



## Update: December 2015

### **WE STAND WITH THE WORLD:**

UNANIMA and all its member communities stand in solidarity with the people of all nations experiencing terrorism and other forms of violence. At this holy season of Christmas we pray for peace for all.  
#PrayForTheWorld

### **TWEET FOR THE CSocD:**

The NGO Committee on Social Development is working hard to create interest in the February 2016 meeting of the **UN Commission on Social Development** (CSocD). As the first UN Commission to be held after the approval of the Sustainable Development Goals, there is a great deal of interest in the procedures it will set up. NGOs are hoping it will create some good precedents relating to how much civil society is allowed to participate. With the rest of the NGO Executive Committee, Michele has visited some of the UN ambassadors and staff who are members of the "Bureau" (like a steering committee) – notably the Romanian Ambassador (the new chair of the Bureau of the

Commission on Social Development) and the vice-chair from the Dominican Republic. Both seemed pleased to have a promise of help from civil society, and we hope that provision can be made for more NGO participation.

The theme of the Commission this year is "Rethinking and Strengthening Social Development in the Contemporary World." You can join the social media campaign, running from mid-November until the February 3-12 Commission. If you Tweet, follow @NGO\_CSocD or like them on Facebook  
<https://www.facebook.com/NGO-CSocD-629688843838943/?ref=hl>

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW IN HAITI:**

Next year Haiti is one of the countries scheduled for its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in October/November 2016. This process, which looks at how a country upholds the human rights of its citizens, occurs at the UN headquarters in Geneva. Some of our NGOs are going to begin meeting late in November of this year to explore a possible strategy to get the facts from our members "on the ground" in Haiti. The written submission for the UPR is due in March 2016. If any of our readers are able to suggest which issues or concerns are a priority for your members, let us hear from you. We are especially interested in looking at the right to water / sanitation, mining and gender-based human rights issues, though we are anxious to hear all your concerns. Here are some links to information about the UPR:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/BasicFacts.aspx> (all 7 UN languages)

<http://www.upr-info.org/NGO-.html> (English, French, Spanish)

#### **COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN:**

The 60<sup>th</sup> session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** will

take place at the United Nations from 14 to 24 March 2016. Representatives of member states, UN entities, and [accredited non-governmental organizations \(NGOs\)](#) from all regions of the world will attend the session. The Priority Theme is “women’s empowerment and its link to sustainable development.” They will also consider the review theme from three years ago, “the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.”

See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016>

### COMICS UNITED NATIONS:



Understanding the “World’s Largest Lesson”—the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—will soon be within the reach of everyone. This project is going to create and distribute *The Comics Guide to the Global Goals*, 17 original short comic books, one for each of the SDGs. They will be produced by a

diverse group of famous cartoonists from all over the globe, and translated into many languages, for an estimated audience of 100 million people. Can you

imagine the Secretary General hitting “Mr. Poverty” with a big ... POW?



### COLOR CODING THE SDG INDICATORS:

If you have been following the development of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) you know that under each goal is a list of “targets” that address different aspects of the goal, then under each target will be a list of “indicators,” or ways that targets can be measured. While the SDGs and their targets were approved in September, the indicators are still under construction. At the recent meeting of the Interagency and Expert Group on Sustainable

Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) in Bangkok, the members reached general agreement on 159 of the more than 200 draft indicators for the SDGs. They color-coded the list of draft indicators, marking those on which they reached general agreement green, and those which need additional work yellow or grey. For three days in November, the IAEG SDG allowed the rest of the world to give electronic comments on the green indicators. The input provided then will be considered in the final phase of preparation of the set of indicators to be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission.

**THE UN HAS A SENSE OF HUMOR:**

This appeared outside the UN to celebrate “World Toilet Day” on 19 November. A humorous bow to a serious subject, considering 1 in 3 people still don’t have a basic toilet, with all the implications that has for disease spread and water quality. Tweet



#WeCantWait and share your support for #goal6 !

**NGO TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE MAILING LIST:**

Anyone interested in being on an open listserv (Google group mailing list) from the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons? You can sign up through the following link. It is open and may be shared widely. Sorry, it is only in English. <http://eepurl.com/bE8-mL>

## YOU ARE INVITED:

In the lead up to the Paris Climate Meeting in December, EarthAction invites you to post your writing about climate change on our website: [earthaction.org](http://earthaction.org). We are interested in short pieces (500 words) from diverse voices from around the world. Longer pieces will have a 'read more' link. Include photos or videos. Share your views on local and international environment, development, peace, and justice issues as they relate to climate change. If you have an issue or point of view that you would like to tell the world about, follow the link below!

<http://www.earthaction.org/submissions-page-.html>

(EarthAction, launched in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, is a global network of over 2,500 organizations, and individuals, policymakers, and journalists in more than 150 countries. EarthAction is a lead sponsor of the Citizens 2015 Global Climate Agreement Campaign.)

- **KEEPING IN TOUCH FROM PARIS:**

Stacy Hanrahan and Michele Morek from the UNANIMA Office, as well as sisters from other UNANIMA communities, will be at the Paris UN Climate Change talks. They will send daily updates which Tori will post on the front page of the website under "Latest Updates." The website is located at this address:

[www.unanima-international.org](http://www.unanima-international.org)

- **FLASH POINTS:**

The **Religious of Jesus and Mary** who are working in Syria sent this story about one of the families they are helping: S. H., 35 years old, is married with four children. Her husband forced her at knifepoint to work as a prostitute. When she came to the sisters for protection, they rented a house for her, and gave her some money. Now she is working as a maid in three homes but still struggling financially. Her 16 year old daughter left school when she was in sixth grade, because of the problems between her parents. The sisters encouraged her to resume

her education, and got her a private tutor. They also got a tutor for a very intelligent younger son, who failed his sixth grade studies last year because of the chaos in his country.

- The **Missionaries of the Sacred Heart** (Cabrini Sisters) run a center for immigrant services in Dobbs Ferry, NY. It has been providing services for immigrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, and their families / communities since 1999. The center has impacted thousands of individuals from over 103 countries.

- Thanks to local and international funds, the **Daughters of Wisdom** of the Philippines were able to help 258 families affected by Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) that hit the country in November 2013. They are still helping people to re-build their houses in Bantayan Island, Hagnaya, Bogo, San Remigio, and Daang Bantayan in the Northern part of Cebu, Philippines. Through the shelter provided, the people can start dreaming again of a better life. Many other people are still waiting for a home and work.



- The **Sisters of Saint Anne** have been very engaged in the development of the Sustainable Development Goal documents. They sent input to the UN on each draft document developed for the Post 2015 agenda! They made suggestions on indicators and were especially active in supporting the inclusion of the human right to water in the political declaration.

# Merry Christmas!

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