



PRESS RELEASE

Vatican has it right says Club of Rome, as it works on solutions

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The Papal encyclical on the environment is especially welcome at the Club of Rome which introduced the idea of “Limits to Growth” in the 1970s. “The Pope makes points that are indistinguishable from those that the Club of Rome has been making for years”, says Roberto Peccei, Vice President.

Like the Vatican, the Club of Rome says that to solve our climate problems and build a fairer society, nature and society must be placed before economics and short term profit. Both the Pope and the Club of Rome also agree that politicians need to do what they are elected to do – which means regulate, especially emissions and the finance sector. They argue that environmental degradation and growing inequity are clear signals that the world is moving in the wrong direction and that we need fundamental change.

The Club is currently working to answer the question: how can humanity shift to a better economic system without collapse? “Many people are trying to define a better economic system,” says Graeme Maxton the Secretary General, “but that is not much use if we cannot move from where we are without making the situation worse. We are on a treadmill of environmental destruction and widening inequality.” The Club argues that humanity needs a 20 year transition towards a better system based on renewable energy, more efficient resource use and different production systems that eliminate waste. It says we need to redefine work, create new jobs in emerging sectors, redistribute work and wealth and should limit trade when it is in the interests of society.

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Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, a member of the Club of Rome, presented Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment together with Cardinal Turkson on 18 June in Rome.