

## **CLAIMING THE COMMONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD**

### **Objectives**

1. To show how the four aspects of the global commons--commons goods, commoners, commoning and relevant values and norms—are central to a sustainable world;
2. To clarify what is involved in making the shift from our present economy, based on oil and consumption-at-all-costs to one in which the global common plays a central role;
3. To describe how the use of relevant indicators and tax structures can be used to bring about this shift and how that will affect mining, waste management and provide funds for the restoration the commons and poverty alleviation;
4. To discuss how CSOs can use the commons model to help bring about the necessary shift to a sustainable world.

### **Content (part power-point, part lecture mode and part discussion)**

All of us share sources of wealth that are critical for human survival and quality of life. The commons include natural, intellectual, cultural and digital resources as well as the committed people who steward them in transparent and inclusive ways for the benefit of present and future generations.

Both today's unsustainable consumption and production patterns as well as sustainable lifestyles originate collectively with people. Nobel Prize winner Elinor Ostrom (Economics, 2009) shows how the commons approach is already empowering people to transform today's unsustainable consumption and production patterns into sustainable living. Its transparent, participatory form of decision making and respect for our common wealth make the commons approach well-suited to promote responsible stewardship at local, regional and global levels.

Examples of commons include the collective efforts in Madya Pradesh, India, to harvest water which has led to the re-emergence of plant species not seen for three decades, a significant increase in well water, and the cultivation of high-value crops; sovereign wealth funds such as the Alaska Permanent Fund that distributes direct citizen dividends from royalties and fees paid for use of natural resources; more than 7000 Transition Towns with a strong ecological focus.

There are ways to structure public finance policy (including those recommended in the UN HABITAT II Action Agenda) so that land and other natural resources, as shared commons with clear private property use rights for individuals and businesses, can be both fairly and efficiently utilized to best promote sustainable development.

### **Desired Impact**

The commons approach is central to resolving problems in the subject areas of CSD 19 and can be adopted by CSOs as an important tool for collaboration.

**The speakers will focus on** the *Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns and HABITAT II Tax Policy Recommendations for Affordable Housing, Poverty Eradication and Funding Transport.*

### **Speakers**

**James B. Quilligan:** The commons: a necessary paradigm shift (*I suggest that James shows the economic necessity to move to a commons approach*)

James B. Quilligan has been an analyst and administration the field of international development since 1975. He has served as policy advisor and writer for many politicians and leaders, including Pierre Trudeau, Francois Mittereand, Julius Nyerere, Olaf Palme, Willy Brandt, Jimmy Carter and HRH Prince El Hassan. Founder and Executive Director of Global Commons Trust. Co-founder of Commons Action for the United Nations.

**Alanna Hartzok:** Implementing HABITAT II Tax Policy Recommendations for Affordable Housing, Sustainable Land Use, and Poverty Eradication.

Alanna Hartzok is a UN NGO representative for the International Union for Land Value Taxation, Co-Director of Earth Rights Institute, and administrator of the online course and training program on Land Rights and Land Value Capture which now has enrolled participants from 80 countries. She received the Radical Middle Book Award for The Earth Belongs to Everyone, a collection of thirty of her articles and essays.

**Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska:** The Commons and the Empowerment of Civil Society

Lisinka Ulatowska, Ph D (Psychology) co-founded the NGO Task Force on Financing in 1989 and wrote *Listing of Financing Mechanisms* (based on the work of the 87 participating NGOs.) Her books and World Citizens Manual (in English, German, Dutch and Chinese) outline steps individuals and CSOs can take to help bring about a more sustainable world. She is co-founder and coordinator of Commons Action for the United Nations; co-founder and board member of the All-Win Network; Chief UN NYC representative for the Institute for Planetary Synthesis.

**The speakers will focus on themes relating to** the *Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns; education, financing, and indicators.*

### **Submitted by:**

The Association of World Citizens (ECOSOC status)

The International Union for Land Value Tax (ECOSOC Status)

The Institute for Planetary Synthesis (ECOSOC Status)

The All-Win Network

Global Commons Trust

Earth Rights Institute

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