



A Message from Young People “From Sao Paulo to the World”

That the economy of 2031 be one of communion, for us and for all

PREMISE

At the end of the Economy of Communion in Freedom (EoC) 2011 Assembly, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the project's beginning, all of us who have participated, and in particular us youth, feel the responsibility and wish to launch a message from Sao Paulo to the world. We want to send our message to all those who believe, who desire and who commit themselves to a different, more just and solidarity-based economic system.

WE BELIEVE

We believe that:

Economy and businesses should adopt, along with the principles of liberty and equality, the principle of fraternity. Doing so, the economy will contribute to fulfilling the dignity of the human person and of every people. In this way, it will be possible to respond to the questions of meaning and happiness hidden in the hearts of every woman and every man;

- We cannot and no longer wish to further tolerate the fact that more than a billion people today still live in conditions of absolute poverty. We should not rest until every person on the Earth has the basic necessities for a decent life, to live a life they love, to develop their potentials and capacities, to cultivate their personal and collective dreams. But more than anything, we believe that there is need of new men and women who choose a lifestyle of solidarity and moderation every day, who use their creativity even as entrepreneurs and in institutions, who share their talents, who risk themselves and who love in the concrete aspects of their lives.
- It is possible to build an economy that takes the principle of fraternity seriously, that when broken down into economic terms is called communion, for at least four reasons:
 1. We already see a fraternal economy in the everyday choice to live the communion of goods and moderation by millions of people who, at different levels, share the same spirituality of unity and culture of giving and reciprocity.
 2. We see that a fraternal economy is a reality in the experiences of hundreds of EoC businesses, who despite difficulties and failures, whether small or large, remain faithful to the EoC's values, allocating profits towards brothers in need, towards creating jobs and spreading a 'culture of giving'; and imprint these values in their management decisions about clients, workers, suppliers and civil society.
 3. We already discover now the presence of the same continual effort to live communion and fraternity in the many experiences of social, civil and solidarity-based economies in the world – a varied movement in continual growth



and which says in various languages that another post-capitalistic alternative to the market economy is possible, if we want it and if everyone commits themselves together, right away.

4. Finally, we believe that an economy of communion is possible because in every man and every women of the Earth there is “inscribed in the depth of his or her being, whether believer or non-believer, the vocation to communion and love, as Chiara Lubich told us. Only an economy of this type can fully satisfy our search for individual and public happiness.

WE ASK

With this threefold faith, we youth of the EoC, representing thousands of young people and adults of various cultures, countries, religions, economic and social conditions, want to **ask for concrete changes, here and now.**

1. In recent years, economic development has been drugged with the ethically questionable behavior of unregulated finance, which created such significant damage to have placed the functioning of the very system at risk. The Western economic and financial system remains structurally fragile and requires new rules able to bring it back to its precious function for the Common Good. That is why we ask the governments of States to:

- Involve civil society in development policies starting from the family, valuing part-time work and that of those responsible for childcare and assistance to the elderly or disabled.
- Fiscally facilitate employed work, families with dependent children, and environmental protection;
- Discourage, even with fiscal structures, highly speculative financial transactions;
- Combat fiscal evasion, eliminate “fiscal paradises” and reduce military spending unnecessary to the sole protection of populations;
- Abolish customs barriers for products from countries that respect work and the environment.

2. That is why we ask all citizens of the world, beginning with us present here today in Sao Paulo, to employ the co-essential values of liberty and equality with new conviction and new commitment, even on the political, juridical and institutional levels, and also giving concrete space to the needs of fraternity among persons and peoples, favoring with their own choices of consumption and savings those businesses that are ethically oriented and which invest a significant part of their profits in the common good. The EoC tells us, in fact, that business profits have a social nature and vocation.

3. Since the beginning, the EoC has attributed great importance to the formation of “new men and women”. That is why we ask:



- a. That primary and secondary school curricula include courses in care for the environment, legality, education to fraternity and to globalism, favoring integration, peace, communion and unity among peoples, and therefore reduce the risk of future wars and destruction on the planet.
- b. That efforts by universities in countries with great financial and cultural resources give life, with reciprocal respect, to professor exchanges with other universities in the world, as there is no future for youth without high quality formation.
- c. That in economics departments and political and social sciences departments there it be a recognized right of citizens to learn about economic visions and theories that are different than those that dominate today.

CONCLUSION

We young people are aware of being the first generation in the history of humanity that seriously risks, on the global scale, having a future that is worse than that of our parents, due to the deep wounds that have been inflicted on the environment, the air, water, and non-renewable energy over the last century.

Moreover, a growing individualistic, xenophobic and non-solidarity ideology is on the horizon of our post-modern civilization. At the same time, we are trustful and certain that Providence exists and is at work in our history, and that we, too, can have a future that is better than the past. We believe that the EoC came about on Earth, here in Brazil twenty years ago, to nourish and make our hope possible.

Because of all of this, we young people here at Sao Paulo, present in May of 2011, with our roots in May of 1991, and more than ever responsible for how the economy and the world will be in 2031, believe that if our convictions, hopes, commitments and wishes are shared by many men and women on all continents, and if our and their everyday behaviors will be coherent with such, the aspiration to an economy that is not only efficient and just, but also fraternal, will not be a simple utopia.

We participants in the EoC Assembly of Sao Paulo, even if we'd be the only ones, solemnly commit ourselves to this task, making a pact among us, sure that many others will join us and will be at our side, because we're convinced that that communion is the deepest vocation of every person, business and community.

“That all may be one.”