

Quotes from symposium participants and memorandum signatories:

“I believe that approaching the climate change point of no return the time has come to remind ourselves of the famous Russel-Einstein Manifesto” – says **Jerzy Duszyński** the President of the Polish Academy of Sciences. – “At that time, in the midst of the cold war, they faced the perils of weapons of mass destruction. Today, as the treat of climate change is equally critical, we recall their words: 'In the tragic situation which confronts humanity, we feel that scientists should assemble in conference to appraise the perils that have arisen as a result of [the climate change caused by human activity], and to discuss a resolution in the spirit of the appended draft'.”

“The alliance of faith and reason might seem surprising at first, while in fact it is quite logical – both scientists and religious leaders share a fundamental sense of responsibility for all humankind” – says **Hans Joachim Schellnhuber**, the Director Emeritus of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany and a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. – “We must not allow that the historical blessing of fossil-fuel use that enabled much of today’s living standards all too soon perverts into a curse and shatters the prosperity of future generations.”

Stéphanie Thiébault Director of CNRS Institute of Ecology and Environments: “In the context of the necessary today's ecological transition, making decisions in situations of uncertainty or controversy will eventually lead to changes in individual and collective behaviors. This requires a solid and constantly evolving scientific base, so that the methods, the data, the knowledge that comes from it, the contingencies associated with it are understood and shared.”

Veerabhadran Ramanathan, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, San Diego: „Climate change is in the living room of most Californians. In about 12 years, when the warming reaches 1.5C, it will be in the living room of every citizen of the planet adversely affecting billions. There is still time to avoid major disasters, provide we deploy rapid action plans such as: drastically cutting super pollutants (methane, black carbon and HFCs); and extracting at least 15 billion tons of Carbon Dioxide each year; failing which geoengineering would be forced on us with all its unintended consequences.”

Laurence Tubiana, CEO of European Climate Foundation and former French climate diplomate: "The publication of the IPCC’s 1.5°C Special Report ahead of this COP has made the urgency for action clearer than ever. Avoiding the worst impacts of climate change will require rapid and deep decarbonization in all sectors, within a very short timeframe. Individuals and communities around the world are calling for this to happen; and it is time for the EU and others to lead the way. Through a shared long-term strategy, they can show that a pathway to a climate-safe and socially-just society is possible if we make the right choices now."

Msgr. **Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo**, Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences ; “Today, if we want to satisfy the people’s aspiration towards happiness, we need to hear the cry of the earth”.

Patricia Espinosa, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary: “When it comes to climate change, we’re faced with a physical, moral, and philosophical crisis. More than ever before, we need a multitude of different voices to sound the alarm. Scientists and religious leaders both have an essential role in helping humanity to understand the importance of the choice between climate action and inaction. “

Ottmar Edenhofer, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and of the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change: "While the Communist era ignored fundamental economic principles, modern-day capitalism ignores the most basic scarcities of today’s world: the scarcity of natural resources in general, and specifically the limited capacity of our atmosphere, our oceans and forests to capture and store carbon emissions. If we do not respect these fundamental natural scarcities, we will face the same destiny of collapse, though this time at a planetary scale. Drawing lessons from the Solidarność movement of the 20th century, only a strong union of reason and faith, scientific and religious communities, will be able to drive a ‘spiritual revolution’ strong enough to limit global warming. Here, concepts like truth, freedom and dignity are nobody’s exclusive dominion, but our common denominator, as central guiding principles. These powerful guiding principles are needed all the more, in a world that is warming and again increasingly polarized along nationalist lines."