



# IRMÃS DE NOSSA SENHORA na ONU

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## SND - ONG NAÇÕES UNIDAS - Atualização

Em breve, publicação da versão traduzida.

### Welcome to Sr. Jyotisha!

On September 30, Sr. Mary Jyotisha arrived at the SND-NGO office to help fill a need that many NGOs feel in terms of linking policy and practice. Coming from Sasaram in India, Sister has experience working with the marginalized women and girls for their empowerment and development in state of Bihar. She will participate in the Working Group on Girls, the Committee on the Status of Women, the NGO Committee on Social Development (social inclusion), and the NGO Committee on Human Rights.



### CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and Climate Change

In the last newsletter we followed up on the issue of climate change in order to educate ourselves and those with whom we work as means of exercising our stewardship of the earth.

At their session in July and August of this year, the CEDAW Committee on Gender and Climate Change adopted a statement that said in part: "All stake holders should ensure that climate change... measures are gender responsive, sensitive to indigenous knowledge systems and respect human rights. Women's rights to participate at all levels of decision-making must be guaranteed in climate change policies and programs. ... (Women) are powerful agents of change and their leadership is critical. The statement was prompted by the country reviews in the July-August session. In the 45th CEDAW session (January 18 to Feb. 5 of 2010), the Netherlands will be reviewed, and in the 46th session (July 2010), Papua New Guinea. If you want to know what your government or any other government has to say about progress empowering women and girls and protecting their rights, go to <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/index.htm>.



**Note:** After three years of extensive consultations, the UN General Assembly on, September 14, adopted a resolution that takes the next step in the process to combine four entities: UNIFEM (UN Development Fund for Women), DAW (Division for the Advancement of Women), OSAGI (Office of the Special Advisor on Gender Issues), and INSTRAW (International Research and Training Institute for the Advance of Women). They will form a single organization to promote the rights and well-being of women world-wide. The work of CEDAW, as a treaty body will remain separate.

## Social Development Survey

Some time ago I sent three questions regarding efforts at what we call social integration. Social integration (or inclusion) refers to facilitating participation in society from every group especially the most marginal. In all of what we do, we tend to look out for those who struggle the most. Education is key so let's not forget that avenue. Thanks so far to Uganda, Covington, Los Angeles, and Korea. The information that you share with us is critical to reality as opposed to being more limited to theory here in New York.

## Department of Information Conference in Mexico City



The theme was disarmament and there were NGOs from all over the world looking at three major themes (among others): 1) the danger of continuing to build up arms, particularly nuclear arms, 2) the negative effect that this kind of spending has on development needed in all areas of the world, and 3) the importance of disarmament of the heart which would root us as peoples in sharing gifts instead of fear of one another. Below you will find a photo of a panel of seven young people from Mexico who addressed the theme from the following points of view: the history of world conflicts, the effects of the media in promoting video war games, the sale of weapons, education to promote a society in which we know more about peace than we do about war.



A good book for prayer on the third theme is *Practising Peace in Times of War*, written by Pema Chodron. As an interpreter for Spanish, I was able to participate in the orientation and debriefing of Notre Dame Sisters (SSND and Namur) as the Religious Sisters of the Sacred Heart who gave us hospitality in their provincial center and participated in the conference.

## The Opening of the General Assembly Session 64

The months of August and September are times of preparation for the fall session of the General Assembly. There is a consistent effort to listen to all of 192 members of this body. This year is the 64th Session. The president this year is Ambassador Ali Abdussalam Treki from Libya who has a background in diplomacy and human rights and has mediated several conflicts in Africa.

The resolutions which we are currently following are: the biennial girl's rights' resolution, the resolution on children's participation, and the resolution against trafficking of women and girls. This requires meeting with countries which head the various negotiating groups such as NAM (the non-aligned movement). Egypt is currently the president (2009-2012) so we arranged a meeting at the Egyptian Permanent Mission with their gender expert and are also working with the gender specialist at the Permanent Mission of Chile. In between we do research, meet with other NGOs and attend events which allow us to express the views of the civil society community.

## Thank you to those who agreed to be connectors for awareness about human trafficking

Thanks to Sisters in Africa, England, Germany, India, Brazil United States, and for a further climate change response from our Sisters concerning a new initiative by the government of Brazil for the Prevention and Control of Deforestation of the Cerrado.