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Carmelite NGO: United Nations Advocacy Project of the Carmelite Family

English

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## High-Level Week in New York City

“High-Level Week” refers to the special gatherings at the United Nations that bring together world leaders. “UNGA80” refers to the 80th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly. What happened in New York City last month was the most significant High-Level Week on the UN calendar all year and that was the General Debate at UNGA80.

Representatives of UN-accredited Non-Governmental Organizations, or NGOs, usually have relatively easy access to the United Nations facilities, but not so much during High-Level Week, when security was very tight. At the same time, however, across the city, NGOs met and discussed a range of issues relevant to the United Nations and the state of the world. Climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were particularly prominent topics. (For more information on the SDGs, click [here](#)).

Among the events that I attended while in NYC was the all-day *SDGs Conference 2025: In the Margins of the UNGA80*, which was organized by the Journalists and Writers Foundation and co-sponsored by 56 NGOs from 30 countries.

I think the general feeling at this event regarding the state of the world was captured by words of Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) that were shared by one of the speakers (and are probably more relevant today than when first written): “The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.”

There was an optimism that social, political and environmental progress will ultimately continue, as we so desperately need. That the “arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice” (MLK). However, that bend is painfully long and frustrating. Meanwhile, we will keep experiencing some very *morbid symptoms*, including political decay, corruption and war. In many ways, we need to brace ourselves to the fact that things may get much worse in terms of justice and sustainable development. Democracy itself is receding around the world!

What we need, according to presenters at the conference, is first, a commitment to the development of an informed citizenry. This means aggressively addressing the misinformation and disinformation that is now rampant. And second, we need to commit ourselves to working together in coalitions to support each other and further our collective goals of promoting sustainable development, social justice and peace.

Dr. Dennis Kalob  
Chief Administrative Officer of the Carmelite NGO

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## **Carmelite NGO Member Elected as Vice Prior General of the Carmelite Order**

Our congratulations to F.X. Hariawan Adji, O. Carm., who was elected as Vice General of the Carmelite Order at the recently held General Chapter of the Order held in Malang, Indonesia. Until now, Hariawan was serving as the Prior Provincial of the Indonesian province. Prior to that he was the Vice Prior Provincial for two three-year terms. Under his leadership the province saw growth, not only in numbers, but in the development of projects to allow the province to better serve the people as well as developing a sound financial basis into the future. A number of Indonesian Carmelites were sent to other provinces for studies or ministry, allowing them to gain the valuable experience of other cultures.

As Vice General, Hariawan will be able to continue his work with the Carmelite NGO. His first experience of the NGO was as a translator at a regional meeting held in Cikanyere, Indonesia in 2004. During that meeting, he made a few interventions, breaking from his role as translator. Even though he was still a student in formation, he played a major part in the Indonesian province developing a very strong NGO program following that meeting.

“I hope through my assignment as the vice prior general I can foster the supportive cooperation among the entities of the Order and dedicate myself more to the building of just and peaceful world,” reflected Fr Hariawan.

May God abundantly bless his work on the Carmelite General Council and in the Carmelite NGO.