

A SHORT REPORT on THE ROUND TABLE of FUTURE of DEMOCRACY

Liberal democracies are having serious problems all around the World. Populism, corporatization of the media, fake news, retreat from globalism, oligarchy, corruption and other perils are increasing concerns about the fairness and effectiveness of it. The World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS) and World University Consortium (WUC) organized an interactive roundtable discussions on April 3-5, 2018, at the Inter-University Centre-Dubrovnik to discuss the problems of democracy and governance at national and international level.

A small group of concerned thinkers, scientists, political leaders, diplomats and also students gathered to explore critical issues relating to the future of democracy. This interactive round table discussion was held at the Inter-University Centre, Dubrovnik on April 3-5, 2018.

The fairness, effectiveness and sustainability of democratic institutions and the future of it are reanalyzed during three days long workshops.

Achievements and foundations of democracy, known failings and remedies of democracy, democracy and social power, technology, what could be alternative models, nationalism, globalization and democracy were the main titles.

Participants underlined that there is a big diverse group in the world, so the main subject is the “governance of humanity”. They also agreed that individual liberty is the heart of democracy.

A.Zucconi aimed at explaining “What is not democracy”. He underlined the importance of creating a democratic relationship among groups (husband and wife/ parents and children).

J.Mill simply warned us about the tyranny of the majority.

Another discussion was “why power is frozen in the hands of a few people”? Is it about power- individual economic and communication power.

Almost all participants highlighted the same point; we need to educate people to have not democracy from above. We need to teach them their obligations to themselves and others. But it seems we are at war with ourselves.

How to limit political power in the interest of majority was another interesting topic. Some participants highlighted the importance of “Intergenerational Fairness”. Some said, “democracy is a universal concept not limited to Europe”. Some attracted our attention to populism threat.

Another disputed topic was “which system of values we need to rely on, American system or Far East or how we will merge these differences. Some of the most widely shared expressions were as follows;

Empowerment of the common men, Cross Cultural Management, Critical Thinking (not to tell them what is right/ give them critical thinking), Not Happiness not Quality of Life it is Well Being that Matters (integrated view of soul-mind-body), Holistic Governance, Not Race but Racism is Dividing Us, Instead of Giving Local Vision to Our Institutions Let’s Give Them a

Global Common Vision, Global Cooperative Governance, Dynamic/ Systems Thinking, Bottom Up not Up to Bottom Democracy.

Thomas Reuter said, “We need to find a more universal definition of “democracy” that will allow a discussion on political justice across cultures”.

Another interesting question that was discussed is “Can democracy be governed democratically?”. Instead of consumerism how capital and the current system could be humanized- How we can make a paradigm shift and divert the education to “human centered education”.

Can we redistribute our limited resources from financial system to sustainable and environment friendly productive system?

M. Djurovic raised another very vital question and asked “Who will regulate technology- governments or elites or who? Can it be regulated?”

Last but not least we discussed how we can move from representative to collaborative and liberating system which could be named as “Colloboracy” which also requires scientific decision making.

Although there were different answers to each of these questions exchanging ideas and using collective intelligence was very promising and fruitful and gave us a very broad vision.