1. **Integral Human Development (reference to Populorum Progressio)**

Synopsis and moderation: Dr Reginald Nalugala (Tangaza University) and Mustafa Genc (Harmony Institute)

In marking the 2nd International Conference on Fratelli Tutti 2023, we are inspired by Pope Francis from this quote, *“The signs of the times clearly show that human fraternity and care of creation form the sole way towards integral development and peace, already indicated by the Popes Saints*[*John XXIII*](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en.html)*,*[*Paul VI*](http://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en.html)*and*[*John Paul II*](http://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html)*."* Three subsequent documents are compressed into this quotation. Populorum Progression (1967), Laudato Si (2015), Fratelli Tutti (2020). The SDG 17 calls for global partnership that works in harmony with the rest of humanity to promote integral human development. Laudato Si' has put efforts to reduce climate change and help people in poverty not to be pitted against each other, but instead work as a unified project. Chapter 3 of Fratelli Tutti calls for a world without walls, without borders, without people rejected, without strangers. To achieve this world, humanity must have an open heart (Ch. 4). We need to experience social friendship, seek what is morally good, and practice a social ethic because we know we are part of a universal fraternity. We are called to solidarity, encounter charity, and have spirit of gratuitousness.

Why is integral human development a corner stone in Fratelli Tutti?

First, the encyclical Populorum Progressio written presented March 26 1967 by Pope Paul VI speaks on the development of all people as the central focus. The benefits of economic development should serve all mankind and not just the few rich. It means the development of peoples should be everyone’s attention especially in situations where people are striving to escape from hunger, misery, endemic diseases, lack of knowledge, those whose qualities are ignored by bad regimes and jailed without justice. The letter calls for renewed consciousness of the global community to make it their duty to promote human development as the service for all. This is in line with SDG 17 which unites the international community to building a strong partnership for sustainable development.

Therefore, three important elements came out of Populorum Progressio as important guidelines to solutions to make the world a better place for all. (1) Creating an enabling environment for the poor to pursue their full potential, (2) A participatory democracy that promotes participatory leadership, accountability, observance of human rights; (3) Discovering root causes of poverty and oppression of the people. Populorum Progressio no.16 saw authentic development as orderliness and promoting truth and the highest good. Truth and promoting highest good means freedom from misery, greater assurance of finding subsistence, health, and fixed employment. Then the state has to make sure there is an increased share of responsibility without oppression of any kind and security from situations that inflict violence to the dignity of their own people. It cautions the rich and privileged few to end inequality and create opportunities for the majority youth find meaningful employment or create a culture of violence against them.

Finally, the caution is to be aware that poverty can push people to violence guided by a false messianism which gives lies as promises and create dangerous illusions among the hungry and homeless (like ISIS, Boko Haram, Al Shabab). Doing good for all the suffering globally calls for a fraternity of reaching out and giving without asking for the practice of religion, race, colour, nor ethnic affiliations. But one should give freely like Father Charles de Foucauld, whose charity earned him the title "Universal Brother," and who edited an invaluable dictionary of the Tuareg language. When one part of the world is affected by poverty due to climate change issues, all humanity is affected. Those who argue that it is humanity's outsized technological and economic domination over the planet's natural bounty that is at the root of many social and environmental ills, fail to see the bigger picture of greed and selfish interests at work. A closed world tends to offer blame as solution, and do little to carry along everyone left by the roadside to die. Their negative approach to humanity plunges everyone into confusion, loneliness and desolation. The type of person we are and the type of political, social or religious group we belong to will be defined by whether we include or exclude the injured stranger.