



CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES OF THE WORLD

PREAMBLE

We promoters of the United States of the World, decidedly committed in a constructive dialogue, are confident that we can

- save humanity from the scourges of wars by ensuring peaceful coexistence among peoples and using diplomacy and institutional mechanisms to resolve violent conflicts;
- protect the fundamental rights of the human person by promoting their recognition in the laws of States and Regional and International Organisations;
- help countries and economies to support a genuine ecological conversion with the aim of achieving sustainable development on a local and global scale;
- encourage legislation that can contribute to decarbonisation by the middle of the 21st century;
- support the digital transition while respecting the different local and continental identities;
- counter the authoritarian realities with its consequence of abusing human rights by promoting judicial independence and overcoming all forms of discrimination;
- ensure a better governance of migration flows in the various countries of the world;
- promote a governance of globalisation that eliminates the gaps between the world's poor and rich countries, distributing wealth and opportunities equitably;
- support urgent actions to save Creation and overcome inequalities through the 'Earth and Peace' programme.

We, promoters of the United States of the World, determined to converge our efforts to help achieve these goals, approved this "Constitution of the United States of the World", which has its origins in the work shared and begun in 1987 by Gustavo Rol (1) and developed so far by the "Fondazione Laboratorio Mediterraneo" chaired by Michele Capasso (2).

This "Constitution" concerns fundamental rights and duties to save the Earth and ensure Peace and is based on the encyclicals "Laudato si" and "Fratelli tutti" with the primary aim of combining Peace with Sustainability.

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

ARTICLE 1

The United States of the World represents all the Peoples of the Earth.

Its members are the International Bodies, States, Institutions, Municipalities, Territorial Communities, Universities, Academies, Cultural and Scientific Institutes, Associations, Voluntary Organisations, Cultural and Social Foundations, Trade Unions, Businesses, and in general all the subjects and representative bodies of Civil Society present in the various countries of the World.

ARTICLE 2

The participatory model of the United States of the World is complementary to that of other international bodies - first and foremost the United Nations - and is based on a broad shared participation around inalienable principles and values to safeguard the Earth and ensure Peace.

The equal presence not only of States, but of all other subjects representing the Peoples of the World, constitutes the richness and uniqueness of the United States of the World.

ARTICLE 3

The United States of the World recognises and contributes to promote the communities and local autonomies, first of all the Cities and small local communities, which constitute the essential core of the States, being the vital places of self-development of the needs of the inhabitants.

To this end, it is necessary for States to adapt their legislation to the increasingly pressing demand for local autonomy and self-government.

ARTICLE 4

The United States of the World works to affirm shared sentiments of respect, brotherhood and belonging to humanity with a view to ask the individual States to guarantee the custody and protection of the Earth as an absolute priority.

ARTICLE 5

The United States of the World contributes to promote international law that recognises the inviolability of the human person and his or her freedom and repudiates all forms of violence and physical and

psychological torture. It is the duty of the United States of the World to protect full freedom of movement and expression, with appropriate legislation that is able to guarantee the peaceful relationship between peoples and the participation of inhabitants in the formation of wealth, the protection of the environment and plural development: religious, cultural, social.

ARTICLE 6

The inhabitants of the United States of the World have equal social dignity and are equal before the laws of individual countries, without distinction of sex, origin, language, religion, political opinion, economic and social conditions.

It is the duty of the most active States to indicate how to remove economic and social obstacles which, by limiting freedom and equality, prevent the full development of the individual, families and other social groups, as well as the effective participation of all inhabitants in the political, economic and social organisation of individual countries and in world governance.

ARTICLE 7

The United States of the World contributes to ensure that justice will protect, through formal and substantive processes of legality, the fundamental rights of the person: life, dignity, democracy, equality, liberty, security, freedom of thought and opinion, health, civil and social rights.

ARTICLE 8

The United States of the World contributes to protect linguistic and cultural minorities and strives to ensure that states, local institutions and international bodies adopt specific rules to promote and safeguard them.

ARTICLE 9

The United States of the World contributes to promote independence between States and all religious denominations, which shall be free before the laws of individual countries and have the full right to organise themselves according to their own statutes, provided that they do not fall into conflict with the protection of human rights as provided for by international bodies and the legal systems of their respective countries.

Religious diversity is a resource for the affirmation of shared values and dialogue between religions is fundamental for the coexistence of peoples and cultures.

ARTICLE 10

The United States of the World helps protect children of all ages in all its dimensions, promoting access to healthy food, education, play and safety, and promotes education to Peace values, to non-discrimination and environmental protection.

ARTICLE 11

The United States of the World supports gender equality, which is essential for Peace and the development of humanity, by combating all forms of violence and discrimination that prevent the effective participation of women in cultural, political, economic, social and institutional life.

ARTICLE 12

The United States of the World strives to ensure that young people are custodians of memory and producers of the future in order to face the new social, technological and environmental challenges.

ARTICLE 13

The United States of the World contributes to protect the elderly, whose experience is an example for the young, guaranteeing them equal dignity in society and protecting their right to receive a dignified and decent retirement and adequate care.

ARTICLE 14

The United States of the World promotes access to culture and scientific and technological research and the egalitarian development of digitalisation.

ARTICLE 15

The United States of the World pursue Peace and work concretely for its protection, with the participation of all the inhabitants of the Earth: on the basis of the principle of fraternity and under the aegis of international bodies, it shall contribute to promote the diplomatic regulation of conflicts between States and different cultural, ethnic, political and religious realities.

ARTICLE 16

The United States of the World calls upon States to ensure the application of the "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" and what is proposed by the "Declaration of the Duties of Man" concerning habitats and lifestyles in respect of diversity.

ARTICLE 17

The United States of the World considers migrants, refugees, the persecuted and victims of terrorism, mafias, trafficking and violence as a resource and shall ask individual states to welcome them with fraternity, supporting their integration in accordance with the laws of the host countries.

ARTICLE 18

The United States of the World contributes to promote mutual respect and the sharing of different identities, cultures and civilisations - considering democracy, equality and the protection of human rights as fundamental pillars for civil coexistence and relations between States - and shall work for the global promotion of different cultures, without which every civilisation is impoverished and extinct as the cultures of the peoples of the world hold common roots in the memory of humanity.

ARTICLE 19

The United States of the World promotes the various forms of art and artistic creativity - which with their languages constitute a true antidote to the homologation fuelled by a globalisation devoid of governance and ethics of responsibility - and fosters the protection, restoration and safekeeping of inherited artistic, archaeological, cultural and monumental heritage in order to pass it on to future generations.

ARTICLE 20

The United States of the World advocates ecological conversion as a compulsory solution to save the Earth by opposing reversible or non-durable transformations.

ARTICLE 21

The United States of the World supports the programme "Civilising the Urban", which aims to spread quality in urban living environments to support spirituality, harmony, sociality, well-being and ecological conversion.

ARTICLE 22

The flag of the United States of the World, adopted in 1997 by the Civil Forum of Naples, consists of three vertical bands of two different shades of green - the central one of lighter green on which the "Totem for Peace" and the inscription SUM in black stands out in the centre and on either side two planispheres.

ARTICLE 23

The "Anthem of the United States of the World" is the musical piece specially composed by Maestro Marco Betta, adopted in 1997 by the Naples Civil Forum.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES

ARTICLE 24

The United States of the World recognises and guarantees the inviolable rights of man, both as an individual and in the social formations where he carries out his personality, while requiring the fulfilment of the inalienable duties of political, ecological, economic and social solidarity. This Constitution provides fundamental rights and duties for the safeguard of humanity, the promotion of social equality and the fight against gender, generational, territorial injustice and access to knowledge and technological innovations.

ARTICLE 25

The right to the satisfaction of both basic needs, for a dignified and fair condition of life, as well as affective and relational needs, is recognised, together with equal access to resources to combat poverty.

ARTICLE 26

Effective access to common goods such as food, water, natural resources, health, social and civil rights is promoted. The United States of the World works to ensure that people use them responsibly, so as not to overwhelm other human beings and the environment, for the benefit of future generations. Common goods are an essential element of sustainable development because they are indispensable for the socio-economic development and survival of all humanity.

ARTICLE 27

Physical, mental and social well-being shall be protected. The right to health is a primary good regardless of age, gender and socio-economic status.

ARTICLE 28

The right of every individual to pursue his or her own lifestyle is promoted, taking into account the collective need to reduce consumption and abolish waste. In this sense, each community will support research, encourage groupings, make use of technological innovations and prevent them from degenerating into dispersion and impoverishment of social contacts.

ARTICLE 29

The "heritage of humanity" - consisting of natural resources, landscapes and transformations that the succession of civilisations has produced in the past and will produce in the future - is protected. It affirms continuity, but at the same time is rich in discontinuity: hence the duty - individual and collective - to evaluate every action of transformation or construction of the habitat in its consequences on the "environment", "landscapes" and "cultural stratifications".

Every action - whatever its scale or dimension, whether it concerns collective or individual actions - is always a fragment of a larger whole. In this sense, it is a duty and a priority to assess its role in the cultural, economic, social and of other contexts.

Every transformation must limit the consumption of agricultural areas and the impact on soil permeability, aiming at water recovery, the capture of natural energies, the recycling of materials and waste, and the reduction of energy needs and harmful emissions.

The social purpose of physical transformations of the territory must be expressed by avoiding obstacles to connectivity between the parts. Physical obstacles that can consolidate psychological and cultural barriers between individuals and between different communities must also be avoided.

ARTICLE 30

It is a primary duty to support solidarity between individuals and between communities in appropriate ways in and between the different regions of the world. The "Universal Declaration of Human Rights" established that "all human beings must act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood". Every individual has the duty to participate in the government of his/her country either directly or through freely chosen representatives; in taking part in the cultural life of the community, in enjoying the arts and in

sharing in scientific progress and its benefits he has duties towards the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible".

ARTICLE 31

It is necessary to protect time as a resource to be used in the most conscientious manner and whose wastage must be reduced: every transformation, aimed at improving the human condition and affecting behaviour, must be well planned, carefully designed, rapidly implemented.

ARTICLE 32

Every community and every individual must support both cultural diversity and collective intelligence processes. In this sense, the objectives of social life and conviviality must be respected solidarity, fostering communication, access to knowledge, cultural and social coexistence, equality, integration and the resulting solidarity and participation in public decision-making at all scales of human settlement.

ARTICLE 33

It is incumbent on the governing bodies of each community to encourage reflection on the processes of physical transformation of territories, making their principles clear and their individual implementation swift through social pacts or shared rules, aimed at collective well-being and the dissemination of environmental quality, harmony and beauty.

ARTICLE 34

It is necessary to protect the different identities that characterise the various regions of the world securing at all levels the living together that entail different visions and ambitions for the future: the defence of identities is within the rights of every individual and generates conflicts that every community has a duty to settle through dynamic and peaceful forms of coexistence.

ARTICLE 35

It is an ethical duty to defend every living being because it is the "heritage of humanity". By their very nature, the transformations of living environments are stratified, participating in an irreversible process that is now also significant in geological terms: another change in the composition of sediments after the one marking the transition from the Pleistocene to the Holocene when, over 10,000 years ago, the

end of the great glaciation changed vegetation and soil composition. It is essential to be aware of this as these duties of individuals affect the responsibilities of those who plan physical transformations and those who govern the territory, outlining the future and articulating the rules within which to act. In this sense, the participation of inhabitants by sharing substantial choices is essential. This is also why every community has a duty to disseminate knowledge and train in knowledge, just as every individual has a duty to multiply his/her knowledge and enhance his/her ability to understand. These are preconditions for the dissemination of an ecological conscience; of ethical, eco-sustainable, fair-trade lifestyles; of economic models in which profits, respect for the environment and care for the social coexist.

ARTICLE 36

It is the duty of all States to take appropriate measures to combat child malnutrition, particularly in rural areas, by providing adequate and nutritious food and ensuring that women receive adequate nutrition during pregnancy and the lactation period. States shall also ensure that all segments of society, particularly parents and children, are well informed, have access to nutrition education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge about infant nutrition and the benefits of breastfeeding.

ARTICLE 37

It is the right of farmers and others working in rural areas to determine their own food and agricultural systems, this being recognised by many states and regions as a right to food sovereignty. This includes the right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agricultural policies and the right to healthy and adequate food produced through ecologically safe and sustainable methods that respect their cultures.

States shall formulate, in collaboration with farmers and other rural people, public policies at the local, national and international levels to protect and advance the right to access to adequate food, food security, food sovereignty and equitable food systems that promote and protect the rights of all people in the United States of the World.

ARTICLE 38

Access to education - schools, universities and research centres - shall be fostered, guaranteeing the effective right to education of those most economically and socially disadvantaged by substantially implementing "Education for Sustainability" as a tool for the protection of biodiversity.

ARTICLE 39

It is necessary to ask States and international sports bodies to facilitate full access to all sports for the able-bodied and differently-abled, banning the use of doping substances, combating racial and gender discrimination, and removing all forms of commercial exploitation, especially to the detriment of children, young people.

ARTICLE 40

It is a primary duty to promote freedom of association, the right to strike, the participation of workers in the life of enterprises, the exercise of political activity, engagement in social and voluntary associations and participation with their respective representations in the local governance of individual states and international bodies, removing any restrictions that limit or compromise the exercise of these rights.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS

ARTICLE 41

The United States of the World strives to guarantee the rights and duties of working people - by removing all forms of slavery and deprivation of human rights and fundamental freedoms - to protect fair remuneration, the right to rest and participation in trade unions, in the exercise of business activity, in forms of property ownership and economic and social cooperation. Every inhabitant has the duty to perform, according to his/her ability and choice, an activity or a function that contributes to the material, social and spiritual progress of the various societies.

ARTICLE 42

The United States of the World favours the exercise of entrepreneurial freedom in the various forms in which it is expressed and regulated, creativity, research and technological innovation, the activity of training and the promotion of work, provided that it respects the dignity of the inhabitants and the social and environmental aims that must also be nurtured by the profits of the enterprise.

ARTICLE 43

The United States of the World contributes to promote financial and commercial transactions that do not involve any forms of speculation on human beings, animals and the environment, nor violations of the lives of peoples and states, that are carried out in a transparent and traceable manner and subject to taxation in the countries where they produce income and profits. It contributes to promote actions against any form of criminal, mafia and terrorist money laundering shall also be promoted.

ARTICLE 44

The United States of the World aims to counter the social, economic and collusive activities organised by mafias by prosecuting crimes of association and the economic and financial accumulation of wealth, and allocating seized and confiscated assets to social and productive purposes. They repudiate all forms of terrorism in the exercise of social and political commitment and relations between social organisations and states.

FINAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 45

The text of the Constitution is the result of 35 years of shared work.

Heads of State and Government, representatives of religions, ministers and government delegates, regional presidents, governors, mayors, chancellors and presidents of universities, representatives of international institutions, Nobel Prize winners, men and women of culture and science, representatives of civil society, the business world trade unions together with representatives of the most diverse forms of consociation have contributed over the last three decades to the drafting of the 'Constitution of the United States of the World' with the aim of drawing up a sharable document based on the rights and duties of the inhabitants and the ethical and political responsibilities of the rulers.

The Constitution is transmitted to the Countries and Organisations adhering to the United States of the World and to all other institutional and civil society actors through a dissemination action by any means, so that everyone can become aware of it and share it.

The Constitution, bearing the seal of the Notary Public and countersigned by the Secretary General, is included in the official collection of the "Acts of the United States of the World".

NOTES

(1)

Gustavo Rol, an enlightened spirit, had the initial intuition of the "United States of the World" in 1987, pointing out the need to arrive at a "Constitution" that contemplates the rights and duties of the earth's inhabitants.

The following is an excerpt from Gustavo Rol's speech on Italian television with his Appeal to the youth of the world on 11 January 1987):

"... Dear young people, the United States of the World is the anchor of salvation for a coexistence that will allow man to be sustained in his rights, duties and aspirations: no longer armies armed with missiles, but armies of technicians equipped with research instruments.

In a world of states among themselves, it becomes natural to share the goods and resources that nature offers abundantly. There will be no more talk of first, second and third worlds, no more monetary difficulties, unemployment, misery... but work for all..."

(2)

Michele Capasso took up Gustavo Rol's intuition in 1990 and transformed it into a political-institutional project, involving with tenacity, obstinacy and dedication more than 180 countries and about 16,000 organisms and institutions of Civil Society: first at the head of the Fondazione Mediterraneo and later as Secretary-General of the United States of the World.

Through a long and patient commitment that lasted 35 years, the present "Constitution of the United States of the World" was approved, as hoped for from the outset and as witnessed by numerous official speeches: as an example, here is an excerpt from the one made by Michele Capasso at the European Parliament on 15 December 1996:

"... The time is more than ripe to give life to a constituent path of the "United States of Europe", a laboratory for the broader project of the "United States of the World". We are facing epochal challenges, which the current structures of the European Union and the United Nations are unable to tackle because they lack the involvement of Civil Society and those values and decision-making capacity capable of offering the new generations the ideal space to change step in the way of thinking and organising society, its relationship with production and the environment. Only by implementing the 'United States of the World' - by adopting a 'Constitution' that is simple but clear in its principles, rights, duties, and economic and social relations - will it be possible to face the challenges that humanity will have to overcome in order to inhabit the Earth in a peaceful and positive manner in the use of its resources, in the management of conflicts, and in the valorisation of diversity: these are the challenges that will have to transform the "United States of the World" from a dream into a necessity to face enemies that we ourselves are producing: wars, pandemics, social injustice, climate change, destruction of creation, annihilation of ethics and fundamental values..."