

# It's your World

“We are the first generation that can end poverty and the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impact of climate change. Future generations will judge us harshly if we fail to uphold our moral and historical responsibilities.” Ban Ki-moon

2015 is an important year for the United Nations. The United Nations celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and three major processes will join to form the framework of the work of the United Nations for the next 15 years. Throughout the year there will also be a number of significant 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events.

**The Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda** builds on the Millennium Development Goals and integrates new elements which have emerged since 2000. These will be adopted by Heads of Government, on our behalf, at the General Assembly, 25 – 27 September 2015. The importance of the vision and transformative Plan of Action, integrated in this Agenda, is, from our perspective, highlighted by the expected presence of **Pope Francis**.

The second process is that of **financing the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**. This process aims at mobilizing adequate financial resources, enabling access to technology and building capacity critical to delivering a truly transformative Post 2015 Agenda. The important question is: Where will the finance come from? From all sources, it is hoped: domestic public and private financing, international public and private financing, trade and partnerships. Other mechanisms recognized as critical to the future implementation of the Sustainable Development goals are national financial mechanisms, including those available to sub national and local authorities along with regional and international mechanisms. This ongoing process will hopefully yield satisfactory results at the Meeting on Financing for Development to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015.

Thirdly, the **UN Climate Change Conference, COP21** or **CMP11** will be held in Paris during December. This process is working towards securing a legally-binding global climate agreement on curbing carbon emissions, with a binding effect from 2020. However, many governments still struggle with this international effort. It is linked to the need to secure the required growth and prosperity for national economies.

## Meet our Intern



Georgina Kelly, from Australia, is doing a two month internship with the IBVM NGO. Georgina began her internship just as the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) got under way at the United Nations. Although Georgina is already well versed in International Affairs, she had a rapid initiation into the Post 2015 Agenda process and the workings of CSocD. Georgina has already visited the Zambian and Australian Mission to advocate on behalf of the Working Group on Girls. She is also doing research on Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Conflict Zones. Georgina prepared two contributions for this UPDATE. Watch presentation on [Post 2015 Agenda for Beginners](#). And, read [Coming out of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Commission for Social Development](#)

## **Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth**

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995, will be celebrated this year. This policy framework and the practical guidelines for national action and international support are focused on improving the situation of young people around the world. Mr. Ban Ki-moon recently addressed a youth gathering reminding them that “2015 is not just another year – it is a chance to change the course of history. Ours is the first generation with the potential to end poverty – and the last to act to avoid worst effects of climate change. “

. Ban Ki-moon told those gathered that there are three major priorities this year:

“To complete the Millennium Development Goals;  
To agree on transformative and universal actions for sustainable development;  
And to achieve a new, meaningful, universal climate agreement.

Today I make three calls to action to the world’s youth.

First: Help us drive sustainable development that is people-centred and planet-sensitive.

Second: Fight injustice and inequality with solidarity so no one is left behind.

Third: Be an active global citizen.”

### **Commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Social Summit on Social Development, Copenhagen 1995.**

Based on the Copenhagen Declaration and Plan of Action, member States reviewed the achievements of the last 20 years. The Declaration is an important policy document which has guided the global community in its attempts to create a life of dignity for all. During the Commission for Social Development one day was given to invigorating conversations on the future of social development. How does the commission work? [Read CSocD for Beginners.](#)



Cecilia O’Dwyer ibvm and Catherine Prendergast DC

# LET'S GO!

[beijing20.unwomen.org](http://beijing20.unwomen.org) #Beijing20



With Beijing + 20 in mind, Canadian Province UN Rep, Mary Mallany, reminds us of the Education component of the Beijing Platform for Action. Read [Focus: Education and Training of Women.](#)

CSW/Beijing+20: 9 – 20 March 2015

### **Commemorating Beijing +20**

Twenty years ago, 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, led to impressive advances in creating a greater equality for women and men in many parts of the world. In March 2015 more than 8,000 women and men will come to UN Headquarters to remember and celebrate the work of the past 20 years. The main focus of this year’s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 9 – 20 March, 2015, will be on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. During the last year women have been taking stock of the advances made in the lives of women and girls and considering what remains to be done. We look forward to having members of our Network here in March.

**NB. During the month of March the IBVM UN Office will host a video conference with some IBVM Sisters who attended the Beijing Conference. You can listen to their views on the advances of these years and what remains to be done. Please send in your own observations. Further information about the event will be circulated during the month of March.**

## What are Girls Saying?

Girls applaud the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, especially its emphasis on the rights of the Girl Child, and for establishing the framework for advancing “the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of humanity.” Now, almost 20 years later, girls from around the world acknowledge that this task continues to “require urgent action in the spirit of determination, hope, cooperation and solidarity.” [Working Group on Girls Statement](#).

The [Working Group on Girls](#) has prepared and distributed a survey to girls from around the world. The collated information from the survey will be the basis of their advocacy work. The survey has been circulated throughout the IBVM Network to Educators in both formal and informal education. Being part of a global network allows us to exercise our global citizenship.



## Message to the World Mural

The idea to create a world mural was initiated by Aurora Pagano at Cardinal Carter Academy for the Arts in Toronto, Canada. Her artistic vision envisaged having as many countries as possible create a mural expressing their message to the world.

What better way to envision this idea than by connecting with the Loretto sisters and IBVM's, around the world - inviting each country to participate in this project? Further discussion and brainstorming, indicated that the *UN My World 2015* survey would be an engaging and informative way to shape the creation of the artistic pieces. By inviting participants to take the survey, we would provide a platform for learning and discussion about our Post-Millennium Development Goals world. We would also be actively engaged in sharing our voices as the UN moves towards the new Sustainable Development Goals.

Feedback from participating countries has been wonderful. Not only do we now have beautiful murals and creations, but participants have shared how informative and educational the entire process has been.

These murals will soon be available for everyone to view, through the Mary Ward Centre website at [www.marywardcentre.ca](http://www.marywardcentre.ca). We are grateful to everyone for their participation and involvement. Mary Ward's invitation to “know and acknowledge the gifts of God and thank God for them” is clearly very much at work in our world today. *Ann McGowan Mary Ward Center, Toronto*

“For a better tomorrow, invest in youth today” <http://www.un.org/pga/youth/> Find out how to become a youth Advocate, how to join in online conversations and how to create community momentum.

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