



**The Challenge of Inequality to Democracy and the Rule of Law:  
A Joint Event between the EUI MWP and the IPSP  
19 October 2018, 13:00-15:00  
Badia, Emeroteca**

The International Panel for Social Progress brought together nearly 300 researchers from around the world, including a number of current and former EUI Professors and Max Weber Fellows, under the chairmanship of Amartya Sen. They worked for three years to examine the prospects for social progress in the light of today's social sciences. Its first report, *Rethinking Society for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, was published by Cambridge University Press in May 2018. It aims at inspiring political decision-makers, citizens and all the actors of the civil society weighing on the evolution of our institutions.

Covering all important economic, political and cultural issues (democracy, poverty and inequality, globalization, labor, migration, economic and corporate governance, global and environmental risks, health, conflicts, religions, education, diversity and integration, etc.), the report examines the long-term evolution of societies and the factors of progress.

The main general messages of the report are:

1. Considerable progress has been made over the past centuries and humanity is at its peak, but now faces challenges that compromise its achievements and even its survival.
2. Meeting these challenges and mobilizing our current collective capacities for the benefit of the many requires reforms that will confront certain vested interests but will be based on broad consensual principles, involving an expansion of participatory governance and the promotion of equal dignity between people, groups and cultures.
3. There is not a single direction of progress, but multiple possibilities and many ideas that can be tested, with variations adapting to different economic, political and cultural contexts.

The [Report Summary](#) is available online.

The full report has been published by [Cambridge University Press](#) in three volumes: I Socio-Economic Transformations; II Political Regulation, Governance and Societal Transformations; III Transformations in Values, Norms, Cultures.