

Concept Note: Online Side Event for 2025 UN HLPF

Title: Beyond Default: The Liberating Power of Debt Reform (SDG 17)

NGO Host: Congregations of St. Joseph NGO to the United Nations

NGO Co-Sponsors: Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate, Caritas Internationalis, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

Partner Organizations: Office of Religious Congregations for Integral Ecology (ORCIE), Development and Peace - Caritas Canada, CSJ Federation Office for Systemic Justice, Centre Oblat, Mary Ward Centre, KAIROS Canada

Date and Time: July 14, 2025 @ 8:30am EDT

Zoom Registration Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/J20d1L6bR8ys09XiN1zZcQ>

Event Description: This webinar will address SDG target 17.4, focusing on the realities, obstacles, and opportunities for developing countries to attain long-term debt sustainability, particularly through initiatives aimed at debt cancellation and reform of the global financial system, especially a debt resolution framework at the United Nations. Participants will hear from speakers who will highlight the interconnections between global debt (SDG 17), good health and well-being (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5) and decent work (SDG 8).

Through panel presentations and interactive engagement, participants will gain knowledge, understanding, and the capacity to act towards achieving target 17.4 through the Global Ecumenical Jubilee Year Campaign.

Goals of Event:

- Sharing knowledge, experiences, perspectives, concrete actions on SDG 17 and its links with SDGs 3, 5, 8
- Informal capacity-building based on that knowledge sharing – how to participate in the Global Ecumenical Jubilee Year Campaign
- Building campaign momentum across Canada and internationally
- Internally, building momentum for campaign advocacy at G20 and other global meetings

Content to Explore:

- Concept of jubilee - what does this mean for unjust debt cancellation in developing countries and global financial reform
- Connections across SDGs, across countries - Global North/South
- Critical perspectives and limitations of current financial system and need for reform, especially a debt resolution framework at the United Nations
- Putting ideas into practice (signing the petition and/or other means to advocate)

Format:

- 90 minutes maximum
- Virtual – use Zoom, register via Zoom
- Presentation of Global Ecumenical Jubilee Year Campaign - part of opening remarks, building off of 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (Seville)

- Panel of speakers (10-12 minutes max each speaker)
 - Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN / Government of Canada (To be confirmed)
 - Representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN (To be confirmed)
 - Sr. Nilva Dal Bello, Sisters of St Joseph (Confirmed)
 - Dr. Grieve Chelwa, Associate Professor of Political Economy and Chair of Social Sciences, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University
 - Representative of NGO Committee on FfD (Confirmed)

Side Event Outline

Time	Content	Speakers
	Welcome, Land Acknowledgement (2 minutes)	Representative from event host organization/partners
	Opening Remarks (3 minutes) Introduction of Moderator	Representative from event host organization/partners
	Panel Discussion – SDG Target 17.4 and its linkages with other SDGs (60 mins)	<p><i>Panel Moderator:</i> Representative from event host organization/partners</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <p>Representative of the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN / Government of Canada (TBC)</p> <p>Representative of the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the UN (TBC)</p> <p>Sr. Nilva Dal Bello, Sisters of St Joseph</p> <p>Dr. Grieve Chelwa, Associate Professor of Political Economy and Chair of Social Sciences, The Africa Institute, Global Studies University</p> <p>Representative of NGO Committee on FfD</p>
	Questions & Answers (20 minutes)	<i>Moderator</i>

	Closing (3 mins)	Representative from event host organization/partners
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NGO Sponsors and Co-Sponsors:

