

# Final Document

of the International Conference

## Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change

June 1-3 2008, Portorož/Portorose (Slovenia)

[www.glocha.info](http://www.glocha.info)



### Background

From June 1 – 3 2008 - during the time of Slovenian EU presidency - upon invitation of

- Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana/Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna [www.aso.zsi.at](http://www.aso.zsi.at)
- European Foundation Centre [www.efc.be](http://www.efc.be), and
- the Ministry of Higher Education and Science of the Republic of Slovenia [www.mvzt.gov.si](http://www.mvzt.gov.si)

more than 50

- representatives of **philanthropic organisations/foundations**,
- representatives of **national governments**,
- representatives of **organizations within the United Nations system**,
- **climate change experts**,
- **scientists, science policy makers** and
- **civil society** representatives

met in Portorož/Portorose, a small tourist resort at Slovenian Adriatic coasts to discuss:

- status quo and future potentials for **cooperation among philanthropic organisations worldwide to respond to global challenges**, in particular that of **climate change**,
- status quo and future potentials for **partnerships between philanthropic organisations, governments, the EU, the United Nations and other key stakeholders** to address global challenges /climate change
- and the importance of **advancing research, innovation and human capacity-building** by philanthropists for **knowledge-based responses to global challenges**

with the aim to **jointly explore the issues at stake**, to **identify successful practices and approaches** and to **trigger innovative and partnership-oriented actions** in this field.

It has been acknowledged by several participants that **this conference has been the first of its kind** and that it filled an existing gap of a **platform where representatives of philanthropic organisations worldwide would meet with climate change scientists and national policy makers and representatives of United Nations system to discuss these issues, learn from one another and inspire one another's thinking**.

As such the event has been very much of an **exploratory nature** and the information provided in this **final document of the conference** can be regarded as **preliminary results** (and not "conclusions" in the sense of binding consensus among the conference participants on prioritising issues and actions) of some kind of scoping process which aimed at setting the **conceptual framework for future discussions**, identifying **where we are standing now** and highlighting **some examples of actual and potential actions** that can be developed and/or supported by philanthropic organisations in a coordinated global effort to respond effectively to climate change.

## Urgency and Complexity of the Climate Change Challenge

One of the main messages that has to be communicated to the general public and especially also to the philanthropy/foundation sector is the **message of urgency that the climate change challenge poses to mankind**.

The Fourth assessment report of **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** well documents the scientific basis of climate change and draws some very alarming scenarios about greenhouse gas emissions as main source of anthropogenic climate change and impacts of climate change. But as **recent data on greenhouse gas emissions and arctic ice cover show the current path of developments is even worse than the worst IPCC scenarios**.

In addition to becoming aware of the urgency of the challenge it is very important for appropriate responses to understand that **climate change is an extraordinary complex global challenge**.

**As climate change is an integrated problem the responses need to be integrated too!**

When addressing the climate change challenge we need to have a **systemic approach** and a systemic approach leads us inevitably to the conclusion that **a global challenge like climate change can be addressed effectively only with substantially improved global coordination and cooperation among relevant stakeholders**.

As a **precondition for Climate Change to be met appropriately we need a strong global civil society** driving the policy makers and business sector to more serious action on climate change; **problem aware constituencies** in all countries of the world pushing their governments towards bold future oriented global action that goes beyond current practice of uncooperativeness on global level resulting from problem **inadequate narrow nation state interest calculation**.

We need a substantially **invigorated United Nations system** moved forward and nurtured – in addition to its nation state pillars - by global civil society.

This global community/ this **invigorated United Nations system needs** – in order to be successful **two elements**:

- First it needs a **strong knowledge base** – it needs new approaches to global knowledge management, new ways of international scientific cooperation, of strategic foresight and collective intelligence systems that will maintain coherence among the activities of different stakeholders and
- Second it need the **mobilisation of new financial resources**, it needs the **help of global philanthropists!**

## From Bali towards Copenhagen: a Window of Opportunity – a Window of Responsibility

The main forum for global coordination of strategies and policies of all countries of the world towards climate change is the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** which is supposed to determine with long term emission reduction targets also the cornerstones of the regulatory frameworks in which business sector is functioning.

The conference of the parties to the UNFCCC in December 2007 in Bali adopted - as it was not possible in Bali to get a consensus on global long-term emission reduction targets - the so called **Bali Road Map**, which consists of various tracks that are regarded to be essential to **reaching a secure climate future**. The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new **negotiating process for global greenhouse gas emission reductions** designed to tackle climate change, with the aim of **completing this by 2009 at the conference of parties in Copenhagen**.

Thus the road – **the time - from Bali to Copenhagen will be crucial for the world's climate future!** Global community – including philanthropists – have a **historic window of opportunity** and a **historic responsibility** to do everything that is possible to **make the negotiations in Copenhagen a success**.

## The Current Response of Philanthropic Sector/Foundations to Climate Change

Data on grantmaking practices of foundations from the US as well as from European Union – where the culture of (international) philanthropic giving is relatively advanced – show that the **fact of climate change being the main challenge mankind is facing today is not reflected in funding practices of foundations with climate change related funding being in general well below 1 % of total grantmaking** (US Foundations Funding: 0.8% (\$137.5 million) of total grants going towards climate (in Europe the numbers are even lower!, source: Oak Foundation ), **Sources:** The Foundation Center, Foundation Giving Trends, 2008; and Environmental Grantmakers Association, Intersections: Confronting the Climate Challenge; Major climate funders in the US in 2006: William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Energy Foundation, Pew Charitable Trust, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Nathan Cummings Foundation & Rockefeller Foundation;).

## Philanthropy's Role in Innovative Global Responses to Climate Change

**Philanthropists<sup>1</sup> worldwide have a unique role to play** in the arena of responses to climate change (mitigation and adaptation). First of all, philanthropists have the ability to complement the work of public authorities and international organisations. Philanthropists' **vision is neither limited by short-term electoral nor business considerations.**

Philanthropists have the freedom to **think outside the box.** This freedom can lead to optimised results, as it offers advantages of speed and scope to implement more effective responses to global challenges.

In addressing climate change it is important to understand the **need for innovative approaches.** A little more of the same will not work – **incremental changes of business as usual will not be sufficient.**

Therefore a focus on innovative responses to climate change is important and as philanthropists have the necessary means to finance the development and implementation of such innovative approaches – global social innovations - they can **play an essential catalytic role in the overall global multistakeholder system of responses to climate change.**

## Promoting Innovative Responses to Global Challenges – from Ideas to Action

As there have been many questions at the Portorož conference about what **"Innovation"** could mean in the context of global action on Climate change a **list of concrete lines of activities** (the categories are inspired by the **United Nations Intellectual History project** [www.unhistory.org](http://www.unhistory.org) of the Academic Council on the United Nations System) are presented in the table below for **conceptualising the space for innovative action of philanthropic sector on climate change:**

Type of Activity	Possible concrete activities of philanthropic organisations
<b>I.</b> challenge the mainstream perception of a given situation	Support <b>public awareness raising</b> activities regarding climate change being the most urgent challenge of our time and thus top political priority: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– support of <b>dissemination of scientific findings on climate change</b> (i.e. activities like the documentary "The Inconvenient Truth" of Al Gore)</li> </ul>
<b>II.</b> Inspire new thinking	Support the <b>development and promotion of concepts</b> of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– new <b>low carbon life styles,</b></li> <li>– new <b>patterns of low carbon consumption,</b></li> <li>– new <b>patterns of low carbon production</b> and</li> <li>– <b>new trade patterns</b> with low impacts on climate change</li> </ul> Build a <b>shared vision for global cooperative action</b> Promote and support <b>solution oriented CC research and technological development</b> Fostering <b>"out-of-the-box" thinking, policy change</b> and <b>new business models;</b> Promoting <b>global solidarity /burden sharing</b> (especially in light of the fact that developing countries are those who have contributed the least to climate change but are going to be affected most seriously; In developing countries are the greatest needs and least knowledge available to address climate change related challenges) Foundations can significantly <b>influence thinking/decision making of business sector</b> by managing their <b>endowments/funds</b> (which are estimated to add up worldwide to the range of 600 billion \$) <b>in sustainable development oriented assets/stocks</b> (this task can be systematically taken up e.g. by financial officers of foundations) promote the development of new approaches to global challenges related <b>knowledge management and collaborative innovation</b> (e.g. Global Challenges World Cup) Support the <b>coordination of CC related award schemes</b> (like e.g. the Energy Global Award, Millennium Prize, etc.) as well as related <b>knowledge management</b> and <b>human capacity building</b> (some kind of global <b>Information Clearing House for CC related awards</b> ) Stronger consideration of <b>context of policy/project interventions</b> (intervention + context =

<sup>1</sup> a **philanthropist** is someone who engages in philanthropy. Philanthropy is the act of donating money, goods, time, or effort to support a charitable cause. Philanthropy is very often institutionalised in foundations.

	<p>impact)</p> <p>Promote <b>CC related foresight activities in house and rethink/adjust programming</b> accordingly</p> <p><b>Engage with UN system and scientific community in a systematic dialogue on policy/strategy development</b></p> <p>Develop mechanism to maintain <b>accountability and transparency of philanthropic engagement</b> in global, national and regional CC responses and provide mechanisms that help to avoid <b>misuse of power</b> of actors from philanthropic sector in this context</p>
<p><b>III.</b> influence <b>agenda setting</b></p>	<p>Put <b>climate change issues on the agenda in-house</b> and in <b>fora that you are active in</b></p>
<p><b>IV.</b> Mobilise <b>coalitions</b></p>	<p>Partner with national, regional <b>governments, within the philanthropy sector</b> (initiatives like the “design to win” study), with <b>entertainment industry</b> (for public awareness raising) etc.</p> <p>Partner with <b>civil society</b> / mobilise <b>constituencies</b> to push their governments towards more committed action (in the context of the UNFCCC negotiations)</p> <p>Develop or support a <b>Global Campaign in Support of Bali Action Plan</b>: Promote public understanding of the issues at stake and build or support alliances for bold commitments of international community</p> <p>Cooperate/partner with <b>scientific community</b>, with UNFCCC, IPCC and other stakeholders from science and science policy making towards <b>strengthening the knowledge base on Mitigation and Adaptation on global level and especially also in developing countries</b></p> <p><b>Bring business sector into global campaigning for Climate change mitigation and adaptation</b> (foundations’ assets/portfolio management will certainly serve as a good argument for business to engage;-)</p> <p><b>Promoting a division of labour between different philanthropic actors based on competences and comparative advantage</b></p>
<p><b>V.</b> ideas embedded in <b>institutions</b></p>	<p>Develop and support <b>new instruments and processes for coordination and cooperation</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Create <b>new financial architectures</b> to enable reasonable flows to global action on Climate change</li> <li>– Establish a <b>platform for systematic dialogue on policy/strategy development</b> and for understanding the “worlds of thinking and decision making” of one another of philanthropists, UN system, climate change experts and scientific community (e.g. by starting a “Portorož Process« or establishing a »<b>Portorož Commission on Philanthropists as Partners for global Climate Change Action</b>« which shall lead <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o from <b>exploring the space of cooperative action</b>,</li> <li>o <b>mapping of existing activities to strategy development and programme development</b>;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>(Such a commission should also take into consideration the activities of <b>celebrities, volunteers</b> and activities of individuals like Al Gore with <b>high fundraising potentials</b> (like e.g. the “Live Earth” concert) <b>to become part of a coherent global strategy</b>)</p>
<p><b>VI.</b> New lines of <b>action/ programmes</b></p>	<p>Develop and support <b>CC related funding programmes</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in the field of <b>education</b></li> <li>– in the field of <b>scientific research</b> (Support scientific activities that aim at understanding of climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation options in developing countries (UNFCCC Nairobi Action Plan on Adaptation, project <a href="http://www.aiaccproject.org">www.aiaccproject.org</a> of The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World &amp; START, etc.)</li> <li>– Supporting <b>solution-oriented research</b> that is <b>truly innovative</b> (take risks in funding promising projects that may get rejected in traditional research funding programmes);</li> <li>– Stimulating <b>multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research</b> in order to deepen the study of new or underexplored areas of inquiry;</li> <li>– Promoting new, integrative and collaborative approaches in <b>human capacity development</b>;</li> <li>– <b>Identifying and supporting innovators</b> in universities, research institutes, civil society organizations, businesses and policy;</li> <li>– Support the development and application of <b>global collective intelligence systems</b></li> </ul>

	<p>(like e.g. the “<b>Global Energy Network and Information System</b>”, GENIS of WFUNA Millennium project <a href="http://www.millennium-project.org">www.millennium-project.org</a>) which are needed for better networking and coherence among different stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>Support civil society organisations</b> that work as pressure groups for more committed CC policies</li> <li>– Support <b>university or international joint-degree programmes on energy and climate change</b> which integrate:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Problem analysis</b> (descriptive and explanatory knowledge);</li> <li>2. <b>Solution analysis</b> (exploration of alternative solutions, policy options, business models, etc);</li> <li>3. <b>Skills development for solution implementation</b>;</li> <li>4. <b>Personality development</b> for behaviour change.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>In general a good <b>starting point/guiding principle</b> for any activities of philanthropic organisations (and all other stakeholders) related to Climate change is: “<b>Bring your own house in order</b>” (carbon footprint of your organisation, optimising travels, etc.)</p>
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**Lessons learnt from 2008 Portorož conference for follow-up meetings:**

Based on the feed-back of the participants of the Portorož conference it has been agreed that follow up meetings should be planned with some **improvements with regard to organisation of the presentations and interactions**:

- shorter presentations;
- no one reads papers;
- defining clear expected outputs and outcomes of the meeting;
- philanthropists present their programmes and what they are interested in;
- non-philanthropic actors commit not to engage in fundraising but present the most innovative projects and proposals that foundations could use in developing their strategies and funding programmes;
- after these 5-10 minute presentations; people break up into those workshops they are most interested in.

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**Photos taken before and during the conference**



Briefing of Mr. **Danilo Türk**, president of the Republic of Slovenia (center) on May 30 with regard to his (video) welcome address by the conference coordinator Mr. **Miroslav Polzer** (right) and Mr. **Gorazd Weiss** (ASO Ljubljana, standing on the left hand side)



**Group photo** taken in the evening of June 1 2008



Photo taken at the **Reception**, from left: Stephen Heintz (president of Rockefeller Brothers Fund), Peter McGrath (The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Miroslav Polzer, Blaž Golob



from left: **Gasper Hrstelj** (Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO), **Miroslav Polzer** (Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office Ljubljana/Centre for Social Innovation Vienna & International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI), **Gerry Salole**, Chief Executive, European Foundation Centre, **Wilhelm Krull**, Secretary General of the Volkswagenstiftung, **Janez Podobnik**, Minister of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia, **Lučka Kajfež-Bogataj**, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC & University of Ljubljana, **Peter Volasko**, R & D Programme Coordinator of the Slovenian EU Council Presidency, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Slovenia, **Emilio Rui Vilar**, President of the Board of Trustees, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian and European Foundation Centre Chair, **Jerome C. Glenn**, Co-founder and Director of the "Millennium Project" of the World Federation of UN Associations, **Blaž Golob**, Director, Center for eGovernance Development in South Eastern Europe, Ljubljana