



SNDdeN@UN

with hearts as wide as the world

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Making Known God's Goodness

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The Constitutions of the Sisters of Notre Dame invite its members to stand with those struggling to achieve living conditions that respect their human dignity. This month's news is an opportunity to deepen our individual and/or collective reflections on the current living conditions of people and of our planet. Indeed, the Earth, our common home, wants its rights to be recognized and respected so that it can continue to play its role and retain its capacity to shelter all that inhabits it. Let us commit ourselves to a movement of solidarity to overcome the many challenges facing the world and the peoples of the earth.

The articles below may inspire us in the ways we can make a difference in people's lives and save our planet.

This publication is about:

- **62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development**
- **International Education Day**
- **International Clean Energy Day**
- **International Day for Women and Girls in Science**

Enjoy your reading



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



#CSecD #SDGs #GlobalGoals website: social.un.org/coosd

The Commission for Social Development took place from February 5 to 14 under the priority theme: Promoting social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress in

Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving the overarching goal of poverty eradication". "The influence of digital transformation on inclusive growth and development: A pathway to achieving social justice" was the emerging question of this.



Opening this year's session, the Chairwoman of the Commission for Social

Development justified the choice of the priority theme by pointing out that the world is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs). The causes are due to the persistence of challenges such as conflicts, the intensification of climate change and its effects, the cost-of-living crises, deepening inequalities, and increasing poverty and insecurity. She called for concrete action to "change course and steer the world towards justice, trust, inclusion, security and resilience".

The President of the NGO Committee for Social Development forcefully presented the NGO Statement on behalf of all its members emphasizing the need for concrete action. The principal proposal was that civil society and those impacted by policies be included in the design, implementation, and evaluation of relevant policies, to achieve effective and transformative results.

During the session, the government representatives took turns to present their countries' national policies on poverty eradication. They also shared their experience and difficulties in their quest to pursue development and the achievement of the SDGs.

In the same vein, the Chairwoman of the Commission on Social Development called on international financial institutions to solidarity with the suffering by their efforts to combat economic inequality on a global scale. She also warned of the threats posed to human society by structural inequalities and injustices, indicating that it was time to strive for transformative social and sustainable change, and called for investment in human capital, dignity, and well-being.

At the end of the Commission, the member states passed a resolution recognizing and valuing the unacknowledged, unpaid work of caregivers. They encouraged governments to enact policies to ensure enabling environments for promoting the well-being and rights of both care recipients and caregivers.

Contribution of the NGO Committee for Social Development

Following closely this UN Commission is a major commitment of the SNDatUN Office because of its focus on access to those living in poverty to basic services. This year the Committee for Social Development collaborated with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, New York office, and the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, planned and led a successful Civil Society Forum, inspired by specific SDGs.



1. End poverty,
2. Fight against hunger,
3. Access to health
4. Access to quality education,
8. Access to decent employment,
9. Innovation and infrastructure,
10. Reduction of inequalities,
17. Partnerships for global goals



The one-day session brought together members of the NGO Community, experts, other stakeholders, and representatives of member governments to discuss with each other the themes of the Commission. The dialogue aimed at promoting cooperation and unity around the same vision, that of pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals and the principles of the Copenhagen Declaration (1995).

The NGO Committee on Social Development drafted the [Civil Society Declaration 2024](#) was signed by more than 1,000 organizations and individuals from around the world, including many SNDdeNs. The statement reinforced their shared commitment to the principle that people, particularly those most affected, should be at the center of all social development.

Most representatives of NGOs and civil society participate online this UN Commission that is meant to serve the needs of people living in poverty and promote people-centered policies. Far more needs to be done at this mid-point to put the world back on track to achieving the SDGs by 2030.

UN INTERNATIONAL DAYS

The purpose of these observances are to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION 2024 *THEME EDUCATION FOR PEACE*



The UN General Assembly proclaimed January 24 International Education Day to celebrate its role in promoting peace and development. This year, on the occasion of its sixth global celebration, UNESCO organized a conversation on the theme "**Education for Peace, with a special focus on countering hate speech**". Member states,

UN agencies and programs, NGOs working in peace education, teachers, and other stakeholders – and importantly young people -- mobilized for the event. The UNESCO Director-General



Audrey Azoulay stressed in her opening address at the ceremony: "If hate begins with words, peace begins with education. What we learn changes our view of the world and influences the way we treat others. Education must, therefore, be at the heart of our efforts to achieve and preserve peace in the world."

Even today, across the world are hotbeds of conflict and violence. Peace education is imperative as a powerful means to equip individuals with the skills, attitudes, and values essential for behavioral change. It enables children, young people, and adults to avoid conflict and violence, whether overt or structural, by resolving them peacefully and creating conditions conducive to

However, peace is not necessarily the absence of conflict, nor is it an interim time between two wars. It is important to recognize how the lack of food, disease, illiteracy, unjust systems, and environmental destruction work against the conditions for promoting the inner peace essential for peaceful living and coexistence. This means that education for peace must involve education for justice, solidarity, and sharing. These values are what underpin and foster good relations between people needed to help prevent conflict. In these ways, young people can then become agents of peace in their communities.



UNITED NATIONS DECLARES INTERNATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY DAY



The UN General Assembly in 2023 named January 26 as the International Day of Clean Energy. This date corresponded to the anniversary of the creation of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), a global intergovernmental agency created in 2009 to support countries in their energy transition.

The day aims to raise awareness and mobilize action for a just and inclusive transition to clean energy for the benefit of people and the planet.

“Clean energy” also is called [Green Energy](#) or [Renewable Energy](#). In all cases, the term indicates energy that produces a less significant amount of pollution in the environment. This definition also includes energy sources that, in one way or another, compensate, recover, or recycle any polluting by-product.

The establishment of an International Clean Energy Day demonstrates what a vital issue is energy transition in the face of climate change. However, how can the transition from fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas) to clean energy be carried out without frequently observed serious violations of human rights, environmental destruction, and injustice? Hopefully, the observance of Clean Energy Day will occasion serious reflection on these questions and how to move forward in a way that all – humanity and the earth –benefit



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SCIENCE:

BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP IN SCIENCE



Photo credit UNESCO

Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, each year the celebration of February 11 is the International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This day serves to draw the attention of the international community to the

inequalities that exist between men and women in scientific fields. The observance invites society to unite in supporting and valuing the women and girls who are committed to science and contribute to the advancement of the world through their research.

UNESCO's recent report on science indicates that today, only 40% of computer science graduates, 37% of ocean science professionals, 33.3% of researchers, and 30% of women and

girls are scientists. Women make up less than a third, or 28%, of engineering graduates, and occupy only 12% of seats in national academies of science. Women face a real glass ceiling in all scientific fields. Noteworthy is the fact that only 22 women have won Nobel Prizes in any scientific discipline.

celebration of the day brings together Member States, eminent and promising scientists (including Nobel Laureates and Young Talents of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Programme for Women in Science), representatives of the public and private sectors, scientific networks and UNESCO Chairs, and university students. At this year's gathering, UNESCO unveiled its Call to Action "[Bridging the Gap](#)"

Report of the event saw the unveiling of UNESCO's Call to Action "Bridging the Gap Between Genders in Science". The report put forward a set of recommendations aimed at addressing the root causes of gender inequalities in science and providing an opportunity to discuss best practices for implementing this Call to Action.



Photo credit UNESCO

Working sessions were organized around the following themes:

- 1) [Encouraging girls' interest in science through innovative education in the digital age;](#)
- 2) [Promoting supportive work environments for women in science; and,](#)
- 3) [Role models and mentors, inspiring women and girls in science.](#)

The reflections and discussions centered on the above themes provided an opportunity to share valuable ideas on initiatives, resources, and best practices for implementing the Call to Action



Photo credit UNESCO

On International Day of Women and Girls in Science, society as a whole should unite to support and value women and girls who aspire to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. This Day is an opportunity to reflect particularly on the situation of women and girls in science in our living

and working environments. This would help to revisit educational programs and design new ones that prepare both boys and girls for scientific skills

UN FORUMS AND SESSIONS

68th Session of the Commission on Status of Women (CSW)

March 11-22, 2024, at the U.N. in New York. <https://rb.gy/jobnsw>

23rd U.N. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

April 15-26, 2024, at the U.N. in New York. <https://rb.gy/fw0hf1>

Civil Society Conference

Date: May 9-10, 2024, at the U.N. in Nairobi, Kenya. <https://rb.gy/slpk00>

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Date: July 8-17, 2024, at the U.N. in New York. [HLPF](#)

Summit of the Future: Date 22-23 September 2024, in New York

Can also be watched on [UN WEB TV](#)