

BioVision Alexandria 2004 – Closing Plenary Session
April 6, 2004

Philippe Desmarescaux, Chairman,
The World Life Sciences Forum BioVision

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On Saturday, on the occasion of the Opening Plenary Session of BioVision Alexandria 2004, I clearly expressed my pride and enthusiasm for all the progress made since 1998: we managed to create together a great platform for dialogue and initiatives.

BioVision Alexandria 2004 is a major step forward, with the full integration of North-South and South-South issues: understanding each other better is the best way for bridging the gap.

Each one and all of us have to gain from this approach, and turning misunderstanding into a real win-win situation is not only feasible but also just 'around the corner', as perceived throughout the past three days.

The 'Secret Recipée' of BioVision, putting together Science, Society and Industry, must be used and enhanced at all levels: we know now that it works, and we have to make sure that it will lead to concrete results, to the direct benefit of all stakeholders involved.

This unique platform and Think Tank is yours, make use of it:

- 1) As Industry Leaders, you need to realize that the developing world is also a potential partner with surprising opportunities, as expressed during the CEO debate on Sunday evening.
- 2) As Scientists, you need to recognize that there is a clear continuum between the young PhD and Nobel laureate: wisdom and change are of the essence, regardless of age and geography.
- 3) Last but not least, as Civil Society representatives, you need to understand that a global vision is essential, and that slowing down innovation could have dreadful consequences.

Whether you are an Industry leader, a Scientist or a Civil Society representative, please always keep in mind the three key questions:

- What Science can do?
- What Society is willing to accept?
- What Industry can ethically produce?

These questions must remain closely interlinked at all stages of development and have been already quite well addressed over the past three days:

- By the Nobel laureates, who have given us a wonderful vision of what interdisciplinary research can bring us,
- By the Keynote Speakers, all recognized opinion-leaders and decision-makers,
- And last but not least, by Dr. Serageldin himself and his wonderful team, who have pushed forward the concept of BioVision Alexandria in a unique environment where Science, Society and Industry have worked together for thousands of years.

BioVision and BioVision Alexandria are obviously complementary: the World Life Sciences Forum offers now the possibility to Life Sciences leaders of meeting every year, alternatively, in Europe and Egypt. Their role is to ensure that concrete actions are followed-up very carefully between meetings, so that dialogue established on these occasions leads to active partnerships with tangible results.

For this reason, we have decided to add on the occasion of BioVision 2005 what we call the "Agora Forum", where movers and doers from Science, Society and Industry will be given full exposure whenever they can bring ideas, projects and products that can actually generate concrete development.

The corresponding *Call for Abstracts* will be launched shortly, and I will ask Dr. Serageldin to make sure that some of the very talented people that actively participated to these debates in Alexandria will be given the chance of joining us and contribute to the success of BioVision 2005 next April.

Let's move forward together. Even if we are late, it is certainly not too late to turn threats into real opportunities – with your help.

Thank you.