

THE WORLD POLITICAL FORUM 2003
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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The first working session of the World Political Forum "**TOWARDS THE NEW CIVILIZATION**" ended in the Italian region of Piedmont after the Plenary Session held in the cities of Turin and Alessandria. In this way this exceptional political project launched at the initiative of the Nobel Peace prize President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Italian Promoting Committee marked the beginning of its regular activity on the basis of the decisions taken during a Founding Conference in May 2003.

During several plenary sessions the participants of the Forum debated the questions related to the present "State of the World" at this dawn of the XXIst century, centering their discussions on the reasons and origin of the actual "**International World Disorder**" and engaging the process of collective reflection on the foundations of the **New World Architecture**. Despite the large diversity of the participants' backgrounds and extremely large political and geographical representation (the October Assembly of the WPF gathered more than **80** former and acting statesmen, political experts and representatives of the civil society and non-governmental organizations from different continents) the debate showed a large convergence of opinions expressed in favor of the profound reform of functioning and structure of the present international institutions on the multilateral basis with the aim of establishment of a really **democratic international order**.

The Forum participants analyzed different aspects of the present international situation, the causes of the **new types of conflicts** and the **new means** that should be elaborated to serve efficiently the goals of politics in the new international setup emerging after the end of the Cold War and affected by the dynamics of **economic, technological and cultural globalization**. They also stressed the importance of careful examination of the **new actors** appearing on the international scene representing alongside states and governments, the new social and cultural phenomena and citizen's movements as well as various multinational and transnational structures that may exercise controversial and even disruptive influence on the process of globalization, adding new tensions and fractures to the existing lines of division.

The dialectics of the extreme **diversity** and complexity of the modern world and of its growing **unity** can only be rationally addressed on the basis of respect of evident interrelation of the tremendous political, economic and cultural processes affecting the modern world, the research of **multilateral and collective solutions** to its most acute problems and maximum **association** of the popular masses and public opinion with the elaboration of the political decisions that may affect the conditions of life and sometimes the questions of life and death for the millions of people on our planet.

From this point of view a particular attention was given to the functioning of the **media and mass communication** assuring the channels of relation between the power structures, political elites and the civil society thus guaranteeing the securing and development of the democratic institutions and practices. The advance of global democratic process represents also the necessary precondition for the building of a true "**pluralist civilization**" as a necessary and vital alternative to the real threat of a one-dimensional, egoistic, violent and inhumane version of globalization.

The majority of participants of the Forum stressed that they considered the danger of spreading world **poverty** and the deterioration of other vital living conditions of the majority of the population of the globe especially its access to pure drinking **water** to be one of the most dramatic challenges of the new century. The global **epidemics of poverty** spreading across different continents and affecting huge areas of the world could create not only the dramatic social fractures on the global scale but also be at the origin of the new types of security risks, the spreading of extremist and terrorist movements and the general degradation of human civilization.

The participants of the Forum expressed the intention to give one of the future sessions of the World Political Forum to the analysis of the problem of **world poverty** and to the guarantees of a decent life for human beings. The theme of the necessary **reform of the existing international organizations** created after the Second World War, beginning from ONU, has been suggested as another priority subject for the future agenda.

As stated by Pres. Gorbachev himself, The World Political Forum does not have the ambition to take decisions or give precise solutions for the several problems affecting the world. It aims at assisting and being useful to politicians at different levels, giving the **structure for an open and informal dialogue** on the basis of respect of the several points of view and gathering experience, professional competence, and the sense of social and moral responsibility of its members. The Forum will be ready to propose its advices and suggestions to current politicians, to international institutions and organizations, and it is open to all suggestions about subjects that could be put in its agenda.

The World Political Forum states that its intention is to work both in the form of an **annual General Assembly** and in local Regional **Seminars**, selecting specific problems to be discussed and analyzed. It is being founded a **permanent research structure**, thanks to the spaces and equipments which will be offered by the Monumental Complex of Santa Croce, in the province of Alessandria, which restoration has been announced by the local authorities and by the financial collectivity of the Region of Piedmont. The Forum's participants noticed the commitment confirmed by the authorities of the Region and of the Provinces of Turin and Alessandria to support the further development of the Forum's activities and expressed their gratitude for the help and the promotion of the Forum's ideas.

At the same time they stressed their intention to establish wide connections of cooperation and relations between the association and other similar structures, research institutes and foundations, as with social and humanitarian organizations and movements, worried by the current uncertain situation of the world political scene and aiming at the construction of a really universal, human and democratic future world.

The next General Assembly of The World Political Forum will be held in the autumn 2004 in Piedmont. It will be prepared by some "working sessions" and by seminars in Europe and probably in other continents, realizing this way the stated intention of creating a really representative structure, wide and open to dialogue, intellectual search for common answers to the dramatic challenges of our times.

Turin-Alessandria, 24 October 2003