



United Nations  
Office at Geneva

**GL-21**



World Academy of  
Art and Science

**Project on**

**Global Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> C.**

# WAAS

- Founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals affirming the social responsibility of science
- 800+ Fellows from 80+ nations elected for distinction in their field, combined with diversity of interest and commitment to addressing global social issues.
- Operating as a global network of individuals, centers and partner organizations
- ECOSOC Special Consultative Status
- UNESCO Consultative Status



# 2013 UNOG – WAAS Conference



## Paradigm Shift to address pressing global challenges

- Financial – Market Instability, Regulation,
- Economic – Persistent Poverty, Unemployment & Rising Inequality
- Technological – Speed of adoption and its Social Impact
- Social – Cultural Conflict, Immigration, Alienation, Extremism & Violence
- Political -- Security, Global Governance, Human Rights & Democracy
- Ecological – Climate, Pollution, Biodiversity, Resources

# Context

- Evolution of global society is unable to keep pace with the magnitude of political, economic, technological, social, cultural and ecological challenges affecting humanity today.
- Global leadership vacuum precisely at the time that humanity as a whole confronts challenges of unprecedented planetary scope, speed, and complexity.
- Paradox of unprecedented global resources and capabilities co-existing with unconscionable threats, deprivation and unmet needs.
- Paradox of the breakdown of conventional leadership alongside a break through in the emergence of new forms of social leadership

# Emerging Lines of Global Social Evolution

- Evolution from independent nation states to interdependent global community
- Evolution from states rights to universal human rights
- Evolution from privileged elites to equitable distribution of social power
- Evolution from specialized, fragmented knowledge, institutions and policies to integrated knowledge and coordinated action
- Evolution from exclusive dependence on actions of governments to multi-stakeholder global community

# Requirements to meet these Challenges

**Global Scope** – strengthening of multilateralism

**Understanding Complexity** – systemic understanding of interdependencies

**Institutional Coordination** – coordination of specialized functions

**Comprehensive Policies** – integration of piecemeal, sectoral approaches

**Person-centered Education** – multidisciplinary, contextual, active learning

**Integrated Knowledge** – values-based, human-centered social theories

**Synthetic Thinking** – paradigm change in thought that leads to action

**Transformative Leadership** – higher types, forms and levels of Leadership



# **UN - WAAS Initiative on Global Leadership in the 21st Century**

- Multi-disciplinary
- Multi-sectoral
- Multi-stakeholder



## GL-21 Project Objective

Quest for transformative leadership  
to address the full spectrum of  
global social challenges

# National social transformations that went global

- 1930s – New Deal to humanize capitalism
- 1950s – American Civil Rights Movement
- 1960s – Anti-apartheid Movement in S. Africa
- 1960s – Green Revolution in India
- 1970s – Environment Movement
- 1980s – Personal computer empowered the individual
- 1990s – Internet as first global social system
- 2000s – Uncentralized networks
- 2010s – New public political consciousness & activism

# International social transformations

- Founding of the UN
- Collapse of Colonial Empires
- Multiplication of nation states
- Bretton Woods Agreement
- End of the Cold War
- European Union
- Democratization of Eastern Europe
- Emerging youth leadership on environment

# Global Leadership by UN Agencies

- Enhanced Child Health, Nutrition & Life-span (UNICEF)
- Eradication of Smallpox & fight against AIDS (WHO)
- International Labor Standards (ILO)
- Global Food Security (WFP)
- Gender Equality in Education (UNESCO)
- International telecom technical standards (ITU)
- Convention on Biodiversity (UNEP)
- Eradication of Landmines (ICBL)
- **Adoption of Agenda 2030**

# GL-21 Project Stages

1. Executive briefings with stakeholders -- Nov 2019
2. Working Groups for research & networking – Jan 2020
3. E-Conference for discovery & consultations – June 2020
4. Stakeholders summit at UN Geneva -- October 27-28, 2020
5. Final Report to the UN
6. Development of educational and outreach content

# Multi-stakeholder Consultations

1. International Organizations
2. Nation States
3. Educational Institutions
4. Scientific & Technological Community
5. Business & Financial Community
6. Civil Society Organizations
7. Next Generation Youth Groups
8. Media Groups

# GL21 Working Groups



# Forms of Leadership

- Individuals
- Organization – IPCC
- Ideas – Sustainability
- Values – UDHR
- Goals – 17 SDGs
- Measures of progress – HDI
- Education – Finland
- Institutions – Nobel Prize
- Theories – ecological economics
- Types of Thinking – systems & complexity
- Narratives – global society, one world, all life forms & one planet
- Social Movements – gender equality



**Leadership is a transformative  
social process**

**Leadership can accomplish what leaders cannot**

What we need today is coherent,  
coordinated leadership to address the  
full spectrum of global challenges

# Key Leadership Questions

1. What examples can you cite of highly effective leadership at the organizational, local, national or global level?
2. What principles of effective leadership can be drawn from these examples?
3. What innovative leadership initiatives is your organization currently applying to adapt to the rapidly changing needs of 21st century and how are they working?
4. What insights can be drawn from these examples to address pressing global challenges through innovative leadership initiatives?
5. How can we apply these insights to enhance and accelerate global progress on these issues?
6. How can we nurture a new paradigm in thought that will unleash, guide and support a new paradigm in action?
7. How can we generate the awareness, release the energy, and empower the agency to catalyze global society for transformative action?

# Next Steps in Collaboration

1. Designate a responsible person for this project
2. Identify a core team to participate
3. Survey your staff to identify relevant success stories and principles
4. Prepare a briefing paper summarizing your team's conclusions and share it with GL-21 Project Team
5. Schedule a briefing roundtable to discuss your team's examples and recommendations as inputs for the conference and final report
6. Participate in the Global Leadership Conference in October 2020
7. Develop a strategy to uplevel the contribution of your organization to building the global social leadership network

# Project Management

## WAAS

- Garry Jacobs, WAAS President & CEO – [gjacobs@worldacademy.org](mailto:gjacobs@worldacademy.org)
- Donato Kiniger-Passigli, WAAS Trustee & Representative to UN Geneva -- [kiniger@worldacademy.org](mailto:kiniger@worldacademy.org)
- Mila Popovich, Chairman WAAS Nomination Committee & GL21 Research Coordinator -- [mila.popovich@worldacademy.org](mailto:mila.popovich@worldacademy.org)

## UNOG

- David Chikvaidze, Chef de Cabinet of the Director General, UNOG
- Lidiya Grigoreva, Head of UNOG NGO Section -- [grigoreva@un.org](mailto:grigoreva@un.org)

# Further Reading

- June 2020 e-conference discussion paper – [Catalytic Strategies for Socially Transformative Leadership](#)
- GL21 Project -- [Executive Briefing presentation](#)
- GL21 Update -- [WAAS Newsletter April 19, 2020](#)
- Project concept paper – [Global Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)

For more information see  
[World Academy of Art & Science](#)  
[GL21 Global Leadership Project](#)  
[June 2020 e-Conference](#)  
[World University Consortium](#)

Thank You