

## Seminar on the Global Compact on Education



**S. Carolyn Anyega, SSND  
(General Council)**

In September 2019, Pope Francis launched a *Global Compact on Education*, aimed at reshaping the future of humanity and the planet. He relaunched it in October 2020, calling all people of good will to embrace methods, processes and spaces that put the human person at the center of education, to reach out to the most vulnerable, to listen to the learners and encourage their full participation. He emphasized the need to creatively assist people to understand that economy, politics, growth and progress must be human-centered as well as nurture our common home.

As a follow-up, the International Union of Superiors General (UISG/USG) invited educational congregations to a seminar, October 21-23, 2021, on the theme, *School Transformation within the Framework of the Global Education Pact*. The seminar offered a space for sharing best practices for systemic transformation and generated interest in networking. Based on the 7 commitments of the Global Compact On Education and taking into account the Sustainable Development Goals, the participants explored four areas of opportunities for change: curriculum, methodology and evaluation, roles of teachers and students, organization and learning spaces (physical, digital and cultural).

The presentations by M. Montserrat del Pozo, Superior General of the Missionary Daughters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Fe y Alegría Network and our group interactions, deepened my appreciation of the excellent work of our sisters and institutions in transformative education. The reality of our world challenges us to view our educational methods, processes and systems in light of the global compact on education. What do we need and what can we offer at the personal, institutional, provincial and congregational levels in order to continue to transform hearts and systems, to make them humane? Seven SSNDs who participated in the seminar offer their reflections below.



**S. Joan Andert, SSND  
Central Pacific Province**

The Global education seminar was a gift. Still rather new to the Central Pacific Province Ministry Office, I received several resources I had not known previously. The Holy Father's book and the digital resources will give me new ideas for quite a while. To hear so many educators from around the world reiterate the importance of loving those whom teach is a message I will not forget. I especially appreciated the "hierarchy to wirearchy" we strive to

vision of the future and the Blue Ocean strategy with the circus example. I believe they will add a new insight and energy to our ministries as they develop strategic plans to move them forward. The greatest gift was truly experiencing the international community gathered and the common educational needs.



**S. Reina Rojas, SSND**  
**Province of Latin American and the Caribbean**

In the 1990s, Honduras was part of the St. Louis Province. The idea of networking, sharing our schools' mission: (Japan, St. Louis, MO, California, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and Honduras) was a goal of the St. Louis Province. My point here is that networking has been a style of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Therefore, it seems that this seminar has planted hope for the future networking of our SSND schools.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the General Council for the invitation to participate in the Global Compact for Education seminar, which reached 86 religious congregations in 73 countries. I felt enriched and moved by the presentations of the various speakers and the sharing as we worked in groups. Even though we were from so many different congregations in different parts of the globe, we all realized the need to collaborate, to work together to empower the new generation of students in our schools.



**S. Teresinha Dorigon, SSND**  
**Province of Latin American and the Caribbean**

Networking is essential today for any organization. I see that most congregations that excel in specific areas of their charism and mission are organized and networked. For a long time I have been regretting that our congregation did not have this networking since we have such a beautiful charism of unity and our main ministry is educational. We have been trying for seven years to organize ourselves into a network of schools in Brazil. My dream is that we could have an international network to implement with much more richness all the proposals of the Global Compact on Education



**S. Dawida Krzempek**  
**Province of Africa**

First all I am deeply grateful to the General Council for the invitation to participate in such an important event, the Education Seminar. For me this was the first time to participate in a worldwide event. I

was inspired by the different initiatives that exist regarding school networking or projects that connect worldwide education. We are invited to re-awaken the spirit of connection with our “sister” schools throughout the congregation in order to share our beauty, richness, experiences, and to exchange ideas. It seems that a great impact could be made if we have our own schools. However, sisters could find creative ways to implement some of those ideas. Maybe from time to time the SSNDs leading the schools could have some meeting/workshop, which could help us to discover our gifts, share experiences, and to learn from each other. I pray that the seminar will bear abundant fruits.



**S. Renáta Erös**  
**Hungarian Province**

It was a very interesting experience to participate in the seminar. Unfortunately, I was only able to attend two of the three days, but I found those two very useful. The most informative for me was one of the presentations about learning together, learning by listening to others, which implies open-mindedness. It was interesting to dialogue with educators from all over the world. We discussed, for example, how we are already practicing the seven commitments at the Global Compact on Education set out by Pope Francis and what more we could do.

It was good to hear about different teaching and educational methods. I understood from these discussions was that we are working together for a common good cause and we are all trying to follow the example of Christ as an educator.



**S. Sharon Marie Slear**  
**Atlantic-Midwest Province**

In response to Pope Francis’s call for a global compact on education, we need to see education as organizational and societal but above all as transformative. This involves teachers, students, curriculum, methods of teaching, uses of technology, and the physical settings and spaces inside and outside of schools. Teachers must be competent, committed to fostering creative and critical thinking in students, and open to seeing change as a constant in education and in society. Teachers need to examine current approaches and practices and be prepared to keep what is good from the past and discover what is effective today to assure excellence in schools.

All involved in this process must have a shared vision and see global education as a collaborative enterprise whose purpose is the full development of each individual and the

creation of a supportive, open-minded and just society. All must be involved in this transformation of education, seeing it as a process of societal renewal based on competence and accountability, undertaken in a generous spirit of trust and reciprocity.

Here is a link for resources and further reading:

<https://seminario2021.org/>