



WSF

The World Sustainability Forum

Madrid, Rome, Santa Fe

Press Release: 27 November 2020



Press Release: November 24, 2020, Madrid, Rome, Santa Fe

The World Academy of Art and Science and the World Sustainability Forum announce a partnership to promote and advance cooperative as well as collaborative initiatives focused on the accelerating a just and prosperous transformation to sustainable development through the advancement of: science-based policy advocacy, international multilateralism, global governance, educational and scientific research and training activities of mutual interest of the Parties.

The parties to the agreement shall:

- Work to deepen a scientific understanding of the humanistic, economic, cultural, social and environmental issues in the development and promotion of peaceful coexistence;
- Address the systemic global challenges by building new partnerships based on a spirit of global solidarity.

To advance these goals, WAAS and the Forum will organize symposium, conferences, and high level summit meetings on issues of mutual interest including but not limited to science-based policy advocacy, global governance, and international multilateralism.

With encouragement from former President of Mexico Vicente Fox; guidance from former Director General of UNESCO, Dr F. Mayor Zaragoza, and support and encouragement from leading scientists, statesmen and inspired by youth throughout the world our institutes are heeding UN Secretary General Guterres's call to action.

Founding President of the World Sustainability Forum, Dr Kenneth Stokes thanked: "the encouragement and remarkable contributions of many world leaders in the development of the Forum. He noted that "as persistent inequalities, social fragmentation, and political extremism continue to undermine multilateral cohesion, we note that the consequences of the climate emergency are worse than when the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted. These have been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic which has exposed the vulnerabilities of many societies, heightened inequalities and driven millions back into poverty and desperation. However, the pandemic-triggered crises may be the greatest opportunity in decades to strengthen resilience, elevate the role of science-based policy, leverage frontier technologies for prosperity, and innovate institutions that are fit for purpose. It presents an opportunity to effect transformational change at the speed that science demands and realised through international democratic multilateralism"

WAAS President and Chief Executive Officer Garry Jacobs enthusiastically welcomed the collaboration between the Academy and the Forum: "The complex nexus of challenges confronting humanity today cannot be effectively addressed by business as usual. They require fresh thinking and fresh solutions based on a multisectoral, transdisciplinary, integrated approach. Our aim is to place human security at the heart of every issue, bridge the gaps between scientific knowledge and public policy, foster close coordination between specialized fields of research and government agencies, and promote collaboration between the full spectrum of stakeholders at the local, national and global level. The ultimate goal must be to awaken the aspirations and unleash the energies of global society to usher in a movement of sustainable human security and wellbeing for all."

The World Academy of Art & Science (WAAS) was founded in 1960 by eminent intellectuals including Albert Einstein; Robert Oppenheimer, Father of Manhattan Project; Bertrand Russell, Joseph Needham, co-Founder of UNESCO; Lord Boyd Orr, first Director General of FAO; Brock Chisholm, first Director General of WHO and many others.

The Academy serves as a forum for reflective scientists, artists, and scholars dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges confronting humanity today independent of political boundaries or limits, whether spiritual or physical -- a forum where these problems can be discussed objectively, scientifically, globally, and free from vested interests or regional attachments to arrive at solutions that affirm universal human rights and serve the common good of all humanity. WAAS is founded on faith in the power of original and creative ideas -- Real Ideas with effective power -- to change the world.

Born of the efforts of visionary leaders; aligned to the Earth Charter, the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda; the World Sustainability Forum is a summit of minds. Its mission is to accelerate a just and prosperous transition to sustainable development. The Forum shall help effect this great transformation at the speed that science demands, by identifying innovative solutions, creating new coalitions and making specific recommendations on global challenges linked to climate change, including peace and finance, the environment, health and more. Its vision is of a world where people live in prosperity and peaceful coexistence, conscious of their common humanity and their shared responsibilities for each other, for the planet, and for future generations.

A beacon illuminating pathways to a new epoch of the people, the Forum embraces the imperatives of life, universal human rights and responsibilities, and a culture of peace. In the words of Nelson Mandela, it shall "support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair". With the world teetering on the brink of historic reversals of hard-won progress, our vision is of a world where people live in prosperity, peaceful coexistence, conscious of their common humanity and their shared responsibilities for each other, for the planet and for future generations.

For inquiries with the World Academy of Art and Science please contact via email info@worldacademy.org or visit the Academy's website at www.worldacademy.org

For inquiries with the University for Sustainability please contact the Communications Office via e-mail admin@worldsforum.org or visit the University's website at www.worldsforum.org

