



THE HOLY SEE
Economic and Environmental Sessions of the 2010 Review Conference
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Working Session 3: Economic Cluster
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- **Strengthening Good Governance, including through promoting transparency, combating corruption and money laundering and the financing of terrorism;**
- **Transport security;**
- **The way forward.**

Mr. Chairman,

1. The Delegation of the Holy See joins the Delegations of other participating States in expressing its gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to discussions of this second part of the Review Conference dedicated to the economic and environmental cluster.

2. The human person, with his inalienable dignity, is the foundation and the end of every human activity, including its political, economic and administrative dimensions. Respect for human dignity is a moral imperative, inasmuch as the rights of the human person are inalienable and they represent a boundary that neither political authorities, nor economic realities nor governments must cross. From this flows the duty of each and everyone to foster and defend the dignity of the human person, be it in his personal or social dimension.

3. The Holy See has repeatedly appealed to political authorities to take into account this integral vision of the human person as the basis of every political, economic, administrative and social programme. This is an imperative particularly for good governance, that has among its goals not only to guarantee the necessary conditions for free economic activities, but also the responsibility to take care of persons in difficulty and those who are victims of illness, exploitation and various forms of injustice. In brief, the concept of good governance should always remain tied to that of the common good. While both good governance and the common good require continuous improvement of the mechanisms of production and responsible management of goods, the latter further demands an ethical response to what the social teaching of the Catholic Church calls “the universal destination of goods”. Thus, when good governance is tied to the common good, an increase in

wealth should mean, in the end, an increase in the well-being of the whole of society.

4. The good opportunities for development and the construction of conditions for a decent human life unfortunately are frequently threatened by some negative phenomena that menace to suffocate progress itself. In the first place, it is necessary to mention organized crime and corruption. Corruption, born out of human greed, thrives in contexts of poor political leadership, poor education and weak religious and ethical principles or the absence of them. Thus, it is the duty of the whole of society to join forces in fighting all manifestations of corruption and in educating its citizens to resist this wicked tendency. Some may be pessimistic, yet the work must be done. In particular, reinvigorated international collaboration is necessary. Individual governments have to be convinced of the basic importance of broad-based educational programmes and public campaigns against this extremely destructive phenomenon. The Catholic Church, like many other religious organisations, has always been active in this difficult fight, in particular through its concrete social involvement in favour of the poor and the disadvantaged.

5. In conclusion, the fight against corruption, transparency and good governance in economic matters is, above all, an ethical challenge. While laws exist to guide people to follow certain forms of behaviour, only a conscientious and acute ethical and moral sensibility can offer real foundations of a society capable of educating its citizens on the evils of exploitation, of corruption and of all forms of injustice. All the forces of society would have to be summoned in this arduous task, and in particular every human community, among whose most vital expressions are the religious communities. It is a challenge that calls for long-term projects: projects that should aim to change attitudes destructive of society, that reject illusory and short-cut solutions to real and recalcitrant problems.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.