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Suor Orsola Benincasa University

“A new vision for agriculture and economy to eradicate hunger”

After four days of talks and discussions focused on the interrelated problems of malnutrition, world environmental crisis and wealth gap, the **XI Greenaccord International Media Forum for the Protection of Nature** comes to an end. **Andrea Masullo, president of Greenaccord Scientific Committee, concludes: “If we impoverish biosphere, we will be poorer too. If we destroy it, we will also be destroyed.” Naples, 11 October 2014** – “The link between population increase, loss of natural resources due to consumption rates that exceed the ecosystem’s regenerative capacity, damage to croplands fertility through climate change, pollution, overexploitation of water resources, is a consequence of the present economic model that will make child mortality the regulating mechanism of world’s population” said Andrea Masullo, who ended the **XI International Media Forum for the Protection of Nature organised by Greenaccord in partnership with the City of Naples**. Analysts from prestigious organisations (FAO, Caritas Internationalis, Worldwatch Institute, UNDP, Slow Food) and about one hundred journalists from all continents participated in the four days of talks and intense debates. Among them were also twenty journalists from ENAJ, the European network of journalists specialised in agriculture issues.

Masullo’s closing talk underlined the vicious connection existing among the main drawbacks of the present agricultural model, on whose principles global economy is founded. An unjust system, based on inequality that puts at risk the life of billions of people to guarantee the wealth of the richest population groups. “The present economic model based on the obsessive search for increasing resource consumption and the accumulation of produced capital cannot solve the problem of feeding mankind neither today nor in the future” said Masullo. “We have created this world of technological progress, established its rules and operating mechanisms. We ourselves have generated problems and found solutions; we have supported this system with powerful and pervasive ideologies that alter the minds of entire populations, convincing those who suffer that the solution is to apply the same consumerism model that causes their distress. As it has been highlighted during the four days’ encounter, this system nourishes itself on differences; the rich, in order to be rich, need to exploit the poor.” A change of course is urgent and mandatory. “Leaving the solution of this complex problem to future generations means to trigger the mechanism for natural selection that regulates the life of other species - gradual increase of child mortality and reduction of life expectation - wiping out the great achievements of the XX century. However, realistic solutions will come only if a radical change occurs within each one of us. “Science and technology are powerful instruments in our hands but without a human mind to guide them, they are almost useless and are often used to mislead us.” The time to avoid irreversible damage to future generations is not yet over but is running out rapidly. “It is unreasonable to think that the artificial world we have created is self-sufficient: the economic system

is only a part of the biosphere from which it derives its food and resources” said Masullo. “If we impoverish biosphere, we will be poorer, too. If we destroy it, we will also be destroyed.”

The full text of the conclusions of the XI International Forum on the Protection of Nature is available at www.greenaccord.org.