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President of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS)

OPENING REMARKS

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Prof. Graham Cale, European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities (ALLEA)*

Prof. Felix Unger, President, European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA)

Dr. Gilbert Fayl, President, The Global Round Table (GRT)

Prof. Gordon McBean, President, International Council for Science (ICSU)

Mathieu Denis, Executive Director, International Social Science Council (ISSC)

Dr. Peter F. Mc Grath, Coordinator, The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP) including IAP for Science and IAP for Health

Felows of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS)

Distinguished Participants

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great pleasure and honor to address all of you this morning, on behalf of the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS). First of all, I would like to express our warm congratulations and thanks to Academician Momir Durovic and his colleagues of the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (MASA), for organizing this International Conference in Podgorica, under the patronage of H. E. Mr. Milo Dukanovic, Prime Minister of Montenegro. This time we will discuss quite an interesting and important theme: „Technology + Society >? Future”. But I still recall that, just two years ago, President Momir brought us together here for another excellent Conference to discuss „The Transition to a New Society”, the proceedings of which have already been published by MASA.

As a good scientist/technologist he is thinking ahead, in a future that is just around the corner and should be of deep concern for all of us. Indeed there are still many challenges ahead and more than ever, in my view, joint united action is and will be more and more necessary.

Technology was the key word of the „Fourth Industrial Revolution”, as we witnessed in many discussions at the Davos Conference in the beginning of this year. Finally the United Nations arrived at a reasonable global Consensus, at the COP 21

held last December in Paris, pending of course, on „technological developments” to achieve global temperatures below 2 C (hopefully below 1,5 C in the next 50 years). And the General Assembly of the United Nations, in New York, in September last year, agreed on an important set of Sustainable Development Goals and Targets to be reached by 2030. Technology will also play a big role in achieving many of them.

So all of us should carefully look on the role of technology on society in our future.

Our own World Academy of Art and Science has jointly organized, with CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research) at its headquarters in Geneva, last November 15th, a very important Conference entitled: „Science, Technology, Innovation and Social Responsibility” in which our Fellows and seven UN Agencies, located in Geneva have participated.

WAAS and CERN have expressed and I quote: „Today the rate of scientific and technological development dissemination and application far outpaces the capacity of society, institutions and individuals to adapt, contributing to increasing social imbalances, stress, upheavals, displacement and disruption. The challenge before humanity is to arrive at the most effective blend of governance and self-management to maximize both the freedom for scientific creativity and technological innovation and the welfare of present and future generations”.

I don't have the time now to describe in more detail what CERN and WAAS are planning for the future, but I can say that among other of their traditional natural scientific endeavors (search for the boson of Higgs, e. g.) CERN is already developing a major Program, for the next decade, addressing the issues of innovation and social responsibility (involving young people, government and private business, e. g.) WAAS is working on a „New Paradigm for Sustainable Development” and on a „New Economic Theory”, as well as through our WUC (World University Consortium), aiming to provide support for a „World Global University”, an old dream of our founding fathers in the 1960's (almost impossible at that time, but certainly more feasible in this age of ICT'S — Information and Communication Technologies).

We have begun developing Courses in the IUC (Inter University Center) in Dubrovnik and next October 31 — November 4, one on „Social Power, Empowerment and Social Evolution will be offered, and you can

participate either as a Student or, as a Faculty, if you wish to. Also I should mention that WAAS publishes two Journals: „CADMUS” and „E-Eruditio”, and both responsible for them — our Fellows Garry Jacobs and Winston Nagan, respectfully — are present in Podgorica. WAAS also publishes a periodical Newsletter. (Please see: www.worldacademy.org and: www.wunicon.org).

Looking to President Momir's basic theme for this Conference, I am quite sure that many of you, through your submitted papers will highlight technologies that will be developed, how they will be used and what will be their impact (positive and/or negative) in our societies. What will be their impact on climate change, for instance. Some are already predicting an explosion of the Internet of Things (IoT) on consumers, businesses and governments. Studies have shown (Sweden) that the „Circular Economy” can cut carbon emissions by 70% by 2030. And my old friend Calestous Juma has written a book (that will be published next July 2016) with a ti-

tle: „Innovation and its enemies” (Why People Resist New Technologies). I could cite many other technologies but time doesn't allow me.

So, let me conclude, by thanking again our generous host and his team of collaborators for their great efforts, and our expectation of a very successful Conference, in the name of our Trustees, our Executive Committee and our Fellows of the World Academy of Art and Science.