

strategies are the answer.³ This ignores, however, the fact that reducing the number of people born into poverty is in no way the same as reducing poverty itself.

Similarly, increasing life expectancy rates and the consequent growth in the proportion of older persons as part of the general population contribute to the perception that the elderly are a burden to society as they do not generate income but require assistance and support. This utilitarian view reduces the value of a person to what he or she produces, and is completely at odds with a more holistic of vision of the human person, especially as they age. Throughout all of life, the dignity of the person must remain at the heart of their integral development.

Mr. Chair,

The violation of the inherent and inalienable right of every person to life is never the answer to challenges arising from sustainable development, nor is it a means to achieve economic growth. Rather, respect for life from the moment of conception to natural death must always be at the core of all development policies. The real challenge before us is, therefore, not the world's growing and ageing population, but rather the unaddressed root causes of poverty. In this context, the Holy See stresses the importance of