



MARCELO SANCHEZ SORONDO

Chancellor, Pontifical Academy of Sciences and Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences

Bertrand COLLOMB

Now I am turning to Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo. He is a Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, as well as the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The Church has been seeing a lot of changes in the world order since it was founded. How do you look at those changes that we are talking about and that we are discussing?

Marcelo SANCHEZ SORONDO

First, I want to thank you for having me here. I am going to talk to you about what we discuss at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. It is clear that today the world is growing more polarised instead of finding common ground. The most powerful forces tend to seek domination. That's really problematic because it can lead to more wars.

What are the solutions?

The real solutions lie in making a heartfelt effort to defend human dignity and the liberty not only of every individual, but also of different populations. To do that, we need to wipe out poverty and provide access to education. One of our seminars concluded that 50% of the world's population have no education today. That is awful, because lack of education is the root of all evil. We must eradicate poverty and give people access to education instead of being interested in politically dominating various questions. We must see people, human people, their dignity and their goodness.

Another key point is that we must act to avoid new forms of slavery. The United Nations has a proposal called Target 8.7 — it is new, because it acknowledges the problem — which says we must ban and eradicate all new forms of slavery, forced labour, forced prostitution, organ trafficking and organised crime, which are rampant. Today, 50 million people live in slavery situations.

Naturally, the climate issue is very important for the Academy. Our academicians — Molina, Crutzen and Ramanathan — have brought the problem of climate change to the forefront. We must really apply the Paris accords. We must find new forms of energy. There is still room to improve many aspects of low-carbon technologies. Power networks based on renewable energy sources must rely on more advanced systems to balance energy supply and demand. Improving carbon capture and storage would allow some fossil fuel to be safely used. Pollution must be controlled because of its negative impact on the human scale. It causes new forms of migration and slavery.

Unless we face this problem with justice by trying to ensure access to education and wipe out poverty, I do not think we will control the present situation.

Thank you.