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DEAR READERS, WELCOME TO THE 70TH ONLINE ISSUE OF THE VIVAT NEWSLETTER!

The publication of the 70th edition of VIVAT Newsletter came a few days after Easter Sunday. Therefore, we wish you all: Have a Wonderful Easter Season.

This edition includes two stories from New York on the 55th Session of Commission on Social Development (CSocD55) which took place in February 2017 and on the 61st Session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) in March 2017. It also covers stories of advocacy from Geneva on UPR of Indonesia and United Kingdom, from Brazil and Argentina on defending the rights of indigenous peoples against mining companies, and the Philippines on law and lawless situation in the country.

Andrzej Owca also shares with us a story of his recent visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

From Mozambique Brother Thaddeus Nyanuba, SVD shared with us his JPIC activities, including activities related to climate change and food security.

We also have two other stories in this issue. The one is about the "Fu Shen Fu" Migrant Center run by the Society of the Divine Word in Warsaw and the other is about International Women's Day Celebration organized by Javinka Society in Indore, India.

This issue ends with an article on Sustainable Development Goals part 3: End Hunger.

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Experience at UN 55th “Commission for Social Development”

This was my second visit to UN at New York (First one was in 2008 UN PFII. It was great inspiration to commit myself in organizing the Indigenous Peoples of Odisha and of the Country.

The first two days 30th and 31st Jan. 2017 were days for the NGO forums for internal discussions and sharing on “A Pre-eminent strategy to Eradicate Poverty and Achieve sustainable development for all”. Here we had opportunities to share and discuss on the topic and find out best strategies for eradication of poverty out side and with government system. I realized how as NGOs and committed person on humanity, could be the best bridge builders between governments and the poor, so that the system works and all participate in the poverty eradication process and ‘No one is left behind’. We had the opportunity to sit together in region wise and I was in ASIA group. It was felt that the issue of poverty is prevalent more in Asian countries. I took the chance to present the Odisha and India poverty situation highlighting (Nagada in Odisha where, 23 Indigenous Children died due to Malnutrition in the month of June 2016, Mr. Dano Majhi Carried his wife’s dead body and walked 10k.ms from Hospital due to lack of Ambulance and Road in September 2016, Over 300 Indigenous Children died due to unknown disease in Malkangiri in October 2016 and in Kandhamal Gumudi Maha Village 5 were brutally killed and 7 were injured due to indiscriminate firing by the Police in the name of Extremists.

The real sessions of UN went from 1st to 10th feb.2017. The Governments presented their views in the general assembly. I appreciate the way the members present their views precisely and positively to eradicate the poverty with inclusive approach, so that No

one would be left behind in the country .

The UN side events

The side events were more realistic and Interest, organized by governments and NGOs in various themes related to poverty. I participated in some side events and opined my situation in Odisha. One could discuss with different governments and leaders of the world openly

Vivat International and ‘Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America’ had organized such side event with regard to “

Defense of Land and water as a strategy to eradicate Poverty and I was honored to be one of the resource persons. In the said event I presented the Poverty of the Indigenous People in Odisha, India. The unmindful extraction of mineral resources by the corporate and governments, forceful acquiring land without the free, prior, informed ,consent of the villagers/ the Indigenous Peoples that makes them acute poverty. The displacement, human rights violation, environment pollution, loss of language, cultural rights and the human dignity are directly affected. I had the opportunity to present the pain, suffering of the poor, the Indigenous Communities. They loose the livelihood, culture and faith due to displacement as they have strong attachment with nature (Land, Forest and Water). There is loss of democracy, respect for life and human dignity in this forced development process presenting local movements. Development and eradication of Poverty may be contradiction in many countries. Secondly development process presenting local movements. Development and

eradication of Poverty may be contradiction in many countries. Secondly John Paul from Italy presented about Land Grabbing scenario in the International level and how the populations face similar situation, was very good . Christina G. Hioureas, Counsel, Chair, United Nations practice Group presented the need to respect the National and International Laws and respect human rights . The event was appreciated by the members.

Mining Issues

The extracting Industries is another cause of poverty. In one of the side events , we had discussion on the issues. I had the opportunity to speak on the mining issues in Odisha and in India and it was proposed to take up the issues in the global context as it was from South America initiatives.

Meeting with Religious in UN (RUN)

It was a pleasant moment to share with religious at UN, who are at UN and take up the various issues of the world. I presented how skillfully, with courage and tactics as committed religious person for



Nicholas (right) and Jean-Paul Pezzi (left) as resource persons at UN Side Event



the dignity of humanity involve in the grass root level in the struggles and movements of the people. I also Proposed to make ‘Continent wise net work’ and include all committed religious, NGOs to be the voice at UN for better world. It was appreciated by all.

Personally, It was great learning for me and inspiring to see the NGOs and RUN members committed to cause of the unheard, neglected and marginalized. It was inspiring and encouragement for me to be more committed to the marginalized groups for inclusive development in Odisha and in Indian situation.

Nicholas Barla, SVD, Odisha, India

In the Name of the Marginalized

Churches and Mining Network proposes to Canada an Ombudsman to serve communities affected by extractive companies

Through a public letter addressed to the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the ecumenical network "Churches and Mining" proposed the creation of an independent Ombudsman for the communities affected by Canadian extractive companies. The letter sent on Wednesday, February

- Development of a transparent process that includes public reports at different times (eg, dissemination of the results of the investigations)
- A final public report that includes recommendations for the parties (which may include the Canadian government)
- Follow-up and the implementation of

2016, by the Justice and Corporate Responsibility Project (JCAP), there have been more than 400 incidents of violence linked to Canadian mining in Latin America. In the last 15 years, there have been at least 30 murders related to mining conflicts.

Recent cases include Barrick and the cyanide spill at the Veladero mine in the province of San Juan (Argentina), the Pascua Lama project in Chile, and the lawsuits against the Hud Bay company for cases of human rights violations in Guatemala, among several others.

The Churches and Mining network calls on other institutions, communities, NGOs, and religious congregations to write to the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau (justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca) with a copy to the Minister of Commerce François-Philippe Champagne (Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca) requesting for an independent ombudsman.



8, 2017 was an urgent call to appoint an independent Ombudsman because "there are thousands of people and many communities who need an office to receive and address their complaints related to the problems caused by the Canadian companies in our countries of Latin America."

The Churches and Mining Network proposes that the following be considered in appointing the Ombudsman:

- An independent office from the Canadian Government
- Compulsory participation of the companies.
- Investigations for a compliance evaluation of the companies, with a set of standards to determine if damages have occurred.

the recommendations

- Loss of benefits provided by the Canadian government to the companies, if they do not comply the recommendations

The ecumenical network argues that contrary to the proposal of the Canadian companies to "reduce the mandate of the mechanism to the mediation between the parties", the creation of an independent Ombudsman will allow affected communities to address their grievances in Canada and enforce their rights.

According to the Report on the Abuses of the Canadian Mining Companies in Latin America, published in October

More information and text of the letter in:
<http://iglesiasymineria.org/2017/02/08/iglesias-y-mineria-propone-a-canada-un-ombudsman-que-atienda-a-comunidades-afectadas-por-empresas-extractivas/>

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Bosnia and Hercegovina: Land of hope, beauty and challenges

VIVAT International provides a social and justice work support in more than 120 countries on issues of human rights and justice and peace. Bosnia and Hercegovina is one of those countries where VIVAT International is present and works with the local communities.

In November 2016, I visited the country. I was in the city of Banja Luka (main city of Republika Srpska) and in the town Glamoč (western part of Bosnia).

In Glamoč, there is a community of Sister of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ with three sisters involved in the social work. One of them, sister Martina, has been working in the local kindergarten and she dedicates herself to her work since the year 2000.

I had a few good conversations with some people of Glamoč. Everyone was so happy about the work of the sisters, especially the work done by sister Martina and many of Glamoč habitants are convinced that her presence is a gift from God to the local community.

In the kindergarten, there are children and employees from three nationalities. They celebrate all religious (Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim) feasts with parents and families of the children and employees. Inside the building there are no religious symbols to not offend anyone either children or adults. I really welcome and admire Sr. Martina's sensitivity and openness in contributing to the reconciliation process of the local community.

At this point, we could have an impression that Glamoč is a small paradise with angels from the kindergarten where everyone lives in peace and harmony.



However, no everybody is happy about the sister's presence in the kindergarten. The Mayor of the Municipal Council in a TV program said that he was bothered by the sister's uniform, the uniform of a nun and that his political party is awfully disturbed that a principal of the kindergarten is a Catholic nun.

Such a discriminatory position expressed by the Mayor of the Municipal Council and his political party has surely a bad influence on the functioning of the kindergarten and the children. Furthermore, for Bosnian society, which is very fragile in regards to ethno-religious issues,

interreligious dialogue and religious freedom, the behavior of the Mayor and his Council obstructs the process of reconciliation and the gradual building of prosperity and happiness.

The employees and the sister have not been paid for their job for several months. Not only salary but also health insurance and social security. Such a situation has been unchanged since many years and it is getting progressively worse.

I asked the sister: how could you live, work in such conditions? She smiled a bit and said: "I cannot abandon those

The kindergarten brings openness and tolerance and helps the children and their parents to look with hope to the future. From the very first day of its work the kindergarten is open to all ethnicity and religion.

VIVAT International is very much concerned about this situation. I am activating some Human Rights mechanisms to help people of Glamoč in their struggle.



Some figures:

Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the western Balkans, bordering: Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro. The country's name comes from the two regions: Bosnia (North of the country) and Herzegovina (South).

Population: 3.5 million (Bosnians 50%, Serbs 31%, Croats 15%, others 4%).

Area: 51,197 km²

Capital: Sarajevo (in the city and in the metropolitan area live approx. 1 million people).

Language: Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian.

Due to the Dayton Agreement (signed in Paris on December 14, 1995) Bosnia and Herzegovina was divided into two autonomous entities:

- The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Republika Srpska with a third region, the Brčko District, governed under local government.

*Andrzej Owca, CSSp
Representative of VIVAT International in
Geneva*

Poland: “FU SHENFU” Migrant Centre

Migration from Asia and Africa to Europe is common. Some initiatives have been taken to handle the issue both by State and non-state actors. Following is a story of migrant center in Poland run by the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) in Warsaw, Poland.

HOW WE HELP

At the “Fu Shenfu” Migrant Centre in Poland’s capital of Warsaw, we try to meet the needs of every person who comes to us, regardless of nationality, language or religion. Although most of the people we serve come from Asia—Vietnam and China in particular—we welcome immigrants from different parts of the world.

We provide assistance in legal consultancy and administrative procedures. We help prepare applications, revocations and correspondences. We offer translation, spoken and written, in Vietnamese, Chinese and English as well as Polish. We teach Polish language courses, and we provide free access to computers at our Internet Café.

If for some reason we cannot help directly, we refer migrants to public agencies and nongovernmental organizations that have the power to solve that given problem.

As a Catholic organization, we know the importance of human spirituality. That is why we offer pastoral care for Vietnamese Catholics. At every stage we try to meet the individual spiritual needs of all who visit us.

Welcoming the stranger remains a permanent feature of the Catholic Church. The Church, if it were not open to welcome every person, regardless of nationality, would cease to be a sign of salvation

for all people. That is why we are open to everyone who visits the Fu Shenfu Migrant Centre.

OUTDOOR LESSONS

One of the greatest, and often most frustrating challenges migrants face in their new country is dealing with the

language. To help newcomers feel at home in Warsaw, the Fu Shenfu Migrant Centre offers Polish language courses. Yet not every lesson take place within the center's walls.



Regardless of nationality, language, religion

We want our students to learn that real life doesn't happen inside buildings. The surrounding world delivers fantastic opportunities to develop students' interests and creativity.

Lessons outdoors, or at least outside the classroom, bring students plenty of benefits. Students gain deeper understanding of issues we have discussed in class. They develop the ability to perceive

phenomena and shape their imagination. They gain practical vocabulary and grammar skills to use in real life. Such lessons also allow teachers to acquaint students with our history, culture, national heritage and customs.

Lat but not least, migrants often feel unease, lonely and sometimes even a bit depressed in a foreign country. Many of them have no family or friends here and must face cultural differences alone. Therefore, field classes offer them a great way to integrate with Poles or other students experiencing the same problems. When the classes are over, they start calling each other and building relationships.

Cooking workshops have been a successful type of “outside the classroom” lessons. The migrant center has had two cooking workshops so far, each following a cycle of Polish lessons connected to food and cooking. Those students who don't love cooking at least love eating. So all students, no matter their culture, find the topic interesting and delicious.

*Jan Wroblewski, SVD Warsaw, Poland;
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Magazine*



**Always ready
to welcome migrants**

India: Celebrating International Women's Day

in Janvikas by women from the slums of Indore city on 8th March 2017.

More than 500 women

(waste pickers as well as domestic workers) representatives from over 50 slums gathered to celebrate their day. The Chief Guest of the function was Honorable Judge (Rtd.) Mr. R.P Varma, Principal Judge, Family Court, Indore. Mr. R.K Pateria, Former District Judge, Indore, Ms. Pallavi Shukla, DSP, Indore Police, Dr. Dimple Nandanwar, Child Specialist (District Hospital, Indore), Ms. Shradha Chaube, Reporter, Dainik Bhaskar News Paper, Ms. Shruthi Agrawal, Patrika News Paper, Mr. Abhijit (Radio Jocky) and Ms. Laxmi Gundiya, President, Women's Cooperative Society were other dignitaries.

Women danced to the tune of traditional and modern songs. Members



of the Youth Club along with Mr. Raghavendra Tiwari performed a street play depicting the issues women face in the modern world and how women need to be empowered to stand on their feet to fight for their rights. In order to promote the message of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' (clean India campaign) a all women



were gifted with dust bins which would help them to keep their house clean. Those women who completed their training in Beautician's Course at Janvikas were given certificates.

All the guests congratulated women and appreciated the initiatives of Janvikas in empowering women who are at the margins, especially the waste pickers and domestic workers.

Our special guests from IBM Computer (Mr. Danila, Ms. Juliania from Brazil and Ms. Keiko from



Japan) added colors to the program.

*Fr. Roy Thomas
Director, Janvikas Society
Indore, M.P, India.*

LAW & LAWLESSNESS IN THE PHILIPPINES

VIVAT INTERNATIONAL PHILIPPINES HOLDS DISCUSSION FORUM

Around 60 VIVAT International Philippine delegates and friends attended a discussion forum on **LAW AND LAWLESSNESS IN THE PHILIPPINES** held at the Fine-mann Bldg, Christ the King compound, Quezon City, Philippines on Saturday, April 1, 2017. The forum was a concrete offshoot of a November 16 2016 planning of the 1st VIVAT INTL

PHILS organizational meeting at Catholic Trade, Manila. It is reported that 8,000 - 10,000 may have been killed since June 30 2016, depending on the source of the reports (Philippine National Police, or the national dailies, or Church groups).

The speakers of the well-attended forum included Lawyer Jose Manuel Diokno (De La Salle University Law Dean and human rights advocate), Rev Fr Albert Alejo SJ (human rights advocate), Atty Pitt Venturanza (former deputy executive secretary of the Office of the President) and Bro Jay de Guzman, SVD (JPIC Philippine Central and human rights advocate).

Among other things emphasized by the main speaker Lawyer Diokno, he said much to be blamed for the extra judicial killings root back to the time of the former dictator Ferdinand E Marcos (1965-1986) when he “owned every single judge in the country, by appointing and firing them at will, and consequently even the entire Philippine legal system bowed down to the system of blind loyalty to Malacanang wishes. Other branches of government have also followed suit.

Lawyer Diokno continued: “Why are crime and corruption so rampant in our country?” He explained the reasons: “Because the police have not done their job of catching criminals and gathering enough evidence to put them behind bars. Because the prosecutors have not done their job of proving their guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Because the

courts have not done their job of ensuring that those who are convicted actually serve their sentences. Because the executive department has not provided the police and prosecutors with the training and resources they need to do their jobs well. Because Congress has not provided the judiciary with the budget and legislative support it needs to do its job well.”

For his part, Fr Alejo stressed the need for cultural re-thinking of “mediatization” (media bombarding the people with truths and half-truths to condition their minds) of the citizens. Atty Venturanza and Bro Jay were the main reactors of the two speakers.

Among the concrete actions / resolutions of this 2nd VIVAT INTL PHILS forum included: a signature campaign bearing the statements: **NO TO KILLINGS, NO TO AUTHORITARIAN RULE**, to be published soon in a national daily; putting up a JPIC club in schools of VIVAT members; paralegal training for VIVAT members & friends and scheduling of LEX ET VITA forums in the Visayas and Mindanao islands.



Among the attendees were SVDs, SSpS, ASC, MCCJ, CSSp and lay groups XVDs, OSMTH, SVD Friends, Lay Society of St Arnold Janssen, SSpS Lay Group, SSpSAP Lay Group, and parishioners and representatives of SVD and SSpS parishes and schools. The forum was graced by the presence of the new VIVAT NDB Chairman, Rev Fr Raymun Festin SVD, newly-elected Provincial Superior of the Philippine Central.

*Giovanni van Biliran, SVD
VIVAT Philippines*

ANTI-MINING RALLY IN SAO PAOLO, BRAZIL

On March 18th, 2017 we as a JPIC and members of VIVAT International from BRC Province participated in a walk against mining project from Vale do Ribeira - São Paulo. The walk was initiated, promoted and organized by MOAB—a social movement called “Threatened by Dams Movement”. The target was to mobilize the local communities to see the real threat in Vale do Ribeira



(Ribeira Valley) by the mining projects operating in this area. The leaders of the movement and the religious communities raise the awareness of the rally participants that they will not benefit from the presence of the big mining projects and corporations, and therefore, they must reject their presence there. The history of the country has shown that mining companies not only exploited their natural resources also left behind natural and social catastrophe.



VIVAT International members in Brazil believe in the strength of popular organization and movement. With them we defend the rights of the local people to existence, to their culture, and to their relationship with mother nature. With them we try to defend the traditional life-style of the people in the region against all negative impacts of

the mining projects and life-style side effects brought into the life the people in the region. Through this rally and other empowerment programs we want to ensure people's awareness of being autonomous and actors of transformation in their own communities and territories.

*Jairo Godinho, SVD
VIVAT International Brazil.*

In Defense of People's Rights

VIVAT International's Involvement in UPR of Indonesia and UK

This year (2017) Indonesia and the United Kingdom are among some countries being reviewed on their human rights records. Prior to it, VIVAT International in collaboration with other civil society organizations has participated in preparing and submitting shadow reports on those countries.



1. UPR Indonesia:

This is a joint submission for the 3rd Cycle of the UPR Indonesia, concerning the human rights situation in West Papua, Indonesia. The human rights issues addressed are the freedom of expression; right to health, right to education, rights of indigenous peoples, extrajudicial execution and impunity. This joint submission is made by The JPIC Commission of Franciscans in Papua, VIVAT Indonesia; VIVAT International, Franciscans International and others.

Recommendations

- End the excessive use of force by the Indonesian security forces and to review the security policy in Papua by involving broad participation of civil society at the local and national levels;
- Ensure that impunity for human rights violation including torture does not persist.
- Guarantee the right of freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly for the Indigenous Papuans;
- Adopt concrete and specific measures to monitor, evaluate, and intervene in the execution of failing health and education services in the highland districts;

- Adopt measures and legislation, which should legally bind the business enterprises operating in Papua to respect the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and to comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

- Adopt concrete actions in bringing business enterprises that violate the rights of indigenous peoples to justice and provide remedies for the victims;
- Take measures to guarantee the security and safety of human rights defenders working on the rights of indigenous Papuans, including those who work on the violation of human rights by the business enterprises;
- Uphold the principles enshrined in the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples and ensure the right of indigenous Papuans to the resources that are the source of their livelihood, including forests and land.

2. UPR of the United Kingdom:

This submission focusses on :

1. The UK Government's failure to provide adequate follow-on support for successful asylum-seekers : recognised refugees frequently face a phase of transitional cashless destitution and a longer period of homelessness.
2. The UK Government's policy of subjecting failed asylum seekers to total and indefinite destitution.

Recommendations:

The Government should:

1. Implement a comprehensive refugee integration strategy, including a properly funded integration support service for recognised refugees.
2. Extend the transitional 'grace' period beyond 28 days, continuing asylum support until the first mainstream benefits are paid.
3. Allow recognised refugees to remain in their asylum accommodation until they have been able to access housing or hostel accommodation.
4. Fund local authorities to provide active guidance and rental bond schemes for recognised refugees ineligible for priority social housing.
5. Review wide variations in practice and provision in different regions of the UK to enable a meaningful national strategy to be developed.
6. The UK Government's policy of subjecting failed asylum seekers to total and indefinite destitution.

The Government should:

1. Provide a level of statutory support for failed asylum seekers adequate to sustain essential human needs, including food and shelter, until they either return to their country of origin or receive leave to remain in the UK.
2. Grant limited leave to remain to individuals who cannot be returned.
3. Make primary and secondary healthcare free and available to all asylum seekers, as in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland.

*Andrzej Owca, Cssp
VIVAT International Representative, Geneva*

Mozambique: Promoting Healthy Environment and food security

SVD/VIVAT International JPIC Activities

I will like to share with you and other colleagues some pictures on JPIC activities carried out in the Mozambique mission.

The JPIC of the Mozambique SVD mission this year is concentrating its activities on the promotion of healthy environment (that's waste management) and food security. Thus started on 28th January and ended on 25th February for 5 Saturdays, I had the opportunity to collaborate with an NGO called Engineers without borders to train children on the importance of living in a clean and healthy environment. Engineers without borders is an NGO that support poor families on the education of their children. Every year it organizes workshop on one or two social issues to educate these children.



This year the program was held in our St. Anthony of Malhangalene Community School and run for five consecutive Saturdays and the topic was "the importance of keeping our environment clean and healthy". We just done "clean up exercise" on 7th April. I also had the opportunity to share with the children and all participants a bit on



"Laudato si", making them to understand that the earth is a common home to us, and also like a sister to us and as such we must respect it.

*Br. Thaddeus Nyanuba, SVD,
JPIC
VIVAT Mozambique*

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FOR WOMEN

61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

VIVAT International participated at the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. With Representatives of Member States, United Nations entities and other ECOSOC accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world, we attended the session. Some VIVAT members from the United States and other countries also took part in this event.

The priority theme was "Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work" and the review theme was "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls" (agreed conclusions of the 58th Session). "The Empowerment of Indigenous Women" was the emerging issue/focus area during the Session. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil) was elected as the Chairman of



stories are the significant contribution of migrant workers abroad to their families and countries, the progress made by women's small enterprises and microfinance.

The continuing gender inequality, forced labor, human trafficking, corruption and climate change still dominate the major issues faced by many countries.

Side-Event

During CSW61, Mining Working Group which includes

VIVAT International, Mercy's International and Franciscans International organized a side event under a theme "Defense of Land and Water: Economic Empowerment for Women" on March 26, 2017.

The goal was to highlight "the impact of extractive industries and land-grabbing on the earth and local communities, particularly indigenous women, and some best practices from local communities on defending their rights to land and water.



the Session.

Men and women, young and old, gathered together to share their success stories but also failures and challenges in implementing Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals. Three of the success

Speaking at this side event were Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn, Representative with the International Indigenous Human Rights Advocacy at Ngati Kuri; Sejal Dand, founder member of ANANDI-Office of the Commissioners to Supreme Court in Right to Food (WPC 196/2001); Bhumika Muchhala, Senior Policy Analyst, Third World Network; and Nicolas Franke, Associate Expert in Water Policy, UN DESA.

The conclusion of this side event was that economic empowerment of rural and indigenous women is only possible



if they have access to water and land. Meanwhile, lack of water and landgrabbing are two of the major challenges to economic empowerment of rural women.

Summarized by Robert Mirsel, SVD

INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PART 3

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



AIMS

- Goal 2 aims to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition by 2030. It also commits to universal access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food at all times of the year. This will require sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, equal access to land, technology and markets and international cooperation on investments in infrastructure and technology to boost agricultural productivity.

TARGETS

2.1. By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round;

2.2. By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons;

2.3. By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment;

2.4. By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality;

2.5. By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed;

2.a. Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries.

2.b. Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round.

2.c. Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals>

The fight against hunger has progressed over the past 15 years. Globally, the prevalence of hunger has declined, from 15 per cent according to figures for 2000 to 2002, to 11 per cent according to figures for 2014 to 2016. However, more than 790 million people worldwide still lack regular access to adequate amounts of dietary energy.

Source: Report of the Secretary-General, "Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals", E/2016/75

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 24 April - 5 May, 2017: 16TH Session of Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Venue: New York.
- 24 April - 12 May: 92nd Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Venue: Palais Wilson, Geneva.
- 1 - 6 May, 2017: VIVAT Workshop in Nigeria. Venue: Lagos.
- 5 - 9 June: United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Venue: New York
- 13 - 15 June: 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Venue: UN Headquarters in New York.

UN Calendar of International Days:

APRIL

2 : World Autism Awareness Day
 4 : International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
 6 : International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
 7 : World Health Day
 12 : International Day of Human Space Flight
 22 : International Mother Earth Day
 23 : World Book and Copyright Day
 25 : World Malaria Day
 26 : World Intellectual Property Day
 28 : World Day for Safety and Health at Work
 29 : Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare

MAY

3 : World Press Freedom Day
 9-10: World Migratory Bird Day
 17 : World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
 21 : World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
 22 : International Day for Biological Diversity
 31 : World No-Tobacco Day

JUNE

1 : Global Day of Parents
 4 : International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
 5 : World Environment Day
 8 : World Oceans Day
 12 : World Day Against Child Labour
 14 : World Blood Donor Day
 17 : World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
 19 : International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
 20 : World Refugee Day
 23 : International Widows' Day
 26 : International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
 26 : United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
 30 : International Asteroid Day