Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

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Chapeau

The subject matter of each of the five chapters are in crisis today due to global power dynamics - the demise of democracy, the rise of autocracy, the disregard for already agreed international laws, with accompanying multiple violations of the human rights of people and planet rights. The survival of humanity and the cosmos are threatened by such forces. The emergence of digital technology while holding great potential is prone to be manipulated and used to reinforce power dynamics and actions that are dehumanizing and immoral. We need to pause and take cognizance of what is actually happening. The interlinked crises of today's world and its peoples demand that we undertake a moral and transformative journey based on the best of what is commonly agreed but neither respected nor implemented.

The Summit of the Future needs to go to the very root of what it is to be human - not a hierarchy but an interconnected whole - and invoke full implementation of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights and guarantee these rights to every person and to the earth. Conflictual issues - Human Rights, peace, gender equality, and environmental sustainability need to be debated in an open and transparent way - using techniques of conflict resolution and reconciliation to accommodate diversity and difference in coming to consensus. The dominance of neo-liberal capitalism, the market, war, and discrimination against women need to be debunked and internationally agreed rules uplifting the human, the person and the environment should be reinforced.

Structures and systems that prioritize profit over people and the planet deepen social inequality, diminish the value of social relationships and social inclusion. This is particularly the case for girls, women and children, who are the first to be impacted by the very systems and structures that drive poverty, climate change and conflict. Sustainable development can only be achieved through a change of mindset that prioritizes all people and the planet and follows through with action by allocating the necessary finances to ensure that every person's rights and earth's rights are fulfilled. Universal Social Protection including Universal Child benefits and Universal basic income is needed to fully implement and achieve the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Every issue being addressed is linked with inadequate finance for development. Contrast this with military expenditure - there appears to be no limit. There is a shallowness and untruth to 'leave no one behind' and 'reach the furthest behind first' if inequality continues to grow. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the blueprint towards change and the future we want /we need.

- Finance and fully implement national floors of social protection to take account of all people's needs across the life cycle:
  o universal health care;
  o universal child benefits for every child;
  o a level of income required to live with dignity to all who are unemployed, having disabilities etc.;
  o adequate pension to live in dignity to all older persons;
  o provide adequate social housing, social services, clean water and sanitation;
  o ensure access to universal quality education to every person.

Chapter II. International peace and security

In March 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was taking hold, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres appealed for a global ceasefire. He said, "the fury of the virus illustrates the folly of war. That is why today, we are calling for an immediate global ceasefire in all corners of the world. It is time to put armed conflict on lockdown and focus together on the true fight of our lives."

To our dismay, since 2020 and in subsequent years, we have seen wars multiply with unseemly amounts of finance readily available for the killing of people, destruction of infrastructure, and pushing the mass movements of peoples across borders. The ending of all armed conflict demands a paradigm shift and begins in the halls of the United Nations with actions towards zero tolerance of war by each and every member state. Differences are resolved through diplomacy and not by war.

The flip side - securing the well-being of each person on the planet, with quality education will defuse the tensions leading to conflict. Only through education will we, as a society, understand how weak rule of law, inadequate government systems, unethical trade systems and corporate practices underpin and sustain poverty and generate conflicts.

- Build strong values-based institutions - government systems capable of delivering sustainable development, implementing the rule of law, and confronting unethical trade systems, and corporate practices that violate human rights.
- Crucial for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security is the participation of women, youth, girls, and children in all processes especially conflict resolution processes.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Science, technology and artificial intelligence are already shaping the future. The challenge is will this remain in the domain of the privileged or will it be made available to all? This is a political question and requires political will.

To ensure equal access in innovation and technological developments, we call to:

- speed up the preparation of the proposed "Convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes," to replete and guarantee the legislative requirements. Global tools to address the issue of cyber criminality must be reinforced so as to enforce zero tolerance of any and every breach of the Convention; and
- provide the necessary infrastructure that is affordable and accessible to all.

Any and all action must be scrutinized with a gender lens to detect and remove possible harms to all people and planet.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Structures and systems must have meaningful engagement with youth by harnessing their power, energy and capabilities and engaging in intergenerational mindset dialogues. Ensure meaningful engagement by providing our youth with access, time and support to meaningfully contribute to the preliminary and planning stages of critical global, regional, and national events and processes.

Experiences of meaningful participation are known to develop the skills for future political leadership positions, yet they still rest within the hands of a privileged few. Address the youth leadership and participation being dominated by young people from more advantaged backgrounds by ensuring youth leadership is diverse, specifically in gender and those in marginalized and underrepresented communities.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

We need to distinguish between government and governance. Governance concerns how we solve the big public-policy issues, collective-action problems - the world agenda, everything from climate change to security issues to economic development - global issues that need to be managed on a global scale. Global governance lacks authority, the power to compel and coerce. Government is what we have at a national level - with the power to compel, but often this is at the expense of individual and collective human rights and environmental rights. We see this in the limitation in implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including Sustainable Development Goal 5 on Gender Equality.

- Address global governance - develop mechanisms to ensure implementation for people and planet.
- Guarantee meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including girls, women, and children, as equal partners.

We call for an additional Chapter to the outcome document, Pact of the Future, to address the Gender Empowerment and Equality of Girls and Women. Gender equality is a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. This focal point is important because girls and women represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential. Furthermore, the plight (climate change,

access to basic human rights, conflict etc.) of girls and women is gender specific and thus requires a gender sensitive lens to put forward solutions and to fully achieve and implement SDG 5. The new chapter should also call for a Gender-Responsive Adaptation. The UN Secretary-General has praised women's leadership for their unique ability as "drivers of solutions" when they are empowered - thus a gender-responsive adaptation is needed to take into account gender dynamics in designing and implementing adaptation approaches that help ensure sustainability and greater impact.

Finally, we call for an easily accessible outcome document in language, understanding and accessibility so it can really be Pact for the Future for everyone.