



# NEW FRONTIERS

A quarterly newsletter for global education and advocacy

Society of the Sacred Heart  
JPIC Office, Rome / UN-NGO, New York



Welcome back to our newsletter, New Frontiers. This edition covers a 6-month period of JPIC and UN-NGO activity. First is an overview of the international JPIC meeting expressed in the closing remarks of Daphne Sequeira on behalf of the Central Team. Next is an account describing how the country of Italy is responding to the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Then there are several reports of the various involvements at the UN through the NGO office such as the High Level Political

Forum, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the visitors to the UN and the work of the interns. There is an account of the Laudato Si conference that took place in The Vatican and a more recent conference on Religions and SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), some resources for your interest and lastly, a beautiful tribute to the late Kofi Annan (former Secretary General of the UN) written by Solome Najjuka RSCJ.

*Sheila Smith - RSCJ, Anne Corry - RSCJ*

## JPIC INTERNATIONAL MEETING *Tagaytay (Philippines), 14 - 24 November 2018*



*Group who attended the international JPIC meeting in the Philippines*

“I know that you have been engaged in a very deep process. You were invited to enter a cave like Elijah, not to hide, but to live a deep JPIC process together with our sisters from across the Society. Many of our sisters sent messages of solidarity and prayer for this meeting. You have been here with and for the whole Society.

I would like to make three remarks as we conclude this conference:

1) The deliberations at the conference invite us to create more space in our heart for the world around us that needs to live in hope. In my own culture there is a saying, that if you have space in your heart you can accommodate ten people in one room but if you do not have space in your heart accommodating one person in ten rooms is difficult. ... Generosity is the hallmark of the Society of Sacred Heart. We have to be careful that we do not get influenced by the negative values and hopelessness of the world. Rather, we are called to offer hope to the world around us by our spirituality of

the pierced heart.

- 2) Being part of this conference you have been personally enriched with depth experiences of God and of the society of which you are an integral part. You are each changed by this experience and leave with new understandings of JPIC. As we leave this room and the conference it becomes overwhelmingly mandatory that each of us deepen that experience in our personal prayer and reflections. ...
- 3) Participation in the conference enthruses us and calls us not to keep that enthusiasm locked in our hearts but allow it to overflow to others, enriching their life. You have prayed together, danced, sang, shared stories, had meals together, worked, and celebrated. The International JPIC meeting does not end here. You are the ambassadors of hope for JPIC in your Provinces, Commissions, and Society Networks. ...”

*Daphne Sequeira - RSCJ*

## TALKING SUSTAINABILITY! The European Sustainable Development Week and the SDGs in Italy.

By Yolanda Jiménez, Assistant to JPIC - Society of the Sacred Heart, Rome

Yolanda Jiménez (JPIC Assistant at the Mother House) was very happy to see how the Italian government has embraced the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). Here she describes some activities that took place during Italy's 'Sustainable Development Festival'.



Sustainable Development Festival poster

The Festival was initiated by the European Sustainable Development Week (ESDW) that has been designed to stimulate and make visible activities, projects and events that promote sustainable development throughout European Member States. It is directly related to the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Italy has embraced the SDGs with the institution of the Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (Asvis), gathering over 200 private and public bodies. It participated in ESDW with a 17-day Sustainable Development Festival. Asvis partnered over 700 national and local events that spread a sustainable culture. The enthusiasm of this activity reflects Italy's commitment to the SDGs.

Yolanda Jiménez attended three Roman events of the Sustainable Development Festival. For Goal 1, No Poverty, and Goal 10, Reduced Inequalities, the World Bank economist and one of the authors of the Elephant Chart on Global Income Inequalities, Prof. Branko Milanovic, pointed out that future trends on inequalities, such as place of birth or social classes, are taking us back to the end of the 19th century where inequality was based on social class. For Goal 2, Zero Hunger, attention was focused on food waste and the enforcements of laws to pass unused food to charities (see Gadda Italian law). Regarding Goal 7, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Goal 13, Climate Change, the focus was on the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Italian associations, private bodies and citizens are showing a growing interest in the importance of a sustainable culture. The Festival events were packed. The European Sustainable Week is an important opportunity to stress the responsibility and duty of Europe to implement sustainable development and equalities as pillars of its foundation.

(All information related to both the ESDW and Italy's Sustainable Development Festival are found in our Resources section).

## REPORT ON THE 2018 UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

By Elizabeth Ann Kelly, Charlotte Sippel, Sheila Smith RSCJ

### What is the UN High-Level Political Forum?

The UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the "... central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, [it] provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies"

(Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018>).

*"The 2030 Agenda is our roadmap and its goals and targets are tools to get there"*

Secretary-General António Guterres

**What was the theme of HLPF 2018?** The theme was "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies".

**Who were the delegates for the Society of the Sacred Heart's NGO at the UN?** We are pictured below.



Left to right: Charlotte Sippel, Elizabeth Ann Kelly, Sheila Smith RSCJ

Charlotte is a Sacred Heart alumna who is presently doing her undergraduate degree in Global Studies. Elizabeth Ann is 5th generation member of the Sacred Heart family - her great-great grandmother having met Philippine Duchesne at our first North American school in St. Charles! Elizabeth Ann is presently a Doctoral Candidate in the field of Educational Psychology. Sheila Smith, rscj, is the UN-NGO Representative for the Society of the Sacred Heart.

### What did the Sacred Heart delegation do at HLPF?

We attended a Preparatory Day to learn about HLPF and how the Society can be more involved at this Forum.

### What did we learn at the Preparatory Day?

Three learnings:

- 1) The 2030 Agenda is not new. However, in this moment of global economic growth, the world is severely off-track. There is increased greed, poverty, hunger, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions, and killings of human rights defenders and activists.
- 2) The current global structural power is unable to address the 2030 Agenda and human rights. There is no accountability mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Systemic reform at all levels is urgently required.

- 3) Civil Society (that is us!) is more organized than ever to challenge current mechanisms and processes, and to offer ways forward. The Society of the Sacred Heart can get more involved at the UN.

#### **What else did the Sacred Heart delegation do?**

They attended official meetings, side-events, and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

#### **Some learnings from the Official Meetings:**

Greed and Global Market Economy

The current global market economy is fueled by greed. This is the biggest obstacle standing in the way of achieving the 2030 Agenda. UN States must address their own structural transformation. Collaboration and sharing of finances must be part of a new global structure that empowers all and leaves no one behind.

*Question:*

*But, is a transformed market economy  
the only way to go?*

*Are there other economic models to consider?*

#### **Children and Youth:**

Children and Youth represent more than half of the global population. A lack of access to water impacts nutrition and, in the case of girls, access to education. We need fair access to these which means a shift away from the current market economy and towards a more fair system that allows children access to things like enough food, adequate housing, health, and quality education.

#### **Indigenous Peoples:**

Indigenous peoples make up 15% of the world's poor, they are not often recognized in their own countries, and quite often have been left behind. Their lands are militarized and often sold to others without consent. Indigenous peoples have been excluded by governments.

They need to be included in planning for the future, and provided with special rights regarding the iniquities they have been forced to accept. Women in particular must be given more opportunities for education and farming. Indigenous life, crafts, cultures, and values must be preserved.

#### **Partnerships:**

We must work together, not just within countries but between countries, especially to share resources such as water. Climate change is an opportunity for partnerships because it requires new solutions that provide access for all to water, food, land, and energy.

#### **Some Learnings from Side-Events:**

Some side-events focused more on education, others on advocacy. We covered both.

#### **Education:**

- 1) At the event, *Child and Youth Awareness and Actions in the SDGs*, we learned that globally, youth show the strongest support for education spending and climate change actions, so their involvement in the SDGs is crucial.
- 2) The event, *Education for Social, Economic, and Environmental Sustainability* taught us that education plays a critical role for sustainable development and global citizenship by developing awareness and critical thinking. Free, quality education is crucial for breaking cycles of poverty and transforming societies. The world map of illiteracy coincides with maps of poverty, malnutrition, ill health, and high infant and child mortality.

- 3) Among the learnings at, *Women and Girls as Leaders in Building Sustainable Societies* were:

- Closing the gender labor gap could raise the global GDP by 28 trillion dollars by 2025
- Every additional year of high school education increases a girl's future income by 10-15%
- Women are crucial in getting villages out of poverty

*A global campaign is needed to educate about the SDGs and to evaluate why present structures are ineffective.*

#### **Advocacy:**

At the event, *Accelerating SDG Implementation through Evaluation*, we learned that evaluations give us clear evidence that we can use for advocacy, but evaluation is often seen as punitive. This is because policies and programs are not always designed in a way that can work on a scale that benefits those who are hard to reach and are not always built in a way that can last. Development partners should have more joint evaluations or at least adopt harmonized ways to evaluate.

#### **Some learnings from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs):**

46 UN States presented VNRs. Of these, the Society of the Sacred Heart lives and works in 11: Australia, Canada, Columbia, Egypt, Hungary, Ireland, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Spain, and Uruguay. Between us, Elizabeth Ann, Charlotte, and I, tried to get to each of these. Because the reviews are voluntary and there is currently no evaluation mechanism for the SDGs in UN States, we do not know if countries were presenting the actual realities for people. We came away with the question, *Are these VNRs telling the experience of our sisters, their peoples, and their partners in mission? In other words, are these VNRs presenting a comprehensive picture of each country regarding poverty, hunger, health and well-being, education, water and sanitation, employment, housing, peace, etc.?*

37 UN States are already listed to present VNRs at HLPF in July 2019. Of these, the Society of the Sacred Heart is in 7. They are: Chad, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. *How can we be involved and have input into the VNRs being prepared in these countries where we live and work?*

#### **Concretely, what can the Society of the Sacred Heart and its partners in mission do?**

At the NGO Office of the Society of the Sacred Heart at the UN

- Educate and make resources available about the SDGs and human rights leadership
- Work to improve two-way communication
- Facilitate the building of a working advocacy network for the Society of the Sacred Heart at the UN

For the International Society of the Sacred Heart and its partners in mission

- Be educated and teach about Sacred Heart at the UN, the SDGs and human rights
- Understand and participate in national political mechanisms for consultation and advocacy
- Work to improve two-way communication and participate in the Society of the Sacred Heart UN advocacy network

## PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

April 2018

Betzabeth Villaneuva (PER), Silvana Ferez (ARU), Imma de Stefanis (USC), Reyna González (USC) and Sheila Smith (UN-NGO, USC) took part in the 17th UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in April 2018.



Betza and Silvana at the UN

The theme of the Forum was: *Indigenous peoples' collective rights to lands, territories and resources*. Since this was our first time at a Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, our group supported another group of participants from REPAM (Red Eclesial Panamazónica).

We attended all the events at which REPAM presented the voice of the Latin American Catholic church transnational network.

The NGO Mining Working Group, to which the Society of the Sacred Heart belongs at the UN, partners with REPAM. It does so by helping to make space for REPAM's voice at the international level and so that REPAM can raise their concerns about the challenges facing the people of the Amazon and their natural environment. The 4 RSCJ in attendance observed that in their countries the land and resource issues facing Indigenous peoples were similar to those being faced by Indigenous peoples globally.

The 18th Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will be held from 22 April – 3 May 2019. The theme will be: *Traditional knowledge: Generation, transmission and protection*.



Betza, Silvana, Imma, and Reyna listening to voices from the Amazon

**RSCJ who are Indigenous or who work with Indigenous peoples and who want to attend can apply with the support of her Province by emailing Sheila Smith at: [un-ngo@rscj.org](mailto:un-ngo@rscj.org). Spaces are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.**

## INTERNS AT THE UN-NGO

By Sheila Smith, RSCJ

**Lisabeth** (Elizabeth Ann) Kelly served as intern to the UN-NGO office for 2 months during the summer of 2018. During that time, she attended the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) as an additional representative for the Society of the Sacred Heart. From August 1, 2018 – July 31, 2019, while she works on her PhD, Lisabeth continues her internship on a part-time basis. Her main areas of focus are:

- 1) To refresh the UN-NGO website and keep it up-to-date
- 2) To conduct a survey throughout the school networks of the Society of the Sacred Heart on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) #4 Gender Equality and #5 Quality Education
- 3) To represent the Society of the Sacred Heart on a committee at the UN to help us prepare for the High-Level Political Forum in the summer of 2019.



Lisabeth Kelly



Anna Hellett



Charlotte Sippel

**Charlotte** Sippel did a 2-week internship at the UN-NGO during the month of July 2018. During that time, she attended the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and served as an additional representative for the Society of the Sacred Heart.

**Anna** Hellett is serving as Intern at the UN-NGO Office for September and October 2018. She comes to New York from London, England. Anna is working on 3 projects during her short 2-month internship:

- 1) A program for UN International Day of the Girl on October 11. She will host 20 Sacred Heart girls at the UN-NGO office for a program on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #4 Gender Equality. The group will then participate in the annual Girls Speak Out Summit at the UN.
- 2) A follow-up survey to the Society's Global Service Day. The purpose of the survey is to gather data about how the Society is helping to achieve the SDGs, and to help bring the voices of the Sacred Heart Family from the grassroots to the UN.
- 3) A power point presentation for the International JPIC meeting. The purpose of the PowerPoint is to help the meeting participants to learn about the SDGs and the JPIC Database. Participants will see how the educational mission of the Society of the Sacred Heart links to JPIC and the SDGs. Anna will draw her information from the existing contributions in the JPIC Database.

## TOUR OF THE UNITED NATIONS - OUR WORLD!

By Nakato Betty, RSCJ; 3 July, 2018

First, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Sr. Sheila Smith our UN representative for all the efforts she is making to ensure that the Society's voice is heard at an international level. Gratitude to you Sheila for having arranged my tour of the UN building!

It was an exciting opportunity for me to learn more about how UN operates through its six main organs that is the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the Secretariat. Each organ has got different tasks nevertheless they all aim at having practical means to help those in need to lead better lives.



*Nakato Betty at the UN*

The tour began at exactly 9:45 am. The tour guides met all the tourists at the reception desk. We were divided into four groups of fifteen people per group because of the big number. In my small group, we began by self-introduction. Our guide requested that each one of us to mention her/his country of origin. In addition to the USA citizens, my group had people from France, Italy, Australia, Ireland, and Uganda.

The tour guide explained to us that the UN was founded on 24 October 1945, after the Second World War with the aspiration to avoid future wars through diplomacy and dialogue among nations. The United Nations expects all the governments to take their obligation to ensure that all human beings, rich and poor, strong and weak male and female, all races and religions are treated with respect and dignity. I learned that any UN course of action in any given county must be decided by the member states. The UN does not impose anything on any given county.

We toured different chambers where various meetings are conducted. It was very inspiring to visit the UN meditation room. People of different faith meet in this place to ponder and pray, allowing the inner self to touch the higher self! I found this very moving. I would like to pray that the utilization of this room may continue to provide the members with empathy, courage, and confidence as they formulate policies on matters affecting all of humanity.

Sheila shared with me about one of the projects she had been

working on with her internship student. The main goal of the project was to use the society's database and establish the connections between the 17 UN sustainable development goals and the RSCJ ministries in different provinces. For example in Uganda/Kenya Province, there is a lot of effort done to empower girls and women through education. This act is much in line with the fourth UN sustainable development goal. Which is to (ensure gender equality and empower all women and girls). This conversation I had with Sheila made me become more aware of the 17 UN goals. I found myself with renewed energy to continue working towards these goals now and when I return to Uganda/Kenya province.

May the Almighty God continue to protect and bless the United Nations premises where people from all over the world meet to discuss important issues that influence our lives.

## VISITORS TO THE UN from May to July 2018

Since May 2018, many RSCJ have visited the UN and/or UN-NGO Office in New York. Among them are:

- > Iwona Baryś (POL) and Lidia Gołębic (POL)
- > Mary Roe (IRS)
- > Betty Nakato (UGK)
- > International JPIC Coordination Committee:  
Anne Corry (ROME), Miren Lumbreras (ESP), Joy Luz (PHI),  
Solome Najjuka (UGK), Rosario Sanchez (PER).
- > Kim Sook Hee (KOC)
- > Florence de la Villeon (BFN)
- > Siobhan Burke (ENW)
- > Barbara Gartland (IRS)
- > Nancy Murphy (INS)

**EXTRACTS FROM POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE MAKING THE 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENCYCLICAL "Laudato Si"**

Clementine Hall, Friday, 6 July 2018

**EXTRACTS FROM POPE FRANCIS' ADDRESS TO PARTICIPANTS AT THE CONFERENCE ON "Religions and the Sustainable Development Goals: Listening to the Cry of the Earth and of the Poor"**

8 March 2019

Pope Francis spoke to about 300 participants in a conference called "Saving Our Common Home and the Future of Life on Earth". Pointing to St Francis of Assisi as an inspiration and guide, he prayed using words from *Laudato Si* that, "our struggles and our concern for this planet never take away the joy of our hope."

"I thank all of you for coming together to "hear with your hearts" the increasingly desperate cries of the earth and its poor, who look for our help and concern. You have also gathered to testify to the urgent need to respond to the Encyclical's call for change, for an ecological conversion.



Pope Francis in Clementine Hall, Vatican

Your presence here is the sign of your commitment to take concrete steps to save the planet and the life it sustains, inspired by the Encyclical's assumption that "everything is connected". That principle lies at the heart of an integral ecology.

Here we can think back on the call that Francis of Assisi received from the Lord in the little church of San Damiano: "Go and repair my house, which, as you can see, lies in ruins". Today, the "common home" of our planet also needs urgently to be repaired and secured for a sustainable future".

Anne Corry RSCJ had the opportunity to meet Pope Francis at this conference. She said to him "I pray for you." He replied, "Thank you. I need it!"

The full address of this occasion is found on the following link in English, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2018/july/documentos/papa-francesco\\_20180706\\_terzo-anniversario-laudatosi.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2018/july/documentos/papa-francesco_20180706_terzo-anniversario-laudatosi.html)

"When we speak of sustainability, we cannot overlook how important it is to include and to listen to all voices, especially those usually excluded from this type of discussion, such as the voices of the poor, migrants, indigenous people, the young.

As my predecessor Saint Paul VI rightly highlighted, to speak about human development means referring to all people – not just a few – and to the whole person – not just the material dimension (cf. *Populorum Progressio*, 14).

Those of us who are religious need to open up the treasures of our best

traditions in order to engage in a true and respectful dialogue on how to build the future of our planet. Religious narratives ... contain "a conviction which we today share, that everything is interconnected ..." (*Laudato Si*, 70).

The key principle of all religions is the love of neighbour and the care of creation. I wish to draw attention to a special group of religious persons, namely indigenous peoples. Although they represent only five per cent of the world's population, they look after about twenty-two per cent of the earth's landmass.

... in a strongly secularized world, such peoples remind us all of the sacredness of our earth. This means that their voice and their concerns should be at the centre of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and at the heart of the search for new paths for a sustainable future.

"Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start" (*Laudato Si*, 205)".

The full address of this occasion is found on the following link in English, Spanish, French and Italian: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/march/documents/papafrancesco\\_20190308\\_religioni-svilupposostenibile.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/march/documents/papafrancesco_20190308_religioni-svilupposostenibile.html)

## REFLECTIONS ON WATER

By the Integrity of Creation Working Group

*Reflections on Water* was produced by the Integrity of Creation Working Group, a group of religious men and women from international congregations whose leadership is based in Rome. Anne Corry, International JPIC Coordinator for the Society is a member of this group. Reflecting deeply on making integrated connections, this spiritual booklet uses input from the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Hebrew and Christian scriptures, and Catholic Social Teaching. It also includes ideas for prayers and liturgy. *Reflections on Water* is offered as a companion piece to *Water*



Yolanda Jiménez holding the Water booklets

and Sanitation: *A People's Guide to SDG 6*, which was written and published in 2017 by the New York-based NGO Mining Working Group of which Sheila Smith RSCJ is a member. If we look at the model of See-Judge-Act, *Water and Sanitation: A People's Guide to SDG 6*, articulates the **See** and the **Act** while *Reflections on Water* highlights the **Judge** or reflective aspect of the process on values, beliefs and faith. *Reflections on Water* is available in English while *Water and Sanitation* is available both in English and Spanish; links are available in the resources section.

“From Genesis 1:2 to Revelations 22:17, you’ll find one word written 722 times. It’s not just a word –it’s the singular symbol shared by all of the world’s religions. The symbol that plays a central role in our rituals. Religions have recognised its sacredness for millennia because it is the foundation for all life. The Dao De Jing, an ancient Chinese text, beautifully observes that it is the “void within the cup” that makes the cup useful – as a holder of water. From birth until death, our rituals may differ, but our commonality is as clear as clean water. Here are a few ways religions share similar beliefs about the sacred nature of water.”

From ‘*Reflections on Water*’: **The One Sacred Gift All Religions Share (excerpt)** by Brian D McLaren (2015)

## RESOURCES

European Sustainable Week:

[www.esdw.eu](http://www.esdw.eu)

Sustainable Development Festival (Italian national response of the ESW):

<http://festivalsvilupposostenibile.it/2018/english/>

The Italian Alliance for Sustainable Development (Asvis):

[www.asvis.it](http://www.asvis.it)

Asset database:

[http://asset.k4d.forumpa.it/ASSET/\(S\(eyhqamsg-mror5oskwmnv-nu5w\)\)/MainCommand.do?ph1=Tabella&ph2=Mappa&ort=Valore&order=ASC&idModelloSelezionato=1](http://asset.k4d.forumpa.it/ASSET/(S(eyhqamsg-mror5oskwmnv-nu5w))/MainCommand.do?ph1=Tabella&ph2=Mappa&ort=Valore&order=ASC&idModelloSelezionato=1)

Food Sustainable Index Barilla Foundation:

<http://foodsustainability.eiu.com/>

4GoodFood (Taste Don't Waste):

<https://www.costacruises.co.uk/B2C/GB/sustainability/tomorrow/Pages/4goodfood.aspx>

Winnow Solutions (Taste Don't Waste):

[www.winnowsolutions.com](http://www.winnowsolutions.com)

Talanoa Dialogue (UN Climate Change):

[www.talanoadialogue.com](http://www.talanoadialogue.com)

Teaching SDGs:

<https://bit.ly/2OCv4Eb>

Sustainable Development Goal Report 2018:

<https://bit.ly/2tQv4af>

UNITAR Free and Open Courses:

<https://unitar.org/free-courses>

*Reflections on Water* booklet:

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e7a99a\\_2e3168905a5a4b3880e80ec36d8d845d.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/e7a99a_2e3168905a5a4b3880e80ec36d8d845d.pdf)

*Water and Sanitation*:

*A People's Guide to SDG 6*: <https://bit.ly/2M862Lu>

Subscription [newfrontiers@jpicroma.org](mailto:newfrontiers@jpicroma.org)

## A TRIBUTE TO MR KOFI ANNAN: KOFI - FAREWELL ANON!!

This tribute to Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations ( 1997-2006 ) was written by Solome Najjuka. Solome has been a member of the International JPIC Coordination Committee for the Society. It is in English only because it is very rich in metaphor which cannot be adequately translated. This is as much a beautiful tribute to Africa as it is to this man of honour.

No dew to behold on the green each single day since he did part, truest son of Africa

For each blade of grass but holds a tear, turning to each other in mourning, bewailing his demise  
Culled from us early and soon, the great pillar and mouthpiece for the trodden, forgotten, and missed.

Weaver of peace, mender of souls, son of Wagadou, prince of Kumbi Saleh, citizen of the world web

Let each African firefly light his torch, retelling his story from the Cape Verde to the sandy Maghreb

The giraffes of Masailand stand sniff-necked in grief, the hippos of the Nile stop half-bathed and mourn.

While the Botswana land elephants trumpet in commiseration, the savannah cranes cease their dance

Oh, cry Africa! Let tear rivers flow for the gallant son that flew our name aloft in lands afar, he soared!

Our hearts are now heavy and scalded in pain, our dirges shake the sturdy Kilimanjaro off its feet, apart!

Our drums thunder over the canopies of the congo forests in one primordial blust- our brother departs

He was eloquent on our part and dressed us with pride, he lent such inspirational force in humble words

You lent the world a thread to piece its cracks, listened and intoned the musings for the future world

Your richly-textured oratories gave hope, challenged where we abased low, and we were never scarred.

Son of the African bosom, blown over the Sahel to your creator, listen to our threnody below the skies.

What remains our verdict in this tangled tale of loss, are we rich enough to buy back your past for use?

Like roosters your deeds will return to perch, your wisdom like the African beat will reign as we wail.

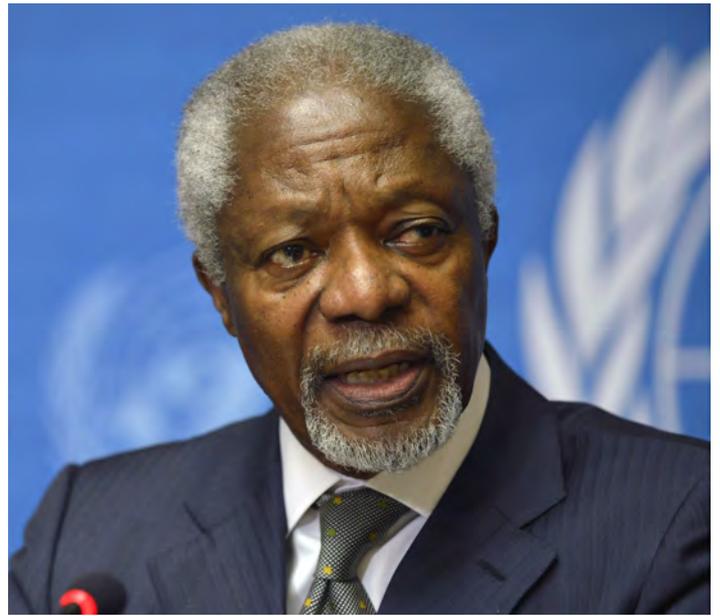
Lion of the Gold Land, you nailed our hue upon the sail, never to be reabsorbed into the jungle no more

You washed our contagion of self-pity away, we buoyed with you, our African pride all over our mantles

Khufu of modern Giza, Ruler of Monomotapa, Prince of Dahomey, Son of Accra, Umuntu W'Ubuntu!

You whispered our African strength and wisdom into the complex corpus of the UNO, knew when to.

Great artist of the land you danced the African Zumba to the



steel cold Western bureaucracies and lived.

Kofi, join the African Pantheon of heroes, never will you cease to deserve this highest appellation.

Rejoice Africa and for the world, for a life well lived, for this incomparable son of our land deserves all

Ruling with easy wisdom and gentry style, traveling the lands and bearing love, he lives on, and as whole

Africa, sit not but celebrate his chivalrous enthusiasm for life, invite all the drummers from all corners

Reawake, awake Shaka Zulu, return here Mansa Musa, all the great leaders of Ghana, of Africa rejoice!

Let Sheba and his Solomon relive and note, for here is an African worth the sojourn to behold, in voice.

Let the horsemen of Córdoba blow their horns, while the warriors of the Sudan throng in dance

See the graceful ethiope twirl in unison, and the Somalia youths break up in the beautiful dhaanto today

Enjoy the Acholi bwola dance and join the Moroccan belly dancer on stage, see the Kalahari jigs for days

Break the cola nut, pour our palm wine, and feast. Africa goes with you Kofi with thankfulness and love

Africa awakes with you today, Africa is reborn with you still, Kofi farewell Anon!!

*Sr Dr Najjuka Solome RSCJ*

*Kampala, 6 September 2018*