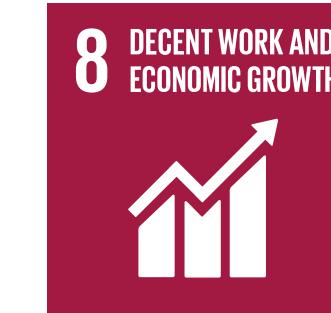


# High-Level Political Forum

On **Sustainable Development**



14-23 July 2025



# Justice Coalition of Religious

This guide was produced by the [Justice Coalition of Religious](#) (JCoR), a coalition of 24 non-governmental organizations that are accredited to collectively represent over 200 congregations of Roman Catholic women and men Religious at the United Nations (UN). Congregations of Religious sustain the long-standing tradition of serving people who experience the marginalisation, oppression, and vulnerability resulting from unjust global systems. At the grassroots, Sisters, Brothers, priests, and their mission partners are leaders in the provision of essential services. While these efforts offer vital temporary assistance, our common home cries out for lasting global transformation, a transformation that requires addressing the root causes of human and environmental suffering. We are thereby called to the work of advocacy.

JCoR coordinates the efforts of Religious and their ministry partners - across more than 100 countries - in pursuit of our common mission: *To facilitate collaboration among members and partners of Catholic Religious congregations working at the grassroots and at the United Nations in order to: (1) strengthen one another's capacity for advocacy and (2) advocate collectively for social, economic, and environmental justice and peace in international, regional, and national fora.*

Guided by Catholic Social Teaching and the Universal Human Rights Framework, JCoR envisions a just and peaceful world where the dignity of every person, particularly the most marginalized, and the sanctity of all creation are upheld. In this world, all people can fully participate in the social, economic, political, and cultural life of society, working together to foster the common good. We strive to realise this future world by coordinating the efforts of Religious to call on political leaders to take action for a just, equitable, and rights-based implementation of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), the United Nations' Agenda for 2015-2030.

We hope these pages will help empower you join us in this mission!





# High-Level Political Forum

## on Sustainable Development

### Introduction

The [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) is the central United Nations platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. During the HLPF, UN Member States and civil society organizations are invited to report on progress towards achieving the SDGs.

### Thematic Focus

The 2025 HLPF theme is *"Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind."*

### Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 commitments made by every government represented at the United Nations. They aim to end extreme poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure all people enjoy prosperity and peace by 2030. Visit the [Sustainable Development Goals website](#) to learn more and take action.

### Focus SDGs

Each year, the UN selects particular SDGs to focus on for a more in-depth review. The 2025 HLPF will focus on the following SDGs: (3) Good health and well-being, (5) Gender equality, (8) Decent work and economic growth, (14) Healthy aquatic ecosystems, and (17) Partnerships for the goals. See the following pages to learn more about each of these focus SDGs.

### Outcome

At the HLPF, UN Member States will negotiate and adopt what is called a Ministerial Declaration. This declaration is meant to assess progress on (and challenges to) achieving the SDGs, as well as highlight concrete actions that will accelerate implementation efforts. [Click here](#) to learn more about the Ministerial Declaration and read the most recent draft.

# SDG 3

## 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



### Good health and well-being

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

### To achieve Goal 3, governments have agreed to:

- Ensure that everyone enjoys the right to health, which includes access to high-quality medical care, and accessible and economical medicines and vaccines
- Reduce the number of mothers who die giving birth to their children
- End the preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years old
- End epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and other tropical diseases that have been neglected in terms of research and the effective delivery of treatments;
- Reduce the cases of hepatitis and water-borne diseases
- Educate people on prevention and abuse of drugs and alcohol as well as on mental health issues
- Provide of universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including services for family planning, information and education
- Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination

[Click here to learn more about SDG 3](#)

# SDG 5

## 5 GENDER EQUALITY



### Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

## To achieve Goal 5, governments have agreed to:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Establish and promote laws and regulations that:
  - promote, enforce and monitor gender equality and that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex
  - guarantee equal access of women and men to banks and financial services
  - guarantee equal rights of women and men to own, control, or inherit land, natural resources, and other types of property
  - guarantee full and equal access for women and men to sexual and reproductive health care, information, and education
- End all forms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence against women and girls\*
- Eliminate the harmful practices of child marriage,\*\* early marriage,\*\*\* forced marriage, and female genital mutilation
- Encourage women and girls to have equal opportunities to be heard and to participate in all political, economic and public spheres (with representation that reflects women's share of the population)
- Establish national systems or agencies that track progress toward gender equality and that direct public resources to the empowerment of women and girls

\*This includes violence in both private and domestic settings as well as in public spaces. It also includes trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other types of exploitation.

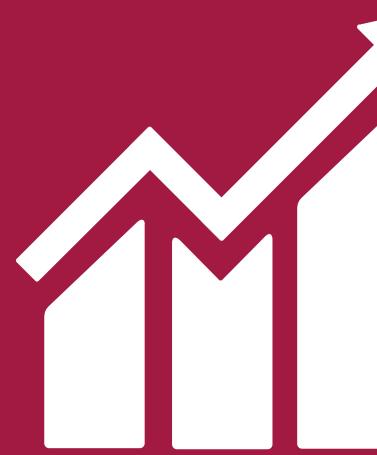
\*\*Child marriage is the marriage of girls who are under the age of 15.

\*\*\*Early marriage is the marriage of girls ages 15-17.

[Click here to learn more about SDG 5](#)

# SDG 8

## 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



### Decent work and economic growth

Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all

### To achieve Goal 8, governments have agreed to:

- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities
- Ensure equal pay for work of equal value without discrimination on the basis of the worker's sex, age, or disability
- Develop and implement national strategies for youth employment
- Take significant actions to eradicate forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking
- Expand access to banking and financial services for all
- Increase economic productivity, particularly in the countries with the smallest economies, through a variety of measures such as diversifying the types of goods and services the economy produces
- Create – through laws and financial services – economic environments that favor entrepreneurship; creativity and innovation; the creation of decent jobs; and the flourishing of micro-, small- and medium-sized businesses
- Protect labour rights of all workers regardless of sex or migration status, particularly the rights to:
  - join a union and engage in collective negotiations with an employer, and
  - work in a safe and secure environments
- Reduce the environmental cost of economic production by improving the efficiency of production processes

[Click here to learn more about SDG 8](#)

# SDG 14



## Healthy aquatic ecosystems

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources

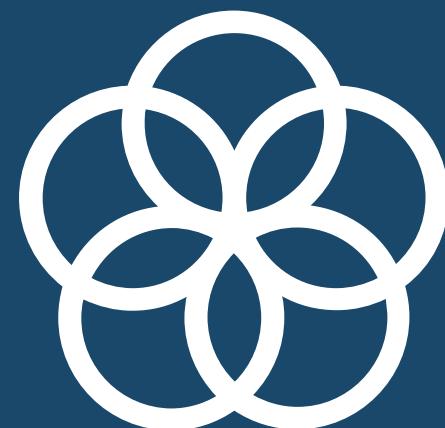
### To achieve Goal 14, governments have agreed to:

- Prevent and remove marine pollution of all kinds, whether that is plastic and trash or chemical
- Use natural and sustainable approaches to restoration and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems
- Designate at least 10% of all coastal and marine areas for legal protection from development
- Monitor and seek remedies for the rising acidity of the ocean, which results from their absorption of higher levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- Regulate fishing practices to ensure that populations of marine species do not become overfished and endangered
- Enforce international rules to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- Increase sustainable fishing as a proportion of economic productivity, especially in small-island states
- Increase scientific knowledge about ocean health and marine biodiversity through increased collaboration in the scientific community and the designation of more resources to marine research
- Enable small-scale fishers to access both prime marine resources and marketplaces
- Establish national laws and programs that implement the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea](#)

Click here to learn more about SDG 14

# 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:

- 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
- Increase the flow of monetary aid for development from highest income countries to the lowest-income countries
- Relieve or restructure the debts of highly indebted low-income countries
- Enhance cooperation among ministries, departments, and policies within each country's government to ensure they are supporting a common approach to development
- Ensure governments improve their data and statistics management to be able to assess progress toward achievement of the SDGs
- Support each other in efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030

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

# High-Level Political Forum

## Essential **Event Details** and Information

### When

14-23 July 2025

### 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

14-23 July, 10:00AM - 6:00PM (New York Time)

- 14 July: Opening ceremony
- 14-17 July: Panel discussions on priority SDGs (3, 5, 8, 14)
- 18, 21-23 July: Voluntary National Reviews (Reports from national governments on the progress they are making toward the achievement of the SDGs)
- 21-23 July: General debate, "UN@80: Catalyzing Change for Sustainable Development"
- 23 July: Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration & Conclusion
- Every day: Events sponsored by civil society (non-governmental organisations). See the following pages of this guide for event recommendations.

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 2025 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 2025. 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

### 18 July

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

1<sup>st</sup> Panel: [Guatemala](#), [Malaysia](#), [Sudan](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: [Kyrgyzstan](#), [Saint Lucia](#), [South Africa](#)

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

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: [Angola](#), [Belarus](#), [Dominican Republic](#)

4<sup>th</sup> Panel: [Bangladesh](#), [Eswatini](#), [Micronesia](#)

### 21 July

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

1<sup>st</sup> Panel: [El Salvador](#), [Malta](#), [Thailand](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: [Czechia](#), [Israel](#), [Papua New Guinea](#)

### 22 July

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

1<sup>st</sup> Panel: [Bahamas](#), [Finland](#), [Philippines](#)

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

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: [Germany](#), [Kazakhstan](#), [Seychelles](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: [Japan](#), [Gambia](#)

4<sup>th</sup> Panel: [Indonesia](#), [Suriname](#)

### 23 July

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

1<sup>st</sup> Panel: [Bhutan](#), [Ghana](#), [Iraq](#)

2<sup>nd</sup> Panel: [Qatar](#), [Nigeria](#)

3<sup>rd</sup> Panel: [Bulgaria](#), [Ethiopia](#)

3:00pm-4:30pm (New York time)

4<sup>th</sup> Panel: [India](#), [Lesotho](#)

# JCoR SDG Lab at the 2025 HLPF

All sessions will be held from **9:00am-11:00am** (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:

**28 July: SDG 3 - Good Health and Well-Being** <http://bit.ly/3TITK0K>

**29 July: SDG 5 - Gender Equality** <https://bit.ly/4emArUy>

**30 July: SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth** <https://bit.ly/4lo7k5v>

**31 July: SDG 14 - Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems** <http://bit.ly/3I020Hf>

**1 August: SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals** <https://bit.ly/45F8WDu>

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.*

# Recommended Events

Please visit JCoR's [HLPF 2025 webpage](#) to access a curated list of HLPF side events and parallel events that are recommended by JCoR and our Religious community at the United Nations in New York.

As you will find on our "HLPF 2025: Recommended Events" webpage, JCoR is also offering an in-person **welcome gathering for the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development**. This event will be held for delegates of Religious NGOs who intend to participate in some part of the HLPF and it will take place on **16 July 2025**. The gathering will serve as an opportunity to meet other delegates, to pray and reflect on hopes and intentions for engagement with the HLPF process, and to ask questions about how to participate.



# Social Media Advocacy

Who to **follow and tag**

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

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

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

Facebook: [@UNECOSOC](#) Instagram: [@un\\_ecosoc](#) Bluesky: [@un-ecosoc](#)

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

Facebook: [@joinUNDESA](#) Instagram: [@undesa](#)  
LinkedIn: [United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)

## **UN Sustainable Development Platform**

Facebook: [@SustDev](#)

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

Facebook: [@GlobalGoalsUN](#)

## **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

#HLPF2025 or #HLPF

#SDGs

#SDG (insert number here)

#LeaveNoOneBehind

#2030Agenda

# Call to Action

Even if you cannot join the SDG discussions at the HLPF, there are many positive actions you can take to make real change for our common future. Visit the United Nation's [Act Now](#) website to learn more about how you can take action, today, to promote sustainable development.

*“Although the greatest challenges before us are daunting, together we can overcome them, [and] achieve the peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future that all people not only need but deserve.*

- Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations,  
Amina Mohammad

