

Participants in the international conference "Transition to a New Society"* 20-22 March 2014 at the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, adopted on the 21 March the following

DECLARATION

Today, more than ever before, the world is in a state of transformation. We are experiencing unprecedented population growth, rapid urbanization, and enormous growth in resource consumption. These trends are followed by remarkable changes in society, growing inequality, unemployment and awakening of protest movements. At the same time we experience massive damage to our ecosystem. Experts from a multitude of disciplines have reached the conclusion that continuing the current trends threatens the survival of human civilization on Earth. We believe that the transitions in the global society need urgent action and the development of timely and creative scientifically based policies to respond to crises in a responsible manner and in the public interest. Considering the trajectory of global transitions, the conference came to the following conclusions:

1. Alongside the enormous opportunities that come with scientific and technological developments, humanity faces major economic, social, and environmental challenges that threaten the continuation of human civilization. We urge that the state of global transformation requires dynamic political action, vigilance, and a commitment to swift action. In that sense a new society to come should preserve our humanness and protect mankind from technology, policies and government that could harm it.
2. In order to counteract these threats a paradigm shift in our underlying philosophy is urgently needed. Instead of striving merely for economic prosperity, humanity should focus on multiple objectives that also include social, environmental as well as humane and ethical values. This will lead to a fast transformation to a "new economy", which will affect the monetary system, employment and industrial policies, education, retirement and social security systems, accounting and reporting methods, etc. For that purpose traditional reporting and accounting standards as well as financial instruments should be replaced with broader tools that internalize social and well-being measures. In the effort to build an existence choice for a new society education and technological development can provide a horizon for hope, but democratic guidelines must be observed.
3. The current crisis with many unexpected developments requires wise and alert leadership that possesses the courage to articulate and warn of the harms that face humanity and initiate mature, strong policies to assure the improvement of the human prospect and human survival. We recognize that policy makers are often constrained by territorial considerations. This presents a challenge and a need for a type of policy making and innovation that is global in reach and effectiveness. We note that members of learned academies are unusually well positioned and willing to grapple with difficult problems that need resolution and can thus become an important source of information and advice for policy makers. We urge therefore that policy makers use the science academies and similar independent intellectual institutions as important global resources when it comes to meeting current challenges and planning an existence choice of the world of tomorrow.

The organizers of the Conference entrust their Presidents to transmit this declaration to political leaders in Europe and the world.

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