

Amsterdam, 27 October 2009

**Global Assembly 2009**  
**Climate, Energy and Economic Recovery**

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**Amsterdam Declaration  
of the Global Assembly of the Club of Rome**

The Club of Rome calls for urgent action to avert the growing risk of catastrophic climate change. The most recent scientific data presented to the Assembly by the world's top climate scientists demonstrate the accelerating impacts of climate change on the natural systems of the planet. Beyond this existential threat to

*The goals of concerted international climate action must be:*

To adopt, at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen, legally binding agreements that will initiate immediate action to achieve a stable climate with atmospheric concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> not exceeding 350 ppm. This will primarily require action by the industrialized countries, coupled with improved energy efficiency and mitigation in all countries. The technologies to do this already exist.

To establish financial mechanisms, including a carbon market, that will enable countries, companies and communities to reduce their net carbon emissions to the levels required.

To accelerate support for adaptation and humanitarian assistance in developing countries as an integral component of national development so as to reduce the impacts of climate change.

To promote the development of new models and strategies for growth, development and globalization which place a real value on natural capital and ecosystems services – including the removal of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere.

To agree upon an international study, to be concluded within one year, which will propose how the framework of international policies and institutions must be adapted to meet the connected, systemic challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

The economic “progress” of the past decades has been accompanied by increasing concentrations of income, wealth and by rising levels of inequality, exclusion and environmental degradation. The world of finance, in particular, has become an end in itself. The continuing dominance of the financial sector over public policy leads to a concern that the lessons learned from the recent financial crisis will quickly be forgotten and powerful interests will again demand conditions of minimum regulation that can only lead to greater crises in the future.

The finance industry must be converted into an instrument to promote ethical, equitable and sustainable world development. Banks and businesses must increasingly see their role as providing services to society: we must move from fast money to slow money. Insider trading must be prosecuted more severely as organized crime; corruption must be strongly repressed, and tax evasion through off-shore trusts and foundations must be stopped by disclosing the beneficiaries; speculation with essential commodities such as oil and food must be disallowed. Corporate incentives for bankers and money managers to seek high-risk, short-term returns should be discouraged.