

Strategic Partnership

– USE THE BEST –

Declaration issued at the international conference “Humanities and the Contemporary World”

7th–9th of June 2012, Podgorica, Montenegro.

BACKGROUND

In spite of the massive scientific advisory potential that exists worldwide, the World community found itself unprepared when faced with the current crisis.

An efficient early warning scientific advisory mechanism has been lacking.

Such mechanism should recognise early signals of potential interest, thus allowing more time for appropriate intervention, such as helping to mitigate, ideally eliminate, possible damaging impact upon people, society and the environment.

In Europe, such a mechanism could also be helpful at a national level in connection with the implementation of the EU objective ‘Europe-2020’.

The National Science Academies are best suited to formulate independent high quality scientific advice. They have demonstrated beyond doubt their ethical – and moral authority and intellectual capacities. On the practical side, they are institutionally established and independent from party political considerations.

RECOMMENDATION

The participants of this international conference recommend that:

1. Political leaders should make full use of the unique intellectual resources National Science Academies possess, while respecting in full the Academies’ autonomy.
2. National Science Academies should be requested to strengthen, or set up within their structures dedicated ‘*observatories*’ with the aim to:
 - i) Identify evolving signals of relevance.

- ii) Assess potential consequences for the short-, medium- and long term; and
- iii) Formulate in a timely manner independent scientific advice to support policy making.

3. In turn, National Science Academies must live up to their enhanced role and responsibilities, and reinforce their trend monitoring abilities and scientific advisory capacities. Particularly important would be to look beyond the time horizon of political leaders and at issues of socio/economic consequences that otherwise escape the attention of busy politicians.

A strategic partnership between political leaders and the National Science Academies would benefit both parties.

DISTRIBUTION

The participants request the organisers to distribute this declaration to relevant parties.

* * *