

The 65th Annual UNDP/NGO Conference UN Headquarters from 27 – 29 August 2014.

Title: 2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda
**Theme: The Role of Civil Society in the Post 2015
Development Agenda**

The Conference returns to New York after the 64th Conference was held in Bonn, Germany and previous Conferences were held in Melbourne, Mexico City and Paris. Members of our network attended these conferences and those held in New York up to 2007. It is a major civil society gathering which will provide an opportunity to develop the Post 2015 Agenda. As we are associated with the Department of Public Information it has special relevance for us. More information about the conference can be found in the [“Concept Note”](#) here. Could any members of our network attending or participating in a workshop or panel let me know by the end of June 2014. (ibvmunngo@gmail.com)

The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is in progress from 12 – 23 May 2014. “Good Governance”, this year’s special theme, reminds the world of the long road ahead to achieve the respect and fulfillment of the human rights and dignity of indigenous peoples in every continent. Members of the Institute and our network who work alongside members of indigenous communities are remembered as the gathering in New York highlights historic facts that are yet unsolved.

My World Week of Action

My World Week of Action responds to the desire of the many people who are indignant at the injustice they feel because of growing inequalities and insecurities. Wanting to live without fear of violence or conflict they seek to improve their lives and those of their families. They ask governments to create opportunities for full and equal participation in decisions that affect them as well as in the strategies to address them. These issues must be part of a new agenda including but going beyond tackling the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. It is an opportunity to have our voice heard and to encourage and help others be part of this endeavor. Special emphasis has been put on the 5 – 11 May, 2014. We may vote or organize voting at any time. There will be another call to action in September so you can still organize and encourage more citizen participation.

Model UN in Mauritius.

Loreto Colleges in Mauritius had an exhilarating month of April with their engagement in Model United Nations. Congratulations to students and their teachers. To be up to date on the issues of the UN Member States they represented they had to prepare very well. Congratulations to the authorities in Mauritius who organize the MUN in zones, enabling participation of many schools. As well as providing an energizing exercise in global citizenship, the Model UN encourages skills and attitudes which are necessary to enable us to live in peace in our world. Loreto schools in many countries take part in Model UN, or similar activities, and I am looking forward to hearing from you at our office in New York.



Model UN participants from Loreto College Mahebourg, Mauritius.

The Open Working Group (OWG). What is it? The Open Working Group is a 30 member group from the General Assembly given the task of following up the Rio+20 agreement to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals. The Open Working Group held its first session in March 2013 and is now holding its 11th session. Two more sessions will follow in June and July. In order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience this process involves relevant stakeholders, civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system.. This is an important part of the drawing up of a post 2015 development agenda and is one of a number of processes taking place as we move towards 2015.

Sustainable Development from a Youth Perspective. A recent meeting of Religious NGOs at the United Nations brought the voices of youth to the table. Fairouz, a young woman from Morocco, Daniela from Israel, Nyambura from Kenya, along with a young man from USA, were skyped in as panel members. Nyambura connects sustainable development, with family, society, mission at large, the human race, creation and all of life. Ecology, education, economy and media were highlighted as areas of great concern for some, while access to basic infrastructures such as electricity and internet is for others. All appreciated having the opportunity to communicate and connect with youth from different continents.

Human Trafficking.

Do you think your life has nothing to do with human trafficking? Think again. This is how **Jean Okroi (US)** opens many of her addresses at conferences organized to create awareness of the local dimension of Human Trafficking. Many are surprised and appalled when they become aware of the facts. Jean, recently, organized the Conference, *Human Trafficking :What can we do?* at the Theological Union in Chicago. **Imelda Poole (Albania)**, who plays a significant role in the European Network, Renate, participated in the meeting at the Vatican on Human Trafficking. Although trafficking in human beings is a phenomenon that is not easily talked about, Imelda called on those present to raise their voice against this slavery.

Earth Day celebrated in Peru.

Earth Day in Jicamarca, Lima, Peru was led by a group of Indigenous men and women in the presence of 800 boys and girls and a group of 36 adults. They thanked the earth for the gifts it bestows on us in an Indigenous ceremony called *Pago a la Tierra* of Payment to Earth.



Loreto College Kolkata, India: On April 8, 2014, Loreto College held a Panel Discussion '*The Dialectics of Gender Violence and Gender Equity*' where 6 panelists, - two from the Dept of Women's Studies, a former West Bengal Human Rights Delegation member, a former Police Commissioner, an Army Colonel, and a University teacher from the Dept of Film Studies spoke on the theme and 3 students presented their perspective. A book on the Proceedings of a Human Rights Seminar held in 2011, '*Striving Towards an Inclusive and Vibrant Democracy*' (ISBN No:978-93-80663-82-1) was released in February this year. Congratulations to all involved!

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