



International Catholic Centre of Cooperation with UNESCO

International Forum of ICCat UNESCO

"Metamorphosis of the world, How far can Mankind go to change human beings? What compass for education?"

Our era is undergoing extremely rapid scientific, technological and societal evolution, which is blurring the projections that 21st century man is trying to make about his future.

Today, there is nothing original about the effervescence caused by research and discoveries. Since time immemorial, those who, in their choices, combine Prudence, Wisdom and Knowledge, those who advance ever faster, ever further, and those who favor the Audacity that Knowledge gives, without always ethically measuring the consequences for humanity, positive or negative, in the medium or long term, have been cooperating.

On the other hand, what is striking today is the awareness that man may, or may not, be conscious of the possible threat to his own human nature through radical innovations. In the Western World, the legislative, regulatory and normative inflation linked to these evolutions, as well as the tendency to respond to individualistic desires to the detriment of the common good, are also facts to be taken into consideration in such a context.

"What is Man? What makes him an infinitely precious singular being? These are not subsidiary questions, but fundamental questions in the context of the radicality of the observed mutation: Man (body, mind, soul), the only creature capable of consciousness and intentionality, in front of the risk of dehumanization, needs to set limits while at the same time protecting and making his environment bear fruit; this is his responsibility, this is his dignity.

What seems both urgent and exciting is to remain lucid and vigilant, to learn to discern and make ethical choices while constantly increasing our knowledge. It is not a question of putting Science as such on trial, but of questioning the goals and impacts of discoveries that are always provisional, resulting in the biologization and technologization of Man, in a context of exacerbated financialization, with the probable risk of impoverishing, or at worst, of making the human essence disappear in its richness and vulnerability.

"What are the chances and risks for mankind in front of galloping technological and scientific upheavals in increasingly formatted societies? What compass to guide our choices in a responsible manner? What compass to guide education? »

There is an urgent need to consider the major role of an education that enlightens and allows each person to build himself or herself with dignity throughout life, to engage in his or her relationship with the world and to determine his or her own position in the context of the power of algorithms.

"Will man be able to resist the seduction of being all powerful? »

"What routes should we follow? Who are the actors involved? What proposals should be developed? »

Aware of the complexity of the possibles and the persistence of the unpredictable, in continuity with its reflections on the place of the "Human at the heart of the world", the CCIC as a Catholic-inspired association has a duty to deepen these essential questions and would like to be a bearer of words of hope. This is why the NGOs of the CCIC platform have been invited to participate in the preparation of this forum by holding regular working groups, and by distributing in three languages a consultation on all of these questions.

Chosen for their convictions and their implications in the elaboration of the construction of a world responsible for the future of Mankind and the planet, the guests will intervene in an interactive mode with the participants, all generations combined.

The resolutions that will emerge from this meeting will respond to the call of Pope Francis to participate in a new "Global Pact on Education" in the direct line of Laudato si.

The CCIC, confirming its constant desire for cooperation, wishes through the work of this international forum to be associated with UNESCO in the global framework of the realization of the ODD 2030, especially ODD 4 and its flagship project: "the future of education, learning to become".