



THE ROAD TO UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A GLOBAL CONVERSATION AND INPUT BY CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUTH IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND BUSINESS

In the frame of the United Nations 75th Anniversary celebration

*An initiative of Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare (Estonia)
in partnership with Peace Child International (UK) and We Love Sousse (Tunisia)
and with the financial support of the Estonian National Foundation of Civil Society*
www.unsdg.ee

An International initiative for Global Conversation **“THE ROAD TO UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”**

An International initiative dedicated to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and 100th anniversary of the Estonian Republic; this event was also a contribution of the Estonian civil society to support Estonia during its two year membership in the UNSC (2020-2021). The UN’s Global Conversation is all about how to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals, how we can “Reinvent Multilateralism” – or re-create the UN system in a format fit for the 21st digital century.

This international initiative includes the following events:

- I - A meeting in Tallinn, Estonia 20 – 23 February 2020 (an international conference and meeting of youth, Governmental and non-governmental organisations and international institutions)
- II - A meeting in Sousse, Tunisia 10 – 13 September 2020 (an international conference, review and consolidation of outcomes of the first meeting and finalisation of Global Conversation Conference content)
- Online global consultations September - October 2020 on www.unsdg.ee
- Global Conversation final meeting 28th October – 1st November 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia

The main aim of both preparatory meetings/conferences (in February 2020 in Tallinn, Estonia, and June 2020 in Sousse, Tunisia) is to plan the **Global Event in Tallinn** and a series of Regional Meetings before it. All these meetings will contribute to the UN’s Global Conversation and promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas and the Island States.

The whole series of meeting happens in the context of a worldwide mobilization for the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals and the global consultation to “Reinvent Multilateralism for the 21st Century”.

Additional objectives include:

- To reach conclusions on best means to promote and spread knowledge / awareness of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, Human Rights instruments and international legal frameworks;
- To explore how to use Digital technologies to promote and engage communities and individuals to help achieve the UN SDGs and human rights protections;
- To identify how UN SDGs may be implemented on both local and international levels;
- To share practical skills on how to utilise the existing international and UN human rights instruments to improve good governance and develop better tools for good governance.
- To build a network of civil society organisations, government representatives and other relevant organisations to implement the outputs of the Global Event and the UN’s Global Conversation;
- To organise a Global Event in October 2020 in Estonia, to celebrate UN 75th Anniversary and discuss achievement of UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, global challenges and propose an implementation plan for the next decade (2021-2030).

Target audience

The international event is open to representatives from UN system organisations, intergovernmental organisations, governments, ministries or departments, international donors, national and regional human rights institutions, Civil Society and youth organisations, educational institutions and interested individuals.

All events will be focused on 4 key elements of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Peace:** Enabling the UN to be a more effective peace-builder / peace-keeper, through conflict transformation, peace-keeping forces, Intercultural dialogue and other means;
- **Sustainability:** Achieving Sustainable Economic Growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth and Resource Efficiency;
- **Human Rights and Digitalization:** Creating a Human Rights / Digital protection regime fit for the 21st Century;
- **Climate Change:** reversing global heating by transforming global consumption patterns & investing in clean energy;

Methodology

The programme will consist of plenary sessions with lectures/speeches, panel discussions, workshops, study visits and Round Table / World Café discussions involving all participants. Participants will be expected to share their experience – and emphasise to younger participants their perspectives on the ‘art of the possible.’ They will also be expected to present proposals on achievable targets and action ideas for implementation at local, national and international levels. The focus will be to contribute effectively to the UN’s Global Conversation – and get schools, organisations, communities, Governments and individuals, involved in this endeavour in their home countries.

Organisers / supporters

Head organiser: Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare (Estonia).

Co-organisers: Peace Child International (United Kingdom) and We love Sousse (Tunisia)

Supporters: Estonian National Civil Society Foundation, Anna Lindh Foundation, UN 75th Anniversary organisational committee, European Commission, Estonian Government Office, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of Netherlands, Estonian Ministry of Culture, Estonian Integration Foundation, Tallinn Sport and Youth Department, Nordic Council of Ministers office in Estonia and Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Official webpage of the initiative: www.unsdg.ee

Conference materials: www.unsdg.ee/materials/

Event gallery: www.unsdg.ee/gallery

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/un75estonia/>

Report on 1st preparatory meeting **“The role of global cooperation in building the future we want”**

20th – 23rd of February, Tallinn, Estonia

Tallinn International high level meeting is the first of three international events planned to take place from February 2020 to October 2020. This programme is held in the framework of the implementation of United Nations “Global Conversation campaign”, organised in cooperation with partners from different countries and co-financed/supported by the Estonian National Foundation of Civil Society, Tallinn City Government, the Estonian Ministry of Culture, Tallink Group, the Integration Foundation, Peace Child International, the Nordic Council of Ministers office in Estonia, We Love Sousse, Culture Funding Watch and others partners.

The first meeting took place in Tallinn, Estonia from 20th to 23rd February 2020, while second meeting is planned to happen in Tunisia on the 28th June to 2nd July 2020 and the final closure conference is to conclude in Tallinn, Estonia from 8-11th October 2020.

1st preparatory meeting aimed at:

- commemorating the UN 75th Anniversary
- discussing the role of global cooperation in building the future we want
- Identifying the main obstacles we face in achieving UN SDG in an increasingly digitalised society, growing youth unemployment and divided society
- discussing the role and importance of green economy (climate change) and intercultural dialogue in reconciling societies with their environment, and bridging the divide which is pulling its components adrift

The proposed programme connects unique regional networks (European, Asian, African and American) of practitioners, policy-makers, civil society organisations, media and international donors. While the Tallinn February meeting will concentrate on highlighting and raising the voices of the global north, the Tunisia June meeting aims at mobilising global south actors and bringing out their opinions and expectations.

Conference Goals:

- To contribute practical and innovative ideas to the UN’s Global Conversation
- To shape an International Conference to be hosted in Estonia in October 2020 that delivers implementation strategies to enact the ideas which will emerge from the meeting and the UN Secretary-General’s Speech of 21st September 2020
- To generate ideas and strategies for how to re-invent multilateralism and rethink the UN System for the 21st Century

The conference was opened (opening speeches) by high level representatives, **on behalf of the Estonian Government** (Mr. Jüri Seilenthal, Director General, External Economic and Development Cooperation Department of Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), **on behalf of the European Commission** (Mrs. Katrin Höövelson, Deputy Head of European Commission Representation in Estonia) and **on behalf of the United Nations** (Mr. Herman Quarles van Ufford, Advisor to the USG of the United Nations; UNHQ).

Opening speeches could be found on www.unsdg.ee/materials

Components of the conference

- **Key note speeches by UN, government and civil society representatives, experts in policy making and UN SDG.** The aim is to introduce the main themes to all participants and enhance

their continued relevance for the world. These introductory presentations served also to engage the participants in an exchange on the importance and the need to support UN Global conversation call.

- **Panel discussion sessions. These panel discussions include representatives of many different backgrounds who will highlight the usefulness of creating a comparative perspective. The panels will be conducted in a round table format to engage the audience in an active discussion.** Being open to ideas from other countries (regions), it will offer the opportunity to seek common goals and policy approaches. Discussions will cover various themes such as: digital society, intercultural dialogue, youth unemployment, advocacy, innovation and successful cooperation between state and NGOs, All these topics are part of the main themes chosen for the conference-
- **Practical working groups/workshops for participants to introduce them to new skills and knowledge with final cooperation results.**
 1. *Peace: Enabling the UN to be a more effective peace-builder / peace-keeper, through conflict transformation, peace-keeping forces, intercultural dialogue and other means;*
 2. *Sustainability: Achieving sustainable economic growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth, resource efficiency*
 3. *Human Rights and Digitalisation: Digital Society and creating a Human Rights regime fit for 21st Century Realities*
 4. *Climate Change: Halting and reversing global heating by transforming global consumption patterns and investing in clean energy*

To address all of 4 main themes/ issues, we agreed on two goals:

1. Improve education about them – both in schools, youth organisation and in the media;
2. Focus on solutions / accentuate the positives.

We also agreed that, fruitful as they were, the discussions in Estonia only scratched the surface of these challenges. The discussions set the path and the orientation but we still have to go further in debating the questions of “How we could make a concrete impact on achievement of UN SDG and to reinvent the UN?”

Key note speeches

In the opening segment of the International conference, the following three keynote speakers presented formal introductions:

- H.E. Mr. Herman Quarles Ufford, UN Under Secretary-General’s team, UN75/ SDG (Intergovernmental level)

Mr. Herman Quarles Ufford in his speech has mentioned that “As much as celebrating the 75th anniversary of the UN is an important undertaking in itself, these celebrations in many countries, in particular in Asia and in Europe coincide with celebrating 75 years since of the end of WWII, 75 years of liberation, although war and oppression continued to burden too many people since.

Today, geopolitics is back with a vengeance. Three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are seeing a resurgence of rivalry between the world’s largest economies, but also at the regional and national levels, as political establishments are questioned and polarization is on the rise. At a time of such uncertainty, a logical response would be to reinforce the multilateral order and international law as a means of having some compass with which to chart the way forward. But arguably, the opposite is happening.

This paradox has led to a gaping chasm between our vision of the world we want – as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - and where we are headed if current trends continue. This is particularly obvious when it comes to climate change. We are already seeing the effects of our inadequate action: last year, an estimated 17.2 million people were newly displaced within their own countries as a result of disasters. These numbers will only grow without more energetic measures.

We are also facing huge changes in the age composition of our population. Between now and 2030, half the global population will be under 30. By 2050, the over 65s will outnumber children. Urbanisation will continue its relentless march: today, around 55 per cent of the world's population lives in towns and cities. By 2050 that will rise to almost 70 per cent. Meanwhile, deep inequalities persist within and between countries.

Newer challenges are also jostling for policy-makers' attention. Digital advances can support and accelerate achievement of each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – from ending extreme poverty to reducing maternal and infant mortality, promoting sustainable farming and decent work, and achieving universal literacy. But technologies can also threaten privacy, erode security and fuel inequality. They have implications for human rights and human agency. Like generations before, we – governments, businesses and individuals – have a choice to make in how we harness and manage new technologies. The nature of violence has changed in other ways too. Conflicts are less deadly but longer, and more often waged between domestic groups rather than states. Homicides are becoming more frequent in some parts of the world, while gender-based attacks are increasing.

To mark the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020, the Secretary-General has initiated the biggest global conversation ever. Generating discussions around the world – from classrooms to boardrooms, parliaments to village halls – specifically targeting youth on what is needed to strengthen international cooperation and institutions so we can manage these challenges collectively and effectively.

The views and ideas generated by all these discussions and dialogues will be collected, analyzed and brought to the attention of world leaders as they gather in New York in September 2020 to commemorate the UN's 75th anniversary. These results will provide for an extremely interesting and arguably the biggest ever crowd-sourced body of public opinion on the big questions of our time”.

- Mrs. Eili Lepik, Government Office of Estonia, Strategy Unit (Governmental level)

In her presentation Ms Lepik gave an overview of the work conducted by the commission in charge of the implementation of the UN SDG's in Estonia. She underlined the approach as well as the policy put in place by the coalition for sustainable development. She spoke of the various activities, music festivals and artistic performances and other creative expressions put in place in the programme of implementation.

In terms of follow-up and evaluation, Ms Lepik presented the tool created for the purpose and titled “indicators tree” symbolizing the unity of purpose and the multiplicity of dimensions of the SDG's. Using a color-coded concept, the tree will evolve progressively until reaching the green color indicating the achieved goal.

Ms Lepik emphasized the importance of innovation and smart solutions as the basis of the implementation strategy adopted in Estonia. She also insisted on the necessity to bridge the technology gap which still presents a serious challenge and a source of slow progress in the SDG's implementation strategy worldwide. In this context, both on national and international levels, the principle of collective responsibility is at the heart of the endeavour.

- Mr. David Woollcombe, Peace Child International (International Non-governmental level).

At the beginning of his presentation, Mr. Woollcombe recalled the numerous achievements of the United Nations since its creation in a multitude of fields such as peace and security, health, food and nutrition, culture and education, trade and other aspect of world interaction.

He spoke of his organisation's involvement in activities commemorating the UN 75th anniversary both in the United Kingdom and other countries. In this context he charred with the audience an idea which

emerged from the Harpenden conversation in the UK about a “Digital UN”. The concept will be the subject of further discussion with international experts, and a paper on the idea will be prepared ahead of the next meeting in Tunisia.

Mr. Woolcombe indicated that various activities are being scheduled and conducted around the world to mark the UN 75th anniversary and several interesting ideas and proposals will emerge from the debates and the general activities. He also underlined that the main purpose and challenge is to work on reinventing the UN and establish a new international working model and system to reflect the changes, which have occurred in the world. The UN must be in harmony with its time and well equipped to face the requirements and various challenges it will face in the future.

In terms of the envisioned evolution of the UN system and mechanisms, he spoke in favour of re-visiting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to create a Version 2.0 – fit for the digital age and containing new concepts and areas which have become part of our lives in the 21st century. As for the concept of Digital UN, this proposal will be included in the working documents with all others to be further discussed and fleshed out during the next segment of the conference in Sousse, Tunisia.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

These panel discussions include representatives of many different backgrounds who will highlight the usefulness of creating a comparative perspective. The panels will be conducted in a round table format to engage the audience in an active discussion. Being open to ideas from other countries (regions), it will offer the opportunity to seek common goals and policy approaches. Discussions will cover various themes such as: digital society, intercultural dialogue, youth unemployment, advocacy, innovation and successful cooperation between state and NGOs, All these topics are part of the main themes chosen for the conference.

Panel I discussion: “Peace: Enabling the UN to be a more effective peace-builder / peace-keeper, through conflict transformation, peace-keeping forces, migration, intercultural dialogue and other means“

The panel was moderated by a high-level expert and head moderator of the conference H.E. Amb. Hatem Atallah (Tunisia) and included 5 representatives from France/Poland, UK/Iran, Sweden, Estonia and Tunisia. The crucial role of the UN is confirmed but the moderator who insisted in this opening remark on the importance of the representativeness and inclusiveness of this endeavor as a reflection of the UN itself.

Here are main thoughts presented by speakers of the first panel discussion:

Ms. Anahita Parsa, SCRAP campaign, Iran/UK - The UN must be more inclusive of people of color, youth and women etc. “The youth/next generation needs to have designated spaces to exist and participate in handling the existing and/or next urgencies and problems. Peace is about building bridges, communication and integration which cannot be put in practice if everyone is not included in the conversation”. Youth strength and potential to contribute to peace building is huge. For that potential to be effective, there is a need for facilitating access to opportunities, means and capacity building.

Jean Kostrzewski, London University, UK - talked about the three core values of multilateralism: inclusion, consultation and solidarity. Given the various uncertainties and strong tensions in today’s world politics, he highlighted the fact that these values can be easily forgotten. Based on his modest but insightful experience of a 23 years old Masters student engaged with international security and migration issues, Jean gave his own interpretation of what are the three main values of multilateralism and how they can be better applied nowadays. When it comes to inclusion, as the son of two Polish political refugees who fled to France while Poland was still under soviet occupation, Jean expressed his sincere gratitude to France for being his adoptive motherland, where he was born, raised and able to have access to the same social opportunities as other French citizens.

The second value: consultation was exemplified through Jean’s involvement in campaigning about arms control and global disarmament. As a Polish-French dual citizen he spoke about possible ways to engage in meaningful dialogue with countries such as Russia. Without ignoring the Russian violations or tensed relationship between the Russian Federation and other Baltic states, Jean emphasised the importance of maintaining dialogue particularly in a context of conflict in order to prevent further escalation. Eventually, Jean advocated for the establishment of a more accessible international solidarity by referring himself to the refugee camps in the Parisian suburbs. Through charity work he provided humanitarian assistance to refugees from all ages coming from countries where their survival was often at risk.

Mr. Anis Boufrikha, president of We Love Sousse (Tunisia) - presented his organization experience in dealing with extremism among youth in Tunisia. The case of re-integration of a former ISIS member has been shared with a narrative highlighting the challenge and the complex nature of the endeavor. Speaking of the role of civil society organizations, he insisted on the importance of innovative approaches and the need for all actors to leave their zone of comfort and think “out of the box” to be able to reach out to those in need or in a difficult stance. The speaker emphasized the role of art, intercultural dialogue and advocacy in helping young people reconstruct their lives after traumas and return to society with a more positive attitude.

Mrs. Liis Paloots, Head of Estonian Office of International Organisation for Migration - In her speech, she indicated that the raise of populism and right wing forces worldwide is identified as one of the major threats and problems created around migration. While discussing conflicts from the human mobility dimension, it is important to keep in mind, that conflicts are drivers of displacement. Through preventing conflicts, we can avoid forced migratory movements, which often can also take irregular format. We believe that migration should be a choice, not a necessity. In this regard, she insisted that while resolving conflicts, we also need to focus on sustainable peace, return and reintegration of various groups of people, be it on national (institutions), community level and/or individual level.

Speaking on peacebuilding and peace preservation Mrs Liis highlighted the importance of safeguarding/improving access to institutions and services, as well as strengthening democratic institutions; building community resilience and social cohesion, and facilitating reconciliation and reintegration of former combatants. All of this should be done in adherence to international standards and human rights conventions, through policies based on evidence and obviously in partnerships, where everyone is committed.

Conclusions and recommendations

Participants highlighted the need for the following actions:

- Support mutual understanding of different realities and contexts
- Create and facilitate spaces to open dialogue
- Raise awareness and support to migrant with regard to local customs and laws of host countries
- Fight against stereotyping and develop alternative narratives around migration issues

Panel II discussion: “Sustainability: Achieving sustainable economic growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth, resource efficiency”

Panel discussion has been moderated by Mrs. Agne Kuimet, head of Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation and includes 6 representatives from UK, Germany, Belgium, Estonia France/Tunisia and Russia. The panel discussion themes have been tackled from various perspectives.

Here are main thoughts by speakers of the second panel discussion:

Mr. David Woollcombe, Peace Child International, United Kingdom –He mentioned that United Nations Sustainable Development Goal - 8.5, supporting entrepreneurship in the green economy is a good option including promotion of sustainable green economy, career guidance and support and mentoring for green businesses, lifelong learning etc. Mr. Woollcombe presented best practices and initiatives of Peace Child International like “Be the Change Academy” programme - Business Development and Support in West Africa; “Work the Change” Employability programme in UK easing the school-to-work transition and other initiatives run by PCI. More information could be found on www.peacechild.org

Mrs. Ekaterina Alekseeva, Civic chamber of the Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation - raised the fundamental question about current capitalistic economy that makes of money generation an individualistic

objective rather than a means for a greater community good. According to Ekaterina shifting to more sustainable life styles and economies could be made through the investments in rural areas, development and dissemination of learning for green business, fostering local level cooperation.

Mr. Benjamin Welling, European Democrat Students, Germany – He looked at sustainability from the perspective of economic exchanges between international markets. As an example, he talked about German industries, their need in migrants' labor workforce and the fact that they, like most of their counterparts in the western world, have demographic problems.

Mrs. Ouafa Belgacem, Culture Funding Watch, France/Tunisia – She looked at sustainability from Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) perspective. She highlighted the double important role of those industries in both creating wealth -being one of the most lucrative sectors worldwide- but also from the perspective of influencing behavior. According to Ouafa the CCI mainstream products are transmitting negative values: promoting over-consumerism, violence and extremism. All these are against the UN and the HR values. She advocated for the need to include the CCI in the UN development agenda, so it could be much more effective than the current setup. "As long as the role of the CCI in the SDGs agenda is not a standalone objective, efforts to promote positive values will never be achieved. An awareness raising global campaign, a UN multi-billion programme is a drop in an ocean compared to the power of Bollywood and Hollywood in transmitting violence, selfishness promoting negative role models etc." Alternatives as well as incentives to ban such values from the mainstream CCI products should be put in place in order to prepare next generations to the values of mutual respect, sustainability and the urgency of giving up some of one's privileges for the good of all.

Liis Seeme, STEP Programm (Estonia) and Rudy Raes, D'broej Centrum West (Belgium). The two panelists shared their own best experiences of programmes supporting youth in social and economic integration. They explained how they operated through new kinds of green education via formal and information trainings to help them integrate a sustainable economy, create green jobs and plan better future. Both emphasized on the need for identifying the right way to attract and motivate youth with experimentation and failure being high on the list.

Conclusions and recommendations

Participants highlighted the need for the following actions:

- Development of new learning methods
- Development of global educational tools that would promote also theories and good practices
- Creation of group centres for sustainability leadership
- Use of new technologies to facilitate learning, communication, advocacy and collaboration around green education
- Generate more technical and less theoretical learning material for schools
- Foster innovation and target children at early stage
- Sustainability should be focused on inclusiveness of minorities and disabled people
- Fostering universal involvement to solve youth employment problems
- More option at school should be available to youth and should include sustainability in curricula
- Cultural and creative industries' role: give more space, visibility, and online platform for CCI and artists that promote good values such sustainability, solidarity and inclusion.

Panel III discussion: “Human Rights and Protection: Digital Society and creating a Human Rights regime fit for 21st Century Realities”

The panel was moderated by Ms. Aliine Lotman, digital literacy expert, NGO Mondo and included 6 representatives from Estonia, and the United Kingdom. The panelists spoke of the theme from different angles presenting personal points of view but also national experiences dealing with digitalization in an attempt to cover many aspects of the issue and present a large angle of sight into this new tool of social and professional life.

Here are the main thoughts presented by speakers of the third panel discussion:

Marten Kaevats, Estonian National Digital Advisor, Government office of Estonia – He presented the Estonian experience in this context, titled “Distributed Architecture” which allowed the country to take full advantage of the technology and put it at the service of the citizens and for achieving the government policy goals.

Mrs Katrin Isotamm, Communication Director of Telia Estonia (communication company) – She spoke of the programmes and initiatives put in place by the company and the benefits they have introduced for the citizens in various fields. She underlined the importance of the technological advances further facilitate interactions of citizens with the public administrations and institutions and allow better services and wider outreach. On the other hand she drew attention to the negative side of digitalization and the misuse of technology. This aspect need to be fully considered while advancing in the digitalization process and protective devices and other corrective tools need to be also introduced to strengthen the citizen’s trust in the digitalized setting and expand its use.

Ms Kai Klandorf, Network of Estonian Non-profit Organizations – She presented the activities of the network and highlighted the importance of digitalization and technology in general as a tool for civil society and NGO’s. She explained how this tool is used by the network and its individual organizations, to follow and monitor government work and activities, in a faster, more efficient and comprehensive way. In this context she also highlighted the role played by social media as a watcheye to control what the government is doing and evaluate the performance allowing the citizen to be fully aware of what is happening and be part of the process. Ms Klandorf, recognized however, that expanding the use of social media need to be carefully considered as there are also dark aspects to it, particularly the misuse of the tool for negative purposes which will affect the citizens and impact the trust factor in the content and the mission.

Mrs Liia Hänni, e.governance academy, Estonia – While underlining the important contribution of technology and digitalization to enhance work efficiency, she spoke of the identity issue introduced by the expansion of the digital society. In this regard she presented the initiative conducted in Estonia to follow the development and use of the digital society: the digital Identity. Mrs Hänni gave an overview of the concept and its implementation emphasizing the fact that its implementation was in fact made necessary because digital identity had an impact on all aspects of life and introduced new legal concepts and activity patterns as well as adjustments by various structures in different professional fields.

Mr. Jonathan Hart, UNICEF, UK – He presented the activities conducted by UNICEF and recalled several other landmark events which helped the organization strengthen its role and pertinence in her areas of competence around the world. He shared with the audience the importance of supporting the various missions and programmes this UN specialized organisation has in place to create a stronger sense of human bonding and international active solidarity. In this regard, he noted that, until today, only two countries, The United States of America and Somalia, have still not ratified the UNICEF convention.

Mrs Toma Moran, London University, the United Kingdom – Speaking on the issue in a more generic and global way, she presented the notion that one cannot speak of digitalization because we live already in a digitalized world. It is no longer a target, it is a reality. She highlighted several of the advantages digitalization brings to nowadays social activities, particularly in terms of mobility. Digitalization helps circumvent the obstacles to mobility such as visas and allow interactions to continue in a more connected world which has no borders and requires no means of transportation. She underlined however that digitalization and its successful implementation rest on building trust in the tool and its content and this requires daily attention to ensure the positive aspects of digitalization are not eroded by a potential loss of trust.

Conclusions and recommendations

Participants highlighted the need for the following actions:

- The UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights need to be reviewed to harmonize it with the new requirements
- Education remains at the heart of all development and social positive change. But on the issue of digitalization, the question of whose responsibility this is, remains to be decided
- Social media, when used in a constructive way can be an important tool for communication and assessment of public work
- The new notion of Digital Identity need to be studied carefully: it could lead to the establishment of a global digital identity to be in line with the borderless internet
- Digitalization can vary with the needs: elections, financial transactions or other needs. But in all cases it requires transparency
- Digitalization is a powerful tool which requires precaution, protective measures and comprehensive regulations
- Digitalization introduces also the issue of inclusiveness as cost and competence acquisition could lead to unbalanced situations in different parts of the world.

IV Panel discussion “Sustainability: Achieving sustainable economic growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth, resource efficiency”

The panel was moderated by Mr. David Woollcombe, President of Peace Child International and included 6 representatives from Estonia, Sweden and Germany. The panel discussion themes were tackled from various perspectives and by various actors (like European Commission, Governments, International environmental organizations and activists etc).

Here are main thoughts by speakers of the third panel discussion:

Ms. Eva Lennuk (Estonian UN youth delegate) Estonian National Youth Council – has raised three main points - All-encompassing, Education and Communicating. In order to combat the problem, people need to be made aware that they are also directly affected, because often those who think only of their tomatoes in the garden cannot imagine the effects of climate change on them. In other words, the problem must first be interpreted in a way that everyone can understand - encompassing must not cause panic that we must all die, but rather must help people understand that climate change is affecting everyone. As a second point, Eva pointed out that in education, sustainable development must not be considered in a horizontal line - throughout all subjects, but very superficially - but rather in a vertical line and with strong reintroduction mechanisms. Not only would a young person understand that there was something about

climate in mathematics class, but he would also have strong mechanisms for assessing the outcomes of climate education, the UNECE strategic plan, for example. Third, there is a need for communicating about climate change at all levels, not only at EU level, but also through NGOs and other associations.

Ms. Kadi Kenk, Let's Do it World Foundation, Estonia – In her speech has mentioned that circular economy and zero waste principles offer a huge contribution to dealing with climate change. The most visible part of it is waste and waste management, but this is only because it is the end of the line in linear economy that shows the inefficiencies and wastefulness of all the previous processes. People have a comparatively similar impact when striking (doing Greta Thunberg) but they can have a substantially greater impact as influencers in their communities. This is why we put together a helpful guideline – the [Keep It Clean Plan](#), to help anyone get started and make them understand that they could do more. She pointed out to the fact that if all the world's waste was collected, we lack the ability to treat it right. The solutions lay with dealing with the production volumes and waste management systems. And this is a global problem. Many high-income countries have exported their waste to poorer countries as a key strategy to deal with domestic post-consumer waste. Globally, only an estimated 20% of all our resources ever make it to recycling while the rest ends up burnt openly or in incinerators, landfilled or dumped in nature. The world generates 2.01 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste annually, with at least 33 percent of that not managed in an environmentally safe manner. Many of the solutions focus on collection and recycling, despite years of persistently low and falling (plastic) recycling rates worldwide. Just 0.3 per cent of Official Development Assistance (ODA) is spent on solid waste management. A growing number of corporations are pledging to pursue higher recycling goals while civil society organizations are also staying vigilant on the goals to reduce the amount of packaging and other waste generated by the global producers. It is just not realistic that only improving recycling would make much difference. In the next 10 years we anticipate the plastic production only to increase by 40%. “Is any waste management system, that already today is faulty, ready to admit they are able to progress in the same pace?”

Mrs. Jane Õispuu, Head of Political Team, European Commission Representation in Estonia - has underlined following points:

- There is no alternative to a transformation to green economy and EU is/has been a pioneer in so many ways. And it will be a pioneer, paving the way to a green economy.
- All (sectorial) policies must be subordinated to the European Green Deal in order to make it a success.
- Internationally, COP26 will be an ultimate milestone. The EU will have a crucial role to make it a success.

Mrs. Kristi Klaas, Deputy Secretary General, Estonian Ministry of Environment – has presented to the audience an Estonia strategically planning in case environmental and climate change question in frame of UN Sustainable development goals and overview of Estonian position on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Conclusions and recommendations

- The situation is much more serious than we thought it to be. We need to act collectively and now.
- In all approaches, we need to emphasize the solution and not the problem and adapt the communication message to the audience
- Youth need to be part of all initiatives as they represent the next generation
- A stronger multilateral approach led by the UN is needed because of the complexity of the issues and their interdependence

- Larger investments are needed in green economy, higher education and research on climate change
- Education is key to combatting climate change effects and introduce positive behavioral changes : call for the introduction of more climate change related topics in the curricula
- Among the solutions offered by young people was a call for closer cooperation with popular brands and large companies in order to develop campaigns to promote environmentally friendly behaviour among young people. For young people, the impact of general education and hobby schools on young people's behavioural habits needs to be studied carefully.

Here are some suggestions from participants on how to have an input into environment protection (Keep it Clean Plan/waste management etc) and mitigate challenges of climate change:

- In German society people are responding positively to restrictions implemented on EU level: Food sharing: leftover food from supermarkets is prepared and distributed to the needy in the community.
- Latvian students drew the attention to the fact that no-one speaks of over production, i.e. how companies produce a lot more than what they can sell and this creates an extra burden on waste management.
- Local production is not only about sustainable produce but it contributes substantially to ~~also~~ creating livelihoods for small economies.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop I: “Paving the way for positive migration narrative and experiences”

Workshop was set up in the following way:

1. Brief introduction to migration setting and phenomena, including main trends and most relevant terminology and actors in migration.
2. Participants of the workshop were divided in two groups to discuss some of the migration questions as follows (certain support questions were provided)
3. Two groups presented to each other their respective group work and findings and discussed various scenarios to find a common ground to the issues in question

In dividing the participants into two groups, respectively representing “migrants” and “states” we wanted to strengthen the participatory approach and simulate debates on migration.

The workshop was designed while keeping in mind that the participants are young and thus was intended to better understand their perception on migration and get their opinion on the possible migration outlooks for future and respective narratives for the public.

Following a brief introduction to migration setting and phenomena, participants (21 individuals) were divided in two groups to discuss some of the migration questions as follows:

1. **Migrants:** How do I want to see my migration experience – discuss it from main migrant’s category point of view – legal migration (labour, students, family) and mixed irregular migration flows (including refugees)?
2. **State:** How do we regulate migration as sovereign nation state?

Overall, we consider the workshop on migration was successful as participants were actively engaged and discussed major issues concerning migration and integration/reception.

Given the time allocation, the workshop enabled to dwell briefly on various migration related topics. The discussion indicated somewhat limited knowledge in migration governance and current ongoing debates and processes, unless the participants were directly involved with migration topics through profession. Some of the main aspects that were brought out and mutually acknowledged by both groups:

- Today’s world is global, and the focus should be on human beings and rights (including the right of movement)
- Inclusion is of critical importance, everyone should have similar rights and obligations, however special attention should be paid on language learning and civic orientation of migrants in country of destination
- Vulnerable groups should be given priority – particularly those fleeing persecution and war – and children on the move.
- Information is key; however it should not be considered as such when facing people in desperate situations
- Receiving society/community should also be sensitized i.e empathy courses.

It was evident from the group work that the group looking into migration from migrant’s perspective was rather univocal, while the group representing states had more varying opinions and thus simple straightforward conclusions and points were more complex to reach. This gave us also an opportunity to

showcase the complexity of finding common grounds in such cases and that certain processes might be prolonged on international/UN level.

Group recommendation on migration narrative should include following key aspects:

- Today we are living in a global village where all individuals are equal
- Fact and evidence based and balanced communication could bring out personal stories but also focus on contributions that migrants make to societies.
- A reduction of the security related aspects is necessary as today's communication focused on building fences and protecting borders portrays misleading image on migration
- Clear linkage between migration and other global issues should be made, e.g climate change, inequality etc.

NB! To a large extent, the discussion focused on the consequences of the crisis (from the European Union perspective)

The workshop was facilitated by Liis Paloots, IOM Estonia and Meelis Niine, NGO MONDO

Workshop II: “Achieving sustainable economic growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth”

Workshop was set up on the following way:

1. Brief intro how youth could contribute to achievement sustainable economic growth, creation of green growth jobs and new skills and knowledges, including main international trends.
2. Participants of the workshop were divided in two groups to discuss main challenges in creation of jobs for youth by investments in Green Growth, artificial intelligence, and challenges of AI technologies vs. human employment.
3. Two groups have been asked to prepare projects/initiatives and present them to audience and find a common ground in presented questions by facilitator.

Group recommendation:

- We need to look at the potential challenges and opportunities in the artificial intelligence vs. people, as education could be no longer adapted
- Increase and support professional mobility
- Create a new conception, and professional occupation needs to be reviewed
- Prepare the workforce for changes (conditions, ways etc) and changes in education system

The workshop was facilitated by Rusalina Gassõmova, Peace Child Estonia and Aivar Kamal, Estonian National Youth Council.

Workshop III: “Human Rights and the digital society”

The participants discussed their understanding of human rights and expressed their strong adherence to their protection. The debates focused on how can youth be more actively involved in the promotion and protection of HRs in the face of constant pressure and transgression of these rights in many parts of the world as well as how can digitalisation be put at advantage of such objectives.

Participants were very interested to learn of the Estonian digital experiences and most of the questions asked - related to security and protection of personal information. Experts presented best Estonian examples of digitalisation and discussed how youth interacted with them. An overview was given about different examples of e-governance, e-services and participation and how they affects or their rights. Participants discussed the notions of Child friendly internet, Privacy on social media, a web based UN and digitalisation and human rights.

Digital Society and Human Rights – questions from the group

- What are the limits?
- In what areas does digitalisation need more development?
- What kind of progress is needed?
- Which field is in the most need of international cooperation?

In response to those concerns the workshop facilitators presented the existing cyber security arenas and tool and initiatives from Estonia such as:

- the Estonian Safer Internet Centre
- Smartly on the web – website
- Safer internet day – used by 160 countries.
- Cyber pin events for schools.
- Cyber Olympics – competition to create a cyber escape room
- Materials for children, parents and teachers
- Greatest courage, free of bullying
- Contacting parents the big challenge
- www.betterinternetforkids.eu

Workshop outcomes/recommendations:

Participants consider that Human rights shouldn't be changed. The prevalent view is that we have a good thing that everyone agrees upon and we might not reach it again. The core is as valid as ever. But participants also find it could be completed and modified by concrete cases findings and legal practice in HR. Youth and decision makers found that when creating a secure internet all of educators, teachers and youth workers should be included in order to educate youth and themselves on the issues of cyber security as well as about the common approach and toolboxes which need to be created.

Following are the main recommendation with regards of youth engagement, HR and digital tools:

- Efforts should Focus more on advocacy
- There is a need for more research on youth behaviour and digitalisation links with other agencies
- There is a need to invest more in E-participation, using digital tools, have E-solutions – non formal education and in E-data protection.

The workshop was facilitated by Mikk Tarros and Eva Lennuk from Estonian National Youth Council.

Workshop IV: “Climate change and transformation of global consumption patterns and investing in clean energy

Workshop was set up in the following way:

1. Participants in the workshop were asked their own opinion on European Union “Green Deal”, to present a vision for Climate change solutions. They were also asked to relate their own experience (if they have) and their vision on how solutions in tackling climate change at local level, and what should economically developed countries do for the transformation of global consumption patterns.
2. Participants of the workshop were divided into two small groups; to discuss these issues and propose two international initiatives (projects) about how to fight climate change and reduce its consequences and related environmental problems.
3. Two groups have presented their results to audience and proposed some themes for the 2nd preparatory meeting in Tunisia.

Group recommendations:

- People need to review their own habits, lifestyle and daily life, and try to change their own behaviour without losing quality of life
- We need to focus on green solutions and on spreading new technologies not only in developed countries but also in developing countries so we could be on the same track.
- Review and revisit the UN declaration of Human Rights to bring it up to date with the world today from the point of view of climate change, environment protection, waste management and UN SDGs.
- Try to find a balance of interest in the fields of economy, climate change and human development.

The workshop was facilitated by Vassili Golikov (Sillamäe Society for Child Welfare, Estonia) and project preparation by Patrik Björehag (Burgårdens gymnasium, Sweden) and Bruno Felgentreu (RCDS, Germany).

Outcomes of the first preparatory meeting in Estonia

Therefore, as we select the small group of experts who will gather in Tunis later this year, we shall have a “Call for Papers” – so that we have people around the table who are informed about the issues we are discussing. In that way, we shall come up with a series of recommendations to the UN Secretary-General that are practical, plausible and meet the needs which we are all so acutely aware of. We are pleased with the expertise shown by all our panellists and quite gratified by the quality demonstrated by the participants. These and the commitment of the various institutions involved in this endeavour, the UN, the Government of Estonia, the EU representation all contributed to the excellent results achieved. Our foreign guests also played an important part in the outcome and their participation augurs well for the remaining segments of this initiative.

Our Estonian hosts treated us to a stimulating evening concert at the Gala Dinner after the Conference – which got many of us dancing. Alongside the warm welcome and numerous marks of friendship extended to the participants that were perhaps the most memorable component of the whole conference. Therefore, it is excellent that our Tunisian hosts for the next stage of this process have agreed to host an Artist Residency so that artists from different countries, disciplines and cultures can come together to create an artistic way to communicate the ideas and energy that emerged from our discussions. It will be independent of those discussions – but linked to them.

The current set up and location of the event supported more focus on the region/country of destination but enabled to discuss the consequences of crises (regardless of their nature) and overall movement trends, rather than root causes. The participants in the workshop were rather univocal on approaching the world as global village in which problems and solutions could overlap. It would be suggested that the 2nd Preparatory meeting in Tunisia could focus more on migration in conflict/crisis setting and within peace building efforts and how to deal with root causes.

Attachment: Agenda of International conference

International Conference

International Conference “The role of global cooperation in building the future we want”

Date and place: 21th February 2020 in Tallink Spa & Conference Hotel, Tallinn, Estonia.

OFFICIAL AGENDA

09.00 – 10.00 Registration and coffee

10.00 – 10.20 Opening Speeches:

Opening welcome remarks by Ambassador Hatem Atallah, Head Moderator of the Conference
Mr. Jüri Seilenthal, Director General, External Economic and Development Cooperation Department of Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mrs. Katrin Höövelson, Deputy Head of European Commission Representation in Estonia
Mr. Herman Quarles van Ufford, Advisor to the USG of the United Nations; UNHQ

10.20 – 11.00 Keynote speakers:

- Mr. Herman Quarles van Ufford, United Nations, NYHQ
- Mrs. Eili Lepik, Government Office of Estonia (Strategy Unit)
- Mr. David Woollcombe, President of Peace Child International

11.00 – 12.30 1st Panel discussion with Invited guests and participation of public

- **Peace: Enabling the UN to be a more effective peace-builder / peace-keeper, through conflict transformation, peace-keeping forces, Intercultural dialogue and other means;**

Moderator of the conference: Amb. Hatem Atallah

Experts:

Mr. Jean Kostrzewski (London University, UK/Poland/France)
Ms. Anahita Parsa (SCRAP campaign/ SOAS, UK/Iran)
Mrs. Susanne Kallanvara (Burgårdens gymnasium, Sweden)
Ms. Liis Paloots (International Organization for Migration)
Mr. Anis Boufrikha (Anna Lindh Foundation Tunisian Network, Tunisia)

12.30 – 12.40 Coffee-Time

12.40 – 14.00 2nd Panel discussion with Invited guests and participation of public

- **Sustainability: Achieving sustainable economic growth and creating jobs for youth through investing in Green Growth, resource efficiency**

Moderator: Agne Kuimet, Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation

Experts:

Mr. David Woollcombe (Peace Child International)
Mr. Benjamin Welling (European Democrat Students, Germany)
Mr. Rudy Raes (D’broej Centrum West, Belgium)
Ms. Liis Seeme (STEP programm, Estonia)
Ms. Ouafa Belgacem, (Culture Funding Watch, France / Tunisia)
Mrs. Ekaterina Aleksejeva (Civic Chamber of the Republic of Karelia, Russian Federation)

14.00 – 14.45 Lunch

14.45 – 16.15 3rd Panel discussion with Invited guests and participation of public

- **Human Rights and Digitalisation: Digital Society and creating a Human Rights regime fit for 21st Century Realities**

Moderator: Aliine Lotman, NGO Mondo digital literacy expert

Experts:

Mr. Marten Kaevats (Estonian National Digital Advisor, Government Office of Estonia)
Mrs. Liia Hänni (e-Governance Academy, Estonia)
Ms. Kai Klandorf (Network of Estonian Nonprofit Organizations)

Mr. Jonathan Hart (UNICEF, UK)
Mrs. Katrin Isotamm (Communication Director of Telia Estonia)
Mrs. Toma Moran (London University, UK)

16.15 – 16.25 Coffee-Time

16.25 – 17.45 4th Panel discussion with Invited guests and participation of public *

- **Climate Change: Halting and reversing global heating by transforming global consumption patterns and investing in clean energy**

Moderator: David Woollcombe (UK)

Experts:

Ms. Eva Lennuk (Estonian UN youth delegate)

Ms. Kadi Kenk, Let`s Do it World Foundation (Estonia)

Mrs. Jane Õispuu (Head of Political Team, European Commission Representation in Estonia)

Mrs. Patrik Björehag (Burgårdens gymnasium in Sweden)

Mr. Bruno Felgentreu (RCDS, Germany)

Mrs. Kristi Klaas (Deputy Secretary General, Estonian Ministry of Environment)

17.45 – 18.00 Conference concluding remarks (Amb. Hatem Atallah, Head Moderator)

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