



SEZIONE
PER I RAPPORTI CON GLI STATI

N. 5935/09/RS

From the Vatican, October 31, 2009


Dear Mr Ketelers,

Two years have passed since the First Forum for Catholic-inspired NGOs held here in Rome with representatives of the Holy See and various NGOs working with intergovernmental International Organizations. Since then, the Working Group over which you preside has been busy developing a project for future cooperation between Catholic-inspired NGOs and the Holy See at the international level, proposing to share this project during the Second Forum to be held in Rome, 12-14 February 2010.

I would therefore like to express to you and to the members of the Working Group the sincere gratitude of the Secretariat of State's Section for the Relations with States for your work in these months. I am pleased to note that these efforts have borne fruit and I have no doubt that, given these solid foundations, this will continue. In this spirit, I would like to encourage Catholic NGOs to participate in the Second Forum and to seize this opportunity to unite their efforts and to develop new ways of cooperation. I am also happy to note that the Forum was conceived from the start as a place of dialogue and exchange among Catholic-inspired NGOs, and in mutual respect between them and the Holy See, in order to offer a Christian witness at the international level and to serve the common good in a spirit of communion and generosity. Be assured that the Section for Relations with States and the Permanent Representatives of the Holy See to the International Organizations are prepared to offer the Forum every opportune support.

With good wishes for the important task ahead, I am

Yours sincerely,


M^SGR. ETTORÉ BALESTRERO
*Undersecretary for the Holy See's
Relations with States*

Mr JOHAN KETELERS
Chairman of the Working Group
Forum for Catholic-inspired NGOs
GENEVA