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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: 50th session of the international seminar "Science for Peace the World Over" (Erice, Italy, 18-24 August 2017)
- Information from the Polish delegation

Delegations will find in the Annex an information note from the Polish delegation on the above subject, to be dealt with under "Any other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 13 October 2017.

**50th session of the international seminar "Science for Peace the World Over"
(Erice, Italy, 18–24 August 2017)**

- Information from the Polish delegation -

The 50th jubilee scientific session was held in Erice, Sicily, from 18 to 24 August 2017 and was organised by the World Federation of Scientists and the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Centre for Scientific Culture. The President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, was honorary patron of the event.

Since its inception, the Foundation has hosted more than 120 000 scientists from 140 countries on postgraduate courses in various disciplines, including medicine, physics, mathematics and ecology. This diverse group has included 140 Nobel Prize laureates.

This year's seminar on planetary hazards, entitled "The Project for Mankind – the New Manhattan Project", was attended by more than 100 scientists from Europe, the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Vietnam, South Korea, India, Colombia, Jordan, Kuwait, Senegal and Kenya. The participants represented the most respected research centres in the world, including CERN in Geneva, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the universities of Oxford, Stanford, Princeton, Yale and Bologna.

Among the invited guests were also Václav Klaus, former President of the Czech Republic, and Professor Jan Szyszko, Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Poland.

In accordance with the founders' guiding concept, the core theme of the conference was the role of science and cooperation between governments and the representatives of science aimed at solving global problems. The following issues were addressed in detail:

- the role of science and culture in the third millennium
- climate change in the world and its impact on the quality of life in a local and global context
- famine

- migration policy
- sustainable development of the world
- cyber security in the world
- nuclear energy (advantages and risks)
- human health, studies on lifestyle diseases
- prosperity and equal opportunities for children and young people on all continents
- the fight against desertification (the Great Green Wall project in Africa, aimed at afforesting a 15 km-wide and 7 100 km-long zone running from east to west and constituting a barrier between the Sahara and the rest of the continent. In addition, the project includes the establishment of multi-functional gardens providing an additional source of income for local communities)

The role of science and technology in the context of cooperation with politicians was also discussed by President Klaus and the representative from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Italian Republic.

During his speech entitled "Eco-innovation in climate policy as an opportunity for sustainable development", the Minister for the Environment of the Republic of Poland pointed to a need to involve politicians and governments all around the world in cooperation with scientists in order to achieve sustainable development for mankind and the environment. He also stressed that each country had resources and instruments able to change the future of mankind.

The example of the Polish government's activities in the area of climate policy – presented by the Polish Minister for the Environment both in Erice and at the Polish Sejm on 16 October 2016 during the conference on "Sustainable development and climate changes in the light of the encyclical letter of Holy Father Francis, entitled *Laudato Si'*" – was considered exemplary and, after a thorough discussion, contributed to creating the Resolution of the 50th Session of the *International Seminar on Planetary Emergencies, The Project for Mankind – The New Manhattan Project*.

After hearing the session on climate (CLIMATE) and learning about the project currently being implemented (the Polish Scientific Strategy on Climate), the seminar participants agreed that the type of climate policy presented at the Polish Sejm on 16 October 2016 provided an opportunity for sustainable development in the world, in particular suggesting the following solutions:

- Reducing red tape as much as possible to benefit reasonable activities based on knowledge of the human role in building sustainable development, in accordance with the encyclical letter of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*.
- Promoting integral ecology through the implementation of educational measures (from primary schools to universities), including in-depth knowledge about nature (biological knowledge and knowledge of the ecology of species living in the wild, along with an ability to identify them in their environment), against a background of historical knowledge about the use of natural resources by residents, combined with arguments based on the principles of mathematical logic.
- Developing environmental research. It is necessary to implement a global research project so as to determine the impact of increased carbon sequestration by forests and soils on the temperature, quality and quantity of water available for humans, air quality, the shaping and conservation of biodiversity and the prevention of desertification, as well as on the fight against famine, social exclusion and migration. The project includes an economic analysis, indicating the potential best scientific solutions (and the relevant regions of the world) from the perspective of climate policy. Two solutions have been evaluated. Carbon sequestration by forests and soils is more efficient than carbon-reduction technology.

The Polish delegation encourages the EU Member States and the European Commission to reflect carefully on the scientific achievements and recommendations of the world of science, which should be used in shaping European and global policy for achieving the sustainable development goals, including climate and environmental goals.