

## Why bother about the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

In 2015 a universal sustainable development agenda, applicable to every country, was adopted by the member states of the UN. Known as the SDGs, or Global Goals, these 17 goals were acclaimed as a pathway for the whole of humanity. With the implementation of these goals, the aspiration is that all human beings can fulfil their potential with dignity and equality in a healthy environment. Contained in the SDGs is a promise to protect our planet from degradation. This promise includes achieving sustainable consumption and production, sustainable management of our natural resources and urgent action on climate change. The hope is that the planet can support the needs of present and future generations. By implementing the SDGs peaceful, just and inclusive societies are fostered, free from fear and violence.

Where are we after 3 years? Why bother about them? It could be said that the people do not necessarily need to know about the SDGs as the work goes on anyway. However, in 2018 we that know millions, possibly billions of people are aware of the globalized nature of our reality, which is obvious in aspects of travel, communications, and movements of people. But the globalization of the forces for good may not be so obvious and this can be the case with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. Awareness of this universal tool and how it can help the global community is critical. The implementation, or lack of it, will mean progress or the deterioration of the planet and its inhabitants.



One of the essential roles of civil society is to **REMEMBER** this and ensure that our governments, at all levels, take heed of the seriousness of this global commitment. See how our **Province UN Representatives** will encourage action. You might like to join in the initiatives.

## Preparation for the 2018 Review of the Sustainable Development Goals

Members of our network have taken part in the national and regional preparatory processes of the Review which will take place in New York in July. Libby Rogerson ibvm, has been following the National Voluntary Review in **Australia**. After her

engagement with other civil society groups, she made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the implementation of the SDGs. In her submission she notes the lack of awareness among the general public of the SDGs. Even though every country has committed to implementing the goals at national level she observes that, in the case of her country, the emphasis is more on foreign aid, which is a good thing, but little concentration on issues of national relevance. Read more [here](#).



Libby Rogerson ibvm

Nelly Parada CJ, Viviana Herrera

**Viviana Herrera**, Communications Director Peru and **Sr. Nelly Parada CJ** took part in the Regional Review for Latin America and the Caribbean States in Santiago, Chile in April. The Forum, which consisted of a meeting of civil society groups prior to the main event took place from 16 – 20 April 2018. The concluding document notes that the collective efforts of the past three years

have yielded encouraging results in many areas. However, poverty, extensive inequalities, high global debt and reduced levels of international cooperation are impeding the desirable pace of implementation. Awareness raising of the Sustainable Development Goals has to accelerate, along with the pace of implementation, if we are to secure for the people and planet the objectives committed to. Read the text prepared by our participants [here](#). For further reading on the situation read the outcome document on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean [here](#).

## Interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals

That everything in life is connected and interrelated is a well known fact. It is also true of the 17 SDGs. Let's take, for example, SDG 7 – *ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all*. This year's High-Level Political Forum in July will review our progress on SDG 7. Working at local, national, regional and global levels, we benefit from recognizing the interlinkages that help us, as part of the global community, to **know, reflect and act** to achieve the SDGs. Note how energy, poverty and inequality are connected. Think about energy and education and how are energy, gender and health connected? Read about these connections and see how they combine to contribute to our situation in life. [Click here](#) and allow this information to deepen your awareness of the myriad connections that might seem unrelated.

Thanks to our ibvm and CJ members who contributed reflections on the SDGs to be reviewed in July.

Your involvement is appreciated.

We soon look forward to very interesting documents on your work.

## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND – A PROMISE, A COMMITMENT

### Concern about the Children

As we have been educating children for more than 400 years the situation of the world's children is a concern for us. UNICEF asks us to share this information with our networks. According to new UNICEF data over half a billion children live in countries unable to measure progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNICEF report, [Progress for Children in the SDG Era](#), is the first thematic report assessing performance towards achieving the SDG global targets that concern children and young people. Even where data is available the challenge posed by the SDGs is huge as more than half of the world's children live in countries where it is not possible to track progress. "The world must renew its commitment to attaining the SDGs, starting with renewing its commitment to measuring them" says the UNICEF Director of Data, Research and Policy. Let us keep in mind and in our hearts the 10 million children who die from preventable causes before their fifth birthday, those who are stunted due to lack of adequate nutrition and those who still lack basic drinking water. In spite of many efforts, at least 22 million children still miss out on pre-primary education and 150 million girls marry before their 18th birthday. While we speak in terms of implementing the sustainable development goals for children, our concern is that we offer the opportunity of a dignified life for every child on this planet.



### Indigenous peoples

During the **2018 Forum on Indigenous issues**, Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, [Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), reiterated a concern that has been present in the minds of justice loving people for a long time. "Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources is the concern that indigenous peoples across the world raise most often to me", she said. Even in countries, which have laws recognising these rights, the

implementation is weak. In fact, contradictory laws, such as mining acts, investment laws and forestry and agriculture laws, are better enforced than indigenous peoples' rights laws".

During the Forum, news of the cruel rape and murder of the little Indigenous, Indian girl, Asifa, was reported in the international media. Following an interfaith prayer service in her honour, a number of religious congregations wrote to the Special Rapporteur to bring to her attention the horrifying and growing incidences of sexual violence and extreme brutality being inflicted on girls in different parts of India. Read the letter [here](#). Many of our schools shared images of their silent vigils on Facebook.



## Our Network Responds

### New Fashion Design Learning Centers

The Mary Ward Community, Unnao, Uttar Pradesh, has taken a first step in the field of social development. On 1st May, 2018 the community set up fashion design learning centers in two villages as part of the Province initiative to integrate social ministry into every community in the Allahabad Province, India. Sr Joslette CJ writes about the project.



The first center, Jeevan fashion Design, is situated 15 km from the convent. At the inaugural function, the Head of the Village reminded the girls of the great opportunity this initiative provides them with and encouraged them to make use of it in the best way they could and build their future lives. The second center, Sahara Fashion Design center, is 8 km from the convent. Each center caters for 14 teenage girls, from families living in extreme poverty. All of them have studied just to class 8 (end of primary education), as there are no government High Schools near their village. Due to their poor economic conditions the parents are not able to send the girls

to private schools which are closer to their village. All these adolescent girls stay at home doing house-hold work while the boys work with their fathers at the local tannery to support their families. These village people were fully dependent on the leather factories, but due to the political problems many tanneries were closed down. Many jobs were lost and these people now find it very hard to make a decent livelihood.

### Contributing to Peace in South Sudan

The work of the United Nations in conflict zones consists of peacebuilding with many different dimensions. This year the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) launched a national writing contest on the topic “How can Women contribute to durable peace in South Sudan” on the occasion of International Women’s Day, 8 March 2018.



Khana (centre) Ating (right)

Photo UNMISS

#### Enter Loreto Rumbek!

Loreto Girls’ Secondary School’s Khana Kockedhie and Ating Kaman Makoi won first and third prizes in the regional essay competition. On receiving her award as the winner of the UNMISS essay writing competition in Lakes region, 16-year-old Khana Kockedhie Magel said that women can bring lasting peace in South Sudan - if they are given the chance to do so. Read her brilliant responses and proposals on the [UNMISS](#) webpage.

## EEO – Schools and Fair Trade Schools

Schools from our network collaborate with international campaigns which help broaden vision, understanding and practice of the global reality lived out at local level. **Marie Ward Gymnasium, Bamberg, Germany and Loreto College Curepipe, Mauritius** are examples of this.

Read about Fair Trade Schools Step by Step [here](#).

You will also find information on the ECO-School movement [here](#)



## Decent Work

Productive employment and decent work are key elements to achieving poverty reduction and fair globalization. Decent work means opportunities for work that are productive while delivering a fair income, security in the work place and social protection for families. Having access to decent work provides better prospects for personal development and social integration. Having the freedom for women and men to express their concerns, organize and participate in decision-making and allowing equality of opportunity and treatment are essential to decent work.



Persistently high unemployment creates huge costs for individuals and for the economy as a whole. Some of these costs are difficult to value and measure, especially the longer-term social costs. **This is the case in Spain**, with a present unemployment rate of 16% and for youth under 25 years the rate is 35%. **Louise Latin IBVM, Spain**, shares the statement made on the occasion of an event organized by the local CARITAS groups. They denounce the situations of exploitation experienced by many including the infringement of workers' rights and sub-minimum wages. The statement underlines the indifference, empty speech and promises. "Our presence here is a silent cry" they say, requesting relevant authorities to take steps to solve this problem which is about human beings and families, who lack the

minimum for a decent livelihood. They call each person to take a personal responsibility for defending the human right to dignified work.

### WATCH OUT FOR:

**Global Citizenship Initiative for Youth.** Follow this initiative from Christina Zha, Toronto, [here](#)

**Global Citizenship; Mary Ward Excursion 2018.** Organized by Annette Haseneder, Germany. Some members of the group will have an immersion Day on UN issues on Friday 22 May

**Webinar on World Environment Day 2018:** Is it possible to Save the Future? Register for Saturday 12 May 2018

*NGO Office, New York*

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