



Geneva, 6-16 July 2015

53rd Graduate Study Programme

Final Report

***«From Millennium Goals to Sustainable Goals:
Crafting New Development Goals for the Future We Want»***



Table of Contents

ITU Working Group.....	1
UNCTAD Working Group.....	20
UNDP Working Group.....	33
. UNOG Working Group.....	43
WMO Working Group.....	47

United Nations Information Service (UNIS)

53rd United Nations Graduate Study Programme: "From Millennium to sustainable: crafting new development goals for the future we want."

**Mapping Net Neutrality regulatory frameworks:
regulation as tool for Sustainable Development?**

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Geneva, July 2015

Table of contents

[Abstract](#)

[Introduction](#)

[A multistakeholder issue with different perspectives](#)

[Mapping net neutrality regulation](#)

[Americas](#)

[Western Europe](#)

[Eastern Europe and Northern Asia](#)

[Africa](#)

[Asia and Australia](#)

[General Trends and Conclusion](#)

53rd United Nations Graduate Studies Programme

International Telecommunications Union (ITU) Working Group

Mapping Net Neutrality regulatory frameworks: regulation as tool for Sustainable Development?

Abstract

Net neutrality is a principle that has been much debated in recent years, however the complexity of the issue makes it difficult for the uninformed individual to avoid problems of misinformation. At a time when the Internet has a growing importance in our everyday lives, it is important for citizens to be aware of the issues regarding net neutrality and how to position themselves with regards to the associated regulations that concern them. Our aim for this report is to give an account of the considerations associated with net neutrality in order for the uninformed individual to know what to expect and look for when attempting to form an opinion on the matter. Our main conclusions are that the understanding of what net neutrality is and should be is dependent on various factors. First, there exist different stakeholders which each have their own perspective and interests on the matter. Second, the structure of the Internet System varies between countries. And third, there is no single agreed upon model on how net neutrality should be regulated within countries or regions. The debate on net neutrality is really about striking a balance between the market stability and public interests. This goes together with Sustainable Development Goal number 10: *Transform Governance and technologies for Sustainable Development*. In our analysis of the different regions, we were able to observe that the countries which already have regulation concerning net neutrality generally tend toward a more open network.

Introduction

An average Internet user very rarely understands (or even think about) the complex structure that allows information exchange in the network. The invisible architecture of the Internet, though, has profound implications in the way an individual user experiences it, and in a macro level, can impact (for better or worse) the transformative potential of the Internet for social and economic development.

Net neutrality has been one of the most discussed topics related to Internet regulation in recent years. Although there is no universally accepted definition of what the term exactly means, one of the most common ways of expressing it is as a "network design principle" by which all data packets should flow in the network in equal conditions regardless of content, origin or destination. That means that a network should "treat all content, sites, and platforms equally", so it can "carry every form of information and support every kind of application". According to supporters of this principle, such approach would lead to a "maximally useful public information network"¹.

For working purposes, net neutrality can be defined as "the principle that all electronic communication passing through a network is treated equally. That all communication is treated equally means that it is treated independent of (i) content, (ii) application, (iii) service, (iv) device, (v) sender address, and (vi) receiver address. Sender and receiver address implies that the treatment is independent of end user and content/application/service provider."²

The ideal of a completely neutral network is challenged by reality. Some degree of traffic management (i.e. prioritising some kinds of data over others) is necessary to ensure efficient operation of the Internet. Traffic management has always been in use, such as to prioritise emergency communications. Nevertheless, there is a growing concern that certain management practices may favour some content or services over others, or even block some of them completely. Most

¹ http://www.timwu.org/network_neutrality.html

² BEREC, 'Response to the European Commission's Consultation on the Open Internet and Net Neutrality in Europe', BoR (10)42, September 2010, p. 2-3.

Internet Service Providers (ISPs) nowadays are able to detect what kind of Internet service or applications costumers are accessing through their connections, and therefore they can direct different bandwidth to different kinds of services (e-mail, peer-to-peer file sharing, video streaming, VoIP, etc.), making some of them faster than others³.

Currently, traffic shaping measures are widely accepted, as long as they are necessary measures to ensure quality of service for all end users, and not ways of making unfair discrimination. The Best Practice Guidelines for Enabling Open Access, which were approved by ITU's Global Symposium for Regulators in 2010, recommend regulators to only allow traffic differentiation when it is objectively justifiable.

A multistakeholder issue with different perspectives

Albeit the lack of consensus among the ITU Member States and other stakeholders on whether and how to do it, regulation of net neutrality can have significant implications for sustainable development. On one hand, the adoption of strong neutrality rules might be able to ensure opportunities for small businesses and protect human rights. On the other hand, a tough instance for neutrality might oversee possibilities to reach universal connection or to prioritise public services such as health and security.

Network neutrality requires Internet traffic to be treated without undue discrimination, restriction or interference, as a result of which end-users enjoy the "greatest possible access to Internet-based content, applications and services of their choice, whether or not they are offered free of charge, using suitable devices of their choice". (Belli and van Bergen) (Council of Europe, 2010). In that sense, net neutrality is seen as a key enabler for human rights. According to Luca Belli and Matthjis van Bergen, "in our current information society, the ability to freely receive and impart ideas and information and to fully participate in democratic life is truly reliant on the nature of one's Internet connection. By ascribing to users the ability to choose freely how to utilise their Internet connection, without undue interferences

³ <http://www.itu.int/en/wcit-12/documents/wcit-background-brief11.pdf>

from public or private entities, network neutrality directly contributes to the effective enjoyment of a range of fundamental rights, such as Internet users' freedom of speech and right to privacy, as well as the promotion of a diverse and pluralistic media-landscape, while unleashing a virtuous cycle of innovation without permission."⁴ (CDMSI, 2013)

As it is today however, the debate on net neutrality persists and there is no general consensus between the various stakeholders on how it shall be implemented. (Quail and Larabie, 2010). In effect, end-users care for their right to an "open and free" internet as it was designed at its origins, however as it was commercialized and started growing exponentially, disputes started emerging with other stakeholders⁵. (Zhu, 2007) To describe the dispute in simple terms, it opposes Internet Service Providers (ISPs) on the one hand to Content Providers (CPs) and end-users on the other. (Ly, MacDonald and Toze, 2012)

One of the key issues at stake in the Net Neutrality debate are perceptible in the Declaration of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on network neutrality. First, paragraph 4 of the declaration states that access to infrastructure is a prerequisite to realizing net neutrality. Second, "there is an exponential increase in Internet traffic due to the growing number of users and new applications, content and services that take up more bandwidth than ever before. The connectivity of existing types of devices is broadened as regards networks and infrastructure, and new types of devices are connected. In this context, operators of electronic communication networks may have to manage Internet traffic." (§5) There are two factors that the end-user needs to keep in mind when adopting a position in favor or against net neutrality. If the network capacity is saturated, then the quality of service will deteriorate. In many regions where net neutrality has been adopted, some exceptions are made for different matters, very commonly security, for more urgent information to be delivered in priority. The arguments of investment in the infrastructure and limited network capacity are those put forward by the Internet Service Providers to argue against net neutrality. If there is high network congestion and the network capacity is shared disproportionately between users, traffic management could lead to an efficient use of network capacity. (Ly, MacDonald and

⁴ [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/cdmsi/CDMSI\(2013\)Misc19_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/cdmsi/CDMSI(2013)Misc19_en.pdf)

⁵ <http://scholarship.law.berkeley.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1697&context=btlj>

Toze)⁶ ISPs thus argue that charging content providers extra if they use more of their network is fair, and that they need the funding to invest in the costly infrastructure. As a result, a closed network would, in their view, foster innovation, in turn ameliorating the quality of the service provided. In order to know whether this argument holds, it is necessary to verify whether the profits made through traffic management are really reinjected into the infrastructure.

As the issue of network neutrality has gained momentum in the last decade, mainstream media depicts ISPs as the ‘villain’ in this story. Content Providers argue that ISPs are “double dipping”, as they are charging both end-users and content providers for their services on a market which was created with the intention of being open. (Ken Florence, 2014)⁷

When finding an opinion on this matter, it is important to take a look at the internet structure in the country. Internet Service Providers can be operating either in a competitive market, or have enough market share to influence prices that discriminate. For instance, there has been a much wider mobilization in favor of net neutrality in North American countries, where the market for ISPs is close to a monopoly thus leaving less alternatives to discriminatory practices and allowing for a coordination of prices to occur, than in Europe where the market is more competitive. (Ly, MacDonald and Toze, 2012) It is thus very important to take these considerations into account, as well as the level of development of the network infrastructure. This raises the issue of how the market should be regulated and if net neutrality is the right way to control anti-competitive practices (Zhu, 2007). That argument tries to show how hard it is to conciliate a free market society and the net neutrality debate.

The interest for civil society are, as we have mentioned above, to allow both those who wouldn't be able to access the internet under discriminatory practices to access the same information. It is about ensuring both access to diversity and freedom of choice. “Each democratic state [...] holds a responsibility of utmost importance, to ensure that the Internet remains a platform for democratic engagement and constitutional freedom, and does not evolve into an instrument of

⁶ <http://ojphi.org/ojs/index.php/fm/article/view/3857/3205>

⁷ <http://blog.netflix.com/2014/04/the-case-against-isp-tolls.html>

centralised control for both state and non-state actors.” (Belli and van Bergen, 2013)⁸

One of the arguments in favor of net neutrality is that if the latter was limited, it would create a digital divide and the Internet would be “segregated into a high speed platform for those who can afford it and a ‘dirt track’ for those who cannot”. (Ly, MacDonald and Toze, 2012) In addition, it would consist a barrier to the entry of start-ups to the market, for instance if the quality of their service was undermined due to the fact that they don’t have the financial means to pay for their content to be distributed in the “fast lane”. This argument is thus shared between both civil society actors and content providers. (Ly, MacDonald and Toze, 2012)

Kai Zhu, in 2007, had come up with three conclusions on net neutrality. For one, he believes the internet was not designed to be neutral and has never been. Second, he doesn’t believe that traffic management inevitably leads to less innovation. Both can coexist. Third, he emphasises the importance of regulation in order to avoid discrimination and power abuses. (Zhu, 2007)

This is not an exhaustive list of the arguments in favor or against net neutrality, but remains very superficial. It is a small introduction however to show that the issue is much more complex than it is often described in mainstream media and it is not as simple as just being in favor or against net neutrality as the concept itself lacks a consensual definition. It’s about understanding the different issues at stake and finding the most appropriate regulation for each region, because both a lack of regulation and a regulation can have negative effects on the end-consumers and their human rights. In the end, everyone should inform themselves about the issue and the stakeholders involved in the matter. The ideals of net neutrality are appealing to the end-user, however the latter must not forget the context in which it operates, i.e. a context of limited network capacity in a market representing various interests, on which a multiplicity of more or less valid arguments, and where country or regional specificities have a strong role to play. As a conclusion to this section, we can say that net neutrality is about finding the appropriate regulation to strike a balance between market stability and public interests.

Mapping net neutrality regulation

⁸ [http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/cdmsi/CDMSI\(2013\)Misc19_en.pdf](http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/standardsetting/media/cdmsi/CDMSI(2013)Misc19_en.pdf)

As the United Nations is about a Post-2015 Development Agenda in September, we propose that the ITU develop and publish a comprehensive comparative study on the status of net neutrality regulatory frameworks among ITU Member States. The aim of such report would be to promote public awareness on the different ways in which the question can be understood, far from dichotomic division between those "pro" and "against" net neutrality, presenting different solutions and best practices. It would also remark the possible economic and social consequences such a regulation (or lack of it) can have, making it a possible tool for reaching the Sustainable Development Goals.

With limited time and resources available, the ITU Working Group at the 53rd United Nations Graduate Studies Programme developed a tentative compilation of regulatory responses (or lack of them) to the question of net neutrality. The results presented, which are based on publicly available information but surely require careful technical review, as a contribution for a potential ITU report on the status of net neutrality regulation worldwide.

Despite the preliminary nature of the information collected -- which might in some cases be outdated or unofficial -- it has been possible to identify some major trends, which will follow the presentation of results.

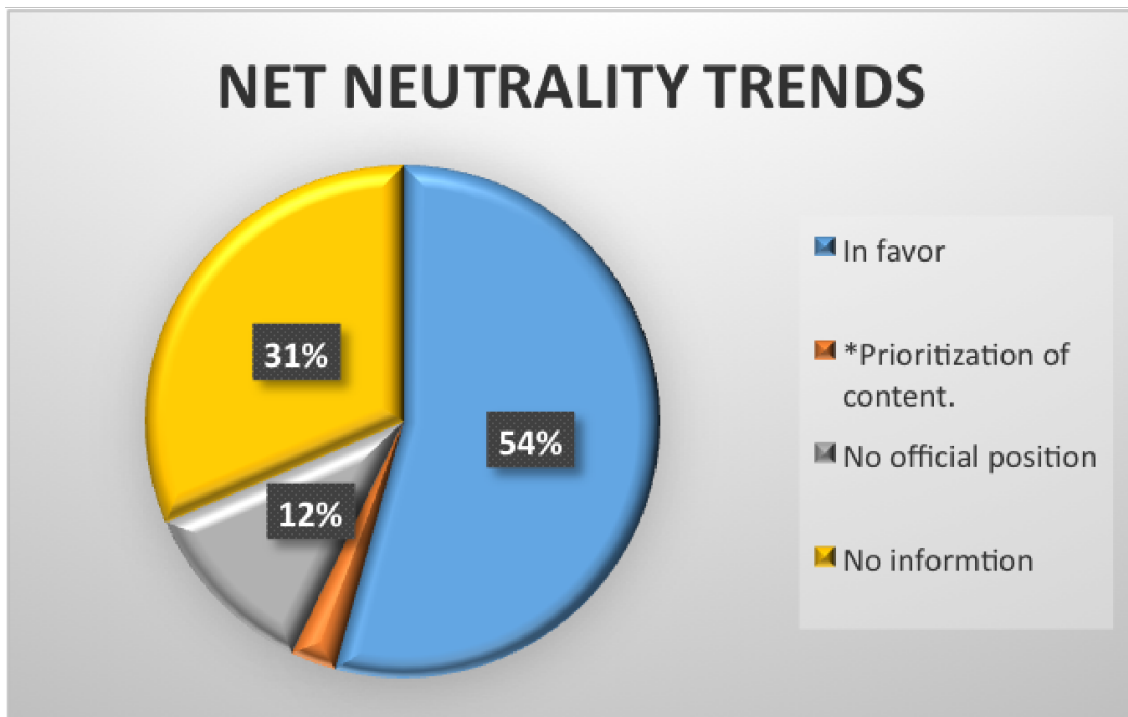
Americas

Concerning the analysis of Net Neutrality trends in American countries, we have found a really meaningful information that gives us some important elements about position of the countries. In America, there are 35 countries which are ITU Member States. Among them, 19 take an instance in favour of net neutrality.

The case of Cuba is important because it is unique in the region. In Cuba there is a very restricted internet access. International connection is available through satellite, which are a more expensive and slower way than wires. Since infrastructure is not enough to meet demand, Cuba has adopted a strategy of development and access to contents, according to which the access to social networks gets priority. It is an alternative model of internet development, that does not favor the individualized use of internet, but its broader social use in education,

health, culture and the development of the most important branches of their economy. The government argues that *“technology is not neutral, and it always serves the interests of those who possess it and apply it.”*

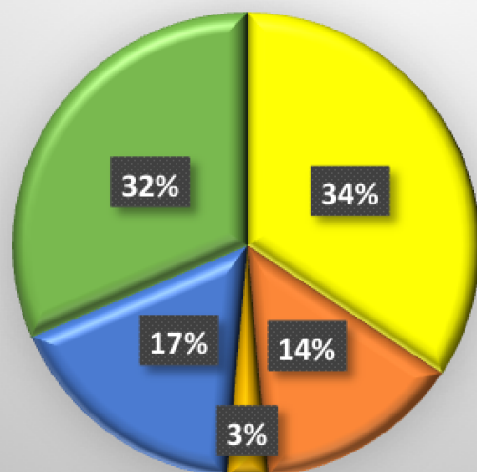
In favor of net neutrality or of prioritization of contents				
	For net neutrality	For prioritization of contents	No official position	No information
1.	Argentine Republic	Cuba	Bolivia	Antigua and Barbuda
2.	Brazil (Federative Republic of)		Guatemala	Bahamas
3.	Canada		Uruguay	Barbados
4.	Chile		Venezuela	Belize
5.	Colombia (Republic of)			El Salvador
6.	Costa Rica			Guyana
7.	Dominica (Commonwealth of)			Haiti
8.	Dominican Republic			Nicaragua
9.	Ecuador			Panama
10.	Grenada			Suriname
11.	Honduras (Republic of)			Trinidad and Tobago
12.	Jamaica			
13.	Mexico			
14.	Paraguay (Republic of)			
15.	Peru			
16.	Saint Kitts and Nevis (Federation of)			
17.	Saint Lucia			
18.	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			
19.	United States of America			



Regarding regulations about Net Neutrality in American countries, we can affirm that seventeen countries have regulations about this issue. Between those countries, twelve contain a government policy and five of them have an agreement together, the Determination on Internet Neutrality from Eastern Caribbean Telecommunications Authority (ECTEL). Besides, Uruguay has no regulation yet, but it is under discussion as a Uruguayan senator submitted a bill about the theme to the senate.

In addition, six countries have no regulation yet. In Bolivia they do not have an official position, as well as in Venezuela. Cuba mentions in their discourse that they are against, but it is not a law. Dominican Republic has a Report in which they mention the net neutrality, but is not a law as well. Guatemala does not have an official definition, but they agree with free internet, without privileges for any sector and without any interference. Jamaica is similar; the minister of state for Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining said that they are committed to the concept of Net Neutrality, but they do not have a regulation about the issue. Finally, eleven countries have no information about net neutrality as the table shows.

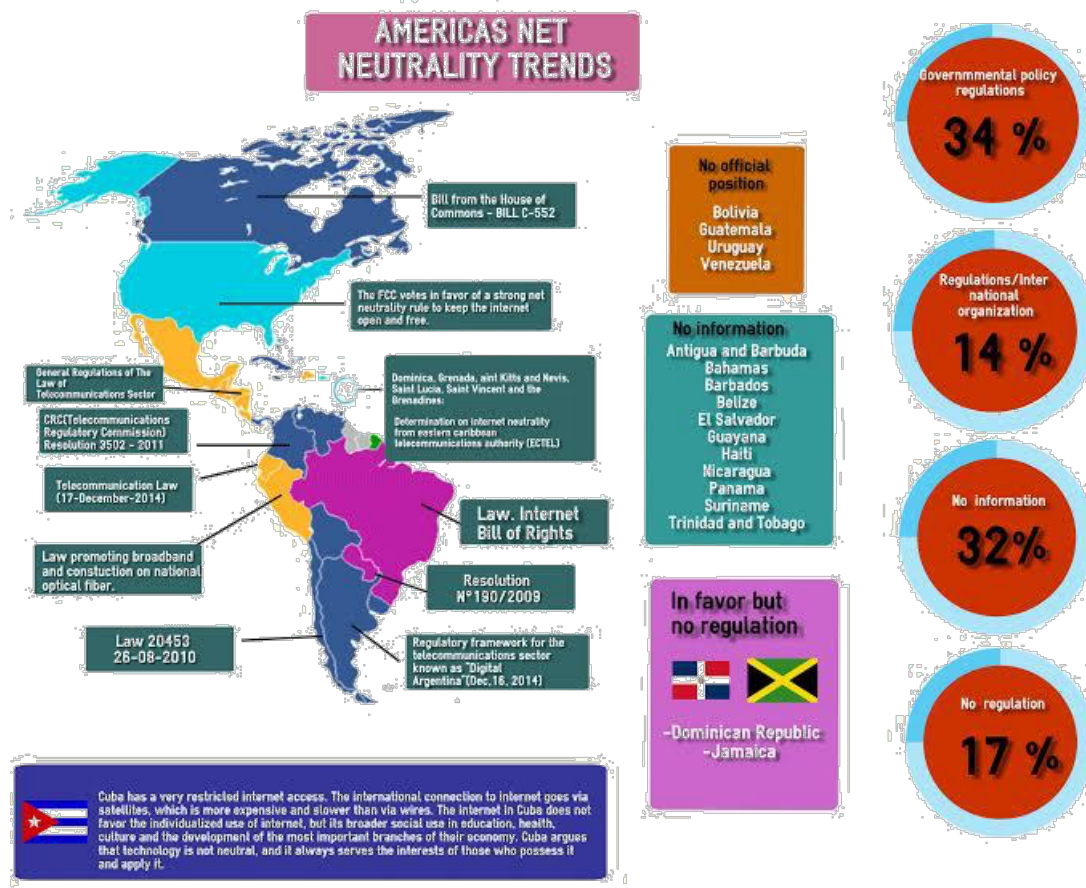
REGULATIONS %



- Regulation/ Governmental policy
- Regulation/ International Organization
- Under Discussion/ Bill
- No regulation
- No information

Regulations

	Have Regulation		Under Discussion/ Bill	No regulation	No information
	Regulation/ Governmental policy	Regulation/ International Organization			
1.	Argentine Republic	Dominica (Commonwealth of)	Uruguay	Bolivia	Antigua and Barbuda
2.	Brazil (Federative Republic of)	Grenada		Cuba	Bahamas
3.	Canada	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Dominican Republic	Barbados
4.	Chile	Saint Lucia		Guatemala	Belize
5.	Colombia (Republic of)	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		Jamaica	El Salvador
6.	Costa Rica			Venezuela	Guyana
7.	Ecuador				Haiti
8.	Honduras (Republic of)				Nicaragua
9.	Mexico				Panama
10.	Paraguay (Republic of)				Suriname
11.	Peru				Trinidad and Tobago
12.	United States of America				



Western Europe

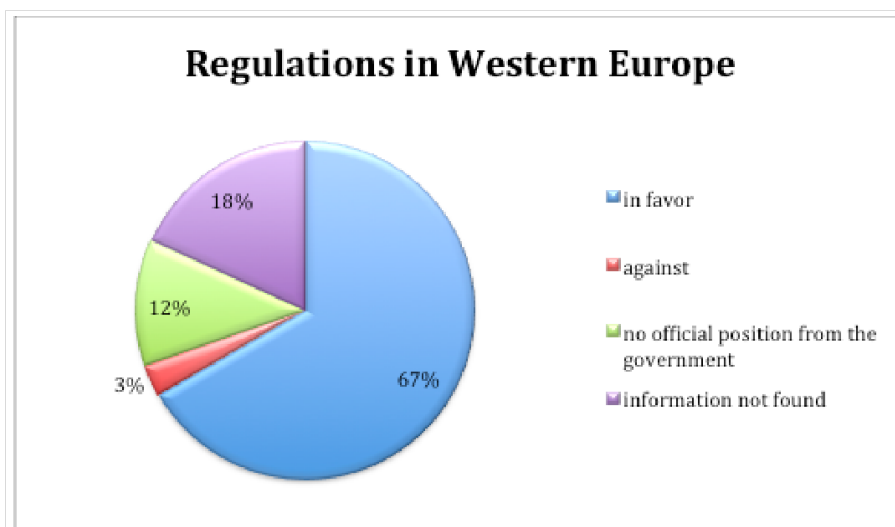
Regarding the Net Neutrality in the western European region, it was possible to find that the majority of the countries have regulation and are in favor of regulating net neutrality. Only Cyprus, France, Latvia and Vatican have no official statement from the government.

In Switzerland there is no legislation, but a Federal Government multi-stakeholder working group was established in October 2013 to look closely into this issue. A parliamentary initiative was filed. The Conseil Fédéral was not supporting it but the Conseil National voted in favor. It then had to be approved by the Conseil des Etat which rejected the motion, saying that there was no violation of net neutrality in Switzerland and the measures for an increase in transparency were sufficient.

The United Kingdom there is no legislation on the subject, however there is a voluntary code of conduct: "Open Internet Code of Practice".

The European Union has taken position in favor of net neutrality. EU Council has partially adopted it, defending an open and free access with certain exceptions for security and the prevention of child pornography. The Law is suppose to take effect on April 30th 2016 (after ratification by Member states). However, each country sets its own regulations regarding net neutrality.

REGULATIONS					
	Have regulation		No regulation	No official position	No information found
	In favor	Against			
1	Austria	Turkey	Switzerland (Confederation of)	Cyprus (Republic of)	Andorra (Principality of)
2	Belgium			France	Bosnia and Herzegovina
3	Croatia (Republic of)			Latvia (Republic of)	Iceland
4	Denmark			Vatican City State	Liechtenstein (Principality of)
5	Estonia (Republic of)				Monaco (Principality of)
6	Finland				San Marino (Republic of)
7	Germany (Federal Republic of)				
8	Greece				
9	Hungary				
10	Ireland				
11	Latvia (Republic of)				
12	Lithuania (Republic of)				
13	Luxembourg				
14	Malta				
15	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)				
16	Norway				
17	Portugal				
18	Slovenia (Republic of)				
19	Spain				
20	Sweden				
21	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland				



Eastern Europe and Northern Asia

In Eastern Europe and Northern Asia there are countries that have programmes related to the informational society developing with strategies aimed to the universality approach concerning the coaction, digital and informational inequality reduction, other programmes conducts to the “net inequality” removal, which includes equal opportunities for using already existing informational resources. It is also focused on informational services promotion.

Other countries of the region don't have any information available regarding the issue or have general regulations, but available only in their own languages.

Some countries of region occupy neutral or non-official position concerning the neutrality and equality of related services. Sometimes because of the lack of developed infrastructure or only spread internet education.

To sum up, the region is only developing communication network and provide their population with all the necessary information and , at the same time, is implementing related programmes.

Africa

Although most African countries have not adopted specific regulation for net neutrality, they now face the challenge of local telecom players offering "free" access to the web services. They offer free access to certain services web page under hearing of paid access to the others (“ zero rating”).

In Zambia, in partnership with Airtel Zambia, Facebook has launched a “free” access Internet through its initiative Internet.org (Internet.org Android App - Internet.org websites, Facebook for Android App). The initiative provides access to Facebook, Messenger, Wikipedia, AccuWeather ... and provide health services, employment opportunities and local information. Zimbabwe has "free" access to Facebook for users of Telecel. In Tanzania, it is complimentary for costumers of Millicom Tigo. In Rwanda,educational content is offered for free by Facebook when access "free" Wikipedia has become a reality for Airtel Kenya last year.

Facebook is expanding its Facebook Zero program in the region, through which the company deals with ISPs from emerging markets to offer its social network service for free. Twitter and Google do the same thing. Wikipedia, albeit with a non-commercial intent, does the same.

By offering free access to some popular services, and charging users who access a competing web services, African ISPs represent a challenge to the net neutrality principle, although they might play an important role in the universalization of access (although it is a limited access).

Another challenge is the the cost of access remains high and that with regard to access to optical fiber (high speed internet) and access to Wireless Spectrum.

In South Africa, the Association of Internet Service Providers (ISPA) argues that net neutrality is not a "problem" for their country; when the "Independent Communications Authority of South Africa" (ICASA) said that South Africa must avoid legislating on the issue of net neutrality.

For ISPA, net neutrality " is a problem unique to Americans because cable operators who converted their cables with broadband links dominate the market for access to the Internet. This debate, according to them, does not apply to Africa, where there is more competition due to the prevalence of mobile Internet access.

In Tunisia, under Ben Ali, whose grip on the internet inclination to combine the interests of a chief of police state, and merry geek minutiae of the monitoring system is entirely under its own control. [...] This is the luxury allowed by the new mass surveillance technologies with good tools, some engineers "politically neutral" and fifty trained cyber-police, we can watch and intervene in the communications of an entire country. Tunisia has passed a new law that protect net neutrality.⁹

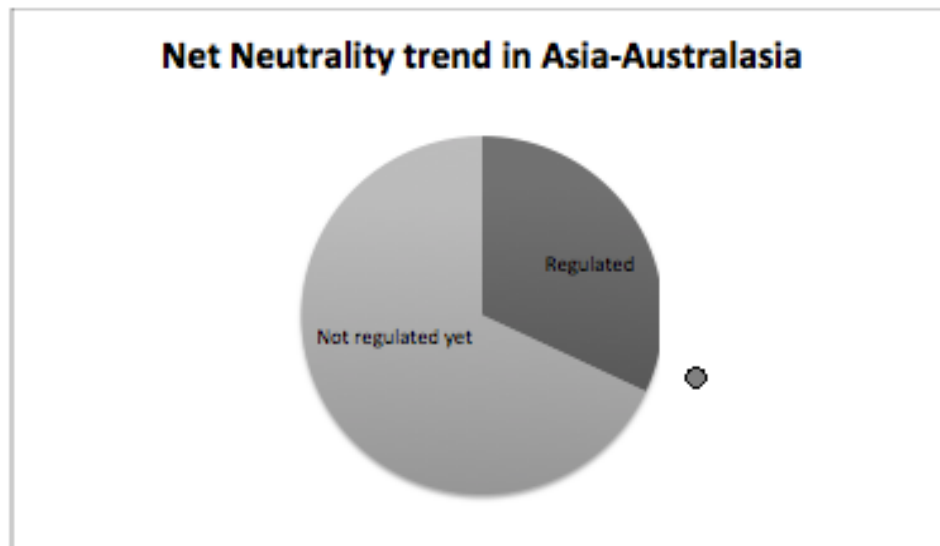
⁹ <http://www.dc4mf.org/fr/node/4629>

In 2014, the African Union proposed the revision of the terms of Internet rights and freedoms declaration. A reform project has been created during August 2014. A paragraph of this project is devoted to the net neutrality. The principles of non- discrimination, free and open exchange of information are taken there to define this neutrality.

Asia and Australia

Regarding the Net Neutrality in the Asia and Australia region, it is possible to find different perspectives about that topic. For instance, countries as Afghanistan, Israel, Japan, Oman, Singapore are in favor about net neutrality and in the most part of them the situation is being discussed in the executive level. Most countries have no official position about Net Neutrality as Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan Philippines, New Zealand, and Nepal. However those governments are still actively monitoring the issue about net neutrality. Another story about why this region still lacks a net neutrality discussion in the governmental level is because some countries are still trying to focus on the Internet development. For instance, the Bangladeshi government does not have a position about net neutrality, solely because the low rate of Internet penetration in the country, albeit stakeholders encourage the Bangladesh government to take the net neutrality into account.

The scenario in Asia and Australia region is that the governments tend to stand on a neutral position and take the issue very carefully, such as the case of the Indian government, which chose a neutral position and established a specific independent committee to monitor the issue.



Based on the graphic above, in this region there is only about over quarter of countries that have been regulated the issue of net neutrality. The countries that have not regulated net neutrality in this region probably have two specific issues. The first issue is that their priority is the Internet development or Internet penetration, and the second one is that the government does not want to take a position about the issue of neutrality, since it is controversial in some extent. Indonesia's government, even though the net neutrality has been discussed within the society level and urged government to take an action on it, still remains neutral or did not take the position yet.

General Trends and Conclusion

This preliminary results shows that net neutrality is a complex issue related to Internet regulation. One of the most common ways to describe that principle is as a "network design principle" by which all data packets should flow in the network in equal conditions regardless of content, origin or destination. Otherwise there is no universal definition about the topic. For instance, it means that a network should "treat all content, sites, and platforms equally", so it can "carry every form of information and support every kind of application". According to supporters of this principle, such approach would lead to a "maximally useful public information network."¹⁰

Concerning the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we could link the Net Neutrality with the Goal number 10: *Transform Governance and technologies for Sustainable Development*.

The public sector, business, and other stakeholders commit to good governance, including transparency, accountability, access to information, participation, an end to tax and secrecy havens, and efforts to stamp out corruption. The international rules governing international finance, trade, corporate reporting, technology, and

¹⁰http://www.timwu.org/network_neutrality.html

intellectual property are made consistent with achieving the SDGs. The financing of poverty reduction and global public goods including efforts to head off climate change are strengthened and based on a graduated set of global rights and responsibilities.

It is to say that the debate about Net Neutrality is a matter that should be considered in the discussion of the SDGs as the fact that they address the importance of the access to information.

In our analysis one of the trends we could observe is the fact that countries which already have regulation concerning Net Neutrality generally tend toward a more open network. Whereas governments of countries that could be against do not show any official position. Otherwise, this is a not a final affirmation, some countries that do not have any regulation yet can also be in favor, but they simply did not make a regulation on this statement until this moment. Or, as example of Switzerland, the authorities decided not to have regulations due to the fact that there is no violation of net neutrality in the country.

Finally, in order to fulfill the SDGs goals the world leaders will have to promote universal access to information and to internet. Sadly still a huge part of the world population do not have access to internet or any kind of technology. For this reason, the world leaders must discuss not just the net neutrality *per se* but also the strategies to these people have more opportunities to access information.

USING TRADE AND INVESTMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*Surpassing the Past, Fulfilling the Future: Youth
as the driving force*

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Leão Spinola, Harold James Doroteo, Rachid Ennaciri, Amr Hasaan, Andreas Holzinger, Pierre
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July 16, 2015

Contents

CONCEPT NOTE	2
ANNOTATED OUTLINE	4
<i>CHAPTER 1: Winning the Private Sector's Engagement</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>CHAPTER 2: Allocating benefits from T&I</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>CHAPTER 3: Yielding on Civil Society's' Capacities</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>CHAPTER 4: Conclusion</i>	<i>7</i>
DISSEMINATION STRATEGY.....	8
TARGET GOAL:.....	8
STRATEGY	8
SPEECH	10

CONCEPT NOTE

Abstract

The UN Sustainable Development Agenda aimed for 2015 is an all-encompassing strategy aimed at fostering a global social, economic and environmental architecture that is equitable, inclusive and sustainable for the existing population, as well as for the generations to come. The report highlights mechanisms for different stakeholders of the private sector, public sector, and civil society to leverage trade and investment which can benefit tomorrow's leaders and agents **with a focus on youth engagement**. This case study can also be applicable to other at risk societal groups.

Background/ Rationale

It is evident that trade and investment are key determinants for economic growth in our world today. UNCTAD identifies the need to focus on promoting competitiveness while fostering empowerment for society. However our economy, which fosters trade and investment, is at a crossroad. For example, youth unemployment currently is and will be a huge issue which could augment poverty and uncertainty in our society. Moreover, today the youth constitutes more than half the world population, with 90% of them living in developing countries, and it is ever continuously growing. Hence, we must give a bigger voice to the youth that are being sidelined.

Poverty reduction and ending of inequality requires inclusive growth that allows everyone to contribute; and trade and investment are major catalysts that can ameliorate these struggles. Moreover, implementation of the SDGs can help lift everybody on board for a better future.

In order for youth to take leadership, they must be empowered and equipped with the proper tools. Having access to better education and jobs can be the answer to achieve this; nevertheless the youth of today face unprecedented challenges. Though the MDGs have helped more youth receive basic education, enrollment and even more so completion rates in LDCs are heavily lagging behind. The employment crisis is worsening; today 73 million of them are unemployed. Even for those with jobs, many are in vulnerable conditions.

Expected accomplishment

The youth represent the future and are the central drivers for sustainable development. Hence the youth will be the subject of a case study in this report. This report seeks to present all stakeholders including member states, the private sector, and civil society as sources of inspiration for the development of new strategic policies towards sustainable development. The goal is to improve the global architecture of trade and investment for all countries with a special focus on developing countries to achieve economic prosperity while incorporating the new global goals for sustainable development.

In order for sustainability to properly function, responsibility must be derived from all stakeholders in order to achieve the SDGs. One danger of the SDGs' multi-actor approach is that it decentralizes the actors, thus weakening and obscuring the responsibilities for each. The final report highlights different recommendations to the private, public sector, and civil society; thus this reinforces accountabilities for all.

Organization of work

We gathered information, data, and case studies according to the three sectors which comprises our report:

- *Private sector*: An assessment utilizing documents such as WTO-OECD: Aid-for-Trade at a Glance 2015 (e.g. Chapter 9), Zero Draft of the Outcome Document of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and The Addis Ababa Accord of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. Also case studies of sustainable business will be taken into account.
- *The Public sector*: The views of economists and policy-makers will be collected through a qualitative questionnaire.
- *Civil society (including youth)*: Youth will be also a part of the qualitative questionnaire with the goal of assessing their needs and understanding of sustainable development. We will then identify the challenges and ultimately try to answer how to best convince the different sectors to leverage youth in trade and investment for sustainable development.

ANNOTATED OUTLINE

How to achieve Sustainable Development? Our **W-A-Y** Forward

CHAPTER 1: *Winning the Private Sector's Engagement*

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), the world is facing a youth employment crisis: young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. The young workers are facing a dangerous mix of high unemployment, increased inactivity and precarious work in developed countries, as well as persistently high working poverty in the developing world. The private sector can help make a young person's future a brighter one and needs to be conscious about the fact that youth represents 1.8 Billion of today's population and hence:

"Youth are the major consumers and the workforce for the private sector"

Recommendations

On Corporate Social Responsibility

Some countries have not only strongly encouraged the private sector to respect their social and environmental responsibilities, some even have introduced more binding provisions in order for companies to divert 2% of the profits towards equitable CSR activities. In order to render growth more inclusive and lower inequalities as well as externalities such as environmental degradation or workers exploitation, good CSR practices are a great means to monitor a specific actor's contribution and accountability.

A company ranking on sustainability

We should thus create a corporate sustainability index in all dimensions, be it social, environmental or economic, youth could take more informed decisions on their future employers. When high potentials rather choose another company due to the company's practices, the private sector needs to reconsider. Similar indexes has proven valuable in the past already, utilizing it for the sustainability and contributing to the general well-being is thus a new feature worth considering. Growing compliance counters thus legal-social, regulatory and reputational risks. A strong index could go along and beyond the lines of similar establishments such as UN Global Compact, WBCSD, and GRI. This index should be fortified to ultimately make it impossible to be circumvented by companies.

CHAPTER 2: *Allocating benefits from T&I*

We are all aware of the importance of free and accessible information for opinion-shaping and decision-making, nevertheless many are still not conscious about how they could provide states and investors with valuable information of their daily lives. Youth could play a major role in supporting transparency and information-flow by pressuring the public and private sectors. T&I would give governments the means to involve the private sector in this goal, as well as allow local representation in strategic positions. Its potential harms could be controlled through regional cooperation.

Recommendations

Big data for inclusive sustainable development

A growing ocean of digital data is being generated every minute while people use mobile devices to communicate, buy and sell goods, transfer money, search for information on the Internet, and share their lives publicly on social networks. By doing so, they leave digital trails that can be used to better understand real time trends on population behavior as well as its needs and preferences. For instance, an electricity and water “smart grid” could improve water and electricity provision management. Meteorological data from mobile-phone based stations could improve weather forecasts and disaster risk prevention. Privacy is not violated, when data is gathered in millions without being able to trace streams back to individuals. Informing people about such anonymity is paramount for their consent in the usage of big data.

In order for states to benefit from this, a public effort must be done into acquiring capacities to collect, manage and interpret data. Youth represents different roles in this process. They represent the future they are more capable of holding governments accountable. They are also best suited due to unique digital native capacities and their simultaneous need to find a job with a skill set youth can offer.

One recommendation would be to require data sharing engagements from foreign companies with host governments prior to FDI allowance. By enforcing foreign companies to provide states with on-site accumulated data while maintaining confidentiality would ensure local societies to profit from foreign investments in a sustainable way. T&I for development purposes would give companies incentives and protection to exchange data among themselves such as establishing and regulating a new exchange platform where data could

be monetized and acquired by interested private companies. As long as equitable and fair agreements between parties are respected, this mechanism would encourage data sharing between companies of different fields in order to lower investments risks. Governments can facilitate legally binding confidentiality agreements and make agents more accountable.

Representation of public interest into private strategic decisions:

Requiring foreign companies to respect a minimum percentage of local hires, especially in higher and strategic positions can have positive effects on various levels. Ensuring participation of local people in strategic decisions would start bridging the gap between public interests and foreign investment decisions and enhance civil society representation. It will also lead to decreasing unemployment of the local youth.

Regional cooperation in order to maximize tax contribution to development:

Every year developing countries see more than \$100 billion loss because of tax evasions. A stronger regional integration is needed in order to protect countries from capital evasion and tax competition. With a regional cooperation in FDI tax policies, developing countries could raise public revenues, which would be directed to workforce education or infrastructure investment; thus it would reduce future unit costs and make firms more competitive in a sustainable way.

CHAPTER 3: *Yielding on Civil Society's' Capacities*

Civil society is an indispensable power of the community. It helps to build a two-way bridge between the private and public sector, rather than cross roads. The youth represents the passion and the future and also an important foundation within civil society as the current and future voice. Securing opportunities for youth is crucial for the welfare of the international community. Enabling youth to have training and adequate education will help to enhance economies. Helping youth to harmonize with the community and fulfilling their needs can also prevent the world from extremists, who mostly come from poor and disadvantaged social backgrounds. Civil society plays a crucial role in effective communication with the youth, fulfilling their needs to be swiftly incorporated within the society.

Empower Civil Society/young to have decision making power.

Recommendations

Promotion of sustainable production

Civil society can pressure States to allow trading sustainable products and investors to invest in sustainable companies, especially products and services catered to the youth. The youth's purchasing power has been increasing, especially in middle-income development countries, which can lead to a huge effect in terms of sustainability. The G7 has already passed a similar measure for sustainable supply chains earlier this year hence there is already active movement from the governments. Civil society can play an active role in actively monitoring and encouraging States to be accountable for these measures.

Partnership between civil society and academia

Sustainability and CSR are becoming widely accepted into society; nonetheless the definition and scope remains vague. Hence it is no surprise that no major business schools offer specialization courses or certifications in sustainability or CSR. Therefore, even though these concepts are key buzz words within the youth generations, few have the actual knowledge or skills to instill them within society. With more educational opportunities and availability, students are able to gain the necessary tools needed to take action for sustainability. Therefore civil society, who are the forefront runners as well as who play a primary role in sustainability, should work with university and academia to formulate courses and degrees that can effectively educate the next generation with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools.

CHAPTER 4: Conclusion

In the basis of the above, the time to have collective action **is now**. The various actors need to work hand in hand to help in making trade and investment contribute to an inclusive growth for our future. Winning the private sector for sustainable development, enhancing CSR, innovating the public sector while rendering all stakeholders responsible and integrating civil society more explicitly – and youth in particular, is what is needed to “sustainabilize” trade and investment.

DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

TARGET GOAL:

Our goal is to inform stakeholders on the critical impact trade and investment can have on sustainable development and in this case study on the young population in all countries. This is why the youth can serve as a medium to help spread the message and thus influence the different stakeholders.

The *2015 time for action to involve the youth* initiative can benefit from this report. This report and campaign will be launched on 12 August 2015, the international youth day. The target audiences will vary and our strategy will be malleable for all actors.

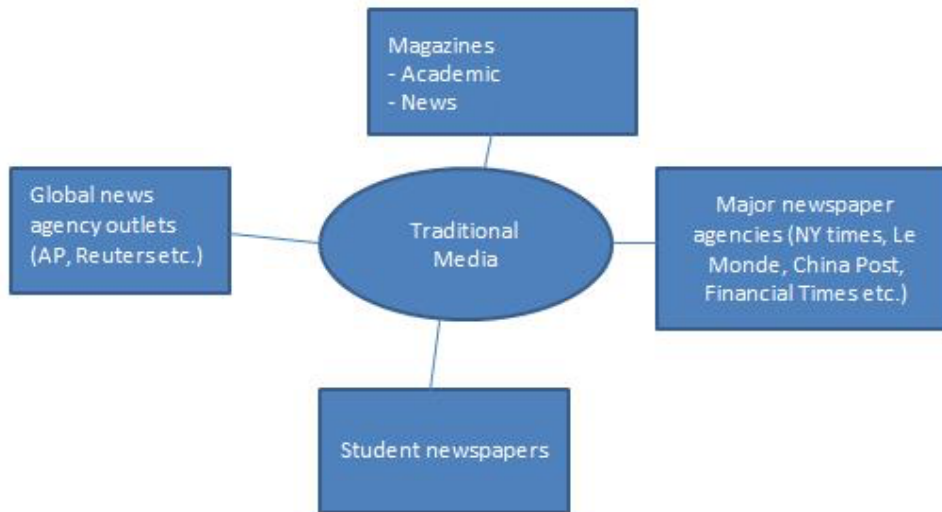
STRATEGY

Traditional media outlets are involved in the dissemination as shown in chart A. Furthermore, cooperation with other UN agencies, country offices and the NGO world is also needed. Short op-eds with key messages should be published on various media outlets depending on institutional and cultural specificities. Creating lively infographics on factsheets with the actor-specific recommendations is crucial to appeal to policy makers.

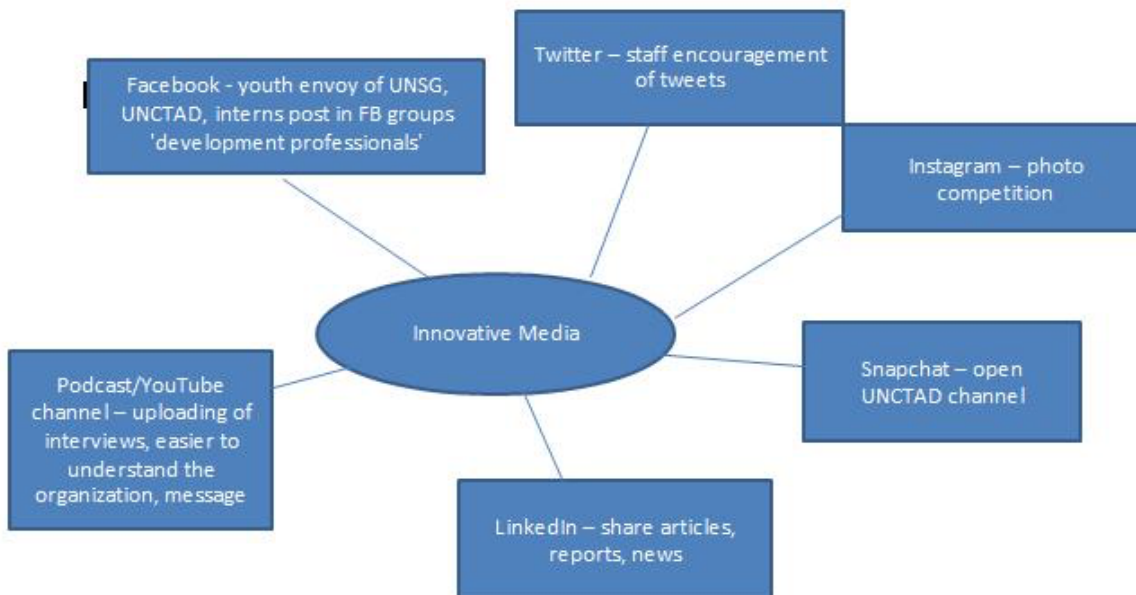
As seen in chart B, social media are a crucial component not to be left behind. We need to not only adapt the messages to different linguistic and cultural groups, but also to take into account non Western social media giants such as Facebook (e.g. Weibo in China, LINE in Japan). Other partnerships with companies and universities are pivotal which can assist in hosting events on sustainability and/or be integrated in various academic program curriculums..

HASTAGS: #Youth4dev, #TradeDoesGood, #ResponsibleInvestment, #UNCTAD2015

A.



B.



SPEECH

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My warm greetings

2015 is the year that highlights the challenges of an unprecedented urgency to embark on inclusive growth. The ambition we had in the last decade with the Millennium Development Goals led to many great achievements. Despite its success, we must admit that we are at a threshold. The Earth is our common good and our growth model is threatening it. We are at a crossroad; some dare to say the most primordial one faced by mankind today. We have to change the way we grow but we cannot continue without taking these limits into consideration. The international trade competition helped people to revitalize the economy and get out of poverty. But currently we lack the big push to make sustainable development feasible. Trade and investment are the driving force of the green growth we want.

Sustainable Development Goals are a common set of goals which will set a shared vision for a better future, a world where no single person is left behind in the process and also the future of our planet is protected. That future generation belongs to the youth of today. In a few years the youth generation will be the majority of the population. So let me elaborate on how we can use Trade and Investment to have sustainable growth.

First and foremost, member states should mobilize domestic resources effectively and set the tone for sustainable development. It is up to their commitment and dedication to remove barriers that hinder trade and investment to function properly and equitably such as corruption, tax evasion, illicit flows and poor regulatory control.

Every year \$100 billion are lost in developing countries due to tax evasion. Stronger regional integration is needed in order to protect countries from capital evasion and tax competition. With regional harmonization of tax policies on FDI, developing countries could

raise public revenues and focus on policies such as workforce education or infrastructure investment, which would increase competitiveness in a sustainable way.

Regional integration is the key to promoting trade and creating jobs for the booming young generation. Hence, it's time to use our economic diplomacy to set the enabling environment for trade and investment and help the 1.8 billion global youth to be part of the development process.

More decisions should be taken with effective and accountable public-private partnerships to ensure everyone is driving in same direction and everyone is proactive and takes initiative for their own responsibilities.

In regards to the private sector specifically, it is commendable to note that they have played an important role in the effective development and implementation of trade facilitation beyond investment alone. However, this is not enough. The private sector must do more to account for their environmental footprints to reduce the adverse effects of climate change in the next generation. Thus the private sector need to look at the long-term impacts in various dimensions. The youth represents the biggest consumer group and workforce for the private sector. Enhanced Corporate Social Responsibility is what we would recommend the private sector to use to help citizens with a better life. We need the cooperation of all private companies to get involved by devoting a minimum of 2% of their profits. Ultimately, CSR would also mean that the companies care for their employees more, especially considering the so-called Millennial generation, as they have a distinct lifestyle as compared to the baby boomers. Imagine next best companies listed on S&P will be those that rank highest in the sustainability index instead of companies with the biggest earning gross.

The public sector also plays an indispensable role in sustainability. Today, an ocean of digital data is being generated every minute whether it is for us to buy/sell goods, transfer money, search for information, and share our lives publicly on social networks. Currently the potential of big data is still undermined. For example data can be utilized to better understand real time trends on population behavior. An electricity and water “smart grid” could improve water and electricity provision management. Our recommendation is to

require data share engagement from foreign companies to local governments prior to allowing FDI. Enforcing foreign companies to provide data stats with confidentiality status would ensure local society to profit from foreign investments in a sustainable way. State governments can play a big role in facilitation and legal enforcement. Youth could play a major role in supporting transparency and information-flow by pressuring the public and private sectors to equitably use such data.

My last point is yielding on the civil society's role on inclusive growth. Civil society plays a crucial role in effective communication with the youth, fulfilling their needs to be incorporated swiftly within the society. This would not be achieved without support of governments, and private sector's financial and knowledge backing. Civil society acts as a bridge to connect the conflicting visions between the private and public sectors. We should have their participation in the SDGs in three key areas: Promote, Monitor and Pressure. Youth represent a great part in the civil society and hence, the civil societies should fight to defend the rights of the youth in order for them to play a bigger role in the trade and investment processes.

In conclusion, the time to act on collective action is **now**. All actors need to work hand in hand to help in making trade and investment contribute to an inclusive growth for our future. Winning the private sector for sustainable development, enhancing CSR; innovating the public sector while rendering all stakeholders responsible and integrating civil society more explicitly – and youth in particular, is what is needed to “sustainabilize” trade and investment. This should be our common strategy to make the motto of “leave no one behind” a reality!

Thank you for your kind attention.

(966 words)

UNDP WORKING GROUP FINAL PROPOSAL ON WACAP

CONTEXT

The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) is an initiative launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 1996. Since 2014, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) has taken over patronage and continues to promote the original objectives of WACAP, which include:

- **Connecting** municipal authorities from every continent with other relevant actors, including UN agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector to address urban poverty issues, social exclusion and promote sustainable development;
- **Facilitating** city-to-city cooperation to expand available knowledge networks and expertise for the design and implementation of local development programs;
- **Supporting** technical exchanges and innovations aimed at translating international development programs and targets into local action plans;
- **Working** with municipal authorities and local actors to create opportunities for capacity-building and to identify community-owned solutions to global, national and local development challenges;
- **Strengthening** opportunities for triangular cooperation among traditional donors, emerging donors and local development actors, and advocating for innovative financing and public-private partnerships, to support and scale-up proven solutions in sustainable development and urban renewal.

WORKING THEMES

The UNDP's working group chose the themes based on the challenges facing WACAP, which are:

- **Visibility:** More work needs to be done to further promote the public's awareness of WACAP. Meanwhile, communication between member cities needs to be strengthened. Lack of effective communication impedes formal recognition and effective implementation of best practices.
- **Knowledge-sharing:** The main aim of WACAP is to facilitate city-to-city exchanges and cooperation.
- **Funding:** WACAP needs to identify a sustainable source of financing for itself. One of the main purposes of this project is to implement creative funding ideas as well as conventional means, such as membership fees.
- **Organization structure:** Institutional relationship between member cities and WACAP should be established.

Ultimately, we strive to create a working model that will sustain the organization and will contribute to the goal of WACAP - to eradicate poverty through cooperation between cities so as to realize sustainable development.

DEFINED OBJECTIVES

To reach the objectives it is necessary to set the following order of prioritization to secure WACAP's future undertakings:

- **Funding:** as WACAP needs to become financially sustainable, the implementation of membership-fees is unavoidable. To generate ongoing support of membership amongst current member-cities and attract new members, we have to demonstrate concrete 'added-value' as a pull-factor.
- **Membership increase:** Currently WACAP has 918 member cities to its alliance. The goal is to retain the current members and draw in further ones, especially from the global South.
- **Membership activity:** As the institutional make-up has not been sufficiently defined, so far membership is mainly based on 'hand-shake' relationships. WACAP aims to encourage members to become more active, so as to fulfill its objective of reducing poverty in cities around the world. This would be done by the sharing of best-practices.
- **Create a data-bank of best practices:** It is hoped that all cities would contribute their best-practice initiatives to a website with login/ intranet for all other member cities to consult.
- **Implement a WACAP Awards structure:** To increase the members' activity and foster good practice as well as the exchange via a database, a competition will draw in support for WACAP. In such a competition member-cities would submit their best-practice initiatives in one of the eight categories resulting from the concept of MAGNETIC Cities.
 - Magnetic
 - Affordable
 - Global
 - Networked
 - Equitable
 - Transformational
 - Inclusive
 - Creative
- **WACAP conferences:** additional bi-annual conferences would ensure face-to-face collaboration and networking. These conferences have several objectives:¹

¹ According to UNDP Geneva's website, WACAP forums "offer a framework to make contacts, exchange experiences and information, promote city-to-city cooperation, develop partnerships, and raise funds for development projects. The programmes of these forums include discussions on best practices, thematic workshops, exhibits and visits to development projects." (<http://www.undp.org/geneva/WACAP/forums/index.html>)

- Municipal representatives and other experts make presentations about current strategies and innovations in the fight against poverty.
 - Member cities make professional bonds that develop into formal partnerships.
 - Forums aim at raising awareness of the SDGs and of local-governments' strategies for achieving them.
 - Cities use the relationships formed at WACAP conferences to share information such as best practices, and anti-poverty strategies.
- **Extension of conference participation:** The conferences would include representatives of local governments and other actors.
 - **Private Sector:** companies would be encouraged to invest in projects winning the MAGNETIC Cities Awards, as well as having the opportunity to exhibit sustainable development initiatives from their own portfolio. The attractiveness for these companies would be in securing cities investing in their ideas.
 - **NGOs:** on a consultative basis NGOs could be invited to sit in conferences and contribute to projects winning the MAGNETIC Cities Award.
 - **Civil Society:** To ensure a holistic approach in the development of cities, academia and youth representatives could be invited as observers.

TARGET GROUP

WACAP has different targets and these depend on the specific steps of action. The main targets are cities that are already members of WACAP. The purpose of this is to enhance membership retention and obtain fees, which are essential to keep the organization alive as well as effectively execute its mission. In order to guarantee this, we have to target different actors, i.e., NGOs, the private sector, the local governments, and, for future goals, the civil society. Having a holistic and representative collaboration among these actors will eventually revitalize WACAP.

- **Message:** WACAP, through a platform of cooperation and knowledge-sharing, aims to create a new generation of cities, where people are provided with the resources and opportunities to achieve a high standard of life. Thinking about sustainable development and current urbanization challenges, the alliance highlights the importance of targeting poverty as a long-term commitment that can be achieved through small yet innovative changes at the local and eventually, national level.
- **Plan of action:** In order to effectively execute our plan of action, we look at three essential aspects of application. These are:
 - Communication strategy
 - Funding initiative
 - MAGNETIC concept

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

In the context of boosting active membership participation, maintaining a sustainable relationship among cities, and gaining potential member cities--essential for the success of WACAP, we propose the following:

1. Strengthening communications among member cities
 - a. **Online Platform (Tedx)** - Online forum to allow global access for member cities to share examples of good practices and successful stories.
 - b. **Technical Expos/ Workshops and Webinars** - Archived or documented online webinars for sharing innovative and sustainable ideas or tutorials. Occasional technical workshops and exhibitions can be held in certain cities.
 - c. **Social Events:** Events such as novelty games organised between member cities and awards (expanded in the MAGNETIC concept section) as a form of positive reinforcement for cities which are carrying out innovative development projects, and also as a means to encourage other cities to be more active.
 - d. **Establishing Regular Contact:** City liaison officer stationed in a government office such as external relations office or foreign affairs office.
2. Creating awareness of WACAP goals, activities, partners and funding schemes. (As a way to create an effective promotion to future WACAP members)
 - a. **Appointment of National Representatives** - This could be a city mayor or a minister in the country. The aim is to close communication gaps among actors.
 - b. **Appointment of Celebrity Brand Ambassadors** - To promote the brand and objectives of WACAP and the development efforts implemented by their governments.
 - c. **Social Media:** Active WACAP internet presence through social media.
 - d. **Funding and Partnerships:** Building business relationships and fostering investment through a unique funding scheme whereby fees paid by member cities are not used to the secretariat expenses. Projects and initiatives will be funded through private partnership (please see the funding section for more details).

FUNDING INITIATIVE

Two major funding strategies have been put forward to support the operations of WACAP secretariat and the city projects.

1. Allowing the community to fund the project by fetching external sponsorship for the project after it has been recommended to the community. WACAP will fund the operational and logistic cost of staff deployed to project site only throughout the project timeline and during project evaluation. The administrative running of WACAP secretariat will mainly be supported by the annual membership fees of the member cities.

1. Membership fees will be used to deploy WACAP staff to project site, WACAP will provide 30% of overall cost of projects, while the remainder will be financed through partnerships with the private sector, NGOs, and possibly other arms of the UN including UNESCO, UNICEF and UN Women depending on the nature of the project. The design is:

Different organizations present in the country of implementation, in the areas of construction, capacity building, women empowerment, social development, and poverty alleviation, may be interested in being associated with an innovative project to enhance democracy. In addition to contributing funds, the companies can also contribute expertise. The private organizations have the liberty to choose from three categories of sponsorship:

1. DIAMOND: Organizations are expected to sponsor 20% of the cost of the WACAP Forum and 20% of WACAP projects anywhere in the world.
2. PLATINUM: Organizations are expected to sponsor 5% of the cost of the WACAP Forum and 5% of the cost of any WACAP project in their country of operation
3. GOLD: Organizations are expected to sponsor 20% of the cost of the WACAP forum.

Media will be encouraged to support in providing advertising space to raise initial awareness around on the radio, television, social media etc.

MAGNETIC CONCEPT

The idea of Magnetic Cities is an ideal to be reached by implementing relevant and creative projects concerning previously defined dimensions of the concept.

The creation of the Magnetic Cities Award aims to motivate membership cities to implement high quality projects. The awards will contribute to the recognition of those cities and their best practices. Eventually, these best practices will become a solid foundation for further city-to-city cooperation.

Procedure for submitting projects and voting

1. City Councils/governments shall analyse and choose the most elaborated projects and define their category in the framework of MAGNETIC concept.
 - a. The submitted projects shall be in the implementation stage and have promising outlook.

- b. Economic viability of these projects shall be clearly visible and sustainable.
- 2. Voting on the Internet and inside the WACAP Steering Committee which shall represent all members.
 - a. Participation of youth delegates may be considered
- 3. Announcement of 5 winners for each category of MAGNETIC concept.
 - a. The best projects may fit several categories
- 4. Distribution of prizes:
 - a. The 1st winner in each category shall benefit from WACAP and investments may be injected as available.
 - b. Private companies may support financially a category they choose and reward the 5 winners.
- 5. Publication of the voting results.
 - a. The awards results will be published on WACAP website and also in social media

FUTURE RECOMMENDATIONS: MONITORING AND EVALUATION

In the growing world of development where transparency and accountability are the most sought-after components of every development effort by way of projects. The Rio+20 outcome document, 'The Future We Want' is resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all. With this mandate, WACAP aims to differ from other city-to-city networks by implementing a bottom up approach whereby civil societies are considered and the citizens of these communities have a say in what they want.

Setting WACAP apart from other cities alliances, it is important to note the following important components:

1. ***An integral, bottom - up approach:*** citizens of participating cities are given the upper hand in deciding what is best for them and their cities. Through an informative research on these cities, where a sample size of community members can fill out a survey on what they think of their cities, governing individuals and which lacking component they deem fit to have for themselves and their cities. WACAP can have a documented and archived baseline information or data on these cities and this will enable an effective evaluation process along the line. In cities where civil society is a main community and political actor, WACAP can partner with them as city representative or liaison.
2. ***Tracking progress:*** Reiterating the importance of tracking WACAP's success over time, transparency and accountability through feedback, monitoring and evaluation, is one way to do this and to ensure the adoption and execution of sustainable and best practices, as long as WACAP exists.

Organizations need to realize the importance of not only having an effective management system but also, the measure of impact of their activities in the macroeconomic context as well

as on the immediate recipient (Aguirre, 2013). Therefore, in addition to measuring the immediate impact of the WACAP initiative on these cities, the assessment will also examine the long-term impact on these employees of the organizations. The long-term impact being the individual change needed for sustainable development and alleviation of poverty: dignity of life, social responsibility and civic responsibility.

Methodology for evaluation: WACAP can adapt an integral approach to economic development in its structure whereby efforts are tailored to not only overall city outcomes but also a spillover effect to the citizens of these countries leading to the realization of the full human potentials of individuals/citizens of these member cities. This is will certainly lead to the gradual but definite alleviation of poverty in all it forms and in the long run, promote and contribute to the attainment of the respective sustainable development goals (SDGs).

An integral approach to economic evaluation can be used for assessment of WACAP effectiveness whereby in addition to measuring the immediate impact of the WACAP projects between or among cities, the impact evaluation will also examine the long-term impact on these citizens of member cities. The long-term impact being the individual change needed for sustainable development: dignity of life, social responsibility and civic responsibility.

Evaluation Team: Evaluation can be carried out either by WACAP resident economists and data analysis experts or by a contracted, partner, independent evaluation agencies which can help in proving that the WACAP mandate is carried out in member cities and that the state governments are providing the needs of their cities in a transparent and an accountable, yet efficient manner.

Instrument for data collection : Surveys, either by paper or electronically, will be an effective way to collect information or data. Two sets of surveys can be used; one administered to the citizens of the cities to give feedback on their government's service to the people and provision of their needs, and the other administered to national and local representatives.

Timeline: Once a city is granted membership in WACAP, a baseline informative research can be conducted for this city, specifically on human development and standard of living/quality of life indicators. This is in order to be able to compare initial conditions in the city and conditions a while after joining WACAP. It will be ideal to do a follow up assessment on evaluation of city initiatives, three years after projects are implemented in member cities or three years after cities partner with others.

Expected Result: To also show how WACAP differs from other organizations alike, a detailed impact evaluation should be carried out on WACAP cities' projects and initiatives. Projects in these cities can be compared to, in form of treatment and control groups, projects or member cities of other cities' alliance groups. We expect that these initiatives, due to their unique

approach, under the umbrella of WACAP, has a better and integral impact on its citizens while contributing to achieving the SDGs.

Sample Indicators: Indicators will be adapted from the UNDP Human Development Index indicators and can be tailored to the respective city profiles and projects. Indicators will be that of standards of living/quality of life and poverty. Even though most of the SDGs are intertwined, the following are the foremost goals WACAP aims to achieve in the end:

Goal I: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal II: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Monitoring: Monitoring can be carried out and enforced at the biennial meetings and it should be mandatory that national representatives provide a detailed yearly report of WACAP initiated projects and activities.

Benefits of Monitoring and Evaluation for WACAP:

1. To track success or failures to ensure best practices over time: These documents can be made easily accessible to member cities and partners through the online members-only platform. This can also be a means to ensure cost effectiveness in terms of what is working and what is not.
2. To prove to WACAP audience of an accountable and transparent management structure and governance within WACAP, within member cities' activities and with partners.
3. It is a good way of measuring the progress in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

OUTCOME

The ideal outcome for this project is to create a network of cities and actors that will have the resources and cooperation to reach MAGNETIC city standards--a concept developed by Mr. Yiping Zhou, UNOSSC Director and United Nations Envoy on South-South Cooperation, that contains the following elements:

- **Magnetic**--where people would choose to live, in terms of their attractiveness with incentives and enabling policy frameworks that put people first.
- **Affordable**--cost of living – housing, food, healthcare, education, transport and accessibility for the elderly and persons with disabilities
- **Global**--in the sense of openness and outreach to the world – not ted.
- **Networked**--with modern connectivity that offers IT infrastructure and services, thereby creating employment and access to information and knowledge.
- **Equitable**--equal rights and opportunities for everyone regardless of gender, association, race or otherwise.

- Transformational--with visionary urban planning towards a low-carbon, resilient, more sustainable and “green” economy.
- Inclusive--with policies that promote a harmonious, caring, safer and just society for all.
- Creative--making the city more dynamic, vibrant, educational, beautiful and recreational.

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SYRIA ON THE BRINK: A THREAT ASSESSMENT

The two last week the UNOG group has focused on the Syria threat assessment, because it concerns to the international security and peace and specifically at this moment when the humanitarian situation in Syria is untenable.

Syria's problem is a very serious and complicated conflict of this century that is facing a new irrational unknown actor, which is the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) that menaces everyone.

The international community has to take action or will pay the consequences of the inaction that would mean the continue deterioration of the country and then the region. The nature of the problem is an armed conflict, which has indirect foreign involvement. And it started within the context of Arab Spring protests with nationwide protests against the President Bashar al-Assad's, whose forces responded with violent crackdowns. The conflict began on the 15th March 2011.

The origins of the conflict were the claims regarding dissatisfaction with human rights record and socio-economical and political upheavals in Syria. Thus, the initial protests were intended to push the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad and eliminate the institutional single-structure-party. So, ISIS took advantage of the situation to occupy key cities of the country (Raqqqa, Deir Ez-Zor, Palmyra) where are the most important natural resources, as shown in Annex1.

In this conflict many parties are involved and the variation of them made the case more complicated. We can categorize them as follow:

1. Bashar al-Assad's government
2. The armed opposition, which includes:
 - The Free Syrian Army, which was the first to take up arms in 2011;
 - The Islamic Front formed in 2013, Hezbollah entered the war in support of the Syrian army
 - The Islamic State of Iraq and the Sham (ISIS), a jihadist militant group from Iraq, made rapid military gains in both Syria and Iraq, and eventually gathered other rebels. By July 2014, ISIS controlled almost 50% of Syria's territory and

the majority of its oil and gas production, thus establishing itself as the major opposition force.

- Islamic Front
- Jahbat al-Nusra
- Kurdish militias: PYD and PKK

3. International actors: international coalition composed by 22 states led by the United States of America, France, Australia, Canada, Jordan, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE

Due to the complexity of the situation and the multiplied actors, the United Nations developed different initiatives, that unfortunately not all of them have succeed:

- Failure of the first and second rounds of Geneva peace talks attended by both Syrian authorities as well as national coalition conducted by UN (the Syrian authorities refuse to discuss transition)
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2209 condemning the use of chemicals
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2139 to stop attacks on civilians, lift sieges, gives access to humanitarian. Failure
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2191 related to the access of humanitarian aid
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2199 condemning the support and financing to ISIS and Al-Nusra's

Despite of these initiatives, the conflict continues: ISIS advances and struggle for natural resources and takes partial control of Syria who was the only producer of oil in the Eastern Mediterranean and exporter for Europe, that represents 90% of the total State foreign currency income.

Syria has a strategic location related to energy flows as well as a hub in the energy transfer networks. In November 2011 the European Union, the Arab League and Turkey banned and put an embargo on Syrian oil exportation to their countries and once rebel fractions controlled the resources areas they found out the way to sell the oil via Turkey.

Through this energetic strategy and gaze pipeline ISIS remains as a threat for the region give that the government in 2014 retains control over 16,500 bpd (compared to 400,000 bpd prior to the start of the civil conflict).

Due to this situation, we consider 5 future scenarios for Syria:

1) Continuation of the Conflict which is highly likely with a critical impact where ISIS cuts off supply to other rebelling factions, left Assad being the only enemy, so the fighting between the government army and ISIS/partners continues making gains and losses back, and further deteriorating the humanitarian situation. Also, the flow of financial and military resources into both sides would help them to consolidate their control over certain areas leading to further fragmentation and potential regional spillover of the conflict. Consequently, chances for trust and confidence building will decrease.

2) Assad reclaims which is unlikely and would represent a high impact.

As ISIS cuts off supply to other rebelling fractions, Assad refocuses all firepower on ISIS and with the help of foreign weapons, oil and financial aid (mostly Iranian and Russian), manages to defeat ISIS, hence retaking the country. Given the nuclear agreement between Iran and the P5+1, inflow of financial and military support from Iran to Assad will increase and it would change the power dynamics.

3) Constitutional transition, which is highly unlikely and would have a big impact. With increasing international military intervention and support for the Syrian opposition, the FSA gains power and takes control over key cities, military bases and other infrastructure. The Syrian military defects and Assad is overthrown.

The FSA takes over and pushes back ISIS with the help of the U.S. led coalition and Western financial and material aid. Fighting between these parties continues.

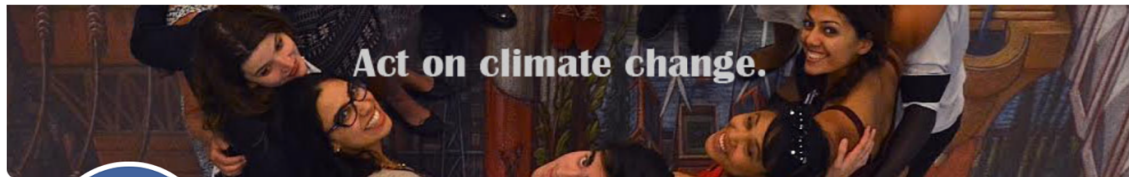
4) Islamic State takes the power, which is highly unlikely and would be really critical. After cutting off supply to all other rebelling factions (and incapacitating them), ISIS (whether or not with the help from or even led by Al-Nusra) defeats the government army and declares an Islamic State in the whole territory of Syria. ISIS will increase its presence in Iraq and the crises will spillover in Lebanon and other Arab states.

5) Peaceful solution which is highly unlikely and would have a critical impact. The nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 decreases oil prices and makes it harder for ISIS to sell its oil. To regain its control over the situation ISIS decides to look for recognition of the international community and agrees to sit in a negotiation table. The external and internal actors of the conflict compromise and reach a peaceful solution to the conflict. The following recommendations are focused on the peaceful solution, according to the aims of the United Nations and following the words of the General Secretary, *“Give peace a chance. Give diplomacy a chance. Stop fighting and start talking” Ban Ki-Moon (August 28th 2013).*

- Invite all relevant actors to a negotiation table including Assad’s government, Lebanon, Kurdish, FSA, Saudi Arabia, Iran, P5+1, Israel, Turkey;
- United Nations mandate to a limited airstrike on ISIS oil reserves;
- The international coalition of the negotiation table agrees to defeat ISIS;
- Ceasefire and surrender of ISIS are achieved.

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Actions We Take

21 March 2017 · 🌐

Dear colleagues, Hello and a good afternoon to you all, I know you are all doing great. I have made a herbaceous garden in my kitchen and liked to share it as Actions which We Take. I harvest every day fresh organic parsley, peppermint, lemon grass, basil and rosemary (is excluded in the photo :-)). Give it a try and enjoy fresh organic home-made herbs.



6

2 comments

Actions We Take

16 July 2015 · 🌐

Aral Sea used to be one of the four largest lakes in the world. Unfortunately since 1960 it has been shrinking as the result of unsustainable irrigations projects that diverted the rivers that fed the lake.

See more at: [UNEP](#) and [FAO](#)



3