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UNIVERSITY COOPERATION AND PROCESSES OF PEACE: NEW FOREIGN POLICY STRATEGIES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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With the contribution of



Delegation in Italy

PREFACE



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The collaboration between the Embassy of Italy to the Holy See and the European Association of International Studies (AESI) is very strong based on the recognition of the remarkable and longstanding AESI vocation to promote, through courses, seminars and conferences, the cultural education of young people on topics such as the future of multilateralism, the problem of

underdevelopment, the development of international law and the progress of the European integration process.

I am therefore honored to contribute with a short preface to this interesting.

Addressing the issue of university cooperation - therefore the involvement, training and future responsibility of our young generation of future leaders - in relation to the peace processes and foreign policy strategies of the European Union, requires a brief introduction to the evolution of model developed by the international community to prevent and resolve crisis situations.

In the history of humanity, diplomacy has constantly represented the instrument by which social organizations have regulated relations with neighbors, defended their interests, guaranteed security, sometime even increased their power Nevertheless, in the same history of humanity, the use of force to regulate international relations has always been an option, perhaps not always desirable, but ultimately quite frequent and considered "normal".

It was only in the last century that has developed a model to resolve and prevent international crisis, a model that substantially exclude military intervention as an option.

It is quite significant that Pope Francis decided to recall in His latest speech to the Diplomatic Corp on 7th January 2019 the hundredth anniversary of the League of Nations, an organization that "represents the beginning of modern multilateral diplomacy, whereby states attempt to distance their reciprocal relations from the mentality of domination that leads to war". The experiment met with difficulties that led to a new and more devastating conflict. Nevertheless, it paved the way for the establishment of the United Nations Organization, which, despite difficulties and obstacles still provides an indispensable framework for nations to meet and seek common solutions to common challenges. So, during the second half of the last century, a new era for conflict resolution has been consolidated whereby the military assists civil society and diplomats in providing instruments for peaceful transitions.

It is important to continue to consider multilateralism as the essential framework in which to place political strategies that aim to preserve peace and promote economic and social development.

Today, in considering the role of young Italians and Europeans in the currently changing international environment it is important to avoid falling into simplifications. And that is to consider young people as a generation that, being grown in a peaceful European continent, is not able to fully appreciate the good of peace and the value of democracy, taking both as a "normal" condition; a generation concentrated / distracted in the superficiality of human relationships defined and shaped by social media and devoted to an individualistic and irresponsible consumerism.

On the other hand, the idea of considering young people, grown and educated to horizons certainly larger than those of previous generations, automatically educated to values as solidarity among cultures, peaceful confrontation and open mind attitude.

University has the task of educating young people to reflect about peace, democracy, respect for human rights as principles to defend, where acquired, as goals to be achieved, where not recognized or trampled.

In this view, young people represent an opportunity, as unique contributors and likely leaders of successful peacebuilding efforts. The United Nations Security Council recognized the importance of youth active participation in peacebuilding for the first time with a specific Resolution in 2015 on Youth, Peace and Security. The document encourages governments, international organizations, and the civil society to actively engage younger members of the population as partners in shaping peace and security processes.

It is also important to reinforce the concept that in a global world, humanitarian crisis and conflicts require comprehensive response and multidisciplinary approach. Universities can play a central role. In that effort, cooperation between universities, as transnational actors, is a fundamental

factor in providing culturally evolved and, at the same time, sustainable educational models in the various real contexts, which include the capability to fully understand the historical, cultural and social context.

AESI, through its innumerable activities, aims to develop a true culture of cooperation between peoples and nations, respecting the dignity and identity of the human being, especially among those young people who are preparing to undertake international careers. To do this, it also promotes participation in international cooperation and humanitarian aid programs with meetings involving university students of different nationalities.

The Welsh philosopher Bertrand Russell argued that "it is because modern education is so uninspired by a great hope that it rarely achieves great results. The desire to preserve the past rather than the hope of creating the future dominates the minds of those who control the teaching of young people "and "education has two purposes, on the one hand it forms the spirit, on the other it prepares the citizen. The Athenians fixed themselves on the first, the Spartans on the other. The Spartans won, but the Athenians were remembered ".

Personally I believe that the two educational models to which Russell referred to, are not self-excluding but that it is possible to aim for a higher synthesis which, by cultivating the spirit, creates the basis for having good citizens, I conclude by renewing my personal appreciation for the AESI Cultural Association in training many young people for a true culture of cooperation between peoples and nations, respecting the dignity and identity of the human person.