The Conference on the topic “From Global Warning to Global Policy” was convened by the World Political Forum and the Club of Rome and chaired by President Mikhail Gorbachev in Turin on March 28-29 2008. It gathered representatives from parliaments and other political institutions, science, education and global civil society, business and finance from different continents and from professional interests ranging from research to action. It focused on the underlying causes of our inability to take effective action to avert the intensifying problems which threaten sustainable development and peace and, indeed, the future of our civilization.

The participants concluded that the world has entered a period in which the dramatic scale, complexity and speed of change caused by human activities threaten the fragile environmental and ecological systems of the planet on which we depend. It is urgent therefore that the world community should agree rapidly on strategies and effective action to avert irreversible change in world systems, brought about by accelerating climate change, the ecosystems crisis, the depletion of energy resources and the diminishing availability of water, the degradation of environments across the world, persistent poverty and deprivation and the rising gulf between rich and poor within and between countries. Also, global population is in the midst of a transition from explosive growth to a new paradigm of development, never before experienced by humankind.

Over many years, warnings have been raised but governments, political elites and societies have generally proved unable to take proactive action to prevent the negative impacts that have been identified. The end of the Cold War did offer a unique chance to discover the common challenges, to redefine more meaningful futures and priorities, reorient the commitment of societal resources, and to take concerted action to make the world a common home for all. The reason for this failure lies largely in lopsided priorities, neglect of social and ethical imperatives, partial and inadequate solutions and a single-minded focus on material and financial goals. But we are now in a radically new situation: the global scale of the problems we face is such that, if we wait for the impacts to be evident, it may not be possible to prevent massive, irreversible consequences.

And yet never in the history of mankind have we had so much knowledge on the state of the planet, on the needs and aspirations of people and on how these needs can be met. In fact, today’s technologies, if properly used, would be fully capable of providing for a decent and full life for all, even within the finite limits of our planet. The problems of endemic poverty, malnutrition, starvation and marginalization, disease and lack of education, access to water and other natural resources, participation or access to the instruments of development can be solved – but they will require a different level of determination, the commitment of political will and responsibility and substantial transformations of the political and economic systems that exist today.
Encouraged by the numerous positive solutions proposed by science and technology, by the potential of civil society and the full participation of people in community processes, and by the contributions of socially responsible business in fields such as innovative food production, renewable energy sources, water and health, the participants at the Turin conference believe that the time is ripe to introduce a new political architecture that bridges the local and global.

We call upon those who have the power of taking decisions to face their responsibilities and to make the hard choices that are now required. We call upon those who form public opinion to confirm that human survival, the eradication of poverty and the right to a decent life for all are matters of top priority. We underline the central importance of the availability of water as critical to health and food production for millions across the world. We stress the importance of the active engagement of women and of younger generations in the large scale action which must be initiated to promote the efficient implementation of sustainable development along the lines set out in the Earth Charter. We invite the education community, religious and moral leaders and the media to promote planetary transparency and glasnost and to stimulate education campaigns to alert the world’s civil society to the crucial importance of the present moment in world history.

We are convinced that the needs and aspirations of all for a secure, equitable and sustainable future can be attained, if we are willing to make the political quantum leap that the world expects and that future generations deserve.
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Edward Ayensu, Chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and former Chairman of the World Bank's Inspection Panel, Ghana
Mercedes Bresso, President of the Piedmont Region, Co-President of the WPF, Italy
Tiziano Butturini, President TASM society (water treatment), Italy
Giancarlo Chevallard, Ambassador and expert of European Affairs, Italy
Giulietto Chiesa, Member Temporary Committee on Climate Change of the European Parliament, member of The WPF's Executive Committee, Italy
Corrado Clini, General Director Ministry for Environment, Italy
Andrea Comba, President CRT Foundation, Prof. of International Law at the University of Turin, Italy
Jean-Michel Cousteau, President of Ocean Futures Society, USA
Ricardo Diez-Hochleitner, former President of the Club of Rome, Spain
Lena Ek, Member of the European Parliament, Member and Coordinator for the ITRE Committee and the Climate Change Committee, Sweden
Massimo Gatti, President CAP Gestione, Italy
Mikhail Gorbachev, President of The World Political Forum, Russia
Andrei Grachev, Chairman of The WPF’s Scientific Committee, Russia
Orhan Güvenen, Professor of Strategic Decision Systems and Econometrics, Bilkent University (Ankara) and former Chair of the Council of Europe Development Bank, Turkey
Rebecca Harms, Vice-Chairwoman of the Temporary Committee on Climate Change of the European Parliament, Germany
Xiaojun Heng, Professor, Vice President of China Foreign Affairs University, China
Niclas Ihrén, CEO Globe Forum Business Network, Sweden
Sergei Kapitsa, Vice rector of the Russian New University, Russia
Ashok Khosla, Co-President of the Club of Rome, India
Chai Szu Kiang, Founding Dean of College of Environment at Peking University, Chairman of Peking University Environment Fund, Shanghai
Bo Kjellén, Former Chief Negotiator For Environment and Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden
Eija-Riitta Korhola, Member Temporary Committee on Climate Change of the European Parliament, Finland
R Martin Lees, Secretary General of the Club of Rome, Austria
Corinne Lepage, former Minister for Environment, Lawyer and Professor, France
Alexander Likhotal, President of Green Cross International, member of the Earth Charter Steering Committee, Russia
Ruuds Lubbers, former Prime Minister of The Netherlands, member of the Earth Charter Initiative, The Netherlands
Mona Makram-Ebeid, Professor of Political Science at the American University in Cairo, former MP, Egypt
Carla Marchese, Director of the POLIS Department, University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy
Federico Mayor, former Director General of UNESCO, Spain
Mohan Munasinghe, Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Chairman of the Munasinghe Institute for Development (MIND), Sri Lanka
Yves Paccalet, President of French Green Cross, philosopher and writer, author of *L’Humanité disparaîtra, bon débarras!* and *Sortie de secours*, former writer of the Cousteau team, France

Fabrizio Palenzona, Vice-President Unicredit, Italy

Gunter Pauli, social and ecological entrepreneur and founder of the ZERI Foundation, Belgium

Roberto Peccei, Vice Chancellor for Research at the UCLA, Italy

Riccardo Petrella, expert of water issues, Prof. Emeritus of Globalisation at the Catholic University of Louvain and member of The WPF’s Scientific Committee, Italy

Rolando Picchioni, Executive Director of The World Political Forum, Italy

Vittorio Prodi, Vice-Chairman Temporary Committee on Climate Change of the European Parliament, Italy

Roberto Savio, Chair World Social Forum’s Commission for Communication, Chairman of Inter Press Service, Deputy Chairman of the WPF’s Scientific Committee, Italy

Luigi Sertorio, Professor of Ecophysics at Turin University, Italy

Valery Tishkov, Professor of History and Anthropology and Director of the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology at the Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia

Jean-François Trémeaud, former Executive Director International Labour Organization, member Scientific Committee WPF, France

Mary Evelyn Tucker, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, USA

Wouter van Dieren, President of IMSA Amsterdam, consultancy firm and think tank in the area of sustainability and innovation, The Netherlands

Jean-Pascal van Ypersele, Professor of Climatology at the Université catholique de Louvain-la-Neuve, Vice-Chair of IPCC Working Group II (Impacts & adaptation), Chair of the Energy & Climate Working Group of the Belgian Federal Council for Sustainable Development, Belgium

Antje Vollmer, former Vice-President of the Bundestag, Germany

Eberhard von Koerber, Co-President of the Club of Rome, Switzerland

Anders Wijkman, Member of the Temporary Committee on Climate Change of the European Parliament, Vice President of the Club of Rome, Sweden