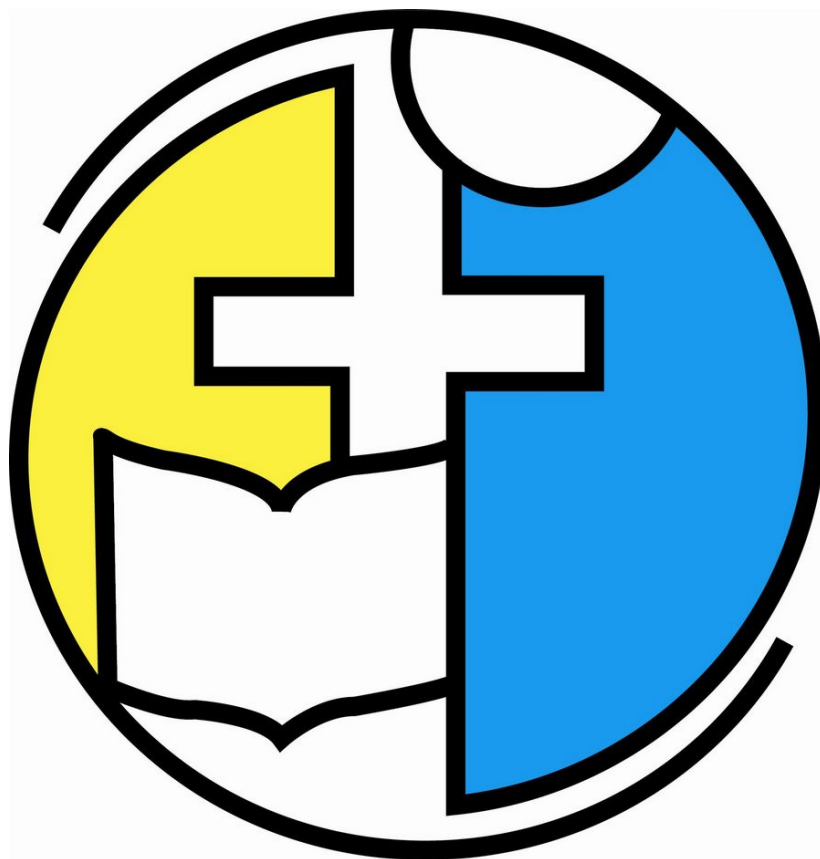


International Movement of Catholic Students  
IMCS - Pax Romana - MIEC

UN Advocacy Team Report  
*Executive Summary*

2015 - 2016



Building on its previous years of hard work, the Pax Romana United Nations Advocacy Team is now *more* involved in UN processes than ever before. By engaging in advocacy through entities such as the **UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY)** and the **International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO)**, for which the Team acts as formal Liaison to the UN, the Advocacy Team has fostered relationships within a *wide range of UN processes*, including:

- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)
- Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development - Habitat III
- World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)
- UN General Assembly, as well as the Commission on Social Development (CSocD) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Financing for Development (FfD)
- Science-Policy Interface (SPI)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development 14 (UNCTAD)

Despite its modest size, the UN Advocacy Team works efficiently to maintain productivity while managing its many engagements. As a result, the Advocacy Team is a *highly influential* and *respected* group, which has contributed to the outcome of each of the processes listed above.

In September 2015, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was adopted, after years of intensive intergovernmental negotiations (IGNs). Given the significance of this Agenda, the Advocacy Team has been especially active in sustainable development. In addition to following the IGNs and



Marwan Bishtawi, member of the Pax Romana UN Advocacy Team at a side event during the HLPF, New York, July 2015

engaging Member States, the Advocacy Team had cooperated with other youth organizations and faith based organizations (FBOs) in helping to prepare statements and advocacy material addressing Member States in the months leading up to the September Summit. These statements featured language suggestions for the Agenda's outcome document, and challenged Member States to keep the rights of youth, the planet, and the human person at the forefront of the Agenda. In addition, the UN Advocacy Team delivered a statement on behalf of the UN MGCY at the 2015 HLPF, reminding Member States to partner with youth and take seriously the transformative changes needed to achieve the paradigm shift called for in the 2030 Agenda.

In the lead up to the 2016 HLPF, the team has concluded its work of chairing a process of establishing the crucial Major Groups and other Stakeholders HLPF Coordination Mechanism, as to bring all major groups and stakeholders that are active in sustainable development together to influence the process. It was the UN Advocacy Team that helped to make sure this process was successful.

The Advocacy Team has also been active in the processes surrounding the **World Humanitarian Summit**. In early September 2015, the Advocacy Team attended the WHS Youth Consultation in Doha. Although the Consultation was organized chiefly by the UN MGCY, the UN Advocacy Team played a *vital role* in facilitating the meetings during the three-day conference *and* in preparing the Consultation's

**outcome document.** Half a year later, the Advocacy Team was active at the WHS in Istanbul, with Team members speaking at panels, including providing the new IMCS President an opportunity to address the WHS plenary on behalf of the movement and the UN MGCY.



IMCS - Pax Romana President Edouard Karoue with former Pan-African Coordinator Chantal Bengaly and UN Advocacy Team Coordinator Christopher Dekki at the World Humanitarian Summit, Istanbul, May 2016

The UN Advocacy Team also contributed to the Habitat III positions of the UN MGCY by hosting a number of youth consultations worldwide and engaging the Asia-Pacific Coordination of IMCS in the Asia-Pacific Urban Youth Forum, which was a side event of the Asia-Pacific High-Level Regional Meeting of Habitat III. The Advocacy Team helped coordinate and train the many youth who attended the forum and influenced the document which ultimately summed up the positions of youth in the region towards the process, the APUFY Declaration. The UN Advocacy Team continues its indispensable role in the process.

In preparation for **Habitat III**, the team has been extremely active in advocacy around ensuring a sustainable and just New Urban Agenda, the outcome of the conference in Quito in October 2016. Since early 2015, it was the efforts of the Advocacy Team as a focal organization that ensured strong access and advocacy of the youth movements of the UN MGCY in the process. From the second Preparatory Committee in Nairobi in April 2015 all the way to negotiations taking place in 2016, it was the UN Advocacy Team that has played a strong role in the work of civil society towards a stronger and more sustainable outcome.



Christopher Dekki speaking at the World Humanitarian Summit, Youth Forum in Istanbul, May 2016

The **Science-Policy Interface (SPI)** has become an increasingly important component of sustainable development within the United Nations system. It provides the foundation for empirically-based policies, facilitates the use of science as an enabler in policy implementation and review, and provides a unique scientific lens into monitoring impact. Furthermore, SPIs have been integral in identify emerging priorities, drawing links between the interconnected nature of thematic issues, and devising solutions to address challenges and barriers to progress. The Rio+20 outcome document - *The Future We Want* - solidified the role of SPIs and sought to operationalize its place within all sustainable development processes.

The UN Advocacy Team has worked closely to help coordinate activities within the UN MGCY Youth Science Policy Interface Platform. Initiated in January of 2016 at the Science & Technology Conference

for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, it is meant to serve as a channel for young scientists, engineers, practitioners, and students, from both the social and natural sciences, to contribute to the science-policy interface within the UN system.

Recently, the Team were actively involved in the 1st Annual Science, Technology, & Innovation Forum for the SDGs, under the auspices of ECOSOC, taking place 5-6 June 2016. The team helped with drafting statements during each session and co-organize an official session on young scientists and innovators. It also co-hosted a roundtable discussion with other civil society members on “Leaving No One Behind - the role of girls, women, indigenous knowledge, and informal systems in STI,” attended by members of the UN MGCY, Women’s Major Group, UNESCO, the Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth (OSGEY), and others. Furthermore, the UN Advocacy team helped organize a side event on building coherence between the SPI initiatives of different sustainable development agendas. This is part of a larger discussion both within policy work and the long term positioning of the UN system on how to best align the different agendas for effective, inclusive, and impactful change.

Engagement in the Youth SPI Platform will continue into the 2016 HLPF, as the UN Advocacy Team supports the UN MGCY in developing a pilot edition of a Youth SPI Publication, a compilation of briefs and articles submitted by young scientists and practitioners that will be compiled into a magazine-like publication. Additionally, this will be used to feed into the SPI discussions at the HLPF, as well as the Global Sustainable Development Report.



The 2016 UNCTAD 14 and Youth Forum will be held on July 17-22 in Nairobi, Kenya. The UN MGCY is working closely with the UNCTAD 14 Secretariat to help facilitate the first UNCTAD Youth Forum in order to ensure a meaningful youth-led process. The main objectives of the conference are to identify the role of trade in contributing to the effective implementation of and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and relevant outcomes from global conferences and summits.

The Youth Forum will follow the theme “The World We Want” in order to give a voice to youth to be part of this discussion. The Pax Romana UN Advocacy Team in New York was integral in ensuring this Youth Forum takes place and worked with UNCTAD in New York to help plan and organize it. During the conference itself, IMCS - Pax Romana Pan-African Coordinator Patrick Ochiba will help facilitate events and represent the movement.

IMCS - Pax Romana President Edouard Karoué and Pax Romana UN Advocacy Team Coordinator Christopher Dekki with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Holy See Cardinal Secretary of State at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul 2016

*\* This is only a small summary of the larger report being compiled by the UN Advocacy Team. Please refer to this larger document for more detailed information regarding these and the many other processes in which the team is engaged.*