

# PRAYER FOR PEACE



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE  
21 SEPTEMBER 2016

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
BUILDING BLOCKS  
FOR PEACE



**Setup:** Create a sacred space with symbols of the Sustainable Development Goals, e.g., food, health, education, water, Earth, children's building blocks.

**Song:** Select music to begin your gathering, e.g. Let There Be Peace on Earth, Prayer of St. Francis, For the Beauty of the Earth or instrumental music.

**Introduction:** This year's theme for the International Day of Peace is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says of the SDGs, "The people of the world have asked us to shine a light on a future of promise and opportunity. Member States have responded with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development... It is

an agenda for people, to end poverty in all its forms. An agenda for the planet, our common home. An agenda for shared prosperity, peace and partnership,"

**Leader:** On this day dedicated to peace we gather in solidarity with our human family facing the challenges of poverty, hunger, disease, water scarcity, social inequality, and environmental degradation. We recognize that each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is a building block integral to achieving peace in our time. Transforming Our World will take everybody: governments, businesses, communities and each of us.

**All:** We commit ourselves to take responsibility for making the SDGs a reality, to make peace possible.

<b>1</b> NO POVERTY 	<b>2</b> NO HUNGER 	<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH 	<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 	<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 	<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	<b>7</b> RENEWABLE ENERGY 
<b>8</b> GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<b>9</b> INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION 	<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 	<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 
<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 	<b>16</b> PEACE AND JUSTICE 	<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 		<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS</b> 17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD <a href="http://www.un.org/peaceday">www.un.org/peaceday</a> • #peaceday		

# STORIES OF HOPE



Reader 1:

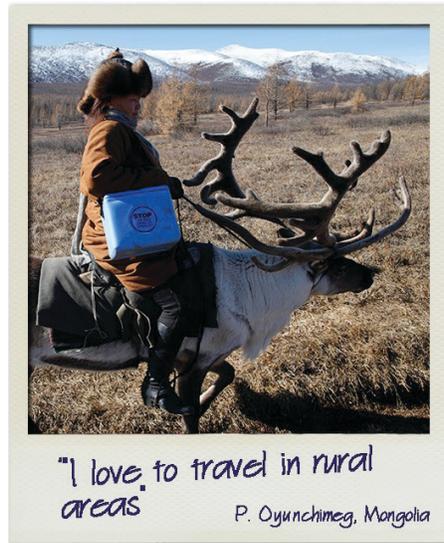
## Korka of Mali

Korka is the first one in her family to attend school. For her, going to school has become a passion. She is enthusiastic and remembers her lessons quickly. She wants to become a nurse in the future. But before the World Food Programme's school meal program, Korka's family simply couldn't afford her education. "Now that Korka eats every day at school, I can worry less. Without the meals, it would be hard for us to have her stay at school," says Korka's grandmother.

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### Moment of Quiet Reflection on Sustainable Development Goal 2

Aims to end hunger and all kinds of malnutrition. By 2030, we will ensure zero hunger on the planet, so no children will be deprived of the opportunity to grow healthy and stay in school.



Reader 2:

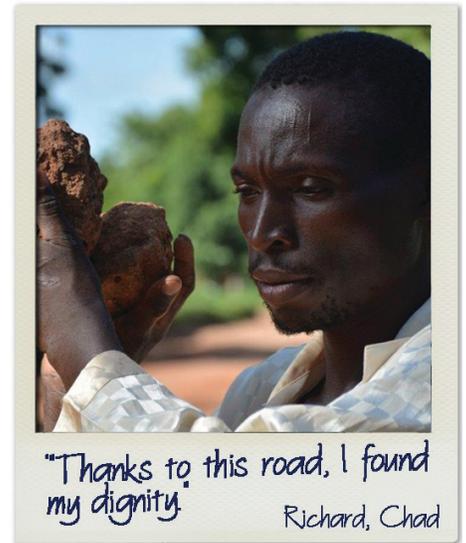
## P. Oyunchimeg of Mongolia

"I love to travel in rural areas. It's both rewarding and fun to help people here. I worked as a surgical nurse for 18 years and as a 'bagh feldsher' (a government health worker who provides essential services for nomadic herder communities) for 10 years before becoming a vaccinator." Every year, P. Oyunchimeg and her team of vaccinators undergo a lengthy journey that involves traveling by car, hand-drawn ferry, reindeer and foot to vaccinate children from remote nomadic herder communities.

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### Moment of Quiet Reflection on Sustainable Development Goal 3

Aims to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. By 2030, we will achieve universal access to essential healthcare services and access to essential medicine and vaccines for all.



Reader 3:

## Richard of Chad

Richard is one of the 113,000 Chadians who returned to Chad from Central African Republic after conflict broke out in 2013. As a returnee to his home country after decades, he no longer has a support network to lean on. To provide support to the returnees and the villagers from the host communities, the World Food Programme started offering vouchers to participants in asset-building projects. Along with 1,000 people, Richard built a 7km road in only three months. In return, he received vouchers to buy food locally.

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### Moment of Quiet Reflection on Sustainable Development Goal 16

Aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. By 2030, we will help people like Richard who are affected by conflicts find refuge and get back on their feet again.

# REFLECT AND SHARE

**Leader:** Let's take a few moments to consider the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Which SDG would I like to learn more about?
- Which SDG could I get involved with in my local and/or global community?

*After the quiet*

**Leader:** I now invite anyone who would like, to share briefly your reflection on the SDG you would like to learn more about or the one you could get involved with in your community?

## SHARING

**Leader:** We now pray for a world where people feel secure in their abilities to provide for their families, where they are given access to the resources they need to live healthy lives, where they feel truly included in their societies and where they live in peace.

*(Spontaneous Prayers)*



## CLOSING PRAYER

**Leader:** All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one. Amen.

-Excerpt from Pope Francis' Prayer for the Earth, *Laudato Si'*

### Stories of Hope

**Working on the sustainable development goals—one story at a time**

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2015/10/sdgs-portrait-series/>

### IPJC Resources

**A Primer on Sustainability**

[http://www.ipjc.org/Sustainability\\_booklet.pdf](http://www.ipjc.org/Sustainability_booklet.pdf)

**Resources on Peacemaking**

<http://ipjc.org/links/peacemaking.html>

### Resources

**Sustainable Development Goals**

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

**17 Goals**

<http://17goals.org/>

**We Love the SDGs Song & Video**

<http://17goals.org/we-love-the-sdgs/>

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