



The 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission for Social Development 2022

## Oral Statement

**Title:** *One Billion Bamboo Initiative by 2030 for Ending Hunger, Building Resilience for Food Security, Creating Green Decent Jobs and Providing Access to Digital Technology*

**Submitted by:** VIVAT International

**Endorsed by:** Salesians Missions, The Philippine District Religious of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of Charity Federation, Dominican Leadership Conference, Congregation of the Mission, Fondazione Proclade Internazionale-Onlus, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Congregations of St. Joseph, The International Presentation Association, Soroptimist International, Leadership Conference of Women Religious and JPIC Commission USG-UISG.

**Delivered by** Rev. Fr. Benigno P. Beltran SVD

VIVAT International, a member of NGO Committee for Social Development and other NGOs welcome the 60th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development, underlining the priority theme *“Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being, and dignity for all: eradicating poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda.”*

In the spirit of the SDGs’ Decade of Action, Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* Encyclical on *Care for Our Common Home*, and the New Social Contract highlighted by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in *“Our Common Agenda,”* VIVAT members in the Philippines together with Church communities, educational institutions of all levels, from kindergarten to university, and indigenous peoples are trying to put the theme into practice through planting 1 billion bamboo trees by 2030.

Why Bamboo? Bamboo trees absorb 35% more carbon dioxide than an ordinary tree. One hectare of bamboo absorbs 12 tons of carbon dioxide annually. Bamboo trees also prevent erosion and flooding. A clump of bamboo absorbs 30,000 liters of water annually.

Furthermore, bamboo is helpful for job creation. When the bamboo plants are processed, bamboo poles can be turned into furniture and construction material. Bamboo shoots can be eaten, and the leaves can be shredded to feed farm animals. The Philippine government

estimates that if we plant a billion bamboo trees, this will result in 15 billion dollars annual income.

Finally, the “Billion Bamboo Project” will make use of cutting-edge technology to monitor the planting and nurture the seedlings by using an app with geotagging features: the “Earth Project app.” This is designed to engage young people in climate action projects, including planting bamboo trees and others.

By planting 1 billion bamboo trees, we endeavor to end hunger, build resilience for food security, build a green recovery, create decent jobs, and offer a huge opportunity for young people, indigenous communities, and local farmers to access digital technology as enjoyment of their fundamental rights.

We, therefore, recommend to member states and UN agencies

1. to support us technologically and financially in this capacity-building endeavor. Help us build *Bamboo Tissue Culture Laboratories* in order to produce seedlings in greenhouses.
2. Promote decent work, education, and upskilling for sustainable livelihoods for all.
3. Strive for coherence between climate, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development goals, with the support of public work programs in green sectors.
4. Support North/South technology transfer, strengthening science and technology cooperation, promoting sustainable global and domestic investments in infrastructure capabilities.