



The Global Foundation's 2019 Roundtables

Message from His Eminence, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Secretary of State

19 June 2019 (London) – 21 June 2019 (Paris)

On the occasion of *The Global Foundation's 2019 Roundtables*, I would like to express my appreciation for your continued commitment to the common good of the global community. Over the last two decades, the Global Foundation has encouraged international dialogue by bringing together prominent diplomats, politicians and leaders in the private sector to address some of the world's most pressing concerns through the promotion of concrete, actionable solutions.

As Pope Francis continues to remind us, we are living in a moment of epochal change. No longer anchored by the certainties it held even 10 years ago, the international community needs oases of structured dialogue like those provided by the Global Foundation. It needs environments where the good fruit of old certainties can flower, once again, in the humus of the new challenges we face today. Most importantly, it needs places of encounter built on trust, where men and women of goodwill can freely work together as they identify common problems, propose shared solutions and verify their results.

One of those solutions is solidarity. Our hope today will largely be in the rediscovery of *our common need for one another* and for our *neighbour* as a strength, and not a weakness. A forum like the Global Foundation is unique because it provides exactly that opportunity. It allows us to draw on the well of our collective experience and interdependence while responding to the different realities and circumstances we face locally, nationally, and regionally.

At the same time, we must remain aware of the risk of dialogue becoming empty, not only when it fails to lead to action, but also in its content. To avoid this, the Global Foundation should continue to dedicate itself to fostering an environment of honesty and clarity where the desire for truth and the use of reason are the drivers of every conversation and discussion. In fact, a healthy commitment to *truth* and the use of *reason* are the only real guarantors of genuine dialogue.

With these words of advice and encouragement for your good work over the years, and in the name of Pope Francis, I express the hope that your roundtables focusing on "Co-operative Globalisation" and "Dialogue between Civilisations" will prove most fruitful. To you and to all taking part I offer my own cordial best wishes.

Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State of His Holiness