



CONFERENCE ON THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN THE DIVERSITY OF WORLD CULTURES

New York City, United States of America
31 May 2015 – 2 June 2015

Conference program as of 29/05/15

In partnership with

Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum
Stiftung Mercator
Le Monde Diplomatique

Sunday, 31 May 2015

Location: ONE UN New York Hotel, 29th floor West Tower, One United Nations Plaza, NY 10017

Moderator: **Anne-Cécile Robert**, Member of the Editorial Board, Le Monde Diplomatique

17.00 OPENING REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, High Representative, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations

Ambassador Thomas Matussek, Managing Director, Alfred Herrhausen Society

Michèle Auga, Executive Director, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, New York Office

17:45 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ON THE PROGRAMME

Constantin von Barloewen, Initiator and Academic Director of the conference

Mustapha Tlili, Academic Co-Director of the conference

18.00 KEYNOTE

New paradigms of progress: Geopolitical and population shifts in the future of world civilization

James Wolfensohn, former President, World Bank

18.45 RECEPTION

Monday, 1 June 2015

**Location: Permanent Mission of Germany to United Nations,
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017**

Moderator: **Anne-Cécile Robert**, Member of the Editorial Board, Le Monde Diplomatique

08.30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

08.50 WELCOME REMARKS

H.E. Ambassador Harald Braun, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations

09.00 OPENING ADDRESS

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations

09.15 MESSAGE

Boutros Boutros-Ghali, former Secretary-General, United Nations (*message read out by Constantin von Barloewen*)

09.25 KEYNOTE

The notion of progress in human history

Yves Coppens, Paleoanthropologist and Professor, Collège de France

09.55 – 12.55 PROGRESS AND THE CRISIS OF MODERN CIVILIZATION

INPUT (30min each)

In search of a new humanism: Deconstructing the notion of progress

Edgar Morin, Anthropologist, Sociologist and President, Edgar Morin Center (*input read out by Constantin von Barloewen*)

Progress and human rights

Ágnes Heller, Philosopher and former Hannah Arendt Chair, The New School of Social Research

The ambivalence of progress: Progress and culture

Marc Augé, Anthropologist and former Director, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

“To value ends above means”: How to reconnect progress with human needs

Johano Strasser, former President, German PEN Center (*input read out by Ambassador Thomas Matussek*)

DISCUSSION (60min)

12.55 LUNCH

13.55 – 15.40 PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABILITY

INPUT (30min each)

The impact of progress on environment and sustainability

Klaus Töpfer, former Executive Director, United Nations Environment Programme

The notion of progress and women

Avital Ronell, Professor of Comparative Literature, New York University

DISCUSSION (45min)

15.40 KEYNOTE

A science-based notion of progress as a universal criterion for the assessment of human practices and technology

Ervin László, Futurist, Historian of Evolution and Founder and President, The Club of Budapest

16.10 COFFEE BREAK

16.40 – 17.40 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN ISLAMIC TRADITIONS

INPUT (30min)

Adonis (Ali Ahmad Said), Poet, Writer and former Professor, Princeton University (*input read out by Mustapha Tlili*)

DISCUSSION (30min)

17.40 KEYNOTE

Does progress increase welfare? The limits of homo oeconomicus

Michael Sandel, Political Philosopher and Professor of Government, Harvard University

18.10 END OF CONFERENCE DAY ONE

Tuesday, 2 June 2015

**Location: Permanent Mission of Germany to United Nations,
871 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017**

Moderator: **Anne-Cécile Robert**, Member of the Editorial Board, Le Monde Diplomatique

08.45 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

09.15 – 11.00 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN AFRICAN TRADITIONS

INPUT (30min each)

Development and progress as a political reality in Africa

Wole Soyinka, Author, Poet and Nobel Laureate

The notion of progress in the cosmological and religious traditions of Africa

John Mbiti, Professor Emeritus and former delegated Professor of Science of Mission and Extra-European Theology, University of Bern

DISCUSSION (45min)

11.00 COFFEE BREAK

11.30 – 12.30 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN RUSSIAN TRADITIONS

INPUT (30min each)

The notion of progress in the history of ideas: A Russian perspective

Vladimir Kantor, Philosopher and Professor of Philosophy and History, Higher University of Economics

DISCUSSION (30min)

12.30 – 13.30 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN LATIN AMERICAN TRADITIONS

INPUT (30min)

Enrique Iglesias, former President, Inter-American Development Bank

DISCUSSION (30min)

13.30 LUNCH

14.30 – 16.00 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN INDIAN TRADITIONS

INPUT

The notion of progress and development in the case of India
Karan Singh, former Government Minister under Indira Gandhi
(video message)

Two hundred years of silence about progress and cultural diversity in India

Ashis Nandy, Political Scientist and former Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

DISCUSSION (45min)

16.00 COFFEE BREAK

16.30 – 18.45 THE NOTION OF PROGRESS IN ASIAN TRADITIONS

INPUT (30min each)

The notion of progress: Experiences and reflections on the discussion

Henry Rosovsky, Economist and former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

Progress in Chinese civilization

Tu Weiming, Philosopher, Historian and Founding Dean of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies, Peking University

Japan, China and India in a cross-cultural perspective with Western traditions

Urs Schoettli, former Correspondent, Neue Zürcher Zeitung

DISCUSSION (45min)

18.45 OPEN PLENUM

Visions for the notion of progress in the planetary world of the future

19.30 CLOSING REMARKS

Ambassador Thomas Matussek, Managing Director, Alfred Herrhausen Society

END OF CONFERENCE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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