



DIGITAL DELEGATION PROGRAMME for the 2024 HLPF on SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Global Call #1: 15 January 2024

- What is the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)?
- What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What is the role of Religious congregations in the UN system and the SDGs?



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 22 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 100 countries

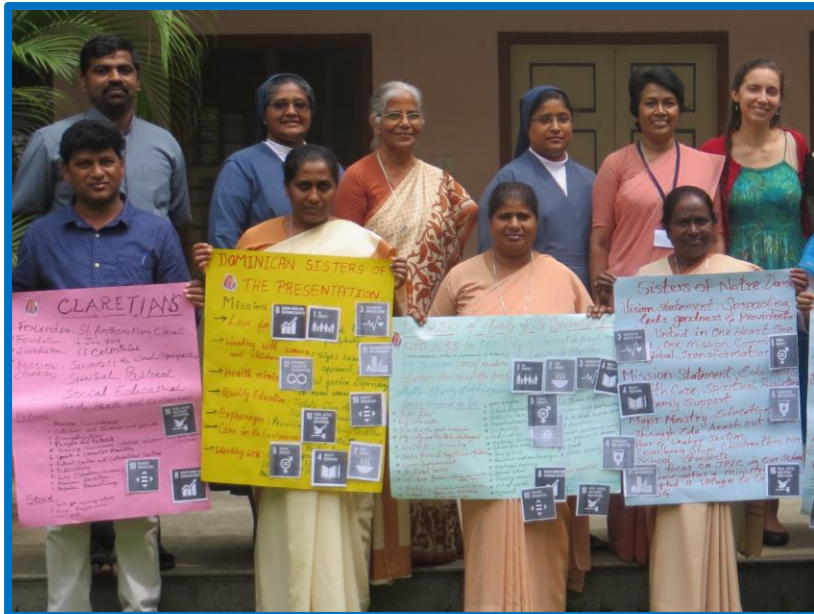
GOVERNING ORGANIZATIONS:

- 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
- Edmond Rice International
- 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
- VIVAT 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





How to Connect with Us



CONTACT YOUR CONGREGATION'S UN OFFICE



**Find links to
many of their
websites here:**

[https://jcor2030.org/
members/](https://jcor2030.org/members/)

CONTACT JCoR'S UN OFFICE:



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Spiritual Leadership & the United Nations

Why & How Religious Congregations Engage with the UN System

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





CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

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:

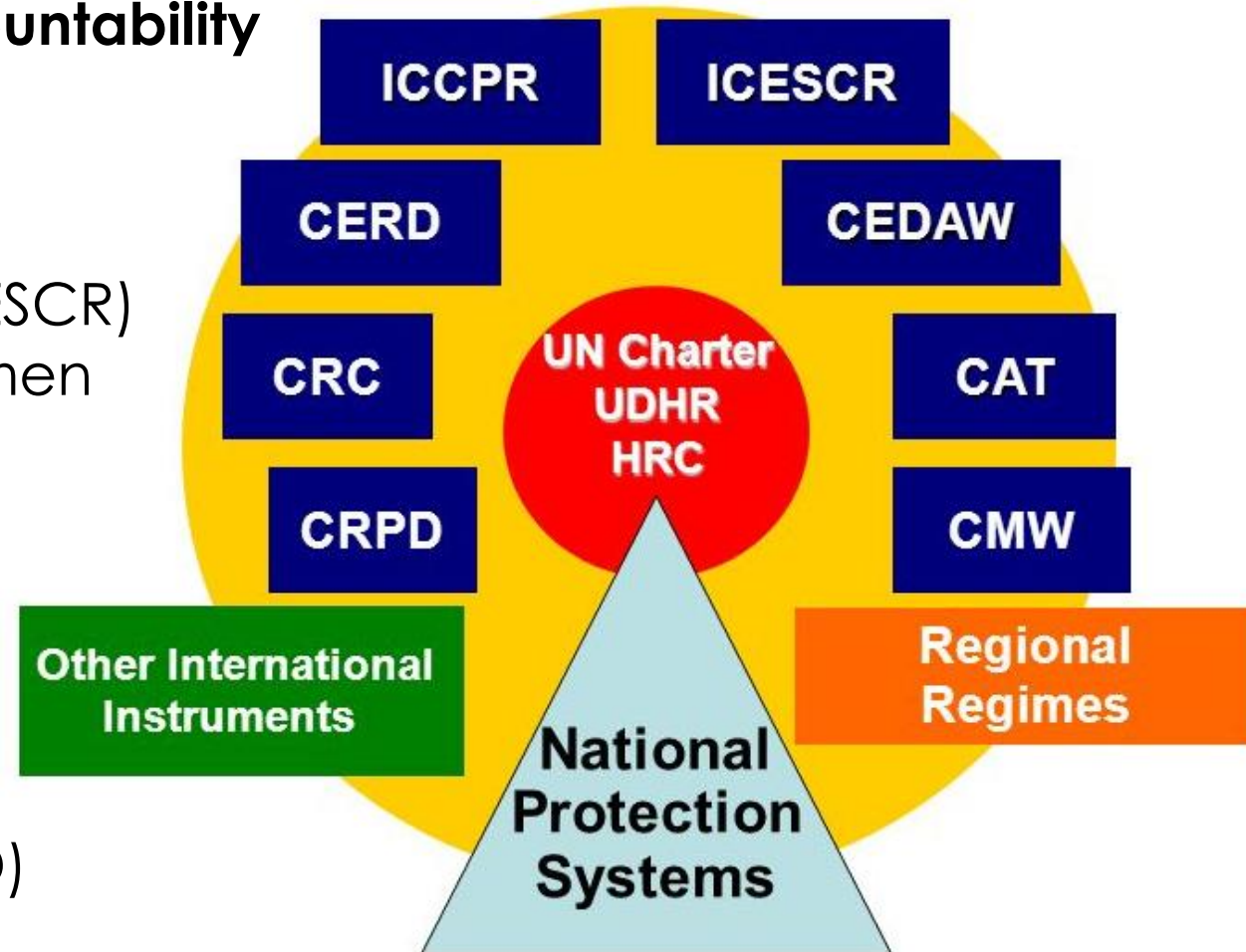
AND FOR THESE ENDS

- 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 Catholic Social Teaching in secular language

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

the UN's AGENDA for 2015-2030:



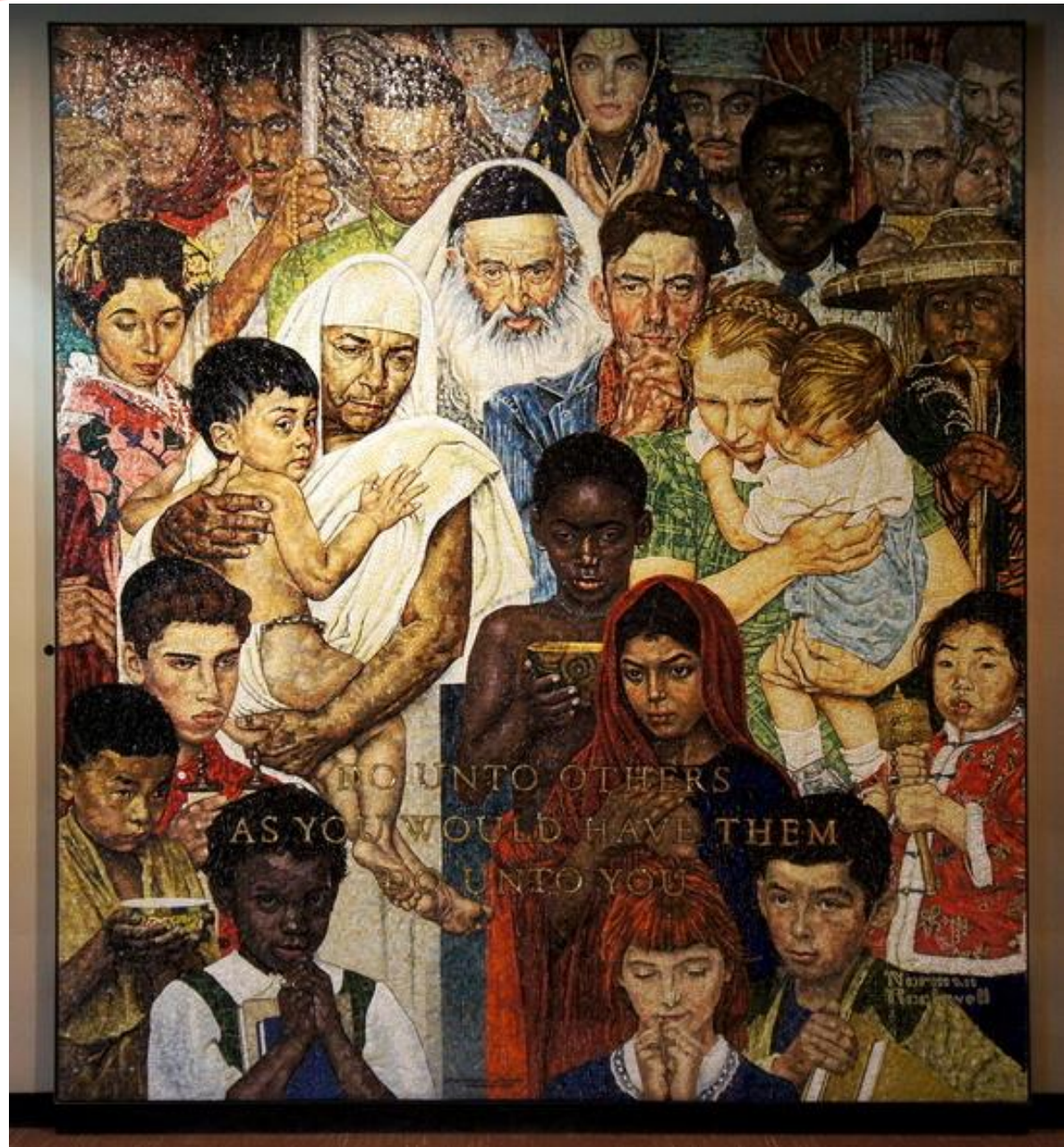
SECULAR ROAD MAP to the CITY of GOD



UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RULE 62:

Requires one minute of silence
for personal prayer or meditation
at the opening and closing of each session

“DO UNTO
OTHERS AS
YOU WOULD
HAVE THEM
DO UNTO
YOU.”



ST. GEORGE SLAYS THE MISSILE...



MEDITATION ROOM at UN HEADQUARTERS

"We all have within us a center of stillness surrounded by silence. **This house, dedicated to work and debate in the service of peace, should have one room dedicated to silence in the outward sense and stillness in the inner sense.** It has been the aim to create in this small room **a place where the doors may be open to the infinite lands of thought and prayer.**"

Because people of many faiths meet here, UN leaders sought to adorn this space with "simple things which speak to us all with the same language," namely a **shaft of light** striking the shimmering surface of solid rock.

Shaft of light:

"Symbol of how, daily, the light of the skies gives life to the earth on which we stand, a symbol to many of us of how the **light of the spirit gives life to matter.**"

Stone in the middle of the room:

"We may see it as an altar, empty not because there is no God, not because it is an altar to an unknown god, but because it is **dedicated to the God whom man worships under many names and in many forms.**"

Sign of **firmness and permanence** in a world of movement and change

"Reminder of that **cornerstone of endurance and faith on which all human endeavour must be based.**"

Material of the stone: iron ore

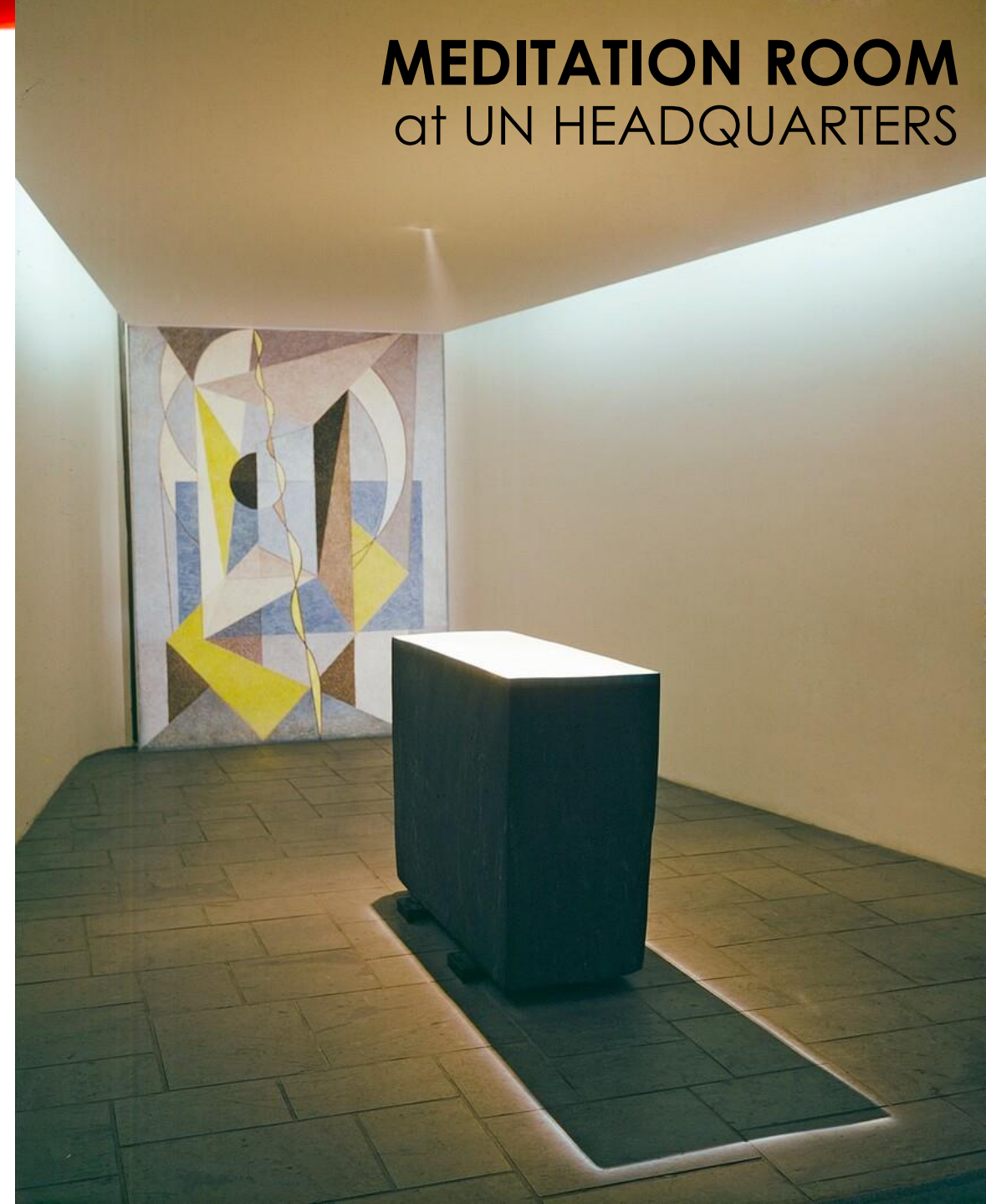
"Leads our thoughts to the necessity for **choice between destruction and construction, between war and peace.** Of iron man has forged his **swords**, of iron he has also made his **ploughshares**. Of iron he has constructed **tanks**, but of iron he has likewise built **homes** for man. The block of iron ore is part of the wealth we have inherited on this earth of ours. How are we to use it?"

Room of utter simplicity:

No other symbols, only a simple pattern on the front wall
Opens the room to the "harmony, freedom and balance of space"

"There is an ancient saying that the sense of a vessel is not in its shell but in the void. So it is with this room. **It is for those who come here to fill the void with what they find in their center of stillness.**"

-Dag Hammarskjöld,
UN Secretary General (1953-1961)





THE "ISAIAH WALL"



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 POLITICAL is SPIRITUAL

“The spiritual dimensions of the work of the United Nations tend to be overlooked and underappreciated. Yet, the tenets set out in the Charter – peace, justice, equality, the dignity and worth of the human person – echo the teachings of the world’s religious traditions and summon us all to reduce human suffering

...As we reflect on [*Laudato Si'*] in 2021, the state of our common home is broken...This is an epic policy test. But ultimately this is a **moral** test.”

-H.E. António Guterres,
UN Secretary General
in foreword for the *Laudato si' Reader*

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)

A brief reflection...



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)



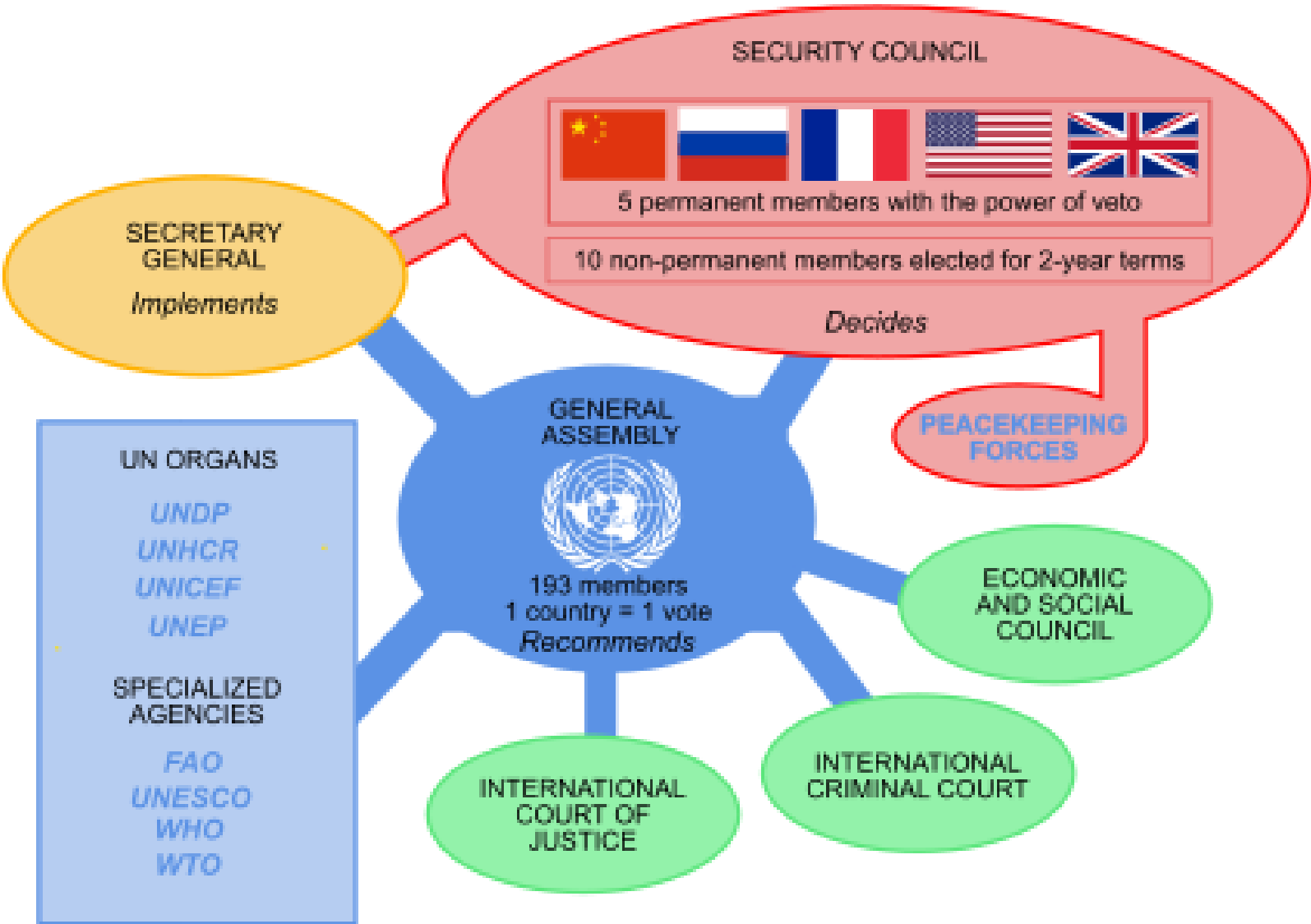
**DO YOU SEE YOUR MINISTRY HERE?
DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION'S CHARISM?**

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
- **Consistent:** maintain positions based on constitutions and principles older than UN and many nations; bring continuity and stability 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

RELIGIOUS ADVOCACY at the UN



Testimony

Akeyo

Single Mother of Five from Mukuru Slum, Experiencing Housing Inadequacy, Kenya

Hidden Faces of Homelessness

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH ON FAMILIES

“ I wanted to move, but couldn't afford it. I had no option but to live with the water in my house, waiting for the water to dry up. It is not yet dried up. I have been living in the same place for 15 years now, and each year it is the case that it has flooded. This time I was forced to pour some garbage in front of the door to make a space to pass. I cannot go to the toilet at night because it is far away outside and there is no sight, I can't see [not to step in water]. Despite living 15 years there I am lucky. I am lucky that I have never been contracted with cholera. I stay at the center of where the flood water comes to. For that reason the flood water has actually stayed near my home for close to five years, and it even turns its color. When the rains are over the water turns into some sort of black color - its from the sewage system. ”

RELIGIOUS ADVOCACY at the UN



RELIGIOUS ADVOCACY at the UN



What Brings Us Together Now





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.

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 (i.e. include everyone and prioritise 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**



Our Plan for the

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



2024

GLOBAL CALLS

Series of **live, online gatherings** to provide orientation and facilitate research and engagement in preparation for the HLPF conference:

- **15 January 2024**
- **12 February 2024**
- **29 April 2024**
- **20 May 2024**
- **1 July 2024**
- **5 August 2024**

All calls: 13:00-15:00 UTC



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

REGIONAL CALLS

- Guidance for virtual participation in your region's "Regional Forum for Sustainable Development":
 - Asia-Pacific: 20-23 February 2024
 - Western Asia: 5-7 March 2024
 - Europe: 13-14 March 2024
 - Latin America and the Caribbean: 15-19 April 2024
 - Africa: week of 22 April 2024
- Two opportunities to meet, share ideas, and make plans with other delegates from your global region:
 - between 22 January and 9 February
 - between 24 June and 3 July

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
 - review the presentation slides and other resources materials shared during the call
 - follow up on the “action items” assigned at the end of the call



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

PARTICIPATION in the HLPF CONFERENCE DAYS (8-18 JULY)

- 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**

PARTICIPATION in the JCoR SDG Lab (22-26 JULY)

- Join at least one of a series of five interactive Zoom calls, each dedicated to one of the themes of the HLPF:
 - Poverty (SDG 1)
 - Hunger (SDG 2)
 - Climate change (SDG 13)
 - Good governance (SDG 16)
 - Partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17)
- Offer your remarks or a presentation on one or more of the following:
 - observations on the theme from your experience of your country
 - a critique of your government's progress in the thematic area
 - a good practice from a ministry that addresses the theme



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

NEXT STEPS:

- **Register** for JCoR HLPF Global Call #2: 12 February at 13:00 UTC
- **Watch your email box** for:
 - invitation to select a date for a call to meet other delegates from your region between 22 January and 9 February
 - information and reflection questions to explore ahead of global call #2



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