



Justice  
Coalition of  
Religious

# 2024 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development



# JCoR: Justice Coalition of Religious



A Coalition of 23 Roman Catholic Religious organizations that

- are accredited by the United Nations (UN)
- have representatives at UN Headquarters in New York
- are committed to improving well-being of people living in poverty and of the natural environment
- are collectively present in over 100 countries

# Governing Member Organizations:



- Claretian Missionaries
- Company of the Daughters of Charity
- Congregation of the Mission
- Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal
- Congregations of St. Joseph
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- Edmund Rice International
- Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate
- International Presentation Association
- Loretto Community
- Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers
- Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic
- 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



# Signs of the times: a Call to Coalition

- Trend of 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 (one 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.



We should all commit ourselves to promoting and implementing the development goals that are supported by our deepest religious and ethical values.

- Pope Francis



God of gladness, God of generosity,  
You see the difficult work of caring for those  
who are excluded and suffering.

You know the frustration of listening to those  
who are meant to be our leaders telling  
incomplete stories about our communities and  
ignoring or failing to see the challenges that  
remain.

And yet, you are the one who calls us to be caregivers to each other.

You inspire us to serve.

You fire our hearts with compassion for those who suffer.

You choose us to be bearers of your healing love.

Strengthen our resolve to seek and speak the truth.

Sharpen our minds so that we may speak it clearly and compassionately.

Give us glad and generous hearts that we may join with our Sisters,

our Brothers, and

our colleagues in loving community

who support *us* as *we* support others.

# High-Level Political Forum

Essential [Event Details](#) and Information

## When

8-17 July 2024

## Where

In-person at the UN Headquarters in New York

## Watch

Join online to follow the proceedings of the forum at [UNWebTV](#) (streamed in multiple languages)

## Programme

8-18 July, 10:00AM - 6:00PM (New York Time)

- 8 July: Opening ceremony
- 8-11 July: Panel discussions on priority SDGs (1, 2, 13, 16, 17)
- 12, 15-17 July: Voluntary National Reviews (Reports from national governments on the progress they are making toward the achievement of the SDGs)
- 15-17 July: General debate, “From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future”
- 18 July: Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration & Conclusion
- Every day: Events sponsored by civil society (non-governmental organisations)

Visit the HLPF [programme webpage](#) for additional details, the list of official [side events](#), and a schedule of [special events](#)

## Official Website

For additional information, visit the [HLPF 2024 website](#)



# Voluntary National Reviews

## Introduction to VNRs

At the HLPF, government leaders report on their national progress toward achievement of the sustainable development goals. These reports, called voluntary national reviews (VNRs), aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Visit the [VNR webpage](#) to learn more and access your government's current and past VNRs (click [here](#) for step-by-step instructions). You can also access reports from civil society on SDG progress in your country [here](#).



As governments report to this global forum on a voluntary basis, not every government presents a report each year. The 37 countries listed on right-hand side of this page will be presenting VNRs in 2024. Click on the name of your country to access a written copy of its report, and if you would like to watch your government present its VNR live, tune into [UNWebTV](#) at the specified time.

## Schedule

### 12 July

11:30am-1:00pm (New York time)

1st Panel: [Georgia](#), [Kenya](#), [Palau](#)

3:00pm-6:00pm (New York time)

2nd Panel: [Belize](#), [Chad](#), [Zimbabwe](#)

3rd Panel: [Eritrea](#), [Samoa](#), [Syrian Arab Republic](#)

### 15 July

3:00pm-6:00pm (New York time)

1st Panel: [Peru](#), [Spain](#), [Uganda](#)

2nd Panel: [Azerbaijan](#), [Lao People's Democratic Republic](#)

3rd Panel: [Armenia](#), [Nepal](#)

### 16 July

11:45am-1:00pm (New York time)

1st Panel: [South Sudan](#), [Yemen](#)

3:00pm-6:00pm (New York time)

2nd Panel: [Colombia](#), [Guinea](#), [Libya](#)

3rd Panel: [Honduras](#), [Sierra Leone](#)

4th Panel: [Mauritania](#), [Solomon Islands](#)

### 17 July

10:00am-1:00pm (New York time)

1st Panel: [Austria](#), [Equatorial Guinea](#), [Mauritius](#)

2nd Panel: [Congo](#), [Ecuador](#)

3rd Panel: [Namibia](#), [Oman](#)

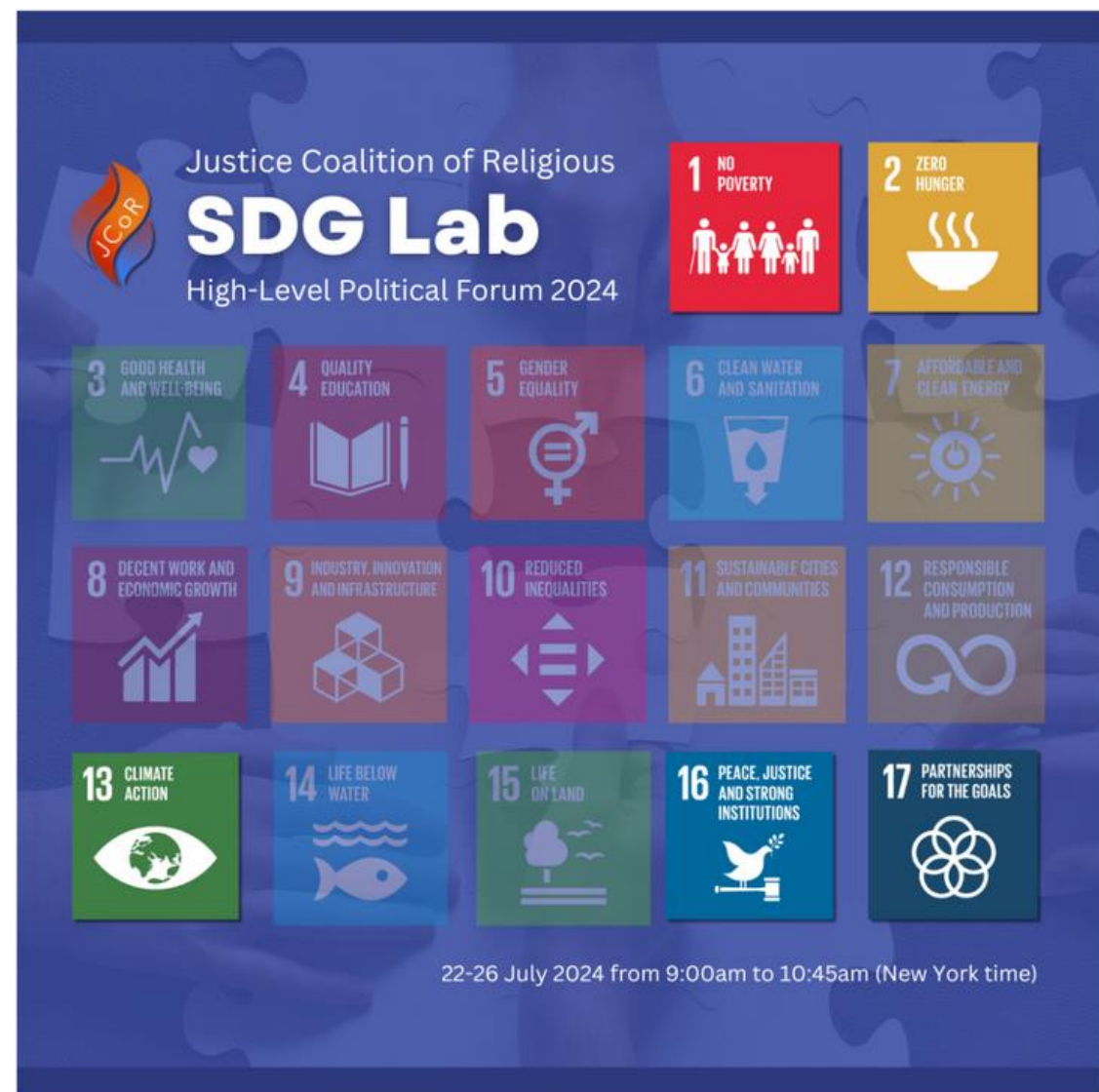
3:00pm-5:00pm (New York time)

4th Panel: [Brazil](#), [South Africa](#)

5th Panel: [Costa Rica](#), [Mexico](#), [Vanuatu](#)

# JCoR SDG Lab at the 2024 HLPF

All sessions will be held from 9:00am-10:45am (New York time)



In addition to reports from governments, the HLPF also includes events sponsored by civil society groups, to highlight their perspectives on implementation and progress toward the SDGs in their respective countries. JCoR will join the conversation by offering a series of virtual discussion spaces, which we are calling the "JCoR SDG Lab." This series will showcase Catholic Religious and their partners' perspectives on progress and good practices towards sustainable development. JCoR's SDG Lab will consist of one session dedicated to each of this year's priority SDGs. Click on the following links to register:

22 July: **SDG 1 - No poverty (part 1)** <https://bit.ly/4cFW6Fb>

23 July: **SDG 2 - Zero hunger** <https://bit.ly/3xAnN3w>

24 July: **SDG 13 - Climate action** <https://bit.ly/3zk6EeS>

25 July: **SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions**  
<https://bit.ly/3W2TvQr>

26 July: **SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals** <https://bit.ly/4blfQwN>

29 July: **SDG 1 - No poverty (part 2)** <https://bit.ly/4f2zLUu>

All are welcome to attend these JCoR SDG Lab sessions. Please register to join us for one or more of the sessions! **Interpretation will be available in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.**

# Social Media Advocacy

Who to **follow** and tag

## **Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)**

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](#) Facebook: [@JCoR2030](#)

## **JCoR Members**

Click [here](#) to access a Twitter list of JCoR members

## **UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)**

Twitter: [@UNDESA](#) Instagram: [@undesa](#)

## **UN DESA Sustainable Development**

Twitter: [@SustDev](#)

## **UN Account for the Global Goals for Sustainable Development**

Twitter: [@GlobalGoalsUN](#)

## **United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**

Twitter: [@UNECOSOC](#)

## **Your congregation's NGO at the United Nations**

Click [here](#) to access a list of many congregations' NGO social media details

## **Your government's permanent mission to the United Nations**



## Hashtags

#HLPF2024 or #HLPF  
#SDGs

#SDG (insert number  
here)

#LeaveNoOneBehind  
#2030Agenda



# Call to Action

Visit the United Nation's [Act Now](#) website to learn more about how you can take action to promote sustainable development.

The well-being of people around the world, the health of our planet, and the survival of future generations depend on our willingness to come together around a commitment to collective problem-solving and action...We don't have a moment to lose.

- United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres



# JCoR Gatherings for HLPF Delegates



**10 July (1pm-4pm):** Welcome Gathering & Luncheon at Church Center for the UN (CCUN)

**11 July (4:30pm-5:30pm):** daily reflection/debriefing gathering in JCoR office (CCUN, 7<sup>th</sup> floor, end of hall)

## **12 July:**

- 1:00-2:30pm: open space for lunch/relaxation in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)
- 6:00-7:00pm: daily reflection/debriefing gathering in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)

## **15 July:**

- 1:00-2:30pm: open space for lunch/relaxation in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)
- 4:30-5:30pm: daily reflection/debriefing gathering in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)

## **16 July:**

- 1:00-2:30pm: open space for lunch/relaxation in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)
- 6:00-7:00pm: daily reflection/debriefing gathering in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)

## **17 July:**

- 1:00-2:30pm: open space for lunch/relaxation in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)
- 4:30-5:30pm: daily reflection/debriefing gathering in JCoR office (CCUN, 7th floor)

# A UN definition of sustainability:

“development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and planet.



# SDG 1



## No Poverty

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

## To achieve Goal 1, governments have agreed to:

- Eradicate extreme poverty\* for all people everywhere
- Reduce poverty\*\* by at least 50%
- Implement social protection\*\*\* systems for all, including social protection floors\*\*\*\*
- Ensure that all people have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services
- Build the resilience of the most vulnerable so that they are better protected from climate-related extreme events, like floods and droughts, and other economic, social, and environmental shocks

\*Extreme poverty is currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25USD a day.

\*\*Poverty is defined at a national level.

\*\*\*Social protection refers to policies and actions that: enhance the capacity of all people, especially the most vulnerable, to escape from poverty, or avoid falling into poverty, and better manage risks and shocks (e.g., income security and access to essential services)

\*\*\*\*Social protection floors refer to standards of income, housing, healthcare, nutrition, etc. that enable one to live in dignity

[Click here to learn more about SDG 1](#)

# SDG 2

**2** ZERO  
HUNGER



## Zero Hunger

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

To achieve Goal 2, governments have agreed to:

- End hunger and all forms of malnutrition by ensuring access for all people to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food
- Increase agricultural production and income of small-scale farmers, especially women and indigenous peoples, through equal access to land and other resources such as knowledge, markets, and financial services
- Promote sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems and biodiversity
- Protect the variety of species of seeds, crops, and animals, and fairly distribute the benefits of these resources
- Invest in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, and technology to enhance agricultural capacity, particularly in developing countries

[Click here to learn more about SDG 2](#)

# SDG 13



## Climate Action

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

## To achieve Goal 13, governments have agreed to:

- Improve education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation,\* adaptation,\*\* and early warning systems
- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity, ensuring people are well-prepared for climate-related hazards and disasters
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning, including the allocation of resources to combat climate change
- Implement the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)

\*Climate mitigation refers to efforts to reduce or prevent the emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, to make the impacts of climate change less severe.

\*\*Adaptation is the process of taking action to reduce the current and expected effects of climate change.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 13](#)

# SDG 16



## Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies

## To achieve Goal 16, governments have agreed to:

- Significantly reduce violence and related deaths everywhere
- End the abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children
- Promote the rule of law at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- Reduce illicit financial and arms flows
- Combat crime and corruption in any form
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels
- Strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

[Click here to learn more about SDG 16](#)

# SDG 17

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



## Partnerships for the Goals

Revitalize the global  
partnership for  
sustainable  
development

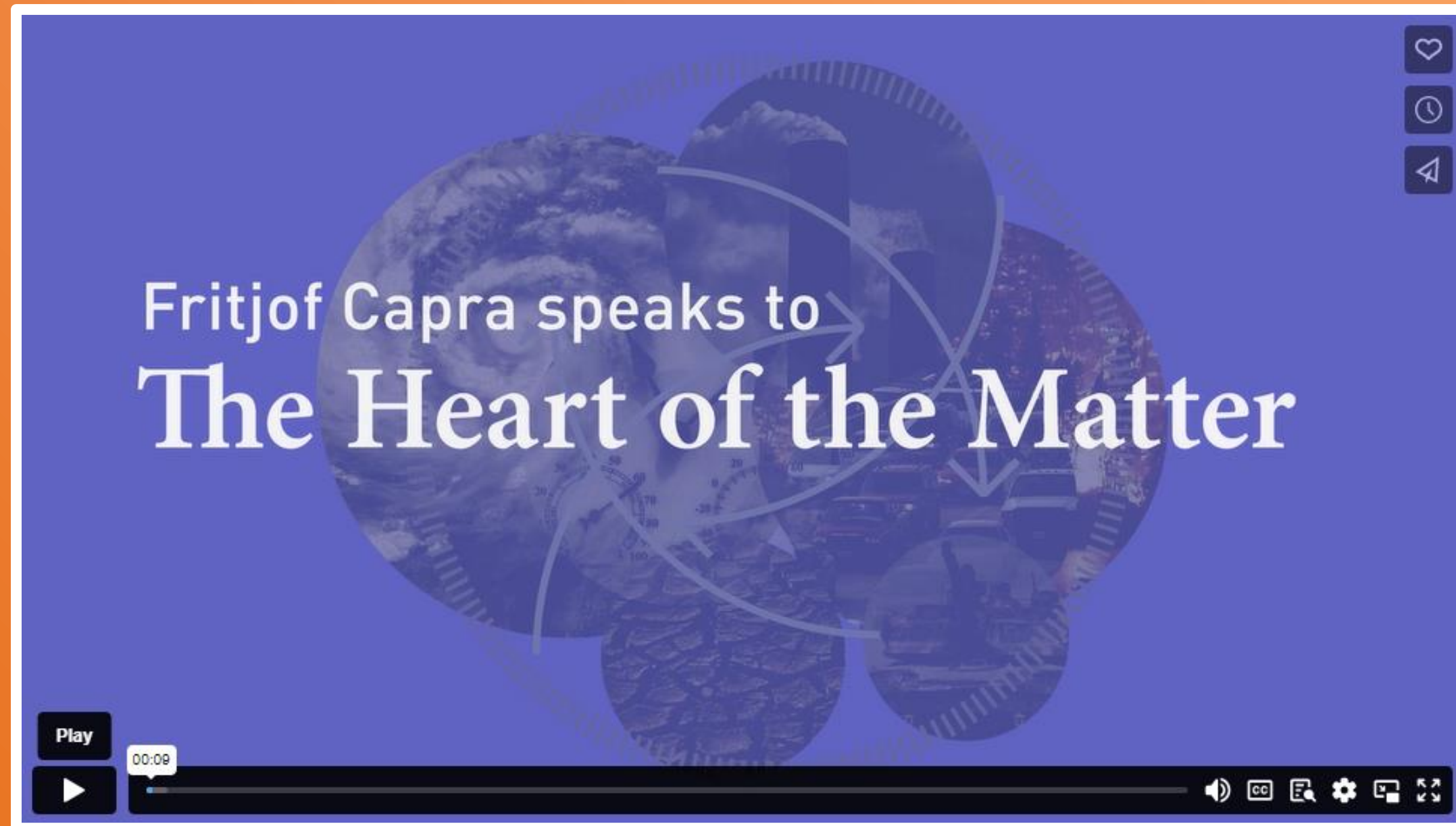
## To achieve Goal 17, governments have agreed to:

- Allocate resources to achieve the SDGs, and developed countries commit to mobilizing financial resources to support implementation of the Goals in less-developed countries
- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, engaging with organizations that have been working for many years on concerns that relate to the SDGs because their experience and support are essential
- Enhance international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and promote knowledge sharing
- Ensure governments improve their data and statistics management to be able to assess progress toward achievement of the SDGs
- Ensure all countries have met the SDGs by 2030

[Click here to learn more  
about SDG 17](#)



# A physicist's model of sustainability: Fritjof Capra:



\*Lecture on Systems Thinking by Fritjof Capra:  
<https://vimeo.com/336717769> (13:21-20:17)

# A physicist's model of sustainability: Fritjof Capra:



“What is being sustained in a sustainable community is not economic growth or competitive advantage but the entire web of life on which our long-term survival depends.

In other words, a sustainable community is designed in such a way that its ways of life—its businesses, economy, physical structures, and technologies—respect, honor, and cooperate with nature’s inherent ability to sustain life.”

# A physicist's model of sustainability: Fritjof Capra:



Natural principles of organization that sustain life:

- One species' waste = another species' food
- Matter cycles continually through web of life
- Energy driving ecological cycles flows from sun
- Diversity increases resilience
- Life on Earth spread and flourished through networking/partnerships, not through combat

🔑 “Nature sustains life by creating and nurturing communities.  
No individual organism can exist in isolation.”

# A physicist's model of sustainability: Fritjof Capra:



- Sustainability is not a characteristic of an individual but of an entire web of relationships; involves a whole community
- Systemic, interrelated problems require systemic, interrelated solutions

# A physicist's model of sustainability: Fritjof Capra:



Four crucial, transformative actions to assure a sustainable future:

1. Shift from quantitative to qualitative growth, inspired by the systems in nature
2. Become “ecologically literate” (in basic principles of ecology) across all age groups and sectors of work in order to design sustainable communities;
3. Recognise the nature of systemic solutions (e.g. agroecology shift from chemical, large-scale to organic, small-scale); and
4. Adopt a new Earth ethics, such as the one summarized in the Earth Charter.

# An indigenous model of sustainability: Robin Wall Kimmerer:



“I met Carol Crowe, an Algonquin ecologist, at a meeting on indigenous models of sustainability. She told the story of requesting funding from her tribal council to attend the conference. They asked her, ‘What is this all about, this notion of sustainability. What are they talking about?’ She gave them a summary of the standard definitions of sustainable development, including “the management of natural resources and social institutions in such a manner as to ensure the attainment and continued satisfaction of human needs for present and future generations.”

# An indigenous model of sustainability: Robin Wall Kimmerer:



“They were quiet for a while, considering. Finally, one elder said, ‘This sustainable development sounds to me like they just want to be able to keep on taking like they always have. It’s always about taking. You go there and tell them that in our way, our first thoughts are not, ‘What can we take?’ But ‘What can we *give* to Mother Earth?’ That’s how it’s supposed to be.’

# An indigenous model of sustainability: Robin Wall Kimmerer:



“The Honorable Harvest asks us to give back, in reciprocity, for what we have been given. Reciprocity helps resolve the moral tension of taking a life by giving in return something of value that sustains the ones who sustain us. One of our responsibilities as human people is to find ways to enter into reciprocity with the more-than-human world. We can do it through gratitude, through ceremony, through land stewardship, science, art, and in everyday acts of practical reverence.”

From *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer (page 189-190)

\*Short film on “Honorable Harvest” narrated by Robin Wall Kimmerer:

<https://bioneers.org/the-honorable-harvest-robin-kimmerer-zstf0619/>



# A Catholic Social model of sustainable development:



Development cannot be restricted to economic growth alone. To be authentic, it must be well rounded; it must foster the development of each person and of the whole person. As an eminent specialist on this question has rightly said: “We cannot allow economics to be separated from human realities, nor development from the civilization in which it takes place. What counts for us is ...each individual human, each human group, and humanity as a whole.” - St. Paul VI (*Populorum Progressio*, 14)

Human development is not only an economic issue or one that concerns experts alone; it is ultimately a vocation, a call that requires a free and responsible answer. - Pope Benedict (*Caritas in Veritate*, 16-17)

“Any fruitful discussion of development 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.” - Pope Francis (Address to International Conference on Religions and the SDGs, 2019)

# A responsibilities-based model of sustainability: 2000 *Earth Charter*.



A sustainable global society:

- Will be “founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace”
- Requires that “we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations”
- Recognizes that “when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more”
- Promotes development contributions of moral and spiritual education and of the arts and humanities as well as the sciences



# A responsibilities-based model of sustainability: 2000 *Earth Charter*:

A sustainable global society:

- Is envisioned and developed locally, nationally, regionally, and globally
- Integrates environmental conservation and rehabilitation into all development initiatives
- Provides social security and safety nets and universal access to education, health care, and economic opportunity for all
- Gives young people an essential role
- Requires gender equality and equity

# For your reflection:



- How would I describe or explain “sustainability”?
- How would I describe or explain “development”?
- What is the relationship between my life or ministry and each of the priority SDGs for this year’s HLPF?  
(How do you sustain them? How do they sustain you?)



# More JCoR Resources:

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

JCoR Guide to the 2024 HLPF:

<https://jcor2030.org/communications-guides/>

Facebook: [@JCoR2030](https://www.facebook.com/JCoR2030)

Twitter: [@JCoR2030](https://twitter.com/JCoR2030)

YouTube: [@JCoR2030](https://www.youtube.com/JCoR2030)

