

Buenos Aires, 5 October 2017

Prot. N. 16.149/17

Your Honor,

In reply to your request, I'm pleased to transmit the message of the Holy Father Pope Francis in reference to the upcoming World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 2017:

"Mr. Houlin Zhao Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Development Conference

HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE TO TAKE PLACE IN BUENOS AIRES FROM 9 TO 20 OCTOBER 2017, AND HE SENDS WARM GREETINGS TO YOU AND TO ALL THOSE GATHERED FOR THIS OCCASION. AS YOU REFLECT ON COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HIS HOLINESS ENCOURAGES YOU TO DEEPEN YOUR COMMITMENT TO "CONSTRUCTIVE FORMS OF COMMUNICATION THAT REJECT PREJUDICE TOWARDS OTHERS AND FOSTER A CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER, HELPING ALL OF US TO VIEW THE WORLD AROUND US WITH REALISM AND TRUST" (MESSAGE FOR THE 51<sup>ST</sup> WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY, 24 JANUARY 2017). It is his ardent hope that in your discussions you will explore ways in which access to telecommunication technology can help to promote the dignity of every person, especially in the poorest and the most marginalized sectors of society. Assuring you and all present of his spiritual closeness, Pope Francis prays that the Almighty May bless and guide your efforts.

CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN SECRETARY OF STATE"

I wish you in advance for the success of this conference, I remain

Sincerely yours.

Mr. Houlin Zhao Secretary General of the International Telecommunication Union