



Information on IBVM at the United Nations Part II at: <http://www.slideshare.net/lbvmunngo/ibvm-ngo-part-ii-structure-communication-and-lessons>

Post 2015: the Question of Inequality. Concern about the challenge posed by growing inequality both within and among countries and the implications of this phenomenon for the promotion of economic and social development is increasing. While a significant decline has been witnessed in world poverty since the Millennium Development Goals were adopted, we cannot say the same about inequality. On the contrary, the empirical evidence shows that inequalities have persisted or even become more severe. A recent UN Report states that four fifths of the world population is living in countries where inequality has increased.



High levels of inequality are associated with high unemployment, diminished contribution of growth to poverty reduction, higher average crime rates, lower average health and education status, social and political instability with more fragile democracy and the worsening of existing fragilities and vulnerabilities.

Numerous studies have shown that excessive inequality impacts negatively on economic and social development. In the context of a new development framework, **addressing inequality is crucial to the achievement of sustainable development objectives and the Post 2015 agenda.**

Sustainable Development. 2013 Earth Overshoot Day was August 20. It was the day our demands on the planet's natural resources exceeded its capacity. Every year the Global Footprint Network calculates the date by which our resource consumption for a given year exceeds the planet's ability to replenish. In the first eight months of 2013, we have exhausted the natural resources that should last all year. We are now dipping into resources that we cannot afford to use.



To help get the planet back on course, the world's governments agreed last year at the Rio+20 Summit to adopt the Sustainable Development Goals. A report entitled **An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development**, the result of a collaboration between top scientists, technologists, businesses, and development specialists, at the request of the General Secretary, is seen as critical input to the work of shaping an ambitious and achievable post-2015 agenda."

It outlines **10 sustainable development priorities**, covering the four main dimensions of sustainable development: **economic growth and the end of poverty, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance.** The next **UN General Assembly** which will take place on Sept. 25, 2013 will be crucial for this purpose.

Recent Events at the United Nations

Global Education First Initiative. Malala Yousafzai may be one of the best-known students in the world, but she is also a teacher. On July 11th, she celebrated her 16th birthday by coming to the United Nations and sharing an important lesson about education -- particularly for girls around the world.



Some 500 youth leaders from 85 countries took part in the special event along with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, now a special UN envoy for global education.

Ban was looking for a person who would have an impact the world with regard to the importance of education and Malala is that person. "Education" he said, "is a fundamental right, an MDG and crucial to mutual understanding and global citizenship.

As a young boy in war-torn Korea, my school was destroyed. My classroom was in the open under a tree. We had little to eat, but we were hungry to learn. Our parents and our government knew the value of education. That understanding transformed my life and my country.

In today's knowledge-based society, education is a foundation for the future we want: a world without poverty, violence, discrimination or disease. Building this future will require a new, concerted push. That is why I launched the **Global Education First Initiative** ".

Upcoming dates. Looking ahead

International Day of the Girl - October 11, 2013, is a day to recognize and celebrate the activism of girls as agents of change in their lives and their community. **For Day of the Girl, WGG is sponsoring a Girls Speak Out at the United Nations**, an event designed to promote girls working to create change in their community. The event focuses on what girls' projects can accomplish when they are fully supported and empowered in their work. We are looking to identify girl activists/change makers working to improve the lives of girls in their communities around the world. Girl presenters will tell their stories of community change and illuminate how the projects girls are working on affect more than just girls, but benefit the entire community.

WGG encourages girls to speak out on issues affecting them in their daily life and to engage in meaningful discussion of action, solutions, and creative problem solving. Providing girls with this opportunity to present the results of their work is an important part of our mission as well as a reflection of the spirit of the International Day of the Girl.

You may like to do something like this or some other activity in your context. Cecilia will be delighted to receive photos and information about your initiatives at ibvmunngo@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you on Facebook:

Loreto IBVM

Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

Cecilia O'Dwyer ibvm