

Newsletter

December 2017



Caritas in Veritate Foundation

"Authentic development must foster the development of each man and the whole man."



FOUNDATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

As 2017 comes to an end, the Caritas in Veritate Foundation is grateful to the generosity of many donors and collaborators. This cooperation has allowed the Foundation to give effective support to the Catholic presence in the international context of Geneva. I hope that this positive and productive action will continue in the new year. Let me thank all of you for supporting the Foundation and its initiatives. I look forward to your continued support and I extend to each of you and your families, cordial best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a blessed and happy New Year.

Alice de La Rochefoucauld
Director



ACTIVITIES



*Side-event: "Mutual Contributions and Benefits: Integrating Migrants in Host Societies";
Geneva, Palais des Nations,
30.November 2017*

Conferences

In the last months, the Foundation was actively involved in the organization of several high-level conferences to discuss specific topics of international relevance.

In June 2017, the Foundation, together with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See organized an informal discussion on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) at the Palais des Nations. Professor Dominique Lambert (University of Namur, Belgium) presented an article touching upon the definition of LAWS, technology, international humanitarian law, ethics, and security. His presentation was followed by a debate on the validity of the arguments and their effectiveness. The purpose of this discussion was to reflect together freely and informally, taking into account the different perspectives of UN Member States.

In June 2017, during the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) (6 – 23 June), the Foundation co-sponsored a Side-event on International Solidarity, organized by the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Points Coeur, New Humanity and OIDEL. H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See intervened next to the UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, Ms. Virginia Dandan and, among others, the UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, Mr. Alfred-Maurice de Zayas.



During the 35th Session of the Human Rights Council of the UN, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See with the support of expertise provided by the Foundation, intervened on the following topics ([follow the link](#) to access the statements):

- International Solidarity
- Physical and Mental Health
- Poverty
- Unaccompanied Child Migrants
- The Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

In September 2017, during the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) (11 – 29 September), the Foundation, together with the Permanent Mission of the Holy See and the Permanent Mission of the Order of Malta, organized a Side-event on “the Human Rights to Save Drinking Water and Sanitation”, which was also co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, Italy, Morocco, Peru, by Waterlex, Geneva Water Hub, Waterpreneurs, Suez, Caritas Internationalis, International Catholic Migration Commission and the Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs. The event was based on a publication about the Right to Water prepared by the Foundation. **His Eminence Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Prefect of the Holy See Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**, delivered the keynote address of the event which was moderated by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič. Dr. David Nabarro, former Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Climate Change also intervened next to Mr. Léo Heller, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Mrs. Rose Osinde Alabaster, Programme Director for the African Region of Waterlex representing the experience of an NGO on the ground, and Mr. Denys Neymon, Group CEO Treatment Infrastructure of Suez, who presented a private sector perspective. Mrs. Dina Ionesco, Head of the Migration, Environment and Climate Change Division and co-author of the Atlas of Environmental Migration for the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and Mrs. Maria Amparo Alonso Escobar, Head of Caritas Internationalis Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva also intervened on that occasion. The Programme, interventions, pictures, videos and summaries can be found on the homepage of the Foundation - [follow the link](#) .

During the same HRC session, the Foundation also co-sponsored a side-event on “Artificial Intelligence, Justice and Human Rights” organized by the Dominicans for Justice and Peace (OPTIC).

During the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council of the UN, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See with the support of expertise provided by the Foundation, intervened on the following topics ([follow the link](#) to access the statements):

- Contemporary Forms of Slavery
- Water and Sanitation
- Impact of Racial Discrimination on Human Rights of Women and Girls
- Indigenous People



On 30 November 2017, the Caritas in Veritate Foundation, the Permanent Mission of the Holy See, the Permanent Mission of the Order of Malta, and the International Catholic Migration Commission organized a Special Event, in conjunction with the 108th Session of the Council of the International Organization For Migration (IOM), on the theme: “Mutual Contributions and Benefits: Integrating Migrants in Host Societies”. A booklet was distributed to all participants. **His Eminence Cardinal Reinhard Marx, Archbishop of München and Freising, President of the German Bishops’ Conference and President of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Community**, delivered the keynote address of the event which was moderated by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič. A large number of Delegations, UN Agencies and NGOs co-sponsored the meeting, such as Germany, Canada, Morocco, the European Union, Italy, Philippines, Uganda, Argentina, Brazil, the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, Caritas Internationalis and the Forum of Catholic Inspired NGOs. Ambassador William L. Swing, Director-General of the International Organization for Migration, delivered the opening remarks. Other speakers were Mr. El Habib Nadir, Secretary General of the Ministry Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, in charge of Moroccans living abroad and Migration Affairs, Co-Chair of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, H.E. Ambassador Stephen de Boer, Permanent Representative of Canada to the World Trade Organization, and Ms. Carol Batchelor, Director of the International Protection Department of the UNHCR. Speaking from the floor as co-organizers were H.E. Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann, Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the UN and Ms. Mantalin Kyrou, Policy Officer at the International Catholic Migration Commission. The Programme, interventions, pictures, videos and summaries can be found on the homepage of the Foundation – [follow the link](#) .

Publications

- The eighth Working Paper on “Water and Human Rights – A Catholic Perspective on the Human Right to Water” was published in August 2017 and distributed during the side-event on the same thematic during the HRC Session in September 2017. The working paper analyzed the problematic from different dimensions: International Law, Trade, Security, Migration. It also included good practices from the ground from faith based organizations. (Follow the link to download the entire document).
- The ninth Working Paper on “The Humanization of Robots and the Robotization of the Human Person – Ethical Reflections on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems and Augmented Soldiers” was published in November 2017 and distributed during the meeting of the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS). (Follow the link to download the entire document).
- Publication of a booklet for the Special Event on “Mutual Contributions and Benefits: Integrating Migrants in Host Societies.” including the Message of Pope Francis for the 2018 World Day of Migrants and Refugees and the 20 Action Points for Refugees and Migrants that the Holy See submitted as an official contribution to the Global Compact.



AREAS OF FURTHER STUDY

- **Business Ethics**
- **Religious Freedom**
- **Education**
- **Health and Pediatrics**
- **Ethical Challenges posed by a changing society due to advanced technology:** The need to develop a model of development that puts technology at the service of common good and human dignity.



Side-event: "The Human Rights to Save Drinking Water and Sanitation"; Geneva, Palais des Nations, September 2017

**The Foundation wishes all friends
and supporters a blessed Advent,
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year**



OUR MISSION

The **Caritas in Veritate Foundation** is grounded in Christian values and the social teaching of the Catholic Church. It aims to provide Christian Representatives at the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva with expertise and strategic thinking. By closely collaborating with the Holy See Mission and the Mission of the Order of Malta to the UN, as well as with Catholic-inspired non-governmental organizations, the Foundation contributes to the negotiations and the decision-making process involved. Thanks to its research capability and to its commitment to excellence, the aims of the Foundation are to humanize international life by contributing the perspective of Christian faith and the priority given to the human person.

The goal of the Foundation is to articulate in the international arena the positions of the Holy See and the Catholic Church, as a contribution to an international culture that prioritizes peace and integral human development.



If you are able to make a Christmas contribution of any sort, in support of the Christian values promoted by the Foundation, we would be very grateful. You can send the donation to the following account:

Beneficiary: Caritas in Veritate Foundation

IBAN: CH40 0900 0000 1281 5369 2

BIC: POFICHBEXXX

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