

Key messages for the Club of Rome at the meeting with Globe and the G8+5 in London, January 2009

Recovery from the current economic crisis will only be possible when we restore confidence to invest for future prosperity for all. This confidence will only return when adequate measures are taken to address the risks of climate change, fresh water shortages, energy insecurity, and biodiversity on land and in the oceans.

Our economic system is intimately linked to the stability of our climate and to secure energy and water supplies. The threat of disruptive climate change, instabilities in energy supply, or of major bio-system disruption will therefore continue to discourage new mid- long-term investment until the risks are reduced by adequate precautionary measures.

In addition, the risks from climate change, bio-diversity loss and energy or water insecurity can only be reduced by massive new investment in low-carbon products and services, in more diverse and sustainable energy and water supplies, and in innovative bio-system and land management, including for carbon sequestration.

The current economic crisis therefore requires a concerted approach, worldwide, to stimulate investment in infrastructures and services for an energy-diverse and low-carbon economy which offers new opportunities for prosperity for all. The current separate international discussions on economic re-stimulation, on a post-Kyoto framework to address climate change, and on energy and water security must be better integrated into a holistic strategy for the world's future prosperity and stability. We must not simply re-generate the problems that caused the current crises.

New paths to sustainable world development are currently being assessed by groups of world experts, convened by the Club of Rome in its new headquarters in Winterthur, Switzerland. A first set of ideas has emerged from the first meetings in late 2008, and were presented to parliamentarians from “x” countries in the Globe group of legislators and to G8+5 officials in London on the 26th January.