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LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto ieri in Udienza:

S.E. Mons. Paul Josef Cordes, Arcivescovo tit. di Naisso, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio "Cor Unum".

[01469-01.01]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA SECONDA COMMISSIONE DELLA 61a ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELL'O.N.U. SU "MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS: INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND

DEVELOPMENT

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede, l'Arcivescovo S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, ha pronunciato ieri davanti alla Seconda Commissione della 61a Assemblea Generale dell'O.N.U. su: "Macroeconomic policy questions: International trade and development":

• INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. CELESTINO MIGLIORE

Madam Chair,

Today, the international community would do well to reflect on the reasons why it has not been able to reach the goal that it set for itself in 2001 at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO. In the last five years, while several military initiatives and operations of vast proportions have been undertaken, no substantial progress has been made in the reform of political finances and international trade which continues to weigh upon developing States, especially Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS).

It would seem that the interests of some sectors of the more developed countries have prevailed over the common good, increasing the already worrisome discrepancy that separates these countries from other regions of the developing world and underlines the failure to make progress on the Doha Development Agenda (DDA).

Trade is not simply a complement to Official Development Assistance (ODA) and debt relief. Trade is rather a priority for the general and sustainable growth of the economies of many developing countries. This is one reason why there is little hope of achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

The current world situation presents inequalities which demand urgent reflection. It has been observed many times that rich countries' support for their own agricultural sector, which comprises a very small percentage of their populations, amounts to \$280 billion per year. This amount is ten times greater than the total amount of aid destined annually to Africa and is equivalent to the total income of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, a fundamental part of this support is the direct or indirect subsidies for agricultural exports, which end up undermining the agriculture of the poorest countries.

The achievement of greater justice through fair trade continues to be a major concern of the Holy See. 'Freedom of trade is fair only if it is subject to the demands of social justice' (Paul VI, *Populorum progressio*, n.59). For the security and development of all peoples, but especially the poor, it would be well for all parties to make greater efforts to overcome the stalemate in multilateral negotiations and to respect the spirit and commitments of Doha regarding the relations between trade, development, responsibility based on solidarity and the overthrow of poverty.

There are no easy answers to these questions and we have all seen how it is not enough for developing countries simply to open markets to trade and investments in order to foster development. That is why the promotion of development must inevitably involve for a time the special consideration of poorer countries. Governments of such countries need to be able to maintain substantial margins of flexibility on the ways and the times to open their markets to foreign competition, to the means necessary for harmoniously developing their industrial and agricultural productions, and to the adequate protection of the weakest economic sectors, found for example in small family agriculture. For their part, the more developed countries must finally honour the commitment to open their markets and to end the dumping of agricultural surpluses fuelled by subsidies.

The urgent need for agreement is clear when one considers that the effects of trade relations have serious consequences for some of the most vulnerable people in the world and ultimately for their dignity. This is a moral imperative that cannot be delayed. If it is not taken seriously, grave consequences could result: uncontrolled movements of populations, irreparable environmental damage, even the spread of terrorism and armed conflict. Country groups, meeting recently in Rio de Janeiro, issued a joint communiqué in which some common criteria were established for resuming the discussions and bringing to completion the DDA. It is to be hoped that this initiative will spur fresh, original thinking that will lead to the resumption of negotiations to the benefit of all

concerned.

Some criticism has been aimed at the WTO for its shortcomings in concluding negotiations that would bring additional benefits to developing countries, but it is still able to combine multilateralism with a disciplinary framework. Its rules cannot be ignored by any member country, large or small. Regional agreements, while expedient, are hardly a replacement for a comprehensive settlement of trade issues within the WTO.

For this reason, the first commitment of the international community in the face of the current crisis must be that of preserving and, where possible, bettering the institution. The crisis in the Doha Development Round (DDR) also hints at a possible slide towards the fragmentation of the current international system. The work begun by the 2005 World Summit must continue if the UN is to establish effective operating connections between the General Assembly, UNCTAD and the WTO.

With the resumption of activities in Geneva coinciding with our work here, the Holy See hopes that States will return to the table ready to make a fresh start. Trade negotiations can make a substantial contribution to the cause of peace and stability in the world if all States are prepared to make the sacrifices necessary for the establishment of more just trade relations.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

[01470-02.02] [Original text: English]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA RIUNIONE ANNUALE DELL'OSCE SUI DIRITTI UMANI

Riportiamo di seguito l'intervento pronunciato il 9 ottobre scorso da Mons. Anthony Frontiero, Ufficiale del Pontificio Consiglio della Giustizia e della Pace, durante la riunione annuale di attuazione degli impegni assunti, nell'ambito dei diritti umani, dagli Stati partecipanti all'Organizzazione per la Sicurezza e la Cooperazione in Europa (Varsavia, 2-13 ottobre 2006):

● INTERVENTO DI MONS. ANTHONY FRONTIERO

Mr. Moderator,

The Holy See appreciates the opportunity to participate in the OSCE Human Implementation Meeting, and wishes to affirm the efforts of this body and its affiliated organizations and institutions on behalf of the cause of democracy and human rights. In doing so, the Holy See wishes to reiterate its conviction that authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law, and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person and the inherent dignity with which each person is endowed. It requires that the necessary conditions be present for the advancement both of the individual through education and formation in true ideals, and of the "subjectivity" of society through the creation of structures of participation and shared responsibility.

In the noble pursuit of democracy, however, it is critical to resist the tendency to claim that agnosticism and skeptical relativism are the philosophy and basic attitude which correspond to the democratic forms of political life. Often times, those who are convinced that they know the truth and firmly adhere to it are considered unreliable from a democratic point of view, since they do not accept that truth is necessarily determined by the majority, or that it is subject to variation according to different political trends.

The Holy See would like to also reiterate its belief that, if there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, then ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. As history demonstrates, a democracy without values can easily turn into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism.

Moreover, authentic democracy and its structures include efforts to develop and support a revenue base to support global public goods, including the environment, treaties to uphold human rights, the enhancement of participation and representation in policies by means of citizens' organization and other local, regional, and multilateral networks—all of which serve to implement the common good.

Finally, Mr. Moderator, the principle of subsidiarity implies that "civil society is the soil in which the seeds of human sociality grow." The subsidiarity of local communities and associations is necessary to the common good of participatory government. Precisely because of the social embeddedness of human dignity, the Holy See has consistently linked human rights with responsibility, and recognizes that government still has a responsibility to reign in or modify subsidiary action that is detrimental to the good of the whole or injurious to the welfare of some members.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

[01471-02.02] [Original text: English]

AVVISO DI CONFERENZA STAMPA

Si avvisano i giornalisti accreditati che **venerdì 20 ottobre 2006, alle ore 11.30**, nell'Aula "*Giovanni Paolo II*" della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, avrà luogo la Conferenza Stampa di **presentazione del Messaggio del Pontificio Consiglio per il Dialogo Interreligioso per la fine del Ramadan**.

In tale occasione sarà presentata anche la nuova edizione del volume della LEV "*Dialogo Interreligioso nell'Insegnamento ufficiale della Chiesa Cattolica dal Concilio Vaticano II a Giovanni Paolo II*" (1963-2005).

Interverranno:

- **Em.mo Card. Paul Poupard**, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio per il Dialogo Interreligioso;
- **S.E. Mons. Pier Luigi Celata**, Segretario del Pontificio Consiglio per il Dialogo Interreligioso;
- **Rev.mo Mons. Felix Anthony Machado**, Sotto-Segretario del medesimo Pontificio Consiglio;
- **Rev.mo Mons. Khaled Akashed**, Capo Ufficio per i rapporti con l'Islam.

[01437-01.01]

[B0517-XX.01]
