



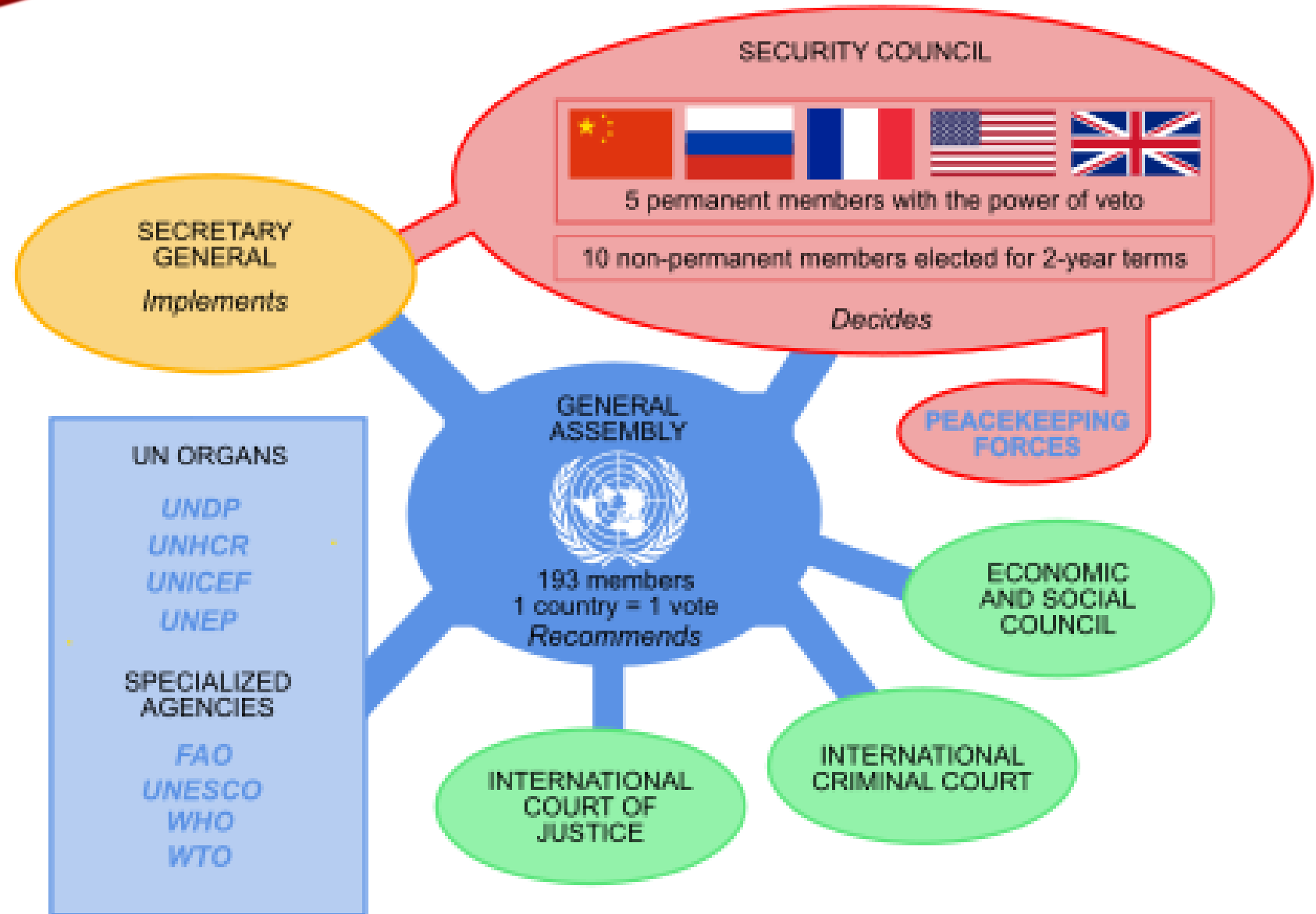
# **WELCOME to the UNECA**

6<sup>th</sup> Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

The background features abstract, flowing waves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, creating a dynamic and energetic feel. The waves are layered and semi-transparent, giving a sense of depth and movement.

# **NGOs in the UN SYSTEM**

- In the UN system, we are considered NGOs (non-governmental organizations)
- Just over 5,000 NGOs have UN accreditation



# Religious Presence among NGOs at the UN

- Over 30 NGOs collectively represent over 200 congregations of Catholic women and men Religious
- Bring **credability** by providing insights from members' work ministering to the poorest and most vulnerable populations "on the ground"
- Bring **impartiality** as most are present in many nations and have no national identity
- Bring **moral voice** as faith-based groups known for a life of dedication to human dignity of all and care of the natural environment
- Bring **stability & continuity** with constitutions established before many countries' and positions based on unwavering values rather than shifting political aims

# What does it mean to be accredited?

**Accreditation allows NGOs to participate in UN proceedings by:**

- Making oral statements
- Submitting written statements
- Sponsoring events inside and near UN Headquarters
- Meeting with diplomats
- Attending UN conferences
- Making recommendations during negotiations of new UN declarations and the design of new processes
- Submitting reports and comments to national review processes on nations' development and human rights progress



# ROLE OF NGOs in the UN SYSTEM (and BEYOND!)

- Get “*in* the way”
- Get “*out of* the way”
- Model a *new* “way”

# GETTING “IN THE WAY”

Occupying space in places of power on behalf of those who can't be present in order to interrupt an injustice in process on behalf of those whose perspectives, experiences, and needs are otherwise absent or underrepresented

- Speaking on behalf of marginalized peoples at UN meetings
- Submitting written statements and recommendations that place marginalized peoples at their center to UN processes or delegates
- Participating in our own countries' political systems (via voting, lobbying, etc.) based on the best interests of marginalized peoples
- Physically protesting or demonstrating
- Educating people of all ages about their rights and responsibilities to build social, economic, and environmental consciousness



# GETTING "IN THE WAY"





# GETTING “OUT OF THE WAY”

Creating or abdicating your own space within places of power for those who face the greatest barriers to the occupation of that space so that they can assert their own voices, perspectives, and experiences

- Organizing events and opportunities for marginalized individuals to speak at the UN meetings and supporting their travel to do so
- Collecting written comments and recommendations of marginalized groups and submitting them to UN processes
- Ensuring marginalized groups are aware of open forums within and outside the UN system, in which they can express their concerns
- Sharing statements of marginalized groups with our networks via social media, newsletters, or other platforms available to us

# GETTING "OUT OF THE WAY"



# MODELING A “NEW WAY”

Continually evaluating our role in unjust systems and modifying our behavior to lessen the burden our actions place on other's ability to access their basic needs

This includes assessing:

- What we buy, wear, and eat
- What we dispose of as waste and how
- How we travel and how frequently
- Where we invest our money
- How we treat and compensate our employees
- How we work with others (committees and coalitions that place a common goal ahead of individual credit)



# MODELING A "NEW WAY"



NGO COMMITTEE TO  
**STOP  
TRAFFICKING  
IN PERSONS**







# JUSTICE COALITION OF RELIGIOUS



# WHO WE ARE





## A Coalition of 19 Roman Catholic Religious organizations

- All are accredited by the United Nations (UN)
- All have representatives at the UN in New York
- All are committed to improving well-being of people living in poverty and of the natural environment
- Collectively present in over 130 countries

# GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS:

- Company of the Daughters of Charity
- Congregation of the Mission
- Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal
- Congregations of St. Joseph
- **Dominican Leadership Conference**
- Claretian Missionaries
- **Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary -Loreto Generalate**
- **International Presentation Association**
- Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers
- **Medical Mission Sisters**
- Oblates of Mary Immaculate
- Passionists International
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
- Salesian Missions
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Sisters of Charity Federation
- **Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur**
- Society of the Sacred Heart
- UNANIMA International



## OUR SHARED GOAL:

To enhance **collaboration** among our members, **at UN Headquarters and around the world**, in our work to address the root causes of poverty, destruction of the natural environment, and unsustainable development



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES: WHY WE ARE UNITING NOW

In 2015, governments of the UN unanimously adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), an agenda for the alleviation of human and environmental suffering that requires civil society participation and monitoring within every nation as well as at the UN.

Women and men Religious have been working toward the SDGs for centuries and are well positioned to guide global and local leaders in fulfilling the promises of this agenda **in a just and inclusive manner.**



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES:

- Smaller numbers of vocations to Religious life requires creative approaches to ministry that allow us to benefit from the wisdoms of our unique charisms *as well as* from the strength of our common mission.
- Political spaces are becoming more closed and less receptive to the voices of civil society, especially voices from the most marginalized groups. Speaking with an organized and unified voice allows us to use--and protect--the available spaces more effectively.

# SIGNS OF THE TIMES



“ We are faced not with two separate crises, one environmental and the other social, but rather, with one complex crisis which is both social and environmental.


Strategies for a solution demand an integral approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded, and, at the same time, protecting nature.”

(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 139)



# OUR PLAN





Coordinate national, regional, and global efforts of Religious to call on their local and national leaders for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the SDGs, beginning in:

- Latin America and the Caribbean
- East African region comprised of Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
- India

# WORKSHOPS

- Being held in selected regions in 2019-2020
- Participation open to Catholic Religious and their partners in mission in selected regions
- Short-term component: multi-day series of dialogues among members of different congregations present in region where workshop is held
- Long-term component: multi-level campaign for systemic change in the region on an issue of the participants' selection



# OUR WORK THUS FAR



- 
- 4 workshops held in India
  - 1 workshop held and 3 more scheduled for Latin America & the Caribbean
  - **1 regional UN meeting (in progress!) and 1 workshop scheduled for East Africa**
  - 4 joint statements submitted to UN processes
  - 3 joint events held in connection with UN processes
  - 4 joint events for capacity building among Religious NGOs at the UN



# HOW TO LEARN MORE

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**



[www.jcor2030.org](http://www.jcor2030.org)



# CONNECT WITH COALITION MEMBERS VIA SOCIAL MEDIA



[www.facebook.com/JCoR2030](http://www.facebook.com/JCoR2030)



[www.twitter.com/JCoR2030](http://www.twitter.com/JCoR2030)

# CONTACT YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVE:

Grace  
Ezeonu,  
SND

Cecilia  
O'Dwyer,  
IBVM

Daniel  
LeBlanc,  
OMI

Durstyne  
Farnan, OP

Despoina  
Milaki  
(IPA)

Celine  
Paramunda,  
MMS

# CONTACT JCoR'S NY OFFICE:



**Teresa Blumenstein**

New York Coordinator, JCoR

[JCoR.NewYork@gmail.com](mailto:JCoR.NewYork@gmail.com)





**QUESTIONS**  
or **COMMENTS?**