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OPENING REMARKS

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Academician Momir Durovic, President of the Organizing Committee (MASA)

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

Your Excellences Ambassadors, your Excellences Ministers, distinguished participants, colleagues of WAAS, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of the World Academy of Art and Sciences, I wish to express our warmest congratulations and many thanks to MASA for the organization of this Conference and for the invitation for us to participate in this very timely event. (I believe that 22 Fellows of WAAS are now present in Podgorica).

I am certain you are going to hear and debate in the next few days, important aspects of political, social, economical, educational, cultural, global and national aspects of both globalism and nationalism.

For personal reasons I have a special concern with Higher Education and Universities and, particularly, with their internationalization. How can they prepare students to live and work in a much globalized world?

“Internationalization is the adaptive strategic response of an institution or nation to the forces of globalization, which itself is a process of increasing interdependence and interconnectedness between countries. No country or sector or institution is immune from the process of globalization, including higher education.”

“Internationalization can also be viewed as the integration of globalization into the tripartite mission — i. e. teaching, research, service — of the university” (1).

Internationalization is usually measured by the number of foreign students in a university and the larger indexes are today in universities of Europe, Asia and the USA and Canada. In the developing world, in Africa and in Latin America, for example, (particularly in my country — Brazil) the index of internationalization is still very low. Therefore both Globalism and Nationalism are small. Nevertheless, I said that this is indeed a very timely event because, less than ten days

from now, another major international conference, organized by the University of California, Berkeley, will examine” New Nationalism and Universities”(2)

Allow me to quote from the objectives of that Conference: “Nationalistic reactions to globalism, broadly defined, has resulted in a fast-moving shift in national alliances and trade policies, and in revised restrictions on immigration, symbolized by Brexit and recent policies of the new Trump administration. For example, in Turkey, the solidification of national power — its own form of New Nationalism following a coup attempt — is having a profound impact on its universities. In Europe, New Nationalism movements are now found in Poland, France and the Netherlands, that may further tear at the European Union and the concept of an European Higher Education Area. In Russia, nationalism and arbitrary crack-downs on dissidents has led to many important scholars leaving the country. China has engaged in political rhetoric against western forms of learning and influence in its universities.

So we may be entering an era that will alter the flow of global talent, the opportunities for joint research and for shared research agendas across national borders. There is also the reality or prospectus of declining institutional autonomy, new infringements on academic freedom, and new restrictions on the financial vitality of public universities”. Here are some questions that the organizers of the Conference hope to have responses: “To what extent is nationalism, in its emerging form, a countervailing force to the international engagement of leading national universities? With the rise of nationalism, how are the leading national universities reshaping their roles in specific regions of the world? How are their activities and role in society being restricted?” (3) These and other important issues will certainly provide additional ideas for us to think about when we’ll hear your important views on other aspects of Globalism & Nationalism.

Finally, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you that the World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) has created in 2013, a World University Consortium (WUC) that recently joined forces with the University of Rome, to conduct an International Conference on “Future Education”, next November 16–18, in Rome. Its aims are

to identify practical measures to meet the needs and aspirations of major stockholders — youth, students, teachers, employers, workers, research institutions, governments and civil society. It will serve as an active platform for participants to share, collaborate and co-create new ideas, approaches, methodologies and best practices. Come and join us in Rome and help us with your good ideas.

Thank you very much for your attention.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1] “The world needs more international higher education” — Patrick Blessinger — University World News 24 April 2015;
- [2] “New Nationalism and Universities” Global perspectives on Politics and Policy and the Future of Higher Education — University of California Berkeley, November 16–17, 2017;
- [3] “The case for internationalization of higher education” Patrick Blessinger and Barbara Cozza — University World News — October 13, 2017

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