

PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE - UN UPDATE, FEBRUARY 2014



At the UN: The Commission on Social Development took place – Feb. 11-21. The theme was: **Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration, and full employment and decent work for all.**

Each year the Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development is invited to deliver the Civil Society Declaration on behalf of the NGO community. Margaret Mace, OP spoke at the opening session on Feb. 11th. Highlights include:

Recommendations: The NGO community recognizes the primary responsibility of government to provide for its people. However the NGO community and other sectors of society are eager to partner with governments at all levels to assist in achieving the goals recommended here:

- Promotion of the common good through mechanisms that allow for the participation of all citizens for self-determination at all levels in the social, political, economic life of their societies.
- Implementation of the ILO recommendation concerning the establishment of national social protection floors as an effective means of enabling people to secure full employment and income security.
- Implementation of the recently adopted *Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human rights*.
- Promotion of legal empowerment of all people, especially those living in areas of conflict, war and/or extreme poverty, by ensuring the protection of their human rights to justice, property, labor protections, and essential identity registrations and documents.
- Focus on ways to address unsustainable patterns of production, consumption, and resource/worker exploitation, in order to promote sustainable social and economic development and environmental protection.
- Provision of formal and informal quality education for everyone, regardless of gender, across the lifespan. Parents, especially those living in poverty should be recognized as partners in their children's education.
- Implementation of public policies that focus on the use and development of information and communication technologies through the development of technology infrastructures and inclusive public access.
- Expansion of innovative sources of financing for development that prioritize public financing over public-private partnerships, e.g. the Financial Transition Tax, the global Fund for Social Protection, the reduction of military spending, and the promotion of progressive taxation.

Margaret quoted Pope Francis in her remarks: “ ***the scandal of poverty in a world of plenty as a piercing moral challenge for the whole human community.***” He continues, “***A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table...there must be a new stimulus to international activity on behalf of the poor, inspired by something more than mere goodwill, or, worse, promises which all too often have not been kept.***”

To read the Civil Society Declaration and Margaret's words go to: www.ngosocdev.net.

World Interfaith Harmony Week

On Wed. Feb. 12, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations along with the Committee of Religious NGOs at the UN, presented a program: *World Interfaith Harmony: Vital for Peace and Development*. A recent Pew report documents an alarming trend with tremendous implications for achieving Peace has accelerated worldwide. A rising tide of hostility, in society and within and among religious communities, threatens the shared security people of faith are working to achieve. Religions can work to reverse this rising tide of hostility by powerfully collaborating on shared positive elements of Peace grounded in diverse faith traditions.

Sr. Deirdre Mullan, RSM, our executive director of the Partnership presented at this event on a panel discussion: *Social Cohesion: Key to Promoting Sustainable Development*.

Her remarks and power point can be viewed at: www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com.

Looking Ahead:

March 3- 5: **Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals** – 19 focus areas are being considered: Poverty eradication, Food security and nutrition, Health and population dynamics, Education, Gender equality and women's empowerment, Water and sanitation, Energy, Economic growth, Industrialization, Infrastructure, Employment and decent work for all, Promoting equality, Sustainable cities and human settlements, Sustainable consumption and production, Climate, Marine resources, oceans and seas and Peaceful and non –violent societies, capable institutions. To read this report go to: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3276focusareas.pdf>



Priority theme:

Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls

- See more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw58-2014#sthash.iLxLPhoV.dpuf>

Please see the attached flyer on the Partnership's latest publication:

“There is a Girl out there who needs YOU”

Now available for distribution.

