

Subject: UN workshop on sharing. All hands needed on deck please!

From: Lisinka Ulatowska (glansvanessen@gmail.com)

To: glansvanessen@yahoo.com;

Date: Friday, January 23, 2015 7:11 PM

Dear Friends,

We shall be holding a workshop at the UN on:

"Shared Societies, Social Solidarity Economies, Co-operatives and the Commons: Powerful and Innovative Approaches for Financing Development"

Co-sponsoring this workshop with us are the Permanent Missions of France and Brazil, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA), and the Mont Blanc Meeting Association. Thank you, Rodrigo Gouveia of ICA for helping to arrange the speakers and Alexandra Akira of IPS for arranging the room. This has involved many weeks of work.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO PARTICIPATE! THERE ARE A COUPLE OF WAYS OF DOING THIS.

Here follows an explanation as to how you can participate and/or lend a helping hand. **Please respond by return if possible!**

In this email, please find:

The upcoming strategy meeting on the content and process of the workshop

Objectives of the workshop;

How we plan to meet them

The initial invitation with how you can participate

And very important: Specific questions about content and technical aspects where we need your assistance.

The upcoming strategy meeting on the content and process of the workshop will be held this Sunday, Jan 25th, at 9 am EST (6:00 am PST, 3:00 pm CET, 1:00 am in Sydney.) **Call in number +1 712 432 1500 Access Code 972978#**

Over-all objective of the workshop: To get the commons in its various forms and with its underlying values of caring, sharing and community prominently into the Financing for Development Outcome Document that is just now being formulated within the UN. This, next to the agreements made in the Climate Change Conference, is a last opportunity **to have it feature as a central theme in the Post 2015 process.**

How we plan to achieve this.

To figure prominently in any UN agreement requires broad-based support among UN Member States and among civil society. We are planning the following steps

1. To hold a maximally interactive workshop for delegates and civil society attending the Financing for Development Conference at the very moment that they are considering what to put into the Final Agreement (that will be adopted in Addis Ababa in July, 2015);
2. To involve as many participants as possible from afar in this thinking process;
3. To encourage delegates and others to seriously consider commons approaches as a powerful and highly effective way of financing and/or enabling sustainable development, and provide them with ideas of how to support such an approach **without inhibiting it.**
4. To do this by creating a Report—a summary of all ideas brought up at the workshop at the UN and by those attending from other parts of the world; disseminating this Report as widely as possible and using it for our advocacy at the UN until July, 2015.

[Here is the initial invitation with instructions on how you can participate](#)

SAVE THE DATE

"SHARED SOCIETIES, SOCIAL SOLIDARITY ECONOMIES, CO-OPERATIVES AND THE COMMONS: POWERFUL AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO FINANCING DEVELOPMENT"

Tuesday, 27th January, UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 7, 13.15 - 14.45; and by telephone conference for those outside of the UN

The UN Member States have recognized that a significant means of **additional** financing needs to be developed in order to achieve the Post 2015 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. A large variety of new, alternative and innovative forms of finance are available and being modeled around the world. These can provide a valuable and much needed means to carry out this work. We will present and review many of these opportunities during this workshop as a part of the UN's Financing for Development session. Once more, the workshop will be held: **Tuesday, 27th January, UN Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 7, 13.15 - 14.45 and can also be accessed from outside of the UN.**

Audience participation is most welcome both from those attending in person and those from around the world. To enable all to participate in real time, you can attend via telephone conferencing (Callin number +1 712 432 1500. Access Code: 972978#) and provide written input via <https://titanpad.com/sharing1>. The discussions will be summarized in a Report on the subject and dispersed widely including to all NYC-based Missions to the UN so that the ideas discussed can find a place in the Financing for Development Outcome Document in July 2015.

The program and more detailed information will be sent soon.

Organized by: The Permanent Mission of France to the UN; The Permanent Mission of Brazil to the UN; International Co-operative Alliance; The Mont Blanc Meetings Association; The Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group.

To reserve a place at the UN and/or to receive a copy of the final report, please RSVP to Lisinka Ulatowska, commonsActionUN@gmail.com Places within the UN are limited since we have chosen a small conference room to facilitate interactive dialogue. We look forward to your participation no matter where you are.

[Requests for assistance.](#)

The workshop has been designed to allow maximum time for input from participants, so that panelists and other participants play an almost equal role in terms of giving input. We wish to encourage the UN to think more broadly about financing to include next to hard currencies: local currencies, barter, free labour and provision of goods and services, the Internet and much more. We want to show

- a. How approaches based on caring, sharing and community are powerful means of promoting/financing sustainable development; and
- b. How governments and others can further empower these approaches **without inhibiting them.**

If you will be at the UN meeting, please feel free to bring along flyers for distribution.

[Please respond to the following suggestions and requests for support and make \(alternative\) suggestions as you see fit.](#)

1. We warmly encourage those of you who have UN badges to register with the workshop early so that you get a place and can **provide examples of ways in which commons (cooperatives) and other communities of caring and sharing are contributing to sustainable development and can be supported.**

2. For those not within the UN we shall be working with our usual call-in number and www.titanpad.com/sharing1 so that **all can give written input,** including from afar. We need your suggestions to ensure that speakers can be heard via our skype phone. I am busy ordering a couple of extra microphones to ensure people speak loudly. Any other ideas **how to guarantee those phoning in can hear well what is said at the UN?**

3. We are opening one or more titanpads to ensure that if one becomes unstable others can be used. This will allow all who give input within the UN or from afar to write down their ideas, so that they can easily be edited and formatted by those developing the Report. This way no note takers are needed. I shall bring a couple of extra lap tops to ensure that people without a laptop can enter their feedback. They can both be simultaneously connected to the telephone conference so that they can provide a double function. **(Or will this produce an echo?) Perhaps those who want their input to be read out loud at the UN conference can send their ideas via a special titanpad.** Then one of us who is at the conference can read them out. I shall be facilitating and can help bring that about. Would anyone with a good understanding of the commons be willing to do that?

4. I suggest that **a group meet on Saturday Jan. 31 or Sunday 1st to develop the Report.** It could take the form of a simple listing of examples each with ways of enabling it. Since most will be already in electronic form on titanpads, a small group should be able to develop the Report relatively easily.

5. **We should be grateful if you would send out the enclosed flyer to your own mailing lists as soon as possible.** The final one should be ready this weekend, but it will probably be a little on the late side.

6. How do we create a link in our invitation to enable people to register via a blank email that has our address on it. So that they can register with a couple of clicks?

We need volunteers:

1. **A person who will receive the RSVPs**, respond to them, and make a list of email addresses to be sent to Emile so that we can send them a Report after the meeting. **Is there a way of automating this process?**
2. **People to work on the final flyer** (We still lack some required information.) And on a worksheet that we want to hand-out to those at the UN who prefer not to use the titanpad so they can give their input in hard copy.
3. **People who can print out flyers** and bring them to the UN . I have just bought a new printer and lots of (coloured) ink for this purpose but the printer seems unusually slow.
4. **People (with UN badges) to pass out flyers at the UN conference** before the Tuesday morning meeting on Financing for Development starts. (Ideal would be a person at each of the 4 doors and two who can quickly place the flyers on delegates seats if we can get the okay from the Secretariat. (We get that maximally 5 minutes before the meeting begins.
5. **One or more persons standing at the entrance to the conference room 7** before the workshop starts to check off the names of people who have registered, as they arrive;
6. **Two people who will pass around the mics** when someone in the audience wants to speak.
7. **Two people who make (my) laptops available** to those without who wish to enter their ideas on the titanpad.
8. One person who sees to it that **all participants sign in** so that we can send them the Report of the workshop.
9. **People to help send out messages via social media.**

Please think along with us and provide any other details that should be considered.

And thanks in advance!!

Warmest greetings,

Lisinka Ulatowska
(Coordinator Commons Cluster)