

Prof. Leen Hordijk

Good morning and welcome to the Conference on Global Development: Science and Policies for the Future organized by the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, IIASA, located in the small town Laxenburg just south from Vienna. A very warm welcome to our special guests, in the first place, Dr. Heinz Fischer, Federal President of Austria. We are very much honored that you will address us at this conference. Austria has been a very generous host of IIASA for 35 years and we have enjoyed having been located in this beautiful country. The 4th of October this year – last month – we celebrated our 35th anniversary. I'd also like to welcome Dr. Johannes Hahn, Federal Minister of Science and Research of Austria. And thank you for the support from your ministry through our National Member Organization in Austria, the Austrian Academy of Sciences. The State Secretary for European and International Affairs, Dr. Hans Winkler, is also here. We thank you and your Minister and your Ministry, for the dedication in linking IIASA to the international community and especially to the United Nations and other international organizations. We have in our midst, an Under Secretary General of the United Nations, who will also address us in a few minutes: Mr. Kiotaka Akasaka. Welcome.

Excellencies, Ambassadors to Austria and to the International Organizations, members of the IIASA Governing Council, members of National Member Organizations from IIASA in 20 different countries, honorable speakers, IIASA colleagues, coworkers, alumni, ladies and gentlemen. IIASA has reached the age of 35. Before saying anything about that and our past let me first remind you that the Institute's mission is to conduct international and interdisciplinary scientific studies to provide relevant and useful information and also options for addressing critical issues of global change. Global change in the environment, economics, technology, social issues, energy, for instance, not only for the benefit of the scientific community, but also the benefit of the public. This conference is about a changing world. The world is changing very rapidly and becoming more and more complex. And we believe, we strongly believe at the institute that in such a complex world there is even more need for a systems approach and to look at the problems at hand from a much more comprehensive and linked position.

The conference goal is that we at IIASA, and I'm sure you as an audience, will learn from the distinguished speakers the trends in the world around us: the trends geographically across the globe and also the trends forward. At IIASA we try out thorough scenario studies to look forward, to find out what might happen in the world, and then suggest actions to stop that from happening if the direction is not the good direction. So we are very proud that we have attracted so many distinguished speakers from business, politics, policy, and from science. And they will give you a stimulating debate and stimulating thoughts. In the past decades, IIASA went through a process of globalization from the original 1972 East–West organization to a global institute, acquiring new members in Estonia, in China, India, Pakistan, South Africa, and just two days ago, the Republic of Korea. We're very happy to have these new members in the institute because they give us another, a broader, I would say, a better perspective on global problems. Now you will see from the conference agenda that the global issues

will have a lot of attention. IIASA is, in my perspective, unique in terms of its international character, the independence from any state in terms of politics, and its multi-disciplinary approaches. There are so many examples of IIASA's work that have not only been scientifically very good but has also influenced political discussions. Already in 1982, IIASA published the first global energy assessment called "Energy in a Finite World" that really influenced the energy debate. Another example is the United Nations adapting IIASA methods for population predictions and forecasting. Air pollution policy in Europe, guidelines to countries maximum emissions—they come from IIASA work. And finally, I'm also very proud that 16 scientists at IIASA share the Nobel Peace Prize this year because they have been co-authors of the so-called "Fourth Assessment Report" of the Intergovernmental on Climate Change. That number is huge when you look at it from a global perspective because it's much more than prestigious American universities like Yale and Princeton, and it's almost equal to the combined number of Harvard and MIT. For me when I saw those numbers I thought—that shows what IIASA should be doing. Good science but not just for *Nature* and *Science*, the prestigious journals, but also to help the politics to get a good perspective on a big international, global problem.

Our current challenge, and I'm sure this conference will help us, is to continue to produce that quality science that is relevant for policymaking on global issues. The challenge for the speakers and the audience is then to point this to the relevant topics and cutting-edge approaches. I'm very sure you all will live up to that challenge. Let me end by thanking very much the Federal Ministry for Science and Research, the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, the Federal Chancellery, and the City of Vienna for being co-sponsors of this big event, including allowing us to be in this very nice, very beautiful and historical environment. I wish you a very good conference. Thank you very much.