

Welcome to UN Update No 37. We are happy to share information and links to documents on significant issues recently discussed at the UN and exciting news about you, Mary Ward Network.

Sustainable Development Financing

A world of prosperity and peace for all people and our planet was the aim of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It still is even though we are lagging. Effective financing is essential for the advancement of sustainable development. A Financing for Development Follow – Up Forum is held annually to facilitate sound financing in every country. This year the Forum was held from 15 – 18 April 2019. An NGO Committee on Financing for Development, and a larger world-wide network work together to promote a system that is transparent, just and inclusive. The UN Office follows this Forum carefully and this year we want to share the documents prepared for our readers to highlight issues that are relevant for a better understanding of the issue: [National Financing Methods](#), [The Challenges Facing Financing for Development](#), the question of [Public- Private Partnerships](#) and a [Brief Overview of the 2019 Forum](#). During the Forum we co-sponsored an event on **Privatization of Public Goods and Services: A Human Rights Perspective**.



The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 22 April – 3 May 2019



The Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is a special time for many at the United Nations. When we look at those who are left behind around the world, we find that more often than not the indigenous people are among those least considered, and the women, the most victimized. Despite centuries of oppression, they are slowly rising up in dignity and with much to teach those of us who have lost connection with the deep roots that bind us to the earth and our communities. This year the focus of the forum was on “Traditional Knowledge: generation, transmission and protection”. We attended the official sessions

and many side-events held during two weeks. Read about [Traditional Knowledge](#) and its relevance for us today. [Human Trafficking in Indigenous Communities](#) is painful and [Violence against Indigenous Women](#) rampant. Read about these important questions for a group of people who are so easily forgotten.

United Nations Forum - Santiago, Chile and Nairobi, Kenya

Preparations for the review of the SDGs are held at regional locations each year. Progress is being made in our participation at the regional level. For two years we have participated in the Latin-American and Caribbean Forum. Nairobi is the Headquarters of UN Environment Program and of UN Habitat and we are beginning to avail of this opportunity to engage in the international arena as well.

Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

The Third meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development took place from 24-26 April and was preceded by civil society activities from 22-23 April. Clemen Rivas CJ, Argentina, Eliana Dias CJ, Brazil, Nelly Parada CJ, Chile, and Viviana Herrera Peru, were our representatives. This year, our participants were able to converse with government and UN representatives at the parallel events held during the forum.

The environment and climate change as questions of survival on our planet were repeated and we are called to take them seriously.

Older adults were active and full of energy, advocating for countries of the region to sign and ratify the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human rights of Older Persons. Poverty and hunger leave them with searing situations which need to be addressed effectively.

Young people called for education to equip them with the skills needed for the 21st century and for teachers who are passionate, holistic educators. Read their [Statement](#) in Spanish language here.



UN– Nairobi, Kenya



The last UN Update mentioned our presence at the **4th United Nations Environment Forum** and Sr. Mary Owens' thoughts on it. This time **UN Habitat** occupies our attention.

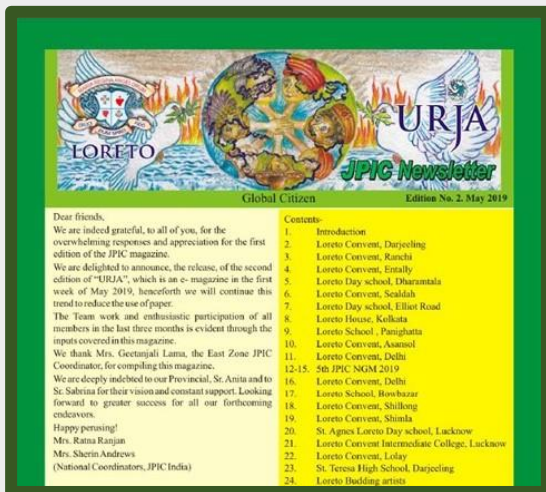
What is UN Habitat? Go to <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitat-at-a-glance/>. It is about where we live and how we make the living conditions of all humans safer, affordable and sustainable so that all can live in dignity, as is our human right. **The First Assembly of UN Habitat**, was held in Nairobi from 27 – 31st May with civil society activities on 25 – 26 May. Five participants from Kenya represented us - Clemenciah, Ranier and Maureen IBVM, Mbas Benjamin, a colleague from a project in the Kibera slum, and Saraphina, from Tangaza University, Nairobi.

As it is the first Assembly of UN Habitat issues such as civil society engagement must be addressed. Policies and procedures have to be created and it is, therefore, important, at this early stage, that we contribute. Essential topics related to cities and human settlements must be discussed. Climate crisis is ever present and the need for innovative proposals and possible solutions are absolutely necessary. Some of the main challenges that continue to haunt us are: food security, air pollution, lack of information and discrimination. Because of the enormous movement of peoples everywhere, migration is a serious challenge. The official New Urban Agenda, which deals in depth with sustainable cities and addressing slum settlements, needs to be known by the people. As we forge partnerships all need to be involved if we are to reach the most impoverished and produce better results. “Nothing for us without us” is what they ask of the international community.

From Our Network

It is wonderful when schools from around the world share their initiatives and contribute to the ideals and values of the United Nations. When we communicate the ways our educational endeavors contribute to any, several or all of the Sustainable Development Goals, it ensures us that we are together in a global task for the spiritual, moral and material benefit of humankind on the planet we inhabit.

UNJA - INDIA



Recently, National JPIC Coordinators Mrs Ratna Ranjan and Mrs Sherin Andrews (India) shared URJA with us. Compiled by Mrs. Geetanjali Lama and Team, this issue explores what it means and what is involved in being a Global Citizen. Through personal reflections, poetry and art, students address many aspects of the theme and the interlinkages. The edition records the National General Meeting of Justice, Peace and Integrity, the Model United Nations (MUN) and the students’ participation in the preparatory process for the ECOSOC Youth Forum held in New York in April. Read their impressive contribution [here](#).

LCC GO GREEN

Loreto Curepipe, Mauritius, shares its recent edition of [LCC GO GREEN Newsletter](#) where the many ways in which they are working to make our planet a clean, sustainable and habitable place to live are recognized. Quixotic Dendere and Shanelle Li, the 2019 Presidents of Go Green Club, state that “as Presidents of the club we will not slacken the club's efforts to make our school a greener one. With dedication and hard work, we will walk in our previous club members' steps to maintain our status as an Eco-School. We will always be aiming higher and higher because mitigating our negative impact on the planet will not stop until the whole human population is conscious of the consequences of her actions on the environment”.



Quixotic Dendere and Shanelle Li

AND BACK IN NEW YORK.....

Online meeting on Migration

The CJ/IBVM Network on Migration was launched recently. This is a good space for those of us either in direct contact with or with a specific interest in the migrant community at local or international level. Read the presentation shared during the first meeting [here](#).

Global Citizenship

Global Citizenship - integrating the concept and values of global citizenship is an ongoing process. View this [video](#) and download the [flyer](#) with the main ideas.

Elected Members of the UN Security Council

We usually hear about the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – France, UK, Russia, China and United States. The remaining 15 elected members are less obvious. However, from what we observe, member states are very happy to be elected and do a certain amount of campaigning. This year some of the contestants were invited to a conversation with Member States and civil society.

We attended a session in which the Ambassador of candidate country, Estonia, provided helpful information. Read a [Q&A](#).



Reflection on an Immersion Experience.

Kathryn Keigher IBVM, from the English Province, is enjoying an immersion experience with us at the moment. Kathryn has found a “cosy corner” at the UN where she feels at home as she moves between meetings on a variety of issues. “Leave no one behind” is the mantra she hears. Read her reflection on the experience to date [here](#).

Outer Space and Sustainable Development on Planet Earth

The potential of Space-based services and technologies in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development goals has been discussed on several occasions at United Nations meetings.

The importance of the role of Earth Observation and geolocation was recognized in the 2030 sustainable development Agenda. However, we also know that these services and technologies are key to understanding climate change and many other areas of life. See what Space can do for each Sustainable Development goal in [Space4SDGs](#).



NGO Office, New York

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