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**Commitment of the Society of Jesus with the promotion of the
"Global Compact on Education" proposed by Pope Francis**

Pope Francis' proposal stems from his deep desire to contribute effectively to promote a better future for all mankind. A future full of hope built on human brotherhood and harmony with the environment.

A proposal rooted in his pastoral concerns already expressed in the *Evangelii Gaudium*, *Laudatio Sí* and, more recently, at *Fratelli Tutti*.

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The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the educational systems around the world stresses the importance of Pope Francis' proposal, who has underlined how we are faced with a global "educational catastrophe":

- Latin America and the Caribbean continent suffer from this situation. During these months of pandemic unprecedented efforts have been made so as not to back down in our educational efforts, especially popular education.
- It is not time to decline in this task but to go even deeper in our commitment.

The proposal of Pope Francis is in perfect harmony with the Universal Apostolic Preferences that he himself gave to the Society of Jesus:

- It is a proposal rooted in the experience of God, which calls and allows us to show the way to Him, through discernment present in all our ministries, especially in the accompaniment of the Exercises Spirituels of Saint Ignatius.
- It invites us to get closer –become neighbors- to the discarded, excluded or marginalized to fight with them for the transformation of the economic, social and politic structures that cause and sustain injustice.
- It involves our ability to accompany young people, opening our hearts to listening and helping to promote that future full of hope.
- Including the commitment to care for the Common Home that needs to be rebuilt from the foundations of relationships of humans with the environment.

Pope Francis' invitation is addressed to all humanity, to all nations, peoples and cultures. Goes beyond borders of the Church to address all human beings and invite them to constitute that "global educational village" capable of offering children, girls and young people the opportunities for an integral and qualified education as a condition for moving forward for a better future.

Therefore, it is not an invitation to the "educational sector" of the Company of Jesus but **to the entire apostolic body** to join in this initiative together with the whole Church.

- Invitation to become part of the "global educational village" capable to offer the conditions for the integral maturation of the new generations
- and make them an integral part of the construction of the fraternal world to which we are invited as a step toward the reconciliation of all things in Christ.

I support, therefore, all the efforts we can make to follow this demanding invitation of the Pope to Francis to be brave, with the *parrhesia* of the gospel, and assume citizen responsibility for fight for the conditions to offer integral and qualified education for the new generations.

- Conditions that, when they exist, are today at risk.
- Conditions that do not depend only on the nations' government, but rely on a co-responsible citizenship that demands, supports and makes them possible.

The gesture that you are doing today, Major Superiors of Latin America and the Caribe, by signing this agreement to accept the Pope's invitation, becomes an inspiration for the entire body of the Society of Jesus under his apostolic and personal care.

(*) Words of Fr. General, Arturo Sosa, to the Major Superiors of the Society of Jesus in Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered at the 40th General Assembly, on 11/05/20.