

Meanwhile, President Václav Havel of Czechoslovakia made an eloquent and impassioned plea for the restoration of values and an elementary sense of justice, responsibility, wisdom, courage, compassion and faith – a view still highly relevant today when the institutions and systems of global governance need to be redesigned:

“Looking at politics ‘from the inside’, as it were, has if anything confirmed my belief that the world of today – with the dramatic changes it is going through and in its determination not to destroy itself – presents a great challenge to politicians. It is not that we should simply seek new and better ways of managing society, the economy and the world as such. The point is that we should fundamentally change how we behave. And who but politicians should lead the way? Their changed attitude towards the world, themselves and their responsibility can, in turn, give rise to truly effective systemic and institutional changes.”⁴

Other leaders addressed the lack of values and the importance of creating a fairer society. The Archbishop of Milan, Carlo Maria Cardinal Martini, reflected on the nature and role of faith amid the economic and social problems of the world, while Algerian Prime Minister Sid-Ahmed Ghazali suggested that the new international order could lead to disorder unless more attention was paid to poverty in the poorer countries.

Global Leaders for Tomorrow

In 1992, the Forum launched a new community, the Global Leaders for Tomorrow (GLTs), composed of 200 young leaders from business, politics, academia, the arts and the media, all of them under 43 years of age and well established through their achievements and positions of influence. Among those nominated in the first year were many individuals (indicated below with their titles at that time) who would later assume key responsibilities or distinguish themselves further in their fields:

Martine Aubry, Minister of Labour, Employment and Vocational Training of France
José Maria Aznar, President, Partido Popular, Spain
José Manuel Durao Barroso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal
Anthony C. L. Blair MP, Shadow Cabinet Minister, United Kingdom
Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, United Kingdom
Yuriko Koike, Senator, Japan New Party, Japan
Anne Lauvergeon, Deputy Secretary-General, Elysée Palace, France
Yo-Yo Ma, Musician
Angela Merkel, Federal Minister for Women and Youth of Germany
Nicholas Sarkozy, Assistant Secretary, RPR, France
Lawrence Summers, Vice-President and Chief Economist, World Bank, Washington DC

The group which would hold its own Summits, partially in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in Davos, would be reconstituted in 2003 as The Forum of Young Global Leaders.

⁴ Václav Havel, Address to the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, Davos, 4 February 1992