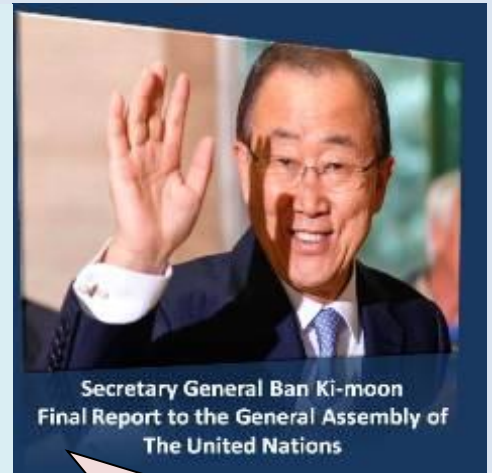


Life is to be discovered and built step by step, a great charm if only one is convinced (by faith and experience) that the world is going somewhere"

(Teilhard de Chardin)

## Final Report on the United Nations

The General Assembly of the United Nations took the final step in the appointment of the next Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterres, on 13 October, 2016. Before giving thought to this new mandate, it helps us to have a clear idea of the situation of the United Nations at the moment. Recently, outgoing Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon gave his final Report on the Organization to the General Assembly Recently. This is essential reading to have a good grasp of the work of the last ten years, the complexity of an organization that has ever-growing demands on it and the huge challenges it faces. In the report he mentions that for the UN to respond effectively, there is need for a renewal of political will and trust on the part of member states. Read his Report: [English version](#), [Spanish version](#), [French version](#). The Statement by your own Head of State or Government to the General Assembly is interesting in the light of the content of that of Secretary General's Report and the situation and concerns of your country.



**What do you think were some of the major steps taken by the United Nations in recent years?**

## Ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

The Paris Agreement enters into force thirty days after ratification by at least 55 countries and by countries representing at least 55% of global emissions. Once it has entered into force, It will become legally binding for those countries that sign and ratify it. As of 6 October 2016: 191 countries signed the Agreement and 74 countries ratified, representing 58.82% of global emissions. This is an important achievement for the global community. It is delightful to see that many of the countries with our network presence have ratified. Please follow it at [The Paris Agreement Ratification Tracker](#). However some countries have signed but not yet ratified. Thanks to all who communicated with your governments to encourage them and if you have not yet ratified, do keep on trying!

## Aspects of the Work of our NGO

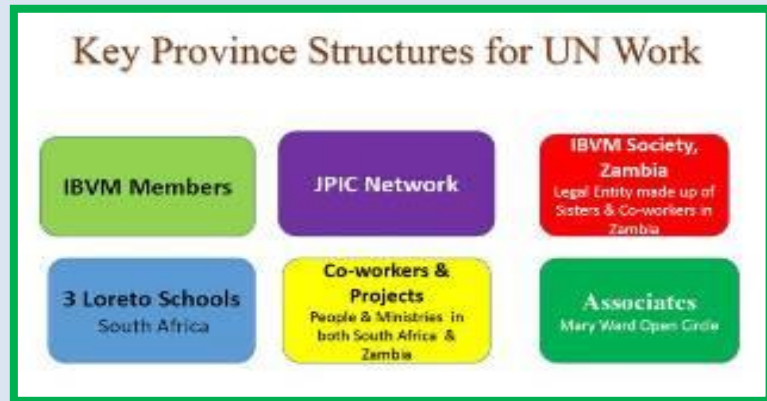
Our Network The work of our NGO network collaborating with the United Nations, depends not only on the office in New York to function effectively. An important structure in place is that of **Province UN Representatives** who have a specific role in advancing our awareness of and involvement with United Nations. How does this work for the Southern Africa Community? **Pat Hanvey ibvm** and

IBVM Collaboration with the United Nations

Community of Southern Africa

Elizabeth Donnan ibvm prepared an excellent presentation on the [Role of Province UN Representative](#) and what is achieved by the small and vibrant group of Sisters and magnificent colleagues in Zambia and South Africa. It is a worthwhile opportunity to deepen our understanding of this essential aspect of our work.

**Translation** is another essential aspect of the information shared with you in the UPDATES. Blanca Bergareche ibvm, Spain who does this task, shares some of her impressions with us [here](#).



## From Our Network



### Education on Taxation: Central to 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Tax havens were discussed by civil society at the UNCTAD Conference held in Nairobi In August. Veronica Mwangangi ibvm, who attended, teaches at Loreto Matunda and is a patron of a tax club aimed at inculcating a tax paying culture among young people. Recently, students from the High school presented this year's theme, "Let us pay our taxes so that we can be self - independent" through narrative, song dance and poetry. They were awarded 1st Prize for their presentation at the Rift Valley Tax Club Convention. Congratulations to the Students and their Teachers who as civil society, are creating awareness of the importance of taxation as a tool for development and for enhancing democratic government, both integral dimensions of the SDGs.



## Model UN – Mauritius

“Greetings to all. I am Bénédicte Anthony from Loreto College of Port-Louis, Mauritius and I am 16 years old. This year I have participated in the Model United Nations Conference organised by the Ministry of Education and open to all schools islandwise. Our school sent 2 delegations, that is, 2 teams of four. My team represented the country of Nigeria; we managed to be among the 20 best delegations out of 83 and I personally won the Best Delegate award for the Food Security Commission. The MUN basically tries to reflect the actions taken by the real UN; there is a General Assembly, commissions and resolutions to be submitted. We have to deal with current issues the world is facing today, such



as water scarcity problems or the situation in Syria and our goal is to propose the most viable solutions. MUN was truly a very enriching experience as we have been able to walk in politicians' shoes for 3 days' time and had the chance to share our opinions with other people of our age, and sometimes strongly disagreeing with them. Even if Mauritius is a small island lost in the Indian Ocean, we need to feel concerned by what is happening in other parts of the world; as goes the MUN pledge, "One race, human race, one home, planet Earth".

## Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals in India

The National JPIC meeting of Loreto schools in India, was held in September. Teachers, students and ibvm sisters worked hard on the new Sustainable Development Agenda as a framework not only for their JPIC work but also as a response to the Calls from the 2014 General Congregation. It is all connected. Sr Nirmla ibvm has been teaching, in schools and Loreto communities, the SDGs and the powerful possibilities for our world of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Loreto Schools India made two important decisions for the coming years.

- Loreto Schools in India commit to dedicate 1 lakh trees to the nation by 2020.
- Loreto Schools in India commit to making their schools carbon neutral by 2020.



## EDUCATION IN STEM COMMUNICATION

We collaborate with  
and contribute to the  
goals of the United  
Nations



## International Day of Peace.

This year, Emma O’Kane, our Youth Representative, spearheaded a UN initiative for International Day of Peace. It involved young people between the ages of 15 and 24 submitting a 10 - 15 second video on how the sustainable Development Goals can build peace. There were some amazing results. Thanks to the students from schools in India for their contributions and to Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Center for its outreach to students from local schools and youth connected with the center.

You might like to read the newsletter, [The United Nations and You](#), which Emma prepared specifically for students. Even though the time of her internship at the NGO Office has ended she will continue as Youth Representative and is delighted to help with awareness- raising among students, youth and people of all ages.

## The United Nations and You!



Emma O'Kane

Youth Representative

IBVM NGO  
At the United Nations

and  
IBVM Network.

Feel free to contact Emma  
at

[ibvmnngo@gmail.com](mailto:ibvmnngo@gmail.com)

**Youth Representative.** The experience, knowledge and skills gained from an internship like that offered at our NGO Office in New York are considerable. Many young people are longing to put them to use in their desire to create a better world for all and it our responsibility, as adults, to give them opportunities. The role of a Youth Representative, aimed at creating and strengthening links between students and youth in our schools, colleges, groups and their engagement with the United Nations, deserves attention and development. **Emma will continue as Youth Representative**, working from her home base.

## The Responsibility to Protect

During the 2005 World Summit, all the member states of the United Nations endorsed a global political commitment to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. This commitment is called Responsibility to Protect. The initiative arose out of the horrific experiences of the 1990s. It states that:

It is the duty of each State to prevent and halt mass atrocities against its people. But what happens if the State is the perpetrator or too weak to intervene? It was decided that sovereignty is no longer an excuse for no outside interventions.

- The international community has a responsibility to encourage and assist States in fulfilling this responsibility. It has a responsibility to use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other means to protect populations from these crimes.
- If a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations, the international community must be prepared to take collective action to protect populations, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

In the case of Syria, we have a situation where the international community is incapable of taking joint collective action. Like David and Goliath, a small “NGOs International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect” is trying to address the international community’s failure to prevent and stop genocide, mass atrocities, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

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