



## Creative Dialogue in the service of life

### - The need for forthright and honest debate

*Nobody has definite answers to the many open questions how to control climate change or how to shape a truly sustainable development for all. Pope Francis in his Encyclical 'Laudato Si' does not offer final solutions to these huge problems. He rather invites all stake holders to enter into a transparent interdisciplinary dialogue and to search for ways out of the crisis leaving aside all particular group interests but focussing on the global common good.*

- ✿ I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are **shaping the future of our planet**. We need a conversation which includes everyone, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all. (Laudato Si 14)
- ✿ There are certain environmental issues where it is not easy to achieve a broad consensus. Here I would state once more that the Church does not presume to settle scientific questions or to replace politics. But I am concerned to encourage **an honest and open debate** so that particular interests or ideologies will not prejudice the common good. (188) Today, in view of the common good, there is urgent need for politics and economics to enter into a **frank dialogue in the service of life**, especially human life. (189)
- ✿ **A broad, responsible scientific and social debate** needs to take place, one capable of considering all the available information and of calling things by their name. It sometimes happens that complete information is not put on the table; a selection is made on the basis of particular interests, be they politico-economic or ideological. (135) For new models of progress to arise, there is a need to change “models of global development”; this will entail a responsible reflection on “the meaning of the economy and its goals...” It is a matter of redefining our notion of progress. (194)
- ✿ What is needed is a politics which is far-sighted and capable of **a new, integral and interdisciplinary approach** to handling the different aspects of the crisis ... A strategy for real change calls for rethinking processes in their entirety, for it is not enough to include a few superficial ecological considerations while failing to question the logic which underlies present-day culture. (197)
- ✿ The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur **religions to dialogue among themselves** for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. (201)
- ✿ The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on **a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity**, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas. (201)



*The new vision must know that elders and young people should sit together in dialogue. A dialogue which means the educated people must not be the destroyers. Western education has become foolishness. It does not bring life into its contents.*

Chenjerai Hove