



CLUB DE MADRID

The Political Dimensions of the World Economic Crisis

THE CRISIS AND THE RE-EMERGENCE OF POLITICS

The current economic crisis that hit the world in 2008 has been confronting us with unprecedented financial and economic challenges, compounding those the world was already facing in other areas such as poverty, food security, global warming, nuclear proliferation and human rights. The social and *political* challenges of this essentially systemic crisis are and will be considerable, if only because the response will inevitably require important *political* decisions.

As the largest, most globally recognized and active group of democratic former Heads of State and Government and, working together with some of the world's leading thinkers, the Club of Madrid has been addressing the political dimensions of the crisis, bringing the informed and experienced insight of its members to those stakeholders directly engaged in the political consideration of the issues and the relevant decision making processes. In this way, the Club of Madrid aims to proactively support, inform and inspire sitting leaders in the formulation of the bold ideas needed to tackle the challenge of this crisis, particularly as it bears on the imperative of strengthening and sustaining democratic values, leadership and the quality of politics in general.

Arab World, Asian and BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) perspective. In each of these roundtables, Members of the Club of Madrid, along with policy-makers and prominent international experts, have analyzed the *political* dimensions of the world economic crisis from different regional and national perspectives, formulating recommendations that will be shared with relevant stakeholders, responsible, in turn, for responding to the social and political challenges that the crisis will generate –at a global, regional and national level. In this way, the Club of Madrid seeks to contribute to the design and consolidation of a new global governance system capable of dealing with the aforementioned challenges within the respect of democratic values and human rights.

FRAMING THE CRISIS IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

The main findings and recommendations gathered at the first meetings at the regional level became the building blocks of the broader deliberations that took place during the Club of Madrid's Annual Conference on "*The Political Dimensions of the World Economic Crisis*" held November 12-13, 2009 in Madrid. In this Conference the Club of Madrid Members and advisors analyzed, together with high level experts, the conclusions coming out of the roundtables and formulated recommendations that could contribute to more effective responses to the challenges leadership faces in the context of the current crisis.

UNDERSTANDING THE CRISIS, REGION BY REGION

The crisis has affected all countries and regions, albeit differently, depending on their level of development, location and participation in the global economy. Dealing with this multifaceted reality will require different solutions and strategies with likely important tensions between national, regional and global interests. To better understand and respond to this, the Club of Madrid launched this project that includes six regional roundtables in which Club of Madrid Members have analyzed, together with high level experts, the political impact of the crisis from the European, Latin American, African, the

We face an unprecedented opportunity to rethink the entrenched ways in which leaders have conducted things and promote reforms to achieve a more democratic model.

Ricardo Lagos
Member,
Club of Madrid
Former President, Chile

PARTNERSHIPS

- Generalitat de Catalunya
- Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo
- The Brookings Institution
- Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)
- Círculo de Montevideo
- Casa Árabe
- African Development Bank
- Africa Progress Panel
- Casa África
- Regional Government of Madrid
- Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
- Government of Thailand
- Casa Asia



ABOUT THE CLUB OF MADRID

The Club of Madrid constitutes the world's largest forum of democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers and offers today's leaders an unequalled body of knowledge and political leadership experience.

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PROJECT'S GOAL

To analyze the political challenges arising from the world economic crisis and help generate and foster the bold thinking needed to support the leadership that will be responding to the crisis at a national, regional and global level, while sustaining democratic development.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Identification and analysis of the political challenges being faced by nations and regions worldwide as a result of the global economic crisis.

- Review of the expectations and the applicability of measures adopted to avert, manage or resolve these challenges from the perspective of different regions and globally.

- Formulation of focused recommendations that could contribute to more effective responses to the social and political challenges being posed by the crisis at the national, regional and international levels and from a democratic perspective.

These will be presented to political institutions, policy-makers and stakeholders responsible for responding to the crisis.

The crisis and the problem is economic but the solution remains primarily a political choice so we have to consider the whole matter from a political perspective

*Hong Koo Lee
Member,
Club of Madrid
Former Prime Minister, Korea*

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- A declaration of the Members of the Club of Madrid will be formulated, including key messages, conclusions and practical recommendations made to relevant institutions and political actors responsible for responding to the challenges being faced by democratic leadership in the context of the economic crisis at a national, regional and international level.

- The identification of relevant regional and international fora where the results, recommendations and key messages of each roundtable and the Annual Conference can be shared and further developed.

- The dissemination, development and mainstreaming of the results, recommendations and key messages in relevant fora and decision-making circles at the global, regional and national levels.

- The international debate on the topic will be taken into account in the development of the project's content. This follow-up will help guide Club of Madrid recommendations and possible new project activities.



CLUB DE MADRID

DEMOCRACY THAT DELIVERS

RELATED ACTIVITIES

European Roundtable

26 March, 2009

Barcelona

Partner:

- *Generalitat de Catalunya*

Latin America Roundtable

13 July, 2009

Santiago de Chile

Partners:

- *UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)*
- *Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF)*
- *The Brookings Institution*
- *Círculo de Montevideo*
- *Fundación Democracia y Desarrollo*
- *Secretaría General Iberoamericana (SEGIB)*

Arab World Roundtable

28 October, 2009

Madrid

Partner:

- *Casa Árabe*

African Roundtable

2–3 November, 2009

Accra

Partners:

- *Africa Progress Panel*
- *African Development Bank*
- *Casa África*

Club of Madrid's Annual Conference

12–13 November, 2009

Madrid

Partner:

- *Regional Government of Madrid*

BRICS Roundtable

26 May, 2010

Paris

Partner:

- *Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)*

Asian Roundtable

18 August, 2010

Bangkok

Partners:

- *UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*
- *Government of Thailand*
- *Casa Asia*