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Advance Press Release

40th Anniversary of the Club of Rome

The Club of Rome celebrates 40 years of commitment and action to improve the lives of present and future generations.

Personalities from all over the world will gather in Rome from 14th to 17th June to present their ideas on the critical global issues of the 21st Century and to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Club of Rome and the Centenary of one of its two Founders, the Italian industrialist and humanist, Aurelio Peccei.

General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Club will be convened in Rome on 14th and 15th June when the Club will initiate a new phase in its worldwide activities. Full Members, Associate and Honorary Members will join with representatives from its 33 National Associations and with experts from its think tank of young professionals, tt30, in reviewing the global activities of the Club. It will debate and propose responses to the critical issues which threaten the future and will also finalise the transfer of its legal Seat to Winterthur in the Canton of Zurich in Switzerland.

The Club will focus its future activities on such issues as: the ecosystems crisis and degradation of the environment; the urgent need to move towards a low carbon economy to avert runaway climate change; the challenges of globalisation and the vulnerabilities of the international economic system; the explosive rise in prices of food and energy and the intensifying competition of a growing world population for land, water and other vital resources; rising inequality and polarisation in a world of intense poverty and deprivation and extreme wealth; and the attainment of justice, human security and peace in our increasingly interdependent world.

To improve our understanding of these inter-related issues which will determine the future of humanity, the Club will launch a three year, integrated programme of international research, consultation and outreach to world leaders and to the public which will identify the strategies and actions needed to achieve **“A New Path for World Development.”**

By intensifying its own activities and extending its collaboration with experts and institutions across the world, the Club intends to prepare sound proposals for action to surmount the critical challenges of the 21st Century.

Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Club and of the Centenary of Aurelio Peccei

On 16th and 17th June, a major public conference to celebrate the Centenary of Aurelio Peccei and the 40th Anniversary of the Club will bring together several hundred participants in the Rome Auditorium to benefit from the insights and expertise of a number of eminent speakers on the topic: **“Strategies for a Sustainable Planet.”**

Sponsored and convened by the Club of Rome in partnership with the Aurelio Peccei Foundation, the conference will analyse critical world issues and will explore their linkages and implications for the future, drawing on the contributions of eminent world figures from science, politics, academia, government, business and civil society. A list of the principal speakers at this event is attached.

For information on these events, please see the conference website www.clubofrome.at/events/2008/Rome/index.html or contact Ms. Antonietta Esposito at the Press Office in Rome by phone: +39-068-449-7373 or by email: a.esposito@wwf.it or the Club of Rome secretariat in Zurich by phone: +41-44-258-8040 or by email: clubofrome40@gmail.com.

The Club of Rome is an independent, not-for-profit organization with an international membership. It draws on the insights and expertise of its members from all regions of the world, from different cultures and histories, from different fields of science and public policy and from academia, civil society and the corporate sector. Since its founding forty years ago, it has been promoting interdisciplinary analysis, dialogue and action on the fundamental systemic challenges which are determining the future of humanity.

The Club is recognised throughout the world for its early work on the relations between economic growth and the environment which is identified with “The Limits to Growth”, a perspective which is even more important today. Over the years, the Club has clarified threats, opportunities and choices and has advanced practical solutions by provoking debate, by briefing top leaders in government, business and civil society and by disseminating publications – some of them best sellers – aimed at informed opinion and the general public. The Club of Rome is independent of any political, ideological and religious interests.

The issues facing the world community are increasingly urgent. But humanity has never had greater capabilities and resources to face the challenges ahead. The Club can therefore encourage hope and progress by proposing how these capabilities of knowledge, skill, organization, technology and commitment may be mobilized in practice to resolve the issues which threaten the future and to create a better world for future generations.