


Positioning Faith Communities in Agenda 2030 and Africa's Agenda 2063

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Caritas Africa's side event at the 6th Session of the Africa
Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe

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Brief on Caritas Africa

- Caritas is an instrument of the Catholic Church for her socio-pastoral mission. As such, Caritas is a tool of the Bishops.
- Caritas Africa is a network spreads all over sub-Saharan Africa. Caritas Africa brings together **46 national Caritas organisations**. They are part of the Caritas Internationalis Confederation and of local communities they serve.
- Together, Caritas Africa members focus on integral human development, peace building and economic justice, while practically responding to some of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies.
- A survey of **Caritas Africa members in 31 countries**, showed that **Caritas is present in 372 dioceses and there are 15,000 Parish Caritas**.
- In the 31 countries polled, national Caritas members offered services to 73 million people.

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Global Goals and *Laudato Si* – A Catholic Perspective

- The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, approved by more than 190 nations in September 2015, were a great step forward for global dialogue, marking a vitally “**new and universal solidarity**” (*Laudato Si*’, 14).
- Different religious traditions, including the Catholic tradition, have embraced the objectives of sustainable development because they are the result of global participatory processes that, on the one hand, reflect the values of people and, on the other, are sustained by an integral vision of development.
- **In the Sustainable Development Agenda Faith Actors are keen not to be seen for their religious differences, but their development potential.** Through their structures faith communities significantly contribute to the various SDGs while at the same time referring to specific values.
- **We have a decade to deliver Agenda 2030, where do we see faith communities in this?**

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WHY AGENDA 2030 IS A CONCERN FOR THE CHURCH?

- **It’s about human rights**
- **What Agenda 2030 says:**
 - Places human rights and the inherent dignity of all people as the foundation of all development. This means that everyone should have access to services, food, contribute to their communities and fulfil their potential
 - It’s guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- **What Laudato Si’ says**
- **Laudato Si’** sees some current attitudes and behaviors of a global elite, especially unsustainable levels of consumption and wealth, as negatively affecting the ability of each person to live a dignified life and enjoy their human rights to the full.



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Intervention Areas in reference to Laudato Si

- The need for dialogue on **sustainable and inclusive development**. We need to shift our focus from the conventional idea that development is entirely limited to economic growth. We instead need to ask ourselves **development of what? For whom? How are the marginalised people, the vulnerable, the poor affected by our actions?**
- To speak about **human development means referring to all people – not just a few – and to the whole person** – not just the material dimension (cf. Populorum Progressio, 14).
- Actors should offer viable models of **social integration and ecological conversion**, because we cannot develop ourselves as human beings by fomenting **increased inequality and degradation of the environment**

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Intervention Areas in reference to Laudato Si

- Concrete commitments to promoting real development in a sustainable way through **processes open to people's participation**. There is a need for **participation and dialogue** of all persons In development work
- **Tackling inequalities** to facilitate the development of those in need, making use of what Pope Benedict XVI recognized as “the unprecedented possibility of large-scale **redistribution of wealth on a world-wide scale**” (ibid. 42).
- **Concrete economic policies** that are focused **on the person** and that can promote a **more humane market and society** (cf. ibid. 45, 47).
- Concrete economic measures that seriously take into **consideration environmental issues whilst protecting the earth our common home**.

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Desired Outcomes from the side event

- To engage with Government actors on mechanisms that have been put in place to ensure inclusion of Civil society in the implementation of SDGs.
- Government and Development actors are strategic in implementing the SDGs through the transformative principles of Agenda 2030 as opposed to focusing on single SDGs and targets
- There is a need to counterbalance the current trend among SDG practitioners to only focus on stand alone goals , interventions should instead work towards *(1) leaving no one behind (2) Tackling inequalities (3) Participation and Dialogue and (4) Integration environmental support and protection in our work.*
- We are desirous to work closely with Governments and CSO coalitions as we prepare for the VNR and also work on post VNR processes.

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Opportunities for future collaboration with Caritas Africa and other Faith Communities

- 16 African countries will be presenting their Voluntary National Review in 2020. We invite Government, Civil Society and development Actors to work with faith actors such as: *National Caritas Organisations in Kenya, Liberia, Zambia, Burundi, DR Congo, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe...* to feed into their VNR reports as we consolidate the work of various Civil Society Organisations in our country
- We may collaborate to host a multi-stakeholder side event at the 2020 High Level Political Forum in view of SDG 17
- The media plays a significant role in advocacy and awareness creation. **Catholic Media is a good avenue for us to reach to the wider audience as we work to Localise the SDGs** among the most marginalised and poorest communities.
- **Peer learning, exchanges on Webinars amongst different actors** ahead of the 2020 HLPF
- **Faith communities through their Elaborate Structures are strategic entry points to grassroots communities** who are key drivers of the acceleration of implementation of SDGs. They should be empowered to hold development actors to account.

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Opportunities for future collaboration... cont

- Faith communities have a role to play in Monitoring post VNR processes through their own programmes and working with governments to translate commitments to action on the ground.
- In recognition of the critical role played by each faith community, we can collaborate to create Synergies and partnerships through collaboration in interfaith forums on SDGs in Africa.
- Provision of “non-official” data from the “ground” to feed into statistics on the implementation of SDGs.
- Recognising the role of Faith groups as “first responders” during disasters.

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Welcome to our side
event

Thank you!

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