

**41th Session of the General Conference of UNESCO. 13 November 2021, Plenary, General Policy Debate. Speech of the main representative of the INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION (IFOR), Maria Antonietta Malleo**

Thank you, Mister President.

Mister President of the General Conference, Mister President of the Executive Board, Madam Director General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, we congratulate Madam Audrey Azoulay on her re-election and wish her to continue with the same determination and effective action.

Since 1914 IFOR works for conflicts resolution and reconciliation through active nonviolence.

Today, we are in a phase of transformation that needs a radical global educative and cultural change. If we look at the heritage of Nonviolence, we discover a holistic vision, based on the awareness of the interconnection of all living beings, free from the “I” and “My” (Gandhi) that still determines many economic and political choices, with their self-destructive mechanisms of production-sale-consumption, that transformed the human species in the most invasive of the planet.

Drawing on Nonviolence in education, culture, sciences -in order to gain visionariness, creativity and the necessary courage to go beyond the automatism of History- means to fulfil the dreams of youth, that are also our dreams, the dream of the Earth itself, and of History that renews itself.

We need to do more for **deconstructing also the system of cultural violence** on which is based the current model of development.

In these weeks the COP 26 of Movements in Glasgow is bringing its great richness of visions, working to include in the discussions on emissions the **social and cultural** dimension and the **economic and environmental justice**. Sustainability means also a more pluralistic approach reinforcing **exchange and dialogue between civil society and policy makers**.

The **inclusion of indigenous communities**, bearers of holistic knowledges, should be considered a mandatory part of the process for sustainable development of every continent, and not an option.

The IFOR is working on the **links between militarism, environmental crisis and human rights**. The impact of climate change on migration remind us the **urgence of agreements by Member States, especially at European level**, for **humanitarian corridors** and **for legal immigration** –also according the *Global Compact for Migration* of 2019- as the only way to avoid the deaths and daily unthinkable human rights violations in the Mediterranean and the East-West borders, that we are continuing to witness.

We believe in the **revolutionary force of education**, the only reality that leads to changes, and will continue to work for the **introduction of contents of peace, nonviolence and human rights education at any level of national curricula of all Member States**, in accordance with the UN and UNESCO resolutions and the target 4.7 of SDGs of Agenda 2030.

Thank you.