

Lets Talk Sustainable Development Goals

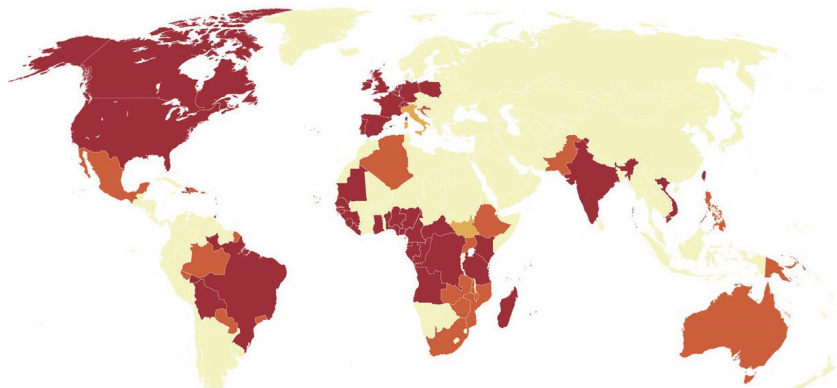


Spiritan founder, Claude Poullart des Places, saw beyond his own needs to the needs of others whom were marginalised in French society at that time and much different to himself. He reached out to help and his life was changed. Francis Libermann, the second Spiritan founder, brought that 'reaching out' beyond the boundaries of France to many

countries around the world. Both founders set the Spiritans on a journey to a dialogue in the world for justice and peace.

Spiritans today are on mission in five continents and present in some fifty-five countries. As Spiritans being immersed in different cultures they become aware of our many injustices and respond by working with others in building world-wide community. This is the work of the 'sharing the good news' which, in the words of Pope Francis, is to replace a 'globalisation of indifference' with a 'globalisation of tenderness'.

Spiritan schools in Ireland are part of the global community founded by Claude Poullard Des Places and Francis Paul Mary Libermann. This missionary outlook inspires hope for the realisation of one world, united in peace and justice. A Spiritan education is grounded in a global vision enabling all who experience it a realisation that our local, national and global relationships have implications for us all and are intrinsically related to each other.



Sustainable Development Goals: *A global vision*

When governments from around the world met at the United Nations in September 2015 to approve a “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” their objective was ambitious: “Leave No One Behind.” As the UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in a recent report, the Agenda “aims to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals and transform economies and consumption and production patterns, while protecting the environment and the dignity and rights of everyone, everywhere.”

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to end poverty and hunger, reduce inequalities, ensure quality education, create opportunities for decent work, care for creation and promote a peaceful and just global community.

The Sustainable Development Goals will not be achieved without the active engagement of people from all around the world, including you! As a Spiritan school community, it is important for us all to learn about these goals and to develop resources and ensure their implementation.

The 17 goals are:

- Goal 1:** No Poverty
- Goal 2:** Zero Hunger
- Goal 3:** Good Health and Well-being for people
- Goal 4:** Quality Education
- Goal 5:** Gender Equality
- Goal 6:** Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7:** Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 8:** Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 9:** Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 10:** Reduced Inequality
- Goal 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 12:** Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13:** Climate Action
- Goal 14:** Life Below Water
- Goal 15:** Life on Land
- Goal 16:** Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- Goal 17:** Partnerships for the Goals

This resource will provide updates on each goal, discussion questions for small group discussion and inspirational text to allow each reader time and space to reflect on the goals and their vision for our world.



Goal 1



Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. While the number of people living in extreme poverty dropped by more than half between 1990 and 2015 – from 1.9 billion to 836 million – too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs.

Globally, more than 800 million people are still living on less than US\$1.25 a day, many lacking access to adequate food, clean drinking water and sanitation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your reaction to these facts presented?
2. How can you make yourself more aware of people living in poverty? How can we exercise our responsibility to eradicate poverty in our world?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith; I have deeds.” Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

James 2:15-18

Goal 2



Rapid economic growth and increased agricultural productivity over the past two decades have seen the number of undernourished people drop by almost half. Some countries that used to suffer from famine and hunger can now meet the nutritional needs of the most vulnerable. Unfortunately, extreme hunger and malnutrition remain a huge barrier to development in many countries. 795 million people are estimated to be chronically undernourished as of 2014, often as a direct consequence of environmental degradation, extreme weather, drought and loss of biodiversity. Over 90 million children under the age of five are dangerously underweight. And one person in every four still goes hungry in the continent of Africa.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your reaction to the information presented? What surprised you?
2. How can we exercise our responsibility to reach this goal?
3. Class Debate Question; Is only giving money an appropriate response to global hungry?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Matthew 25:34-40

Goal 3

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



There have been huge strides in reducing child mortality, improving maternal health and fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Since 1990, there has been over 50 percent decline in preventable child deaths globally. Maternal mortality also fell by 45 percent worldwide. New HIV/AIDS infections fell by 30 percent between 2000 and 2013, and over 6.2 million lives were saved from malaria.

Despite this incredible progress, more than 6 million children still die before their fifth birthday every year. 16,000 children die each day from preventable diseases such as measles and tuberculosis. Every day hundreds of women die during pregnancy or from child-birth related complications. In many rural

areas, only 56 percent of births are attended by skilled professionals. AIDS is now the leading cause of death among teenagers in sub Saharan Africa, a region still severely devastated by the HIV epidemic.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you know about HIV/AIDS? How could you learn more? What is the rate of HIV/AIDS in Ireland?
2. Many missionaries have led development in health care issues throughout the developing world, e.g. Sr. Miriam Duggan, Fr. Michael Kelly etc. Research their contribution to overseas countries.

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 4:23-25

Goal 4



Since 2000, there has been enormous progress in achieving the target of universal primary education. The total enrolment rate in developing regions reached 91 percent in 2015, and the worldwide number of children out of school has dropped by almost half. There has also been a dramatic increase in literacy rates, and many more girls are in school than ever before. These are all remarkable successes.

Progress has also been tough in some developing regions due to high levels of poverty, armed conflicts and other emergencies. In Western Asia and North Africa, ongoing armed conflict has seen an increase in the number of children out of school. This is a worrying trend. While Sub-

Saharan Africa made the greatest progress in primary school enrolment among all developing regions – from 52 percent in 1990, up to 78 percent in 2012 – large disparities still remain. Children from the poorest households are up to four times more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. Disparities between rural and urban areas also remain high.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As students in education, what are the benefits of education for you now and in your future?
2. In your opinion, is Education a Human Right?
3. Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

Nelson Mandela – **DISCUSS**

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Luke 2:51-52

Goal 5



Ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls is not only a basic human right, but it also crucial to accelerating sustainable development. It has been proven time and again, that empowering women and girls has a multiplier effect, and helps drive up economic growth and development across the board. The SDGs aim to build on these achievements to ensure that there is an end to discrimination against women and girls everywhere. There are still huge inequalities in the labour market in some regions, with women systematically denied equal access to jobs. Sexual violence and exploitation, the unequal division of unpaid care and

domestic work and discrimination in public office, all remain huge barriers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Can you give examples where women are discriminated against in Ireland and Internationally?
2. How do you voice your opinion against violence and exploitation of women?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:28

"It is absolutely no accident that the peace and reconciliation, and indeed the economic progress, that eluded us generation after generation for hundreds of years, has at last come to pass in an Ireland where the talents of women are now flooding every aspect of life as never before."

**Mary McAleese,
Former President of Ireland**

Goal 6

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



Every day children travel long distances to collect water for their family. The average journey to collect clean water is 6km in the Continent of Africa. Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of people around the world, an alarming figure that is projected to increase with the rise of global temperatures as a result of climate change. Although 2.1 billion people have gained access to improved water sanitation since 1990, dwindling supplies of safe drinking water is a major problem impacting every continent.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you consider that water is our most precious resource? Why or why not?
2. If the word “conserve” means wise use, what does water conservation mean in our community?
3. How can we conserve water where we live? How can you as an individual conserve water?

Choose one of the following key statements on the conservation of water that appeals to you.

Explain.

- *Your little actions can make a big difference.*
- *We are not separate from our environment, we are part of it.*
- *Save water, save wildlife.*

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

We will never know the true value of water until the well runs dry.

Thomas Fuller

“Water has the power to move millions of people. Since the very birth of human civilization, people have moved to settle close to it. People move when there is too little of it. People move when there is too much of it. People journey down it. People write, sing and dance about it. People fight over it. And all people, everywhere and every day, need it.

Mikhail Gorbachev

Goal 7



Between 1990 and 2010, the number of people with access to electricity has increased by 1.7 billion and as the global population continues to rise so will the demand for cheap energy. A global economy reliant on fossil fuels, and the increase of greenhouse gas emissions is creating drastic changes to our climate system. This is impacting every continent.

Still one in seven people lack access to electricity, and as the demand continues to rise there needs to be a substantial increase in the production of renewable energy across the world. Ensuring universal access to affordable electricity by 2030 means investing in clean energy sources such as solar, wind and thermal.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is your understanding of renewable and non-renewable energy? Give an example of each.
2. From which source of energy does Ireland get most of its electricity?
3. As young people of today what do you see as the way for sustainable energy in our world? Is that era of fossil fuel over or will fossils fuels still play a part of the future?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

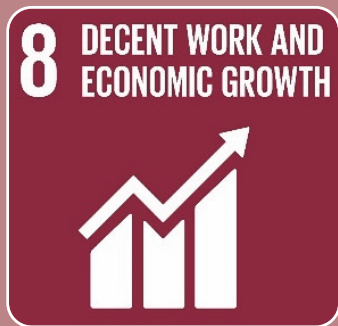
The land must not be sold permanently, because the land is mine and you reside in my land as foreigners and strangers. Throughout the land that you hold as a possession, you must provide for the redemption of the land.

Lev 25:23-25

Because we are now running out of gas and oil, we must prepare quickly for a third change, to strict conservation and to the use of permanent renewable energy sources, like solar power.

Jimmy Carter, former US President

Goal 8



As the global economy continues to recover we are seeing slower growth, widening inequalities, and not enough jobs to keep up with a growing global labour force. According to the International Labour Organization, more than 204 million people were unemployed in 2015.

The SDGs promote sustained economic growth, higher levels of productivity and technological innovation. Encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation are key to this, as are effective measures to eradicate forced labour, slavery and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In your opinion, what should the basic rate of pay be to make it 'decent pay'?
2. Are there areas of employment that are not paying 'decent pay'?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

These men and women ask for just the same thing, fairness, and fairness only. This, so far as in my power, they, and all others, shall have.

Abraham Lincoln

How I wish everyone had decent work! It is essential for human dignity.

Pope Francis

Goal 9

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



In Sub-Saharan Africa, 69% of people do not have access to Investment in infrastructure. Research and innovation are crucial drivers of economic growth and development. Technological progress is also key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as providing new jobs and promoting energy efficiency.

More than 4 billion people still do not have access to the Internet, and 90 percent are from the developing world. Bridging this digital divide is crucial to ensuring equal access to information and knowledge, as well as fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What would your life be like without the Internet?
- In your opinion can a country develop without access to the internet?
- How would school life be different without access to technology?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

The good news is a global movement is coming together for 2015 and the future, inspired by the words of Nelson Mandela: 'Like slavery, like apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is manmade and it can be overcome by the actions of human beings.'

UN Council

Goal 10



It is well documented that income inequality is on the rise, with the richest 10 percent earning up to 40 percent of total global income. The poorest 10 percent earn only between 2 percent and 7 percent of total global income. In developing countries, inequality has increased by 11 percent if we consider the growth of population. These widening disparities require the adoption of sound policies to empower the bottom percentile of income earners, and promote economic inclusion of all regardless of sex, race or ethnicity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where is inequality evident in our society? What are the reasons for this inequality?
2. What is your response to this inequality?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

I have a dream that one day right there in Alabama little black boys and little black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed – we hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Goal 11



More than half of the world's population now live in urban areas. By 2050, that figure will have risen to 6.5 billion people – two-thirds of all humanity. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way we build and manage our urban spaces.

The rapid growth of cities in the developing world, coupled with increasing rural to urban migration, has led to a boom in mega-cities. In 1990, there were ten mega cities with 10 million inhabitants or more. In 2014, there were 28 mega-cities, home to a total 453 million people.

Extreme poverty is often concentrated in urban spaces, and national and city governments struggle to accommodate the rising population in these areas. Making

cities safe and sustainable means ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading slum settlements. It also involves investment in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and inclusive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. From your experience to date, what will cities look like in Ireland in 2030?
2. In your opinion, what should be planned now for the cities of the future?
3. Can cities of the future help bridge the gap between rich and poor? How?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

We do not need to invent sustainable human communities. We can learn from societies that have lived sustainably for centuries. We can also model communities after nature's ecosystems, which are sustainable communities of plants, animals, and microorganisms. Since the outstanding characteristic of the biosphere is its inherent ability to sustain life, a sustainable human community must be designed in such a manner that its technologies and social institutions honour, support, and cooperate with nature's inherent ability to sustain life.

Fritjof Capra

Goal 12



Achieving economic growth and sustainable development requires that we urgently reduce our ecological footprint by changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources. Agriculture is the biggest user of water worldwide, and irrigation now claims close to 70 percent of all freshwater for human use.

The efficient management of our shared natural resources, and the way we dispose of toxic waste and pollutants, are important targets to achieve this goal. Encouraging industries, businesses and consumers to recycle and reduce waste is equally important, as is supporting developing countries to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption by 2030.

A large share of the world population is still consuming far too

little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource efficient economy.

DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS

- Humanity is polluting water faster than nature can recycle and purify water in rivers and lakes.
- Water is free from nature but the infrastructure needed to deliver it is expensive.
- Households consume 29 per cent of global energy and consequently contribute to 21 per cent of resultant CO2 emissions.
- 1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year while almost 1 billion people go undernourished and another 1 billion hungry.

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

Everyone should educate themselves in more wise and responsible consumption; promote personal responsibility, along with the social dimension of rural activities, which are based on perennial values, such as hospitality, solidarity, and the sharing of the toil of labour.

Pope Benedict XVI

Goal 13



There is no country in the world that is not experiencing first hand the drastic effects of climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, and are now more than 50 percent higher than their 1990 level. Further, global warming is causing long lasting changes to our climate system, which threatens irreversible consequences if we do not act now.

The annual average losses from earthquakes, tsunamis, tropical cyclones and flooding amount to hundreds of billions of dollars, requiring an investment of US\$6 billion annually in disaster risk management alone. The goal aims to mobilize \$100 billion annually by 2020 to address the needs of developing countries and help mitigate climate related disasters.

Helping more vulnerable regions,

such as land locked countries and island states, adapt to climate change must go hand in hand with efforts to integrate disaster risk measures into national strategies. It is still possible, with the political will and a wide array of technological measures, to limit the increase in global mean temperature to two degrees Celsius above pre industrial levels. This requires urgent collective action.

GROUP PROJECT

- On the top of a large piece of flipchart paper write **A Climate Action Plan**
- Divide the paper into four quadrants and label them 'is', 'says', 'does' and 'does not'
- As a group, discuss the ending of the following statements
 - ☐ A fantastic climate action plan is...
 - ☐ A fantastic climate action plan says...
 - ☐ A fantastic climate action plan does...
 - ☐ A fantastic climate action plan does not...

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

"The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish."

Pope Francis

"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children"

Chief Seattle

Goal 14



The world's oceans – their temperature, chemistry, currents and life – drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humankind. How we manage this vital resource is essential for humanity as a whole, and to counter balance the effects of climate change.

Over three billion people depend on marine and coastal biodiversity for their livelihoods. However, today we are seeing 30 percent of the world's fish stocks overexploited, reaching below the level at which they can produce sustainable yields. Oceans also absorb about 30 percent of the carbon dioxide produced by humans, and we are seeing a 26 percent rise in ocean acidification since the beginning of the industrial revolution. Marine pollution, an overwhelming majority of which comes from land based sources, is

reaching alarming levels, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic litter to be found on every square kilometre of ocean.

The SDGs aim to sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems from pollution, as well as address the impacts of ocean acidification. Enhancing conservation and the sustainable use of ocean based resources through international law will also help mitigate some of the challenges facing our oceans.

GROUP PROJECT

- Display a board of photographs with explanations in your school under the following headings:
 - ☐ Overfishing
 - ☐ Waste in the Ocean
 - ☐ Dead Zones in the Ocean
 - ☐ Acidification
- Display another board explaining what needs to be done to Protect Our Oceans?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

The sea, the great unifier, is man's only hope. Now, as never before, the old phrase has a literal meaning: we are all in the same boat.

Jacques Yves Cousteau

We owe it to our children to be better stewards of the environment. The alternative? – a world without whales. It's too terrible to imagine.

Pierce Brosnan

Goal 15



Human life depends on the earth as much as the ocean for our sustenance and livelihoods. Plant life provides 80 percent of our human diet, and we rely on agriculture as an important economic resource and means of development. Forests account for 30 percent of the Earth's surface, providing vital habitats for millions of species and important sources for clean air and water; as well as being crucial for combating climate change.

Today we are seeing unprecedented land degradation, and the loss of arable land at 30 to 35 times the historical rate. Drought and desertification is also on the rise each year, amounting to the loss of 12 million hectares and affects poor communities globally. Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8 percent are extinct and 22 percent are at risk of extinction.

The SDGs aim to conserve and restore the use of terrestrial ecosystems such as forests, wetlands, drylands and mountains by 2020. Halting deforestation is also vital to mitigating the impact of climate change. Urgent action must be taken to reduce the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity which are part of our common heritage.

CHOOSE A GROUP PROJECT AND PRESENT TO YOUR CLASS

- Create a display on the Environmental initiative 'Africa's Great Green Wall' (www.unccd.int)
- Plan and develop a new planting area in your school and/or an area in your local community

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

Because we all share this planet earth, we must learn to live in harmony and peace with each other and with nature. This is not just a dream, but a necessity.

Dalai Lama

There is a growing threat to the environment, to the vegetation, animals, water and air. Sacred Scripture hands us the image of Cain who rejects his responsibility: 'Am I my brother's keeper?' The Bible shows the human person as his brother's keeper and the guardian of creation which has been entrusted to him.

Saint Pope John Paul II

Goal 16



Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law – we cannot hope for sustainable development. We are living in a world that is increasingly divided. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and must be addressed.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in long standing grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take measures to protect those who are most at risk.

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

GROUP PROJECT

- Research and present the work of the United Nations from one of these perspectives;
 - ☐ Human Rights
 - ☐ World Health Organisations
 - ☐ UNICEF
 - ☐ Peace Keeping

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

From this vision of the role of the United Nations in the next century, flows three key priorities for the future: eradicating poverty, preventing conflict and promoting democracy.

Kofi Annan

In the 21st Century I believe the mission of the United Nations will be defined by a new, more profound, awareness of the sanctity and dignity of every human life, regardless of race or religion.

Kofi Annan

Goal 17

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The SDGs can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. While official development assistance from developed countries increased by 66 percent between 2000 and 2014, humanitarian crises brought on by conflict or natural disasters continue to demand more financial resources and aid. Many countries also require Official Development Assistance to encourage growth and trade.

Co-ordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed, is vital to achieve sustainable growth and development.

The goals aim to enhance North-South and South-South cooperation by supporting national plans to achieve all the targets. Promoting international trade, and helping

developing countries increase their exports, is all part of achieving a universal rules based and equitable trading system that is fair and open, and benefits all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Does your school community help in any way to support these partnerships?
- How can Spiritan School communities help in developing global partnerships?

INSPIRATIONAL TEXT

If there is one word that we should never tire of repeating, it is this: dialogue. We are called to promote a culture of dialogue by every possible means and thus to rebuild the fabric of society. The culture of dialogue entails a true apprenticeship and a discipline that enables us to view others as valid dialogue partners, to respect the foreigner, the immigrant and people from different cultures as worthy of being listened to. Today we urgently need to engage all the members of society in building 'a culture which privileges dialogue as a form of encounter' and in creating 'a means for building consensus and agreement while seeking the goal of a just, responsive and inclusive society'. Peace will be lasting in the measure that we arm our children with the weapons of dialogue, that we teach them to fight the good fight of encounter and negotiation. In this way, we will bequeath to them a culture capable of devising strategies of life, not death, and of inclusion, not exclusion.

Pope Francis