



**International Young Catholic Students
IYCS International Secretariat**

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Monday 9th October 2017 - 9:30 – 1:00pm – Amman, Jordan

IYCS International Colloquium on **Integral Ecology and Peace Building**

Concept Note

support system. Consequences of this alteration are visible in the heightened suffering among the poor and vulnerable; declining water supply, conflict; increases in the scale and frequency of natural disasters; lack of climate adaptation and suitable infrastructures; competition for resources coming from rapidly diminishing ecosystems that result in confrontations and conflicts, which in turn directly threaten peaceful co-existence.

We see a peaceful co-existence and an integral Human Development that is currently being affected also by **Education that lacks quality and inclusion**. Several changes have occurred in our world which affect humanity in diverse ways, some of these include the effects of technological innovations on employment, social exclusion, an inequitable distribution and consumption of resources, social breakdown, increased violence and a rise in new forms of social aggression, and the loss of cultural and common identities. These are signs that the economic growth of the past two centuries has not always led to an integral development and an improvement in the quality of life. Some of these signs are also symptomatic of the **silent rupture of social integration and cohesion**.



As young people, **we often feel helpless** as we are faced by global facts and figures that are disempowering. The History department of the Ohio State University in its report on humanitarian crisis stated that:

“Environmental degradation and competition over shrinking resources have played, and continue to play, a critical role in communal conflicts in the Sahelian countries”¹.

The balance of our global ecosystem is being gradually disturbed and we are feeling the impacts. The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. It is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. Thus, to effectively combat this dangerous trend of global warming or the human causes of it, **there is an urgent need to echo the call for conversion in humanity’s attitude and lifestyle**, especially in terms of production and consumption.

¹ The World worse humanitarian Crisis; a publication of Ohio State University, History Department publication on the Currents Events in Historical Perspective



Peace is critical for the wellbeing of all humanity, even though some human actions may seem contradictory to this notion. However, we **need to explore all viable measures to tackle violence and promote peace in all areas of life** (social, cultural, political, religious, economic, ecological, etc).

We will suffer more if we continue to respond passively to global trends and blame it on past or current generations, especially their leadership. Understanding that we are part of the solution, and to move beyond the passivity that has too often proved to be an obstacle to many in their engagement in more proactive and positive development, we have decided to take action; action that raises awareness, in order to protect creation and build sustainable peace in schools and in the society, Action that comes from an advocacy effort for the swift and transparent implementation of policies by governments and other decision makers to fight climate change through the implementation of the right policies. **Action that comes from engaging ourselves**, in our different realities for the development of educational systems to provide holistic quality education for all. Action that comes from being examples and guiding lights in the effective transformation of conflicts and achieve peace in all its forms.

Given the complexity of the various issues, we know that the solution will not emerge from one individual approach or effort. That is why we, as young students, filled with the burning desire of building a better world for ourselves and the generations to come, wish to harness our energy and our potential to achieve this dream of sustainability, peace and respect **by calling for this dialogue between relevant actors.**



The Colloquium

The objective of this Colloquium titled “**Protecting our Common Home; Students building Peaceful Tomorrow Today**” is to empower students and provide them with platforms to act, in order to protect Creation, advocate for holistic quality education and promote sustainable peace in their own communities but also in the larger international reality. It is also intended to promote and consolidate the culture of encounter, respect, and mutual acceptance.

Methodology:

- Two panel discussions, each followed by an audience participation through comments, questions and answer session.
- A thematic small group interactive session followed by group report in plenary room
- A conclusion session that draws on the entire inputs sessions and highlights **the call to Action**

Suggested Topics for the Panel session

- ✓ **Panel 1:** Interfaith and intercultural Dialogue, building a safe & peaceful world together

Sub topics

- *The **role of education** in building a peaceful and sustainably developed society*
- *Cultural diversity and the **power of youth** in building sustainable peace*
- *Dealing with a **challenge of multiculturalism** and its impact on young people*

- ✓ **Panel 2:** Integral ecology; the role of religion

Sub Topics

- ***Integral ecology** and its implications for the economic, social and ecological structures and networks of today*
- *How can a **religious perspective on ecology** actively contribute?*
- *Examining Integral Ecology in the light of **different religious view** and scriptures.*
- *Why should other religions and Christian confessions **care about integral ecology?***

Profile of Panellists

We plan to draw on a wide variety of experiences from diverse background; therefore, the panellist will be made up of;

- University professor(s)
- Religious leaders (at least 2 different religion)
- Student(s)
- Civil Societies/Non-government Organization(s)
- Government/intergovernmental agency(s)

Possible Partner

American University, Amman Jordan
Holy See Permanent Mission to UNESCO
Global Catholic Climate Movement (GCCM)