<u>Individuals and Communities as Agents of Change: Data Collection for Statistics; Indicators; and theme for the September Interactive Panel Discussions.</u>

Statement made by the Institute for Planetary Synthesis and the Commons Cluster of the UN NGO Major Group on March 25, 2015.

Read by Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, Coordinator Commons Cluster

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair,

<u>Data collection for statistical purposes from the grass roots up</u>.

To facilitate gathering of detailed and accurate information for statistical purposes, it would be cheaper, more efficient and effective and produce more accurate data if people at the grass roots were put to work, rather than training experts centrally to go into communities they did not know. This can be done by connecting people to a Geographical Information System (GIS) and asking local authorities to request their people to supply them with specific personal information as the need arises. This information can then easily be passed on from local to national levels as required and from there it would be up to national governments to pass it on to the global level.
This would allow for specificity, uniformity and comprehensiveness in data reporting while enabling governments at all levels to receive the necessary information for the planning and implementing of sustainable infrastructure in all fields.
Beside data collection the GIS would enable accurate planning at all levels and people at the grass roots can then be enlisted to help implement sustainability in their own lives and communities.

Many communities could request their people to supply data directly. In some communities (e.g. LDCs) local facilitators will be necessary.These same local facilitators can also help with implementing sustainable development by helping those who are (Internet) illiterate to gain access to the Internet.

People to people cooperation for sustainable development, using the Internet.
Emerging problems are first felt on the ground and it is at the grass roots level that often solutions have to be found before governments can mobilize assistance (given that solutions exist). For this reason, best practices tailored to diverse situations are found among people at the grass roots level. Universal access to the Internet would place these solutions at each person's finger tips through providing access to the ***sharing economy*** worldwide that is providing information, education at all levels and in every conceivable field, best practices, technology for free or for a modest fee.

Universal Access to the Internet and GIS and training facilitators
Developing the technological, social and educational structures necessary for universal access to GIS and the Internet will take time as will the development of national sustainable development plans. While the technological, financial and social structures are being evolved, the educational programme can proceed immediately in easy steps—interviewing techniques, type of data needed, it would then gradually deepen as facilitators do the practical work and share their experiences and gradually progress more deeply into the Post-2015 agenda.
Costs of training of facilitators will be able to remain low, if the courses are developed by experts from around the world at the global level and then through translators and national experts tailored down so that they become relevant to sub-regional and local levels.
All training can also be provided via the Internet with facilitators attending courses in person at

subregional centres. Here a combination of Internet classes, one to one learning and face to face teaching can allow facilitators to master how to gather first one set of data then others, gradually familiarize themselves with the SDGs and how to locate relevant materials on the Internet. Emerging challenges experienced at the grass roots can be passed along by sub-regional teachers to national and global levels. In that way, an early warning system is created as well as peer to peer learning at all levels.

A true global partnership
In this way, individuals and their communities are fully involved in the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda as proactive partners with their governments at every level.

Relevant Indicators

Education for data provision and collection as well as Internet access can be captured under
SDG 4: *Ensure inclusive and quality education and promote lifelong learning for all.*
Target 4.7: *By 2030 ensure that all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development including among other through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development..*
Indicators:
4.7.1.Percentage of population that has access to the Internet;
4.7.2.Number of teachers/facilitators for data collection for statistics per 1000.
4.7.3.Number of teachers/facilitators on Internet access per 1000.

Theme for the Interactive Dialogue

A Renewed Global Partnership and Adequate Means of Implementation should include the topic :
How to mobilize the wisdom, experience, knowhow and dynamism of all individuals and their communities for the implementation of sustainable development.