

Press Release

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SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON FAITH AND SPORT THE VATICAN, October 5-7, 2016

With the blessings of His Holiness Pope Francis, the Vatican will be hosting ***Sport at the Service of Humanity***, the first global conference on faith and sport on October 5 to 7, 2016.

The goal of the conference is to create a place where thought leaders from different religious faiths, sports, business, academia and media can discuss how faith and sport can work together to better serve humanity.

Religious faith and sport are fundamental driving forces within global society. Both share a common purpose in the promotion of human values and both have vital roles to fulfill. The conference intends to look at how faith and sport can leverage their combined power and influence to promote positive values, inspire youth and make contributions for the betterment of humanity.

The United Nations and the International Olympic Committee have expressed their support for the conference. The opening ceremony, in the afternoon of Wednesday **October 5, 2016** at the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall, will be led by His Holiness Pope Francis, with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and IOC President Thomas Bach, who is currently bringing reforms to the Olympic Movement under Olympic Agenda 2020, invited as special guests.

The 3-day gathering shall continue in the Synod Hall, **6-7 October** and is due to be attended by invited guests, with plenary sessions and themed breakout sessions. A final declaration is being planned.

Arrangements for the 2016 Conference are in development under the direction of Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, President of the Pontifical Council for Culture, who successfully hosted key influencers from around the world in September 2015, to help shape the agenda for the upcoming 2016 Conference.

For more information, please contact Monsignor Melchor Sanchez de Toca Alameda, Undersecretary, Pontifical Council for Culture at sport@cultura.va