

Fulfilment of the SDGs with regard to Partnership – 3rd Session – Synthesis: challenges and opportunities

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1. Partnership can address needs other than food and water. There is a spiritual thirst for infinite in our world. “That every man should eat and drink, and enjoy good in all his labour is the gift of God, but he has also set eternity (= *olam*) in their hearts” (Eccl 3:13). SDGs shall not forget this human search for *olam*.
2. Partnership underlines the need for sharing our material and spiritual wealth. The Samaritan woman found the spring of living water at Jacob’s well. She left her jar and went into the city of Sichar to share with her people what she had discovered. They went to meet with the Lord (John 4). Believers shall share their wealth. Creating networks of human fraternity/sorority (cfr. Abu Dhabi Declaration) can help prevent extremist movements exploiting the anger of the poor as Saint Pope Paul VI already said in the ’70s.
3. Partnership shall be open to people who profess any different set of beliefs. The Syro-Phoenician woman challenged Jesus’ missionary policy and succeeded in opening his healing action to the non-Jews in the Decapolis (Mark 7). As pope Francis underlined today, we have to pay attention to women and indigenous people. Freedom of religion includes respect for any believer and not only for those belonging to our own religious tradition. Rahma, Charis, Mercy Caritas, Ahimsa demand that we help others with no discrimination and without any attempt to proselytize. Otherwise it is just rethorics.
4. Partnership includes all people of good will, and also non-believers, because “Rays of that Truth which enlightens all men” are at the base of Partnership. Atheists searching for a meaning for life can share this challenge with believers.
5. Partnership is to fill the gap. Less than 4000 days are left to us to heal Mother Earth Temperature and not to deceive the hopes of millennials, as the Zero Hunger Generation of Teens for Unity witnessed to us today. Baden Powell’s motto “to leave the Earth a better place than what we found” seems very far from us unless we combine traditional wisdom, solidarity as a set of values, with technical advances to fill the gap. No new fossile energy plants shall be started in the developing countries but

alternative energy plants, water recycling and potabilization. Fighting corruption in the Governments and raising moral standards at any level is mandatory. Unluckily we can see in all African major cities a waste of resources of U.N. and NGOs' initiatives that were stated and then left abandoned.

6. Partnership shall give young people a chance. No one shall be left behind. This includes affirming the right to be born and to live in dignity. Millennials are already protagonists but intergenerational solidarity is still demanded not only to provide financial means but also to witness values in life. Otherwise they will die with their handies or keep vegetating on their coaches at home (sofa generation or hakikimori).
7. Partnership for the sea. "God called seas the gathering together of the waters". Sea is really as our forgotten sick parent nobody is taking care of. But it can give food and drinkable water to a growing earth population if we manage to lower its temperature, and clean it from plastic. "Seek him who made the Pleiades and Orion and turns the shadow of death into the morning and makes the day dark with night. Who calls for the waters of the sea and pours them out on the surface of the earth. Yhwh is his name" (Amos 5:8; 9:6).