



Partnership for Global Justice

May 2018

Partnership For Global Justice Monthly Newsletter

Welcome to the Partnership for Global Justice Monthly – a newsletter about PGJ programs, news from the United Nations and its briefings, and information about the activities of our participating membership. With this Monthly, we invite our members to provide updates of their social justice initiatives and share their related experiences. Please respond to this posting with a comment on our blog or send your thoughts to partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com.

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Close your eyes, lean in to the silence, and listen: the earth itself remembers, The ancient woods reverberate with their songs, touching our highest joy, revealing our deepest sadness. Behold the trees whisper the circle will be unbroken; the sorrow songs do sing true.”

Christopher Pramuk, LCWR Leadership Assembly 2017

Dear Members,

As we immerse ourselves in springtime weather (finally!), we are surrounded by beauty. Yet, we also heard most recently Pope Francis state, “If you ask me who is the poorest of the poorest of the poor, I would say Mother Earth.”

In the current issue, you will hear about the latest Forum on Forests held in early May. There are grave concerns about the need for a global framework to sustainably manage all types of forest and trees and halt deforestation and forest degradation. Increasingly we see the interconnectedness between the various SDGs, and at this Forum especially how climate action (SDG 13) affects our forests. You will also read about the working group that was just established this month to begin work on a Global Compact on the Environment.

All our world development work requires complex financing to make it happen. This issue gives the backdrop to the various players that interface with the UN and provides some takeaways from the convening of the third ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development, which was held at the end of April.

This month, our Youth Representative Megan Scali reports on the Forum Supporting the Voices of Youth Against Gun Violence, an all too frequent and sad reality in our country today. Last, we include an update on the latest negotiations on the Global Compact on Migration.

And today as I write this, it is Pentecost. I was struck by the words of Mary McGlone in a reflection she wrote for this day in the *National Catholic Reporter*. She called Pentecost the “Feast of Limitless Possibilities” and challenged each one of us to ask ourselves if we are courageous and generous enough to give ourselves over to spreading the fire of God’s love in a world as needy as it has ever been. Yes, Pope Francis indeed has it right. As we enter once again into Ordinary Time, may we continue to pray our Pentecost prayer: “Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.” It is up to each of us to make it so.

Janet Kinney, CSJ
Executive Director



April 23 -26 ECOSOC Third Forum on Financing for Development

by Janet Kinney, CSJ

Attending this [Forum on Financing for Development](#) for the first time, I had many questions. First, what do we mean when we talk about financing for development? What is its level of importance to the implementation of the SDGs? How does one begin to tackle such a topic of such massive depth and complexity?

I found myself talking to many of my NGO colleagues, who have been part of this work for a while. They gave me a ‘primer’ and resources to read, and I thought it could be helpful to our membership as well.



I digress here to a brief history of the work that has been done in the last 15 years in the FfD world.

The [First International Conference on Financing for Development](#) was held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002. The Monterrey Conference was the first UN-sponsored summit-level meeting to address key financial and related issues pertaining to global development. The outcome of the Conference, the [Monterrey Consensus](#), reflected a landmark global agreement between developed and developing countries, in which both recognized their responsibilities in key areas such as trade, aid, debt relief and institution building. Since its adoption, the Monterrey Consensus has become the major reference point for international development cooperation.

The Second Global Conference on Financing for Development, also known as the “[2008 Follow-up International Conference Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus](#),” took place in Doha, Qatar, in 2008. It aimed to solidify the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus into more concrete commitments. The conference concluded with the adoption of the [Doha Declaration on Financing for Development](#).

The [Third International Conference on Financing for Development](#) took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2015. In addition to focusing on assessing the progress made in the implementation of the two prior conferences, it also addressed new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation. The outcome document adopted was the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) (AAAA), which calls upon states to draw upon all sources of finance, technology and innovation; promote trade and debt sustainability; and address systemic issues. It also established the means of implementation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The ECOSOC Forums on Financing for Development were established in accordance with the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda, recognizing the need for an annual dedicated follow-up and review of the financing for development outcomes. These forums result in inter-governmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations that are then fed into the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The HLPF meetings occur in July of each year and look at the progress made on the 2015 SDGs.



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—continued on next page

Who then are the “players” in the FfD process?

On the UN side, they include the Financing for Development Office (FfDO), the UN Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD), and what they call the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly, which deals with economic and financial matters.

On the Civil Society side, they include the Civil Society FfD Group and the NGO Committee on Financing for Development, this last of which the Partnership for Global Justice is a member. The NGO Committee works closely with many United Nations bodies, but most especially with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Financing for Development Office (FfDO), and with the Non-Government Liaison Service (NGLS). A third group, the Women’s Working Group on FfD, is an alliance of women’s organizations and networks to advocate for the advancement of gender equality, women’s empowerment and human rights.

And if that isn’t enough groups to become familiar with, there are other relevant stakeholders, like the World Trade Organization (WTO); the “Group of 20”, an informal group of 19 countries plus the European Union; and representatives of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB).

Enough to make your head spin!

TAKEWAYS from the Third ECOSOC Forum – 2018

The forum is an event that brings together the afore-mentioned individuals and groups –ministers, high-level officials from ministries of finance, foreign affairs and development cooperation, Executive Directors of the World Bank and IMF, as well as senior officials from the UN system, including the major institutional stakeholders, and other international organizations. Civil society organizations, the business sector and local authorities are also represented.



Topics of concern ran the gamut from global trends and prospects for financing sustainable development, to interactive dialogues between intergovernmental bodies of international trade and finance institutions, to conversations about ‘blended finance’ (i.e., public and private partnerships for development financing).

Major concerns were raised about the debt levels of so many of the developing countries, which are continuing to rise. Experts indicated that they have seen the lowest 70 countries’ debt rise from the low 30% to upwards of 60% of a country’s GDP (Gross Domestic Product). While they don’t see them in a full-fledged debt crisis, it needs to be addressed. The question was asked – can part of the solution be to assist these countries by extending their debt time frames, rather than their incurring more debt? Most particularly, they see the need for countries to have their debt extended because of the rise in natural disasters around the globe due to climate change.



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Another concern raised was that, while there is an apparent need for increased public and private financing, how does one assure that it is used properly? This concern was an acknowledgment of the need for a greater degree of supervised surveillance of these new blended streams.



Last, and of primary importance to many who attended, was the need to finance for “social protection” and to assure “social protection floors.” The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines social protection floors as those basic social security guarantees that ensure a minimum level of social services

and access to essential health care and basic income security, aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty. One panel was specifically devoted to this topic, and the consensus of the panelists was that this issue has not been addressed in any meaningful way. Evidently they are not alone in thinking this – three of the major commissions/forums in 2019 (Commission on Social Development, Commission on the Status of Women, to include Financing for Development) will all have social protections as their themes!

I found it a very intense forum and a lot to comprehend. However, it is a significant area to become familiar with, since all of the SDGs cannot be achieved without the needed financing and capacity-building mechanisms in place. It will be interesting to watch in 2019 how the intersection of the three afore-mentioned commissions and forums may facilitate a more integrated approach to assuring the social protections needed in our global world.



May 7-11 UN Forum on Forests Thirteenth Session

The meetings of this session of the [UN Forum on Forests](#) focused on implementation of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017–2030, which includes the Sustainable Development Goals. Here is some of the information from two of the meetings.

May 7 Morning meeting 13th Session of the UN Forum on Forests

This meeting focused on the role forests play in a few countries.

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030

Naoko Ishii, CEO and Chairperson for the Global Environment Facility, and former Deputy Vice Minister of Finance of Japan, was keynote speaker, reminding the assembly that we have only two more years to reach the 2020 objectives.* Ms. Ishii reported that 75 governments

already have or are drafting Action Plans on forests. However, deforestation continues and is, in fact, reaching a critical stage, as we are rapidly losing essential carbon sinks like the Amazon rain forest. Ms. Ishii emphasized the importance of forests to achieving many of the SDGs, such as those on food, water, life on land and below water, and energy and the consequent need for all stakeholders – business, governments, consumers, etc., – to recognize the connections between their activities and forests and to coordinate their efforts to effect coherent change.

**Forest objectives for 2020: to halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, increase afforestation [planting a new forest where none existed] and reforestation replanting degraded forest] globally by 2020 and by 2030 to increase forest cover by 3% globally.*

Panelist **Nicolau Dos Santos**, Minister of Agriculture of Guinea-Bissau, explained that his country's existence depends on agriculture, forests and fisheries; 85% of Guinea-Bissau's jobs lie in its fisheries, comprising 45% of the state budget. There is significant degradation of forests, which make up 56 % of its territory. Mangrove forests, especially, play a key role in the nation's economy, since 45% of the population lives near mangroves.

The key strategy for managing forests is community-based and participative forestry. Government policies focus on long-term sustainable management and rural development to ensure conservation of the ecological balance and responsible management of resources. This involves institutional and legislative frameworks, new land laws, as well as financial and economic incentives and partnerships of government, local populations and NGOs, all of which participate in making decisions.

Peng Youdong, China's Minister of State Forest Administration, told us that China's attention to sustainable management of its forests has resulted in an increase of China's forest cover from 12% of its territory to more than 26% over past 20 years, even as controlled cutting has increased production seven times. This has contributed greatly to China's advances. China has recently created a new Forestry and Grass-



Land Administration to oversee natural resources and their management, including research to improve their efforts and to share with the world.

Marie Patek, Vice Minister in the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management of Austria, said that forests are central to Austria's economy, drawing millions of tourists each year. Austria is also working to protect the villages and environment from natural disasters and ensure sustainable development. Ms. Patek spoke of the Pillars of Sound Forest Governance, which begin with seeing the commitment to forest management as a legal obligation, with clearly defined rights and rules; law enforcement; a system for knowledge and research development; training; financial support; and managing revenue. All of this depends on "systematic stakeholder involvement," involving 90 different institutions and agencies, as well as constant monitoring of progress and remaining on alert to the need for changes.



May 8 Morning Meeting 13th Session of the UN Forum on Forests

This session focused on scientific understandings of forests and their place in Earth's life systems.

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



— GLOBAL —
FOREST
— GOALS —

United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests 2030

Panel: Contributions of Forests to Achieving the SDGs

Hiroto Mitsugi, of Collaborative Partnership on Forests, reported on the International Conference Working Across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area From Aspiration to Action, which concluded that current efforts must be “upscaled” dramatically if the 2020 and 2030 forest goals are to be met. Everyone, from governments to private sector businesses to local

communities, must recognize the “Value Chains” in which forests are essential. The importance of forests in all aspects of life and economies is severely undervalued, so if we are make the decisions and take the integrated actions necessary for forests to continue to support life under changing climate conditions, we must factor forests’ values into long-term planning for food production, water availability and other considerations. Informative slides of Mr. Mitsugi’s report are available [here](#).

Meine van Noordwijk, of the International Union Of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), represented the Global Forest Expert Panels, to give an [overview of material](#) that will be presented at the High-Level Political Forum this summer.

Achieving the SDGs, he told us, will take “ambitious” increases in clean water, but nothing concrete is being done to meet that need. At the same time, forests are changing, and their role in mitigating water is being compromised. More attention is needed in the relation between water and forests, Mr. van Noordwijk said, to address three main questions: What do we know and why do we know it? What do we think we know? and What new elements are coming through?

The scientific facts about hydrology are well studied, but the social and other implications need to be explored more fully. Such topics as land rights and their effects on water and forests, and who and what are competing for which sources of water must be studied. Too much of the conversation about climate change is focused on carbon, he declared. Focusing more on water, especially on a regional scale, is more important and offers more opportunities for action.

David Ellison, of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, told us that “about 40% of forests have been taken away.” Increasing forest cover could increase rainfall and thus food production, but careful consideration is needed. What he called the “spatial organization of forests” must be carefully planned, to be sure that forests do not replace agricultural lands, for instance, and that new precipitation will fall where it will benefit both the forests and others while not creating problems like flooding. Technical considerations like proximity to oceans, locations of catchment basins and differing kinds of land use all must be factored into planning for more forests. Adding more forests to upland coasts would be useful, whereas in places with lots of water and catchment basins, adding forest would not help. Careful study of water lost to flooding and of position of mountains that restrict rain cloud movement are only a couple of the areas needing much more research. Slides about some of these complexities are available [here](#).



Michael Jenkins, an American in Forest Management, spoke of the need to translate the “ecosystem services” of forests in providing habitats and fostering biodiversity, as well as the spiritual and recreational values of forests into more concrete marketplace values, so that the comparative investment values of, say, an acre of soy bean field and an acre of tropical forest can be seen and used to develop funding to meet the greatest needs.

Mr. Jenkins emphasized the central role of forests in poverty eradication and sustainable development. The 1.6 billion people who are dependent on forest resources for subsistence living and livelihood, 300 million of them indigenous peoples, could be lifted out of poverty by improving forest resources, he declared. Forests provide a greater share of household income in Latin America, Africa and Asia than anything besides crop production. Therefore forests can be the engine for poverty eradication in many parts of the world. However, Mr. Jenkins informed us, two-thirds of forest services and resources are usually not valued; they are the “hidden harvest of forests.” Only about a third of forests’ value lies in timber production. Like Mr. Mitsugi, Mr. Jenkins stressed the need to build the other values into the economic equation, to account for and measure these other services and get them into national accounting systems and development policies. This will need investment by the World Bank and other agencies, as well as much more bold leadership from the public sector, integrating with private sector companies.

*[Note: At the **May 11 concluding sessions**, in spite of the chair’s efforts to get to consensus on the resolution documents, so many suggestions and recommendations were offered by Member States that the final documents seem to be not yet finalized.]*



“Forests are the engine for poverty eradication in many parts of the world.”

– David Jenkins, Forest Management



May 10: General Assembly Resolution on New Environmental Pact

by M. Doretta Cornell, RDC



The General Assembly passed a resolution, *Towards a Global Pact for the Environment*, to set up an open-ended working group “to identify gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments, and possibly convene a conference for the creation of a new international instrument.” This resolution cites as its basis all previous environment-related agreements, from the 1973 UN Conference on the Environment through the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda. One hundred forty-three countries voted for this, with only six voting against: Iran, Philippines, Russian Federation, Syria, Turkey, and the United States (Nikki Haley said it is not in the United States’ interests), with six more countries abstaining.

The working group will prepare a “technical and evidence-based report” to be submitted to the Secretary-General in September. The working group is open to all Member States and other UN agencies, with non-governmental organizations participating as observers. Secretary-General Guterres will appoint two co-chairs, one from a developing country, the other from a developed one, to oversee the work of the group.

The [resolution](#) declared the “the need to continue to address, in a comprehensive and coherent manner, the challenges posed by environmental degradation in the context of sustainable development.” French President Emmanuel Macron, one of the promoters of the resolution, sees it as a *legally binding* document encompassing and strengthening all previous agreements on environmental rights.

The working group will begin its work at the end of the 72nd General Assembly in September 2018.



“If you ask me who is the poorest of the poorest of the poor, I would say Mother Earth.”

– Pope Francis



May 14-18 Fourth Round of Negotiations on the Global Compact on Migration (GCM)

by Janet Kinney, CSJ

In the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), adopted in September 2016, the General Assembly decided to develop a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. The process to develop this global compact for migration started in April 2017 and we are now at the 4th round of the negotiations among member states. The General Assembly will hold an intergovernmental conference on international migration in the latter part of 2018 with a view to adopting the global compact.

Information and documents to include the GCM can be found on this [website](#).

Prior to this fourth round, members of Civil Society sent an open letter to the Member States regarding what we had heard thus far and our recommendations to be considered. The open letter focused on the areas of safe access to services, immigration detention, mixed migration (i.e. migrants and refugees), and the expansion of safe and regular pathways that would allow migrants to obtain regular status. The Partnership signed on to this letter. A [copy of the letter](#) is here.

As the delegates prepared for the fourth round, the co-facilitators, **Juan José Gómez Camacho**, Ambassador of Mexico and **Jürg Lauber**, Ambassador of Switzerland, asked them to focus on these policy areas:

- International cooperation and capacity-building
- Pathways for regular migration/regularization
- Natural disasters, climate change and migration
- Fundamental human rights and spectrum of services
- Concept of firewalls
- Integration/contributions of irregular migrants
- Effective and efficient cooperation on return

The Compact itself has 22 objectives, each very detailed in the various aspects that need to be included to assure for safe, orderly and regular migration. Before conversations could begin on the above points, the delegates needed to complete their comments on the 22 objectives. In the first three rounds of negotiations they had gotten as far as #16! So hearing everyone's comments on the remainder of the document took about two days of the deliberations, and then an afternoon conversation began on Implementation. Also on the second day, the delegation from Comoros and the African Nations proposed the addition of a 23rd Objective on International Cooperation. This document is also on the website mentioned above.

The next two days focused on the capacity-building mechanisms that would be needed for the Compact to be implemented. The co-facilitators proposed a three-component mechanism: 1) a "Connection Hub" that would facilitate demand-driven, tailor made and integrated solutions; 2) a Start Up Fund for the realization of project-oriented solutions; and 3) a Global Knowledge Network, which would be an online open data platform to serve as a repository of the practices and initiatives in process.



This generated a great deal of discussion, and many indicated their support that capacity should be demand-driven and that existing funding sources already being used to support migration not be used for this purpose. South Africa suggested that an inventory should be taken of the resources that are available. All agreed that without capacity building the Compact is doomed to failure. Also concurrence was heard on using the International Organization of Migration as having a leading role in the Hub and other components.

The last day and a half focused on the remainder of the points. The majority felt that “firewall” language should not be included in the document. Again, Comoros and the African Nations wanted an additional paragraph to speak specifically to climate-induced migration, whereas Austria and the 27 countries of the European Union just want insertions in the document to refer to climate-induced migration. On the added paragraph on International Cooperation, it was agreed that this needs to be spelled out as to what level this means.

All in all, some intense debate, with most countries very definitive on their specific concerns. Round 5 will ensue June 4-8th. To be continued!



“There have been over 30 mass shootings this year, 18 of which were committed in school settings; 96 people a day die in incidents of gun violence, 7 of whom are children; and 67% of American citizens are in favor of gun reform in the United States.”

– Megan Scali PGJ Youth Rep, on Forum Supporting Voices of Youth Against Gun Violence



May 17 Forum Supporting the Voices of Youth Against Gun Violence

by Megan Scali, Youth Representative, Molloy College student



Gun violence is a hot topic of discussion in light of many recent crimes, many of which have been occurring in high schools. Youth groups have been particularly vocal about changes that they hope will be made to American gun laws and security in protecting the youth. The NGO committees on children's rights and mental health, as well as the mission of Liberia to the United Nations, joined the youth at this event to address different aspects of the issue at large. It is important for the youth to be involved with important discussions that concern their safety and well-being because they are the leaders of peace and change for the future. Their movement and progress is powerful

to define what the future may hold for others as they continue their fight into adulthood.

There were many panelist speakers present at this event, both youth members who served as leaders in their schools and communities, as well as adult counterparts, including doctors, mental health counselors and NGO committee members who were all passionate about this topic. It is clear that mental health is negatively affected by gun violence, both for those who commit crimes and those who live in fear that they may be the next victims of an incident related to gun violence. Some of the surprising but underlying statistics that were shared by these panelists were that there have been over 30 mass shootings this year, 18 of which were committed in school settings; 96 people a day die in incidents related to gun violence, 7 of whom are children; and 67% of American citizens are in favor of gun reform in the United States. Perhaps the most staggering statistic, however, is that about 75% of the deaths which are related to gun violence each year are suicides. Suicide prevention is one way that our nation can help promote mental health awareness, start conversations, and get help for those in need.

Dr. **Alexander Kaleogerakis**, a psychologist, explained the importance of children's feeling safe in the schools that they attend in order to foster development of self-identity, growth and even risk taking. Fear creates stress, which hinders development in places like schools, which are presumed to be safe. Promoting mental health and decreasing the stigma of mental health issues, particularly across racial borders, is so important in order to tackle the battle of gun violence today. Education is also an important part of protecting the youth. Standardizing, as well as upholding a high standard for education, available technological resources, counseling and so forth is one way to help ensure the safety of a generation. We must provide everyone the same standard of care and urgency, regardless of their race, socioeconomic background or gender.

Overall, it came across very clearly that there is not one single way nor a wrong way for people to stand up for what they believe in. One of the most influential ways discussed for youth to make a change is to register to vote and become involved with their local and national politics, and to hold leaders accountable for their actions and endorsements. But most important is to register to vote and to go out and vote whenever they can, regardless of their political beliefs. It is important that every vote is heard in order to influence any change.

The full conference recording may be viewed using [this link](#)



Opportunities to Join Us

SAVE THE DATE

Please plan to attend
Annual Meeting
of the Partnership for Global Justice
October 12 & 13, 2018

Maryknoll Mission Center
10 Pinesbridge Rd.
Ossining, NY 10562

TOPIC: *Courage: Speaking Truth to Power*

The annual **Peace and Justice Award** recipient is
Rev. James Martin, SJ

United Nations Opportunity:
International Day of the Girl
October 11, 2018

Please extend this invitation
to your Congregation members and lay associates.

Advocacy

This month, the Partnership for Global Justice signed on to these letters:

- The [Catholic Climate Declaration](#), part of the Catholic Climate Covenant's *Catholics Are Still In* Campaign
- Civil Society [Open Letter](#) to United Nations Member States on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

Spotlight on our Members

We would love to turn the “spotlight” on *your* members’ efforts toward achieving the SDGs! Please let us know what you/they are doing – and include a picture or two when possible.

Contact Sr. Janet at partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com

Let's Keep Connected:

Please link the Partnership for Global Justice Website to your community's website.
<http://www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com/>



This summer:

The **67th DPI/NGO Conference** will be held at UN Headquarters in New York on **August 22 to 24, 2018**. The theme will be “We the Peoples . . . Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems.” These conferences are always exciting gatherings of NGOs from around the world and include interesting presentations of the work NGOs are doing on the ground. The 66th Conference, on Education for Global Citizenship, was held in Korea in 2016.

For advance planning:

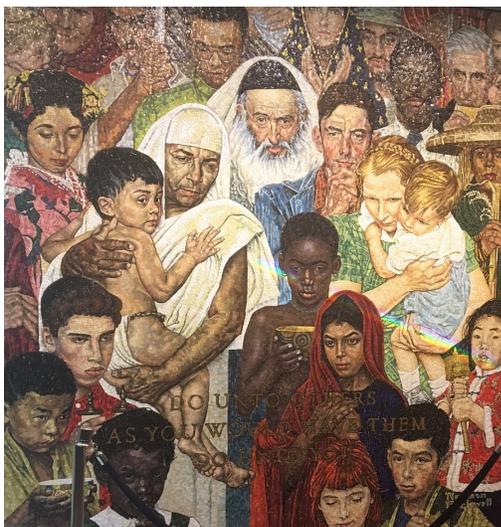
The sixty-third session of the **Commission on the Status of Women** will take place at UN Headquarters in New York from **11 to 22 March 2019**.

Priority theme (This will be the subject of many of the presentations):

Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

Review theme (Member States will report on their progress in this area):

Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development



Watch UN Events Live

As always, you can watch live coverage (and often stored videos) of major UN events at the UN [WebTV channel](#). Click the language button to hear them in English). A list of daily events is listed in the UN Journal at 11 pm the day before. Webcasts are indicated by a small red icon of a camera.

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