



## ***AN S.O.S.(Safe Operating Space) FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE***

***We, the signatories to this Manifesto, recall that, on the basis of extensive scientific evidence:***

1. The concept of "Safe Operating Space" (S.O.S.) has been developed to help people prosper in an environmentally and socially sustainable way;
2. Planetary Boundaries have been identified covering nine processes – closely related, interdependent and fundamentally driven by human pressure: climate change, loss of biodiversity, acidification of the oceans, depletion of the ozone layer in the stratosphere, interference with the biogeochemical cycles of nitrogen and phosphorus, global water use, land system change, loading of aerosols in the atmosphere and pollution due to anthropogenic novel entities
3. It has been estimated that for four of the nine processes, planetary boundaries have already been transgressed (climate change, biodiversity loss, interference with nitrogen and phosphorus cycles, land system change) and that human pressure on our planet may have already transgressed the safe operating space ;
4. It is well documented that human well-being depends both on the maintenance of healthy natural systems and on the satisfaction of basic individual needs, required to lead a dignified life, which can be exemplified in 12 social dimensions: sufficient food, water, health, income, education, energy, employment, the right to expression, gender equality, networking capacity, social equity and resilience to shocks and stresses;
5. There exist both an outside boundary to the use of natural systems, a kind of “ceiling”, beyond which environmental degradation becomes unacceptable and dangerous for all humanity, and an internal boundary, a kind of “floor”, beneath the level of which human deprivation becomes unacceptable and unsustainable. A "Safe Operating Space" can be defined as the area between the “ecological ceiling” and the “social floor” (a kind of “doughnut”), within which it is possible to determine and practice economic and social conditions that are respectful of the environment and equitable, and therefore able to generate a new perspective of sustainable development for the future of humanity;

We are aware that with the approval of the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the international framework outlined in recent years provides a unique opportunity for a change



in the current unsustainable development model;

We therefore believe it is essential to make concrete the commitments necessary to achieve these goals as soon as possible, requiring the active contribution of all members of society, and that the S.O.S. approach can help us to put into practice what has been agreed within the United Nations, according to national and regional contexts;

***Thus we are committed to:***

1. Ensuring that the agreements to which the international community has committed are made concrete and operational, each according to their own area and competencies, in particular with regard to the implementation of Agenda 2030 with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
2. Contributing to the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development presented to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum last July, which, with the Coordination of the Presidency of the Council, must be practically deployed in effective actions to reach the goals of Agenda 2030 by launching specific guidelines for the various ministries and administrations so that their plans and programs and funding are aligned to these goals;
3. Working towards the elimination of fossil fuels as energy sources, thus favoring the de-carbonization process of our economy with direct initiatives by businesses, administrations, communities, with activities to reduce energy use, use energy more efficiently and promote renewable energy sources;
4. Promoting a transition to an economic system capable of:
  - a long-term vision that no longer assumes an infinite growth of energy consumption, use of raw materials and transformation of natural systems, and which, by revising its corporate, public and community objectives, considers our cities, our countries and our planet as a common home, a place dedicated to equitable and sustainable well-being;
  - recognizing the importance of natural capital (natural resources, biodiversity, ecosystems and their services) as an essential basis for our well-being and development, with the awareness that only with a strong and resilient natural capital is it possible for human societies to be prosperous, vital and healthy; without it, our future and that of the generations to come will be impossible;



- launching production processes that imitate the circular processes of nature, as an alternative to the linear processes of our current economic system – processes resulting in waste and pollution;
- 5. Fostering the development of accounting systems at national, local and enterprise level that are able to fully take into account the impact of human activities on natural capital and to provide measures of economic performance that are more appropriate than the current GDP-based measures, and which are also able to capture the well-being of people and ecosystem dynamics.

***Rome, 12 September 2017***