Letter to Pope Francis, bishop of Rome

**Fourth pressing appeal for the convocation of a global security and peace conference**

Bratislava, 10th May 2021

Your Holiness,

Sending you our wishes of pleasant spring time despite the persistent Covid-19 pandemic we hereby approach you, as the most virtuous authority amongst contemporary personalities, with our pressing appeal for the convocation of a global security and peace conference.

Domestic and international figures from our association, striving for improvement of economic, social and cultural conditions for life have taken interest, since May 2014, in the reasons why peace is under threat, the world is dehumanised and our civilisation is under acute risk of self-destruction. Our 29-year-old association and its International Peace Committee have addressed their initiatives aimed at achieving a new quality of the conditions for life to leaders of the Central and Eastern Europe, and also to leaders of the USA, the Russian Federation and the PRC several times, but received no appropriate answer.

There is not less poverty, starvation, wars and human misery today than there was at dawn of the new millennium. The social gap due to economic and particularly financial colonisation of most countries of the world and their populations is like a constant bottomless deep. As compared to the past, there are countless economic blocages, attempts of finance destabilisation, fighting over water and resources, clashes over electronic issues, and disputes over space in the fields of engineering and technology. They all usually lead to military conflicts or provocation of civil wars from outside.

Unfortunately, representatives of global powers and strong economies are convinced of their exceptionality, but less so of their obligation to lead their home countries and eventually the whole world towards humanity, general and even directed service. Such erosive world order and organisation inevitably lead to tensions inside the countries as well as among them.

We formulated our appeal after a circumspect consultation with Slovak and foreign members of the International Peace Committee. Their opinions gave rise to the conclusion that the international situation is unbearable even critical, and that issues are solved slowly and ineffectively in all aspects. Once again, there is only merciless fight for hegemony among world powers and other countries, justifying and excusing their positions and interests.

We do remember that religious life and teachings have always had an impact on the society and politics. The Roman-Catholic Church has been almost always able to address urgent issues concerning peaceful coexistence of religions and churches within the framework of historical circumstances and knowledge. The WWII and persecution aimed not only at Christians contributed a big deal. Contacts formed among the faithful of various confessions including atheists during the WWII lead to the knowledge that we, the people have much in common. There is always some inner historical logic and connexion to the situations around us.

In his encyclical letter *Ut unum sint* on commitment to ecumenism, Pope John Paul II talks about togetherness disregarding historical, canonical and other discrepancies. We find a lot of inspiration and encouragement in your encyclical letter *Fratelli tutti* on fraternity and social friendship, as well. As a consequence, we believe that the quest of unity in matters of civilisational security and peace is relevant and you, Your Holiness are qualified - as the head of the Roman-Catholic Church personifying authority and purity - to communicate in that sense towards all religions.

It is vital to reunite and change the actual evolution in the world, particularly in this new millenium, and turn away from wars, unutterable human hardship, poverty, starvation towards age-old longings and ideals of humanity - peaceful and happier life for all on spiritual and also material levels.

In our view, the behaviour and acting of the representatives of global powers - the USA, Russia, the PRC, but also the UNO and the European Union, overweening countries posing as leaders, but also the Slovak Republic - is insufficient in 2021 from the point of view of their responsibility for peace, and also problematic from the point of view of the current cultural evolution and relations between the countries and their nations in general. Our perspective is definitely confirmed by the fact that our concerns about this year’s spring, when the world is so to say dancing on a hot skillet, have become not only visible but also tangible.

It is high time for rational dialogues on how to assure equal rights to a decent life in peace for all if humanity is to survive. It is imperative that the way of thinking and acting of current leaders is declassified and that acts of peace are required from them. Except you, Your Holiness, no other global leader has even come close to strengthening our belief that the world will eventually deal freely with issues that are really important for life - poverty, starvation, fear of misery and terror, return of fascism and war suffering, health and fulfilling the purpose of life.

The text of this letter will be available to the participants in the 130th gathering and the overall 281st event of the Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club established on 19th August 1993 and its International Peace Committee, held on 10th May 2021 as a videoconference.

Very Respectfully,

Participants of the 130th gathering and 281st overall event of the 29-year-old Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club association and its International Peace Committee held as a video conference

**Dr. Peter KASALOVSKY**, representative of the Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club since 19th August 1993 and co-initiator of the International Peace Committee since 8th May 2015

**Ing. Anton BARCIK**, Povazska cementaren, a.s. CEO, main guarantor of the youngest spiritual and pilgrimage place in the quarry on Mount Butkov near Ladce, “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia” laureate for 2016

**Prof. MUDr. Jan BREZA, DrSc.**, head of the Clinic of Urology of the Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University and the University Hospital Bratislava

**Ing. Peter CATLOS, PhD**, entrepreneur, co-chair of the board, Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club, Martin

**Dr. Miroslav DEMKO**, musicologist and writer

**Ing. Jan GABRIEL**, entrepreneur, co-chair of the board, Informal Economic Forum - Economic Club, Trnava

**MUDr. Julia HORAKOVA, PhD**, vice-head of the Children's Haematology and Oncology Clinic, Faculty of Medicine of Comenius University and National Institute of Children’s Diseases, “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia” laureate for 2020

**Prof. RNDr. Jozef MASARIK, DrSc.**, nuclear physicist and university teacher

**Mgr. Maria STRAKOVA**, folklorist and leader of children’s folklore ensemble “Cunovsky krdel”, “2015 Peace Prize from Slovakia” laureate for 2020

**Dr. Jan SALY**, former high officer of the Police Force of the SR and sociologist, Nova Bana

**MUDr. Ivan VULEV, PhD, MPH, FCIRSE**, Director, Center for Interventional Neuroradiology and Endovascular Treatment, Bratislava

**MUDr. Elena ZIGOVA**, psychiatrist