



ONE PAGE

Carmelite NGO: United Nations Advocacy Project of the Carmelite Family

English

July 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Carmelite Family

Thanks to all who contacted us with congratulations after the *One Page* for June was distributed announcing the new leadership of the Carmelite NGO. The organizing meetings continue with several being held in the weeks of June that flew by.

During the last few days of June, I was in Kenya delivering 5 days of conferences to the Carmelites and members of our parish in Nkoroi just outside Nairobi. As you perhaps know, Nairobi is the home of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), having been established there in June of 1972. In September 2007 our Coordinating Team held its first meeting at our Carmelite foundation in Nkoroi and met with members of UNEP during a visit to the UN site.

It quickly becomes apparent upon arriving at the airport that Nairobi is a hub for the UN. There are dedicated lines for UN employees at the airport's immigration center. I had to smile when I was seemingly randomly selected to use a UN line. Perhaps the gentleman is a subscriber to *One Page*? In fact, the UN's main headquarters in Africa (UNON) is in Nairobi and serves as a base for a variety of UN agencies and programs. Word is that by the end of 2026 three new global UN offices will be located there.

We continue to stay busy with our advocacy work. The Carmelite NGO is one of several groups that organized a round table at the 4th UN Conference on Financing for Development, taking place in Seville, Spain. The side event was entitled *Relief and Cancellation of External Debt and Financing a Just, Green Transition Within the Framework of the SDGs*. Other organizers included CIDSE (Catholic Social Justice Organizations), *Proclade Fundación* (Claretian Missionaries), the Maryknoll Sisters, CAFOD, IBVM, IBBM/CJ Global Concerns, and the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

The side event will be moderated by Marta González Álvarez of *Manos Unidas*. Speakers include Agustín Domingo Moratalla (chair of Moral Philosophy and Politics at the University of Valencia), María Luz Ortega Carpio (professor of International Economic Organizations, Loyola University of Sevilla), Elena Pérez Lagüela (professor of Economics at the Complutense University of Madrid and expert on Africa), as well as Eduardo Agosta, O. Carm. (director of the Department of Integral Ecology of the Spanish Catholic Bishops' Conference and vice president of the Carmelite NGO).

Several organizations sponsored the event including the *Departamento de Ecología Integral of the Comisión Episcopal para la Pastoral Social and Promoción*, the *Archidiócesis Sevilla*, *Redes*, and *Enlázate por la Justicia*, *The Economy of Francesco*, *Facultad de Teología San Isidoro de Sevilla*, *Universidad Loyola*, *Instituto de Desarrollo Fundación ETEA-Universidad Loyola*, *CONFER*, *Cáritas*, *Justicia e Paz*.

Those participating in the event will give reports in the next issue of CarmeNGO.

Until then, I wish all of you a restful, safe July.

peace,

V. Rev. William J. Harry, O. Carm.
President, Carmelite NGO