

### ROUND TABLE SESSION 3 – ABSTRACT OF H.E. BIHOP PAUL TIGHE

Among the lessons of the pandemic has been that regarding the difficulty of finding solutions to a truly global problem in the absence of co-operation and solidarity between and within nations. At the international level, we are learning that no nation will find a sustainable solution without being attentive to the plight of other nations. At the national level, we are seeing how polarization and the breakdown of trust can undermine the efficacy of even the best domestic policies.

The difficulties are no less significant when it comes to tackling other global issues such as climate change, inequality and poverty, and the regulation of new technologies such as gene-editing and artificial intelligence which have the capacity to change the nature of what it is to be human. The solutions to these issues, moreover, must be found in a world that is marked by an extraordinary plurality of political systems, cultures, traditions, religious and philosophical beliefs, and approaches to questions of values and ethics.

In this context the appeal of Pope Francis proves more urgent than ever: *I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet, we need a conversation which includes everyone, since the challenge we are undergoing affects all of us.* (Laudato si', 14.)

In this intervention, I will seek to explore the meaning of dialogue and to highlight its centrality to the processes which are necessary if the endeavours of humans to articulate sustainable solutions to the aforementioned challenges by engaging the commitment, energies and gifts of all. The presentation will examine the nature of dialogue as an attitude and approach to diversity and inclusiveness, it will survey some philosophical presuppositions relating to truth and consensus and it will seek to offer some methodological insights as to how best to conduct effective dialogue.