

Vatican City, 12 November 2013

Message of His Eminence  
Cardinal GIANFRANCO RAVASI

To the participants at the International Conference of the COMIUCAP  
*Order and Disorder in the Age of Globalization(s)*

It is for me a pleasure to send my cordial greeting to the organisers, speakers and participants of the General Assembly of the COMIUCAP dedicated to the theme *Order and Disorder in the Age of Globalization(s)*, which will see the presence of the Secretary of the Council, H. E. Mons. Barthélemy Adoukonou.

This is for me a particular occasion to recall the meeting of Members and Consultors of the Pontifical Council for Culture on the theme “One People of God within the Diversity of Cultures”, which took place in this same Saint Augustine College, from 27 to 30 October 2004 in the presence of my predecessor, Cardinal Paul Poupard.

The themes of both meetings, across the years and across different viewpoints, encounter the great challenge of globalization today: how to harmoniously conserve unity and diversity, local identity and belonging in a world that is evermore interdependent and connected through the social networks, the communications media, commercial and financial movements.

This is a world in change and in growth, with the tensions that this always brings. And it is this same world that offers to all of us a new opportunity to meet and proclaim the Gospel. As the world into which St. Paul and the first apostles immersed themselves to bring the Good News of the Kingdom, so too this globalised world allows the fulfilment of the Psalm 147: “His word flashes to the earth”, through the networks of communication and exchanges between people.

In this globalised context, the Church desires to promote cultural diversity in the unity of faith in Christ and spreads a culture of diversity and fraternity. Sustainable development – indispensable for the future of the African Continent – has a fundamental cultural dimension. For

this, the cultural values present in the African traditions which serve the dignity of the person have a fundamental role. In as much as they are cultural values, they express the soul of a people, and should be promoted as points of reference for the proclamation of the Gospel. The Church possesses a rich patrimony of traditional values which in the course of centuries have been modelled by the faith and can make a contribution to the challenges of reconciliation and peace.

The action of the Holy Spirit constructs the Church as unique family of God in the diversity of cultures and places the Gospel at the centre of the pastoral approach to culture and dialogue with all people of good will in their cultures, especially those that are marked by religious indifference.

With these sentiments, I renew my congratulations to the participants at the Conference, praying that you will all contribute to constructing the unity of the people of God in the diversity of the cultures of the world.

Gianfranco Card. Ravasi  
President