

SND - NGO UNITED NATIONS Update

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Collaboration of the Congregational UN and JPIC Ministries

The UN congregational ministry of advocacy on issues of women, girls, migration, human trafficking and attention to those living in poverty was begun in 2007. The dream of having a coordinator for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation was realized one year ago. The process of learning to work together so that there is unity from the grass roots to the level of international diplomacy is a privilege for both Sr. Mary Jo Toll and Sr. Mary Pat Dorobek. As can be seen on the congregational website, Sr. Mary Pat has diligently focused already on preparing the groundwork for familiarizing herself, formators, provinces, and the US National JPIC leaders to participate in the Union of International Superiors General's focus groups. She traveled to New York for the Commission on the Status of Women in the spring, and both Sisters will begin visiting Sisters at the grass roots level to meet them and learn how they (Pat and Mary Jo) can, in their distinct roles, assist in responding to the practical issues in which our Sisters minister with so much competency and dedication. Here, pictured, are the two Sisters speaking with a minister of the Permanent Mission of Fiji, who is Chair of the negotiating group *G-77 and China* for 2013.



High Level Conference on International Water Cooperation

“Blue gold” is a term used by the many people who increasingly realize the inequality of access to water. Despite the fact that more attention has been given to our need to conserve and share water resources, still 5,000 children die each day due to preventable diseases caused by lack of access to clean water and sanitation. At the UN, Tajikistan is taking the lead in gathering governments to address water management, build capacity to use and apply information for better decision making, and include women and girls as stakeholders and leaders of change in planning that affects their daily lives. As those who, in Africa, walk an average of 3,7 miles for water to do the daily cooking, washing, and laundry, and are 80 % of the world's agricultural workers, women and girls need a voice in making decisions to reduce poverty, reduce maternal and child mortality, and improve food and water security. Water touches every facet of life and its complexity makes water a challenging issue to discuss. Below is one website which may assist us in educating ourselves and others: <http://www.unwater.org/water-cooperation-2013/water-cooperation/en/> A UN Fact Sheet can be found at: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet35en.pdf>



United Nations Orientations and Commissions

A meeting of the United States leaders of Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation in July has sparked renewed interest in participation in UN Orientations and Commissions.

The list of orientations for all interested Sisters will appear shortly on the website of the *Partnership for Global Justice*: <http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/>

In addition, here is list of *commissions* in which Sisters may have an interest to attend or follow online:

February 11 – 21, 2014: 52nd Commission on Social Development (CSocD 52)

Theme: Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all

<http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2014.aspx>

March 10 – 21, 2014: 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 58)

Theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/58sess.htm>

April 7 – 11, 2014: 47th Commission on Population and Development (CPD 47)
Theme: Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/previous-sessions/2014/index.shtml>

May 12 – 23, 2014: 13th Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII 13)
Theme: Principles of good governance consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
<http://undesadspd.org/IndigenousPeoples.aspx>

United Nations Youth Envoy

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Ahmad Alhindawi of Jordan as his Envoy on Youth. Mr. Alhindawi will work to address the needs of the largest generation of youth the world has ever known. The goal of the office is to increase youth accessibility (including marginalized youth and young women and girls) to the United Nations. Actions supporting this goal are: 1) establish a new body, the *United Nations Panel on Youth*, 2) hold the first ever Regional ECOSOC Youth Forum in 2014 and the Global Youth Forum in 2015, 3) facilitate more youth participation in programmes at the United Nations, and 4) encourage more governments to participate in the Youth Delegate Program, which includes young persons in government delegations for the opening weeks of the General Assembly.



Malala Yousafzai Ambassador for education and spokesperson for equality, Malala spent her sixteenth birthday at the United Nations, thanking well wishers all over the world for their prayers and encouragement in the wake of the attempt on her life. She applauded UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his Global Education First Initiative and thanked UN Envoy Gordon Brown for his leadership. Then she continued, “So here I stand, one girl, among many. I speak not for myself, but so those without a voice can be heard. Those who have fought for their rights. Their right to live in peace. Their right to be treated with dignity. Their right to equality of opportunity. Their right to be educated...I am here to speak for the right of every for every child.” Malala continued, acknowledging the influence of Jesus, Mohammed, Ghandi, Bacha Khan, Mandela, and Mother Teresa, among others. She spoke of the power of forgiveness that she learned from her father and from mother and said that her soul is telling her to be peaceful and love everyone. In order to hear the entire speech, you can go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/lfj7xzx>



October 11: Second Annual UN International Day of the Girl

Preparations for the second annual Day of the Girl are underway, both at UN Headquarters and on the web. Look for information at: <http://dayofthegirlsummit.com/> There will be 11 days of events and online activities, beginning with October 1. On this first day, *The Working Group on Girls* will be co-hosting with *My World* in an online consultation regarding the progress of the MDGS with respect to girls potential and their rights. Closing the 11 days of action will be a *Girls Speakout* hosted by Canada, Turkey, and Peru; this will be webcast live – from 3-5 p.m. (EST) on the website and then will be archived. Share with us your celebration of the International Day of the Girl and we will feature this in the next news letter.



More information about Commissions and Activities can be found on our UN SNDs blog: www.sndatun.wordpress.com and on the UN SNDs face book page: <http://tinyurl.com/3ccvyc3> Look for educational aids on the UN website: www.un.org under “Cyber School bus”