



The University for
Sustainability

Global Leadership in the 21st Century

There is urgent need to fill the global leadership vacuum in order to address the complex challenges confronting humanity today. Leadership is needed at all levels in all fields. Global leadership is urgently needed to prevent reversal of humanity's most important gains since the end of the Cold War and the emerging political, economic, technological, social and ecological challenges of the 21st century. New perspectives, institutional arrangements, strategies and initiatives are required which encompass not only the actions of national governments and international organizations but also a wide range of civil society organizations including national academies, universities and scientific research institutions, the media and arts, youth groups and local communities, as well as business and financial institutions. The combined will of all humanity needs to be awakened, directed and mobilized in a global movement for rapid transformation of global society.

The World Academy of Art & Science is partnering with the United Nations Office at Geneva to conduct a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral project highlighting innovative strategies and effective principles to accelerate progress on implementation of the SDGs and other pressing global challenges. The overarching objective of the project is to become a catalyst for the emergence of dynamic leadership for global development. Its strategy is to consciously apply at the global level essential principles of collective leadership that have previously served as catalysts for rapid transformation at the level of organizations, nation states and international organizations.

The project involves consultations with IGOs, nation states, business, scientific research and educational institutions, civil society, media, arts and youth organizations. The process includes research by 14 working groups on specialized issues, a series of preparatory meetings in different countries, a major conference organized at UN Office in Geneva on October 27-28, 2020, and a final report to be submitted to the UN following these events. Perspectives and insights draw from the project will then be widely disseminated through creation of university level courses and the media.

World Academy of Art & Science: WAAS is a non-governmental organization founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals from around the world to develop new perspectives and innovative approaches to meet the global challenges confronting humanity. It presently has nearly 800 Fellows elected for distinction in their fields of work combined with distinguished service addressing global social challenges from a multi-disciplinary, integrated, value-based perspective. WAAS is incorporated as a tax-exempt organization in California and has been

accorded special consultative status with ECOSOC and consultative status with UNESCO. It works in concert with and through a network of centers, partners, universities, national academies and other collaborating institutions.

Partner Institutions: The project is being conducted in collaboration with a growing list of other leading organizations drawn from academia, business and civil society. Partners include the Club of Rome, Ethical Markets Media, Future Capital Initiative, Global Education Futures, International Centre for Advanced Studies on Civilization and Culture of the Levant, Interparliamentary Coalition for Ethics and Peace, International Association of University Presidents, Millennium Project, Nizami Ganjavi International Centre, Person Centered Approach Institute, Protect our Planet Movement, World University Consortium, World Sustainable Development Forum, and international youth networks.

Organizations and individuals interested are invited to:

- Visit the Project Web pages: www.worldacademy.org/projects/global-leadership-in-21st-century
- Complete the WAAS-UNOG questionnaire: www.worldacademy.org/global-leadership-ngo-survey
- Contact: support@worldacademy.org

