

G7 Science Conference

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Summary of the *Concluding remarks*

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The Conference has been full of admirable presentations on the structure and activities of the Academies and Networks, that it seems almost impossible for me to add something also because the available time is very limited since the Representatives of the Academies are expected at Palazzo del Quirinale where I will present, in a concise address to the President of the Republic, the meaning and results of today's conference. Thus, for my concluding remarks I will merely provide a few economic hints on structural economic dynamics where scarcities and disparities are still spreading.

During the Conference, science for policies and policies for sciences have been extensively considered while the economic aspects have remained rather in the shadow; however Minister Padoan, a brilliant economist, has shed light on them from a medium term perspective, with a specific focus on the economic situation since the crises of these past 10 years. In his speech, he accentuated the importance of economic development and the process of societal inclusion in order to obtain equitable progress with high levels of employment. Minister Franceschini stressed the importance of a resilient cultural heritage in the face of natural disaster and of the historical identities of populations and nations which have contributed to our current civilization. Moreover, a contribution to economic growth might occur in many countries through education and creating qualified employment enabling the conservation of their cultural heritage. I sincerely thank the two Ministers for their appreciation of the G7 Academies' Joint Statements.

Let me add a few considerations on the structural economic dynamics on a long term horizon and on the connections among scarcities, innovations and economic problems to promote sustainable development. The urgency of these topics is evident. Currently, at the beginning of the XXI century, we see an increase in the divides even if poverty is declining also in part due to the success of implementing the UN's Millennium development goals. But, some models of economic behavior seem to prevail with consumption patterns made more aggressive by ICT market powers and with migration patterns pulled by the attraction of wealthy societies and by the push of desperation from poor countries. These patterns, however, do not reduce the divide in the global standard of living between North and South. While an impressive scientific and technological revolution continues to offer much to human development and its diffusion, it seems that not enough attention is paid to world production and distribution patterns, working with the market systems, which depend heavily on Institutions and society, on education and the environment, and on investments and infrastructure. Excess in finance has pushed the real economy to the back. Finance and short term financial trading prevail on long term structural investments also for better use of scarce resources and the protection of the environment.

The Academies today have highlighted these divides and many of their actions are devoted to the reduction of disparities and the increase of (long term) structural investments which are institutional, social and productive in nature. Among the many efforts toward reaching these aims, special attention should be paid to progress in education and gender equality. It has had remarkably positive effects in some developing countries. This is one aspect of the 17 Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development approved by the UN General Assembly in 2015. The Agenda has been often considered during this Conference also because the Academies and Networks are engaged to a greater or lesser degree in some or many of these aspects. All the Academies and Networks present today deserve much appreciation for their efforts and activities in promoting science and knowledge for peaceful human progress. To continue to address such aims, I hope that the National Lincei Academy will be able to host, in the near future, another 7NA (7 Network of Academies) Conference, especially since the TWAS has its headquarters and the IAP has its Secretariat in Trieste, Italy.