

**UN Update - Sister Helen Martinez – Journal – March 1-6, 2015**  
**News and Views from IPA Short Term Reps - Shorter Version**

- **Seminar on Migration Statistics in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.** It presented elements of a strategy to implement migration related indicators at the country level. The side event highlighted the need to improve migration data from traditional data sources, including population censuses, administrative sources, and household surveys. Examples of the potential contribution of non-traditional data sources related to migrants, migration and mobility were presented.
- **Briefing on Climate Finance and Civil Society: Where we are and where we are going?** It introduced the three main vehicles for public sector climate finance: the Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund. It emphasised the immediacy of the need for dealing with climate change, the paucity of funds allocated for necessary interventions, the crucial place of education and the essentialness of bottom –up approach. Presentations offered an overview of these mechanisms and early lessons learned, with a focus on the role of civil society in reducing emissions and helping communities to adapt healthy approach.
- **Responding to the Needs of the Young and Those Living in Poverty: A Salesian Multi-dimensional Response.** Archbishop Auza and Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez, SDB of Honduras addressed the new frontiers of Salesian ministries and the right to water.
- **The Statistical Commission** met all week. This is the group that oversees the Office of Statistics at the UN. It is charged with formulating the indicators which will be used to measure attainment of targets for each of the sustainable development goals. Their task is not an easy one from either a technical or a political perspective.
- **The Empowerment Bridge: Building a Lifetime of Opportunity for Women and Girls** focused on the tools and strategies that help in bridging the opportunity gap for women and girls around the world. Expert-led discussions explored into the critical underpinnings of economic empowerment, such as Technology, Science , Engineering and Math ( STEM ) health care, and job and business skills training. They also looked at creating an ecosystem that supports women entrepreneurs, from encouraging girls to pursue their business dreams to ensuring that women-owned businesses can succeed.
- **Voices and conversations from Grassroots'** International Presentation Association organised an informal event on sharing the grassroot experience. Sr. Mary Margaret Moony moderated the program. Sr. Rabekka Severaj shared her experience and work among the Indigenous people in India on the integrated health approach, Srs. Salome Joseph and Jancy Selvaraj shared their experience with the migrants and hill tribes of Northern Thailand, and Sr. Joel Urumpil , SCN, shared her experience and work among the Indigenous in India. They highlighted the reality of the people at the grassroots level, successes and challenges. For sustainable development and systemic change in the society, empowerment, education, capacity building and holistic approach is important.