

***Faith Without Borders:
Partnerships of Governments and Catholic Religious Organizations to
Reduce Inequalities for the Post-COVID Era in Spain and Beyond***

Event on the margins of the 2021 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Date: 12 July 2021

Time: 7:30am to 9:00am (New York & Port-au-Prince / UTC -4:00)

1:30pm to 3:00pm (Madrid, Maputo & Rome / UTC +2:00)

7:30pm to 9:00pm (Manila / UTC +8:00)

Link to register: <https://bit.ly/3AcR0ht>

Forum:

The 2021 [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#) will focus on **Sustainable Development Goals 1** (eradication of poverty), **2** (zero hunger), **3** (good health and well-being), **8** (decent work and economic growth), **10** (reduced inequalities), **12** (responsible consumption and production), **13** (climate action), **16** (peace, justice and strong institutions), and **17** (partnerships).

Sponsors:

[REDES](#) (Network of Entities for Solidary Development) is an alliance of 55 development organizations associated with Catholic congregations in Spain. They promote cooperative projects, education for global citizenship, and advocacy among their member congregations.

[JCoR](#) (Justice Coalition of Religious) is a coalition governed by 19 United Nations-accredited NGOs representing Catholic Sisters, Brothers, and priests. They facilitate collaborative advocacy initiatives among congregations at the global, national, and local levels.

Objectives:

- ❖ Highlight the commitment of Catholic Religious congregations to the fulfilment of SDGs in Spain and other countries who will be presenting Voluntary National Reviews in 2021
- ❖ Present a model of national-level SDG monitoring by women and men Religious in Spain that could inspire and inform Religious in other countries to become more deeply engaged in their national civil society network that monitor national SDG implementation
- ❖ Underscore the value of faith leaders' engagement with governmental policy and programming as a pathway to greater social, economic, and environmental sustainability
- ❖ Initiate collaboration between REDES and JCoR networks that will improve unity and strength of Catholic Religious voices in the field of advocacy on SDGs
- ❖ Strengthen the spirit of collaboration between Catholic Religious actors and government officials toward achievement of the SDGs

Audiences:

- ❖ Catholic Church representatives from different sectors, especially members of Catholic Religious congregations who would like to become more involved in monitoring SDG implementation within their countries
- ❖ Civil society stakeholders in the field of SDGs and development
- ❖ Spanish public authorities with a mandate (in Spain and/or the United Nations) related to poverty, health, decent work/employment

- ❖ Representatives of the governments of UN Member States

Programme:

- ❖ **Welcome & Introduction of Event**

- ❖ **Institutional Presentations**

Leaders from the UN system, the Spanish civil society, and the global community of Catholic Religious will offer their perspectives on the role of Religious NGOs in the achievement of the SDGs, through both monitoring (advocacy initiatives) and implementation (good works among populations who have been the most marginalised).

1. H. E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative for the [United Nations Alliance of Civilizations](#) (UNAOC) and former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain
2. Mr. Andrés R. Amayuelas, Coordinator of [Futuro en Común](#) (FeC), the Spanish civil-society SDG monitoring network
3. Sister Alessandra Smerilli, FMA, Under-Secretary of the [Holy See Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#)

- ❖ **Good Practice Showcase:** Catholic Religious Sisters, Brothers, priests, and partners in mission will introduce good practices they have been implementing as a contribution to the achievement of SDG 10 (reduction of inequalities) as it intersects with the following SDGs:

1. **SDGs 2 & 3: [Augustinian Recollect International Solidarity Network \(ARCORES\) in the Philippines:](#)** Launching of Kindness Bakeries, which produce bread for hospitals and for poor and remote communities affected by the COVID-19 crisis, and distribution of the bread (and other food rations) at “Kindness Stations,” facilities that are accessible to marginalised families during the COVID-19 lockdowns
2. **SDGs 3 & 5: [Sisters Hospitallers of the Sacred Heart of Jesus \(Benito Menni\) in Mozambique:](#)** Strengthening and expansion of care in the field of mental health and disability in the context of COVID-19 at Mahotas Psychosocial Rehabilitation Center, which was founded by AECID and is dedicated to the rehabilitation of children, youth and adults with disabilities and mental health problems
3. **SDGs 4 & 8: [Salesian Missions in Haiti:](#)** Creation & adaptation of academic & skills training content for distance training during pandemic using a training platform has been designed with support from Spanish National Development Agency (AECID) and Madrid Regional Government.
4. **SDG 12 and 13: Sister for Christian Community, Ana Martinez De Luco, in the United States of America:** creation and direction of [Sure We Can](#), a non-profit, homeless-friendly center for redemption of recyclable and organic materials and for urban gardening and sustainability education in New York City

Our practitioners will also offer observations and recommendations to help guide governmental and other civil society leadership toward new strategies and partnerships with the capacity to accelerate SDG achievement while leaving no one behind.

- ❖ **Questions and Answers**

Moderation:

- ❖ Marta Iglesias, President of [Asociación para la Solidaridad](#) (Redemptorist Spanish NGO) & Board member of [CONCORD](#) (European NGO confederation for relief and development)
- ❖ Sister Patricia Murray, IBVM, Secretary-General of the [International Union of Superiors General](#) (UISG)