



**Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) event in New York in September 2015**  
**On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN and the SDG summit**

**"The next 70 years: From the United Nations to the United Actors" (Working title)**

**Context**

The members of the Global Diplomacy Lab believe that national governments and non-state actors need to coordinate and cooperate on equal footing in a global forum. While well-intended, the current UN Major Group system<sup>1</sup> has some major flaws: the mechanism for coordination within each group is not transparent or efficient enough; how and when each group is allowed to speak does not incentivise senior representatives of the Major Groups and relevant organisations to continuously engage.

**Output and Outcome**

We propose to make use of the bright, young minds of GDL members and of their wide-ranging backgrounds to address the following questions with relevant stakeholders: how can non-state actors playing important global roles be suitably included in UN settings? Can the current Major Group and UN structure form a basis for such a solution or is it more feasible to create an innovative, parallel structure? How can we go about making such changes? By working with innovative and collaborative formats, we expect to contribute with fresh ideas to impulse this timely debate and to engage a highly regarded audience.

Documentation through social media as well as a brief summary of the event will be made publicly available. We understand that this is an outstanding opportunity to brand the GDL in the realm of global affairs, as well as a valuable instrument to extend the GDL-network to leading decision-makers, from whom the future work of the partner institutions will also benefit.

**Format**

GDL-Branded Event		
Date	Formats	Details
Monday, 12.10.15 4 – 6pm	Fishbowl discussion round  Test-drive interface: a visual interaction to answer the question: <i>"Are the United Actors a            good idea?"</i>  Question-Comment-Offer Box: an ex-post output tracker	An invitation-only event for global innovators, led by GDL members.  Panelists: - Susanne Salz, GDL Member - Adi Farjon Israel, GDL member - Brisa Cecon Rocha, GDL Member  Welcome address: Dr. Harald Braun, German Ambassador to the UN  Interactive Audience/Representation: - Civil society Organisations (CSOs) - Local Government Organisations (LGOs) - Business - National Governments - Stakeholders from the UN Major Groups - UN staff - Academics
Monday, 12.10.15 6 – 7pm	Networking reception	Informal and in-depth discussions in smaller groups

<sup>1</sup> In current UN settings such as climate change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) negotiations, nine so-called "Major Groups" are given a minor role: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community as well as Farmers.