



Official Newsletter of the Global Social Observatory  
Geneva, Switzerland

Fourth issue, August 2014 (bimonthly)

Welcome to our fourth issue of the [GSO](#) newsletter to stimulate multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral dialogue and information sharing. The newsletter has three sections providing: updates on GSO activities; commentary on developments in international organizations and NGOs involved in addressing multi-stakeholder engagement; and upcoming events of interest.

## I. GSO Activities

GSO-SUN Conflict of Interest Project – Report on the second Enhanced Learning Exercise in San Salvador, El Salvador

The Global Social Observatory Special Session on Partnering for a Post-2015 Development Agenda

The GSO at the WTO Public Forum

## II. Commentary on International Organizations and NGOs

Ebola and Implications on the SUN Movement

The GSO Perspective on ICN2 Preparations

## III. Upcoming Events

GSO events

Key upcoming events of interest to the GSO

## IV. Who We Are

### I. GSO Activities

#### **GSO-SUN Conflict of Interest Project – Report on the second Enhanced Learning Exercise in San Salvador, El Salvador**

Over 60 participants came together for the Enhanced Learning Exercise on the Prevention and Management of Conflicts of Interest in the Scaling Up Nutrition

Movement, hosted by El Salvador on 17 to 18 July 2014. The objective of the exercise was to determine the usefulness of the GSO-SUN Reference Note and Toolkit on Prevention and Management of Conflict of Interest to specific country situations and to exchange information on experiences regarding conflict of interest. Multi-stakeholder representation included participation from sixteen government agencies, NGOs, UN agencies, academic, regional governments and, for the first time, the private sector. Additional multi-stakeholder representation came from Costa Rica and Guatemala.

Our thanks to the outstanding leadership of the SUN Focal Point in El Salvador, Daysi de Marquez, supported by a dedicated and productive local planning committee. We include here some of the key messages from the interactive dialogue, much as we have done in previous newsletters for our first two Enhanced Learning Exercises in Ghana (1 to 2 April 2014) and Kenya (29 to 30 May 2014). Our fourth Enhanced Learning Exercise will be in Indonesia in October 2014, and we will have a concluding conference back here in Geneva in February 2015. In addition to reaffirming the central importance of government leadership while also establishing a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue to build trust and resolve issues, the participants shared these key messages:

- A policy needs to be in place to help prevent and manage conflict of interest.
- Disclosure of interests is important for all stakeholders. There is a need to build functional capacities on multi-stakeholder ways of working.
- Inclusion of all parties is important and communication across parties should be facilitated.
- Civil society may be well suited to identify and monitor conflicts of interest – not only for other groups but also for civil society itself.
- The importance of all stakeholders understanding the rules of the game was underlined.

- Existing national stakeholder mechanisms and legal frameworks should be mapped and applied.

Participants agreed that the Reference Note and Toolkit are useful tools but should be validated or piloted at the country level, above and beyond the broad overview and consideration of case studies that occurred during the Enhanced Learning Exercise. The government is considering legislation on food sovereignty and nutrition that may serve as the context for applying the Reference Note and Toolkit in El Salvador. Next steps include the mapping of current laws and policies on ethics, conflicts of interest, corruption as well as current frameworks for multi-stakeholder cooperation and drafting a policy framework for prevention and management of conflicts of interest through consultations with stakeholders. The participants also emphasized the importance of receiving support for capacity building for this purpose.

[TOP](#)

## **The Global Social Observatory Special Session on Partnering for a Post-2015 Development Agenda**

On 19 September, The Global Social Observatory will have a special session on partnering for the Post-2015 Development Agenda as part of our GSO General Assembly.

There is little question that the eradication of poverty by 2030 is a monumental task that will require a concerted effort by a wide variety of individuals and organizations supported by ample resources. The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has identified 17 goals for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to replace the eight Millennium Development Goals that have so successfully mobilized international cooperation on sustainable development from 2000 to 2015. The 17 proposed goals include an array of specific and quantifiable targets, which is truly ambitious. The achievement of these goals and targets will require even more cooperative efforts between and among governments, civil society organizations and the private sector. The questions we are preparing for the Special

Session are open-ended, and we hope to have a dynamic discussion with a small panel.

We invite you to join the GSO General Assembly and take part in this discussion on:

**Friday 19 September**  
**Rhin Salle, International Environmental House II**  
**7 Chemin de Balexert**  
**Geneva**  
**10:00 until 12:00 (followed by light buffet lunch)**

To R.S.V.P. and for more information, please contact Michelle Botes, [mbotes@gsogeneva.ch](mailto:mbotes@gsogeneva.ch) or +41 22 723 27 91. And feel free to send us your questions.

[TOP](#)

---

## **The GSO at the WTO Public Forum**

The Global Social Observatory will host a session at the 2014 WTO Public Forum on Wednesday, 2 October 2014 from 15:00 until 17:00 on the following topic:

***“Understanding different consumer perspectives and advancing sustainable consumption patterns.”***

The panel will be organized to facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the growing interest in global trade policy on the role of domestic regulation in the areas of food, nutrition and health as non-tariff barriers to trade. The objective of the dialogue is to improve understanding of different perspectives on consumer welfare, with a particular attention to global interest in promoting sustainable consumption patterns and their implications for free trade and for the involvement of developing countries in the benefits of free trade. Panellists will be asked to address the following questions: In what ways are these regulations operating as barriers to trade? To what extent are changing interests and demands among consumers for sustainable consumption patterns (as articulated in the proposed post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals) influencing this debate? How are these regulations affecting consumer interests in ensuring access to a marketplace that offers lower prices, greater variety and higher quality? And conversely, how might the proposed post-

[www.gsogeneva.ch](http://www.gsogeneva.ch)

2015 targets on sustainable consumption patterns affect the trading interests of developing countries?

Panellists (and participants) will be invited to share diverse perspectives on how the trade debate is being influenced by changing expectations and demands of consumers around the world for sustainable consumption patterns, as articulated in the proposed post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals. Representatives of consumer groups, business, and public policymakers will share their perspectives on the implications of current trends in the regulation of food and health on advancing sustainable consumption patterns, with a particular emphasis on the trading interests of developing countries. The emphasis will be on how regulatory trends in these areas are affecting basic consumer interests in lower prices, greater variety and higher quality, as well as in sustainable consumption patterns, and how they are affecting the capacity of trade to maximize these consumer interests.

More information about the WTO Public Forum on “Why Trade Matters to Everyone” is available on the WTO website [here](#). Sub-themes include jobs and trade, consumers and trade, and Africa and trade. There will also be a half day devoted to the Doha Development Agenda.

[TOP](#)

## II. Commentary on International Organizations and NGOs

### **Ebola and Implications on the SUN Movement**

On 8 August 2014, the World Health Organization declared that the outbreak of the Ebola virus disease is a “Public Health Emergency of International Concern”. Although currently limited to four countries in West Africa (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Nigeria), the Ebola virus disease epidemic is at an “unprecedented scale”, three times the severity of the first outbreak in 1976. The numbers keep rising – well over 2000 recorded cases with a death toll exceeding 1000, or about 55 per cent, but the penetration is assumed to be much higher, especially among the urban populations in these countries. There is no known cure or vaccine to prevent

its spread. Thus, behavioural change to isolate and treat those who have been exposed to the virus is key, but this requires far more coordination of raising awareness among the affected communities, mobilizing effective health care delivery and searching for experimental treatments than has been the case so far.

After a series of regional-level emergency meetings, financing and joint response plans, the WHO Director-General Margaret Chan convened an Emergency Committee on the Ebola Virus Outbreak in early August. It recommended that the crisis be raised to a “[Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#)”, and Dr. Chan announced the action on 8 August 2014. Coordination is now including all of the UN agencies, with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon [announcing](#) the appointment on 13 August 2014 of Dr. David Nabarro as the Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola. The WHO continues to be the lead UN agency and is working on a massive scaling up among the individual countries, disease control agencies, UN agencies and others. Dr. Nabarro is taking temporary leave from his duties as the Coordinator for the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and for the High-Level Task Force on Food Security and Nutrition, in order to work with the WHO and the rest of the UN system, affected governments and donors on this public health emergency.

In our GSO-SUN project for a consultation process on the prevention and management of conflict of interest in the SUN Movement, we will miss Dr. Nabarro’s inspirational leadership even as we wish him well in his challenging and significant role to help bring the ebola crisis under control. Meanwhile, we welcome Tom Arnold who will be filling in for him at the SUN Movement over the next six months, supported by the SUN Secretariat’s Chief of Staff Florence Lasbennes and the dedicated team there. Mr. Arnold is the former CEO of Concern Worldwide and a former senior official in the Department of Agriculture and Food of Ireland. Trained as an agricultural economist, with advanced degrees and strategic management, he is a charismatic leader with a record of successful reform initiatives, including the reform of the international agricultural research system. He continues on the Advisory Board of the International Food Policy Research Institute and is a member of the Lead Group for the SUN Movement. We look forward to working with Tom, Florence and the rest of the SUN Secretariat in the

months ahead. And of course, we look forward to welcoming David back.

[TOP](#)

---

## The GSO Perspective on ICN2 Preparations

Preparations for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), to be held in Rome on 19 to 21 November 2014, continue to be of interest. A “Joint Working Group” of representatives from member states of the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization is completing its work on drafts of a “Rome Declaration on Nutrition” and an accompanying “Framework for Action”, to be presented to the “Open Working Group” on ICN2 that will meet on 22 to 23 September 2014 in Geneva. See drafts of these documents on the ICN2 website [here](#). The JWG has facilitated consultations with civil society and the private sector, with support from the FAO in June and from the WHO in July and August. The most recent consultations were held on 25 August 2014. The GSO participated as an observer at the July and August consultations and also submitted a statement in the web-based consultations on the draft Framework for Action. The GSO is especially interested in the multi-stakeholder approach to implementing coordinated action on nutrition at all levels, including the global and national levels, but also regional, sub-regional and community levels. We believe that there is a need for a mapping of the kinds of actors that should be involved in this multi-stakeholder approach. We include the statement here:

### Commentary on Draft Global Framework of Action for ICN2 17 August 2014

“The Global Social Observatory welcomes this opportunity to encourage new thinking about multiple stakeholder engagement in the follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition. The draft Framework for Action is helpful in moving forward on this new thinking. The GSO encourages consideration to be given to the broadening of network groupings as developed in Chapter 1.2. While the listing of non-state actors includes several important categories for advancing food security, there may well be other types of

non-state actor categories that merit inclusion in a post-2015 framework.

The GSO notes in Chapter 2.2 that there is a reference to engaging all partners in the implementation of the Global Framework for Action. Similarly, Chapter 3.3 delves into the role of health systems. However, in neither case is there an elaboration of new types of non-state actors that may be useful for a future Global Framework for Action. The GSO encourages ICN2 to convene a special event on considering how to broaden the range of non-state actors who should be involved with governments at whatever level to advance the mission, goals and targets beyond ICN2.”

[TOP](#)

## III. Upcoming Events

---

### GSO events

- [GSO General Assembly](#) – Friday, 19 September 2014.
- [GSO Panel at the WTO Public Forum](#) – 2 October 2014
- Fourth Enhanced Learning Exercise in the [GSO-SUN Project](#) – October 2014 in Jakarta. Date yet to be finalized.

[TOP](#)

---

### Key upcoming events of interest to the GSO

- SIWI [2014 World Water Week](#) Stockholm 31 Aug – 5 Sep
- UNOHCHR [Committee on the Rights of Child / 67th session](#) Geneva, Switzerland 1 Sep – 19 Sep
- UNOHCHR [Committee on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families / 21st session](#) Geneva 1 Sep – 5 Sep
- G20 [Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion workshop #2](#) Perth 1 Sep – 2 Sep
- WHO [Annual meetings of WHO Regional Committees](#) 1 Sep – 22 Oct

- WHO [Sixty-fourth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa](#) Benin 1 Sep – 5 Sep
- WIPO [Program and Budget Committee: Twenty-Second Session](#) Geneva 1 Sep – 5 Sep
- [Internet Governance Forum](#) Istanbul 2 Sep – 5 Sep
- ESCAP [High-level Meeting for Coordinated Implementation of International Standards for Macroeconomic Statistics](#) Vladivostok (Владивосток), Russian Federation 3 Sep – 4 Sep
- UNCTAD [Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, sixty-eighth session \(technical cooperation and evaluation\)](#) Geneva, Switzerland 3 Sep – 5 Sep
- ITC [Ethical Fashion Conference at the NYC Fashion Week](#) New York, USA 3 Sep – 10 Sep
- World Bank [11th Annual Meeting of the International Water Resource Economics Consortium \(IWREC\)](#) Washington DC 7 Sep – 9 Sep
- OECD [Global Economic Symposium: “Restructuring Economies, Transforming Societies”](#) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 7 Sep – 8 Sep
- UNOHCHR [Human Rights Council / 27th session](#) Geneva, Switzerland 8 Sep – 26 Sep
- FAO [Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Emerging Food Safety Issues](#) Rome 8 Sep – 12 Sep
- G20 [Employment Taskforce workshop with engagement groups](#) Melbourne 8 Sep
- Codex [Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables](#) Philadelphia, USA 8 Sep – 12 Sep
- UNGA [High-Level Forum on a Culture of Peace](#) New York 9 Sep
- WHO [Sixty-seventh session of the WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia](#) Bangladesh 9 Sep – 12 Sep
- WIPO [International Conference on Protection of Industrial Property Rights in Europe](#) Prague 9 Sep
- UNGA [High-Level Stocktaking on Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) New York 10 Sep – 11 Sep
- WEF [Annual Meeting of the New Champions](#) Tianjin, People’s Republic of China 10 Sep – 12 Sep
- IFAD [Fourth meeting of Convenors and Friends](#) Rome 12 Sep
- Europa [Eurogroup](#) Brussels 12 Sep
- UNGA [Opening of General Assembly 69th Session](#) New York 16 Sep
- UNGA [World Conference on Indigenous Peoples](#) New York 22 Sep
- UNGA [Special Session on ICPD Follow-Up](#) New York 22 Sep
- WIPO [Assemblies of the Member States](#) Geneva 22 Sep – 30 Sep
- UNGA [Climate Summit 2014: Catalyzing Action](#) New York 23 Sep
- UN Global Compact [United Nations Private Sector Forum](#) New York, USA 23 Sep
- ESCAP [Asia-Pacific Trade Facilitation Forum 2014](#) Bangkok, Thailand 24 Sep - 25 Sep
- Europa [Competitiveness Council](#) Brussels 25 Sep - 26 Sep
- WTO [Dispute Settlement Body](#) Geneva, Switzerland 26 Sep
- UNOHCHR [Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities / 12th session](#) Geneva, Switzerland 15 Sep - 3 Oct
- WMO [International Training Course on "Agrometeorology"](#) Nanjing, China 19 Sep - 30 Sep
- WIPO [Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO: Fifty-Fourth Series of Meetings](#) Geneva 22 Sep - 30 Sep
- FAO [Committee on Agriculture \(COAG\) 24th Session](#) Rome 29 Sep - 3 Oct
- Europa [LET’S 2014 conference](#) Bologna, Italy 29 Sep - 1 Oct
- CBD [Seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#) Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea (TBD) 29 Sep - 3 Oct
- WHO [Sixty-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Americas](#) Washington D.C., United States of America 29 Sep - 3 Oct
- UNESCO [19th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in case of Illicit Appropriation](#) Paris 30 Sep - 2 Oct
- Codex [FAO/WHO Coordinating Committee for Europe](#) The Hague, Netherlands 30 Sep - 3 Oct
- WTO [Trade Policy Review: Sierra Leone](#) Geneva, Switzerland 1 Oct - 3 Oct
- OECD [Global Forum on the Knowledge Economy: Innovation in science, technology and industry](#) Tokyo, Japan 2 Oct - 3 Oct

[TOP](#)

## IV. Who We Are

The Global Social Observatory (GSO) is an international organization founded in the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland in April 2004. The mission of the GSO is to initiate dialogue on social issues in order to encourage leaders to engage in a broadened search for solutions and policy coherence. This service is based on a participatory process in a neutral space that brings all interested parties together across national boundaries to identify solutions and policies that are coherent. These solutions can then contribute to policy-making at the governmental and intergovernmental levels. Visit our [website](#) for regular news and project updates.

Please send any comments, suggestions or feedback on the newsletter to [Michelle Botes](#)

[Subscribe](#) or [Unsubscribe](#)

[TOP](#)