

# **SND - NGO UNITED NATIONS Update**

## **DECEMBER, 2014**

### **Brazil – Formation for Empowerment**

Spending time with our Sisters in Brazil helped me to better understand province coordination and collaboration of social outreach in various ministries.

Sr. Silvania was kind enough to spend several days acquainting me with an amazing variety of programs coordinated by the Sisters of Passo Fundo province. *Bombeiro Mirim* works with at risk young men who spend time outside of school learning values and skills by participating with city firemen. Segments of the education include horticulture, music, woodworking, technology, and social and psychological skills. Project *Transformação* emerged from a commitment to care for the world in which we live - this



amazing recycling project includes capacity building of numbers of adults. Transportation to the site, accounting, human resource management and work conditions are all a part of two large recycling endeavors initiatives which not only help to lessen the need for landfill, but also provide income for good sized staff. Meetings are held weekly in order to base these projects in principles of sustainability and spirituality.

*Santa Cruz* retreat center hosts a variety of workshops which provide spiritual, psychological, physical, and professional support for religious and lay ministers. One that was in session

during my visit was that of care of the elderly. I joined the group as they culminated their workshop with a visit to Casa Betânia. Here the elder Sisters of the Province are participants in creating their own programs as was evident by their vibrant contributions to the day.



I spent a very full day with Sr. Imelda Jacoby, first at the Passo Fundo prison (built for 150 and holding 600) and the prison for adolescents or the area. I quickly became aware that, like Sr. Silvania, Sr. Imelda is highly respected by municipal colleagues, but must walk a very fine line between critique of the system and cooperation with the authorities in order to help the prisoners as much as possible. Work on social education and restorative justice are two of the capacity building approaches in which Sister has educated herself so that she can educate others. I am also very grateful to the Sisters of the Canoas province for their gracious hospitality during my short stay there.

### **United Nations 2015 Spring Commissions**

**February 4 – 13, 2015: 53<sup>rd</sup> Commission on Social Development (CSocD 53) New York City**

Theme: Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary

world. [undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015.aspx](http://undesadspd.org/CommissionforSocialDevelopment/Sessions/2015.aspx)

**March 9 – 20, 2015: 59<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59/Beijing+20) New York City**

Theme: Review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995 [www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015](http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw59-2015)

**May 13 – 17, 2015: 14<sup>th</sup> Commission on Population and Development (CPD 14) New York City** Theme: Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including the post-2015 development agenda

[www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2015/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2015/index.shtml)



**July 13 – 16, 2015: 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD 3) Addis Ababa**

Theme: Reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development process and address new and emerging issues

[www.un.org/esa/ffd/consultations/index.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/consultations/index.htm)

Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for any of these commissions.

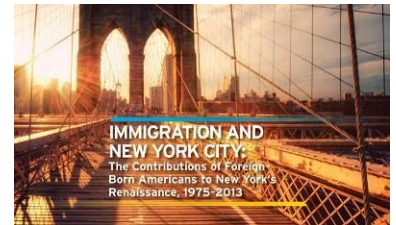
## [A Tale of Two Cities](#)

As it now stands, Sustainable Development Goal # 11 reads “*Build inclusive, safe and sustainable cities and human settlements.*”

Already in 2008, more than half of the world’s population was recorded to be living in cities and towns. In order to explore the possibilities of *people centered urbanization*, the Permanent Missions of Italy and the People’s Republic of China hosted a half day workshop entitled “Leading Urban Transformation”. High on the agenda of this concept are balance between economic growth and social progress and harmony within all of nature.

Attention to education and decent employment along with public health need to be maintained and supported. Mayors and academics, social entrepreneurs and journalists spoke about ways in which they are promoting integration of members of communities by social inclusion. For example, fifty years ago Detroit was booming with two million hard-working people living the American Dream. Then the auto industry crashed and so did the Motor City. Many moved away; whole neighborhoods turned into wastelands. The film [\*\*WE ARE NOT GHOSTS\*\*](#) [http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/email/wang\\_online.html](http://www.bullfrogfilms.com/email/wang_online.html) chronicles the stories of the people who determined to make their vision of hope and sustainability a reality - from community businesses, to place-based schools, to thriving urban gardens and spoken word artists. The film has important lessons for academics, for policy makers and for practitioners who are interested in rebuilding distressed urban landscape.

Nearly 40 % of the population of New York City is foreign-born and the city credits immigrants with saving neighborhoods from degeneration during economic downturns by boosting housing values, preserving jobs, starting businesses, and volunteering at local civic and religious organizations. Foreign-born residents contribute greatly to the success and vitality of their neighborhoods. Immigrants make up 72 percent of the city’s nursing, psychiatric and home health aides as well as almost half of the city’s physicians and surgeons, and more than one in five elementary and middle school teachers. The future of New York City and the future of many other cities in the world depend on the way in which newcomers are welcomed along with the gifts that they bring to their adopted countries and communities.



### [Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein assumed his functions as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on September 1, 2014, following the General Assembly’s approval on 16 June 2014 of his appointment by the United Nations Secretary-General. He will be the seventh individual to lead the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the first Asian, Muslim and Arab to do so. Previously the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations, Zeid’s professional experience demonstrates his long familiarity with international criminal justice, international law, UN peacekeeping, post-conflict peace-

building, international development, and counter- nuclear terrorism. He further served on the international advisory councils of “The Auschwitz Institute for Peace and Reconciliation”; the “International Peace Institute” and the Security Council. He is married to Princess Sarah Zeid, and they have two daughters and a son. He has met with NGOs and it is clear that he will continue to work with us on issues such as the difficulties of human rights defenders, equality, peace, migration, and issues of women and girls.

*“We must therefore persevere together until we bend the course of humanity’s future into a destination more hopeful and enlightened, in which human decency is the only currency of human interaction, and is valued above and beyond material wealth or cleverness alone. After all, the world is not in need of an even greater number of highly intelligent people, nor politically powerful or extremely rich people; many of them are consequential, yes, but .....To rescue this blue, marble-looking sphere, our planet, we need – and here we must agree with His Holiness Pope Francis -- we need more compassionate, profoundly considerate and wise people piloting our collective fate, and they must be courageous too.- See more at:*

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14998&LangID=E#sthash.Dc41WXNV.dpuf>

A reminder about the link to our UN SNDs blog: [www.sndatun.wordpress.com](http://www.sndatun.wordpress.com)

UN SNDs facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/3ccygc3>

To contact Sr. Mary Jo at the UN: [marvjotto@snd1.org](mailto:marvjotto@snd1.org)