



### **VIVAT International:**

An NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

### **VIVAT Logo, Name & Meaning:**

The name VIVAT is derived from the Latin verb 'VIVERE' meaning 'LIVE' and expresses the deep wish for all that exists: “may he/she live, may all persons live and may all creation live.”

It evokes the programmatic prayer of St. Arnold Janssen, the founder of the two congregations from which the organization originates: *Vivat Deus Unus et Trinus in Cordibus Nostris* (“May the One and Triune God live in our hearts”) and is the unifying symbol of the two congregations. The logo depicts three persons embracing, welcoming and supporting one another while at the same time looking beyond their own circle to the larger outer world that is longing for unity and communion. The three olive shoots springing from the second letter of VIVAT stand for the hope and the transformation that VIVAT International envisages for the world.

### **Vision**

Sharing a vision of the world and of every human being as created in goodness and dignity, and believing in the equality in rights and in dignity of all individuals, peoples and cultures, we commit ourselves to promote

justice, harmony and reconciliation in the world. We therefore aim to:

- Reach out to persons and peoples living in poverty of any kind, and share in their efforts for a restoration of well-being, dignity, and freedom.
- Promote human rights, sustainable development, understanding and harmony between peoples, cultures, classes, and religions, and the creation of a world society and of local communities that permit the participation of all.
- Work for ecological sustainability, the protection of biodiversity, and the preservation of the richness of the planet for future generations.



### **Goals & Purpose**

VIVAT International focuses on issues dealing with human rights particularly in the areas of women, poverty eradication, sustainable development, and the culture of peace.

VIVAT International has the following goals:

- To engage in advocacy and lobbying on issues of human rights, justice and peace at the headquarters of the United Nations (New York) and its Regional Offices and Desks in Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania and the Americas;
- To promote networking and awareness raising among VIVAT members through the sharing and distribution of information on our areas of focus;

- To glean the grassroots experiences and insights from its members and bring these to the attention of others, particularly the United Nations;
- To provide a liaison for networking and collaboration with other agencies and NGOs;

We recognize that these goals are compatible with the work of the United Nations for human rights, peace, and development. We also recognize that the United Nations is an important forum for collaboration with others in the world who shares these goals. We, therefore, seek to work together with the United Nations, as well as with other agencies and NGOs. We believe that the presence and long term experience of our members, in many and varied situations in the world, is an important resource for achieving these goals.

## Membership

Membership in VIVAT International consists of the following:

### The Founding Congregations:

The Founding Congregations of VIVAT International are the two congregations which formed VIVAT International in November 2000, namely, the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) and the Society of the Divine Word (SVD). All their members, by virtue of their membership in these two congregations, are the founding members of VIVAT International.

### The Member Congregations:

The Member Congregations are those congregations which have joined VIVAT International as full members after the required period of Associate Membership. All the members of these congregations, by virtue of their membership in their respective congregations, are members of VIVAT International. Congregation of the Holy Spirit (CSSp) and Adorers of the Blood of Christ (ASC) are the member congregations.

### The Associate Congregations:

The Associate Congregations are those congregations which are associated with VIVAT International on a temporary basis. They may or may not become Member Congregations. All the members of these congregations, by virtue of their membership in their respective congregations, are associate members of VIVAT International.

1. Comboni Missionaries of the Heart of Jesus (MCCJ)
2. Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI)
3. Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary (MSHR)
4. Comboni Missionary Sisters (CMS)
5. Little Sisters of the Assumption (LSA)
6. Missionary Sisters of the Holy Spirit (Cssp)

Other individuals, groups or organizations may be recognized by or affiliated with VIVAT International in so far as they are related to the above congregations and upon the recommendation of the competent authority of the respective congregations.

### VIVAT collaborates with

- \* NGO Committee on HIV/AIDS
- \* NGO Committee on Social Development
- \* NGO Subcommittee on Eradication of Poverty
- \* NGO Committee on Financing for Development
- \* NGO Committee on Indigenous Issues/Peoples
- \* NGO Committee on Migration
- \* NGO Committee on Sustainable Development
- \* NGO Committee on Human Rights
- \* NGO Committee on the Status of Women
- \* NGO Working Group on Mining
- \* NGO Working Group on Climate Change and Poverty
- \* NGO Working Group on Girls

### VIVAT International Board of Directors

- Antonio Pernia, SVD
- Maria Theresa, SSpS
- Judith Vallimont, SSpS
- Gervase Taratara, CSSp
- Milan Bubak, SVD
- Gregory Pinto, SVD

## **VIVAT Works on**

**Advocacy:** In response to requests of VIVAT Members, the VIVAT International Executive Team:

- Voices local concerns regarding poverty, human rights, and environmental injustice to the United Nations
- Briefs governments on the concerns of its citizens
- Facilitates discussion between VIVAT members and states on issues of peace, creation, and human rights
- Animates and informs members and our grassroots partners on issues of importance through seminars and publications
- Monitors and encourages governments and international agencies to act on their promises
- Mobilizes awareness among the general public

## **Our Work:**

VIVAT Collaborates with UN towards achieving its goals at two levels:-

### **1) At the Grassroots Level:**

**We are involved in action and addressing systemic issues through lobbying and advocacy work:**

- Address National Government, either alone or with other NGOs, through:
  - \* Letter writing Campaigns
  - \* Signature Campaigns
  - \* Encounters with Government officials
  - \* Written Statements
  - \* Put pressure on National Governments
  - \* To implement the policies and programs agreed upon
  - \* To implement legislation passed at National and UN levels
  - \* Keep members informed of the forthcoming events at the UN

### **2) At the International Level:**

**Executive Team in New York influences UN and the Government delegates:**

- To bring about sound policies and programs
- To promote and establish gender equality
- To promote people centered approach to development
- To bring about peace and harmony
- To promote sustainable development

**Executive Team in New York influences UN and the Government delegates through:**

- Written and Oral Statements
- Lobbying Country Missions and linking them with VIVAT members at the grassroots
- Participation in Conferences, Summits, and Special Sessions of UN General Assembly
- Participation in UN Commissions
- NGO Networks, mainly NGO Committees at the UN



## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP:

1. To create a broader understanding VIVAT and VIVAT's mission and goals.
2. To help participants embrace the mission of VIVAT and make it their own, then carry this sense of ownership of VIVAT's mission back to their local communities.
3. To demonstrate how VIVAT advocates on behalf of the marginalized, carrying out a ministry of advocacy on JPIC matters in partnership with local groups and communities and at the international level.
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5. To enable VIVAT members to get to know each other and to share their ministries in order to facilitate networking and collaboration to increase their effectiveness as advocates for the marginalized populations they serve.
6. To foster active collaboration among VIVAT members at the grassroots and the Executive Team in New York, the Geneva office and the JPIC coordinators in Rome
7. To establish core groups by country or region and to identify one or two issues as focal points for advocacy for those core groups
8. To help VIVAT members understand the basic structures and procedures of the UN; VIVAT's interaction with and contributions to UN entities, particularly ECOSOC; the role of NGOs and the Catholic NGO presence at the UN

With the workshop the participants learn how to advocate for the rights of those they serve and how collaboration with other VIVAT members

maximizes their effectiveness in advocating for and serving these marginalized populations. By fostering connections between members working within India and in neighboring countries, the participants learn from each other and create networks that lead to more effective advocacy locally and at the national level. In addition, participants learn about advocacy at the international level. VIVAT's accreditation by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations provides the opportunity for members' voices to be heard in a global forum. Workshop participants learn about the structures and procedures of the United Nations, the role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) at the United Nations and how grassroots stories and issues can be brought to the attention of the international community.

Reflecting together our call to serve the least among us, and the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching, workshop participants are both affirmed and challenged in the work they do. Small core teams create 3-year action plans and devise their own monitoring mechanism for moving forward, supported by the VIVAT network and leadership.

It is anticipated that participants of the workshop will leave with a renewed sense of mission, deeply rooted in their commitment to God. They will also be connected to others doing similar work in the region and equipped with new skills for collaboration and advocacy, locally and nationally. The outcome goals established by the core teams will include concrete actions to advance the rights and well being of the communities they serve, the ultimate beneficiaries of the workshop. They will be empowered to do advocacy and also learn to hold local, state and national Governments responsible for their international commitments. They will acquire knowledge and motivation to bring human rights education to the people they serve.