

Abstract from:
Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker
International Conference

"Fair Globalization – Safe Workplace –
Policies, Strategies and Practices for Sustainable Development"
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A Fair Globalization – Sustainable Development Strategies

SPEAKER:

Prof. Dr. Ernst-Ulrich von Weizsäcker

FUNCTION:

Chairman, Bundestag Environment Committee, former Member,
World Commission on the Social Dimensions of Globalization

ABSTRACT:

Globalization in the present form emerged after the Cold War was over. Until 1990, it was massively in the interest of capital owners to pay due respect to the poor, to the working class and to democratic institutions, - because they all needed to be persuaded that capitalism was benign and surely better than communism. Today's capitalism, by contrast, is characterized by uncompromising cost competition, - to the detriment of social policy, worker's rights, and democratic institutions.

It will be necessary to re-establish a fair balance between the rich and the poor. Democratic mechanisms have to be globalized. For this, we need a broad awareness of the novelty of the challenge and a social movement worldwide confronting the power structures of capital. Democratically legitimated governments (fed up with being blackmailed by investors and capital markets), the UN institutions and civil society can join hands to create a frame for a more equitable world society.

We may also be in need for a new Enlightenment. The old enlightened assumption that markets and democracy are mutually supportive has turned erroneous in recent times.