

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, VALUE-BASED INVESTORS & THE CATHOLIC CHURCH SOCIAL TEACHING IN THE LIGHT OF *LAUDATO SI'*

ROME DECLARATION

Addressing how Value Based Investors (Financial Institutions, Foundations, Citizens) in, i.a. Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Wall Street, Johannesburg, Accra, Rabat and Abu Dhabi, Manila and New Delhi, Shanghai and Hong Kong, Sidney, Tokyo, London City, Frankfurt and Paris, Moscow, Stockholm, Tel Aviv and Rome could contribute to care for our common home, fraternity, justice and peace.

Full of hope as a new generation of value based investors in every part of the world wishes to align financial choices with their personal beliefs to implement successfully the U.N. Agenda 2030 '*Transforming our World*'. And so "*there is reason to hope that humanity at the dawn of the twenty-first century will be remembered for having generously shouldered its grave responsibilities*"(Laudato si' §165).

The Conference feels to be asked by the strong call of the Church Social Teaching for a shared responsibility with regard to the Creation. With "Laudato si'" the concept of the man and the woman who menage the Creation shifts to that one of the man and the woman who care about the Creation, indeed who love the Creation responsibly.

The Conference welcomes the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I and other Christian, Islamic and other religious leaders converging statements and initiatives. We encourage faith communities of the world – in a spirit of harmony with nonbelievers who recognize themselves in similar commitments and values for the care of the "common home"- to act together in line with the different interfaith initiatives on climate change to take common steps to commit to investments that supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) agenda.

Accordingly, the Conference suggested the following :

1. The United Nations and its Member States should set up a '*Capital Stewardship and SDG's' Platform*' to register '*commitments*' of non state actors (regions and cities, companies and financial institutions, civil society and workers organisations and the immense crowd of individuals) to mobilise private capital and direct investments to reach the whole UN 2030 goals. It should help to bridge the 2,5 trillion \$ annual gap to finance SDG's in low economic development countries¹. It should contribute to accelerate the global transition towards an inclusive, low carbon, resource efficient, just economy, basic condition for '*ensuring that no one is left behind*' and to meet the SDG's by 2030. A Sustainable Finance, caring and attentive to the environment goes first and foremost by the awareness of the urgency of a radical transition in production and consumption systems of energy (away from fossil fuels) and natural resources. This initiative would be in synergy with the Non State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) platform already launched in support to the climate change agenda (registering commitments as well as tracking progress annually through existing mechanisms such as CDP) and which should continue to be used by institutional investors.
2. Those who share the values of Laudato si', whether as actors in economic and social life, should design a global movement to '*build leaderships who trace paths*'. These economic and social (employers, financiers, trade unions, consumers, etc.), cultural, educational agents of change should adopt a '*Five Year Progress Contract for a Worldwide Fraternity*' on the themes addressed in Laudato si': finance, consumption, education, sharing in connection with climate, biodiversity,

¹ Source : Rockefeller Foundation.

access to raw materials, food, cities, oceans, and in the spirit of growth of the common good , equity and ethics of business and finance.

3. As our contribution to a 5 years Progress Contract for a World Fraternity, to form a 'UN Platform Capital Stewardship and SDG's Support Group' with three objectives :
 - a. encourage value based investors to register commitments in support to the SDG's and to share a 5 years roadmap (2016-2021)
 - b. encourage to set up on the 5 Continents, National Roundtables Mobilizing Capital to Care for our Common Home with participation of value-based investors of all Faiths and interested parties to build a transformative cooperation between stakeholders. The national roundtables would be members of the Support Group.
 - c. explore "*transformational* actions' to move from stewardship to care in the financial field.

This Support Group initiative - welcoming the participation of all those who wish, as invited by Pope Francis, to 'shoulder their grave responsibilities' - would be registered with the United Nations as a multi-stakeholder partnership for the implementation of the objectives of sustainable development '. It would plan to assess progress every five years.

As Follow Up, the Conference participants welcomed:

1. The proposal of UN agencies to host a dialogue with the Capital Stewardship and SDG's Support Group to review how best support non-state actors to design and implement investments commitments. We are pleased by the FAO invitation to host the first of such meetings.
2. The intention of UN Member States to draw the attention of the UN Secretary General, as well as the UN Nairobi World Environment Assembly on 23-27 May 2016 on this Capital Stewardship and SDG's Platform proposal.
3. The proposal of the Church of Sweden to facilitate a conversation about the follow up of this conference with representatives of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches.
4. The proposal to present the Platform Support Group Initiative at the Non-State Actors post COP21 Summit in Nantes from 26 to 28 September 2016 & to the UN ECOSOC Partnership Forum.
5. The proposal to host, prior of (or on the side of) COP22 a meeting - under the chair of the Moroccan Government and the participation of Sovereign Funds of Islamic Countries - (Marrakech 7-18 November 2016) of the Value-Based Investors having listed commitments on the NAZCA platform with the Support Group described above.
6. The European Movement – Italy initiative to insert the conclusions of this conference (together with the proposal of a World Environment Organisation) in the dialogues to be hosted by the European University Institute and the City of Florence - between autumn 2016 and spring 2017 - in view of the events concerning the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the signature of Treaties of Rome which will take place in March 25th 2017 and prior to the G7 –Italian Presidency and are hoping a similar support in view of the G20 under German Presidency (both in 2017).

Documents attached.

- (i) A United Nations Platform Capital Stewardship and SDG's
- (ii) From Stewardship to Care in the light of *Laudato si'*.
- (iii) Sustainable Investing to Care for our Common Home
 - A Support Group of the Platform Capital Stewardship & SDG's
 - A Roadmap 2016-2021 to mobilise Value Based Investors to Care for our Common Home
 - A Toolkit Sustainable Investing to Care for our Common Home.

Supporting organisations: