: a common neutral auxiliary language, for the 'same' chances for everyone only then we can become real-world citizens. Communication is one of the most important things of all living beings, humans included. Isn't it time to behave like grown-ups?

¹The Brussels-EU Chapter has held its twenty fourth Aurelio Peccei lecture, by Philippe Van Parijs with the topic: *Linguistic Justice in Europe and in the World*. PHILIPPE VAN PARIJS, doctor in philosophy (Oxford) and in the social sciences (Louvain), professor at the Catholic University.

¹ https://nl.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germaanse_talen

¹ We are very much inspired by the article of GENNADIY SHILO, Rector of the European University of JUSTO, in *Horizontal*, No.39, 230(2008)4-7

SDGs with Special Reference to Rural India

Sujit Kumar Paul

Introduction:

The Millennium Development Goals were the world's biggest promise – a global agreement to reduce poverty and human deprivation at historically unprecedented approach through collaborative action. Subsequently, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 as a universal call to action, to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030.

India has an important role to play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Nearly one fourth of the world's poor reside in India, largest number of maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate and one third of the world's under nutrition children are counted here. On the other hand, India has an important role to contribute in the global agenda like human dignity and international co-operation as outlined in the declaration. As a largest democracy, India has the obligation to ensure national development and historic contributions that have been made to the ideals of modern global society. The Sustainable Development Goals play an important role in development policies today. As the fastest growing major economy of the world, today, India is uniquely placed to deliver on its commitments to inclusive and sustainable development. Externally the country has played a key role in shaping the SDGs and ensuring the balance among its three pillars - economic, social and environmental. Internally, it has launched many programs to make progress towards these goals. Notwithstanding its scarce financial resources due to relatively low per-capita income, large population and vast geographical expanse, India is committed to achieve within a short period such ambitious goals as universal rural electrification, road and digital connectivity for all, massive expansions of clean and renewable energy, sanitation and housing for all and universal elementary school education. Keeping this in mind, stakeholders from various walks of life - central and state governments, industry, civil society, technical experts and academics - are coming together to promote a better future for the country.

Rural Development and SDGs

Rural development has always been a significant concern in all debate pertaining to sustainable development, especially of developing countries, throughout the world. India, as a developing country is not an exception. Rural development has great importance for a country

like India, where majority of the population, around 68.64 per cent of the people, live in rural areas. The present strategy of rural development in India mainly focuses on poverty alleviation, better livelihood opportunities, financial inclusion, provision of basic amenities like health, education, communication, etc., infrastructure facilities and technological advancement through innovative programme, resulting to inclusive growth of India's economy.

Since, early 90's India has been experiencing high economic growth while a large majority of rural people continue to suffer from persistent poverty. The socio-economic inconsistency between rural and urban areas are widening and creating tremendous pressure on the social and economic structure of Indian economy. Despite significant advancement in industrial development, Indian economy is still predominantly rural in nature and depends on agro based activities. The rural areas have been suffering from poor infrastructure, lack of resources, poor communication, and technological deficits. These factors, among many others, tend to highlight the importance of rural development in India. The India's policy makers recognize the importance of rural development and have been implementing a host of programme and measures to achieve rural development objectives throughout the country. While some of these programmes have achieved impressive results, others have failed to make a significant impression on the problem of persistent rural underdevelopment.

The concept of rural development has gained extensive demand in recent past. Rural development became a planning concern as it was understood that the problem of poverty and inequality in rural areas of developing countries especially in India cannot be solved by technocratic strategies. It needs the multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary approach to address the various problems related to development of rural areas. Consequently, it was also understood that apart from efforts to improve the agriculture and industrial sectors, it is also necessary to provide education, health, basic service, employment and to eradicate poverty in rural areas. The increasing scope and interest in rural development in India is an outcome of the insight that a systematic and organized effort is essential to create better living environment in the rural areas where the vast majority of populations of the county reside. Reinforcing India's commitment to the national development agenda and SDGs, India has organized several forums to develop policy and action perspectives on elimination of poverty, promoting gender equality and addressing climate change. The Central Government of India has carried out a detailed mapping of the 17 Goals and 169 targets to Nodal Central Ministries, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and major government initiatives. Most sub-national governments have carried out a similar mapping of the SDGs and targets to the departments and programme in their respective states.

A good number of Government's programme would directly contribute to advancement of the SDG agenda. Some of the programme that has been launched by the government of India is covering a combination of more than one SDG. A noteworthy example has been given below to justify it.

Government Initiative and SDGs

The Economic Survey 2018-19 of the Government of India states that, India continues to target and maintain its economic sustainable development growth by introducing and implementing various policies and measures relating to sustainable development, climate change, resource efficiency and air pollution. The survey states that in adoption of 2030 global agenda countries are moving forward for achieving a world free from poverty, gender inequality and economic inequality and thereby ensuring a healthy planet for future generations. These goals are multi-dimensional and integrate various social, economic and environmental dimensions. India follows a holistic approach towards its 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by launching various schemes. India's SDG Index Score ranges between 42 and 69 for states and between 57 and 68 for UTs. Kerala and Himachal Pradesh are the front runners amongst all the states with a score of 69, Chandigarh and Puducherry are the front runners with a score of 68 and 65 respectively among the UT's, Survey states.

Rapid growth (covering eighth goal) is the key weapon in any country's arsenal to combat poverty. On the one hand, it creates well-paid jobs, which place necessary purchasing power in the hands of households to access food, clothing, housing, education and health. On the other, it brings ever-rising revenues to the government to finance social spending. India has continued its programme of economic reforms to achieve sustained rapid growth. As a result, today, India is the fastest growing major economy in the world. It grew 7.5% during fiscal year 2014-15, 8% during 2015-16 and 7.1 % during 2016-17. There is now compelling evidence that India has achieved the rapid growth following the economic reforms initiated in 1991 which has led to significant reduction in poverty. This is shown in the accompanying figure. Between 1993-94 and 2003-04, India grew at the average annual rate of 6.2% and between 2004-05 and 2011-12, at the rate of 8.3%. Both these periods saw a substantial decline in poverty but the decline was significantly sharper during the latter period characterized by faster growth. The figure shows rural, urban and overall poverty levels at the national level. But evidence shows that poverty fell across all economic, social and religious groups nationally and in all states in the post-reform era.

Growth has brought with it an increased volume of revenues, which, in turn, has enabled the government to sustain a high level of social spending, thus, targeting poverty directly. An important anti-poverty program has focused on generating employment through public works that help to develop agricultural infrastructure, productive assets and entrepreneurship-based livelihood opportunities. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act(MGNREGA) provides a legal guarantee of a minimum of 100 days of wage employment per household every year for unskilled workers in rural areas. The programme generated over 2 billion person-days of employment (covering eighth goal) during the last year. Women and disadvantaged groups have been the largest beneficiaries (covering goal number 5 & 10) of the programme accounting for 56% and 39% of person-days of work generated during last year. Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act 2005 was first proposed in 1991. It was finally accepted in the parliament of India and commenced implementation in 625 districts of India. Based on this pilot experience, NREGA was scoped up to cover all the districts of India from 1st April 2008. The status is hailed by the government as "the largest and most ambitious social security and public works programme in the world". In its World Development Report 2014, the World Bank termed it a "stellar example of rural development". The MGNREGA was initiated with the objective of "enhancing livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year, to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work". Another aim of MGNREGA is to create durable assets such as roads, canals, ponds and wells. Employment is to be provided within 5 km of an applicant's residence, and minimum wages are to be paid. If work is not provided within 15 days of applying, applicants are entitled to an unemployment allowance. That is, if the government fails to provide employment, it has to provide certain unemployment allowances to the worker. This Scheme is related with the eighth goal that is decent work and economic growth because MGNREGA is about 100 days work and a decent wage to the workers. MGNREGA also helps in eradicating poverty so it is also related with the first goal stating no poverty.

Another initiative relevant to this Goal is the PradhanMantri Jan-DhanYojana (PMJDY), which was launched in 2014 for ensuring access to the entire gamut of financial services, including banking, credit, insurance and pension. Under this programme, 280 million new accounts have been opened thus far with deposits amounting to INR 639 billion (USD 9.9 billion). By facilitating the delivering of Government benefits directly into the accounts of beneficiaries and minimizing leakages, the initiative has enhanced the effectiveness of several social security schemes in the country. Further, the DeendayalAntyodayaYojana, the National

Livelihoods Mission, is devoted to create skilled employment for the poor. The Mission aims to bring one female member each from a large number of poor households in rural areas into Self-Help Groups in a phased manner.

The National Social Assistance Programme provides pension to the elderly, widows and differently-abled individuals. Additionally, three initiatives have been launched to facilitate access to life insurance, personal accident insurance as well as pension for workers in the unorganised sector. The schemes focusing on insurance have collectively reached out to 130 million subscribers. Enabling access to quality primary education and affordable healthcare forms an important part of the poverty elimination strategy. Under the National Health Mission, a broad spectrum of interventions focused on universalizing primary healthcare is being implemented. The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) attempts to ensure that maternal and child malnutrition are addressed in a systematic manner. Further, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) provides conditional cash transfers to promote institutional deliveries among women from remote areas. There is a special emphasis on bridging the gaps in human resources for healthcare at all levels of service delivery. Similarly, the National Education Mission is focused on providing universal access to education, bridging gender-related inequities and improving the learning outcomes of students. The Right to Education Act has established an effective legal framework entitling all children (6-14 years) to free and compulsory education based on principles of equity and non-discrimination.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is a scheme by the Government of India which has been designed to provide continuous power supply to rural India. The scheme will enable to initiate the most important reforms in the rural areas. The participation of Citizens will enable public scrutiny of the rural electrification programmes. In addition, the village-wise works sanctioned under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana has been mapped to scrutinise the progress of work carried out under the project in each village. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is related with the seventh goal that is affordable and clean energy. This programme is providing electricity to the rural areas which is a type of energy. Secondly this scheme is directly related with the ninth goal that is industry, innovation and infrastructure as this scheme is about providing electricity which is an infrastructure. Electricity is a very important infrastructure without it nothing is possible in the modern day of technology.

Another ambitious initiative is 'Housing for All by 2022.' Under this programme, assistance (e.g. in the form of credit-linked interest subsidies) is provided to poor households for constructing houses. An estimated 5 million houses will be built during the current year for the poor in rural areas. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is linked with the eleventh goal that is sustainable cities and communities as people in sustainable cities should have their own permanent houses. To build a sustainable city every person should have good houses then only the cities will sustain. This scheme is also related with the first goal that is no poverty as this scheme gives shelter to the people and helps in providing shelter to the people.

In order to meet the clean cooking fuel needs of the poor and thereby safeguarding the health of women and children, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in 2016. Under the scheme, 50 million Liquefied Petroleum Gas connections will be provided to poor families over the next 3 years. Over 22 million connections have already been provided under the scheme. This scheme is directly related to ninth goal that is industry, innovation and infrastructure as this scheme is about providing electricity which is an infrastructure. The Scheme is helping many households as mentioned earlier by providing LPG connection. The Scheme is also related with the first goal as it is helping in bringing the poor people out of poverty.

Further, there is an emphasis on facilitating access to adequate and safe drinking water as well as sanitation for the entire population. Under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, more than 77.5% of habitations have been covered with 40 liters of drinking water supply per capita per day. Another 18.9% habitations have been covered partially thus far. A flagship initiative of the government is the Swachha Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) which aims to ensure an open defecation free India by 2019. Under this Mission, over 39.5 million household toilets have been built during the previous two and half years. Additionally, 193,000 villages and 531 cities have been successful in ending the practice of open defecation. For spurring improvements, cities and village councils are being ranked on levels of cleanliness. This programme is related with the sixth sustainable development goal that is clean water and sanitation. It is directly related with sanitation as this scheme provides toilets to the households which help in proper sanitation. Quality Council of India in August 2017 reported that overall national rural household who have access to toilets has increased by 62.5% usage of toilet have increased according to 91.3%. The programme is also related to the third sustainable goal which is related to good health and wellbeing. Good sanitation is a part of good wellbeing. Swachha Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) is trying to improve the health and sanitation condition of

the country. For enhancing connectivity, 70% of the targeted rural habitations have been connected by all-weather roads thus far under Prime Minister's Rural Roads Programme. It is envisaged that by March, 2019, all habitations of 500 population or larger will be connected by all-weather roads. Green technologies are increasingly being leveraged for the construction of roads in rural areas.

A direct consequence of poverty is food insecurity. To address this problem, the National Food Security Act provides a basic quantity of food grains to nearly 75% of the population in rural areas and 50% of the population in urban areas at affordable prices under the Targeted Public Distribution System. The programme provides 5 kg wheat or rice per person per month at subsidised prices. A related initiative provides the poorest households 35 kg of the subsidized wheat or rice every month. Significant progress has been made in improving food and nutrition security (covering goal two). Nevertheless, challenges remain. For instance, a substantial reduction in stunted and underweight children has been achieved between 2005-06 and 2015-16. But the absolute levels of stunted and underweight children remain high. India's food security programme are among the largest in the world and cover more than 800 million people in the country by providing affordable access to grains. In recognition of empirical evidence that women pay greater attention to food security, the ration card is issued in the name of the senior most female member of the household. Food governance in terms of responsiveness, transparency and accountability has improved significantly. Nearly 232 million ration cards entitling people to food and other supplies have been digitized. Additionally, 77% of the ration cards have been linked to the unique identity number thereby enabling cash transfers for promoting dietary diversity. Nearly 20 out of the 29 states in India have automated the supply chains and Fair Price Shops (delivery outlets). An online grievance redressed system has also been operationalized across the country. Other programme aim to address the nutrition security of specific population groups. For instance, ICDS caters to the nutritional requirements of over 83 million young children and 19 million pregnant and lactating mothers in the country. The Mid-Day Meal Programme delivers nutritious cooked meals to 100 million children in primary schools.

Agriculture is primary source of income for the majority of the people of India. Small and marginal farmers constitute nearly 80% of all Indian farmers. More than 90% of them are engaged in rain-fed agriculture. It is therefore crucial to raise farmers' income by adopting different strategies. Several states in India have made progress with respect to revising their land

leasing Acts along the lines of a Model Act developed by NITI Aayog. The Model Act is aimed at protecting the rights of the tenant while also ensuring that the landowner does not run the risk of losing the ownership of her land to the tenant.

India has made significant strides in improving various health indicators (Covering goal three). The country's strategy in health is focused on providing essential services to the entire population, with a special emphasis on the poor and vulnerable groups. India has developed a roadmap, the 'India New-born Action Plan' for achieving the targets outlined in the global 'Every New-born Action Plan' by 2030, five years before the global deadline. The National Health Mission provides flexible financing to state governments for improving infrastructure facilities at the district and sub-district levels. The Mission was allocated INR 267 billion (USD 4 billion) in 2017-18 making it one of the largest centrally sponsored schemes of the Government of India. Additionally, the government has launched a National Health Protection Scheme for giving financial assistance to families that are below the poverty line and have lost their primary wage earners. Such families will be provided with a health insurance cover to the tune of INR 100,000 (USD 1,563). For ensuring the availability of adequately trained doctors, the government is creating an additional 5,000 postgraduate seats per year. Additionally, steps are being taken to transform the regulatory framework for medical education and practice in the country.

The Government of India has implemented several legislations and welfare schemes to curb the practice of female feticide and sex-selective abortion (Covering goal five). In addition, the government has launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child) movement for catalysing a change in mind set as well as protecting and educating the girl child. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao is related with the fourth goal that is quality education. This scheme is giving quality education to the girl student which is one of the most important goals among the sustainable development goals. On the other hand, this scheme is directly related with the fifth goal that is gender equality as this scheme is about providing education to the girls. This scheme gives gender equality as this scheme gives the female the same chance to study as the girls.

Women also face other types of discrimination. For instance, a study on Gender and Livelihoods Impacts of Clean Cook Stoves in South Asia reveals that Indian women spend approximately 374 hours every year collecting firewood. This amount of time could otherwise be spent in education or productive work. As a response to this problem, the government launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana for providing clean cooking fuel in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas connections. The lack of sanitation facilities at home also affects women

disproportionately. Additionally, the absence of adequate infrastructure for sanitation and menstrual hygiene management in schools is one of the factors that contribute to girls dropping out of secondary school. This issue is being addressed through the flagship sanitation programme of the government.

While working towards revitalising the global partnership for the achievement of the SDGs, India reaffirms the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (covering goal seventeen). Despite significant efforts for domestic resource mobilisation, India is unlikely to gather sufficient revenues for achieving the SDGs. Therefore, India reiterates that the developed countries have an essential obligation to provide financial assistance to the developing countries, especially for global public goods such as climate change mitigation and control of pandemics, so that they can fully achieve the SDGs. India also highlights the need for international cooperation for curbing illicit financial flows, defining aid unambiguously and establishing robust systems for monitoring commitments made by donor countries. Against this background, India is making all necessary efforts to raise its own revenue resources.

Conclusion:

Many more initiatives are there in India for achieving the SDGs. Also special attention has been given to develop rural India. But a very few initiatives have been discussed here. As a whole, India will continue to pursue the implementation of the SDG agenda through close collaboration between the national and sub-national governments as well as active participation of all other relevant stakeholders. India is taking many programmes and policies for fulfilling the SDGs but the main challenge is proper implementation of the programme. If we can properly implement the programme, India will surely achieve the goals within the stipulated time.

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Report**From Theory to Practice****Rex O. Schade****A coherent good story to be told about AWE in the UN**

According to the title 'From Theory to Practice' I want to stress from the beginning that here is all the theory you need in order to act, now that 2020 lies within the results and outcome of the non- governmental civil society organizations' conferences and summits over the last decade since the conference in 2011. The summaries of those ten years' outcome of AWE's participation in the UN NGO CSO conferences*, actions taken, and studies have been made here.

These conferences and summits named NGO CSO followed by a number have been running almost every second year since 1945. The creation of these regular conference for 'The Peoples' representatives was a key issue for the founding fathers and mothers of the United Nations, UN. Something incredibly positive that we have been reminded of this year, 2020, when celebrations of the UN becoming 75 years take place. AWE was attached to the official UN system for the first time in 1975 via ECOSOC (UN branch of economic and social issues and policies) and via UNESCO. Since 1975 we have participated with a variety of teams in both organizations at their special conferences and sessions.

Since 2011 up to now 2019,2020 the main results and launching of certain concepts or policies for NGOs attached to the UN system, have been summarized in reports and certain issues been presented and debated at AWE's International Council Meetings, ICM, every third year since 2010. Important issues were chosen by teams of members and are discussed among them between ICMs. A variety of UN teamwork took place.

Said in a different way, I could argue that we need no more theory if you want to act in your own local society, be it in the countryside, or in small and big cities. Because as you can imagine, a lot of knowledge, activities and running campaigns have been accumulated. In 2011 in Bonn, Germany AWE's UN representatives were asked to go back to our local communities to organize and create possibilities for 'active citizens'. AWE's UN representatives had been active before 2011 of course informing about UN concepts and making policies alive wherever we are placed on this planet.

We acted before and after 2011 to the messages and challenges of the Millennium Development Goals in October 2010 and again in October 2013. An international group of teachers from Egypt, Asmaa Sleem, from Ghana, Kwesi Tefe, and the Philippines, Roberto Nicolasora was put together planned and coordinated by Danish hosts Gulli Jakobsen, Jørn Boye Nielsen and Rex O. Schade. We delivered an MDG program to schools and educational institutions in Denmark. Both of the two-week programs followed the International Council Meetings at IPC in Elsinore 2010 and in Bisserup 2013. They were co-financed by DANIDA, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A lot of volunteer work and energy was the basis for these very important initiatives. The ensuing reports and the questionnaire used for debate during the tours to 14 different schools in Denmark are still available seven years later. The main aim of those programs delivered within a short period was that members of AWE International could or should disseminate and debate the topics of the MDGs delivered to the regional members in the following year.

These two programs delivered in 2010 and 2013 with the same group of teachers as well as the following UN teamwork around the creation of a UN Workgroup Magazine, 2015-17** have got their own story as part of an AWE UN history which might come to light one day. At this place, in this short article it is not up to me to depict or find out what kind of impact those two 'projects' might have had on AWE members or on the teacher group and editorial board who participated in their local groups or own chapters.

Times are changing again

As already stated at the beginning, the theory or contextual knowledge for acting now is there already, and if you put only climate action on the agenda it has been there since 1992 (Rio agreement). If you narrow it down to the educational area and where AWE has a blueprint around SDG 4, it came in full following the NGO CSO conferences and the bunch of policies for us from 2014! So, more theory and suggestions to practice are to be followed.

The NGO CSO conference in late August 2014 was in many ways a time turner, as it developed into an important change not only in the United Nations, but also in the NGO Civil Society Organization culture.

Three important messages and good stories to be told to the NGO world could be summarized and defined, seen from the point of view of your representative, at the UN from 20 August to 24 September 2014:

- 1) About some 'town hall meetings' for UN Representatives on what later became the contribution of the NGOs assembled at the 65 NGO conference 2014 to the development goals
- 2) The session about Education for Global Citizenship, which prepared the ground for further development, shown at the 67 Conference 2018 by ICAE and Long Island University
- 3) Climate March 21 September 2014 at Manhattan, world's largest, which prepared the ground for more systematic climate action packages.

Having those three main results of the 67 UN NGO Conference in mind presume the best way to focus on the compiled results of not only some conferences, but also on a total picture of the NGO cultures' contribution to the world and to the official UN, is to make a small list of the year by year main results. Allow me to define it as the UN NGO concepts and policies. Policies means in this case, some recommendations, and suggestions to frame in some follow-up activities and actions AWE members could initiate. They could do that in cooperation with likeminded organizations at home as well as together with those NGOs connected to the UN system. The definition and description of the following list was basic preparation and mayor points in my presentation at the October 30, 2020 AWE international Plenary about available theory.

Main results of four NGO conferences up to 2020 narrowed down into some concepts and policies:

AWE UN representatives have participated in the NGO conferences mentioned in New York 2014 -2018, 2019 in NY and in Salt Lake City, USA and 2016 in Gyeongju, South Korea:

- 2014/15 - From the NGO agreement to some basic points of values to the ongoing SDG formulation have been initiated from many corners of the UN related world. At the NGO conference conceptual thinking about Global Citizenship Education was presented as a renewal from the 1990s Brundtland Commission and Rio 1992. In focus, following the 2014 NGO conferences came as a follow-up activity awareness and manifestations towards renewed Climate Actions initiatives. World's Largest Climate March arranged in most capital cities around the world on the 21 September 2014; two AWE representatives participated in the Manhattan March.
- 2014/15 - During the UN-Committee work year 2015 we made an official greeting to the new president of the United Nations Assembly, H E Morgens Lykketoft (Noel Bonam on behalf of AWE and the UN Committee, 1 Sept.), to the UNGA opening and the UN SDG

Summit, 25-27 September 2015 in Paris. We promised, quote: ‘to supporting your endeavor and to working with the adoption of the new 17 goals in our programs and campaigns for the benefit of our members and the international society’ unquote. The UN-Committee had a four-pillar policy made (sustainability, end poverty, human rights education, and climate change) and suggested a new Journal to be produced about the UN work that we were insisting to be developed.

- 2015/ -17 - AWE UN team online project running over fifteen months; the result was the UN workgroup Magazine* presented at the ICM in Kerala October 2016; printed and distributed in 400 copies 1 March 2017 (co-financed by the Danish board).
- 2016 - Excavating new supplements to the history of Human Rights. Study in relation to the HR Session in Geneva May 2016. A remarkably interesting conclusion, important to AWE and all NGOs working with HR Education, is that the most important changes in the Human Rights development history happened because of small country members of UN worked together. They were able to push it through. A Baltic Sea NGO Dialogue Round table session in Gdansk, Poland had a similar angle on this issue.
- 2017 - The challenge from EGC, Education for Global Citizenship concept. It was presented at the 2014 Conference and in 2016 in Gyeongju lifted to a common NGO concept supplied with deliberative citizenship and new ways of democratic thinking and practice.
- 2018 - To praise and reinvent multilateralism, cooperation, and the reform process of the UN (conf. nr. 67 in New York). It was followed by AWE representatives’ work in the UN NGO CSO 68 Workshop program committee, approving more than 200 workshops for the conference August 2019 no. 67 in Salt Lake City.
- 2019 - To narrowing down a lot of effort into one single SDG like nr. 11 ‘sustainable cities and communities’(at conf. 68).With the biggest number of NGO participants present and the biggest number of workshops delivered in three days, the awareness grew for possibilities of being there next time with a large AWE input. Workshop, exhibition, documentary participation and possibilities at the next UN NGO SC0 conference no.69 in 2021 is a new ambition and idea.
- UN 2020, UN 75 Campaign, initiated during the 68 conference in Salt Lake City and made public online October 2019. Office bases in Ottawa, Canada. Message to the world and to active NGOS: to urge your governments to make 2020 count. Much more. ****
- 2020, February and October initiatives in AWE Danish chapter for establishing a new network with a variety of practitioners and sustainable initiatives, projects with a variety

of SDG focus. AWE celebrated the UN 75 birthday on October 24 in Svendborg, and AWE International organized a common online AWE Plenary on October 30, 2020.

This list is created as accumulative chain of connection, and it is the reason why I see a good story of AWE in the UN as a coherent story of cohesion concerning our engagement and connection to the UN with focus on and much work around education for sustainability, SDGs and human rights education, global citizenship. It can lead to a critical checkup before choosing a new issue, a new action or before an educational program package can be implemented.

The experienced positive communication channels between the UN and the NGOs were created during the time of representative work for the last six to ten years, 2011 -2020. Well, I presume you have now got a comprehensive grip on AWE's theoretical and conceptual background story within the decade 2010-2020. You can pick one or two concepts from a lot of cumulated theory of a variety of practices for future actions in your daily work and try to develop a meeting for practical steps locally and/or reach out to establish a common project at a larger, broader scale, if you can succeed in organizing teamwork around the idea.

Pragmatic steps towards ideal objectives.

Together finding global solutions for global problems -

An idea of celebrating annually the UN birthday, October 24 has been pending for quite some time in the various UN-Committees. It should not only be a celebration in the old-fashioned, happy birthday version, but also a manifestation on which we could reflect and evaluate our work promised to the UN in 2015! A manifestation on which we could introduce new questions and actions for public interest. So, after the NGO conferences in 2018 and 2019, in this strange corona year 2020 it happened.

At the NGO conference number 67, 'We the peoples' August 20 - 28, 2018 in New York it was known that a main aim, a challenge to everyone, all NGOs attached to the UN system were '*together finding global solutions for global problems*'. An ambitious and noble mandate was laid out. The conference included a follow-up conference for NGO UN representatives after the official conference, hosted by the global studies institute at the Long Island University. I had signed up for this a long time before the conference.

How would we, the People, as well as their NGOs, member states and their governments, all the foreign policy makers of the world be relaying and enacting the 2030 Agenda? That was the

question asked. Platform approaches and technologies for NGOs should be identified to transmit the 2030 Agenda. It is a really hard aim as well as a huge challenge:

- q. **‘Explore how to tackle global perceptions regarding the UN’s accomplishment and failures that have shaped attitudes toward the values the Organizations represents’ –**

(from the 67UN DPI/NGO Conference Concept Note)

Who of you would like to respond to this today 2020 two years and some months later? Much more could be said and quoted, so I restrict this to mention that six thematic round tables were planned; one was named “Towards UN-75, communicating the Case for Multilateralism”. So many workshops in between the six roundtable sessions that you cannot imagine.

No wonder why the organizers had used the famous preamble from the Charter of the United Nations ‘We the People’. ***

Three examples of good practice in own community

Luckily for us the practitioners of AWE and UN representative, the ambitious NGO conference 2018 had a very practical oriented subtitle: *together finding global solutions for global problems.*

- As a preparation to participation in the 67 NGO Conference, we in the Danish board had an exchange of points about the concept note, after it had been sent round to the Presidency and the UN committee, and uploaded on the UN Info site as well. At a meeting 18 June, 2018 especially Rikke Schultz and I made a policy suggestion to the AWE Presidency and the Danish board according to this subtitle in relation to the local situation of sustainability in our home areas, Jordløse in East Funen and Svendborg City and South Funen.
- I had for some time in local press and by biking to places observed and studied a variety of initiatives and projects within sustainability, from bigger ecological farming to smaller city gardens, private fruit productions (the archipelago of Svendborg Sound is a rich area of not only apples, with several hundred years of tradition) - and including social projects, Youth City School syllabus for education in sustainability and a private company or two working in the field of ‘Green energy’, to make it short. I met face-to-face a new network of committed practitioners.
- We looked into some of the places and once again contacted some of the hosts in Svendborg, who we visited at the second MDG educational program in 2013. At the same time, as we knew NGO members of the UN DPI/CSO-Unit were expected to identify ‘how NGOs are relying on and enacting the 2030 Agenda’, we had to begin at our own local places one more time! So, it was obvious for AWE members to ask the City Council how far a policy was defined for Agenda 2030. Which I did in the case of

Svendborg, in fact at a public meeting arranged by the City Council Committee for Nature and Environment, June 26, as it was an ideal departure for a new initiative, now with an international connection to the AWE UN work.

We suggested all AWE, local groups, and chapters, to check up with each of their City councils / including capital cities reminding members of the international network C40 campaign (grown to much more than 100 Capital Cities, Transition Towns, UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiatives and others). This suggestion was to prepare the Representative better, and it could also turn out to be a relevant theme for the coming International Council meeting for AWE, October 2019. So, this was an introduction to real practical steps which are already taken, and new experience achieved.

When you have read the three dots on this page, it could be said to be 'ideal' or a 'politically correct' way of acting practically to get some answers to the challenges mention about 'relaying and enacting within the 2030 Agenda'. It sounds so easy and at the same time obvious to do so! We all know AWE members have been acting like locally in many projects; several members have a long-lasting experience in education organizing e.g. their school, boarding school in cooperation with the local community. As you may know, when developing the Danish folk high schools, they were depending on close relations and cooperation with the local community. The challenge is to keep doing it, but in connection with new current challenges, where new obstacles must be solved. Challenges coming from the UN as well as from the inside members working actively for our UN cases. And what came out of it? We as an organization for World Education should show our own 'outcome' more. Smart ways of channeling these steps can be found.

The situation was taken into consideration worldwide in 2020. The method shown here since 2018 could be perceived as a moral imperative too, something you must do, along with the political correctness. Admitted, it sounds easy and the right thing to do now. However, we all know it is not so easy, as in some places where our members are living it is dangerous for personal security reasons to act and ask questions to local and national authorities and powers: - 'What are you doing concerning the Agenda 2030 now, that the UN has asked you to act according to what you have signed to do, not only to the Climate agreement 2015 but as a member signing the UN Charter' (1945).

This was the question to be asked in the autumn 2018! It seems to be the same still and especially following the UN NGO CSO Conference no. 68 in Salt Lake City, late August 2019.

Mission possible?

As to the outcome of the 68 NGO Conference in Salt Lake City, end of August 2019, It has been documented in a report, published on the UNGA opening day September 21, 2019 and sent to AWE Presidency, UN representatives, to The Danish Board and formed the basis of a presentation at the ICM October 2019, thereby to the new UN Committee 2019/23. In the report from the 68 Conference it was recommended that three topics could be the basis for the coming year up to the next NGO CSO Conference no. 69 in 2020.

The three topics were:

1. Climate Change and SDG 11 and 17, local solutions to global problems around SDG 4
2. Education for Global citizenship, deliberative citizenship and new forms of democracy, the right to learn
3. UN2020 / UN 75 Global Campaign 'The Future We want the UN We Need'

Each topic was described on one page and reported with same keywords: thematic session, summary and perspective, previous AWE work or suggestion, nearest future. One page per topic. *****

It is all there, also comprehensive suggestions and ideas to move ahead towards the NGO CSO Conference 2020/21. *Then Corona, C-19 occurred, and we were not lost, but tempo and kind of activity changed.*

The report as such has been a slumbering message and project idea all the while a new UN-Committee was developed, from December 2019.

A mission possible, a vision made: What, want, why and how with a focus '**the Future We Want the UN We Need**':

December 2020:

The mission idea stemming from local observations and listing sustainable work in progress, pre-research in the community area of Svendborg since 2018 can be defined very short:- Aim of the project: Get it into United Nations as a partnership project with AWE as leading coordinator at the next possible non-governmental, civil society conference, no. 69 hopefully till next August 2021.

So, as a follow-up on the UN Day on October 24 public meeting in Svendborg and with inspiration from our AWE international Plenary on October 30, and on top of all the theory accumulated, practical experience gained over a long time, we can make a first step to identify three topics rooted in your local community. In this case of Svendborg:

- 1) Schools and educational Institutions; partners national organizations like UNA School service; Associations of free schools; New Europe organization
- 2) City Council initiatives in cooperation with NGOs; Library; civil society associations and private companies³
- 3) Ecological farming; Local ecological food supply; street gardening; Modern Village in the City

The fact is that in connection with the celebration of the UN Day October 24, twenty-four single sustainable topics have been identified. Research into each of the now defined or simply noted levels of activities and action is emerging for the coming months!

Conclusion: Contrary to all the heavy challenges, it is believed that everything will get better in the future! I think it must get better, as I find that the seventeen sustainable development goals all together are beautiful, the word sustainable is beautiful in itself – it is all in all a new way of looking into the future! So be it.

Footnotes and references:

* AWE, Association for World Education has had a representative status at the UN ECOSOC since 1975 and has since participated in those NGO CSO Summits and in the UNESCO Confintea. Changes were made between the official UN via new communication channels between DPI – department for public institute and GC, global communication to CSO-Unit, the civils society organization office in New York (across UN at the 1st Avenue, New York). The CSO-Unit is initiator and organizing body, who deals with the annual / every second year NGO conferences. I have not made name droppings and relevant http addresses in this article, but you should know that I am familiar with several personnel in the important offices. Now that we as an NGO will pass 50 years of existing, I recommend that a UN History should be made.

** the mentioned UN Workgroup Magazine (issue 1., vol. 1. Autumn 2016) can be studied at the updated AWE International http Committees, Activities. You'll find CCLC / Alan Furth as well' introduction CCLC's SDG work program <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b6dbe679772aeaaf1f62bdb/t/5c586c8353450a702c536ed0/1549298823260/AWE+UN+Magazine+final.+27.+t+29.11.16.+The+e-version..pdf>

*** Additional to all and each of the NGO conferences AWE UN Reps have participated in, you can find 'The Call' the invitation to a conference, followed by a 'Concept note' and Program outline and résumés following the conference 'Outcome document' in which you can find all the recommendations to NGOs and their members. I will add all the expectations to act for paid staff, unpaid staff, secretariat, and We the Volunteers! If you like you can find all these documents at a volunteer made service site of UN Information 'Educators sans frontières', - more than 60 documents since September the first 2014. Is stored there at 'Files': <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rex.schade/files>

The mentioned AWE UN Information site was opened 1. September 2014. as we found a need for more and deeper information about UN and especially about the NGO and CSO activities and engagements. Uploads every week since September 2014 including collection of important documents.

For your information we (AWE) attended and took part in the special sessions (Town Hall Meetings) in UN New York 2014 during the 65 UN NGO CSO Conference, where samples of New Values following the MDG were presented in 24 notes and discussed. A résumé from the Town Hall Meetings at this 65' Conference was sent to the DPI Global Communication office. It was the NGOs attached to the UN contribution to what was later, a year after, known as the official UN's 17 SDG.(at the UN Summit in Paris)

**** The broadest partnership possible behind the UN2020 campaign: www.UN2020.org Among those TogetherFirst.org, The STIMSON institute (Albrigh-Gambari Commission on global Security, Justice and Governance) Just Security 2020 Program, local New York SDG action group and many more. The campaign has been reported weekly at the AWE UN information service site around the UNGA opening 20 – 24 September. Highlights: "Endorse the UN75 Peoples Declaration and Plan for Global Action" uploaded September 20, 2020. Status Nov 17 after the UN75 celebrations all 2020, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rex.schade/>

***** Report can be sent to readers. title: Report: 68th United Nations Civil Society Conference, 26-28 August in Salt Lake City Utah, USA'. Conference named: " Building Inclusive and Sustainable Cities and Communities" (SDG 11)
A summary uploaded at files: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/rex.schade/files>

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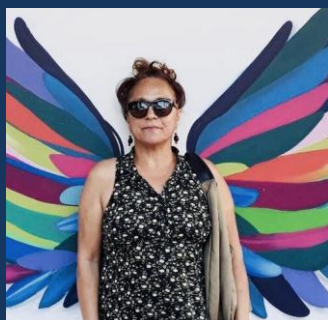
Yulia Skrupskaya
National Research University Higher School of Economics
Moscow, 123298, ul. Berzarina, 7-1-12
Russia
Email: skrupskaya.y@gmail.com

Presidency (Board of Directors)

Noël Bonam

Global President
Member since 2008

Noël has been the Global President of the organization since 2013 and is currently serving his third term. He is the Founder and Head of The Global Institute, an US-based NGO, specializing in social equity, leadership development and organizational sustainability. He is also a visual and performing artists. He lives in Portland (Maine), United States.



Ana Maria Barros Pinto

Vice President
Member since 2007

Ana Maria is a Tribal Ally Activist in Brazil who works closely with various Brazillian Tribes to assert their rights. She is former journalist and is now actively involved with community radio in her local community. She takes the greatest pride in being a grandma. She lives in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Alan Furth

Vice President
Member since 2007

Alan is a social ecologist who has dedicated his career to leveraging education for social development. He is the CO-Founder and former Executive Director of the Cobscook Institute (based in Washington County, Maine). In 2011, Alan was awarded University of Maine's Alumni Career Award. He lives in Trescott (Maine), United States.



Alla Nazarova

Vice President
Russia. Member since 2013

Alla is a lifelong learner and educator at heart. She leads international projects in education, ecology, social development, pedagogy, She specializes in international communications and is engaged in the study/dissemination of the experience of Danish Folk Schools and the heritage of Grundtvig. She lives in Moscow, Russian Federation

Asmaa Ahmed Sleem

Vice President

Member since 2013

Asmaa is an educator, facilitator and community leader. She has organized and facilitated workshops in education, development, peace building, conflict transformation, inner development and Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) internationally. She lives in Cairo, Egypt.



Roberto 'Boi' Nicolasora

Vice President, Member since 2010

Boi has been a formal and non-formal Trainer-Educator for 38 years with Non-Government Organizations. He has been an avid art enthusiast, a theatre director, songwriter in religious/popular music (in his native language) and is a Calbayog City Awardee for Music, Theatre and Culture. He lives in Calbayog City (Samar), Philippines.

Kirsten Bruun

Treasurer, Member since 2007

Kirsten is a seasoned educator who is currently the Head of the Global Line at Flakkebjerg Efterskole In Denmark. She is also a member of the International Board of Crossing Borders. She is an avid global explorer, an artist and a chef in her own right. She lives in the Danish countryside in Flakkebjerg (Slagelse), Denmark.



Reghu Rama Das

Vice President, Member since 2004

Reghu is the Director of the People College at Mitraniketan (South India) which was recognized as the Best Community College in India by the Government of India in 2015. Reghu serves on several state, regional and federal committees as an advisor for education and rural development. Reghu lives in Vellanad (Kerala), India.

Sujit Kumar Paul

Vice President, Member since 2007

Sujit is a Social Scientist and also a development practitioner, researcher and resource person in the field of lifelong learning, rural development and management. He is a Professor of Rural Development and Management at the Visva-Bharati, (A Central University), West Bengal, India. Sujit has researched and written extensively about rural education and sustainability. He lives in West Bengal, India.

