

**2012 CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION**

**50<sup>th</sup> SESSION**

**COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CSOCD)**

**REPORT**

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**Division for Social Policy and Development**  
**Department of Economic and Social Affairs**  
**United Nations, New York**  
**February 2012**

## PART I: OVERVIEW AND TRENDS

The 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 1 to 10 February 2012. The priority theme was “Poverty Eradication”.

This year, an unprecedented high number of **908 persons** pre-registered, representing 270 non-governmental organizations. This is a record in the history of the Commission. An increase in the number of NGOs participating has been achieved, from 97 NGOs in 2011 to **118 NGOs, with 324 representatives compared to 290 representatives last year.** **It should be noted that some NGO representatives holding annual badges do not pre-register or register to attend sessions of the Commission.** An increase in the number of NGO written statements has been achieved from 24 to 28 statements. The number of side events has been increased from 23 to 29. The number of oral statements has also been increased from 8 to 18.

The increase in the number of civil society organizations can be attributed to the inspiration, support and confidence that the Civil Society and Outreach Unit benefited from the Director of the Division and the use of innovative communication and outreach strategy by the CSOU team. It should be noted that the Civil Society and Outreach Unit has been working in an active, productive and collaborative manner with external partners such as the NGO Committee for Social Development.

The outreach campaign has also been innovative in the kind of communication material produced, which has increased the visibility of the interaction between civil society entities and DSPD, including the first online report on Civil Society Participation in the 2011 Commission for Social Development. An eBook has been available on the website and shared with our NGO partners.

Asia and North America continue to submit the highest number of representatives, reaching 240 for 2012; the participation of European NGOs is also growing from 31, in 2011, to 46 representatives, in 2012; African NGOs account for 12 participants, and Latin America and Caribbean had 20 representatives.

The NGO Committee for Social Development acknowledged with appreciation the work performed by the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) through a letter. It requested the Secretariat to continue this fruitful cooperation, taking into account preparations for the next session of the Commission focusing on the theme of “Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all”. The Committee also stressed the need to expand the interaction with DSPD through other initiatives, including activities that enhance the outreach of the DSPD.

## PART II: CSOU TEAM ACTIVITIES AND TASKS ACCOMPLISHED

**Team Members:** Yao Ngoran, Amine Lamrabat, Celine Adotevi and

**Support from:** Julie Pewitt, Nimali Ariyawansa , Maxine Smith



### **a. Civil Society Participation**

- CSOU co-sponsored, coordinated and facilitated the organization of the Civil Society Forum (attended by more than 500 NGO representatives) through joint actions with the Conference Service, Security and Safety Service, Special Events Service. As usually, the Forum took place one day before the Commission. It is an unique gathering offered by DSPD in support of the work of civil society organisations in conjunction with sessions of the Commission. This year, the theme of the forum was “The Social Protection Floor Initiative (SPFI) – Bridging the Gap to Poverty Eradication.” This year, the NGO Committee prepared the “Million Signature Campaign Delivery” which was delivered to H.E. Mr. Miloš Koterec, Sixty-eighth President of the Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the UN.
- CSOU pre-registered online 908 representatives from 270 NGOs and facilitated the participation of **324 representatives from 118 NGOs**
- CSOU conducted the actual registration of 324 representatives from 118 NGOs
- CSOU facilitated and participated at the morning NGO briefings during the session
- CSOU facilitated 18 oral statements made by NGOs during the session
- CSOU facilitated the organization of 29 side events during the session

### **b. Communication and Outreach Campaign**

- DESA Featured Story on the Commission: Working together to eradicate poverty: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/social/working-together-to-eradicate-poverty.html>
- Updating, posting press releases, documents, resolutions and statements on CSocD 2012 website: <http://social.un.org/index/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2012.aspx>
- Posting news on social media sites such as twitter and YouTube

- Preparing the CSocD 2012 Flyer and reaching out to all ECOSOC NGOs by email to invite them to the session
- Including announcements in the UN Journal in liaison with the Secretary of the Bureau
- Preparing DPI press release to announce the session
- Liaising with the NGO Committee for Social Development to prepare the Civil Society Forum
- Briefing the NGO Committee about the work of the session
- Liaising with Delegates from Permanent Missions to send us their electronic statements and provide information about their side events
- Informing over 3,000 NGOs by email about the programme of the session
- Responding to numerous enquiries from NGOs

### c. Selected Links to Web-sites of partners that have publicized the 2012 CSocD:

#### UN News Centre:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41105&Cr=social&Cr1=development&Kw1=commission+for+social&Kw2=&Kw3=>

#### DPI Press Releases:

■ [Commission for Social Development to Focus on Poverty Eradication, Full Employment, Social Inclusion in Fiftieth Session, at Headquarters 1-10 February](#), 30 January 2012.

■ [Development Can Never Be Sustainable If It Leaves Millions of People Unemployed, Poor, Hungry, Says Deputy Secretary-General to Social Development Commission](#), 1 February 2012.

■ [Summary of the Session, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Meetings: Deputy Secretary-General calls for speedy action to create jobs and ensure social protection](#), 1 February 2012.

■ [Summary of the Session, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Meetings: Global Economic woes threaten efforts to eradicate poverty through decent productive work](#), 2 February 2012.

■ [Summary of the Session, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Meetings: Special Rapporteur on Disability calls for full integration into development agenda for rights of persons with disabilities](#), 3 February 2012.

■ [Summary of the Session, 8th & 9th Meetings: Importance of Tackling Youth Unemployment Emphasized as Commission for Social Development Holds Panel Discussion before Concluding Poverty Discussion](#), 6 February 2012.

■ [Summary of the Session, 10th Meeting: Commission for Social Development Considers Programme Intended to Make Social Policy Division's Work 'More Precise, Transparent, Measurable'](#), 9 February 2012.

■ [Commission for Social Development approves seven draft resolutions as fiftieth session concludes](#), 10 February 2012.

#### NGO Committee for Social Development:

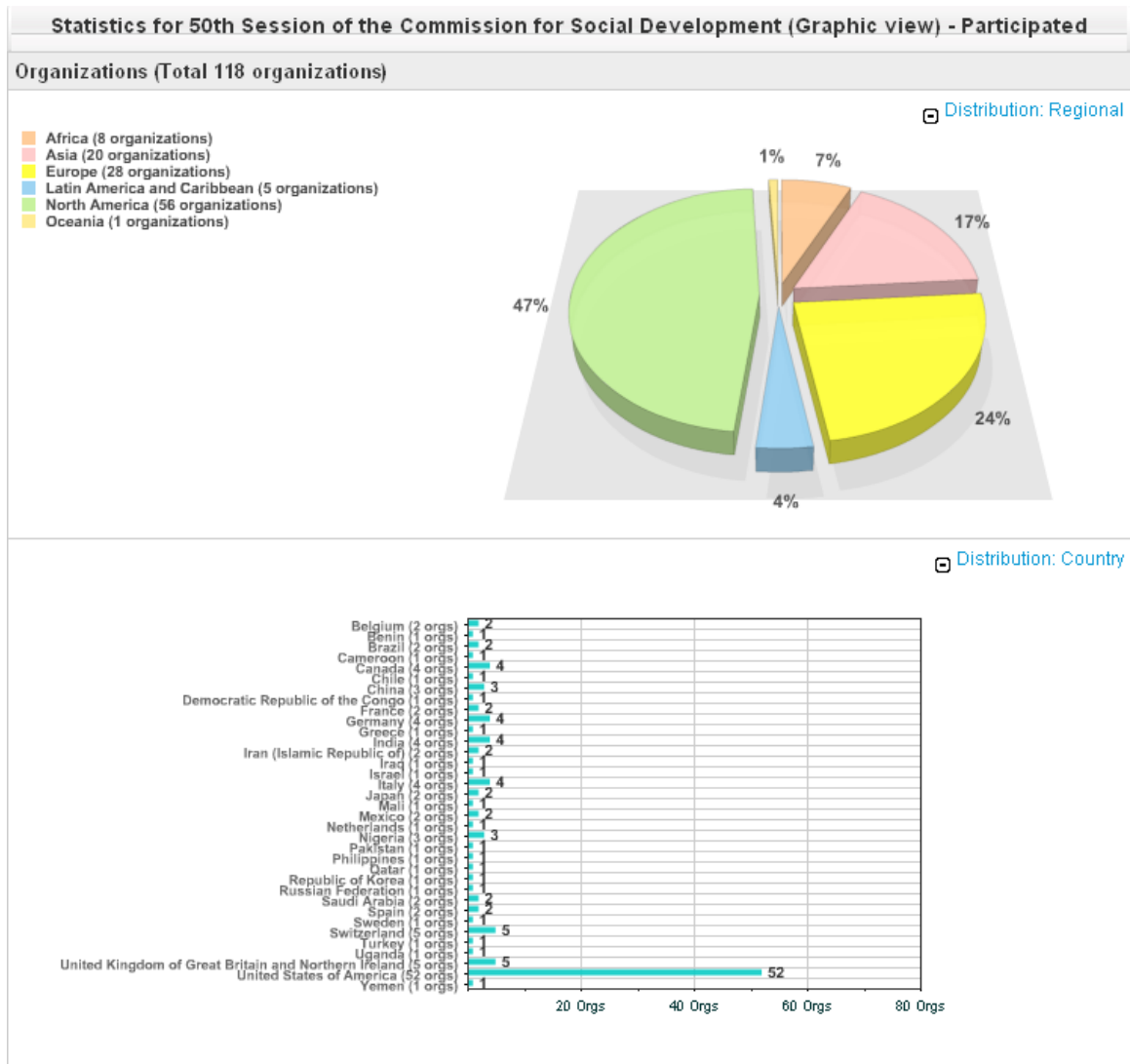
<http://www.ngosocdev.net/index.php/2012-commission-on-social-development/>

ECA:

[http://www.uneca.org/eca\\_resources/Press\\_Releases/2012\\_pressreleases/pressrelease0812.html](http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Press_Releases/2012_pressreleases/pressrelease0812.html)

**PART III: STATISTICS ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF NGOS AT THE 2012 CSOC**

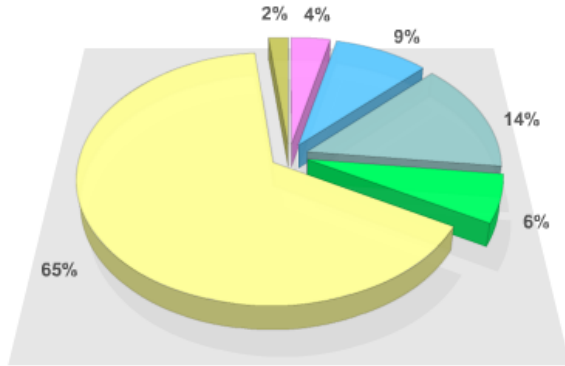
**324 representatives from 118 civil society organizations** have participated at the 2012 CSocD.



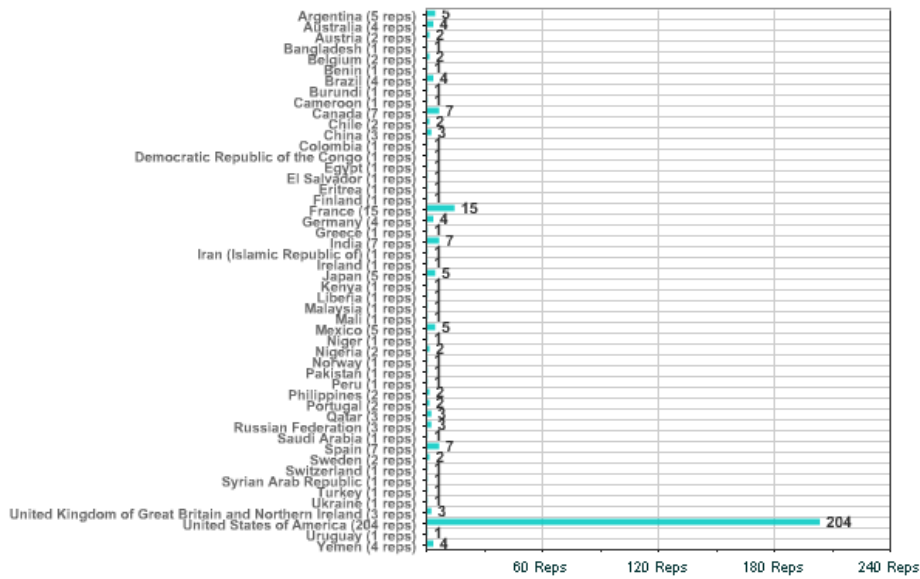
Representatives (Total 324 representatives)

Distribution: Regional

- Africa (12 reps)
- Asia (29 reps)
- Europe (46 reps)
- Latin America and Caribbean (20 reps)
- North America (211 reps)
- Oceania (6 reps)



Distribution: Country



Distribution: Gender

- Male (75 reps)
- Female (187 reps)
- Unknown (1 reps)

