REPORT FROM THE 49TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINARS ON PLANETARY EMERGENCIES (ETTORE MAJORANA FOUNDATION, ERICE, ITALY, AUGUST 19-24, 2016)

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ABSTRACT

In 2016, the International Seminars on Planetary Emergencies, organized every year by the Ettore Majorana Foundation and Center for Scientific Culture in Erice (Italy) reached their 49th edition. All the different Panels dealing with a large variety of open problems threatening the human civilization were asked to propose initiatives to be carried out in the framework of the so-called New Manhattan Project (NMP) for the new millennium proposed by Prof. A. Zichichi, Chairman of the Erice Seminars. The Panel devoted to the problem of Defence against Cosmic Objects pointed out that the defence of the Earth against collisions with celestial bodies is a task that cannot be solved by scientists alone, but it requires actions by well-informed decision makers at an international level. In this respect, what is still sorely missing in current activities is an agreed framework in which any possible activity of defence can be put into existence according to internationally agreed laws and treaties. Therefore, it has been proposed, in the framework of the NMP, to organize an international
conference in Erice, with the participation of scientists, engineers, lawyers, top officers of the most important Space Agencies and high-level members of the governments of different countries. This seems to be a first necessary step to establish a body of internationally agreed rules to set up a real system of defence against catastrophic collisions with near-Earth objects.

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Comments:

Please, note that it is not clear which member of the Panel is supposed to be present at the PDC to give this proposed oral presentation. The first author of this abstract cannot attend the Conference due to budget problems, in the absence of a financial support.