



globus et locus

**Globus et Locus
International Seminar**

**The Politics of Global Governance; Issues
and Institutional Parameters**

Introductory address by President Piero Bassetti

Turin, 4 - 5 November 2005

Let me first welcome all of you. We are here to start another top-ranking international Seminar on global governance and reforms to the United Nations. The Project relies on the determination and well-tested collaboration of the Compagnia in tandem with Globus et Locus, the Association I have the honour of chairing.

Founded in 1997, Globus et Locus is an association of various important functional and territorial bodies in north of Italy and south of Switzerland: banking foundations, regional authorities, universities, local governments, chambers of commerce. We have always believed that just such components – function-based economic or cultural institutions, exponents of civil society, organizations representing the region or locality – can make an invaluable contribution to tackling the challenge of the contradiction between politics and globalization. Such entities are an important means of governance, locally and also glocally. Not just in Italy, but in Europe and throughout the world, *they* have the experience and the capacity for institutional innovation and can play a key role.

From the outset we at Globus et Locus have taken the most urgent challenge, before us, to be the growing contradiction that is being felt between the processes of globalization / glocalization and the current state of our politics and institutions. Our Project stems from the conviction that, without any effective or legitimate governance able to safeguard mankind's treasured "global public goods" (security, development, health, the environment, and so on), a globalized world is doomed to crisis and decline.

Starting from the concept I have already outlined – the contradiction between globalization and the state of our

politics and institutions – we have all along focused our attention on the United Nations system since, crisis-torn though it is, that is the only global institutional framework we currently possess. We have especially concentrated our thoughts on the need for at least part of the governing cadres of the UN to have a common culture and training. For this, along with prominent local organizations and public figures, we have striven to support the setting up of the Turin Staff College of the United Nations.

This city is already hosting the Training Centre of the international labour organization, the UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and other leading international institutions, as well as top-ranking economic, financial and cultural institutes and movements. It has every right to call itself a “glocal” town, one of the main European “nodes” in the ongoing process of globalization.

It is obvious, though, that pondering on the UN system is not the whole picture when one is seeking a new global governance. The background is one where a new set of players differing from the nation-States and originating in civil society is needed. This calls for front-line involvement of that civil society in the relation between local and global in all its manifestations: from the world of economics and culture to that of the Associations and the non-governmental organizations.

We all note, besides, how the UN system itself, though born essentially as an organization of nation-States, has developed in time towards more complex institutional forms that include representation of civil society. As we all know, this actually formed a key part of the groundwork for reform that led up to last September’s UN Summit, especially through the work of the Cardoso Report commissioned by Secretary General Kofi Annan.

In this direction we ourselves are working to set up an international network formed on the one hand of public figures, scholars and research centres, and on the other, of functional institutions such as those of our membership, since

these comprise the main cast of our new civil society. It is from these actors, as well as from the great super-national institutions, that a new dimension of political planning must be born.

To mobilise intelligence and mobilise the new functional “glocal players” – that was and is our purpose.

The first public stage in this network-gathering came with the International Seminar put on here in Turin in March 2004. The venue, if you remember, was the same, and the same decisive input came from the Compagnia di San Paolo.

That first Seminar – on “Glocalization, World Governance and Reform of the UN” – led to the promotion of a first nucleus of the international network; it set in motion a first joint reflection on aspects of global governance; it brought into service a virtual “locus” (the Globus et Locus website) as the network’s meeting-place and forum; it laid the foundations for a subsequent phase of more specific, detailed action and thinking.

The fruit of this development is today’s second top-level International Seminar, which I am pleased and honoured to be opening.

We have planned the seminar around four successive work sessions: the first, this morning’s, is co-ordinated by Piero Gastaldo, Secretary General of the Compagnia di San Paolo, and is on the topic **“Globalization and National Politics: the European Experience in building Governance”**. The second, this afternoon, will be co-ordinated by the sociologist Anna Jaguaribe, advisor to Globus et Locus; it will be devoted to **“Defining and managing Global Public Goods”**. Tomorrow morning Ambassador Giorgio Giacomelli who has been, may I remind you, Vice Secretary General of the United Nations, will be co-ordinating the third session on **“The UN Reform and Global Governance”**. The fourth and last on **“Governance: New and Strategic Players”** will tackle the role of civil society and its agents towards a new global governance. The speakers at each session have been allotted a maximum of twenty minutes.

My task in the last session, apart from co-ordinating it, will be to attempt to draw some conclusions and on that basis sketch a possible common path for further research and action.

I hope and trust that our labours on these two days will re-inforce and extend the **Globalization and Governance Network Project (GGNP)** we are working to build and also give new thrust and direction to the debate we are engaged in. Our venture aims to open up a kind of global *Agora*, a public area in which glocal actors from the new civil society can meet and be seen.

As such, in the coming months and years, we hope to provide all the actors holding the floor in this public arena with matter for rumination and debate, opportunities to meet, experience and institutional planning to build on and, we trust, take a stage further together.

In this connection, you will also find in your folder an outline of the "Globalization and Governance Network Project" which we are in the process of discussing and for which we strongly welcome your suggestions.

The Association's website, which we intend to renew fully, already collects all the documents you sent in, other material of mutual interest and all the back documentation of this Project of ours. The site will also show selected video-recordings of our two-day event.

May I conclude by thanking the Compagnia di San Paolo for making this seminar possible, world-famous scholars and public figures who have agreed to take part, and all who have contributed to planning and arranging our schedule.

I wish you an enjoyable stay in Turin and a profitable experience of the Seminar.