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Dear Professor Helbing,

I am writing to express the support of Complexity-NET for your FET Flagship concept, FuturICT. Complexity-NET is a group of European science and technology funding agencies, research councils and ministries all working together to create an environment that best enables the coordination of strategically planned national activities in Complexity Science and Complex Systems research. We are funded through the European Union's Framework Programme 6 (FP6), under the European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) scheme.

Our activities to date have included a European landscaping exercise in complexity/complex systems research, which demonstrated the strength and breadth of European research activity in this vital cross-disciplinary area at a national level. This activity culminated in a workshop held in Budapest in November 2007, whose recommendations included the development of future international funding streams focussing on cross-disciplinary approaches to large-scale, real-world problems. In particular, the importance of cross-disciplinary collaborations between mathematics and the physical sciences and the social sciences was strongly emphasised.

We are delighted that FuturICT embraces the value of highly cross-disciplinary, complex systems approaches to modelling and understanding global issues. We believe that this is exactly the kind of large-scale research endeavour that is needed to bring a step-change in the understanding of interlinked human systems at a planetary level.

Whilst we are not in a position to offer firm financial commitments to FuturICT, the Complexity-NET partner organisations (please see our website for a list of Complexity-NET partners) are very keen that we offer this joint statement of support.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Salisbury,

Coordinator, Complexity-NET