



## 50 Years Club of Rome The Club's Agenda for the 21st Century

**To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Club of Rome, more than 400 international thought leaders and dignitaries from all over the world will come together on 17-18 October in Rome to discuss the most pressing challenges and solutions facing humanity and the planet. The Summit will build on the Club of Rome's pioneering work, its flagship Report *The Limits to Growth* and present its new agenda for the 21st century, with a view to collectively assess the state of the global commons and respond to today's most pressing tipping points such as climate disruption, ecosystems decline, relentless pursuit of GDP growth and increasingly unequal wealth distribution.**

In its most recent flagship book "Come On!" written for the Club of Rome's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by 35 members of the Club, thought leaders are calling for a *New Enlightenment* for humanity. "Come On" urges all of us to re-establish a healthy balance between humans and nature. Humankind is facing systemic collapse on many fronts, including threats to the philosophical underpinnings of modern society in the form of democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law, science and enlightened leadership.

Social, political, environmental and economic tipping points are highlighting the need for a more balanced value system and future vision that embraces greater well-being and more equitable distribution of wealth within and between countries.

**"Leading policymakers seem to be unfit to ensure the future of planet earth. We must find the vision, the leadership and the creativity to collaborate in developing constructive solutions to offer a decent future to present and succeeding generations. We have the capabilities: we must find the will",** says Anders Wijkman, Co-President of the Club of Rome

The anniversary conference will urge national governments to agree on strong action to redirect national economies onto a sustainable path, and to immediately address the global climate emergency facing humanity.

**"Humanity has the necessary technological, political and economic solutions at hand to address ecosystems collapse and climate change and must seize the opportunities which the transformation to a more sustainable and low carbon society presents",** says Ernst von Weizsäcker, Co-President of the Club of Rome

At the Anniversary Conference in Rome the Club will present its agenda for the 21st century including:

### 1. The Club of Rome Climate Emergency Initiative: A Collaborative Call to Action

Climate change is the most pressing concern that humanity now faces. Until recently, it was seen as a future threat. Today, it is a reality, affecting the lives of millions of people.

Yet recognition of the climate challenge creates the basis for a societal renaissance of unprecedented proportions.

This is the vision the Club of Rome would like to promote - a vision of the future, which ensures well-being for the many and harmony between man and the rest of nature. Realizing this vision requires swift action and the collective implementation of one of the most comprehensive emergency plans humanity has ever contemplated. We fundamentally believe that such action will create a much healthier, happier and more innovative global society.

The threats we face demand strong action. To address the root causes of climate change it is vital to restructure national economies onto a sustainable path. We call on business and policy leaders to join together to implement the Climate Emergency Action Plan and ensure a pathway to sustainable wellbeing for the future which we have sketched out. The details of the Action Plan will be launched on Wednesday 17 October during the Anniversary Summit and will be available on the Club of Rome website the same day!

### 2. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals within Planetary Boundaries - a new report to the Club of Rome

This latest report to the Club by Jørgen Randers, Johan Rockström, et. al., will also be launched at the Anniversary Conference. It addresses the challenges of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the planetary boundaries and demonstrates the internal inconsistencies of the UN's Agenda 2030: Within our current economic model, the SDG's socioeconomic goals are inconsistent with and contradict their ecological goals. Without both, strong political commitment and extensive transformative change, it will not be possible to achieve the 17 SDGs, by 2030 or by 2050.

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## About the Club of Rome:

In 1968, a network of entrepreneurs, diplomats, scientists and economists was created in Rome on the initiative of the Italian industrialist Aurelio Peccei and Alexander King, then Science Director of the OECD. The group was united in their concern about the future of humanity and the planet and assumed responsibility to make politicians and decision-makers worldwide aware of the most crucial issues of the future. The Club of Rome was born. In the first report on the predicament of humanity, “The Limits to Growth”, the Club warned of unlimited material growth and uninhibited consumption in a world of limited resources: if human activity was to continue in the same way as between 1900 and 1972, humanity would be about to overshoot the carrying capacity of planet earth by the end of the century. 50 years later, there is no doubt that the ecological footprint of humanity substantially exceeds its natural limits every year.

The concerns of the Club of Rome have not lost their relevance: 50 years ago, the Club of Rome stated that it was both possible and necessary to alter growth trends and establish new conditions for a just and sustainable world offering stability and global balance. Since then, more than 40 reports to the Club of Rome have been published, and 35 National Associations have been founded, in which these issues are raised, for the benefit of decision-makers and civil society.

The Club’s recent report ‘Come On! Capitalism, Short-termism, Population and the Destruction of the Planet’, mentioned above, was coauthored by Prof. Ernst von Weizsäcker and Dr. Anders Wijkman, with 35 members of the Club. It proposes a positive and realistic agenda for the future and argues that we now have sufficient knowledge to achieve the necessary sustainability transformation and preserving the world’s natural environments and stocks of resources, whilst assuring human well-being in the long term.

The Club’s 100 members, world renowned experts in their respective disciplines, are still devoted to the founding principles of the Club: A commitment for a sustainable future of humanity from a holistic, systemic and long-term perspective. The Club’s central argument is that the global challenges facing humanity are interconnected and cannot be tackled as singular, isolated events.