

# The Programme of the Club of Rome on A New Path for World Development



The global issues which were the focus of the 1972 Report, “*Limits to Growth*” are even more severe and urgent today. At its 40th Anniversary Assembly in June 2008, the Club launched a three year, integrated programme of international research and consultation on the topic: “*A New Path for World Development*”.

The Programme now complements the ongoing, worldwide activities of the Club and, using the potential of the internet to engage its Members, its 33 National Associations and its European Support Centre together with experts and institutions across the world in an “*open systems*” approach. In this way, it mobilises and focuses the best brains available on the critical issues which will determine the future of humanity and of the planet.

The research strategy and content are outlined at [www.clubofrome.org](http://www.clubofrome.org).

The present path of world development is generating imbalances, vulnerabilities, inequities, exclusion and polarization which constitute clear threats to the prospects of both present and future generations. The Programme draws on the independent, multicultural and interdisciplinary membership of the Club to clarify the key elements of a new path for world development. It will propose new lines of thinking and action which are urgently needed to: avert the risks and consequences of catastrophic climate change; reduce the devastating impacts of human activities on ecosystems and environment and the overuse of the biological and physical resources of the planet; achieve more fairness in the distribution of vital resources and opportunities and of the costs and benefits of globalisation; accelerate global efforts to eradicate poverty and

deprivation of a growing world population; adapt and reform the structure of international institutions to address the integrated problems of a world in rapid transformation; and broadly, to achieve equitable and sustainable world development and thus preserve international security and world peace.

In order to manage the complexity of such an extensive “*problematique*”, the programme strategy focuses successively on five clusters of interconnected issues while recognizing the linkages between the clusters. In each case, a small expert conference develops proposals for action and identifies issues for in-depth analysis through internet-based, international research networks. The five clusters are:



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## 1. Environment and Resources:

Climate Change, Energy Security, Ecosystems and Water.



## 2. Globalisation:

Distribution of Wealth and Income, Employment, Economic Restructuring, Trade and Finance.



## 3. International Development:

Demographic Growth, Environmental Stress, Poverty, Food Production, Health and Employment.



## 4. Social Transformation:

Social Change, Values, Culture, Identity and Behaviour.



## 5. Peace and Security:

Justice, Democracy, Governance, Solidarity, Security and Peace.

By the end of 2009, the Programme will have analysed and developed strategic proposals covering three critical areas of world affairs within a coherent overall perspective: Environment and Resources; Globalisation and Finance; and International Development. And it will also have transmitted its ideas and proposals directly into the policy process at a high level. It will thus help to bridge the critical gap between science and analysis on one side and decision making on the other.

Three further steps will be implemented in 2010 to complete the Programme: a conference on Cluster 4, Social Transformation, and a conference on Cluster 5, Peace and Security. Finally, an International Forum of the Club of Rome will be convened in late 2010 to present the integrated results and lines of action. This will be followed by a process

to disseminate the results and proposals to leaders in the public and private sectors, to civil society, to the education system and to the public. Throughout the three year programme, interim results, policy recommendations, briefing and educational materials will be produced, together with specific activities to engage the media. In this way, the Club will contribute to awareness, understanding, public support and action on the critical issues which will determine the future. The Club has a unique opportunity to use its wide “*brand recognition*”, its independent broadly-based membership, and its access to leading personalities throughout the world to press for a more coherent, systemic approach to the management of world issues, recognizing the fundamental transformations in progress and clearly facing the growing threats to the future.

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