Some thoughts to launch discussion in the Symposium Roundtables

The symposium is a side-event of the 94th Executive Council meeting of our federation WFSW. Its twofold title, international scientific cooperation on the one hand and scientists' working conditions on the other hand, is linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is therefore through this prism that these two topics should be studied. Given that the world is currently off course concerning the fulfillment of the SDGs, as well as the fact that scientists are prompted to find solutions to problems rather than advance knowledge about these problems, the role of the so-called "international scientific community" is crucial. We would like to scrutinize both the actual existence and content of this "community", as well as scientists' contribution to diplomacy, mainly through the concept of "scientific diplomacy", but not limited to it. Are scientists more "wise/resilient/open" than politicians because their work is intrinsically international? Or are scientists included in the "human capital" of a nation, called to support its sovereignty and "excellence", which implies scaling down the international part of their work in order to focus on more or less strategic national objectives?

Answers to such complicated topics mostly depend on our understanding of the concept of science. As scientists committed to peace (cf. the history of the foundation of WFSW), we call into question the dominant concept of a "competitive" science embedded in the neoliberal globalization. Yet one should bear in mind that *emulation* may fuel new knowledge, which can lead to discoveries, progress and prosperity (cf. SDG 1 "no poverty", SDG 9 "industry, innovation and infrastructure" etc.). Where is the frontier between competition and emulation? Is the sharing of COVID19 science since the beginning of the pandemic a mere exception given the urgency of the situation or a model to follow?

History teaches us that scientific cooperation has been pursued even in the worst periods of actual wars or of the cold war. The current situation created by the war in Ukraine and the need to preserve our Ukrainian counterparts and their students, as well as to weigh our capacity to continue cooperation with Russian or Belarusian colleagues introduce new challenges we should face with serenity. This war revived the nuclear risk and dramatically increased the military budgets to the detriment of education, R&I, climate resiliency and global equity. We welcome contributions concerning scientists' initiatives to raise global awareness about this major threat.

Scientists' working conditions in the Western countries have been impacted by the decision to stop cooperation as part of the sanctions imposed on Russia. Moreover, as competition grows in order to prevent the disruption of supply chains (e.g. microchips) turning into a "technological war", scientists' workload increases dramatically and the quest for "competitive funding" becomes one of the main objectives to fulfill. In this context, precariousness is soaring. Furthermore, it is perversely considered a driver for dynamism and creative mind. We welcome contributions examining new kinds of precariousness and the way scientists cope with them, as well as contributions about the impact of new technologies, mainly artificial intelligence, on working conditions (e.g. risk of "uberization"). Contributions examining the situation in the developing countries may be of particular interest.

Cooperation between scientists and civil society can increase awareness concerning the SDGs, exert pressure on decision-makers, and democratize science. The role of open science is crucial. Yet open science may also be a burden because it entails new obligations for scientists (including legal ones), and new caveats in order to prevent that the market sector has a grip on knowledge, making it a mere commercial commodity. We welcome

contributions on balanced science-society communication, co-production of knowledge/results and creation of virtuous science-society ecosystems.
