



PRESS RELEASE

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## **40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club of Rome Aurelio Peccei Centenary Conference**

### **The Club of Rome celebrates 40 years of commitment and action to improve the lives of present and future generations.**

Personalities from all over the world have gathered in Rome from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June to present their ideas on the critical global issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club of Rome and the Centenary of one of its two Founders, the Italian industrialist and humanist, Aurelio Peccei.

The Assembly of the Club convened in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June and initiated a new phase in its worldwide activities. 90 Members, Associate and Honorary Members, representatives from its 33 National Associations, experts from its think tank of young professionals, tt30, and distinguished guests joined in reviewing the global activities of the Club and establishing guidelines for the future. The participants identified the trends, the critical issues and the drivers of the profound and rapid changes which are redefining the global economy and the structure of international relations.

They agreed on a programme of research, global collaboration and partnerships with political decision makers, scientific community and the business sector in order to achieve a coherent understanding of the complex, interconnected and rapidly developing challenges which confront the world community. They also considered strategies and lines of action to stimulate the changes in values, thinking, behaviour and action which are urgently needed to reduce the growing threats to the future of humanity and to the life support systems of the planet.

In a series of meetings of its Executive Committee and Assembly and of its newly established International Advisory Council, the Club completed the renewal of its leadership, the streamlining of its organisation and the steps necessary to establish its legal Seat and international secretariat in Winterthur in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland.

The Club will focus its activities on such issues as: the ecosystems crisis and degradation of the environment, the urgent need to move towards a low carbon economy to avert runaway climate change, the challenges of globalisation and the vulnerability of the international economic and financial system, the explosive rise of prices of food and energy and the intensifying competition of a growing world population for land, water and other vital resources, rising inequality and polarisation in a world of intense poverty.

To improve understanding of these inter-related issues which will determine the future of humanity, the Club has launched an integrated programme of international research, consultation and outreach to world leaders and to the public which will identify the strategies and actions needed to achieve **“A New Path for World Development.”**

The members of the Club were encouraged by the growing recognition that the issues, scenarios and policy options which they presented in 1972 are even more real and urgent today. They will now intensify their activities and collaboration with experts and institutions across the world to prepare proposals for action to surmount the critical challenges of the 21st Century.

The Club of Rome is an independent, not-for-profit organization with an international membership. It draws on the insights and expertise of its members from all regions of the world, from different cultures and histories, from different fields of science and public policy and from academia, civil society and the corporate sector. In wide-ranging debates, the participants identified a number of key elements of the new approaches needed to master the new constellation of global challenges:

- It is increasingly clear that long-entrenched ideas are no longer adequate to manage the deep challenges and risks to the prospects of present and future generations.
- The values, concepts and thinking which drive the present patterns of economic growth will need to be adapted to meet the risks and challenges ahead.
- There is a need to act more effectively to correct the underlying causes of visible and current problems, such as the surge in the prices of oil and food throughout the world. To react successively to a series of urgent symptoms cannot achieve lasting solutions.
- It will be essential to take full account of the vital linkages between issues in an interdependent world. The increasingly complex systems of trends and relationships in every field from climate and environment to trade and finance cannot be managed through a series of individual and disconnected interventions.
- New multidisciplinary thinking, new integrated strategies and action and new partnerships and institutional architecture are needed at every level.

The participants agreed that humanity has never had greater capabilities to choose a decent future for all. New patterns of education, thoughtful leadership, creativity and innovation can overcome the challenges ahead – if there is the will to focus sustained attention and to devote the necessary resources to mobilise the enormous potentials of humanity in time.

On 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, a major public conference which celebrated the Centenary of Aurelio Peccei and the 40th Anniversary of the Club brought together several hundred participants in the Rome Auditorium to benefit from the insights and expertise of a number of eminent speakers on the topic: **“Strategies for a Sustainable Planet.”** Sponsored and convened by the Club of Rome in partnership with the Aurelio Peccei Foundation, the conference analysed critical world issues and explored their linkages and implications for the future, drawing on the contributions of eminent world figures from science, politics, academia, government, business and civil society.

*Please see the conference website [www.clubofrome.at/events/2008/Rome/index.html](http://www.clubofrome.at/events/2008/Rome/index.html), or contact the Club of Rome secretariat in ZuriCH: 41.44.258.8040 or by email: [clubofrome40@gmail.com](mailto:clubofrome40@gmail.com).*