



GENERAL DEBATE ON THE THEME

**PARLIAMENTARIANS IN DIALOGUE WITH RELIGION
AND BELIEF: STRENGTHENING TRUST AND
EMBRACING HOPE FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE**

AT

**SECOND PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE ON
INTERFAITH DIALOGUE**

IN

ROME, ITALY

19 TO 21 JUNE 2025

The Moderators;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Strengthening trust and embracing hope for our common future is a hallowed responsibility for Parliamentarians in dialogue with religion and belief. Such an onerous responsibility demands that Parliamentarians be evocative in their conversation with religion and belief in some measured theological plane. That calls for ethical and thought leadership which espouses empathy and openness of the mind in order to be able to dialogue constructively and positively with religion and belief in the spirit of inclusive interfaith dialogue environment. But what kind of dialogue with religion and belief should Parliamentarians pursue? It must be a dynamic engagement to fully appreciate the intricacies of the various religious beliefs and persuasions. If not, there is some danger that Parliamentarians may find it challenging to legislate comprehensively for laws which ought to advance interfaith dialogue that is promotive of collegiate respect for the inalienable fundamental rights

and freedoms in respect of the consummation of human dignity in worship. Oversight on the Executive may be skewed towards weak superintendence. Equally, the Parliamentarians' representative role in matters of faith may suffer unintended stillbirth, the consequence of which would be the loss of public trust from amongst the citizenry. One way to remedy this conundrum is for Parliamentarians to employ the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the unfathomable ecosystem of various religions and beliefs as well as the uncharted waters of African traditional spirituality.

Here are some of the AI transformative engagement in interfaith dialogue. A primary application of AI in interfaith dialogue is its capacity for advanced language translation which fosters communication between and among individuals from different linguistic and cultural backgrounds. AI can enable customised content delivery that reflects a wide array of religious perspectives. Furthermore, AI has revolutionised traditional methods of scriptural analysis and that of other doctrinal faith-based theologies. Parliamentarians and religious faith

based leaders can employ AI algorithms for predictive data analytics in enhancing interfaith dialogue for sustainable humane co-existence. However, Parliamentarians and religious leaders must bear a critical responsibility in shaping the ethical governance of AI lest we forget the pivotal anchor of the human factor in AI applications.

It is axiomatic that, as Parliamentarians seek dialogue with religion and belief, they must earn the public trust assuredly so as to create grounded hope in humanity. They have to be Pilgrims of Hope, the hope which the late Pope Francis affirms that **HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT** because its first sign *"should be the desire for peace in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of war... May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called 'children of God' (Matthew 5:9)....May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity,*

every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.”¹

SO BE IT!!

THANK YOU.

¹ Pope Francis’ Papal Bull “SPES NON CONFUNDIT – HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT”, page 16, published by St. Paul Communications, 2024.