



United Nations
Office at Geneva
UNOG



World Academy of
Art and Science

Proposal for a Conference on Global Leadership in the 21st Century

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Global Leadership in the 21st Century

Leadership is a living social process. It is inspired by higher values, insightful ideas and growing awareness of untapped opportunities. It is initiated and directed by inspired individuals and dynamic organizations. It is fueled by the rising aspirations of the population transformed into intense social energies released into action. The results it achieves depend on the intensity of society's aspiration for accomplishment, the organization of the ideas and knowledge on which it is based, the clarity of the goals and plans, and the effectiveness of the institutional mechanisms through which it is implemented. Individuals can play a key leadership role in all stages of this process.

This project is intended to promote the emergence of dynamic leadership at the global level by generating awareness of unutilized global potentials, projecting higher organizational ideas capable of mobilizing and directing the available global social energies and resources for practical application, strengthening the effectiveness and functioning of existing institutions of governance, and releasing a broad-based social movement to transform the compelling challenges confronting humanity today into catalysts for rapid global social evolution. What is conceived here is to make conscious the process of social evolution responsible for humanity's remarkable and unprecedented accomplishments since the founding of the UN in 1945.

Executive Summary

The multidimensional challenges confronting humanity reflect an urgent need for global leadership to project a unifying global vision, build international support and multi-stakeholder commitment, enhance institutional effectiveness, and mobilize global society for effective action. The optimistic consensus that fueled momentum of progress at end of the Cold War has disappeared. The momentum for collective action has dissipated. The recent retreat from multilateralism, democracy, economic cooperation, regional integration, arms control, cooperative security and multiculturalism undermine global cooperation at a time when it is urgently needed to achieve the development objectives of Agenda 2030, address existential ecological challenges, and prevent a relapse into strident nationalism and the Cold War competitive security.

The essence of leadership is an inspiring vision of the future. Since the turn of the millennium the UN has made unparalleled progress in building a global consensus around values and goals for humanity. The whole world has embraced the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. A global consensus has emerged on the need for urgent measures to address environmental threats. Yet a clear vision and strategy have not yet emerged how to reconcile the development demands of the SDGs with the limitations imposed by climate and resource constraints. It has not matured into a shared conviction that these developmental objectives are achievable or the necessary commitment for coordinated global action to realize them. Nor has it generated clear pathways that will enable all nations to achieve their developmental goals rather than intensifying competitive nationalism, withdrawal behind national borders and short-sighted policies. Is it really possible to fulfill humanity's developmental aspirations in a sustainable manner that does not undermine ecological security? Much of the inertia, resistance and denial arises from fundamental doubts about how to reconcile rising expectations with limited resources and how to synchronize efforts to ensure that progress on some goals by some people does not hamper achievement of all the goals by all humanity.

Global leadership is needed to project a compelling vision of humanity's collective future and effective strategies and pathways for coordinated, mutually reinforcing global action. That

leadership needs to generate awareness of the enormous unutilized global potentials that can be tapped to accelerate global progress. It needs to challenge the outmoded, unidimensional theories and compartmentalized models, narrow national and sectoral perspectives, piecemeal stakeholder strategies and fragmented institutional functioning which severely obstruct global social progress. It needs to formulate comprehensive, integrated strategies and policies capable of mobilizing all stakeholders in the global community and directing all the available global social energies for practical application. And in order to fully mobilize the energies of global society, it needs to release a broad-based social movement to transform the compelling challenges confronting humanity today into catalysts for rapid global social evolution.

Global leadership cannot be embodied by a single individual, institution or group. Global society is too vast, diverse and complex. But it can be generated by a social movement fueled by inspiring ideas, compelling goals, dynamic individuals, dedicated institutions and committed stakeholders with a shared vision, values, ideas and action plans. Building that consensus and forging that coalition is an act of true leadership which the world ardently aspires for and can fully respond to, as it did to bring down the Berlin Wall and authoritarian communism, end the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, democratize and liberalize Eastern Europe, reunite Germany, generate an inclusive European Union, and usher in a period of unprecedented global peace and cooperation.

This project is for a joint initiative of the World Academy of Art & Science and the United Nations Office at Geneva in collaboration with a coalition of partner organizations intended to promote the emergence of dynamic leadership at the global level in multiple ways. It aims to

- Formulate a positive vision of humanity's future development that reconciles human aspirations with environmental constraints, national security and self-interest with global cooperative security and progress for all humanity for all, technological advancement with social welfare, national identity with cultural diversity, and national sovereignty with global governance;
- Identify untapped and underutilized financial, human, organizational, social, and technological resources that can be harnessed to realize the vision and formulate strategies to more effectively engage them for human progress;
- Foster an expert consensus that viable pathways and compatible strategies do exist to realize the shared vision;
- Identify strategies to mobilize, engage and coordinate the efforts of major stakeholders, including international organizations and national governments, scientific academies and research institutes, business, educational institutions, the media, global civil society and the public-at-large.

The project will draw insights from major development achievements of the past to make conscious the process of social evolution responsible for humanity's remarkable and unprecedented accomplishments since the founding of the UN in 1945. It will draw on the research and experience of major stakeholder groups to forge a coherent framework of policies and strategies for achievement of realizable goals in an inclusive, mutually consistent and supportive manner. It will include engagement with thought-leaders and experts to identify, synthesize and project the best available ideas through conferences and written reports.

The basic characteristics of the project include --

- The participation of a coalition of stakeholders engaged in thinking about the future of global society and ways to address the complex challenges confronting humanity today. The coalition will include individual/institutional representation of national and

international perspectives, public and private interests, the scientific community and civil society.

- A multidisciplinary approach that brings together groups of thinkers, scientists, technologists, researchers, public administrators, policymakers, political and business leaders, and civil society representatives in a common forum, rather than in separate stakeholder groups.
- A social evolutionary perspective that draws insights from great leadership challenges and achievements of the past at the national and international level, such as those that led to the founding of the UN, the abolition of colonialism, the independence and self-determination of nation-states, the end of the Cold War and the nuclear arms race, the New Deal, the abolition of Slavery and Apartheid, the Green Revolution and other developmental achievements.
- The methodology includes research, discussion groups, and position papers leading to an international conference and publication of a final report.

Context

The end of the Cold War brought with it a period of unrivaled clarity, confidence and optimism regarding the future direction and destiny of humanity. The Iron Curtain was to be replaced by a single open global society. The nuclear arms race was to be permanently halted by a succession of arms control treaties and the dismantling of tens of thousands of nuclear warheads. The WTO presented the prospect of a single world market providing greater economic opportunities for people of all nations. The expansion of global financial markets led to massive investments in developing countries far in excess of anything ever provided as foreign aid. The formation and rapid expansion of the European Union offered the promise of ever increasing cooperation and integration of a continent that had been subjected to incessant warfare for centuries. And the unexpected birth of the World Wide Web soon emerged as the first truly global social system linking billions of people together in ways that were previously unimaginable.

In spite of these impressive achievements and promising prospects, subsequent events during the last quarter century have not unfolded as anticipated. Economically, the 2008 financial crisis caused by unregulated international financial markets, have shifted trillions of dollars of resources from investments in the real economy to short term speculation. The global economy has yet to recover its previous buoyancy. Protectionist sentiments have reasserted even in the bastions of free trade. Economic inequality has risen to levels not seen since the 1920s. Unemployment, especially youth unemployment, remains high and faces the threat posed by the increasing automation brought by the technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution. Politically, there has been an unexpected retreat from democracy and the rise of populism and polarization among democratic electorates in many countries. The resurgence of neoliberalism threatens to unravel many of the important gains achieved by decades of social democracy. The growing dominance of money in politics and widespread persistence of corruption in many forms are undermining confidence in the future of democracy. After two decades of rapid expansion, the European Union confronts serious problems of cohesion. Brexit is only the most serious of numerous symptoms of a loss of the shared vision that brought and bound member states together. Multiple destabilizing attacks on the territorial integrity of nations states have sundered the vision of peaceful coexistence. Nations are closing their borders in response to massive migrations of political, economic and environmental refugees on all continents. The reescalation of the nuclear arms race threatens to reverse the major progress on disarmament so recently achieved. There has been a decline in support for multilateral agreements and international organizations at the very time when more effective global

governance is desperately needed. And most serious of all, environmental challenges threaten the lives and habitats of billions of people in this and future generations.

The major political, economic, social, cultural and ecological challenges confronting humanity today share certain distinct characteristics. None of them can be adequately addressed by individual nation states acting independently. All of them require a significant degree of concerted cooperative action at the global level. None of them can be effectively addressed without greater support by nation states to global rule of law and global governance. All of them require the strengthening of international institutions acting on behalf of the world community as a whole. None of them can be fully addressed based on uni-disciplinary social science theories and models. All of them require a shift in intellectual perspective beyond the nation state to the evolution of the global community. None of them can be successfully addressed solely by the actions of government. All of them require the understanding, support and active commitment of the media, academia, business, civil society and the population at large.

These challenges are manifestations of the urgent need for global vision, direction, organization and leadership. They compel the world community to make the transition from a group of independent nation states into a world community of universal values, shared aspirations and cooperative international institutions. Existing social institutions resist change or adopt incremental measures where radical innovation is required. Society remains uninformed, complacent or in denial in spite of massive efforts to generate awareness and stir nations and people to positive action. Until the end of World War II, significant achievements were mostly the result of the pressure of extreme threats, the violent exercise of power and massive social upheavals. Since then there has been a shift from revolution to evolution, from reliance on force to reliance on understanding, rights and rule of law. The failure of effective leadership to emerge at the global level following the end of the Cold War has resulted in missed opportunities. The loose ends of the past still linger and come back to haunt us. The gap was filled for a time by promising ideas and opportunities generated by the founding of the European Union, WTO and the World Wide Web. But these ideas no longer suffice to guide and direct humanity's progress.

Yet at the very time when traditional forms of leadership appear wanting, some remarkable developments signal the determination of the world community to forge ahead rather than retreat. The most encouraging positive development in recent years has been the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by more than 200 UN member countries under Agenda 2030, representing an unprecedented consensus and commitment of the world community to collaborate to promote the welfare and wellbeing of all human beings. The vote by 122 nations in the UN General Assembly to establish a historic Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017 resulted in the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons. The UN climate talks at Katowice in December 2018, which involved 195 UN member states, succeeded in creating a rule book for implementation of the 2015 Paris climate treaty. Although the talks did not go far enough in addressing the seriousness of the threat, they do signify a willingness for action provided the right leadership can be provided. These achievements signal a convergence of vision and values by the nations of the world community and a growing commitment to collective action on a scale and at levels never before witnessed.

The Need for Global Leadership

The world today possesses unprecedented opportunities and capabilities to promote global human welfare and wellbeing. But it is in urgent need of leadership to tap these momentous opportunities and address its pressing challenges. Leadership is needed at the level of local communities, nation states, regional entities and international organizations to convert those capabilities into effective actions to achieve concrete tangible results.

Over the two centuries the leadership has emanated from many different sources to project new ideas, ideals, values and initiatives to foster the development of global society. International organizations and diplomats, nation states and national political leaders; visionary thinkers, peace groups, individuals and organizations of scientists, lawyers, physicians, and technocrats; the business community, think tanks, NGOs, religious groups; and others. Today new thinking and leadership initiatives are needed at all levels, including international organizations and national governments, intellectuals and national academies, universities and research institutions, business leaders and business groups, international and national civil society and religious organizations.

In 2013 the United Nations Office in Geneva collaborated with the World Academy of Art & Science to conduct an international conference of some 200 political leaders, diplomats, scientists and civil society to explore essential elements of a positive vision and strategy for humanity's future. That conference challenged prevailing values, modes of thinking, theoretical frameworks, institutional functioning and policies by which nations, corporations and international institutions are functioning and called for development of a human-centered development paradigm. Since then the Academy has conducted more than 30 international conferences and roundtables in collaboration with other academies, universities, NGOs and government agencies to identify key components of a new paradigm for human development. Now WAAS proposes to collaborate with UNOG to conduct a research project and follow-up conference to foster emergence of the intellectual, political, economic and social leadership the world needs to ensure rapid transition to a human-centered development paradigm.

More than ever before, international institutions have a critical role to play in global affairs, as demonstrated by the recent initiatives on climate change, the SDGs and the abolition of nuclear weapons, but much more progress is needed to halt and reverse the erosion of multilateralism. Urgent efforts are needed to formulate coherent concepts and strategies for the emergence of effective global leadership in the 21st century. The emergence of international institutions was the result of humanity's aspiration for an effective means to collaborate in shared pursuit of common values and goals. Today's institutions evolved from ideas and initiatives of leaders and organizations in early decades dating back more than a century. Much can be done internally to enhance the performance and efficacy of existing institutions. But effective leadership of and by these unique institutions depends fundamentally on the level of awareness, commitment and determination of both nation-states and the world's people to forge stronger more resilience instruments for global governance. Strengthening that awareness and commitment is vital.

Humanity looks to strong leaders to guide it through challenging times. Great individual leaders arise in times of great crises and transition points such as the American Revolution, the Second World War, the movement for Indian Independence, the Civil Rights Movement, and the end of Apartheid. But a closer analysis reveals that great leaders are themselves the products as well as the catalysts of the awakening of the societies in which they arise. Outstanding individual leaders and aspiring social collectives are complementary forces. Leaders arise to give conscious expression to emerging social ideas and ideals. The most visionary of those leaders come to prepare society by projecting seed ideas that take root and blossom afterwards. Today that vision is obscured by confusion and dampened by widespread pessimism. New leadership is needed to both project and respond to a clearer vision of the future humanity aspires to realize.

Need for Transformative Ideas, New Theory and Models

Global leadership can be achieved in multiple ways – through transformative ideas, inspired individuals, and progressive institutions. In the absence of strong individual leaders and effective institutions, a shared vision supported by transformative ideas and practical opportunities may be the most powerful and effective means to guide collective human behavior, as UNDP's concept and measurement of human development did in the late 1980s. The essence of effective leadership is

always a compelling vision of the future that can inspire and motivate people to positive collaborative action.

Today efforts to evolve and project a unifying, positive vision and roadmap are impeded by outmoded ideas and orthodoxies, fragmented concepts and theories, discordant perceptions and beliefs, conflicting ambitions, uncoordinated strategies and fragmented competitive institutions. The entire world community agrees on the need for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals, but the ideas, strategies and policies remain focused on the action of individual nation states to address issues that require collective action by all states and coordinated action by the international community based on a global vision. The world community has agreed on the goals. It must now agree on the means to achieve them and the state of the world if we succeed.

Theoretical assumptions and economic models are based primarily on impact at the national level without taking into account the competitive, cumulative and compensatory consequences of action by other nations. The climate threat cannot be addressed through the actions of individual nations alone. National level strategies applied by governments to achieve environmental targets disregard the global consequences of shifting manufacturing to other nations to reduce energy consumption and carbon footprint. Given the demographics, universal access to quality education cannot be achieved by incremental expansion of the existing institutions and educational systems, as now attempted. It requires a global approach that harnesses all the world's knowledge, talent and organizational know-how to fashion a global delivery system for accessible, affordable world class education. Ideas, strategies and models must be cast in a whole-world context. The persistence of high levels of youth unemployment and the specter of massive job losses resulting from the 4th Industrial Revolution cannot be eliminated solely on the basis of national economic strategies at a time the increasing interdependence resulting from globalization subject national economies to the impact of unstable and rapidly shifting global financial markets, exchange rates, interest rates and dozens of other factors beyond their power to control. The problems posed by international migration cannot be addressed by closing borders and building walls, but only by eliminating the political, economic and ecological factors that disburse tens of millions of people from their place of birth. Global cooperative security for all nations can never be achieved solely on the basis of NATO's limited collective security organization, bilateral arms reduction treaties or an NPT that leaves unrivaled power in the hands of a few nations and incentivizes the proliferation of nuclear weapons to other countries. *The project will examine emerging ideas, concepts and strategies that can serve as the basis for a coherent and integrated vision of humanity's shared future.*

Global leadership must also be based on a human-centered, multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary theoretical framework. In quest of the scientific objectivity of the natural sciences, the social sciences have gone too far in their emphasis on material factors, social institutions and measurable parameters. Neglecting Karl Popper's warning "against excessive naturalism in the social sciences," the subjective social and psychological processes and the impact of policies on human welfare and wellbeing are too often ignored. They were accomplished by releasing and channeling the subjective social energies of the entire population. The adoption of automated, labor-saving production technologies to improve productivity and competitiveness may increase national GDP while eliminating employment opportunities, increasing inequality and reducing human welfare. All great leaders and social achievements depend as much or more on subjective factors as they do on the objective. Roosevelt's New Deal, Churchill's victory in the Battle of Britain, India's Freedom Movement and Green Revolution, Japan and Korea's rise to economic leadership, Germany's reunification and the rapid development of the European Union were not achieved by military, political or economic strategy alone.

Lines of Social Evolution

The knowledge required to forge global leadership can draw insight from a study of the past lines of social evolution. These lines stand out clearer in retrospect. Progress over the century has been marked by a progressive shift

- From isolated, smaller, autonomous, culturally homogeneous communities to larger, heterogeneous, multicultural nation states giving rise to an increasingly interconnected and interdependent global community
- From settlement of disputes by use of violent physical force to negotiated peace and rule of law
- From governance by arbitrary authority to freedom, self-governance and self-determination
- From military power to economic power, from physical force to the power of science and technology
- From the rights of privileged elites to universal human rights
- From the exclusive possession of power by elites to widespread distribution and democratization of power
- From regarding people principally as a physical resource for manual labor to recognition of the unlimited capacity to enhance the productivity, resourcefulness, innovation and creativity of human beings
- From development of natural resources to the development of social capital and the capabilities of each human being through education
- From survival and subsistence to increasing prosperity and wellbeing
- From emphasis on physical security and wealth generation to human rights, welfare, wellbeing, freedom, equality and happiness.

The unfolding future of these evolutionary trends is far less clear. Fundamental questions remain to be answered:

- How will these multiple lines of social evolution develop and interact with one another in the future and what will be the consequences?
- How can we reconcile continued economic development with ecological security and the rights of future generations?
- How can we ensure that rapid technological advances are made to serve rather than threaten and undermine rising levels of human welfare and security?
- How will nationalities accommodate increasing levels of multicultural contact and diversity?
- By what means can the continued distribution and democratization of political and social power at the national and global level be achieved?
- How will nation-states be motivated to cede greater authority to empower effective, democratic international institutions?
- How can human rights and dignity gain primacy over the exercise of power by the privileged and wealthy?
- How can our educational system be transformed into an effective instrument for meeting the challenges of human development in the 21st century?

Nexus of Critical Issues & Leadership Questions

While leadership itself appears to be a nebulous intangible quality, its impact on the world at critical moments in social evolution has been momentous, tangible and concrete. It may arise in response to a challenge or a crisis or the emergence of a new opportunity. But its emergence is always prepared in advance by the appearance of a new idea or ideal, affirmation of a higher value or principle, and the awakening of a greater aspiration among the populace, to which visionary leaders give expression.

The world today is not lacking in information or ideas, but it is lacking in clarity as to how the emerging possibilities will work themselves out in the world and what will be their impact on humanity. Concern today centers around a nexus of critical issues:

1. **Ecology and Economy:** What consequences will ecological factors have on the future development of global society? How will they limit economic growth, welfare, and wellbeing? Can solutions be found to mitigate or eliminate the negative impact of increasing economic activity on the environment? How can the aspirations of developing countries for the higher standards of living prevalent in the West be reconciled with ecological constraints?
2. **Technology, Employment and Social Welfare:** How can the rapid development of the emerging technologies of the 4th Industrial Revolution be harnessed to enhance human wellbeing rather than replace and alienate people from the benefits of economic development? How can the continued development of information and communication technologies be reconciled with preservation of individual rights to privacy?
3. **Multiculturalism and National Identity:** How can the inevitable and irreversible movement toward greater frequency and intensity of inter-cultural interactions and the rich diversity generated by increasing multicultural societies be reconciled with the urge to preserve local/national identities and cultural uniqueness?
4. **National Sovereignty and Global Governance:** In a world in which the globalization of business, financial markets, global supply chains, national competition, and offshore tax havens have largely liberated multinational corporations from the constraints imposed by national level regulation, nation-states no longer possess the levers for independent economic self-management. How can international institutions be strengthened to effectively govern an increasingly globalized economy and society?
5. **Competitive National Security and Global Cooperative Security:** How can each nation ensure its own freedom for self-determination in a manner that does not threaten or impinge on the equal rights of every other nation? How can the collective security of a group of nations be organized in a manner that does not threaten or perceive to threaten the security of nations left out of the group? How can an inclusive, cooperative global security system be established and governed that minimizes military expenditures yet maximizes the security of all humanity?
6. **Generation and Democratization of Social Power:** The fundamental freedoms enshrined in the universal declaration of human rights and the goals set forth in Agenda 2030 represent an unprecedented acknowledgement of the rights of all human beings. Today global society possesses greater power to protect and improve the lives of its citizen than ever before. Yet progress is constrained by the resistance to more fully distribute the instruments of social power at the national and global level. How can the inevitable historical movement toward the democratization of power be supported and accelerated?

This project will aim to project viable ways to reconcile the tensions and inherent contradictions between these sets of critical issues. The project will also address key questions regarding the type of leadership needed to translate ideas into effective action, such as –

- What is the organizing principle for global governance capable of addressing all the pressing challenges confronting humanity today and reconciling the contradictions inherent in the unilateral and unidimensional strategies pursued by different nations to address them separately from each other and from the efforts of other nations?
- What types of global leadership are needed to effectively address these global challenges?
- How can the global leadership gap be filled and where is the leadership to come from?
- What role can nation states and international institutions play individually and collectively to fill the leadership void?
- What role can civil society, universities, academies and business play?
- What steps can be taken to garner the direct support of the silent voiceless majority?

- What opportunities exist for concerted action and what gains can it achieve?
- How can we combined, coordinate and harmonize leadership initiatives at the global, multilateral, bilateral and national level?

Project Phases

The project will consist of six phases:

1. Research Phase

During this phase, WAAS and its centers and partner organizations will conduct research to identify key institutions, research reports and individuals at the international and national level with the most relevant ideas, strategies and models for addressing pressing global challenges through strengthening capabilities, authority and support for effective leadership by international organizations and other stakeholders. Approximate duration would be 30 days. This phase will include mapping the key players and making contact with those with the greatest potential contribution to explore their interest in contributing to the project.

2. Workshop Phase

During the phase, WAAS proposes to conduct several one-day workshops involving key sectors of global society. Approximate duration of this phase is 30 days. The preliminary meetings will include

- *International Organizations: Briefing of UN leaders convened by the Director General of UNOG to inform and enlist the active participation of UN agencies in the project.*
- *National Governments: Consultation with representatives of national governments.*
- *Scientific Academies and Research Organizations: Meeting of leading national academies and scientific research institutions and universities.*
- *Business Organizations: Meeting of leading public and private corporations, for-profit corporations, financial institutions and business experts.*
- *Universities and Other Educational Institutions: Meeting of leading universities and other educational institutions.*
- *Civil Society Organizations: Consultation with leading civil society institutions.*
- *Youth Organizations: Meeting with representative international youth organizations committed with action to address global challenges.*
- *Media Organizations: Consultation with representatives of global media to identify effective strategies to mobilize public opinion to support positive initiatives.*

The objective of these consultations is to consult a cross-section of key stakeholders and seek their assistance in identifying organizing principles, key strategies, striking examples and success stories, for presentation at the main conference and a range of effective speakers and moderators for the conference sessions.

3. Preparation of Position Paper and Conference Planning

During this phase the WAAS-UNOG project team will prepare a position paper drawing on insights, conclusions, examples and questions raised by the workshops to serve as a basis for discussion

during the main conference. The agenda will be finalized and invitations sent out in consultation and coordination with UNOG.

4. International Conference

The conference will take place at the United Nations Office in Geneva on October 27-28, 2020. The convening of an international conference can be an effective way to project the findings of the project and promoting discussion of key conclusions prior to preparation of a final report.

Day 1 – Context, Opportunities and Challenges

The first day of the conference will consider the possibility and practicality of effectively addressing all the pressing challenges confronting global society today in search of central organizing principles capable of reconciling the inherent contradictions arising from unilateral action by nation states and unidimensional strategies addressing one or the other challenge at the expense of others.

Evolution of global development past and future

Untapped social resources for global development

Global leadership challenges

Parallel Sessions: Critical Issues to be addressed

- a. Reconciling Economy and Ecology to generate sustainable wellbeing for all
- b. Reconciling Technology, Employment and Social Welfare
- c. Democratization of Social Power
- d. Multiculturalism and National Identity
- e. Reconciling National Sovereignty and Global Governance
- f. Global Cooperative Security

Reports of the parallel sessions

Global Society in 2050: Potentials and Pathways

Day 2 – Realizing the Vision: Pathways to the Future

The second day of the conference will consider pathways to effectively address global challenges by strengthening effective global leadership by international organizations and other key stakeholders

Evolution of Social Power past and future

Parallel Sessions: Essential Measures

- g. Global Rule of Law
- h. Financing Agenda 2030 and Global Human Security
- i. Evolution of the IGOs
- j. Mobilizing national academies, educational and scientific research institutions
- k. Harmonizing public and private good through business
- l. Mobilizing global civil society
- m. Mobilizing youth to change our common future
- n. Building a global social movement

Reports of the parallel sessions

Practical Steps for Strengthening Global Leadership

Global Governance in 2050

Looking beyond welfare and wellbeing

5. Final Project Deliverables

Following the conference, WAAS will undertake to prepare a vision document to serve as the basis for a coherent and integrated vision of humanity's shared future and a synthesis report reflecting the perspectives of project participants on the core thematic issues. These documents will be prepared in consultation with UNOG and other participation institutions.

6. Post-Project: Master's Program on Global Leadership

WAAS and World University Consortium are in the process of developing the content for a multidisciplinary, multi-sectoral, human-centered Master's Program as a vehicle to foster global leadership thinking. This post-graduate program will draw on the results of this project as well as research conducted by the Academy over the past five years since the first UNOG-WAAS conference in 2013. The program will be incorporate key insights from this project in order to provide a sustained delivery system for disseminating new perspectives to decision-makers in international organizations, national governments, MNCs and international NGOs.

Project Partners

World Academy of Art & Science

The World Academy is a non-governmental organization founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals from around the world to develop new perspectives and innovative approaches to meeting the global challenges confronting humanity. WAAS is incorporated in California and has been accorded special consultative status with ECOSOC. The Academy has over 700 Fellows elected for distinction in their fields of work combined with distinguished service to addressing global social challenges from a multi-disciplinary, integrated, value-based perspective. It works in concert with and through a network of centers, partners, universities, national academies and other collaborating institutions, such as CERN, Club of Rome, Green Cross International, Institute for Advanced Studies of Levant Civilization and Culture, InterAcademy Panel, International Association of University Presidents, Inter-University Centre, Library of Alexandria, Nizami Ganjavi International Centre, UN Academic Impact and others.

In June 2013 the World Academy of Art & Science partnered with the United Nations Office in Geneva to conduct an international conference on the need for a new paradigm in human development encompassing the main principles set forth in Agenda 2030. Since then, WAAS has conducted more than thirty conferences and workshops around the world in partnership with other institutions on human-centered economics, democracy, law, governance, science and technology, social power, education, creativity, leadership, ecology and social evolution in order to better understand the knowledge and theoretical framework, institutions and policies, social potentials and social processes necessary for transition to a human-centered development paradigm encompassing the goals of Agenda 2030. This proposal will build on this five-year research agenda by bringing together political and business leaders, policy-makers and practitioners, researchers and administrators to focus on effective measures that can be taken to mobilize and direct the collective energies of humanity at the local, national and global level to generate guiding principles, energizing ideas and effective strategies for enhancing leadership at the global level.

In 2014 WAAS established the World University Consortium as a non-profit California corporation in collaboration with the International Association of University Presidents, Green Cross International, Library of Alexandria and other charter members to work for development of an inclusive, accessible, world-class global system of education. WUC collaborates with UNESCO, national governments, universities, educational and research institutes, and think tanks to develop educational content and pedagogy for human-centered, transdisciplinary, contextual education. Over the past five years since its inception, it has conducted international conferences in Western and Central Europe and North and South America as well as a dozen curriculum development roundtables of experts to develop a post graduate Masters Program as vehicle to shape thinking for global leadership in public service, private enterprise and civil society.

Project Partners

The project team will seek the active involvement and collaboration of UN, specialized agencies, other international organizations and national governments as well as other leading organizations related to academia, business and civil society that can contribute meaningfully.

Project Timeframe and Schedule (provisional)

The actual timeframe and schedule for the project will depend on the final scope, participants, speed of decision-making and funding. A provisional schedule for a one-year timeframe is provided below:

- Startup phase of project – identifying and contacting participating organizations – 3 months
- Workshop phase – 3 months
- Conference planning and implementation – 3 months
- Preparation of final report – 3 months

For further information:

- Garry Jacobs, Chief Executive Officer, World Academy of Art & Science --
email: gjacobs@worldacademy.org
- Donato Kiniger-Passigli, WAAS Special Representative to UN Geneva --
email: kiniger@worldacademy.org
- Website: <http://www.worldacademy.org>