International Day of Happiness
20 March 2014

Social Entrepreneurs: Sharing Happiness Initiatives for the Post-2015 Agenda
Temporary General Assembly Hall - 3:15PM - 6:00PM

Entrepreneurs are taking the lead today by making their long term commitments to contribute to the solutions in the world while inspiring others to join them in sharing their resources for Sustainable Communities globally.

Moderator: Ramu Damodaran, UN Academic Impact, DPI
H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations
H.E. Dr. Hamid Al-Bayati, Former Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations
Claire Bulger, The Earth Institute, Columbia University
Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute, Columbia University (Video message)
Christina Stevens, Award winning Author & Film Director
Jeff Olson, Founder, Live Happy Magazine
Jason Keehn, Founder of Accompany
Julian B. Kiganda, President of African Diaspora for Change
Adam Shell, Independent Documentarian

The Event is Organized in Collaboration with
H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez of the Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations,
In Partnership With
Global Family, International Council of Women-CIF, National Council of Women-US,
FIA Foundation, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, and Live Happy Media
H.E. Dr. T. Hamid Al-Bayati, Former Ambassador of Iraq to the United Nations

Dr. T. Hamid Al-Bayati is a professor at the Department of Political Science at Rutgers University. He was the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations from April 2006 to April 2013. He worked as the Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs and Bilateral Relations from 2004 to 2006. During the same period, he headed the Iraqi Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Al-Bayati was elected as the Chair of the Third Committee, related to Economic and Human Rights in 2006; the Vice President of the General Assembly in 2007; and the Chair of the Sixth Committee, dealing with legal issues, in 2008. Additionally, Dr. Al-Bayati was elected as the Chairman for the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) in 2011.

Christina Stevens, Award Winning Author & Film Director

Christina Stevens, born in Sydney, Australia, fifth generation in a theatrical family and great granddaughter of Randolph Bedford M.L.A. member of Parliament, publisher, and lauded as one of the most colorful personalities in Australian letters and politics. It was this heritage and her belief that thoughtful and inspiring characters can bring about positive change that impacted Christina’s career, first as a Madison Avenue Creative Director and subsequently as an award winning filmmaker and author, recipient of the coveted Gold Lion at the Venice Film Festival and Grand Prize Winner of the Hay House Writing Competition for her 2014 book, “LOVE. The Saint and the Seeker.” She serves on the Special Projects Committee of the Directors Guild of America and on the Board of Ted Turner’s Captain Planet Foundation, whose mission is to empower the world’s youth to work individually and collectively as environmental stewards realizing their vital role in the transformation of life on earth today.

H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez was appointed as Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations on March 13, 2013. Ambassador Carlos Garcia is currently President of the Ninth Committee of the General Assembly (Special Political and Decolonization); Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Vice-Chairman for Social Development 2013-2014; and Vice-Chairman of the Commission on the Status of Women in the period 2014-2015. He also served as Vice-Chairman of the CSW 2012-2013. He holds a Special Course’s degree in International Relations from the Diplomatic Academy of Madrid (Spain) and a bachelor’s degree in International Relations from the University of El Salvador. Ambassador Carlos Garcia is married with Ines Elizabeth Oviedo de Garcia and has a daughter, Melanie Elizabeth Garcia Oviedo.

Jeffrey Sachs, Director, The Earth Institute

Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned economics professor, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist. Prof. Sachs serves as the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy & Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the MDGs. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, as well as co-founder and director of the Millennium Villages Project. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General’s MG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. His three New York Times bestsellers in the past 7 years: The End of Poverty, Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet, and The Price of Civilization. His most recent book is To Move the World: JFK’s Quest for Peace.

Jean Olson, Founder of Live Happy Magazine

Jeff Olson has spoken to more than a thousand audiences throughout the United States and around the world. Jeff is also the author of the best-selling book The Slight Edge, which stems from his passion for helping individuals achieve higher levels of personal achievement and excellence. He also reached out to the teen audience through a partnership with the SUCCESS Foundation via his book SUCCESS for Teens: Real Teens Talk about Using the Slight Edge, which is based on principles from The Slight Edge and has been distributed to almost two million young people. In addition, to working with various New York Times best-selling authors and legendary figures of personal development and presenting seminars in every major city in the United States, Jeff has been featured on the cover of The Wall Street Journal as well as other publications, including Entrepreneur and SUCCESS magazines.

Julian B. Kiganda, President of African Diaspora for Change

As President of African Diaspora for Change—a nonprofit whose mission is to educate and empower African immigrants and the broader African Diaspora through culture, dialogue and advocacy—Julian has spearheaded the development of the organization’s long term strategy, vision, and programming. In 2009, she chaired ADC’s first major event—the successful African Diaspora Inaugural Ball, featuring Angelique Kidjo and Les Nubians. The rapidly growing organization’s mission is reflected in its programming, initiatives and events, which has garnered it a nationwide reputation for excellence. Julian and her work have been featured in various media including: The Washington Post, NBC News, ABC News, AP, Voice of America, Communication Arts, HOW Magazine, Huffington Post, NPR, ARISE Magazine, Black Web 2.0, and many others.