

Ivo Šlaus: Opening of the International conference celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UN foundation, Oct 23, 2015, Zagreb

First deputy prime minister and minister of foreign and European affairs Prof Vesna Pusić, ambassadors, heads of missions, excellencies, distinguished guests, dear students, first minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Croatia Zdravko Mršić and my dear friend, organizer of this international conference, president of our Diplomatic Council minister Budimir Lončar.

It is my great honor to welcome you on behalf of Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy.

Our very name obliges us to study, analyze and honor the UN particularly its 70th anniversary.

However, this year is not just another anniversary.

On Sep 25, 2015, the UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted possibly the most important document:

Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a universal, integrated and transforming vision for a better world, to use SG's words, or more precisely: the only world. It contains 17 goals and 169 targets.

This transformation can be compared only to the Great Neolithic Agricultural Revolution. However, with one important difference: humans could continue to be hunter-gatherers, but present world is just not sustainable: by Aug 13 of this year we used all resources we should in this year and polluted our only home as much as we are allowed, namely Ecological Footprint is now 40% larger than what it should be. We bankrupted Nature! In addition, in this Anthropocene Epoch we destroyed ourselves. Pope Francis wrote two year ago "This

economy kills” and repeated at the UN “Economic and social exclusion is a great offence against human rights and environment”. In numbers: during the last two decades 1990-2013: 423 M people died because of hunger, more than due to World Wars and even per year twice worse than WW II. Every 6 seconds a child dies of hunger and before we adjourn to our welcome party almost 500 children will die of hunger.

The Agenda is a plan of action of the people, by the people and for the people. Seven goals: 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 11 and 12 call for eradication of poverty, reduced inequalities, full employment and responsible consumption. Goal 4 calls for quality education. Six goals: 6, 7, 9, 13, 14 and 15 call for climate action and saving our environment. Goals 16 and 17 call for peace and justice. They are all integrated. It is imperative that the forthcoming COP21 in Paris succeeds.

Almost from its foundation in 2009 our DHUC collaborated and collaborates with Nobel Peace laureate Pugwash Movement and with the World Academy of Art and Science and with our colleagues and friends from Universities in Belgrade, Podgorica, Skopje, Tetovo, Ljubljana, Bucharest and Berlin organizing conferences, courses at IUC Dubrovnik and through scholarly publications anticipating and contributing to the realization of the Agenda. Agenda is our plan of action.