Dialogue
An exchange between persons.

Diversity
The characteristic of being varied, even opposed or contradictory, yet non-conflictual.

Humanity
All those characteristics that together make up human nature. A human entity sometimes considered a collective being. An active feeling of understanding and benevolence towards all Men.

Metting
Finding oneself in the presence of others.

Definitions elaborated from several different dictionaries.
Between philosophy and politics, a hope for change

In 2002, during the Johannesburg Earth Summit, the philosopher Patrick Viveret and Gérard Collobert, Senator-Mayor of Lyon and President of the Greater Lyon Metropolitan Area, observed that no international event dealt with the «human question» in and of itself. This observation inspired them to create the Dialogues en Humanité, a forum on Man.

Why Lyon?

As the writer Marc Lambron explains in the preface to the book Lyon, l’humaniste («Lyon, the Humanist»), edited by Claude Royon of the association Economie et Humanisme and published in France by Autrement), there exists a tradition of humanism in Lyon. «The sandals of Saint Blandina, the treatises on tea by Jacob Spon, the smile of Guignol, the retorts of Claude Bernard, the voice of Pierre Sala, the domes of the Hôtel-Dieu, the antique collections of Pierre Sala, the domes of the Hôtel-Dieu, the dome of the Hôtel-Dieu, the dome of the Hôtel-Dieu,» the voice of Lucie Aubrac, and the beard of Abbé Pierre could all be considered «human question». The Dialogues en Humanité supported and «nuanced» this tradition of humanism in Lyon.

From one year to the next, an increasingly popular event

In the beginning, the Dialogues en Humanité were held every other year. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view. Over time, the Dialogues became a more «sensitive», human-based point of view.

Freedom of expression, showing kindness to others, equality of everyone before the «human question»

- such are the basic principles of the Dialogues en Humanité (Greater Lyon, France): a time for exchanges, allowing citizens – with their own history, knowledge and experiences, whatever makes them who they are – to freely mix and discuss. These witnesses of the modern age reflect upon the difficulties and hopes of today’s world. They compare their points of view. And during these open exchanges, as men and women from every continent who are free to express themselves, together they find reasons to act. They find the courage and room for manoeuvre which are lacking when one is all alone.

Because, for the first time in its history, humanity is in danger. By its excesses, its short-term projects and its arrogance, not only has humanity become its own worst enemy and victim (as illustrated by the terrible wars and genocides of the 20th century), it is also threatening the planet’s natural equilibrium like never before.

While the Dialogues en Humanité were born from this observation, they refuse to give in to fatalism. On the contrary, they are based on the idea that man can, if he so chooses, choose the best when faced with the worst. These dialogues want to provide reasons for hope: the participants not only denounce inequality, war and the suffering imposed by man on nature, his fellow man and himself, they also increase awareness, they search for a new way of living, and they encourage humanity to respect itself and hold itself in higher esteem.

So that thousands of dialogues spring up

The objective of the Dialogues en Humanité is to inspire other regions, other groups, while being nourished and inspired by other initiatives. In this manner, the dialogue beneath the cedar tree, transposed to other countries, gives birth to councils beneath the holly oak or the lemon tree.

The cedar at the Tête d’Or Park, the roots of speech

This magnificent tree is located in the heart of the Tête d’Or Park, created in the 19th century and emblematic of Lyon life. Families, athletes, children, animal lovers, and amateur botanists all meet there. The Dialogues are held beneath this cedar, in reference to the «council tree» and the African oral tradition.

Beyond dialogue

While the Dialogues en Humanité are, of course, a time for speaking and listening, they also represent a special opportunity for meeting and exchanging. Picnics, workshops for discovering the living world and others (including their differences), workshops for expression, as well as games, exhibitions, story telling, theatre, and more; alternating with the aporias and the «life stories».

From reflection to action

Imagine we were to create a «Ministry for the Human Question», whose goal would be to make Man the basis, the centre and the objective of all decisions? Utopian? The Dialogues en Humanité want to make this question a political issue; what means will humanity make use of to improve its condition, while at the same time respecting the entire living world and, more broadly speaking, the entire planet?

Seven challenges, seven questions

to build another world

SOLIDARITY
How to share the wealth and combat poverty?

PEACE
Faced with the logics of violence and war, how to build logics of peace?

A MEETING OF CULTURES
How to move from the logic of confrontation to the logic of knowledge and understanding?

ECOLOGY
Faced with the ecological challenge, how can we change the way we live?

THE LIFE-SCIENCES REVOLUTION
How to reconcile science, conscience and responsibility?

DEMOCRACY
Faced with the fact that evil and the authoritarian logics are becoming increasingly commonplace, how to construct healthy, «living» democracies?

HUMANIZING HUMANITY
How to accept our own inhumanity?
What are the reasons for hope?