



**CONGREGATIO
DE INSTITUTIONE CATHOLICA**
(DE STUDIORUM INSTITUTIS)



**GLOBAL COMPACT
ON EDUCATION**

COMMITTEE FOR THE
GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION

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**RELIGIONS AND EDUCATION:
TOWARDS A GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION**

MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF RELIGIONS

Vatican City, October 5th, 2021

THE TOPIC OF THE MEETING

OCTOBER 5, 2021

Held annually on 5 October since 1994, World Teachers' Day of UNESCO aims to pay particular attention to the rights, responsibilities, preparation and working conditions of teachers who carry out this task in the world.

The nowadays conditions in which teachers have to work, considering the effect of the pandemic, have profoundly changed: the already existing shortcomings have increased, and above all, the educational gap has increased with hundreds of millions of school-age children excluded from any educative activity.

Facing these challenges, which especially penalize children and young people, more and more education becomes an act of hope that invites co-participation and the transformation of the fruitless logic of indifference into a commitment capable of promoting common belonging. The need to find new paradigms - to respond to the challenges and emergencies of the contemporary world - pushes us to invest our best energy in education to humanize the world and history.

In this perspective, the role of teachers assumes strategic importance because they accompany children and young people to the reality and the problems they could encounter. For this reason, the teachers must be helped, supported and motivated. The Representatives of Religions feel particularly close, not only to the family and parents who are the first educators of their children but above all to those who dedicate their lives to the special profession of teaching and training the younger generations, preparing them for the fundamental choices of life.

The Global Compact on Education needs all the realities of society to get closer to teachers and all those who work in various educational fields and who promote, through various knowledge, a new humanism in which young generations can find values, motivations, courage to become protagonists of a renewed humanity. Religions accompany the human being's journey of growth and support him in the confrontation with the mystery that surrounds him, with the destiny that awaits him. For this reason, the educational value of religion remains incomparable, especially in a time of change such as today, with the growing cultural and anthropological metamorphosis. The various internal, cultural, socio-economic and environmental fractures that today we experience in ourselves and relationships cause incurable wounds and states of uncertainty that appeal to transcendence to anchor ourselves to deeper values, to a landing with the absolute that saves us from an otherwise irrecoverable precariousness.

Religions allow opening up to original horizons and experiences to exploring the novelty and richness of values, the intensity of emotions and existential involvement, leading to new, more fraternal and supportive lifestyles.
