

Leadership in thought that leads to action...

World Academy of Art & Science

Global Leadership in the 21st Century



From left to right: Remus Pricopie, Donato Kiniger-Passigli, Garry Jacobs, David Chikvaidze & Mila Popovich

What will it take to fill the global leadership vacuum that presently prevents humanity from addressing pressing existential challenges and emerging opportunities?

What can we learn from radical transitions in the past about effective strategies for accelerating global social evolution?

What is the role of international agencies, governments, businesses, universities, academies, research institutes and youth groups in overcoming ignorance, vested interests, political and bureaucratic obstacles to unleashing global social movements to support transition to a new paradigm for human development?

These and similar questions are the subject of the project jointly launched by WAAS and the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) in June 2019 to accelerate progress on pressing challenges and emerging opportunities, and accelerate implementation of the SDGs.

This multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral project will culminate in a major conference at UNOG on October 27-28, 2020 on the occasion of the UN's 75th anniversary celebration, followed by a final report to the UN, development of university level courses and media outreach strategies.

In November 2019, WAAS conducted two executive briefings at UNOG for UN agencies, UN member states and leading international NGOs.

In December the Academy launched an online survey of these agencies and other collaborating partners in order to identify fundamental principles and effective strategies that can be applied to consciously accelerate the process of global social transformation.

WAAS is collaborating with a host of partner organizations committed to accelerating social transformation at the global level.



In March 2020

- WAAS partnered with World Sustainable Development Forum and Protect our Planet in a program involving distinguished political leaders, social activists and more than 1000 youth representatives to examine strategies to mobilize the next generation for social activism and political change.
- WAAS and Club of Rome conducted a five hour e-conference on the Catalytic Strategies for Social Transformation.

In April 2020

- WAAS partnered with GlobalMinded, USA to conduct a five day program of e-conference panels on the occasion of Earth Day to explore strategies to urgently address the challenges of climate change.



Upcoming WAAS e-Conference

"Strategies for Transformative Global Leadership" – e-conference
 June 15-19, 2020 in collaboration with the United Nations Office at Geneva



In the coming months, WAAS will be partnering with other organizations to conduct other preparatory events:

- Youth Initiative e-Workshop, May 10, 2020
- Global Issues & Future of Humankind, e-conference, May 20, 2020, in collaboration with UNESCO, Moscow State University, Russian Academy of Sciences and the Club of Rome
- The World After the Pandemic project in collaboration with Institute for Civilization and Culture of the Levant
- The World between Yesterday & Tomorrow conference in collaboration with the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts, date TBC
- Future Capital Initiative, UN New York e-conference, September 10-11, 2020 in collaboration with UN Office for Partnerships and UNCTAD
- Global Leadership, New York, September 21-22, 2020 in collaboration with Nizami Ganjavi International Centre.

Global Leadership in the 21st Conference, October 27-28, 2020 in collaboration with the United Nations Office at Geneva

Thus far more than 20 leading organizations have joined as partners in the GL-21 Project, including:

- Art for the World, Switzerland and Italy
- Bohdan Hawrylyshyn Family Foundation, Ukraine
- Club of Rome
- Complexity Education Project, University of Perugia, Italy
- Ethical Markets Media, USA
- Fire Drill Fridays, USA
- Foundation for a Culture of Peace, Spain
- Future Capital Initiative
- Global Education Futures, Russia
- Global MindED
- International Association of University Presidents
- Interparliamentary Coalition for Ethics and Peace
- Montenegrin Academy of Sciences & Arts, Montenegro
- Nizami Ganjavi International Center, Azerbaijan
- Person-Centred Approach Institute, Italy
- Protect Our Planet Movement
- Serbian Association of Economists
- The Institute for Advanced Studies in Levant Culture and Civilization, Romania
- The Millennium Project
- The Mother's Service Society, India
- We The World
- We Your Children Movement
- World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations
- World Sustainable Development Forum
- World University Consortium

In late January 2020, WAAS constituted 14 expert working groups to conduct research and prepare position papers on the major themes of the GL-21 project, including both WAAS Fellows and distinguished members of partner organizations. The groups are intended to explore the potential for applying innovative transformational strategies to accelerate progress at the local, national and global level. The working groups will conduct research and prepare reports for preparatory conferences, the main UNOG conference, the report to the UN and other follow up actions. One set of groups relates to major global challenges, another set relates to some crosscutting strategies and resources that can be harnessed to accelerate progress on the issues.

Issues Groups	Cross-Cutting Agency Groups
1. Governance, Law & Human Rights	9. Academies
2. Peace, Security & Disarmament	10. Information & Media
3. Economy	11. Civil Society & Youth
4. Education	12. Cultural Diplomacy
5. Energy, Ecology & Climate	13. Art, Humanities & Culture
6. Science, Engineering & Technology	14. Social Transformation Movements
7. Business & Finance	
8. Wellbeing & Welfare	

Detailed information regarding the GL-21 project can be found on the [WAAS website](http://www.worldacademy.org) along with videos of the executive briefings, concept notes, discussion papers, and information on the GL-21 working groups. Those interested in contributing to the working groups are invited to write to global-leadership@worldacademy.org.