

The Forum at Viterbo closes with 130 journalists from 53 countries, 10 Climate Witnesses, and 14 important scientists signing an appeal that Rajendra Pachauri, president of the International Panel on Climate Change, will take to Copenhagen

Greenaccord to the world's leaders: "There's no time left to waste"

Masullo: "The voices of the Climate Witnesses must not be shouts in the desert, we have the duty to inform. And to act."

Viterbo, 29 November 2009 – With applause of a crowd of international journalists the Seventh International Media Forum On The Protection of Nature, organized by Greenaccord; the final act an official document on the urgency of adopting serious actions to head off climate change, signed by the 130 journalists from 53 countries and 14 important scientists. Greenaccord will deliver this shout of alarm directly to the president of the IPCC, the International Panel on Climate Change, **Rajendra Pachauri**, December 3 in Brussels. "The representatives of the whole world united in Copenhagen cannot put off a serious, binding accord to save the climate and protect future generations from the suffering that we have heard recounted here in Viterbo by these witnesses" exclaimed **Andrea Masullo**, president of the Scientific Committee of Greenaccord. "The director general of the FAO, Jacques Diouff, a few days ago in Rome, during a conference on food security, said that every half hour five children die from starvation and to be able to feed nine billion people that will inhabit the earth in 2050 we will have to raise food production by 70%.

The scientists of Greenaccord are in agreement as well that one of the outcomes of climate change is a decline in food production. But not just that: in the last few years the changes are proceeding much more quickly than foreseen in the fourth report of the IPCC. Despite this it seems that in Copenhagen there will not be a definitive accord, as many governments say they cannot undertake onerous initiatives because of the current economic crisis. Nonetheless during the G8 Environmental Meeting in Syracuse the World Bank presented a paper affirming that investments in clean technologies, that is to say in energy efficiency and renewable sources, represents a potent new instrument for getting out of the crisis.

In addition, if it's true that politicians are not likely to making investments whose returns will only be seen after several decades, that is to say after the end of their terms, only a well-informed public can exercise a strong enough pressure on politicians to force them to take these measures. During Greenaccord's Fourn – concluded Andrea Masullo – we have heard directly from people who suffer in first person the consequences of climate change. Climate change has changed from cold, hard statistics to the familiarity with human affairs.

These stories have given us an enormous responsibility: not to forget their appeals because we live (apparently) in a zone that is safer, but to give their appeals wings. Climate change is not the primary source of the global crisis, which is to be found in the model of consumer development that devours people and nature, both insatiable and devastating, that feeds the promises of wellbeing that ever more often it is unable to keep, and that has begun to render more damages than benefits.

More than one person spoke of the mad delusion of limitless growth that feeds the current system, of the necessity of new forms of participatory democracy, of the necessity of politicians to consult civil society directly for questions about future generation, global ecological crises, and important decisions. The president of Greenaccord, **Gian Paolo Marchetti**, gave his support to the appeal: "These testimonials brought together here in Viterbo have been extremely important, quite valuable for us. I would like to thank everyone who has come along with us, from journalists to partners, on this long road. I hope that our

appeal will be heard in Copenhagen, and that it will open the road to a new sensibility for the welfare of the planet.”

In the meantime the theme of the next International Media Forum On The Protection of Nature has been announced: it will focus on the boundaries within which human actions can produce welfare and prosperity for new generations, avoiding the dramatic outlook of the current conflict between economy and environment. This theme refers not only to physical and biological boundaries in the biosphere but also philosophical, ethical, and psychological implications of the correct position of humanity in the biosphere, with the intention of being able to discover the traces of a new social and economically-sustainable model. The meeting is set for 2010.