



## **Global Community Hour: June 2023:**

### **SDG 17: Partnerships and Resources for Sustainable Development**

#### **Introduction:**

During the first half of this year's Global Community Hour gatherings, we have taken as our theme one of the issues that will serve as a focus of this year's "High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development." This conference, which takes place each July, is an opportunity for the entire global community to reflect on our progress (or lack of progress) toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. If you are not already familiar with the Sustainable Development Goals, they are, in summary, the UN's plan for addressing a wide range of the world's biggest challenges between 2015 and 2030.

While there are 17 Goals, five have been selected as areas of focus for this year's progress review. This month, we will focus our Global Community Hour on Goal #17: Strengthen global partnership and mobilize resources for sustainable development.

In summary, when we talk about SDG 17, we are talking about working toward:

- Collection and dedication of more national revenue from taxes and other sources to sustainable development
- Increased flow of monetary aid for development from highest income countries to the lowest-income countries
- Relief or restructuring of the debts of highly indebted low-income countries
- Mobilization of private funds for development, especially in the lowest-income countries
- Policies that incentivize or encourage investment in development enterprises in low-income countries
- Enhanced system of sharing technology and knowledge in the areas of science and innovation between countries with the greatest and least technological access
- Exchange of technical assistance and training among countries with different development strengths and capacities
- Greater percentage of the population with internet access
- Fair and equitable trading rules for all countries through the World Trade Organization to ensure all nations have reasonable access to the global market
- Greater cooperation among ministries, departments, and policies within each country's government to ensure they are supporting a common approach to development
- Respect for each country's leadership and evaluation of its own process for poverty eradication and development in cases where other governments or international agencies are providing aid
- All countries with the technical expertise and resources to monitor their own development progress through collection of high-quality data about the real experiences of their people, including data that compares the realities of people in different gender, ethnic, age, or geographic groups

- Significantly increased exports from low-income countries
- Establishment of ways to measure countries' *sustainable* development progress that improve upon the old method of measuring development through the monetary value of the goods a country produces
- Greater collaboration among businesses and among civil society organizations in favor of the achievement of the SDGs
- Greater collaboration between governments, businesses, and civil society organizations in favor of the achievement of the SDGs

With that information in our hands, let us enter into our opening prayer on the theme of partnership and resource provision for sustainable development. We begin with a reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians... (1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 25-27)

**Prayer:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-14, 25-27

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

...There should be no division in the body. Its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

We are gathered here today in friendship and community, taking a moment out of our busy lives,... to learn, share and reflect on the insights, experiences and wisdom of others. As we gather, we are reminded of how blessed we all are.

In the current world around us, we know many who suffer and face grave challenges.

We suffer and stand in solidarity with them.

After each line of prayer, you are invited to respond: **We are partners. We are one.**

Loving Creator,

May we each of us, as individuals, be well, happy, and peaceful, and may no harm come to us...

May each of us exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to overcome inevitable difficulties, problems, and failures in life...

May our parents and siblings, our teachers and mentors, our friends and all members of our communities be well, happy and peaceful, and may no harm come to them...

May they exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to meet and overcome life's challenges...

May all those with whom we share a country be well, happy and peaceful, and may no harm come to them...

May they exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to overcome life's challenges...

May all those with whom we share our faith tradition be well, happy and peaceful, and may no harm come to them...

May they exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to overcome life's challenges...

May the people of every nation and spiritual tradition be well, happy and peaceful, and may no harm come to them...

May they exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to overcome life's challenges...

May every living creature with whom we share the "common home" of planet Earth be well, happy and peaceful, and may no harm come to them...

May they exercise patience, courage, understanding, and determination to overcome life's challenges...

Loving Creator, as one body with many parts, we ask you to awaken us from our long illusion of separateness. We ask that you guide us out of this state of isolation and into a state of genuine solidarity. In the words of Teilhard de Jardin, help us to "discover in each other the elements of a single Spirit in search of itself."

We pray once more: **We are partners. We are one.**

**Amen**