

Venice workshop, May 26-27, 2005 – Washington D.C. workshop, October 11-12, 2005



Acting President

Dear Madame/Sir

With particular interest and pleasure the Academy hosts this important scientific meeting that brings together in discussion many experts from different disciplines. And so beside the science of space there are economists of indubitable value, together with exponents of the business world, of the political world and of culture.

The Academy of International Environmental Sciences has operated, since its foundation, with the help of experts of different disciplines (chemists, physicists, geologists, biologists, medical experts, jurists, economists, and so on). For this reason it is particularly pleasant to host an event like this, whose results will also be useful for eventual further initiatives aimed at examining the important question of the law of space, that is to say, of that branch of international law which regulates the activities directed at the exploration and the utilization of outer space and of the celestial bodies.

At this point it seems natural to refer to the founding spirit of the "Charta for the study and the protection of the environment and ecosystems" drawn following the first Conference of the International Academy of Environmental Sciences (Venice 23-25 ottobre 2003): *"respect for Mother Earth makes every man a guardian of the Earth"*.

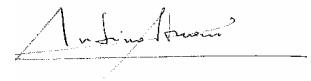
And on this subject, two great principles posited by the Charter of Rio de Janeiro come to mind, principles indissolubly related: that in which "peace, development and protection of the environment are interdependent and indissoluble" (principle 25), and that according to which "nations and peoples must actively and with solid spirit collaborate in the application of the principles sanctified by the present declaration and in the development of international law with the object of realising sustainable development".

And finally, I should like to recall a passage from the message of our President, Nobel Laureate for Peace, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, delivered during the work of our Conference, there where he he wrote: *"todas somos responsables: educadores, politicos, organizaciones sociales, sindicatos, Iglesias, en salvar y proteger a nuestra Madre Tierra y proclamar que "otro mundo es posible"*.

Reminding you of this message, on the occasion of this great scientific initiative, it is my hope that we all always keep in mind the high social, political and cultural value of these Principles.

First of all us

Prof. Antonino Abrami



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