Social Cohesion as a Key to Sustainability Development
Living within environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development.
All too often, development is driven by one particular need, without fully considering the wider or future impacts.
...to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources.
It is a scandal that there is still hunger and malnutrition in a world of plenty.
Each person possesses a basic dignity that comes from God, not from any human quality or accomplishment, not from any race or gender, age or economic status.
How is social cohesion relevant to sustainable development?
Social cohesion exists where people feel part of a society; family and personal relationships are strong; differences among people are respected; and where people feel safe and supported by others.
The human race itself is a “community of communities”, existing at international, national regional and local levels.
One often hears the question: if sustainable development focuses on the future, does that mean we lose out now?
Small actions, taken collectively, can add to real change.
Recognizing that we are all connected, living as we do in an increasingly integrated world, means that we each need to be guided by the simple credo of – “lost there, felt here.”
politically through international relations and systems of regulations.
“We are stumbling blindly through a spiritual darkness while toying with the precarious secrets of life and death... The world has achieved brilliance without wisdom, power without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know about war than we know about peace, more about killing than living.”
Social cohesion as a key to sustainability is above all about interdependence. When recognized in this way – the response is – solidarity - that firm and determined commitment to the common good- that is to say, to the good of all because we are really responsible for all!

Sister Deirdre Mullan RSM, PhD – Partnership for Global Justice.