



**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.



RELIGIOUS OF  
THE SACRED  
HEART OF MARY

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RSHM at the UN

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## The Call to Action on Extreme Heat



As July ended with billions of people around the world wilting under increasingly severe heatwaves driven largely by a fossil-fuel charged, human-induced climate crisis, **UN Secretary-General António Guterres** issued a **Call to Action on Extreme Heat**. As the World Meteorological Organization has noted, extreme heat is posing an increasing threat to our socio-economic and environmental well-being. The call to action brings together the diverse expertise and varied perspectives of ten specialized UN entities and the extensive and detailed input from experts at World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and in the [WMO-WHO Joint Office on Climate and Health](#). It aims to promote concerted global action to address four critical areas: *caring for the vulnerable, protecting workers, boosting resilience of economies and societies using data and science and limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C by phasing out fossil fuels while scaling up investment in renewable energy*. As the Secretary General said **"Extreme heat is having an extreme impact on people and planet. The world must rise to the challenge of rising temperatures."**

*"Scaling-up heat health-warning systems in 57 countries alone could save almost 100,000 lives a year."*

➡ [Read more....](#)

➡ [Read more....](#)

➡ [Watch a video....](#)

## Ecosystem Restoration

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021 – 2030) began on Environment Day in 2021, with the goal of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. Ecosystem restoration is vital for the health of the planet and relevant to forests, farmlands, wetlands, oceans and cities. By restoring damaged ecosystems, we can achieve multiple goals: combat climate change, end poverty, and protect biodiversity. It's like a global healing mission for our planet! Now that we are one third of the way through the decade it is important to recognize and reinforce progress made and to act and advocate for intensified action at the local, regional and global level. ➡ [Watch the video](#)



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030

Did you know that .....

- Restoring only **15% of ecosystems** in priority areas can cut extinctions by **60 %** by improving habitats.
- Between now and 2030, the restoration of **350 million hectares** of degraded terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems could generate **US\$9 trillion** in ecosystem services
- Countries have already promised to restore **1 billion hectares – an area larger than China** – as part of their commitments to the **Paris Climate Agreement**, and other environmental agreements.
- Restoration could remove **13 to 26 gigatons of greenhouse gases** from the atmosphere.
- For each **US \$ 1.00** spent on restoring mangroves, we would earn **\$4.00** because of their ability to protect coastlines from storms and floods.
- The economic benefits of such interventions exceed **NINE** times the cost of investment, whereas inaction is at least **THREE** times more costly than ecosystem restoration

## Trees for the Future

Now named by the UN as one of **ten Ecosystem Restoration flagship programmes**, **"Trees for the Future"** was founded in 1989. Since then, more than 330 million trees have been planted in areas where the future of



millions of people is threatened by hunger, poverty and climate change. At the root of this problem is unsustainable land use. To address this, farmers are trained in agroforestry and sustainable land use, and provided with initial support - so that they can grow vibrant regional economies, thriving food systems, and a healthier planet. The programme is built on the belief that local farmers, when empowered with skills, tools and resources can be authors of their own solutions. Trees have the power to support communities, improve lives, and restore the planet. Today, the programme has planted **344 million trees**, restored **100,388 acres** of degraded farmland and provided a regular source of food and income for **300,000 people**. ➡ [Read about the Flagship Programmes.](#)  
➡ [Watch the short video](#)

## The Growing Call for Security Council Reform

Reform of the **UN Security Council** is high on the Agenda of the **Summit of the Future** which will be held at the UN this September. Although the call for reform of the Security Council has been widely mooted and the **Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN)** structure was first established in 2009, it was only in the current 78<sup>th</sup> session of the UN GA that the IGN intensified the work, led by the Co-chairs Kuwait and Austria. The negotiations aim to address the question of equitable representation on and a recommended increase in the membership of the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**. Issues pertaining to historical justice regarding the permanent members and the use of the veto are also under consideration, as well as

strategies to enhance the effectiveness and inclusivity of the Council with greater regional representation.

The goal is to work to converge existing diverse opinions into a consensus of 193 Member States. While the issue of Security Council reform will be included in the outcome document of the **Summit of the Future** to be held in late September, the negotiations to work towards agreement will continue in the 79<sup>th</sup> session.



## Steps towards a global tax treaty.



**International cooperation on taxation** is crucial in today's globalized, interconnected world. On 16<sup>th</sup> August, a historic step was taken to address the issue of tax havens and reform the international tax system by establishing an agreed UN framework or treaty that is universally applicable. After lengthy meetings spread over the last 3 months, the Ad Hoc Committee set up by the UN GA to work towards this approved a blueprint for a new global tax agreement. It aims to establish a system that is inclusive, fair, transparent, efficient, equitable and effective for sustainable development, ensuring that large multinationals pay their fair share of taxes, regardless of the country in which they operate. By addressing corporate tax evasion and avoidance, it is expected to benefit many countries in the Global South through the generation of significant additional tax revenues. As the **Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Development** said *"The livelihoods and future of billions of people depend on governments being able to finance basic infrastructure, education, health services and climate action"* However, this is a slow process. Work on elaborating and negotiating the treaty is expected to take three years.

➡ [Read more....](#)

## Summit of the Future

The **Summit of the Future** was conceived at the height of the COVID – 19 pandemic in 2020 when the UN marked its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. *Is the UN 'fit for purpose' or are changes needed? What are the hopes and fears for the future?* These were questions increasingly being raised. Rather than have a virtual celebration during COVID lockdowns, the UN Secretary General called for a global consultation as part of the Anniversary year to answer those questions. The results identified gaps between the aspirations of the UN's founders and the reality of today's world with its problems, threats and opportunities.



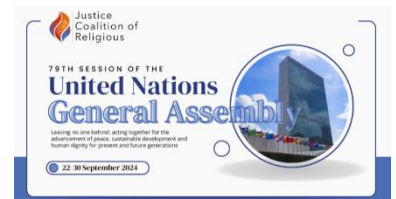
Based on the consultations and discussions in the General Assembly, the UN Secretary General was tasked with coming up with a renewed vision for the future of global cooperation, something he expressed in the landmark report entitled **"Our Common Agenda"**. Among the proposals he put forward was the call for a forward-looking Summit in 2024. The Summit will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, immediately prior to the opening of the UN's 79<sup>th</sup> **General Debate**. Negotiations are currently drawing to a close **on the outcome document - the Pact for the Future**, currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> revision.

## Forthcoming Events and Actions in September

To facilitate the involvement and inclusion of a wide range of civil society organizations in the Summit of the Future, **two Action Days** will be held at the UN and in surrounding venues on **September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**. They will focus on three priority themes: *peace and security; digital technology and sustainability and financing.*

For more details and an invitation to join virtually ➡ see the [JCoR Guide to UNGA](#).

- Faith leaders mark **Season of Creation** with a call on followers to endorse the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty** proposal. ➡ [Sign the letter:](#)
- Global Day of Action** ➡ [UN events live on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September](#)
- Join the Global Day of Action for a **Fossil Fuel Treaty** on ➡ [21<sup>st</sup> September.](#)
- Watch the **Summit of the Future** Live on Youtube on September 22<sup>nd</sup> ➡ [Here...](#)



## Distribution

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