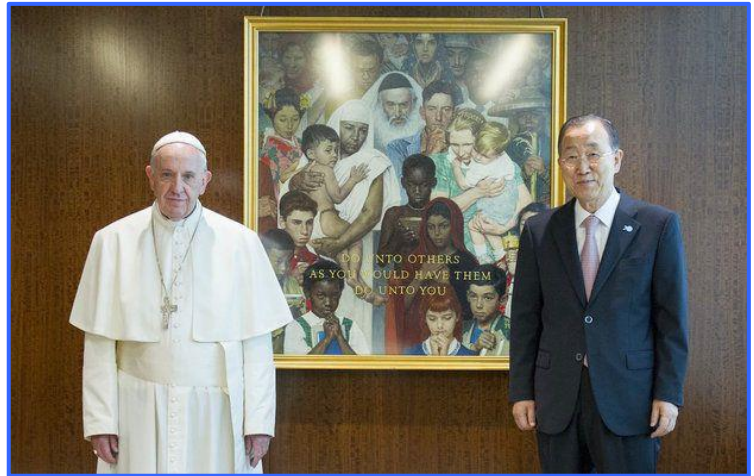




Unanimously Adopting Historic Sustainable Development Goals, General Assembly Shapes Global Outlook for Prosperity, Peace

September 25, 2015: World leaders embraced a sweeping 15-year global plan of action to end poverty, reduce inequalities and protect the environment, known as the Sustainable Development Goals, at the opening of a United Nations special summit.

Titled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*,” the agreement on a set of 17 goals and 169 targets would come into effect on 1 January 2016, replacing the Millennium Development Goals set in 2000.



“We have reached a defining moment in human history,” Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said prior to the unanimous adoption of the post-2015 development framework, describing it as “a promise by leaders to all people everywhere”. The Goals formed an agenda “for people and the planet”, as well as “for shared prosperity, peace and partnership”, he said. It conveyed the urgency of climate action, enshrined gender equality and respect for the rights of all, and pledged to leave “no one behind”.

“The true test of commitment to Agenda 2030 will be implementation,” he said, stressing the need for action from all States. The Agenda also required global partnership involving all stakeholders, including parliaments, local governments, civil society and academia. “No one can succeed working alone.”

Mr. Ban said the Millennium Development Goals had demonstrated the possibilities of working together. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the International Conference on Financing for Development in July, had provided a solid funding framework. The new agenda must build on those foundations.

With the Goals taking effect in 2016, he stressed the need for starting the new era “on the right foot”, urging all Governments to adopt a robust universal climate agreement in Paris in December. Recalling the creation of the United Nations 70 years ago, Mr. Ban said the Agenda would advance the goals of its visionary Charter dedicated to “We the Peoples”.

Pope Francis and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stand before the Norman Rockwell painting, *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you*.

