



WHAT IS GREENACCORD

Greenaccord is a non-profit Cultural Association of Christian inspiration. It was created in order to spur the attention of journalists, and not only, on the theme of the protection of Nature also in consideration of the Pope John Paul II's invitation contained in the *Novo Millennio Ineunte*: "...Christians cannot hold off before the perspectives of an ecological disorder which makes large areas of the country inhospitable and enemies of Man".

Greenaccord addresses the national and international media community in order to induce a thorough secular reflection and a continuous debate on the role and the responsibility of the journalist towards ecological subjects.

In fact, it seems necessary to examine the journalist's role and social responsibility more closely, considering the present ecological urgencies and emergencies as well as the fact that the modern media system affects identity, language, thoughts, shared values, historical memory, individual and social behaviours through its powerful apparatus for the world representation and for the description of the "reality".

To achieve this goal, Greenaccord organizes every year an "International Media Forum" that gathers about 100 journalists coming from all over the world. The Forum is also intended to facilitate contacts among journalists in order to create a net of communication, commitment and solidarity also through internet. The speakers invited are selected among the most eminent representatives of the scientific community and personalities as:

Rajendra K. Pachauri, Caleb M. Fundanga, Joan Martinez Alier, Lester Brown, Mathis Wackernagel, Serge Latouche, Luis Sepulveda, Wangari Maathai, Ursula Ackermann-Lieblich, Bettina Menne, Erik Lysen, Hans Schnitzer, Mark Brown, Robert Costanza, Friedrich Hinterberger, Walden Bello, Leonardo Becchetti, Erik Assadourian, Brian Fagan, Antonio Navarra, Joellen L. Russell, William Rees, Luigi Sertorio, Gary Gardner, Joseph Tainter, Joachim Eble, Nigel Watson, Euclides Mance, Ignacio Ramonet, Zygmunt Bauman, Aldo Masullo, and many others.

Greenaccord organises also an yearly forum for the Italian catholic media.

GREENACCORD AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2003, during the First International Forum for Environmental Protection, opened by Prof. Rajendra Kumar Pachauri, more than 100 journalists from all over the world were invited by Greenaccord to Rapolano (Siena-Italy), where they signed a "Green Accord" for Journalists. The text began with the following considerations:

We know the climate is changing, probably as a result of humanity's pollution; species are disappearing fast; deforestation is rampant; over-fishing is rife; water shortages are increasing; resource consumption is growing and so is the world's population. Let us project ourselves a hundred years into the future. If we take the wrong path, we could face a world where temperatures have soared, with potentially devastating consequences for life as we know it. Economic activity would be severely disrupted. Mass migration of environmental refugees would bring misery to millions. People previously dependent on fish would face serious problems with nutrition. Grain belts may shift and food security be disrupted. More wars would erupt over natural resources. The poor will bear the brunt, but no one will completely escape.

Ten years have passed and too little step have been done to solve problem moving from words to actions. The last IPCC report SREX, unfortunately confirmed that there is evidence that some extremes have changed as a result of anthropogenic influences. Scientific analyses on different topics agree in considering that the next decades are crucial for the future of humanity.

Anthropogenic pressures on the Earth System converge to a critical point and, by negative synergy, risk to produce irreversible changes in parameters which have driven life on our planet during the entire development of human civilization.

The many IPCC conferences of the parties have produced poor results and no effective and binding agreement. We are wasting time and time is very precious while climate change is growing fast and producing already dramatic extreme events and sufferings, especially to poor population.

We think that an urgent global deal is needed to avoid the collapse of civilization and open a new era of progress for entire humanity and the financial and economic crises that industrialised countries are facing could be a great opportunity to solve both the economic and the climate crisis. We have to shift investments from fossils to low carbon technologies and solution.

It is necessary to spread across the entire society the awareness that we are at a turning point. The challenge for climate change implies the need to phase out, as soon as possible, the current economic system, which is predominantly supplied by fossil fuels and not by renewable and clean energy.

Furthermore, it is needed to implement a more efficient economic system, focused on producing goods that, in turn, are truly effective in producing well-being. If we want to continue to create well-being for a future humanity, and extend it to the entire world population, we have to shift urgently to an economy based predominantly on renewable sources available locally.

A radical change, such as the one mentioned above, implies a great economical, scientific, cultural and technological effort, which must be supported by a growing engagement in the research and development of new, clean and efficient technologies. The fear of change – which follows the illusion that we may carry on into the future while following the same patterns of the past, or the impulse to stay put and wait for better times and a slower change, for the sake of not upsetting the current economic equilibrium - really seems to be the major risk; the approaching dangerous physical boundaries, and the timeframe needed to implement the energy revolution, implies an extreme urgency to immediately define and implement a coherent global strategy.

In order to make such a strategy more effective, it is important to disseminate the correct perception of risks. The need for action concerns all humanity, and the responsibility lies within all social levels, whether political, economic, scientific, or individual.

During the VII Greenaccord International Media Forum On The Protection Of Nature: "Climate is changing: stories, facts and people", held in 2009, more than 130 journalists, climate witnesses and scientist signed a Memorandum closed with the following resolution:

Scientists, journalists, and all the witnesses who shared their personal experience of climate change during the Greenaccord International Forum in Viterbo, ask all the parties involved in the UNFCCC Copenhagen Conference to draw a road map representing a binding agreement for a total de-carbonization of the world economy before 2050, and every country must assume a responsibility based on its emissions and its economic level. For their part, the Greenaccord participants vow to cooperate, in order to disseminate correct and accurate information on the risks related to climate change, and to make the public aware of the fact that their individual contributions is as simple as adopting a more sustainable lifestyle.

The Memorandum was signed in Bruxelles by Rajendra Pachauri, just before the Copenhagen Conference.

Greenaccord concern is absolutely tuned with the words of pope Francis when he said:

The vocation of being a "protector", however, is not just something involving us Christians alone; it also has a prior dimension which is simply human, involving everyone. It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as Saint Francis of Assisi showed us. It means respecting each of God's creatures and respecting the environment in which we live. (Homily of Pope Francis, Saint Peter's Square Tuesday, 19 March 2013 Solemnity of Saint Joseph).