



777 UN Plaza, East 44th Street, Suite 6F, New York, NY 10017  
 Tel. +1 646 487 0003 Email: [viny@vivatinternational.org](mailto:viny@vivatinternational.org) - [www.vivatinternational.org](http://www.vivatinternational.org)

**NEWSLETTER No. 71**  
**April - June 2017**

**Dear Readers,**  
**Welcome to the 71st Edition**  
**of VIVAT Newsletter!**

This issue begins with another story of VIVAT members' participation in CSW61 (p.2) followed by a joint oral statement by Franciscans International and VIVAT International at the UNPFII16 on the right to health of the indigenous peoples (p.3).

This edition also covers stories of VIVAT Workshop in Lagos, Nigeria in May, 2017 (p. 4) and of Refugees in Rome (p. 5).

VIVAT Argentina shares with us a story of their campaign against "gender-based violence" in the country during the Month of May (p. 6), while Brother Benny Wuwur of Madagascar tells us about his JPIC/VIVAT activities on awareness raising of environmental issues especially of deforestation and land litigation (p. 6).

Sister Carmen Bando's sharing on her participation in the informal thematic sessions on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration Second Thematic Session on Global Compact that focused on

"Human Rights of All Migrants..." is also covered in this edition (p. 7).

This year VIVAT Indonesia marks its first 5 years of its presence (p. 8) and SSsP its 100 years in Indonesia. VIVAT is happy to bring you excerpts from Sr. Maria Theresia Hornemann's reflective speech (p. 11).

Two international conferences were held early in June 2017. The one was a UN Conference on Ocean and marine life in relation to SDG 14 held in New York from June 5 to 9, 2017 (p. 9). And the other was in Nairobi, Kenya, from May 6 to 8, 2017 on "Women and Migration in African Context" which was jointly organized by six religious organizations, including VIVAT International (p. 10).

This issue ends with part 4 of "Introducing Sustainable Development Goals" (p. 12).

Thanks to all contributors!

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Our Participation at the 61st.....</b> p. 2 | <b>Geneva: Global Compact for.....</b> p. 7    |
| <b>Addressing Indigenous Peoples'..</b> p. 3   | <b>Indonesia: First Five Years of ...</b> p. 8 |
| <b>Nigeria: "That all may live.....</b> p.4    | <b>Kenya: Women and .....</b> p. 9             |
| <b>Rome: Refugees seeking .....</b> p. 5       | <b>New York: Our Oceans, Our...</b> p.10       |
| <b>Argentina: Campaign Against....</b> p.6     | <b>Healing the Wounded.....</b> p. 11          |
| <b>Madagascar: Awareness.....</b> p6           | <b>Introducing SDGs (4).....</b> p.12          |

**Board of Directors**

- Heinz Kulüke, SVD
- Maria T. Hornemann, SSsP
- Guy Mazola Mido, SVD
- Jude Nnorom, CSSp
- Carmen Bando, SSsP
- Daisuke Narui, SVD
- Zita Resch, ASC

**Secretary**

Felix Jones, SVD

**Executive Administration**

- Helen R. Saldanha, SSsP
- Robert Mirsel, SVD

**VIVAT Int'l rep. in Geneva**

Andrzej Owca, CSSp

**Contributed with this edition**

**Editor pro Tem**

John Converset, MCCJ

**Translators**

Olga Estela Sanchez, CMS  
**Spanish**

**French**

Daniel LeBlanc, OMI

Simone Petra Hanel, SSsP

**German**

Edni Gugelmin, SSsP

**Portuguese**

**CONTACT**

**NEW YORK**      **GENEVA**  
 +1 646 487 0003      +41 022 796 991  
[www.vivatinternational.org](http://www.vivatinternational.org)

## Our Participation at the 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

**R**epresenting VIVAT International, we the SSpS Sisters participated in CSW61 which was attended by over 3000 women, and found this experience extremely enriching. We learnt that CSW has come a long way in making in-roads and creating milestones on women's status in every sphere of society, its systems, structures and culture. With its focus on women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work, CSW61 highlighted the experiences and contributions of women in every sphere, from the grassroots to global levels.

It was also an opportunity to learn that VIVAT International is designed to contribute to the voice for life, dignity and rights. We attended one event jointly organized by VIVAT and other NGOs that focused on Land, water and Women.

Here, bring you our personal reflection of what our participation in CSW61 meant to us.

"I was deeply impressed by the enthusiasm of women in their fight for equality for all women. I mostly attended events that focused on burning issues such as violence against women and children, human trafficking, role of family in prevention of human trafficking, teenage mothers, xenophobia etc. I never realized that there are thousands of women and girls living in totally inhuman conditions, without access to education and health care, and social protection, without the possibility of making decisions about their life, marriage or career. I am challenged to be more involved in the voices for justice in my own mission and in searching for ways how to prevent injustice, build awareness and protect women and children in their concrete needs." (*Zuzana Sokacova, SSpS*)



"CSW61 provided a space for different organizations, groups and individuals to come together, present, discuss and share their stories of achievements and pains at the international level. One of the events that I attended focused on how thousands of girls in Latin America were raped. Many of them became pregnant. Their life was stunted. The treatment by the society further victimized them, affecting their emotional and social wellbeing and education. In most cases the girls were induced to have an abortion." (*Paola Benitez, SSpS*)

"Participation in the Official Opening Session of CSW61 in the General Assembly Hall was a great experience. I attended several events in the course of two weeks. I came to the very simple conclusion "Women's Rights are Human Rights; and Human Rights are Women's Rights. I also learned that these rights are often denied from conception until death of women. Violence and discrimination against

women is a life cycle phenomena. Women's contribution in public and private spaces must be valued and their voices need to be heard, especially in leadership and decision making." (*Yina Ni, SSpS*)

"What I liked the most was an event on the 'Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against Women' (CEDAW) as it covers the entire gamut of

discrimination. As a treaty, it legally binds the governments to act on discrimination and violence against women. Citing a success story of tribal women in Taiwan living on the outer margins of society who suffered neglect by the educational system and cut off from any possibility of advancing themselves, the resource persons demonstrated various strategies that can be applied almost anywhere. I was thinking of and the plight of rural women in Nigeria with same kind of problems and neglect. The creativity and care the members of the Taiwan team demonstrated in their work with poor rural women was truly inspiring." (*Uloma Akpa, SSpS*)

*By Srs. Zuzana, SSpS, Paola, SSpS, Yina, SSpS and Uloma, SSpS (Tertians), VIVAT International Members in the U.S.A.*

## ADDRESSING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS TO HEALTH

Joint Oral Statement By Franciscans International and VIVAT International at PFII 16th

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Franciscans International and VIVAT International made an intervention at the 16<sup>th</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII 16<sup>th</sup>) which marked the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by addressing thematic issue on health.

Referring to the United Nations Declaration which affirms that “Indigenous individuals have the right to life, physical and mental integrity” (Article 7), “the right to their traditional medicines and to maintain their health practices” (article 24), “the right, without discrimination to the improvement of their economic and social conditions” (article 21); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights especially “the right to health to everyone without discrimination” (article 12); and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 (SDGs) Declaration adopted by the General Assembly on September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, especially Goal 3 on addressing good health and wellbeing which emphasizes inter alia this target: “By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases”, both organizations express their concerns on the health situation of the indigenous peoples in three countries—Indonesia, Brazil and the Philippines.



**Odile Courier, FMM delivered an oral statement in the name of Franciscans International and VIVAT International**

Of particular concern was the health condition of the West Papuans in Indonesia. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS among the indigenous Papuans is very high. According to the official date, published by the Papua Province Administration in March 2016 the prevalence rate in Papua province is 15 times higher than the national average, while in West Papua province is 10 times higher. The government did not follow through on its responsibilities to provide adequate medical services and care.

In the Philippines, the Tampakan Copper-Gold Project in the province of Mindanao is regrettably illustrative of several issues around extractive activities and their negative impact on human rights. The presence of extractive corporations operating in the Philippines presents risks for the human right to the highest attainable health standards for affected communities.

As far as Brazil is concerned, both organizations refer to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples, Victoria Tauli Corpuz’ final mission statement to the country on March 17, 2016, after a ten-day visit (7 – 17 March 2016), as follows: “The challenges facing many indigenous peoples in the country are enormous. These challenges include...profound and ever increasing impacts of mega-projects in or near indigenous peoples’ territories; ...inadequate provision of appropriate health care, education and social services, as evidenced by indicators related to youth suicide, cases of illegal adoption of indigenous children, infant mortality and alcoholism....”

At the end, both organizations urge Member States in which these violations have occurred and in which these indigenous

communities live to:

- Respect, protect and fulfill the rights of indigenous peoples of their countries, including their right to health, to life and physical and mental integrity
- Allocate funds for health services and monitor their allocations and use to make sure that the funds effectively serve to improve the access by indigenous communities to adequate, quality and culturally acceptable health care;
- Document and identify healthcare needs in indigenous territories on a case-by-case basis and
- Ensure that plans and solutions are designed with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous individuals and communities concerned.

*Edited by Robert Minsel, SVD*

## “THAT ALL MAY LIVE IN DIGNITY”

### STATEMENT FROM VIVAT INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP NIGERIA

At the end of the VIVAT International Workshop on **Working for Justice, Promoting Peace, Preserving Lives** held at Eucharistic Heart of Jesus (EHJ) Domus Fidei Conference Centre, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria, May 1-5, 2017, we, the participants from VIVAT member congregations, religious and lay associates, NGOs from Nigeria and other parts of Africa, affirm the inalienable rights and dignity of every human being.

Following presentations by specialists and robust engagements by participants, we strongly believe that a resilient and continuous engagement with VIVAT International will produce a better structured, mutually beneficial approach that will aid the spirited efforts of the religious tackling socio-economic challenges in Nigeria.

Despite her rich ecological endowments and available security apparatus that could guarantee food sovereignty and social security, Nigeria is still plagued by hunger, social insecurity and climate change. Industrial agriculture is a major cause of ecological destruction. These interconnected issues impact heavily on the situation of human rights of the citizens of Nigeria.

Though our people are hungry, the introduction of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and the distribution of GM seeds are not options for consideration. We strongly object to further introduction and distribution of GM seeds and foods in Nigeria. This country has vast and fertile lands for organic agriculture. We, therefore, realize that we need to respond to this challenge in addressing this issue to support our farmers and make farming more productive and attractive for young people.

We recognize that, though we have been responding to these problems in our ministries, our tools of engagement have not been adequate to address the

situation. In this regard, we need more radical strategies and a stronger collaborative network that will tackle the underlying systemic problems.

Among other themes that emerged, food sovereignty, social insecurity, violence against women, ecological degradation and climate change stood out more visibly for the participants.



For all these, we are committed to developing advocacy tools of engagements following a plan of action.

We see VIVAT International as a viable and valuable option for future engagements. We call on all our Major

Superiors to support the formation in Nigeria of a National branch of VIVAT International.

VIVAT International Workshop Nigeria, April 30 – May 5, 2017

**THEME: WORKING FOR JUSTICE, PROMOTING PEACE, AND PRESERVING LIVES**

#### **PLAN OF ACTION**

**METHODOLOGY:** Human Rights based approach.

**EMERGING THEMES:**

- 1. Food Sovereignty:** Land grabbing, GMOs, Pesticides, Herbicides, etc.
- 2. Ecological protection/Climate change:** (Climate refugees/Land Conflicts), indiscriminate waste disposal, gas flaring, deforestation, bush burning, land slide, erosion and environmental pollution.
- 3. Social Insecurity:** (Structural injustice, Human trafficking, kidnapping, domestic violence, (Women and children) Fulani herdsmen, IDPs, and Corruption

**STRATEGIES:**

Understanding the issues involved; Awareness campaign and education/capacity building; Field visitation; Documentation; Collaboration/Networking; Communication/ Report; Advocacy; Lobbying, visits, rallies, meetings, Civil disobedience; Press briefing; Interviews; Media; Petitions; Letter of demand; International tools: UN mechanisms, NGOs Free Legal aids, International courts; Social teachings of the church; and Legislation.

**MONITORING/EVALUATION PERIODS:** Three Years

## Refugees Seeking Identity in a Foreign Land

### A Story from Rome



**O**ne year ago, on February 29, 2016, we hosted in our community in the SSpS General House in Rome the first Syrian family, comprised of a mother with three children, who continues to live with us till this day. In October 2016, the second Syrian family arrived, a mother with two children, to live in our house. Both refugee families arrived in Italy through the "humanitarian corridor" organized by the Community of Sant'Egidio, the Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy and the Valdese Church.

It was an unforgettable day when the first family arrived. They looked so tired, exhausted, but at the same time happy to be together in a quiet place. This family only spoke Arabic, but the children knew some English. \*Sara (8) and \*Mohamed (14) were always very attentive translators. We had prepared two rooms for the family, thinking that the mother could stay with the daughter and the two brothers stay together in another room, but finally they decided to stay together in one room.

The family members faced many struggles to respond and adapt to the internal and external changes happening in their environment and in themselves. As the days passed, the mother noticed the change in the behavior of her children, and she was surprised by the aggressive reaction of them. We tried to cheer her up, but she only repeated: "I do not feel happy, I have no friends, I have no family,

I do not speak the language ... I do not see any people around; all the neighbors are locked up in their houses...." She missed her previous life, and did not want to continue in this place; she found it difficult to identify with this new way of life. Living such a difficult situation; no knowing her future, being away from her family and social and cultural environment, not to mention her memories, her ancestors, and her customs.

During all this time, we perceived the difficulties and the struggles that the family members had in living this whole process of change, and the importance for them of feeling welcomed. The most important thing is to be together with the refugees, to make them feel that they are not alone. This experience leads the family members to transformation, makes them feel valued in the eyes of others, and over time, aggressiveness and rejection of everything turns to affection and love. What they most need is to find love and compassion in the community that welcomes them, to know that not everything is lost, to accompany them in the process of healing their wounds, especially those emotional wounds that do not fade from the mind. In this way, they can rebuild their lives little by little.

For these families, it was very important to be connected and interact with their friends and family through the internet. Communicating with family members scattered all around, and being able to listen to them made the refugees "feel" close to their countries. This means of communication contributes in coping with homesickness and the yearning to see their loved ones despite the geographic distance. In addition, to be in communication through internet makes the refugee still feel part of the community to which he belonged.

When the refugees started the school, they experienced a great change in their lives. They had a mixture of feelings. On the one hand, the resistance to integrate a new environment totally unknown, and the fear of contacting a new group of friends ... without being able to communicate by the limitation of the language. On the other hand, the joy of being able to go back to a school, where they can forge a community that allows them to reorient their lives, promote social bonds, and create their own network of friends. They were rebuilding their identity as they were interacting with others in this new social environment.

Today, the joy of being able to relate to others and integrate social activities that the refugees have is visible to us. The children feel more comfortable interacting with their peers and friends of the school.



The school is helping the children to recover the feeling of security and stability in their new environment. In the school, they eat the same food with the other children, speak the same language, learn to sing the same songs, and play together. The change also occurred in the mothers who begin to interact with other mothers and to have new friendships. This act of sharing helps them to reconstruct significances that give sense to their lives and relationships, and to find the meaning in their experiences of struggles and sufferings.

\* The names of the children are not the real ones.

*By Sr. Francisca Garcete, SSpS, Rome*

## Vivat International's Campaign Against "Gender-Based Violence" in Argentina

During the month of May 2017, VIVAT International Argentina made a campaign on the issue of violence against women. In Argentina, a woman dies every 30 hours for merely being a woman and because of the machismo. According to the statistics provided by the registry of the Supreme Court of Justice of the nation, during the year 2015, 235 murders occurred in the figure of "femicide" contained in the comprehensive protection 26.485 law to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women, 43% of victims were between 21 and 40 years old at the time of their murders, 25% between 41 and 60 years, 11% between 16 and 20 years, 9% exceeded the 60 years, and 9% under 16 years of age. Only 3% of the cases the ages of the victim were unidentified.

As a result of the 235 deaths of these women, at least 203 girls and adolescents were left orphans. Of the 235 cases of femicide, 149 were committed by partners of victims, while 30 were committed by family members and 40 by unknown people.

The high statistics of femicide reflects the fact that the State failed to halt the problem, even when in recent years specific laws, such as the definition of the crime of femicide, have been rendered, and official agencies such as the National Council of Women have been created to address the problem.

Femicides are unfortunately becoming more common and a view that tends to blame the victims in the public debate is still planted.

Although advancement has been made much in the country, women have not achieved equality in wages, in politics, in employment or in the health care today. They found that machismo is something intrinsic in their way of life. It affects the way how women are treated. For example, women are paid less than men for their work. This inequality at all levels is a sum of factors as a result of considering woman inferior to men. It is considered that women deserve unequal treatment because of their being viewed as inferior to men.

This machismo is rooted to the innermost of our society, like all other structural problems. Therefore, it requires solutions that address root-causes in the short, medium and long run.

In the framework of the 2017 annual campaign "**Against gender based violence**" during the month of May, 2017, VIVAT International Argentina invited all Argentinians to participate in the campaign; to disseminate and promote the rights of women; and to generate mechanisms for education and training in schools and parishes, and promote conditions for the reorientation and change of situations that prevent violence against women. Finally, it encouraged everyone to protect and care for life.

Source: <https://vivatargentina.wordpress.com/category/derechos-de-la-mujer/page/2/>  
 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN.  
 ABUSE COMPLAINT LINE,  
<http://www.cnm.gob.ar/>

*Br. Victor Hirsch and Sr. Cristina Ramos,  
 Board of Directors of VIVAT International  
 Argentina*

### Awareness Program on Land Litigation and Afforestation in Madagascar

This year, Madagascar experienced drought which retarded cultivation of food crops and planting in general. The fear is that the country may experience famine in the long run. According to the analyses made, we believe that, this might have been caused by the global climate change which is being caused by the behavior of man vis-à-vis creation. Normally, the rains set in, in late November. Nevertheless, they arrived in March. Very soon, the winter season will begin and many crops will not survive if no divine miracle is performed.

In Madagascar in general, trees are cut off for building and construction of houses, boats, canoes, roads etc and for farm lands and charcoals. Most at times, the cutting off trees are not replaced. This affects humans in the long run. And if measures are not taken, this beautiful island can become a desert in the future, where animals, plants and human beings will find it difficult to survive.

To address the problems of afforestation and of illegal logging, the local council of Mahela called on the SVD JPIC Coordinator to come to their aid. That is the reason why the coordinator invited officers of the Department of Forestry to give a talk to the local population on the need to replant more trees to curb the problem of climate change which is having immense effect on us. This gathering took place in the end of March 2017.

The officer from the Department of Forestry gave a talk on Land and its related issues because this, most at times leads to fights and death. He advised that because of poverty, land issues be resolved on the village level through the help of village chiefs to save time, money and personal and family dignity. He added that there is lack of land titles in the whole of Madagascar. Many lands are not registered legally and this might cause a lot of problems in the future. He advised that names of owner of land registered be changed in the law court with the help of lawyers and the officers of the survey and topological department in case of death or the sale of land. Witnesses are needed. Homologation of lands, certificate of sale and buying are all necessary to prevent unforeseen problems. He reiterated on the right and responsibilities of all owners and buyers of land.

The officer from the forestry department insisted that one needs a special permission and authorization from their office to cut or log trees, to burn lands and forest, even if it belongs to him or her, otherwise a fine is imposed on those who (transgress the law) cut or log trees without permission. Failure to comply with the law is prosecution at the law court. He stressed that a payment is made in the form of replanting trees to replace felled ones. He counseled that there should be a Communal forest reserve to curb climate change and for future use. He clearly spelt out the right and responsibilities of all vis-à-vis felling of trees. He added that deforestation also leads to erosion. Here, he gave a long lecture on its negative effects on man.

At the end of the workshop people began to realize that they had to protect the environment through reforestation.

*Bro. Beny Wuwur, SVD  
 SVD JPIC Coordinator/  
 VIVAT Madagascar*

## GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION

### A Note from Geneva

I was attending the First informal thematic session on **“Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance”**, at Palais des Nations, Room XIX Geneva, 8-9 May 2017.

#### Panels

The first informal thematic session of the preparatory process leading to the



adoption of the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration entitled “Human rights of all migrants, social inclusion, cohesion, and all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance”, was held at the United Nations Office in Geneva on 8 and 9 May 2017. The session consisted of opening remarks by the co-facilitators and the Secretary-General of the inter-governmental conference, three expert panels on the human rights of all migrants, social inclusion and cohesion, all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance and a summary panel. In addition, the co-facilitators invited the NGO and Civil society representatives to an informal dialogue on the morning of the second day.

Three side events were held during the sessions: Protecting the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations; The role of local authorities in promoting inclusion of refugees and migrants, and Mainstreaming Migrant Health into the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

The summary and recommendations made during this session were presented for consideration in the subsequent phases of this preparatory process. The contents of it served as one of the inputs for discussion at the meeting in Mexico on 4-6 December 2017.

Delegations recognized that human rights are universal and apply to all migrants, regardless of their status. As such, all migrants are entitled to protection under international human rights law. Many expressed that there is no need of a new frame; rather implementation and operationalization of the existing framework regarding human rights, with a comprehensive approach (gender sensitive and according to the age of the migrant), is needed.

The problem of vulnerability and the irregular migration as the root of it was mentioned several times. Delegations also noted the link between irregular migrations and smuggling of migrants in the absence of regular channels. Few also mentioned the problem of human trafficking. The question of detention arose, especially the detention of children which some viewed as a criminalization of migrants.

Equal access to education and health care as part of social inclusion are two key points mentioned, without excluding the importance of work and recognizing the labour rights. There was a call to ratify the Convention on migrant workers.



Participants highlighted the importance of more creative forms of addressing discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance; implementing more concretely the Durban Convention, acknowledging at the same time effective action which requires coordination and efforts of national governments, NGOs, and other civil society organizations and institutions.

What strikes me was the affirmation that a strong implementation is needed rather a new legislation. The divergence was regarding binding responsibilities. Australia, for example, clearly stated that it would not welcome a binding treaty. A few states mentioned the importance of a good plan of action and its evaluation. Only Canada said that it did not see the antagonism between rights of migrants and security policies for citizens.

I see the importance of being present during this process as just summing our voices to claim and remember to all that are behind the so called “migration problem” are human beings, that is not anonymous but has a concrete face.

*Carmen Elisa Bando, SSpS,  
Rome*

## First Five Years of VIVAT International Indonesia

VIVAT Indonesia celebrates its Fifth Birthday!! It is indeed a good opportunity to look back to how it began and take pride in its development during this past 5 years as well as look forward to its possible future.

### Milestones

The journey began in 2007 with the dialogue and deliberations between Congregational Leaders and Leadership of the Indonesian Provinces of SVD-SSpS. On July 10, 2010 VIVAT International Board adopted and ratified the establishment of VIVAT International Indonesia as the first National Branch of VIVAT International as a legal entity in accordance to the Law applicable in the country.

Following this decision, the Leadership decided for an office space for the national Secretariat in Jakarta and appointed full time Personnel (SVD and SSpS) for carrying forward this mandate. VIVAT Indonesia Secretariat started its operations on January 3, 2012. Subsequently, the secretariat team began applying for the legal status, and received the legalization of the VIVAT Indonesia Foundation's Charter and Statutes by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights on July 30, 2012. On October 22, 2013 VIVAT Indonesia Foundation was officially registered at the Office of Social Affairs of DKI Jakarta Province.

### Work at Three Levels

VIVAT Indonesia works at three levels: local, national and global. At grassroots level, VIVAT Indonesia addresses the issues such as poverty alleviation, empowering marginalized communities, women and children, human trafficking, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, HIV/AIDS, death penalty, and environment. At national level, it advocates on the issues of mining, human trafficking, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, SDGs, capital

punishment, and women and children. At global level, it brings and advocates on the issues of mining through VIVAT International in New York and the JPIC Commission in Rome; Human Rights

in New York, VIVAT Representative in Geneva, Executive Secretary of the VIVAT Board in Rome, SVD, OMI, SCJ and SSpS JPIC Coordinators at General level in Rome and Steyler Bank in Sankt Augustin, Germany. Externally, VIVAT Indonesia collaborates and networks with various NGOs and public institutions and ecclesiastical organs / institutions. At national level, VIVAT Indonesia cooperates with Inter-governmental Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), NGO on Environmental Issues (WALHI), Mining Network



of West Papuans through VIVAT International, Franciscans International and International Coalition for Papua in Geneva and JPIC Commission of UISG in Rome; and monitors and evaluates the Human Rights records of some Palm Oil Companies in Sumatra & Kalimantan to the Board of Conduct of Steyler Bank in Germany.

### Coordination and Networking

VIVAT Indonesia Secretariat communicates and coordinates internally and with networks/collaborates externally. Internally, it communicates and coordinates with JPIC coordinators, VIVAT members, schools, and institutions belonging to congregations such as Voluntary Team for Humanity in Flores (TRUK-F), Forum for the Protection of Women and Children (FPPA), and Widya Mandira Catholic University (UNWIRA) in Kupang. It also communicates with VIVAT Executive Team

(JATAM), Migrant Care, Human Rights Working Group (HRWG), Padma Indonesia, (Indonesian) National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM), and National Commission on Women's Rights (Komnas Perempuan).

Reflecting on the presence, role and involvement of the first five years, VIVAT International Indonesia understands itself as an organization, movement and mission. As an organization it functions as a medium to build contacts, and to communicate, coordinate and consolidate internally and externally at various levels. As a movement, it utilizes all of its strengths and potentials to advocate, lobby and campaign to raise public awareness on issues such as mining, human trafficking and death penalty. As a mission, it presents and witnesses the values of God's Kingdom: justice, peace, equality, and the integrity of creation.

*By Fr. Paul Rahmat, SVD  
and Sr. Genoveva, SSpS  
VIVAT Indonesia*

## WOMEN AND MIGRATION IN THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference on: *Religious and Migration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

A two and half day international conference on migration took place at Dimesse Retreat Center, Karen-Nairobi from June 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The conference under a theme “Women and Migration in the



African Context” was convened and organized by Augustinians International, Congregations of St Joseph, Franciscans International, Passionists International, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and VIVAT International. These six organizations, accredited as NGOs with consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), are part of leading civil society organizations dealing with issues of migration in over 100 countries.

Contributing to a highly stimulated knowledge and experience sharing were representatives of: International Organization for Migration (IOM), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Kenyan government Department of Immigration Service, Kenyan Conference of Catholic Bishops, Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), a Kenyan-based organization working on awareness against human trafficking (HAART), Amnesty International, Pan African Network in Defense of Migrants' Rights (PANiDMR), refugees and migrants themselves, local practitioners, and New York-based representatives of religious congregations accredited to the UN.

The conference occasioned one of the most insightful discussions on migration and refugees ever held in Africa with a rich mix of participants: religious groups, international agencies and government. The discussions looked at migration, trafficking in persons and refugee dynamics specifically from an African and women’s perspective, with the session examining the global dimension focused on how best to harness the benefits of migration while minimizing its negative effects. The deeper understanding of migration and refugees dynamics gained sug-

gest a needed change in the perception of migration, particularly in Africa. Participation was interactive, involving the views of the various individuals, organizations and agencies that attended the conference.

At the end of the conference, all were more aware that we are living at a time of turbulence, tension and transition. The discussions brought out how different groups are already responding in different ways to issues and concerns of migrants, refugees, diasporas, trafficked victims and IDPs. There are various activities and efforts by the national governments, UN agencies and international organizations towards a constructive national and regional management of migration and direct services to migrants, refugees and victims of trafficking in person. A good number of the civil society organizations also play strategic and supportive roles in these efforts in migration governance in the region. These notwithstanding, however, much more attention and greater efforts to collaborate are needed

to address migration and refugees’ issues on the continent.

### RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

Discussions surfaced the following recommendations and elements of an action plan:

- Capacity building workshop, training for members of religious groups, local communities and critical stakeholders in migration and refugee dynamics is essential to build advocacy momentum and ensure effective services for migrant, refugees and victims of trafficking in persons.
- Critical stakeholders who were not represented at the meeting - such as, leaders of other religions or faiths - should be contacted and included in future actions on migration.
- Form a conglomerate body to ensure continuity and preservation of this space for the purpose of strengthen-



ing dialogue and collaboration among civil society organizations working on any aspect of migration and refugees in Africa.

- Create a database of religious and kindred groups working on migration, maintain a website for the purpose of information dissemination, experience-sharing among members and organizations and civic education on migration.
- Organize a follow up conference to evaluate the implementation of the action plans undertaken.

## Our Oceans, Our Future

### A NOTE FROM OCEAN CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK, JUNE 5 -9, 2017

**From 5 to 9 June 2017**, VIVAT International participated in the Ocean Conference which was held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This conference is the first one in this issue to support the implementation of the sustainable goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The Governments of Fiji and Sweden co-hosted the responsibilities of the Conference. In the opening remarks, the Fiji's representative highlighted that "time is running out to save our seas and oceans."

The conference was comprised of plenary meetings, and seven partnership dialogues addressing marine pollution, restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems, ocean acidification, sustainable fishing, economic benefits to small islands and developing countries, marine research and technology, and implementation of international law for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans. There were different side events, and screening of movies supporting the theme of the partnership dialogues.

In the side events, scientists urged to States, private sector, and all people to commit to reduce plastics and change consumers' behavior. Some countries have banned plastic bags, but it is not enough. There are 12.2 million tons of plastic per year. By 2050, we will have more plastic in the ocean than fish, according to the scientists. They also called on the international community to cut CO2 emissions because another serious issue is the ocean warming and acidification. The ocean has absorbed some 90% of the heat trapped by the carbon dioxide, altering its chemical components, and threatening coral reefs, marine life, and livelihoods.

The Member State collectively agreed in a declaration entitled: "Our ocean, our future: call for action" as the outcome document of the conference. In the document, States members affirm: "we are determined to act decisively and urgently, convinced that our collective action will make a meaningful difference to our people, to our planet and to our prosperity." The world has started to be concerned not just about our planet earth, but also our planet water.

#### Voices of the Church Leaders

At the conference, Cardinal Peter Turkson, Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See called for more attention and protection of Earth's seas and oceans in remarks to a United Nations conference on the need to "Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas, and Marine Resources for Sustainable



Cardinal Peter Turkson speaks at the UN Ocean Conference  
Source: UN Doc.

Development". He stated that no global accord yet exists for the protection of the oceans' resources; such an accord is becoming ever more urgent. "While our care for our oceans immediately benefits us, it is also a gift to future generations, sparing them from paying the extremely

high price of environmental deterioration and allowing them to enjoy its beauty, wonder, and manifold endowment."

Another Church Leader at the conference was Cardinal John Ribat KBE,



Card. John Ribat (center) and two VIVAT Representatives: Sr. Helen (right) and Fr. Robert Minsel (left). Source: VIVAT Docs.

M.S.C., Archbishop of Port Moresby, who spoke on behalf of Papua New Guineans and small island countries in Pacific Ocean about the negative impacts of climate change and seabed mining operations in the region on the sustainability of life as a whole and on the people living in those countries. He strongly urged the governments not to allow the companies to operate in the region.

In an informal discussion with Cardinal Ribat, VIVAT International introduced Mining Working Group as a tool of bringing the voice of the people impacted by mining operations and encouraged him to make use of this channel to raise the voice of the people in Papua New Guinea and other small island countries in the region and invited him to collaborate with VIVAT International members in the region.

*Sr. Olga Estela Sanchez Caro  
and Robert Minsel*

## HEALING THE WOUNDED, VOICING THE TRUTH

- ❖ The Congregation of SSpS Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Its Mission in Indonesia
- ❖ Sr. Maria Theresia's Speech at the Centennial Celebration



**T**he Congregation of Missionary Sisters, Servants of The Holy Spirit (SSpS) celebrated the Centenary of its

presence in Indonesia this year (2017). It was marked by a series of events organized by the SSpS members and their partners. The Solemn Mass was offered on January 13, 2017. The theme of the celebration under the theme, "Healing the Wounded, Voicing the Truth."



### SSpS as VIVAT Family

On this special occasion, Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, SSpS, the Congregational leader addressed the Sisters and the guests and made a special mention of VIVAT International Indonesia as a common project of SVD and SSpS. She says, "Today, 100 years later, we can look back with gratitude to these simple beginnings and can harvest the fruits... SSpS in Indonesia are involved in education, health care, pastoral and social work. VIVAT International-Indonesia is one of the most vibrant branches of VIVAT-International, a common project of the SSpS and SVDs in collaboration with other Congregations. Concrete issues of women abuse, human trafficking and mining have been addressed by this NGO. Because of the initiative of VIVAT-Indonesia "mining" has been added to the agenda of the United Nations."

### Collaboration and Partnership

Sr. Maria Theresia also mentions the value of collaboration and partnership with many stakeholders, including SVD Brothers and Fathers, SSpS Adoration Sisters, the Holy Spirit Association, local church authorities and laity alike in missionary work. She says, "I am very aware

that our mission here in Indonesia as well as in many other parts of the world has only been, and is only possible because of many men and women, who collaborate with us in the parishes, institutions, projects and in all our efforts to share good news among people. "

### Despite Challenges, Take the Opportunities and Work with Vision and Hope

Finally, she reminded the sisters and guests of the challenges and opportunities ahead, and encouraged them to work with vision and hope. She states: "We all know that it has not become easier today to stand for Gospel values, to follow the active-non-violent way of Jesus in solving conflicts and to include people of all cultures and colors in our circle of love. There seems to be a tendency towards nationalism, fanatic religious movements and violent responses

to emerging problems in our globalized world... Remain open to the challenges of the time, to the people in need, always ready to take a risk, to let go and to move on, to close and to open missions as the Spirit is moving you. Be aware of the important role you have in carrying out the mission of our Congregation, not only in Indonesia, but in the whole world. Continue to use your God-given qualities and capacities as women of different cultures and from different religious backgrounds in order to contribute to a better world, to justice and peace and to care for our common



home, the earth. Resist the temptation to do it all alone, but continue to collaborate with others, as the first sisters who came here have done. And in all this do not forget that not what and how much we do is the most important, but who we are and how we live our COMMUNION with God, with one another, with creation, with the excluded, and with all people who share the vision of Jesus and of our founding generation, a vision that desires LIFE, life to the full for all people. "

## INTRODUCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS PART 4

### SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

**Ensuring** healthy lives and promoting the well-being for all at all ages is essential to sustainable development. Significant strides have been made in increasing life expectancy and reducing some of the common killers associated with child and maternal mortality. Major progress has been made on increasing access to clean water and sanitation, reducing malaria, tuberculosis, polio and the spread of HIV/AIDS. However, many more efforts are needed to fully eradicate a wide range of diseases and address many different persistent and emerging health issues.

#### Facts and Achievements

- At the end of 2014, there were 13.6 million people accessing antiretroviral therapy
- New HIV infections in 2013 were estimated at 2.1 million, which was 38 per cent lower than in 2001
- At the end of 2013, there were an estimated 35 million people living with HIV
- At the end of 2013, 240 000 children were newly infected with HIV
- New HIV infections among children have declined by 58 per cent since 2001
- TB-related deaths in people living with HIV have fallen by 36% since 2004
- As of 2013, 2.1 million adolescents were living with HIV
- Over 6.2 million malaria deaths have been averted between 2000 and 2015, primarily of children under five years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The global malaria incidence rate has fallen by an estimated 37 per cent and the mortality rates by 58 per cent
- Between 2000 and 2013, tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment interventions saved an estimated 37 million lives. The tuberculosis mortality rate fell by 45 per cent and the prevalence rate by 41 per cent between 1990 and 2013

#### Targets

- By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births  
By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births
- By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

- By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being
- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
- By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents
- By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

- Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and noncommunicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all.
- Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.
- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks.

Source: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **July 10 – 14; 17 - 19:** [The high-level political forum on sustainable development](#). VENUE: New York
- **July 3 – 21:** Committee on the Elimination of the Discrimination against Women, 63<sup>rd</sup> Session. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
- **July 31 – August 25:** Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 93<sup>rd</sup> Session. Venue: Geneva, Switzerland
- **August 14-31:** Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 18<sup>th</sup> Session. Venue: Geneva,
- **21 – 25 August:** Conference on Corruption, 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting. Venue: Vienna, Austria

#### UN Calendar of International Days:

##### JULY

- 1 : International Day of Cooperatives
- 11: World Population Day
- 15: World Youth Skills Day
- 18: Nelson Mandela International Day
- 28: World Hepatitis Day
- 30: International Day of Friendship
- 30: World Day against Trafficking in Persons

##### AUGUST

- 9 : International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- 12: International Youth Day
- 19: World Humanitarian Day
- 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition
- 29: International Day against Nuclear Tests
- 30: International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances

##### SEPTEMBER

- 5 : International Day of Charity
- 8 : International Literacy Day
- 12: United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation
- 15: International Day of Democracy
- 16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- 21: International Day of Peace
- 26: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- 27: World Tourism Day
- 28: World Rabies Day