



Justice Coalition of Religious:

Women & Men Religious Working for Global Transformation
at the United Nations and Around the World

JCoR: The Justice Coalition of Religious

A Coalition of 20 Roman Catholic Religious organizations

- All are accredited by the United Nations (UN).
- All have representatives at UN Headquarters in New York.
- All are committed to improving well-being of people living in poverty and of the natural environment.
- Collectively present in over 80 countries

GOVERNING MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:

- Company of the Daughters of Charity
- Congregation of the Mission
- Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal
- Congregations of St. Joseph
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- PROCLADE Internazionale – ONLUS (Claretian Missionaries)
- Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
- International Presentation Association
- Loretto Community
- 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, violence, environmental destruction, and unsustainable development



Spiritual Leadership & the United Nations

Why & How Religious Congregations Engage with the UN System

***Why* Religious Congregations Engage with the UN System**



THE UN CHARTER:

WE, THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, DETERMINED

- to **save succeeding generations from the scourge of war**, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
- to **reaffirm faith** in fundamental human rights, in the **dignity and worth of the human person**, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and
- to **establish** conditions under which **justice** and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and
- to promote **social progress and better standards of life** in larger freedom,

THE UN CHARTER:

AND FOR THESE ENDS

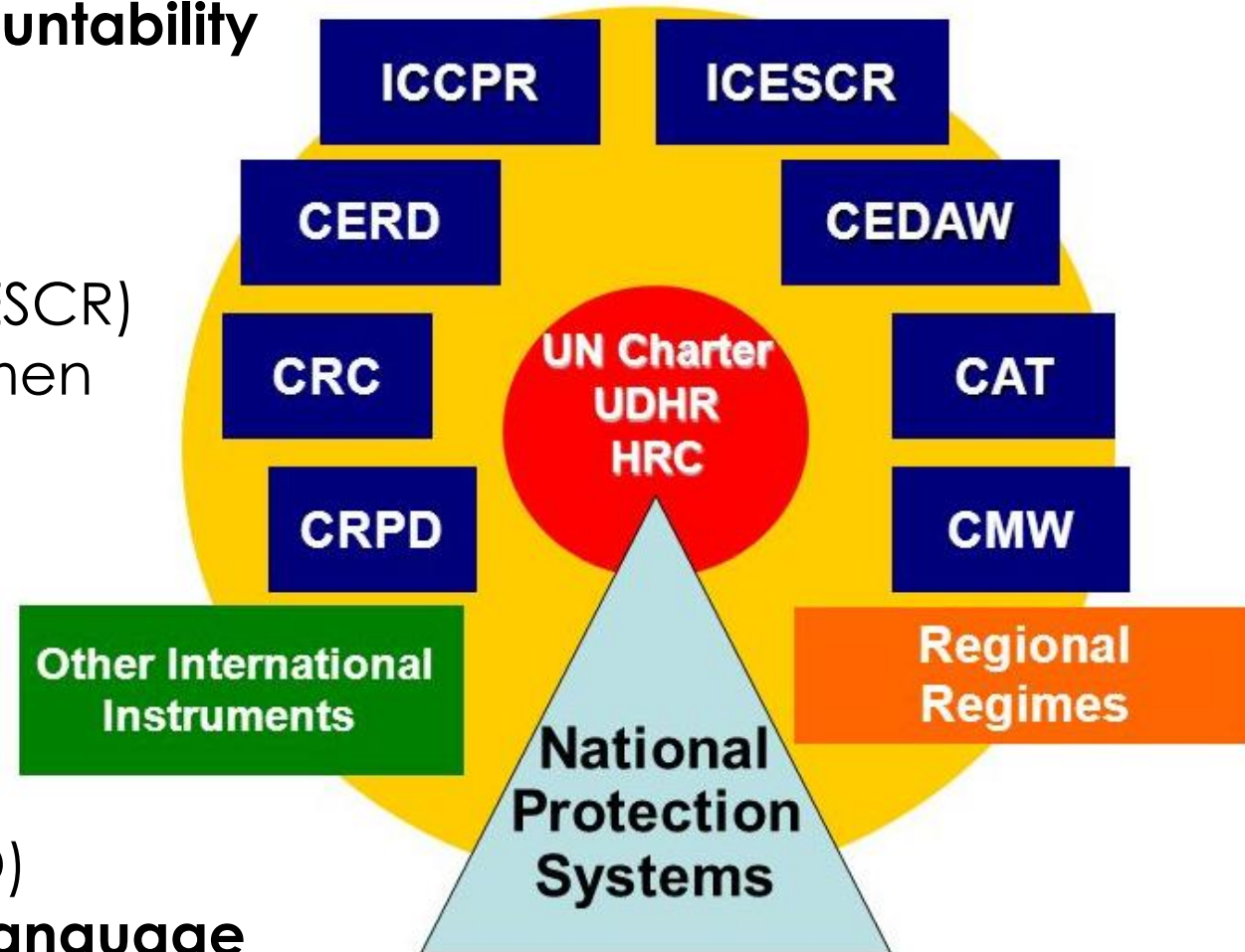
- to practice tolerance and **live together in peace with one another as good neighbours**, and
- to unite our strength to **maintain international peace** and security, and
- to **ensure**, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, **that armed force shall not be used**, save in the common interest, and
- to employ international machinery for the **promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples...**

THE HUMAN RIGHTS FRAMEWORK:

Aims to establish global consensus & accountability toward realization of:

- Universal human rights (UDHR)
- Civil & political rights (ICCPR)
- Economic, social, and cultural rights (ICESCR)
- Elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
- Elimination of torture (CAT)
- Rights of migrant workers & their families (CMW)
- Rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD)
- Rights of children (CRC)
- Elimination of racial discrimination (CERD)

...principles of Social Teaching in secular language



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

the UN's AGENDA for 2015-2030:



SECULAR ROAD MAP to the REIGN or CITY of GOD

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



**DO YOU SEE YOUR MINISTRY HERE?
DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION'S CHARISM?**

The POLITICAL is SPIRITUAL

“It is important to realize that there is an element of spirituality needed in what we do...”

Stop the trend of dividing humanity to ‘us’ and ‘them.’ The most important word in the world is **TOGETHER.**”

-H.E. Jan Eliasson
former UN Deputy Secretary General

The POLITICAL is SPIRITUAL

“The United Nations and its agencies deal with a comprehensive range of issues affecting global communities, including human rights, population, food, agriculture, health, trade and children. For each of these issues, **religion often plays a powerful complementary moral, social, economic and political role for disenfranchised communities.**

Every religious tradition has leaders and networks providing food distribution, health care, education and conflict mediation. **Religious social service networks, which preceded the UN and governmental entities, reach more people and are more deeply entrenched than any other organization.”**

-Dr. Azza Karam (former Senior Advisor of UN Population Fund) &
Dr. Matt Weiner (Associate Dean of Princeton University's Office of Religious Life)

The SPIRITUAL is POLITICAL

“**Politics**, though often denigrated, **remains a lofty vocation and one of the highest forms of charity, inasmuch as it seeks the common good.** We need to be convinced that charity ‘is the principle not only of micro-relationships (with friends, with family members or within small groups) but also of macro-relationships (social, economic and political ones)’ ... I am firmly convinced that **openness to the transcendent can bring about a new political and economic mindset** which would help to break down the wall of separation between the economy and the common good of society.”

-Pope Francis

Evangelii Gaudium, 2013

The SPIRITUAL is POLITICAL

“**[The Church]** cannot and must not replace the State. Yet at the same time she **cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part** through rational argument and she has **to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice**, which always demands sacrifice, **cannot prevail and prosper**. A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through **efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good** is something which **concerns the Church deeply.**”

-Pope Benedict XVI

Deus Caritas Est, 2005

The SPIRITUAL is INTEGRAL to all DIMENSIONS of DEVELOPMENT



“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.”

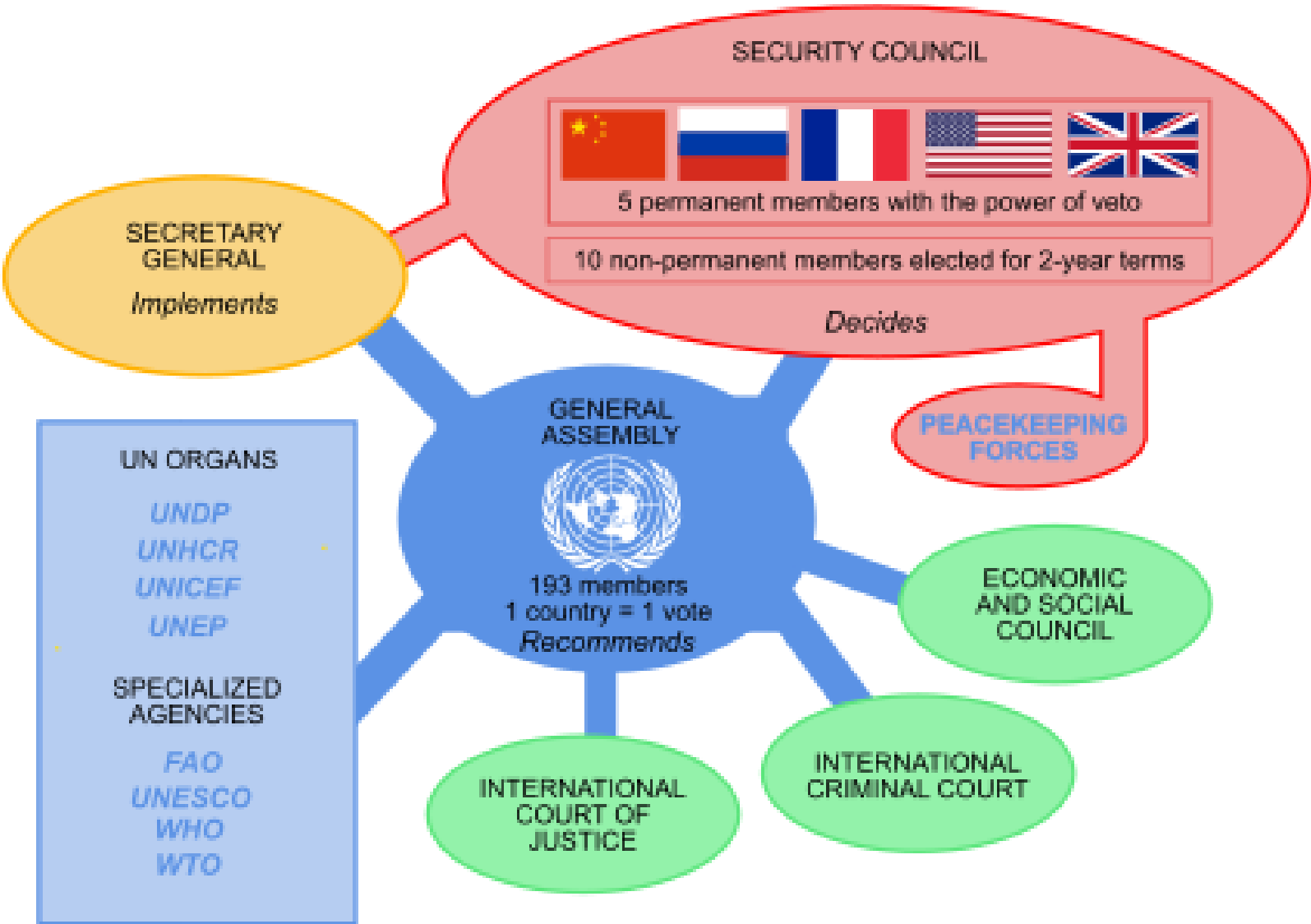
-Pope Francis (*Laudato Si'*, 139)

How Religious Congregations Engage with the UN System



Catholic Religious NGO Presence at the UN

- In the UN system, we are considered NGOs (non-governmental organizations)
- ~30 NGOs accredited to represent over 200 Catholic Religious congregations



What does it mean to be accredited?

Accreditation allows our NGOs to participate in UN proceedings by:

- Making oral statements
- Submitting written statements
- Meeting with diplomats
- Participating in UN conferences
- Sponsoring events inside and near UN Headquarters
- Making formal or informal recommendations on new UN agreements as they are being negotiated
- Submitting reports and comments on nations' progress on human rights (or lack thereof)

Religious Voice at the UN

- **Expert:** provide insights from members' work ministering to the poorest and most vulnerable populations "on the ground"
- **Impartial:** represent communities that span many nations and have no national identity
- **Credible:** known to *practice* values of care for human dignity of all and for the natural environment through lives of intentionality and dedicated service
- **Steady and stable:** maintain positions based on constitutions and principles older than UN and many nations; bring continuity and cohesion to global conversation that governments with frequently changing leaders/politics cannot
- **Collaborative:** speak and work through coalitions and committees that model for governments how to prioritise common goals and common good ahead of individual glory or achievement

What Brings Us Together Now



SDGs: a CALL to ACTION:



In 2015, governments of the UN unanimously adopted the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, a their 15-year agenda for the alleviation of human and environmental suffering.

SDGs: a CALL to ACTION:

In order for the SDGs to be achieved in a just manner that includes everyone and prioritises the poorest among us, **all sectors of society must actively participate in:**

- **implementing** them and
- **monitoring** progress toward their achievement within every nation as well as at the UN



SDGs: a CALL to ACTION:



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.

HLPF: a CALL to MONITOR

The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is the **annual global meeting at which nations** (both government and civil society) are invited to **examine their progress toward SDG achievement** and to **propose implementation adjustments to accelerate that progress.**

As a global community dedicated to the poor, the oppressed, and the earth, we are called to engage in the HLPF to hear how our political leaders tell the story of our national realities and to bring the stories and concerns of the marginalised into the center of the global conversation on development.



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



SIGNS OF THE TIMES: a CALL to COALITION

- 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.



Our Plan for the

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**



2022

GLOBAL CALLS

Series of **six live, online gatherings** to provide orientation and facilitate research and engagement in preparation for the HLPF conference (5-15 July)

- **28 January**
- **25 February**
- **22 April**
- **27 May**
- **1 July**
- **22 July***

All calls: 1:00pm – 3:00pm UTC



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

REGIONAL CALLS

Two opportunities to meet, share ideas, and make plans with other delegates from your global region:

- March
- June

Each regional group to select a date and time that suits them.

JCoR will provide a Zoom room and interpreters as needed for these calls.



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

STUDY & REFLECTION BETWEEN CALLS

- Teresa B will email informational materials to be examined and questions to guide your reflection on those materials.
- If you miss a call, you are asked to visit the JCoR website to view the recording of that call.



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

PARTICIPATION in the HLPF CONFERENCE DAYS (5-15 JULY)

- Participate in at least one session of the “JCoR SDG/ODS/ODD Lab”, interactive Zoom calls in which you will be called upon to share a personal experience working on one of the SDGs/ODS/ODD and exchange ideas about how to accelerate SDG/ODS/ODD progress for the community you serve
- Encouraged: Watch your national government present their SDG progress report to the UN community
- Optional: Attend (via video conference) other panel discussions and events hosted by your government or other civil society organisations



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

NEXT STEPS:

- **Respond to [this questionnaire](#)** if you are interested in working with members of civil society from your country (beyond our JCoR delegation) to draft the official civil society statement that will be delivered in response to your own government's SDG progress report and to formulate the questions that will be asked of your government's representative following their presentation. (Optional but highly encouraged!)
- **[Register](#) for JCoR HLPF Global Call #2:** 25 February (1:00pm UTC)
- **Watch your email box** for informational material and reflection questions to explore ahead of global call #2

