



Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary

NGO with special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 2013 and with the Department of Public Information since 2006.

News from the UN - # 95

RSHM at the UN

September 2018

DPI NGO Conference

The 67th UN DPI NGO Conference was held on August 22nd and 23rd with the commitment to foster people-centered multilateralism to address global challenges. Civil society partnerships to advance the Sustainable Development Goals were highlighted in a series of roundtables, workshops, exhibits and youth events. The conference attracted over 2,000 NGO representatives from more than 100 countries and resulted in a "Call to Action" and a Youth Declaration. The Call to Action emphasized the importance of international cooperation and civil society commitment, as well as partnerships with Member States, the UN development system, and the private sector. ➡ ["Read more..."](#)



Global Climate Action Summit 2018



The Global Climate Action Summit took place from September 12-14th in San Francisco, bringing together leaders from around the world, celebrating climate action achievements and fostering deeper worldwide commitments to

prevent dangerous climate change and realize the 2015 Paris Agreement. The Summit was a collaborative effort of international and local leaders from states, businesses, investors, civil society, scientists, students, nonprofits and others in a new wave of mobilization. These actors came together with the hopes of cultivating new climate commitments under five key areas: 1) Healthy Energy Systems, 2) Inclusive Economic Growth, 3) Sustainable Communities, 4) Land and Ocean Stewardship and 5) Transformative Climate Investments. The summit opened the door to some exciting progress including a 4 billion dollar commitment by philanthropic organizations, to combat climate

change. More than 100 leaders committed to carbon neutrality—or removing as much carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they emit.

➡ [Watch the short video](#)

Fast Facts from the Summit:

Over 70 big cities, home to some 425 million citizens, are now committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2050. This would lead to a 2.5% cut of annual global greenhouse gas emissions.

A stepped-up transition to a low-carbon economy can:

- ✓ Result in \$26 trillion in economic benefits worldwide through 2030.
- ✓ Generate over 65 million new low-carbon jobs in 2030, equivalent to today's entire workforces of the U.K. and Egypt combined.
- ✓ Avoid over 700,000 premature deaths from air pollution in 2030.

➡ [Read more....](#)

RSHM News Briefs



The 10th JPIC SCM Social Forum was held at Colegio Sagrado Coração de Maria in Belo Horizonte, Brazil in mid-September in this 90th anniversary of the school's founding. The theme was Youth : Building Citizenship. Public Policies and Youth. During the three day programme, students organized and led debates and discussions on topics which impact directly on the life of young people, always approaching the chosen issue through the lens of the Social Forum motto "Another world is possible". Some of the themes worked on included intolerance and gender identity, race, political intolerance and its consequences and the environment; scarcity and waste of water; youth and the world of work.



Missão Timor 2018 For the fourth year in a row, a special summer volunteer outreach initiative took place, involving the RSHM schools in Portugal partnering with the RSHM community in Zumalai, Timor Leste. A team of 16, including teachers, students and alumni/ae spent 4 weeks there in July/August as part of "Missão Timor". The experience of volunteering in a remote, rural community focused on offering lessons in Portuguese to the young people and engaging children and youth in recreational and catechetical activities in the parish. Thanks to the partnership, funds were raised to support the construction of a multipurpose room in Zumalai, which will be used for various activities with the local people. SDG 17.





Internship

We are happy to welcome **Claire Buonocore, from Oakland, California**, who is interning with our **RSHM NGO** for the period September – December 2018. Claire is completing her BA in **International Relations at Marymount Manhattan College** in December. We are grateful for her contributions to this issue of News from the UN and her help in updating our RSHM NGO social media.

UNGA73

During the **73rd annual UNGA General Debate**, 77 Heads of State, five Vice-Presidents and 44 Heads of Government were among the national leaders addressing the General Assembly during a marathon week in late September. In her opening address, the **GA President María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés** highlighted the importance of a strengthened United Nations as the “*only global forum that can address the multiple challenges facing the world, from conflict resolution to climate change mitigation and sustainable development*”.

[➔ Watch the summary](#)

Migration



was one of many focus areas of the **High Level segment of the UN General Assembly**. Our RSHM NGO had the opportunity to attend a number of UN side events concentrating on migration, refugees, the implementing the **Global Compact on Migration**, as well as the rights

of children who have been displaced or are in areas of conflict. The events echoed several consistent themes such as the need for safe pathways for migration, respect for human rights and human dignity, sustainable partnership between all stakeholders, support for host communities, changing the perception of migrants, and economic benefits of migration. **United for a Different Migration**, a side event organized by the European Progressive Political Foundation emphasized a valuable point, “*Migration is not about numbers; it is first and foremost, about people.*” Many of these events are in preparation for the **Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration** which will take place in Marrakech, Morocco on the 10th and 11th of December, 2018.

[➔ Watch the short video....](#)

Some comments from Claire Buonocore on UNGA 73,

*What a week! I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the **RSHM** and have attended so many wonderful and exciting events during **UNGA73**. In just one week, I have heard from a range of state representatives, NGOs, Faith-based organizations (FBOs), and people from the ground speaking to issues such as financing, migration, climate, human rights, the SDGs, rights of the child, peacekeeping and women's empowerment. These events have left me feeling inspired and optimistic regarding the international community's ability to address global issues.*

*I also had the opportunity to attend the **General Assembly**. I heard heads of states from **Brazil, Ecuador, the United States, Turkey, Sierra Leone, Palestine, Madagascar, and Indonesia** and with the exception of one, I was impressed with their visions for strengthening UN systems and thereby working towards a better world. I'm left particularly struck by a comment made during one of the side events I attended on the responsibility to protect and peacekeeping that applies well to all global issues, "**we have the means, we need the will to act.**"*



MIGRATION

Some Misconceptions X

A **tidal wave** of migrants is descending on Europe and North America

Countries in **Sub-Saharan Africa** are “sending” countries.

Most refugees are hosted in **Europe**.

Migrants are a **drain** on the economy of the receiving country

“*Migrants are hurting my country's economy*”

Official Development

Assistances is the most significant external financial contribution to developing countries.

Some Facts ✓

According to the **International Organization on Migration (IOM)** more migrants from the South have moved to other countries in the global South than to the global North. 80% of migrants from Africa move to other countries within the African continent.

Many African states are countries of **origin**, but also countries of **transit** and **destination** for people on the move within the continent.

Nine out of every ten refugees are hosted by developing countries with Turkey, Pakistan and Lebanon hosting the largest numbers.

Migrants pay into welfare systems more than they receive and **contribute more than average** to the economy of the country of destination.

Although they represent only **3.5% of the global population**, migrants contribute **9% of the global GDP**.

Remittances sent home by migrants to their families in developing countries are roughly three times greater than Official Development Assistance or “foreign aid”. Remittances totaled **450 billion in 2017**.

Distribution:

General Council Team; Provincials/ Regionals
JPIC Animators; Global Network of RSHM Schools; UN Interest Group
Translation: Maria Luisa Pinho RSCM

Prepared by

Veronica Brand RSHM & Claire Buonocore