

FRATERNITY FOR KNOWLEDGE AND COOPERATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Christians and Muslims, in the East and in the West,

We have read the Declaration on Fraternity presented on 4 February in Abu Dhabi by Pope Francis and Shaykh Ahmad al-Tayyeb with spiritual benefit and great interest.

We thank the Grand Imam of al-Azhar and the spiritual authority of the Catholic Church for this noble initiative and for representing an important model of concrete and respectful fraternity together.

In recent years, we have faced and reacted to numerous episodes of violent manipulation and abuse of religion as an instrument of hatred and power and not the path to justice, love and knowledge. We wish not only to adhere to the call of the Abu Dhabi Declaration but also to promote a comment and coordinate international exchange and collaboration between Christians and Muslims.

We are glad to present you our comment that intends to honour and renew the intellectual heritage of Christian and Muslim spiritual masters as enlightened interpreters of faith in One God, and as generous custodians, educators and servants of the Common Good. The recognition of the sacred, spiritual and symbolic nature of the deep-rooted doctrines and their respective ritual adorations deserves to be seen as a universal value that has characterised the life, history and culture of peoples without ostentation, apologetic artifices or formalisms.

The focus will be on thematic, regional training courses for mutual knowledge, linking the understanding of religious sources with the development of contemporary social contexts.

Our work will involve various prestigious Islamic and Christian international institutions.

To facilitate further coordination, we are pleased to launch a communication platform in which projects, researches, and experiences between Christians and Muslims can be shared implementing the common spirit established by the Abu Dhabi Declaration, namely an emphasis on fraternity and a culture of dialogue.

Peace, Salam.