

THE VALUE OF SCIENCE FOR SOCIETY

20th November 2009, Podgorica, Montenegro

The potentiality of science has to be better understood and accepted. Society's trust in science and scientists must be encouraged and safeguarded.

Many fear the possible negative impact of science on humanity and the environment. They feel that science has been disregarding the concerns and traditional values of society.

Against this background, the international conference¹ "Values and 21st Century" adopted this Declaration. The conference calls upon all National Science Academies to publicize it to the scientific- and educational community, as well as to the press.

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1. For science to be accepted as truly universal:

- society's trust in science and scientists must be promoted. The most significant factor in achieving this must be the ethical and moral responsibility of the individual scientist and the scientific community;
- scientists should serve as ethical role models for society;
- scientists need to approach their own work with modesty and respect the dignity of the individual;
- science needs to work with society when it comes to addressing social and environmental problems – such as poverty, shortage of resources, climate change...;
- science should be transparent and know no borders.

2. Values for science:

- science should be honest and open;
- ethics must be made part of science training;
- social sciences and humanities should work together with natural sciences and technology;
- scientists should make every effort to protect the integrity of science.

3. Science for values:

- the benefits of scientific discoveries should belong to all humanity;
- science must be sensitive to universal and human values;
- science has the potential of affecting traditional values and even creating new values;
- scientific activities should be distributed to benefit all societies.

¹ Organized by the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, Network of Central- and Eastern European Academies (CEEN), European Academy of Sciences and Arts, World Academy of Art & Science Division for SEE, and Inter Academy Council for South East Europe.