**UN ADVOCACY TEAM WORKSHOP**

Paris, 17th-22nd SEPT 2017

The meeting we are having aims to be an opportunity to reflect seriously on the state of the movement globally, but especially the United Nations Advocacy Team. It will be an opportunity as well to plan upcoming activities by going through the strategic plan of IMCS internationally. Since the International Council 2016 could not take place, it will be possible to go through the reflection document proposed for the IC.

**Overview of past work (report)**

**Overview of ongoing processes and IMCS’s inputs**

* **ICMYO History**
  + ICMYO was established by us, scouts (WOSM) and World YMCA in 2003. ICMYO was meant to be a network of youth-led organizations to do united work at UN
  + ICMYO then established a governing council and annual meetings.
  + Chris Melano and his work with ICMYO
  + IMCS writing the ICMYO constitution and Lloyd re-establishing the body of ICMYO
  + Moved from 3 members to 30 members now. [Here](https://icmyo.org/members/)

**MGCY;**

**History**

* Complicated structure, not an organization but a platform and space, constituency. Primary purpose is to coordinate and facilitate of young people and youth organizations in the UN processes.
* Official and self organized children and youth space within the UN space. Mandated by agenda 21 (outcome document of Rio 1992, when member states said that 9 specific groups have to get involved in the sustainable development work in order for it to succeed
* MGCY is the most important space for us to get involved inside the UN. We are not as big compared to other organizations, so MGCY gives us more than just the ECOSOC status. We have ECOSOC status since 1949, second oldest youth organization after the scouts
* The 9 groups are: 1. Children and Youth, 2. Women 3. Farmers 4. Indigenous peoples 5. Local Authorities 6. NGOs 7. Business and Industry 8. Science and Technology 9.Trade Union
* As time went by, this expanded to Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) like people with disabilities, older persons, philanthropies, migrants and refugees, families, educational people, communities, and others

**MGCY (Organization and the way it functions):**

* Youth Caucus from 1992 to Rio+20 and only present in CSD every year
* At Rio+20 MGCY expanded, and it really expanded at Sri Lanka 2014
* This expansion was mainly due to our work with them
* The primary decision making body of MGCY is a bit like us; the assembly. Meets in two ways, a monthly call and a general assembly.
* From the assembly we have a number of different things, elections of OPs (Organizing Partners) Global Coordination.
* We now have 4, Children and Youth International, Restless development, European Youth Forum, and Pacific Youth Council.
* OPs are directly responsible of reporting to UN DESA (specifically the department of sustainable development) and the Assembly, and to Children and Youth International.
* CYI are the board and legal entity to the Children and Youth, they are elected by the assembly. Chris was elected in Sri Lanka in 2014 to the board that oversees OPs.
* External working groups, groups that deal with the specific UN processes created by the assembly, and they elect the OPs.
* Each working group has an assembly which elects a Deputy Organizing Partner (DOP), then we have Regional Focal Points (RFPs) which report to DOPs
* Then we have internal working groups that deal with all internal matters such as the constitution, law, complaints, elections, memberships, etc. in coordination with the board.
* Members of MGCY:
  + Youth-led and Youth serving organizations (IMCS, Scouts)
  + Child focused agency
  + Individual youth (Least important when it comes to voting against other two types) must be 31 and under.
* **WHS;**
  + Establishment of MGCY WHS WG
    - 2014 (Before IT elections) during the GA after Sri Lanka, there were talks about having a stronger youth role in the WHS, so OCHA reached out to Chris as ICMYO Liaison to the UN to create a new way of engagement between WHS secretariat and youth-led organizations. So Chris sent out an email out to ICMYO explaining; started working on the Ext. WG of WHS within the MGCY.
    - MGCY established an external working group, then elections of DOPs, RFPs happened, consultations processes happen to create a meeting and have discussions around what they want to see as an outcome for the WHS. So this happened literally all over the world which led into the WHS Global Youth Consultation in Doha, which produced a document called the “Doha Youth Declaration on Reshaping Humanitarian Aid”
    - Our role as IMCS was to facilitate a number of sessions and taking part of the drafting committee.
    - So we were part of the establishment of the WHS external working group, and we were part of planning Doha, then we played an important role on the ground in Doha itself.
    - International team was not there, but regional coordinators were there and the UN team was there
    - Then the compact was created, Sameh is the representative on the secretariat of the compact on behalf of IMCS as a signatory to the compact
    - Now the Youth Task Force for the compact is co-chaired by UNFPA and IFRC.
    - Launch of the Compact happening now and Marwan is representing us at that meeting.
    - Chris and Sameh have been helping to organize the work of IMCS in the main meetings of the Compact follow-up process.
    - ***How can each org contribute to the Compact… Patrick submitted the survey but it was incomplete. It said we are just doing advocacy. But we are doing empowerment and capacity building. Can we update the document?***
    - ***Here are some of things we do in terms of the compact:***
      * ***1. Advocacy***
      * ***2. Empowerment and capacity building/non-formal education***
      * ***3. Network building***
      * ***4. Social involvement/marginalized groups***
      * ***Marwan will need to check the document to tick off the boxes that include these points.***
* **Habitat III;**
  + Chris was the one to establish this working group.
  + History: Habitat is a bi-decal conference; happens once every 20 years.
  + In the 1970s, the world started to realize environmental problems, therefore UNEP was created, then in the 1976 the first habitat conference occurred. Habitat I created the body of UN Habitat, and started the 20 years process of negotiations for housing.
  + The current name of the habitat conference is the third conference on housing and sustainable urban development.
  + MGCY was thrown into the Habitat process because in 2013 the GA adopted a resolution that says nongovernment actors will be engaged through Major Groups. Was a weak process until prepcom II in Nairobi, Chris was the only rep for MGCY in Nairobi back then, he established the relations with the groups there, which then led into the establishment of GAP (the General Assembly of Partners) that contains 16 Major Groups. MGCY is the co-chair with World Vision.
  + IMCS is a member of the GAP through the Children and Youth constituent group which is primarily led by the MGCY
  + Consultations: Chris hosted 1 in New York, Sameh hosted about 10 with youth of the Middle East.
  + IMCS were strongly involved in all aspects of Habitat in all meetings in all parts of the world.
  + Outcome of negotiations is called the New Urban Agenda, NUA
  + The first youth meeting of Habitat was called APUFY (Asia Pacific Urban Youth Forum) in October 2015 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
  + Most big meetings took place in Asia because of the huge urban development happening in Asia.
  + Alfen delivered the statement of all the youth towards the APUFY
  + Then prepcom iii happened in Surabaya, Indonesia
  + In Ecuador, there will be a Children and Youth Assembly, Chris and Sameh will be there, we are trying to get as much funding as possible.
  + Chris is leading the drafting committee that is deciding the children and youth commitment for the NUA.
  + In terms of Sameh as RFP, he was able to use the H3 consultations to help meet young people and create a mobilization towards restarting IMCS in Egypt. He did consultation with a number of youth, including IDPs in Aswan. He did a consultation at his church with the youth there. Important to understand how the platform of UN MGCY can help to gather young people towards strengthening the movement.
* **UNCTAD;**
  + History: UN conference on trade and development, UN entity on how UN plays a role in country's’ development. G77 initiative to help global south countries for development.
  + Chief of the NY office reached out to Chris and Aashish informally to help organize the first youth forum.
  + First ever UNCTAD Youth Forum which was parallel to the civil society Forum there.
  + Sameh and Patrick representing IMCS there at the Youth Forum. They were also facilitating discussions and sessions there. Each discussion group had an outcome document presented to the drafting committee which created a larger outcome/youth position presented by Aashish to the UNCTAD itself.
  + Main aim/policy position: Countries should have votes/influence based not on money but on sovereign equality (equality of all Member States).
  + UNCTAD itself had a number of fora. High level negotiation had roundtables with ministers to create an outcome document. Minister of Finance, Trade and Development, Tourism, Commerce. Sameh attended roundtables on different sessions such as Palestine/states under foreign occupation. Discussion on how occupation prevents development of Palestine.
  + Chris opposes an external working group on UNCTAD because MGCY is getting too big and it’s becoming too much for people
* **HLPF; High Level Political Forum/HLPF MGoS CM**
  + The SDGs process started as member states groupings of threes, which later became part of the open working group later on.
  + IMCS was part of the establishing process of the HLPF and the SDGs processes
  + IMCS was present in almost every single negotiation session, lasted for 7 months. In July 2015 they SDGs were finalized then we had HLPF
  + Agenda 21 as part of the Rio+20 follow up created CSD, then after that they created the HLPF, reason why it’s HLPF because it means under ECOSOC, and every 4 years it meets under the GA.
  + An attempt to talk about the SDGs for 2 weeks a year, at the level of heads of states. A huge step forward at how seriously we take the sustainable development within the UN.
  + 2015 was the summit, IMCS was officially invited to the SDGs launch.
  + We also helped establish the HLPF MGoS CM. Chris was the chair of negotiations for the MGoS sessions to come up with the terms of reference which govern how MGoS coordinates.
  + Open group created the process, the 17 SDGs and the 169 targets
  + So HLPF is the body that oversees the follow up and review process.
  + HLPF review happens every year on voluntary basis, in 3 levels, global, regional and national. The reviews themselves happen on a global level, the regional happen in the commissions, the national reviews feed into the HLPF.
  + Chris and Marwan were active in the establishment process of HLPF, Chris and Sameh were active in the follow up process of 2016.
  + How do we as IMCS mobilize our members to take part in HLPF?
  + HUGE POTENTIAL FOR FUNDRAISING!!!
  + 1992; a lot of ignorance of sustainable development. Sustainable development has 3 main aspects: social, economic and environmental aspects. So 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit was the birthplace for many processes.
  + In 2000, everybody forgot about all this, because MDGs came out, where they thought they should focus more on human development than environmental development, which are essentially the same thing, then Columbia came up with the suggestion of focusing on sustainable development, and bring the sustainable and the environmental communities together.
  + Terms of reference [**here**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WlvFgY9Tczo3tgt5xFDvctvxiCbMKNEAXRlxDVYrgpo/edit?pref=2&pli=1)
  + Why do Africans know what MDGs are and not North Americans or Europeans? Because MDGs were a gift from the Global North to the Global South, aimed to transform development aid from the North to the South. They were never meant to be for the Global North.
  + SDGs make it very clear that we’re starting from 0, no global north or south. Every country is a developing country. Because according to SDGs, not many countries achieved sustainability.
  + Paradigm shift, is the way you think about development. No longer thinking of the north giving to the south, it’s about thinking of sustainability for all.
* **DRR; (UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction)**
  + The conference is a 10 years framework, the purpose is to see a global response on disaster risk reduction. It is primarily a negotiation process among Member States to come up with a framework to deal with disasters as they take place. The first outcome document of these negotiations was the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005 and the new outcome which emerged from the WCDRR in 2015 is the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
  + UNISDR which is the UN agency that deals with disasters, reached out to MGCY saying that the conference process deals with major groups and other stakeholders, so MGCY had to be involved, therefore MGCY created the external group DRR, and we went to PrepCom II in Geneva. Chris was there representing IMCS. Final conference was in Sendai Japan in 2015, but we weren’t as active.
  + Outcome is called the Sendai Framework for DRR, MGoS are part of the follow up process, MGCY’s official space is through the external working group
  + IMCS was present in the youth assembly and prepcom ii in geneva where Chris gave advocacy trainings and the final conference in sendai, japan
* **FfD; Finance for Development**
  + A process where MGCY was involved, a negotiation for the outcome document for sustainable development, outcome was the AAAA Addis Ababa Action Agenda
  + We had a core group and negotiations
  + Group structure different than all other WGs. No DOPs, or RFPs.
  + Saul, Chris and Aashish were on the core group negotiations that took place in New York and led into the AAAA
  + Interventions were made on behalf of MGCY
* **SCP; 10 year program framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production**
  + MGCY has an SCP group, does not have DOPs or RFPs, but has regional reps.
  + UNEP created 10 year framework for SCP.
  + IMCS is not present on this workgroup; however, we are open to
  + Group is a think-tank where youth are present through the major groups as a representative of civil society to add views on how to create better consumption and production mechanisms
* **SIDS; Small Islands Developing States**
  + Part of the Samoa pathway, led by the pacific council that’s part of the ICMYO
  + IMCS is not part of this, but open to have members of the movement that are from small islands and interested to join the working group
* **SPI; Science Policy Interface**
  + Doesn’t have RFPs or DOPs, has a global coordinator (Donovan) and a team of 10 young scientists who work together on two main things, STI forum and SPI youth publication
  + Part of the 2030 agenda, is to create a strong link between science and policy. Policy is normally a topic for negotiation, based on interest not reality. So the aim of this WG is to change that around from interests of governments and member states to science and evidence.
  + No other Major Group thought of having such a WG, MGCY started explaining it to other major groups and member states to starting adopting it
  + Aiming at creating a link between SDGs, and science.
  + What it does that it creates a focal person, a young scientist that is the liaison between the SPI WG and the other WGs
  + Advises all WGs on issues related to science, they have scientific basis on the topic they’re dealing with
  + Works on two specific things besides advising:
    - STI forum:
      * meant to create a convenience on how to bring greater science into the implementation of the SDGs
    - SPI Youth Publications:
      * an attempt for young scientists to have publications on topics related to sustainable development
  + Can reestablish a connection with Siska as she still loves IMCS and officially give her a mandate
* **UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth Peace and Security;**
  + A result of many years of work of United Network of Young Peacebuilders
  + An attempt to create an awareness for the role of young people in peacebuilding and security in conflict and post-conflict situations.
  + Led to the conference in Jordan, became part in the youth compact stuff.
  + Open to our members that might be interested in that. UN already recognizes their work, may be related to migrants even after they leave their countries
* **IANYD; (Interagency Network on Youth Development)**
  + DESA-DSPD Division for Social Policy and Development is the permanent co-chair of IANYD
  + Network of all the youth focal points of the UN system.
  + How we work with them:
    - SWAP: System Wide Action Plan on Youth, we got a voice on how this network functions
    - Collaboration:
      * MGCY: Main place for advocacy
      * ICMYO: Main place for colaborate with other youth networks as partnerships
  + The main place where youth get fundings for participations and meetings and others
  + IMCS engagement as youth with the UN through IANYD
  + Focal point of DESA is through ???????
  + WPAY (World Program of Action on Youth): **CHRIS FILL OUT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT**
    - Work is reviewed in the 3rd committee, and the ECOSOC CSOCD (Commission on Social Development)
    - This is how we started our UN Advocacy work.
    - It is now less important because of the SDGs. UN Focal point on youth that is under DESA DSPD gets to deal with Youth Development
  + Within IANYD, we have a strong relationship with DESA, UNAOC, UN OSGEY
* **3RD COMMITTEE;**

**Overview of partnerships**

* **UN MGCY;**
* **ICMYO;**
  + IMCS core member of the MGCY for the previously mentioned reasons
  + How do we take the understanding of MGCY to our members? Even our members that did not have a mandate within MGCY like Chantal
  + Something great we considered is having MGCY logo and link on our website and publications
  + Same goes to ICMYO, UN Liaison Team consists of IMCS, WFUNAY, WUSM
* **UNAOC; (UN Alliance of Civilizations)**
  + IMCS is a former recipient of the Youth Solidarity Fund for peacebuilding
  + They recognize the work that we do as significant
  + They do a lot of funding for youth projects, so something to keep in mind
  + They have a good relationship with us
  + Now they’re becoming with SDG 16 related stuff (governance and justice)
* **UN OSGEY; UN Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth**
  + Ban Ki Moon was thinking of establishing the position, ICMYO supported the creation of the office by nominating a member of the European Forum
  + They didn’t take our nomination, but took Ahmad which comes from the youth networks in the Middle East
  + Good personal friend of Chris and Sameh, he was eager to come to our IC.
  + The new Secretary General could get rid of Ahmad and appoint a new one, or could keep Ahmad for another 5 years, or could get the office closed.
  + One of the initiatives of this office is the Global Forum on Youth Policies
* **Etc.**

**State of the UN Advocacy Team**

* Members;
  + Recruiting new members and accepting new applications
    - Need trainings
    - Need tools even to work online if not present in New York
    - Need fundraising
  + Could be creating a task team, by the members and the UN team that oversees the work of those members
  + Getting a visa to the USA is very difficult, so better empower people from New York than to look for people from the outside to do the representation. Could still use outsiders in online tasks and other things.
  + Trained members do not have to be based in New York, can present us regionally for UN meetings, also could help us online through google documents for drafting and speech writing.
  + Chris can write a concept note on the UN task team.
  + New York trainings could be exclusive to New Yorkers, but also have regional trainings for people interested regionally.
  + Have to have a strong application to ensure we pick the right qualified people that take it seriously and not self promoters.
* Functioning;
  + Consists of mainly Chris and Marwan in New York and Sameh remotely
  + Based on availability, Sameh handles the WHS Youth Compact, Habitat III and dealt with HLPF this summer, Marwan and Chris did some direct advocacy work on the ground in New York
  + Hard to have young people interested in advocacy and that have the time and desire to keep working without pay, suggested Kevin’s students to be part of this.
* Advocacy achievements;
* Grassroots data collection for advocacy.
  + Edouard: How can we raise our grassroots problems and collect data at the UN context? Is there a frame we could express that in New York or is that just in Geneva? If yes, how can we create a kind of frame or conditions that we could collect data from our people at their universities? Issues we are not aware of and have good representation of our involved people that need a voice at UN levels?
  + Chris:
    - In terms of the follow up of a framework for action, i.e. SDGs then it is follow up.
    - Reporting back requires strong capacity building, people need to understand the policy first to know what they’re following up on
    - Shadow report: a non-government data collection around implementation of policy
    - So step one is the knowledge, two is the implementation and action, three is the measuring.
* A curriculum is being prepared on SDGs follow up and implementation. Chris will formulate it once it’s ready.
* Working paper framework for understanding SDG interactions: [Link](http://www.icsu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/working-paper-framework-for-understanding-sdg-interactions-2016/SDG-interactions-working-paper.pdf)

**How to maintain sustainability for the UN Advocacy Team**

* Common representation issues (document with ICMICA) to reflect + ECOSOC accreditation page informations + accreditation letter;
* IMCS Advocacy teamwork document;
* Strategies for more data collection from grassroot organisations;
* Representativity (Call for application for regional representatives?);
* Support to Advocacy Team (How raise funds for the new international UN team);
* UN Advocacy Team meetings and trainings.

**Exchanges on IMCS’s strategic plan for 2016-2019 and potential programs for the upcoming years**

* Going through the Reflection document of the IC;
* About communication on IMCS (website, IMCS - Pax Romana application, Video, social media, etc.) with John Ro;
* About IMCS - Pax Romana groups handbook;
* International activity Indonesia summer 2017;
* Training New York summer 2017?;
* Training Hawaï June 2017;
* Program for Pax Romana Center;
* Way to spread opportunities to members;
* Volunteers program;
* Forum 2016 articles;
* Asia Pacific Coordination (premises, PSET: Peoples’ Solidarity & Education Tours).

**3 Major Youth Constituencies in the UN:**

* UN MGCY: the agenda 21 group where we are involved and have all the complicated structure
* UNEP MGCY: we do not participate there yet, but something to consider because UNEA exists which is a huge aspect of environmental development and the UNEP context. Always Nairobi! Might want to consider to have a team there
* YOUNGO: Focused on the UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Climate Change Treaty)

UN MGCY and UNEP MGCY are in the merging process and soon UNEP will become an external WG of MGCY