



Special Report

THE 4TH GLOBAL INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH NETWORK SYMPOSIUM: 10th -12th June 2025

THEME: “Consecrated Women in Africa Creating Global Impact Through Sustainable Development”

A Vision for Transformative Mission: Sr. Dr. Josephine Kangogo’s Inspiring Welcoming Remarks at the 4th Global International Research Network Symposium on Sustainable Development



In a stirring and faith-filled address that set the tone for the 4th Global International Research Network Symposium on Sustainable Development, that took place on 10th-12th June 2025 at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA), Sr. Dr. Josephine Kangogo, Chairperson of the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) and the CERRA AFRICA Board of Directors, extended a heartfelt welcome to participants drawn from across Africa and beyond. Representing both AOSK and CERRA-AFRICA, Sr. Dr. Kangogo a member of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart Congregation, framed the gathering as a “historic milestone” in the ongoing mission of Catholic Sisters, one that blends education, research, and prophetic witness for the transformation of communities and the Church in Africa.



Speaking with both gratitude and conviction, she reminded participants that the symposium was not merely an academic or institutional event. Rather, it was “a spiritual convergence of hearts,” where the collective wisdom, faith, and experiences of consecrated women could illuminate new pathways

toward sustainable development and Gospel inspired action.

In her welcoming speech she reaffirmed the pioneering spirit of Catholic Sisters. “For generations, Sisters have been the quiet yet steadfast architects of progress in education, healthcare, and evangelization”. ‘Their work’, she noted, “springs from the Gospel mandate of love and the Church’s preferential option for the poor. Whether serving in remote villages or urban centers, Catholic Sisters have stood as living witnesses of compassion and justice”.

Equally central to her remarks was the reminder that authentic ministry begins with rootedness in religious life. “Every act of service must flow from an interior life grounded in consecration and spiritual discernment,” she said. This anchoring in faith, she explained, is what transforms ordinary work into a prophetic vocation of love.

Sr. Dr. Kangogo also celebrated the transformative power of education, acknowledging the fruitful partnerships—particularly with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, that have enabled Sisters across Eastern, Central, and Western Africa to access higher learning, from certificate to postgraduate levels. This educational growth, she noted, has not only enhanced the Sisters’ professional competence but has also strengthened their leadership and capacity to address emerging social challenges with creativity and faith.

Education, however, is only part of the equation. Sr. Dr. Kangogo underlined the growing importance of faith-driven research for development, describing action research as a vital tool that helps congregational leaders make informed, evidence-based decisions. Such research, she emphasized, bridges faith and practice helping Sisters translate

Gospel values into tangible, measurable impact within their ministries.

Her address also called for a deepened sense of collaboration and solidarity. The Symposium, she said, should inspire lasting partnerships between religious institutions, including AOSK, CERRA AFRICA, the CUEA and Tangaza University College (TU).



Looking ahead, Sr. Dr. Kangogo outlined five key priorities for moving forward: promoting holistic formation that integrates spirituality, professionalism, and charism; deepening capacity building to equip Sisters to face societal challenges like poverty and ecological degradation; advancing collaborative, action-oriented research; sustaining advocacy for justice, peace, and human dignity; and strengthening bonds among religious institutions to ensure a unified voice in service of humanity.

Her concluding words were both a blessing and a call to action: “May this symposium rekindle in each of us the courage to dream, the faith to act, and the love to serve.”

Through her powerful welcome, Sr. Dr. Josephine Kangogo reminded all present that sustainable development, when viewed through the lens of faith, is not only about transforming structures—it is about transforming hearts.

Key Quotes

“This symposium is not merely about the ministries of the sisters, but a profound reflection on the essence of who we are—rooted in the authenticity of lived religious life and flowing outward into our ministries.”

“We are guided by our various charisms and spiritualities, striving always to serve with a preferential option for the less privileged.”

“An empowered mind is a wellspring of progress—where

ideas grow, communities thrive, and change is built.”

“The Catholic Sisters have pioneered the history of education, health, and evangelization in our countries. We are committed to carrying this legacy forward with dedication and grace.”

“Like the African proverb says: ‘Wisdom is like a baobab tree; no one individual can embrace it.’ This symposium is a meeting of hearts where shared experiences and deep reflection give rise to new possibilities.”

“Let us preach the Gospel not only through words, but through our actions. That is why we are committed to action research.”

