**Transformative Pathways to Sustainable Future:
Conflict and/or Cooperation?**

**ALG 2017 Draft Narrative**

The 2017 retreat of the Alpbach Laxenburg Group, entitled “*Transformative Pathways to a Sustainable Future: Conflict and/or Cooperation”*, will focus on social, cognitive, behavioral, governance and institutional aspects of global transformations.

Sustainable development discourse is often putting overly large emphasis on the limited availability of natural resources and on technological transitions and innovations as the most important remedy. This bias towards the “physical” side of sustainable transformations is widely spread across science, policy and business domains. Yet, if we want to stand any real chance of achieving the ambitious and transformative goals towards a sustainable future, we need to recognize and fully emancipate in this discourse transformational needs in governance, political, institutional, behavioral and even cognitive and psychosocial domains. Though well studied by scholars and in parts well understood, these aspects have not yet become a visible and widely recognized part of the sustainable development discourse. In contrary, many still believe that social, behavioral and institutional processes are somewhat exogenous and consequential to the technological transformations and that rapid technological development and progress would ultimately succeed in safeguarding our sustainable future.

In the 2017 ALG retreat we will challenge these views and currently prevailing discourse.

First, we will embark on in-depth discussions from different disciplinary angles and by individual contributions as well as moderated discussion from the world leading academics and practitioners covering the themes like institutions, governance, cognition, behavior, sociology and communication. An important aspect through which the social, behavioral and institutional processes ultimately come into play resides in collaborative and conflicting nature of their interactions. Therefore and second, a large part of our intended deliberations will be focusing on the theory and practice of cooperation and competition, negotiations, types and effectiveness of the incentives in seeking agreements, win-win options and strategies, stability and longevity of the deals, and opportunities of new social contracts.

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