

It's your World

BEIJING + 20

Calling on global citizens, UN Women unveiled Beijing+20 campaign on 26 June 2014 at the historic Apollo Theatre in New York. UN Women launched a year-long campaign to spark global dialogue and actions on women's rights and gender equality. The ***Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!*** Campaign commemorates the 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing which set a path-breaking agenda on women's rights in 1995.

"Our goal is to rekindle the spirit of Beijing to re-energize all of us in our work to advance women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality," said UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. Rousing the crowds, she added "the vision laid out in Beijing, with 12 critical areas of concern for women, still resonates deeply around the world. It is still unfinished business."

"The essence of the Beijing vision is that equality for women and girls, equal rights, equal opportunities and equal participation will build a better world for us all ... Remember: nobody can do everything – but everybody can do something. Let's go to work!" said UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson urging participation of women and men from all corners of the world and society.

**EMPOWERING
WOMEN**

**EMPOWERING
HUMANITY**

PICTURE IT!



Men and boys are also speaking out and working silently to promote and support the efforts to eliminate inequalities and all violations of women's human rights. The United Nations' **"He for She"** campaign promotes the involvement of men and boys in taking a stand for women's rights. Its purpose is to raise awareness that working for women's rights is not for women to solve alone. "We believe that the majority of men do not want to see women abused" says Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, "we are saying that by being silent, they actually conspire for the perpetration of violence against women to continue. Men also need to be able to play a role. They are part and parcel of creating the challenges that women face".

What an opportunity to re-energize our work to advance women's rights, women's empowerment and gender equality, inviting men and boys to be part of it and to celebrate" Women doing great Things"!

Sustainable Energy for all Forum

The United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All was launched at the beginning of June 2014 during the recent forum with the same title. It highlights the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development. "Sustainable energy is the golden thread that connects poverty eradication, equitable economic growth and a healthy environment," said Ban Ki-moon in his opening address. About 2000 participants from civil society took this opportunity to hear what others are doing and thinking about sustainable energy. We are at the point of a fundamental change in the kind of energy the world will use. The next few years will bring amazing changes around the world. It is about people and it is about the planet. A sense of excitement accompanied those present. Access to diverse types of sustainable energy was addressed by several exponents. This forum comes as member States are discussing the Sustainable Development goals and less than four months before the **Climate Summit** which will be held on 23 September 2014. I would like to share with you the following question which we were asked to think about at the forum:

1. Think of a woman living in a place with no access to energy (electricity). Name all the implications you can think of.
2. Think of a girl living in a place with access to energy: name the implications for her. Learn more at : www.se4all.org

#BRING BACK OUR GIRLS



Loreto Australia student leaders connected to organize an awareness raising action on behalf of the kidnapped Nigerian girls. The response across our schools in Australia, on behalf of girls of the same age in Nigeria, captured their sense of helplessness and desire to do something. They are all young women wanting and appreciating education and are aware that this is not the only example of the violation of girls' rights around the world. They encourage girls to investigate these issues through internet links and by participating in international actions. Thanks girls!

Welcome to those who are coming!

Even if you cannot make it to New York, you are invited to feel part of the **65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference on "2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda" taking place at UN HQ (NY), 27-29 August 2014**. The Conference will provide an opportunity for civil society, international networks and activists to develop an "Action Agenda" to mobilize messaging, advocacy strategies, partnerships and accountability frameworks. Why? The conference is taking place just before the beginning of the intergovernmental negotiations, These negotiations will take place during the 69th session of the General Assembly, that is during the remainder of 2014 and throughout 2015 right up to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, due to culminate at a Summit in September 2015. During this time civil society can influence their governments on issues of concern.

How can I prepare? Download the *Progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals* at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3238summaryallowg.pdf>

It will give you a good idea of the process and main components of the upcoming sustainable development agenda!



United Nations Environment Assembly

The **First United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)** with over 1065 participants, 163 Member States, 113 Ministers and 40 Events was **held from 23 - 27 June 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya**. "Our gathering here today is indeed historic," said President Kenyatta during the opening ceremony. "It underscores the strength of global resolve to address grave environmental challenges". Another high level representative noted that "We need to capitalize on this opportunity. We need to send a clear message that we are planning for a future in which there is **a single agenda in the United Nations, and that is a sustainable one**".

"The air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil that grows our food are part of a delicate ecosystem that is increasingly under pressure," said Ban Ki-moon at the closing session.

"We need to act decisively to change humanity's relationship with our planet". "This is just the beginning. Change is in the air. Solutions exist," he added. "**We are now poised for the crucial next phase of human development,**" he said.



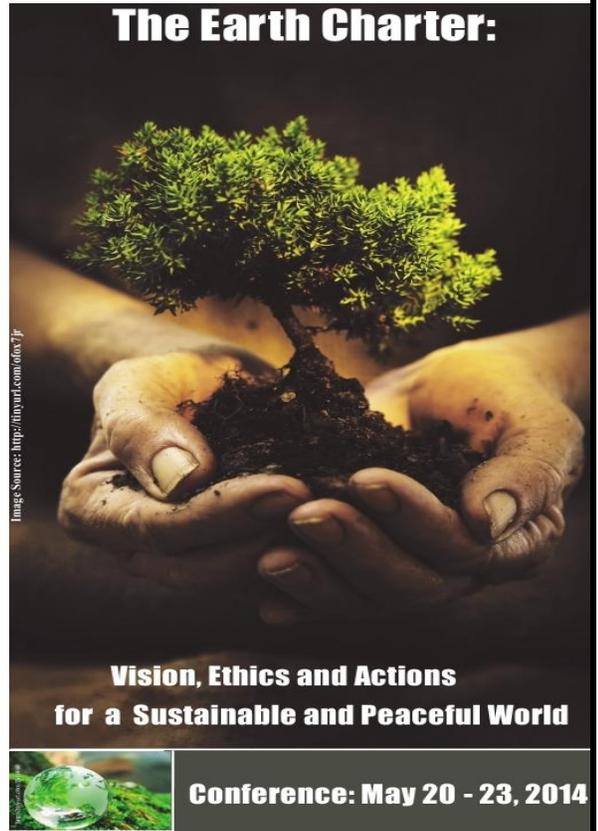
UNEA is a result of the call made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Brazil in June 2012, to strengthen the efforts already being made in setting the global environmental agenda. The inaugural UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) concluded its five-day deliberations with decisions and resolutions that encourage international action on major environmental issues ranging from production and consumption, air pollution and the illegal trade in wildlife, to plastic debris in the oceans, chemicals and waste.

The Earth Charter

Mary Ward Center, Toronto, recently hosted a conference on the Earth Charter. "The idea for this conference began back in October of 2013. We brought a group of 47 students and adults to New York to visit the United Nations and to take part in a course with Partnership for global justice", said Ann McGowan, Director of Mary Ward Center as the conference in her opening address. "The issue of our ecological crisis and sustainability which made an impact on the students in New York continues to be at the forefront of our consciousness" and what better way to increment that awareness than by organizing the conference.

The Earth Charter is considered the ethical framework our world needs as it moves towards the next phase of Development Goals. Addressing the IBVM members and friends Ann said "You have chosen to be with us so that you may grow, learn, broaden your understanding and hopefully shift your consciousness and move into action". The Earth Charter encourages all people to respect and care for the community of life, to promote sustainable and ecological integrity, contribute to a society built on social and economic justice and to build a culture of peace.

The Earth Charter:



Preparing for the Day of the Girl 2014.

The **International Day of the Girl** (Oct. 11) is the day for girls to celebrate girls and their unique place in the world today. We have celebrated this day throughout our IBVM network since it was inaugurated in 2011. This year we keep on celebrating girls and giving them opportunities to make their voice heard. The 2014 International Day of the Girl will hold the **2nd Annual Girl Speak Out** Event.

Speak Out!

It will focus on telling the stories of girls from around the world. "Tell us your story for this year's **2nd Annual IDG Girls Speak Out at the United Nations** in New York City!" says the Working Group on Girls". "Reflect on a specific moment in your life when you thought to yourself, **"THIS is what it means to be a girl!"** It could be a brave act, a moment of connection, a time when you overcame an obstacle, a life turning point, a best friend adventure, or a silly celebration. Then send it to us! We are looking for original stories, poems, artwork, videos, photos, songs, or declarations about what it means to be a girl where you live! They will select "a diverse collection of bold, sensitive, funny, powerful, everyday stories of girls' lives to be performed LIVE by girls during at the United Nations in New York City on Friday, October 10th". And they will also feature a select collection of stories on the IDG Summit site for the entire month of October in celebration of IDG 2014.

www.DayoftheGirlSummit.org



Networking to STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In recent months some members of the IBVM network on Human Trafficking have been meeting online to exchange experiences and consider its role in the larger Institute commitment to justice. The ways in which we are addressing the issue vary but the overwhelming concern around this form of modern slavery is ever present and evokes passionate concern. Even though all have not been able to join in the conversations yet, the flow of information through the email network, which was established some years ago, continues. At the moment I am in contact with Albania, Australia, Canada, India, Kenya, Peru, South Africa, Spain, and United States with the hope that we can build an online network. The commitment at General Leadership through UISG and the UN Office give our commitment to ending this serious situation in our world a global Institute dimension. There may be other members of our network who are working on this concern and would like to be part of this network. If so could you contact me at ibvmunngo@gmail.com

NGO Office Relocation.

After seven years at 211 43rd Street, the lease terminated giving us 30 days to find and move to a new location. The congregations of the Daughters of Charity and IBVM continue to share office space at the new location - 747 3rd. Avenue. We are closer to the United Nations Headquarters and surrounded any young men and women with young organizations.

The remains of the Day at 211 43rd St!



Learn+assess+pray+act+advocate

"For a more humane, just and sustainable world"

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