



XIII encuentro de diálogo  
CELAM·UNIAPAC

La empresa constructora de paz  
Del 5 al 7 de mayo de 2016. Monterrey, México

## 13TH CELAM–UNIAPAC SYMPOSIUM STATEMENT

Bishops, priests and business leaders from 15 countries in Latin America, we gather again, at the 13th CELAM–UNIAPAC Dialogue Meeting, as we have been doing for almost 30 years, to discern, enlightened by the Spirit and guided by the principle of gratuitousness and the logic of the gift, the role to be played by businesses in the 21st century to build peace, at the “El Refugio” training and retreat centre in Monterrey, Mexico.

In recent decades, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean has experienced an increase in violence and insecurity due to many causes, some widespread, many interconnected, with very complex effects on regional and global development. The climate of mistrust towards institutions and of a breakdown of the social fabric is part of the impact of this type of violence. The business world cannot stand idly by, nor is it relieved of any of its responsibilities. Businesses cannot be successful in a society where peace does not reign.

As Christians, we cannot be indifferent, since peace is a gift from God, one of humanity’s most precious assets, but also the work of men. Therefore, at this symposium, a brotherly, frank and objective dialogue meeting, with our intelligence and creativity, but in particular with our hearts open to the cries of the other, we undertake to find potential pathways to peace. We approach this subject from the perspective of businesses, using the See, Judge and Act methodology, in the light of the documents of the Magisterium of the Church, especially the encyclicals *Caritas in Veritate*, *Lumen Fidei* and *Laudato Si’*; the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*; the Aparecida concluding document; and *Vocation of the Business Leader* by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Embracing Pope Francis’s invitation to seek new ways of understanding the economy and progress, we pledge:

As UNIAPAC business leaders to:

- Practice a leadership of service, with humility and temperance in a transcendent dynamic and by applying the principle of gratuitousness. We know that this may only be achieved with a solid spiritual life and in a dynamic of dialogue and openness to others.
- Bring the Social Teaching of the Church to businesses so that the objective of economic development and wealth creation in business is always kept in balance, with comprehensive and sustainable human development.
- Help train business leaders, with programmes, tools and examples of best business practices, so that they build inclusive organisational cultures founded in unconditional respect for the



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dignity of the human person.

- Go beyond the confines of businesses themselves and fight against the “globalisation of indifference” by creating more opportunities so that more people participate in the economy and its benefits.
- Help improve the quality of life of the lowest income groups by involving them not only as consumers but also as producers so that they leverage their underused skills and talents.

As CELAM to:

- Better understand and value the contribution that businesses can make as social agents in building a more just, prosperous, caring and human society.
- Provide pastoral support to business leaders in their ethical discernment that allows them to orient their businesses towards the pursuit of the common good so that they become true builders of peace.
- Rely on the techniques and professionalism of some businesses for some subjects that require it.

As bishops, priests and entrepreneurs to:

- Work together to develop specific action plans in each diocese aimed at building peace in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Embrace the invitation extended by Pope Francis to seek new ways of understanding the economy and progress through joint reflection, dialogue and meeting.
- Work together to fight against the stigma of corruption and for a more open and transparent society.

We implore our Lord Jesus Christ to send us His Spirit so that together with our Mother and Patroness of Latin America, the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, we pastors and business leaders translate these pledges into reality as worthy sons of God who work for peace.

Monterrey, 7 May 2016