

PART I



Thank you very much for the invitation.

This is a very important Forum.

This Forum takes place at a crucial moment in our human history.

A moment:

#### 1.- When Humanity lives, for the first time, in a planetary collective society.

What happens in one corner of the world affects everyone, everywhere.

It is vital to understand the sources of growth and its sustainability.

#### 2.- When the term "independence" must be changed by "interdependence".

No country's growth prospects are independent of other countries.

This is even more relevant when a hand-full of countries dominate the growth possibilities of the rest of the world.

In simple words, if China or India collapse the whole planet will collapse.

The big motto is: "I am because you are, and you are because I am".

#### 3.- When 'The Planet' faces a huge and, may be, an irreversible ecological crisis.

We are aware that the existing ecological instability translates into social and economic instability.

It is impossible to attain sustainable growth without ecological stability.



# 4.- When the constraints to economic growth are not purely technological, but ecological and biological in nature.

Just think about global warming, climate change, biodiversity depletion, pollution of water and air, the loss of our natural forest, pollution of the oceans and rivers...

# 5.- When our societies are moving from market-based economic systems and institutions to right-based ones.

It is evident today that the "Economic Calculus" is overridden by a "Human-Rights-Based Calculus" and an "Ethics Calculus", in search for justice and peace.

This is particularly evident in countries that are seeking the Welfare State.

This has tremendous implications for policy design and implementation at all levels of decision making.

Here, I refer to human rights in all their dimensions, including The Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and The Right to Development.

As I have studied, they are all essential determinants of economic growth, capital accumulation and stability.

# 6- When our societies face not only instability as regards markets and other associated institutions, but also instabilities from social injustice in all their dimensions.

We are even facing instability because of our inability to attain Sustainable Development: "economic sustainability", "ecological sustainability" and "social sustainability".



#### 7.- When we face the weakest international institutional system to govern our Global Commons.

Our Global Public Goods: oceans, glaciers, climate, biodiversity, ozone layer, migration, security, peace...

The views within the existing Multilateral System are still dominated by a few countries and not by a Planetary Vision of our common destiny.

Major reforms of this system are needed.

# 8.- When there is an increasing empowerment of civil society everywhere, with demands by communities and NGOs to fully participate in decision making.

The power of civil society has greatly increased through social media and other existing means of communication.

Thus,

Economic growth depends not only on material inputs, outputs and markets but, more importantly, on the stability of the existing human and social environment, including world peace and security. sustainability" and "social sustainability".

Economic growth is not only about accumulation of physical and financial capital.

It goes far beyond that, including human capital, natural capital, institutional capital, cultural capital and spiritual capital.

In this new "Composite of Global Growth", people's behavior, social



demands, existing institutions, organizational structures and incentives must be considered.

After World War II, THE SPINE CORD OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND WELLBEING was material prosperity to combat material scarcity and poverty.

That spine cord had to be accompanied by the needed financial resources to achieve such prosperity.

This justified the creation of the World Bank and the IMF.

Free markets were supposed to be the engine of growth.

This justified the creation of the World Trade Organization.

But the world has dramatically change since World War II.

The limits to growth and material prosperity, to resolve the multifaceted problems facing our societies, has reached its capacities.

- It is not just about more matter and material prosperity.
- It is about collective human welfare.
- It is about constructing a new civilization, with a completely different spine cord.

Simply said: it is far beyond traditional material economic growth.

Where material economic growth is only a necessary condition to stability but it is not a sufficient condition.

The "beginning of the new road ahead" is not only about economic efficiency per-se, but it embraces equity and social justice.

The new spine cord of the road ahead is "SUSTAINABLE



#### DEVELOPMENT WITH AND EMPOWERED CITIZENRY".

This is why I declare in this event that:

## THE NEW AND ONLY COMMON DESTINY FOR HUMANITY, WE MUST BE ASPIRING FOR, IS AN ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION.

It is through this new spine cord that we will live in a peaceful, stable and just world.

## I CALL ALL THE WORLD LEADERS TO EMBRACE THE PATH TOWARDS AN ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION.

The only acceptable destiny for humanity will surge from an Ecological Civilization.

In my view, there is no other option.

The leaders in this Forum, particularly the youth, have to face the moral imperative linked to the construction of such a Civilization.

Today's paradigm of Individual Materialism will never let an Ecological Civilization bloom.

This is why "the non-material dimensions of life", like the realization of "spiritual and human values", like self-identity and sense of belonging, are essential for an Ecological Civilization.

The creation of an Ecological Civilization should concentrate all our efforts.



The leaders present here, today, should ask themselves:

- What stops us from moving swiftly into an Ecological Civilization?
- What is the proper narrative that we should communicate within our societies to transform our life on earth?

Part of the answer, has to do with THE POWER AND POLITICS with regard to the ownership, access, exploitation, use, and management of our "Common Public Goods".

No economic, social and institutional system has successfully dealt with this issue yet.

The World Growth Forum is our greatest instance to do so.

The World Growth Forum is our great hope.

We must act now.

Tomorrow will be too late.

For this civilization to surge, there must be a specific form of "Collective Planetary Consciousness" that paves the road.

This consciousness will bring a coherent and balanced well-being among human beings, sentient beings and nature.

This will enable us to find A RIGHT FORM OF PLANETARY LIVELIHOOD, embracing:

- The value of interdependence—including all expressions of life—I am because you are, and you are because I am;
- The value of correspondence—the inner is like the outer and the outer is like the inner.



Let me be clear.

An Ecological Civilization

Is not just about more ecologically enhancing programs.

Is also about spiritual, ecological, human, economic, and social values.

This new civilization must be organized around values and beliefs and agreed rights and responsibilities.

The values of caring, sharing, mutuality, justice, peace, love, compassion, harmony, conservation ...to name a few.

However, those individual and collective values must be self-realized.

It is within this self-realization where human collective consciousness plays a vital role.

An Ecological Civilization is not just about attaining some sort of "physical balance", notwithstanding the importance those balances have; like the water cycle, temperatures and global warming...

