



**[www.new-humanity.org](http://www.new-humanity.org)**  
**[info@new-humanity.org](mailto:info@new-humanity.org)**

***Headquarters:***

Via Piave, 15  
00046, Grottaferrata (Rome)  
Italy  
Ph: +39 069 431 5635  
[info@new-humanity.org](mailto:info@new-humanity.org)

***New York:*** [newyork@new-humanity.org](mailto:newyork@new-humanity.org)

***Geneva:*** [geneva@new-humanity.org](mailto:geneva@new-humanity.org)

***Nairobi:*** [nairobi@new-humanity.org](mailto:nairobi@new-humanity.org)

***Vienna:*** [vienna@new-humanity.org](mailto:vienna@new-humanity.org)

***Paris:*** [paris@new-humanity.org](mailto:paris@new-humanity.org)

***Brussels:*** [brussels@new-humanity.org](mailto:brussels@new-humanity.org)

2023 ACTIVITIES REPORT

# New Humanity 2023 Activities Report



New Humanity International Association with registered office in via Piave 15, Grottaferrata (Rome-Italy) is configured as an "International Non-Governmental Organization" (INGO) and pursues civil, solidarity and socially useful purposes, in accordance with the rules of the Third Sector (Legislative Decree 117/2017).

New Humanity is an intergenerational faith-based NGO inspired by the spirituality of unity of the Focolare Movement. It aims to contribute to the achievement of the unity of the human family, with full respect for the individual identities of each of its members, promoting dialogue and cooperation above all.

Its main mission is to promote human fraternity which is the foundation of justice, peace and solidarity in the world, recognizing the dignity and integral development of all human beings and the urgency of caring for nature.

Its vision is a world in which all people, communities, nations, religions, generations and cultures live in fraternity, with mutual appreciation, according to the Golden Rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you" and Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The NGO New Humanity's work is based on human fraternity, on the spirit of dialogue, on unity and respect for diversity, on solidarity.

The number of Associates as of 31 December, 2023 is 78. During 2023, 36 new members were admitted to the Association (1 individual and 35 organizations).

The Ordinary Assembly of Associates was held on 28 April 2023, with the participation of 23 members on their own or by proxy.

During 2023, the Board of Directors met 9 times (26/01, 30/03, 28/04, 25/05, 22/06, 31/08, 28/09, 26/10, 27/11).

The Board of Directors also met with the representatives of the foreign offices of the Association, in person, on 28-29-30 April, and, via video conference on 11/03 and 19/09.

The Board of Directors also met twice (18/04 and 6/11) with the members of the Advisory Committee, a body whose task, as stated in Article 10 of the Statutes, is "to offer proposals and lines of action so that the activities of the Association can always be an expression of the spirit and values that animate the Focolare Movement."

On 29 April, during the meeting with the representatives of the Association, the Board of Directors and the representatives of the foreign offices of the Association met, by video conference, with the international representatives of the various areas of the 'Dialogue with Contemporary Culture' of the Focolare Movement (also called "inundations"), thus forming and defining the beginning of the Association's Scientific Committee ,

described in the Statute as follows, "The Board of Directors can also make use of a Scientific Committee composed of experts and academics in the matters at the center of its action."

The Scientific Committee will have the task of supporting our representatives in the various locations with documents and studies on the thematic areas for which we can offer our views and good practices. At the same time, academic works and studies promoted by the various Inundations can be presented at the level of International Institutions, thanks to the recognition that the NGO New Humanity has to the UN ECOSOC, UNESCO, FAO, UNEP.

We then met with the Scientific Committee on 11 November, via video conference, to deepen the relationship and collaboration that we would like to continue and increase.

Two associates work part-time with benevolent work. In addition, 15 people volunteer at the international level, while other volunteers are part of the Supervisory Body and the Board of Directors and meet once a month. This year, New Humanity has hired a full-time person (who is also a member of the Association) for the management of the various projects of the association and a young part-time person, who is mainly dedicated to the development of the political department of New Humanity.

The representatives of New Humanity for the year 2023 were:

New York: Maddalena Maltese (Main Representative), Joe Klock, Anne Carrara.  
Geneva: Jorge M. Dias Ferreira (Main Representative), Esther Salamanca, Juan Garcia Gutierrez, Davide Bilardi.  
Paris: Chantal Grevin (Main Representative), Marie-Annick Benoit, Melissa Mejia Flores.  
Brussels: Maria Rosa Logozzo, Anny Canto Hesius.  
Nairobi: Justus Mbae (Principal Representative), Vivian Dabani, Christine Matindi, Melchior Nsavyimana.  
Vienna: Mathias Kaps (Main Representative), Juan Camillo Poveda, Susanne Tomecek.  
For FAO: Alessio Valente.  
For UNEP: Antonio Puglisi.

In November 2023, Jorge Ferreira, New Humanity's main representative to the UN in Geneva, was appointed President of the International Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs. This new position led him to have various meetings with the Vatican's Secretariat of State and Dicasteries, and with Presidents and Secretaries-General of various NGOs (OIDEL, AVSI, WUOWCO, OIEC, Oeuvre d'Oriente).

During 2023, the Association's activities developed, as in previous years, according to the two main guidelines concerning representation and presence in the UN International Institutions (Economic and Social Council and Human Rights Council), UNESCO, FAO and UNEP, and in support of activities and projects in particular in the youth field. A special

thanks goes to the valuable work carried out by the representatives of New Humanity and to the commitment of members, councilors, experts and collaborators.

Work was done on the documentation for UNESCO's request for a partnership for Genfest which will take place in Brazil in August 2024, and on the preparation of an International Interreligious Conference, entitled, "One Human Family - In a time of division, now is when dialogue matters", which will take place in Castel Gandolfo in June 2024.

During the year 2023, the commitments of the representatives of the NGO New Humanity in the various offices continued. Here is a description, in telegraphic form, of some of the activities carried out.

### **At the U.N. in New York:**

- Contributions offered for the New Agenda for Peace 2023, 'Working for Peace - Lessons Learned'.
- "Is There a Right to Peace?": Ester Salamanca Fellowship at the Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer's Work at Fordham University and the University of Chicago.
- Presentation on 'faith-aligned impact investing' to the Committee on Financing for Development.
- Statement presented by New Humanity on the Economy of Francis for the 61st session of the Commission for Social Development. Theme for 2023: 'Creating full and productive employment and decent work for all as a way of overcoming inequalities and accelerate the recovery after the COVID-19 pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'.
- Webinar on the International Day of Human Fraternity. A path to peace and unity (organized with the New Humanity headquarters in Paris).
- Side Event on "Water as a source of life and development" promoted by New Humanity in collaboration with AMU, Avina Foundation and Laudato si' Platform, for the UN Water Conference 2023.
- Internship of the Ambassador for a United World Fabiola Marotti at the UN in New York, from 2 March to 12 April 2023.
- Participation in the preparatory meeting of the Summit of the Future.
- Introducing Digital Oath, an ethical commitment to IT workers and digital actors, as part of the call for implementation of the UN Global Compact.
- Sponsorship and participation in the seminar "Towards a Digital Oath. The new ethical challenge: human-centered digital systems?" at the Sophia University of Loppiano, Florence.
- Kick-off forum of Catholic NGOs with Mass and meeting with the Permanent Representative of the Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations. New Humanity can be considered among the co-founders of this Forum.

Maddalena Maltese has ensured participation in the Mutifaith Advisory Council. Joe Klock has been a member of the Commission on Migration, supporting its activities and projects. Anne Schankin supported the work of the Development Finance Committee.

### **At the U.N. in Geneva:**

- Informal and formal working meetings with the Special Rapporteur on Universal Coercive Measures and her secretariat. Support for her mandate after having prepared with them her visit to Syria where she met several times with members of the Focolare Movement in Damascus and Ohms by visiting the projects supported by AMU, a member association of New Humanity.
- Co-sponsors as members of the Forum of Catholic NGOs, of the side event organized by the Holy See on Laudate Deum, nine years after Laudato Si'.
- Continuation of the commitment in the various Working Groups and platforms on the issues that we privilege in particular: Right to Development, International Solidarity, Right to Education.
- Participation in the annual interreligious event to celebrate the World Day of Peace organized by the Nunciature and with representatives of Islam, Hinduism and Christianity (Catholic, Evangelical, Orthodox Churches).
- Active participation in the drafting of the Resolution on the Right to Development, which was then approved during the Human Rights Council at the UN in Geneva (the work of collaboration with other NGOs is important in this regard). This document has been transferred for approval by the UN General Assembly in New York.
- Visit to the UN of the schools of the men and women focolarini and the Gen boys and girls of Montet with a presentation of the work done, the challenges and the meaning of our commitment. Speakers: the Nuncio and the various representatives of some NGOs (APGXIII, Caritas Internationalis, OIDEL and New Humanity)
- Signatures of Oral Statements and Written Statements during the various sessions of the Human Rights Councils, proposed by various NGOs. Collaboration with the World Evangelical Alliance and the World Council of Churches is also important.
- Drafting of texts and inputs at the request of the UN for the preparation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on Right to Education on the theme: "The Platformation of Education: academic freedom and freedom of expression in autonomus digital age", written by the representative of New Humanity, Juan Garcia Gutierrez.
- Drafting of a text for the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity on the topic: Inputs on the participation of civil Society Organisations pursuing "expressions of International Solidartity transnational, international and regional networks" written by the representative of New Humanity, Esther Salamanca.

### **At UNESCO in Paris:**

- New Humanity has been invited to participate in the "Summit of the Future", which will relaunch the SDGs after 2030 and will involve all States. A conference with Governments will be held on 9 and 10 May 2024 in Nairobi, entitled, "Shaping a Future of Global and Sustainable Progress", which will be attended by representatives of New Humanity from the Nairobi office.
- New Humanity has been invited by the Intergovernmental Commission on the Oceans to participate in the preparation of a conference scheduled for 10-12 April, 2024 in Barcelona. Thalassia Giaccone, representative of New Humanity, participated in the first preparatory session.

- New Humanity has been invited to participate in a Forum scheduled for 15-16 April, 2024 in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, entitled "Sustainable Cultures" to follow up on MONDIACULT, which recognized culture as a global common good and a pillar of sustainable development.
- Juan Garcia, representative of New Humanity, participated in the drafting of the Declaration on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence.
- In November 2023, Melissa Mejía Flórez, representative of New Humanity, was appointed to participate in the Youth Forum, the event at the heart of the General Conference of Member States, to represent the more than 400 NGOs accredited to UNESCO.
- On 13 November, 2023, New Humanity participated in the Plenary of the General Policy Debate of the 42nd session of the UNESCO General Conference, at the headquarters in Paris, with a speech delivered by Catalina Hinojosa López, Vice President of New Humanity.
- The Together for a New Africa project has received, for the third time, a grant from the UNESCO Participation Programme.
- Together with other international NGOs, partners or in relationship with UNESCO engaged in interreligious dialogue, New Humanity has promoted the planning of a round table to underline the essential role of religions and spiritual traditions in the development of a culture of peace and non-violence, in collaboration with the Member States and with the support of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee. The event was later cancelled, but collaborative work in this field continues.

#### **At the U.N. in Nairobi:**

- The work of promotion and support of the "Together for a New Africa" project continues.
- In 2023, they joined Mr. Justus Mbae, principal representative of New Humanity, Vivian Dabani, Christine Matindi, Melchior Nsavyimana, as deputy representatives of the NGO at the offices of the United Nations and other institutions based in Kenya and the African continent.

#### **At the U.N. in Vienna:**

- Preparation of a mapping of the different committees and topics on which UN-Vienna works and which may be of interest to New Humanity.
- Contacts with the Families Committee (clusters of organizations working with families) that are linked to the UN Vienna office.
- Participation in the Education Work project of EPIC ([www.epicfamily.eu](http://www.epicfamily.eu)) together with the NGOs of the Focolare Movement (New Humanity Österreich, Fokolar-Bewegung DE, Fokolar-Bewegung CH, New Humanity Slovakia and a Slovenian kindergarten associated with EDU) funded by the EU in the Erasmus+ program.
- Invitation to the different interested committees to participate in the multiplier event of the EPIC project in April 2024.
- Ongoing collaboration with our "Impact Project Hub" in Vienna, which coordinates the EU-funded local projects: <https://www.impactprojectshub.eu>.

#### **At the European Commission in Brussels:**

- Continuation of the formation of a group of about 15 people interested in collaborating and supporting the activities in the interaction with the European Institutions and with those who work or provide services in them.
- Direct collaboration continues with a group within the Focolare Movement called 'Multipolar Dialogue', whose aim is to be a facilitating environment for rapprochement and mutual enrichment between the Western, Central and Eastern areas of Europe, often divided by strong divergences.
- Participation in the "Green Care Programme", in dialogue for the good of the planet, an event organized on the initiative of Multipolar Dialogue that took place in Belgium from 25 to 29 October 2023.
- Participation in the Conference in memory of David Sassoli in Brussels on 24 October 2023, at the European Parliament: beyond violence and wars, a concrete proposal for solidarity and peace starting from volunteering. Fabiola Marotti and Alexander Simoen, representatives of New Humanity, offered their testimony during the program.

#### **At FAO:**

- Relations continued with the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the FAO, Msgr. Fernando Chica Arellano, and with the representatives of the Catholic-inspired NGOs constituting the National Forum. Alessio Valente, representative of New Humanity, was asked to coordinate the Forum.
- Meeting with FAO officials in order to receive official accreditation both as individual NGOs and as a National NGO Forum, in order to be able to actively participate in the sessions and thematic meetings in the Rome office. A process still in progress.
- On 22 May, a conference was held on the theme "Women and food security: a bond to be strengthened", held in the Aula Magna of the Pontifical Gregoriana University, with the participation of university professors and representatives of FAO and other international institutions. Among the practical experiences confirming the validity of the bond in this field as well, the one offered by New Humanity, presented by Emanuela Castellano of AMU, was appreciated.
- In October, on the occasion of the initiatives developed by WFP, the study seminar on "Preserving and managing water for the good of all" was organized at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. The theme of the seminar focused coherently with that of World Food Day 2023. Alessio Valente offered a contribution on water as a resource for sustainability.

#### **At UNEP:**

- New Humanity participated in the webinar organized by Faith and Climate at UNEP on "The Road to COP 28 by Faith4Earth" (4 May 2023) which analyzed a 'Understanding COP 28 Priorities of UNSG, UNEP, UNFCCC, and COP 28 Presidency'.
- New Humanity participated in the webinar organized by Faith and Climate at UNEP "Second Thematic Discussion in preparation for COP 28" (6 June 2024) focused on 'Understanding Loss and Damage and Climate Justice'.



- In view of COP28, New Humanity has signed (3 July 2023) a faith-specific statement Call to Action on Nature for EU Leader for Members of the European Parliament.

### Projects (ongoing):

- GREENCLUSIVE: promotes environmental sustainability and environmental rights of cultural minorities in Europe; the project creates a map of environmental needs in partner countries - through the 6X1 method - and implements ecological summer camps for young people involving members of minorities (Muslims, Romani, migrants). Partner countries: Italy, Germany, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Lithuania. Funded by the European Youth Together call: €150,000.  
<https://www.new-humanity.org/project/greenclusive/>
- HEARTMONY: Arts and music for the well-being of refugees. The project invests in the training of 45 young people as multipliers in charge of carrying out eight local workshops for refugees by adopting the Gen Rosso and Dance Lab methodology. Online training on migration flows is also promoted to raise awareness among young people about this global challenge. Partners from Italy, Spain, Bosnia, Egypt and Lebanon. In Egypt and Lebanon, national Caritas are involved as partners. Funded by the Erasmus+ Capacity Building programme in the field of youth with €242,000.  
<https://www.new-humanity.org/project/heartmony/>
- DialogUE: the project promotes transnational meetings between 4 types of dialogue. Between Christians (Together for Europe), between Christians and Muslims (interreligious dialogue), between Christians and non-believers (Dialog project) and between EU citizens of Eastern and Western Europe (multipolar dialogue). All groups address issues such as ecology, social policies, communication, and prepare shared recommendations for policymakers in view of the 2024 European elections. Funded by the EU Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme; 301,000 €. Partners from Italy, Portugal, Romania, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Slovakia and Belgium.  
<https://www.new-humanity.org/project/dialogue/>
- AFRESH: the project aims to underline the desire to redefine EU-Africa relations on a new horizontal dimension after the "vertical" colonial framework; "**AFR. E.S.H.**" represents an acronym that means: "**Africa and Europe, Same Horizon**" to highlight how the two continents will cooperate to address global challenges such as migration flows, climate change, inequalities and conflicts. It was funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Commission with 250,000 euros. Partners:

<i>Opus Mariae Registered Trustees</i>	<i>Kenya</i>
<i>Cadre Associatif des Solidaires du Burundi</i>	<i>Burundi</i>
<i>Namugongo Social Services Organisation</i>	<i>Uganda</i>
<i>Association pour l'Économie de la Communion</i>	<i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
<i>Oeuvre de Marie en Côte d'Ivoire</i>	<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>
<i>Action for a United World Association</i>	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Acciones de Familias Nuevas</i>	<i>Spain</i>



<i>Humanité Nouvelle – Nieuwe Mensheid</i>	<i>Belgium</i>
<i>Opus Mariae Registered Trustees</i>	<i>Kenya</i>
<i>Cadre Associatif des Solidaires du Burundi</i>	<i>Burundi</i>
<i>Namugongo Social Services Organisation</i>	<i>Uganda</i>
<i>Association pour l'Économie de la Communion</i>	<i>Democratic Republic of the Congo</i>
<i>Oeuvre de Marie en Côte d'Ivoire</i>	<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i>
<i>Action for a United World Association</i>	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Acciones de Familias Nuevas</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Humanité Nouvelle – Nieuwe Mensheid</i>	<i>Belgium</i>

<https://www.new-humanity.org/project/afr-e-s-h/>

- **MediterraNew:** New Humanity is a partner of the M.E.D.I.T.erraNEW (Mediations, Emotions, Dialogue, Interculturality, Talents to foster youth inclusion in the Mare Nostrum) PROJECT.

Promoted by the La Pira Center together with a consortium of partners: Associazione Famiglie Nuove (AFN); Gen Rosso (IT) ; Humanité Nouvelle LEBANON (LB); United World Egypt (EG); Udruga za ekonomiju zajednistva (HR) , Fonds Focolare Actions Solidarité (FR). The project aims to create a common strategy on the different shores of the Mediterranean and a subject for the training of young people, in particular for peace. The project is funded by the Erasmus Programme of the European Commission through the Italian Youth Agency.

- **MiLONGa:** MiLONGa International Volunteer Project: here is a testimony, which summarizes the impact of the volunteering experience in the lives of young people: "This experience changed my life, it changed my way of perceiving things. The simple fact of leaving your country gives you a broader vision of what is happening around you, knowing a new culture, a new language, the food, the customs, the people, the moments, all this has changed the way I see the world now, with more diversity, with more awareness of what I can do, of what I can contribute to society with my profession" (Colombian in Brazil)

<https://www.milongaproject.org/>