

New Humanity NGO statement to the UNESCO General Conference **13 November 2023**

(delivered by Catalina Hinojosa Lopez)

Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, we are commemorating the International Year of "Dialogue as a Guarantee for Peace," as endorsed by the UN General Assembly. However, despite the combined efforts worldwide, violence, polarization, and hatred persist. There is therefore an urgent need to mobilize all forces to ensure that dialogue, reconciliation, and healing remain the preferred path to repel violence at all levels.

Our NGO, New Humanity, is dedicated to promoting human fraternity, which serves as the cornerstone of dialogue, peace, justice, and solidarity. We strive to cultivate deep intergenerational, interreligious, and intercultural relationships rooted in mutual trust, respect, and support that enable us to transcend hatred, and discrimination.

At UNESCO, we are collaborating with fellow NGOs representing various religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, with whom we have experienced that practicing dialogue, strengthen our fraternal bonds.

This group of NGOs calls upon you, members of the General Conference, to restore the full place of interreligious dialogue in the C5, which is essential for building more inclusive and peaceful societies.

We firmly believe that the Golden Rule, a principle present in all religions, can be taught in all educational institutions to promote the respect of every human being: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." In our network of schools, represented by our NGO, we have witnessed that teaching the Golden Rule encourages and adds regular reflection of the practices experienced by children. This method, which we refer to as the "Citizenship and Fraternity Dice," has proven its worth.

As young members of New Humanity NGO, we have formed an active network in over 40 countries. We aspire to create a world that is less divided, more attentive to the needs of the vulnerable, more respectful of the diversity of peoples and nature. Peace can prevail when we acknowledge that our diversity is an asset rather than a barrier.

Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* sustains "The true worth of the different countries of our world is measured by their ability to think not simply as a country but also as part of the larger human family, especially in times of crisis". Thank you so much!