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Statement by the Director of the Holy See Press Office, Matteo Bruni

Although the Holy Father's general clinical picture has improved with regard to his 'flu-like condition and inflammation of the respiratory tract, the doctors have advised the Pope not to make the trip planned for the coming days to Dubai, on the occasion of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Pope Francis accepted the doctors' request with great regret and the trip is therefore cancelled.

As the Pope and the Holy See remain willing to be part of the discussions taking place over the next few days, the methods by which this can take place will be defined as soon as possible.