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***On the occasion of Opening of the Conference „Role of  
National Science Academies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”***

Your excellences Prime Minister Djukanovic, your excellences Mr. ambassadors, your excellences ministers, very dear guests, very distinguished participants of the conference *Role of the national academies in the 21<sup>st</sup> century*.

It has been only six months since, at the meeting of CEEN in Sofia, we decided to organize meeting on the topic *Role of national academies in 21<sup>st</sup> century*. Although at that time we wanted the meeting to be a sort of a regular CEEN meeting it turned on, when we started analyzing the topic, that it should be discussed in large between as many as possible different structures and participants. We were lucky at the time to have Prof. Mohamed Hassan who immediately recognized importance of such meeting and involved IAP as one of the organizers of the Conference. European Academy of Sciences and Arts, SEE division of WAS, IACSEE joined immediately the pool. We in Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts were honored to be the host of the meeting, as well. From then we succeeded to attract as participants to this Conference very high representatives from many National Academies of sciences as well as from major recognized international institutions in science and high representative of EC, what is enough to guarantee that the conference should be very successful meeting on the highly actual topic, not only in the West Balkan region and for CEEN countries, but elsewhere. Let me just point out that high representatives from more than 30 institutions, from three continents, have gathered in this small theatre today.

In the age of Anthropocene in which we are living it is very important not only to produce knowledge but to use it in an appropriate way. It is not any more important to accumulate knowledge, but even more the way and the purpose

it is used for. The ways can be different and can have different consequences: positive on countries within overall economy and quality of human lives, but, unfortunately, they can be destructive and even fatal not only for the environment but for our human lives, too. Even in astonishing short time. Some scientist are scared that the challenges are so great that we have only 50% chance to survive middle of this century if we don't use existing and produce and use new knowledge in the best possible ways. This calls upon national science academies to act for the benefit not only of the own countries but for the all mankind.

In the time when many institution willing to work in science are growing as mushrooms after the rain all around the world, when everyone wants to be called academician, the excellence of National Science academies are becoming more and more important. Encouraging the young people to go professionally to science, especially to STEM discipline is the best way to ensure the progress of our civilization and provide better economy and healthier society. Advisory of independent National Science academies to policy makers is crucial and strongly required in this world governed by too much free market economy, what can be even illustrated by actual world's situation.

The National Science academies as top scientific institution in own countries have to have a very active role in all these processes. It is not only any more important to produce excellency in science academies; it has become very important to take part in policy decisions on many topics, especially those concerning not only policy, but application of S&T, too. We have many excellent examples of such practice in many countries, the latest one formally recognized in Germany by German Academy Leopoldina, on which experience we will have a chance to listen during the conference.

It is not just matter of fashion at the beginning of 21<sup>st</sup> century, the century in which we face the challenges and changes, which never have been experienced in the history, in which everything is changing faster then ever in history, to reexamine the role of National Science academies. It is imperative to generate knowledge and use it such to solve existing and coming problems such to obtain not only sustainable future but what has become, even, more important: sustainable present. It is need, indeed, to bring National Science academies and high intellectuals gathered in them out of their shells such to participate actively in society in a way to help to overcome all risks and hazards we are

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facing today and will in the future, as well as to help economy to growth such to improve health of own people.

Distinguished participants to the Conference it was our pleasure while preparing this Conference that many of our colleagues have recognized importance of this topic in the way CEEN people did. We are very pleased that many politicians did the same, too. In particular, I have to thank to prime minister of Montenegro H. E. Milo Djukanovic for joining us in this activity by being patron of the Conference and president of Organizing Committee. This shows, we have to believe, one of the ways how scientists and politicians should communicate such to discuss and try to solve many existing and coming problems together.

Distinguished guests and participants of the opening section, with your permission, let me ask Prime Minister Djukanovic to take the flour.

