

SEPTEMBER 2025

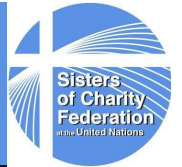
The UN & YOU

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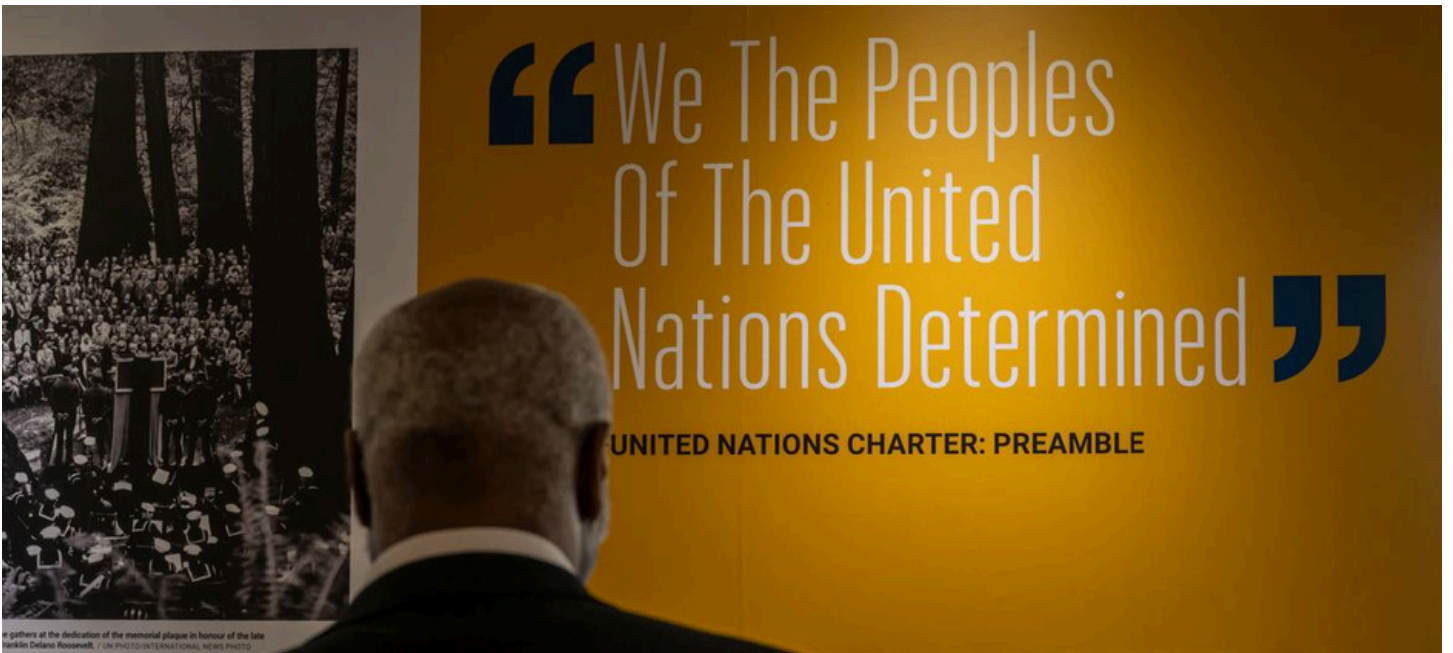
AT A GLANCE

- 80th UN General Assembly
- New Homelessness Report
- World Social Summit

From the NGO Desk



80th General Assembly



As the 80th session of the UN General Assembly occurs this month, we will once again hear the questioning of the effectiveness of the UN.

The UN's relevance has been a question since its founding. As we appropriately question the trust given to world leaders, more concerns and questions rightly arise as we look at the state of the world.

There is the frustration of the Sustainable Development Goals, promises made 10 years ago that are mostly not being kept, as well as the increased violence in over 100 armed conflicts worldwide. The veto power of powerful nations is turning the Security Council into a toothless tiger- just look at Gaza and Ukraine as examples.

Yet, there is so much good that the UN does, and I am not sure if we can fully appreciate the challenge that the UN pursues- trying to bring all governments and people together, helping all global citizens to achieve the same human rights and dignity.

There are cultural, language, and political obstacles. Those in power do not easily give up their power, even if it means saving the lives of others. The call to defund the UN and global aid, especially from the United States, makes this all even more difficult.

We will hear during the General Assembly many questions regarding the intentions of the UN, and the divide in Israel and Palestine will surely make headlines. It is important, however, to not lose sight of some of the success stories of the UN, especially as we mark 80 years of the General Assembly.

1. Arm Control: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and various disarmament treaties, has prevented the escalation of nuclear weapons, although there are over [12,000 nuclear warheads worldwide](#).

2. Peacekeeping Missions: The UN preserves peace in sending UN peacekeeping forces to resolve conflict and ensure post-conflict stability. You can track current efforts [here](#).

3. Humanitarian Aid: In emergencies and conflicts, through various funds, agencies, and programs, over 71.4 million people fleeing war, famine, and prosecution are protected and assisted. In addition, food assistance is provided to 91.4 million people and the UN supplies vaccines to 45% of the world's children.

4. Sustainable Development Goals: While it is true the goals have not been met and are not on track to being met by 2030, there is progress that otherwise would not have occurred. Read more [here](#) regarding some important progress.

There is so much more to write and say about the success and the challenges of the United Nations. My former colleague, Jim Claffey, who served as the UN representative for the Congregation of the Mission at the UN, said it this way: "If the UN did not exist, it would need to be invented."

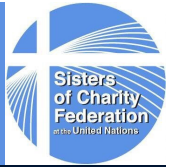
While it isn't perfect, and there is so much to urgently and systemically pursue and achieve, thankfully the UN exists, and it needs our support.

As people of hope and faith, it is good that we are here. We, the faith voices at the UN, appreciate the investment in our presence at this global stage, and we will continue to urge those in positions of power to remember their people and all people. We point to not only

human rights but human dignity, calling for transformation- especially for women and girls, care for creation, and poverty.

So when you hear the rhetoric that seeks to dismiss the UN, remember that while there is still much to do, there is so much good that is occurring because of the UN. This is not the time to dismiss this international agency, rather, it is time to seek its reform while continuing to support what it does so well.

Homelessness



Secretary General Report



Homelessness is thankfully included in the Political Declaration for the Second World Social Summit in Qatar this November. This has been the work of many faith-based NGOs including the Sisters of Charity Federation. (More to come in October's newsletter).

Another accomplishment is the new Secretary General's Report on Homelessness. Read the full report [here](#).

In the report, the Secretary-General underscores that, while attention to homelessness has increased, significant gaps remain in definitions, data, legal protections and long-term housing solutions.

He calls for coordinated national strategies, improved data systems and recognition of the distinct experiences of groups facing systemic exclusion. In his recommendations, he promotes inclusive, rights-based responses that reflect the lived realities of those affected and that enable global progress towards ending homelessness.

WSSD2



This November



**SECOND
WORLD SUMMIT
FOR SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
DOHA 2025**

The Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) will take place from November 4-6, 2025, in Doha, Qatar.

The Summit builds on the legacy of the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action, reaffirming global commitments to people-centered, inclusive, and equitable development. The Summit is organized by UNDESA and the Government of Qatar. A dedicated page is now available on the [UNDESA website](#).

Follow us on social media during the gathering for up-to-date information, and our future newsletters will also focus on this important meeting.

Reach Out



Let's Stay Connected

For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email
JWalters@sistersofcharityfederation.org **and we'll be in touch.**

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