



# TRAINING PROGRAMME for DIGITAL DELEGATES to the 2026 HLPF on SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**Global Call #1: 30 January 2026**

- 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?

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# **Justice Coalition of Religious:**

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Women & Men Religious Working for Global Transformation  
at the United Nations and Around the World

# JCoR: The Justice Coalition of Religious

A Coalition of 24 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:

- Claretian Missionaries
- Company of the Daughters of Charity
- Congregation of the Mission
- Congregation of Notre Dame de Montreal
- Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd
- Congregations of St. Joseph
- Dominican Leadership Conference
- Edmond 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 MISSION:

To facilitate **collaboration among** members and partners of Catholic Religious **congregations** working **at the grassroots and at the United Nations** in order to:

- **strengthen** one another's **capacity for advocacy** and
- **advocate collectively**

for **social, economic, and environmental justice and peace** in international, regional, and national fora.

WHAT DO WE  
MEAN WHEN  
WE SAY  
“**ADVOCACY**”?

QU'ENTENDONS-  
NOUS PAR  
“**PLAIDOYER**” ?

O QUE  
QUEREMOS  
DIZER  
QUANDO  
FALAMOS EM  
“**DEFESA DE  
DIREITOS**”?

¿QUÉ  
QUEREMOS  
DECIR  
CUANDO  
HABLAMOS  
DE  
“**INCIDENCIA  
POLÍTICA**”?

Public or private **actions that promote** movement toward **justice**  
**in** the social, economic, and environmental **systems and**  
**structures of our society**

(e.g. speaking to/informing a community or their political  
leaders, writing letters/statements, joining or organizing  
rallies/demonstrations to address an injustice)

# 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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# VISIT OUR WEBSITE



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

...and [subscribe](#) to our monthly *Bulletin*!

# INTERACT WITH US VIA SOCIAL MEDIA



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[www.linkedin.com/company/jcor2030](http://www.linkedin.com/company/jcor2030)



# **Spiritual Leadership & the United Nations**

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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:

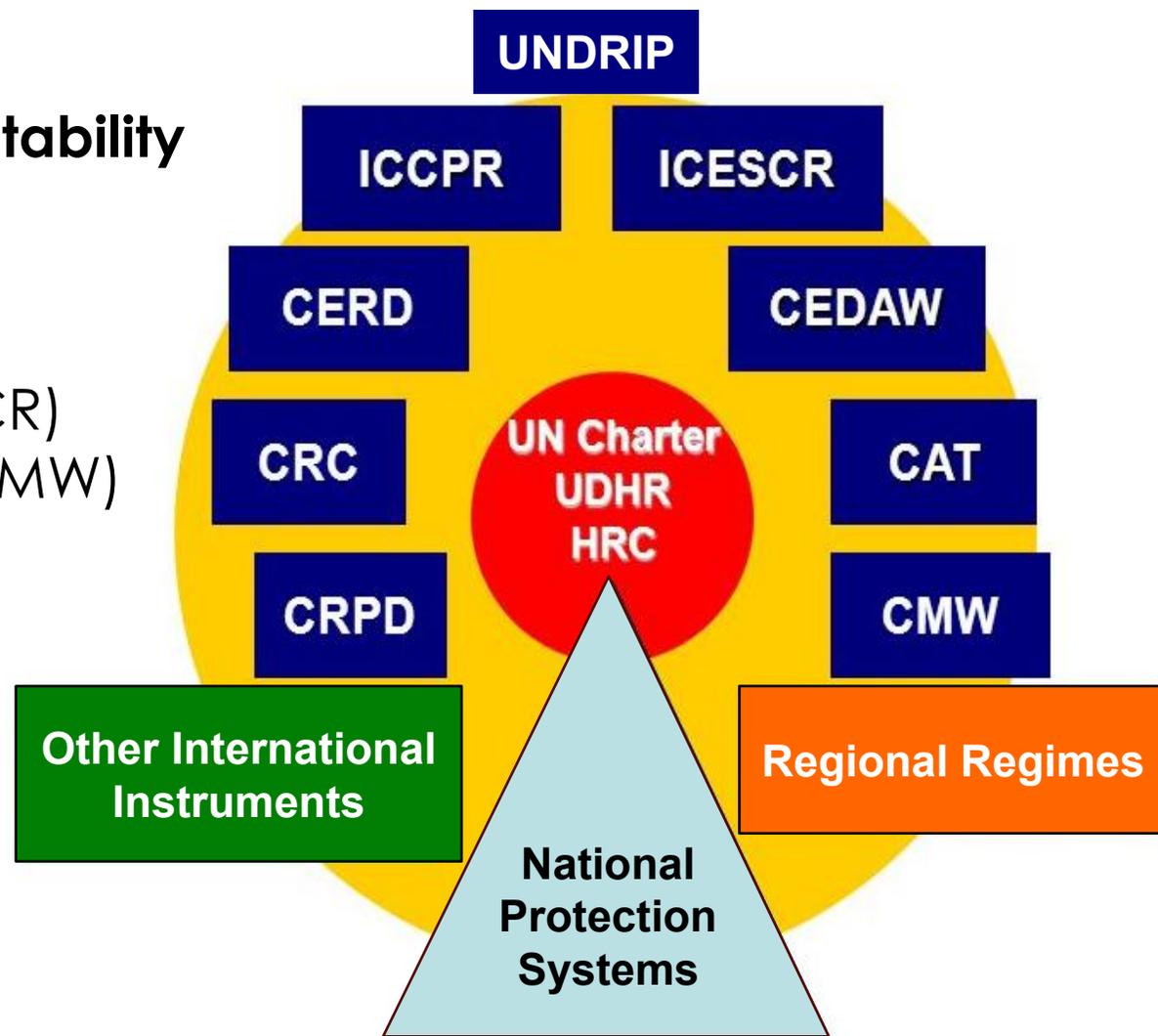
## AND FOR THESE ENDS

- 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...**

# 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)
- Rights of migrant workers & their families (CMW)
- Rights of persons with disabilities (CRPD)
- Rights of children (CRC)
- Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Elimination of discrimination against women (CEDAW)
- Elimination of torture (CAT)
- 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**

# 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*

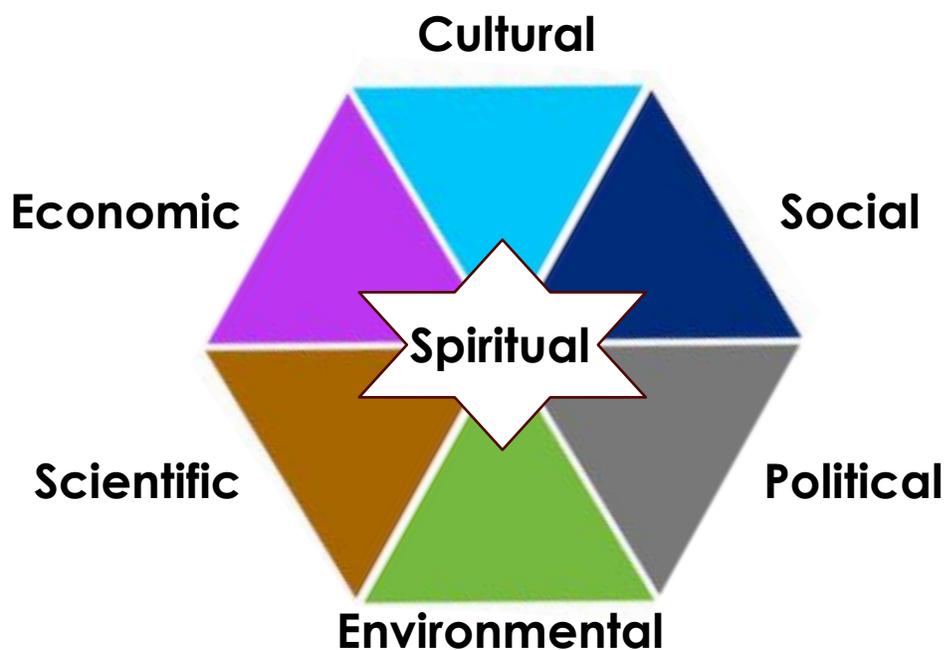
# The SPIRITUAL is POLITICAL

“**[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)



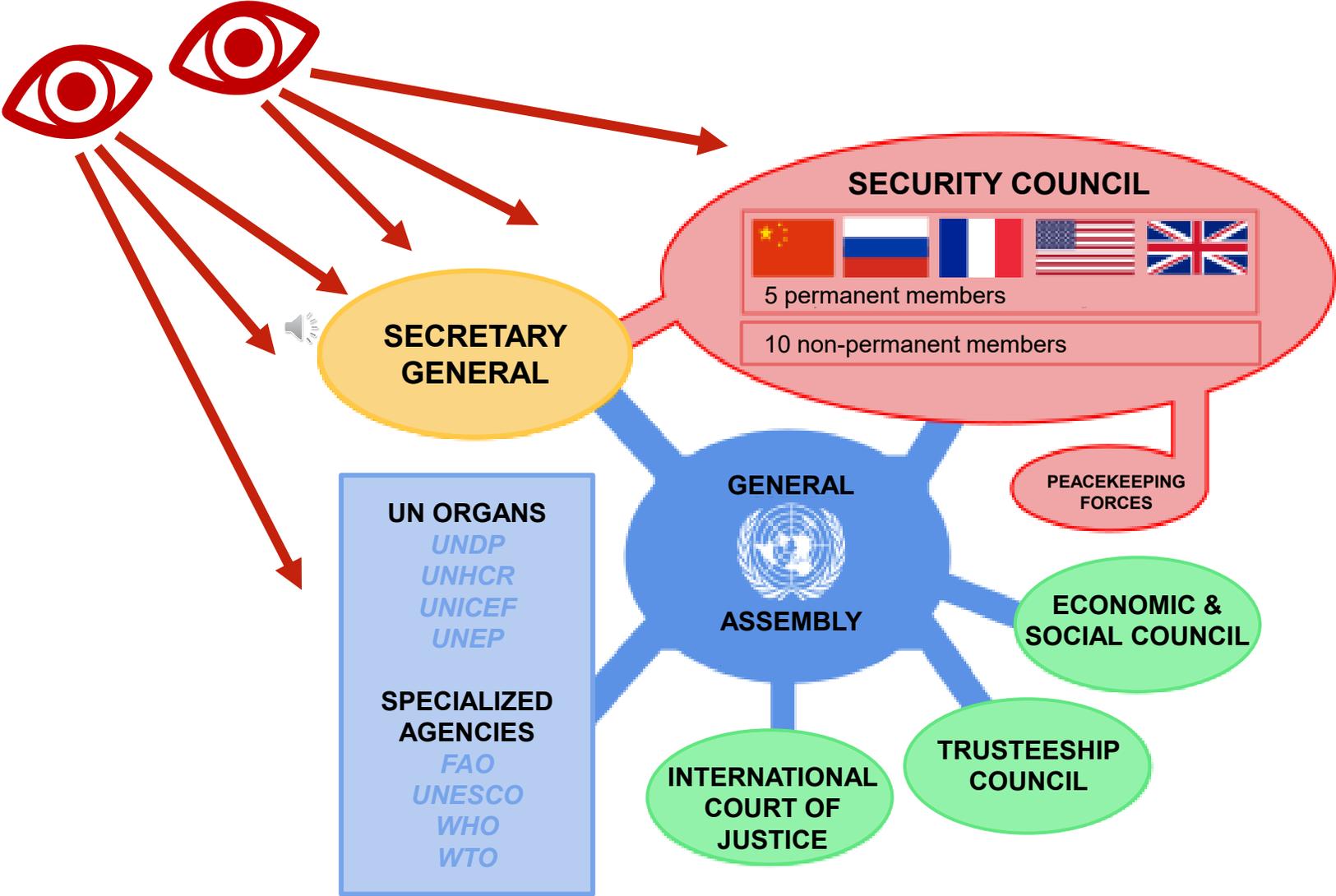
**DO YOU SEE YOUR MINISTRY HERE?  
DO YOU SEE YOUR CONGREGATION'S CHARISM?**

# ***How Religious Congregations Engage with the UN System***



# Catholic Religious NGO Presence at the UN

- From the perspective of the UN system, we are considered **“NGOs”** (non-governmental organizations)
- ~30 NGOs accredited to engage with the UN on behalf of 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 in UN Fora

- **Expert:** provide insights from members' work ministering to most vulnerable and excluded populations
- **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, achievement, or control

# RELIGIOUS ADVOCACY at the UN



# **What Brings Us Together Now**



# SIGNS OF THE TIMES: a CALL to COALITION

- Trend of **smaller numbers of vocations to Religious life** requires us:
  - to adopt creative approaches to ministry that allow us to retain the wisdoms of our unique charisms *while* drawing strength from the greater numbers of all (*Religious and lay*) who hold our mission in common
  - to confront questions of structural justice *beneath* the question of congregational sustainability:
    - *How will the dignity of those we serve be upheld on the day we can no longer provide a particular charitable ministry?*
    - *What system will ensure that community's rights are protected and fulfilled?*
- **Political spaces are becoming more closed** and less receptive to the voices of civil society (i.e. less democratic and less synodal). Speaking with an organized and unified voice allows us to use—and protect—the available spaces and processes 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.



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

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**Our Plan for the**

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

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**2026**

# GLOBAL CALLS

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

- **30 January 2026**
- **20 February 2026**
- **27 March 2026**
- **15 May 2026**
- **30 June 2026**
- **7 August 2026**

**All calls:** 14:00-16:00 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: 24–27 February
  - Arab Region (Western Asia): 31 March–2 April
  - Latin America and the Caribbean: 13–17 April
  - Europe & North America: 21–22 April
  - Africa: 28–30 April
- Two opportunities to meet, share ideas, and make plans with other delegates from your global region:
  - between 9 and 23 February
  - between 22 and 29 June

**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



# PARTICIPATION in the HLPF CONFERENCE DAYS (6-15 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 (27-31 JULY)

- Join at least one of a series of five interactive Zoom calls, each dedicated to one of the themes of the HLPF:
  - **SDG 6**: Safe drinking water and sanitation for all
  - **SDG 7**: Affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
  - **SDG 9**: Resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and innovation
  - **SDG 11**: Inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements
  - **SDG 17**: Resources and partnerships to support all the SDGs
- 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:** 20 February at 14:00 UTC
- **Watch your email box** for:
  - invitation to select a date for a call to meet other delegates from your region between 9 and 23 February
  - slides and video recordings from today's global call (call #1)
  - information and reflection questions to explore ahead of global call #2



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

**Thank you for completing  
PART 1  
of our 2026 Training Programme  
for Digital Delegates to the  
UN High-Level Political Forum  
on Sustainable Development!**



**JOIN US for PART 2:**

20 February 2026

at [14:00-16:00 \(Universal Coordinated Time\)](#)

**REGISTER HERE:**

<http://bit.ly/3ZGaqZS>

