



SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART AT THE UNITED NATIONS

Seeking Justice with the Heart of an Educator

July 5-15, 2022



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2022 HLPF (High Level Political Forum) Theme: “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

Purpose of the annual HLPF: for UN States to review and report on their progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Each year, approximately 40 UN States volunteer to present a Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Role of Civil Society: to ensure that the voice of the people is represented at the HLPF.

The 2022 Sacred Heart delegation included:

- Argentina: Victor Busquet and Silvana Ferez, rscj
- Italy: Yolanda Jimenez Delgado, JPIC Assistant Rome (Antonella Aloisi, rscj accompanied the delegation in spirit and prayer)
- Philippines: Rena Bersola, JPIC Learning Hub Assistant, Candice de Ausen Jungao, Food for Hungry Minds, Beth Sulleza, rscj
- UN-NGO: Sheila Smith, rscj



Victor and Silvana



Yolanda



Antonella



Candice



Rena



Sheila

In November 2021, the Provincials and JPIC Links in Argentina-Uruguay (ARU), Italy (ITA), and the district of the Philippines (PHI), were invited to submit applications to be part of the 2022 Sacred Heart delegation to HLPF. In December 2021, the delegation members were accepted and contacted. Preparation began in January 2022.

Preparation for HLPF 2022 was organized and moderated by JCoR (Justice Coalition of Religious). The Society of the Sacred Heart is a member of JCoR and as such was also part of the larger JCoR delegation. We joined many other religious congregations and added our contributions to the collective JCoR voice.

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The JCoR 2022 HLPF Delegation Programme included training sessions on the following themes, among others:

- What is the Justice Coalition of Religious (JCoR)?
- What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- What is the role of Religious congregations in the UN system and the SDGs?
- What is the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)?
- What are Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)?
- How does civil society participate in the VNR process and in the HLPF?

Some of our Sacred Heart delegation members joined local and regional civil society groups and helped to prepare shadow reports. We also contributed to the joint civil society response to the Ministerial Declaration outcome document for the 2022 HLPF. Some main points in the civil society response include:

- deep disappointment and frustration with the 2022 Ministerial Declaration
- dismay at no actionable path mandated or solid political leadership to meet the urgent current global challenges
- call to governments to make timely and responsible decisions to face the crises of our times, while upholding the human rights framework, gender equality and environmental integrity

JCoR organized a series of SDG Labs on the SDGs that were under review at the 2022 HLPF. They were: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 14 (Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems), SDG 15 (Healthy Terrestrial Ecosystems), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Recordings of the full events in English, French and Spanish can be viewed on the JCoR YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=jcor+-+justice+coalition+of+religious

Contributions by the Sacred Heart delegation: The Sacred Heart delegations members made contributions to the Labs on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Recordings of the all the Sacred Heart delegation's contributions can be found on the JPIC Learning Hub on the UN-NGO page: <https://rscj-jpic.org/about/un-ngo-office>. The presentations made by the Sacred Heart delegation are:

SDG 4 – Quality Education

- Victor Busquet: Analysis of Argentina's VNR regarding SDG 4
- Candice de Ausen Jungao: Food for Hungry Minds as an implementation of SDG 4
- Beth Sulleza and Rena Bersola: Saint Madeleine Sophie Foundation as an implementation of SDG 4
- Yolanda Jimenez Delgado: SDG 4 and the situation of children of migrants in Italy

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

- Candice de Ausen Jungao: Food for Hungry Minds as an implementation of SDG 17
- Yolanda Jimenez Delgado: The Sacred Heart JPIC Database as a contribution to SDG 17

Other Society-sponsored events:

- 1) The Society of the Sacred Heart co-sponsored two other events at the 2022 HLPF. As a member of JCoR, we were a co-sponsoring organization to a side-event called, Delivering SDG 4.7: Catholic Religious Organisations and the Lifelong Formation of Global Citizens / Impulso al ODS 4.7: Organizaciones eclesiales por la Educación para la Ciudadanía Global. The event brought together the voices of faith-based organisations from the Catholic tradition, which have a presence across many global regions, to share good practices and recommendations with respect to the achievement of SDG 4's Target 7 (to ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development).
- 2) The Society of the Sacred Heart also co-sponsored a side-event called, Invest in SDG 4.7 to Unleash the Transformative Power of Education. The event addressed the critical need for a holistic education focused on target 7 of SDG 4.

Next Steps:

- 1) The 2022 Sacred Heart delegation to the HLPF will meet again via Zoom to debrief with the larger JCoR delegation, and among ourselves.
- 2) The Sacred Heart delegation will hold an online event for the entire Family of the Sacred Heart to share our learnings and ways forward.
- 3) The process for selecting the 2023 Sacred Heart delegation will begin in November.