

Press Release – 24 April 2015

## **Protect the Earth, Dignify Humanity**

Vatican City, 28 April 2015: debate about the moral dimensions of climate change and sustainable development.

The *Consultation at High Level* is being promoted jointly by *Religions for Peace*, *United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network*, and the *Pontifical Academy For Science*. The meeting will be held at the Vatican on the 28 April 2015. Participants will include the General Secretary of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, and the Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin.

A hundred participants will be present including scientists, academics, diplomats and religious leaders.

Also invited is Maria Voce as co-president of *Religions for Peace*.

The day of debate at Casina Pio IV – seat for the *Pontifical Academy For Science* – will address the moral dimensions of the changes in the environment, striving to reach agreement about the values of sustainable development in harmony with the values of the main religions. Particular attention will be given to the protection of the planet and the protection of the poor and the excluded.

The debate will take place on the eve of the awaited encyclical about the environment, which is expected in the coming summer months. The commitment of Pope Francis, from the beginning of his pontificate, keeps alive the moral calling towards an orderly economy that safeguards creation and respects the dignity of every human being.

A joint declaration is expected at the conclusion of this meeting.

Link to the programme [http://www.casinapioiv.va/content/dam/accademia/booklet/booklet\\_earth.pdf](http://www.casinapioiv.va/content/dam/accademia/booklet/booklet_earth.pdf)

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