Addressing Global Social Turbulence: Sources & Solutions

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World Academy of Art and Science

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The WAAS@65 conference was organized in collaboration with a remarkable network of partner institutions whose engagement, intellectual energy, and organizational support made it possible. These included F4G, NGIC, ASU/GFL, UNESCO Bridges, AE4RIA, IAC, EASA, CoR, SDSN, BSUN, IACP, AMEU, the MP, GSI, GPEN, and WUC.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used throughout this report. Institutional names are given in full on first reference, with the abbreviation used thereafter.

ABBREVIATION	FULL NAME
AE4RIA	Alliance of Excellence for Research and Innovation on Aephoria
AMEU	Alma Mater Europaea University
ASU/GFL	ASU Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory
BSUN	Black Sea University Network
CoR	Club of Rome
EASA	European Academy of Sciences and Arts
EXTRA	Existential Threats and Risks to All
F4G	Force for Good
GPOC	Global Peace Offensive Center
GPEN	Global Peace Education Network
GSI	Global Security Institute
HS4A	Human Security for All
IAC	Interaction Council
IACP	Person-Centered Approach Institute
MP	Millennium Project
NGIC	Nizami Ganjavi International Center
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
TIC	Trauma-Informed Care
UNESCO Bridges	UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES Coalition
UNOG	United Nations Office at Geneva
UNTFHS	UN Trust Fund for Human Security
WAAS	World Academy of Art & Science
WUC	World University Consortium

GLOBAL SOCIAL TURBULENCE: SOURCES & SOLUTIONS

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ABSTRACT

Humanity stands at a civilizational inflection point. A convergence of geopolitical conflict, ecological overshoot, technological disruption, and democratic decline has produced not a sequence of separate crises but a self-reinforcing polycrisis, now hardening into a metacrisis, in which the very structures meant to resolve our problems are themselves failing. This report, drawing on the deliberations of the WAAS@65 conference and related events, identifies eight structural drivers of global turbulence and sets out twelve integrated solution domains and the cross-cutting capacities required to deploy them. Its central finding is stark: the world is not short of knowledge, resources, or solutions. What is missing is the integrated vision, conscious coordination, and collective resolve to act at the scale the moment demands. The transition now underway—from fragmented, reactive crisis-management to conscious, cooperative, values-guided transformation—is the defining challenge, and the defining opportunity, of our era.[*]

[*] This report was prepared with the assistance of AI for portions of its text and graphics, reviewed and approved by the authors prior to publication

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents a work in progress by the World Academy of Art and Science and Force for Good on the conclusions of the WAAS@65 conference and related events on Global Social Turbulence: Sources & Solutions. The report addresses the root causes and symptoms associated with the great upheaval presently occurring in global affairs, and also seeks to identify essential components of an effective approach which humanity can adopt to address those root causes and symptoms at the global level. The report ends with highlights of the solutions which have been under study since the 2025 conference and will constitute the central focus of the upcoming conference on Global Social Turbulence: Solutions and Insights in September 2026.

Humanity is traversing a period of global turbulence without precedent since the Second World War. The 2025 conference brought together 110 speakers across 28 panel discussions to diagnose the nature, sources, and deep drivers of this turbulence and to map the solutions required to address it. More than 300 participants engaged with an agenda spanning governance, economics, ecology, technology, education, peace, and human consciousness.

The central finding is that the world is no longer facing a sequence of discrete crises, but rather a self-reinforcing convergence that the Academy terms a polycrisis—now exhibiting the features of a metacrisis, in which the very structures of governance, economics, values, and leadership needed to resolve the individual crises are themselves part of what is failing. Piecemeal, sector-by-sector responses are not only insufficient; they can actively worsen systemic conditions. The report identifies eight structural drivers of the global turbulence:

1. Unprecedented speed of social change outpacing humanity's intellectual, institutional, social and cultural adaptive capacity;
2. Paradox of progress in which globalization has simultaneously generated both growth and systemic fragility;
3. Multidimensional economic asymmetry concentrating wealth while excluding billions of people;
4. Ecological overshoot approaching irreversible tipping points;
5. Technology outpacing governance and generating new centers of power and growing influence over politics, public opinion, and social stability worldwide;
6. Concentration of social power across political, economic, media, and algorithmic dimensions;
7. Militarization and the breakdown of multilateral governance and global rule of law;
8. Moral and epistemic crisis eroding the shared ethical frameworks that collective action requires.

THE TWELVE SOLUTION DOMAINS IDENTIFIED IN WAAS@65

CIVILIZATIONAL SCALE
1. Conscious Global Transformation
2. Changing the Way We Think
3. Leadership and Education

SOCIETAL TRANSFORMATION
4. Technology as Structural Architecture
5. Human Security for All
6. Finance, Economy & Markets
7. Restoring Climate & Ecological Integrity

GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE
8. Peace as a Human Value
9. Distributing Social Power
10. Security Between Nations
11. A Reimagined Multilateral System

CROSS-CUTTING ENABLERS
12. Cross-cutting Enablers drawn from Section 5

This interdependent complex of social drivers represents the root causes, source, foundation and undercurrent of the surging movement of global turbulence underpinning, feeding and aggravating the polycrisis which is impacting all sectors, levels and dimensions of global society today. None of the manifestations of the polycrisis can be effectively addressed without first taking into account and compensating for the impact of these root causes. Effective leadership requires a recognition, understanding and strategy to address these deeper currents of change and instability.

The report also identifies twelve solution domains which can stabilize global social order and reestablish the forward global momentum generated after the end of the Cold War. Since then, the Academy has been working on the development of effective strategies to implement these solutions. This will become the central focus of the upcoming conference on *Global Social Turbulence: Solutions and Insights.*

2 APPROACH

The approach underpinning this report is qualitative, integrative, and transdisciplinary, reflecting the nature of the global turbulence it seeks to illuminate. Rather than relying on a single disciplinary method or a formalized empirical framework, the report draws on the accumulated experience, judgment, and insights developed during a multi-decade engagement of the World Academy in collaboration with a broad international community of scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and institutional leaders. The intent of this report is not to produce a definitive model of global transformation but to articulate a coherent, collective understanding of the forces shaping the multi-decade engagement of the Academy in world transition and to frame a set of solution pathways for future action.

A Transdisciplinary and Multi-Sectoral Synthesis

The project is rooted in the belief that today's global challenges transcend the analytic boundaries of any one field of knowledge or sector of global society. Contributions were drawn from experts in international security and diplomacy; economics and finance; climate science and ecological systems; technology and AI governance; education, psychology, and culture; human rights and humanitarian practice; and global governance and institutional design. This diversity enables an interpretive synthesis connecting political, economic, ecological, technological, and social dynamics into a single civilizational narrative. It is an exercise in sense-making, not model-building.

Collective Judgment and Experiential Insight

The project draws heavily on expert dialogues, roundtables, scenario discussions, policy consultations, and long-term intellectual engagement across partner institutions, surfacing lived experience from conflict mediation and diplomacy; institutional memory from multilateral governance; strategic judgment from leadership roles in finance, technology, and public policy; cross-cultural perspectives from diverse regional contexts; and historical patterns recognized through comparative analysis.

Interpretive Diagnosis, Co-Creation, and Living Agenda

The diagnostic component identifies recurring patterns and deep drivers across domains, situating the present moment within the broader arc of civilizational development. The twelve solution areas emerged through iterative dialogue among global experts, prioritizing direction-setting strategies over prescriptive formulas, ideas capable of mobilizing coalitions, and actions advanceable even in conditions of geopolitical fragmentation. The agenda is intentionally open and evolving: designed to grow as new actors join, inviting critique and expansion, and recognizing that transformation pathways must be continuously reinterpreted as global conditions change.

3 GLOBAL CONTEXT: THE WORLD AT AN INFLECTION POINT

The world stands at a historic inflection point. A convergence of geopolitical conflict, environmental degradation, technological disruption, and democratic backsliding has produced what can only be described as an age of disorder. Trust in institutions has eroded, the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation has been critically undermined, and the global system strains under the weight of multiple interconnected crises that amplify one another in ways that defy conventional policy responses.

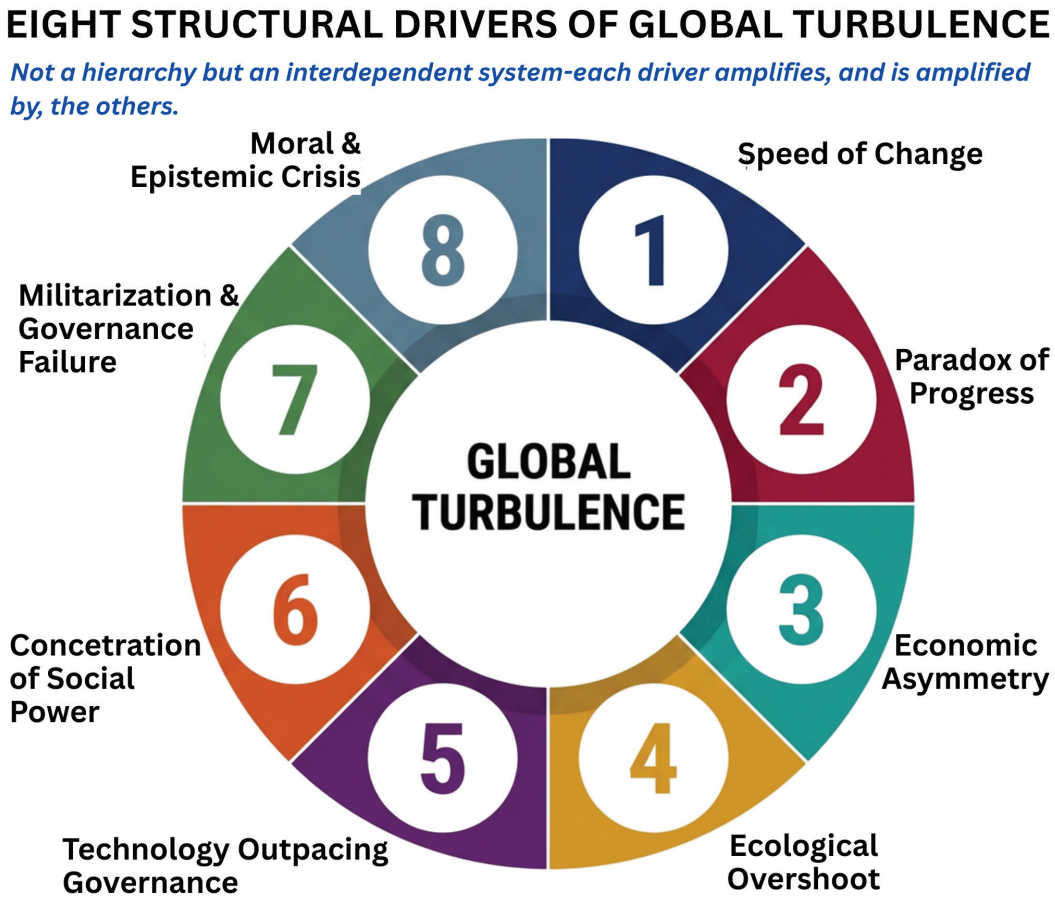
The post-Cold War era brought the acceleration of globalization, digital transformation, and multilateral institution-building. These developments generated real gains: expanded scientific collaboration, economic growth, and unprecedented human connectivity. But the same forces also created structural vulnerabilities: financial deregulation producing global recessions, fragile supply chains susceptible to cascading shocks, technological innovation accelerating faster than governance capacity, and ecological systems approaching and breaching critical thresholds.

> ***"What we are witnessing worldwide is not simply turbulence in the abstract. It is the unravelling of long-held assumptions that economic growth will yield shared prosperity, that technology will solve more problems than it creates, and that institutions will smoothly adapt to a changing world."*** – **Peter Schlosser**

The WAAS@65 conference concluded that the polycrisis is evolving into a metacrisis—a deeper systemic failure in which the underlying structures of governance, economics, values, and leadership are so misaligned that they simultaneously produce multiple crises and undermine the capacity to resolve them.

3.1 The Sources of Turbulence: Eight Structural Drivers

Eight structural drivers of global turbulence were identified across the conference sessions—not as a hierarchy but as an interdependent system in which each driver amplifies and is amplified by the others.



- **Speed of change**: The unprecedented speed of technological and social change has outpaced the adaptive capacity of individuals, institutions, cultures, and governance systems.
- **The paradox of progress**: Post-Cold War globalization generated aggregate growth while concentrating wealth, fueling financial instability, and creating fragile systems vulnerable to cascading shocks.
- **Economic asymmetry and inequality**: The global top 1% captured approximately 38% of all wealth growth since 1995, while the bottom half captured 2%. Widening disparities translate directly into unequal access to education, healthcare, and political representation.
- **Ecological overshoot**: Global temperatures are approaching the 1.5°C threshold established by the Paris Agreement, threatening irreversible tipping points whose effects will cascade through every other dimension of the polycrisis.
- **Technology outpacing governance**: AI, biotechnology, quantum computing, and surveillance technologies are transforming economies and societies faster than governance frameworks can track, risking concentrated power, deepening inequality, and geopolitical competition.
- **Concentration of social power**: Power is concentrating both politically—through democratic retreat, polarization, and rising autocracy—and economically, as a few corporations and platform owners wield state-scale influence over politics, markets, and information, creating structural conditions for oligarchy.

» **Militarization, governance failure and rising threats to human security**: Record military spending—$2.9 trillion in 2025[1]—is diverting resources from human security and sustainable development even as arms-control frameworks collapse and trust in multilateral institutions hits historic lows, consolidating a new security paradigm that reinforces the very instability it seeks to manage.

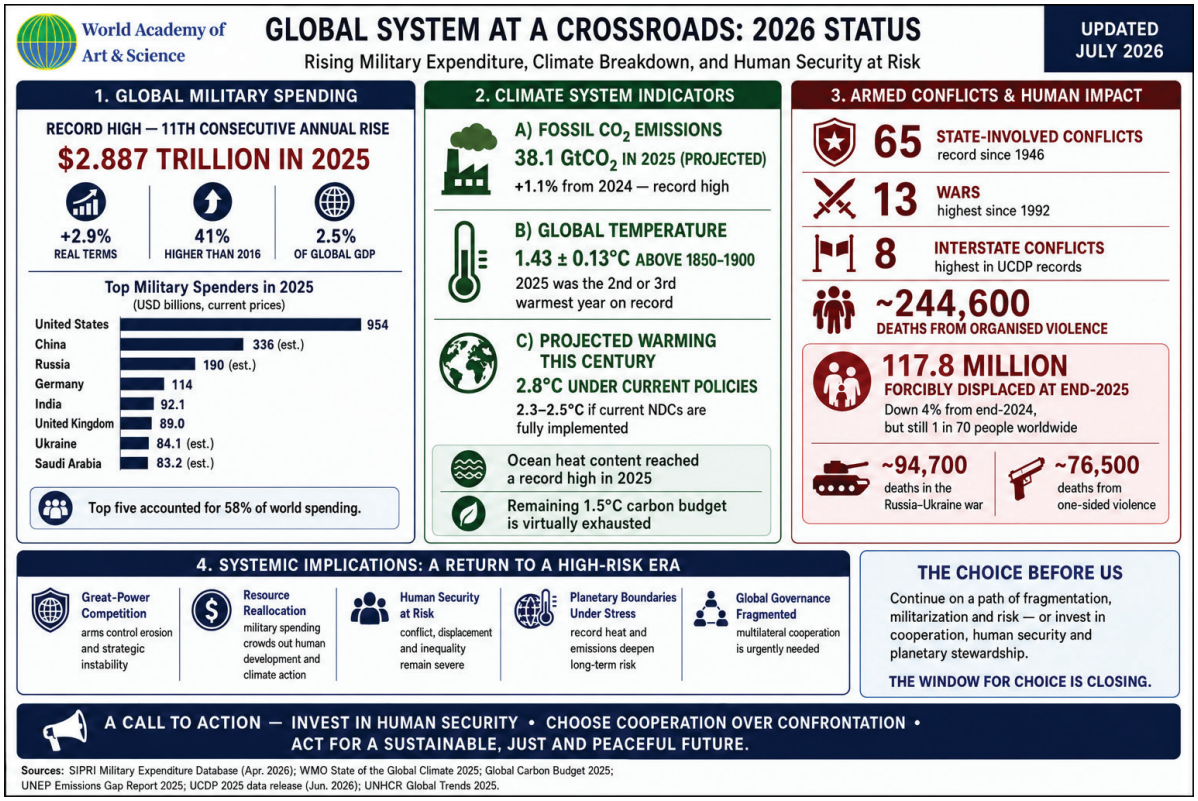
» **The moral and epistemic crisis:** The erosion of shared ethical frameworks—through consumerism, hyper-individualism, and algorithmic manipulation—leaves societies polarized and incapable of the moral consensus collective action requires, while AI-driven influence over attention, perception, and decision-making poses a deeper threat: the colonization of the mind.[2]

"The root cause of global turbulence is the inner development crisis – a widespread shortfall in psychological, emotional, moral, and spiritual maturity needed to face complex challenges. It is not just a doing crisis; it is a being crisis." – **Massamba Thioye**

3.2 Interdependence as Both Challenge and Opportunity

The most important analytical contribution of WAAS@65 was the insistence that these eight drivers are not parallel problems amenable to sequential solutions. They constitute an interconnected system whose elements sustain and amplify one another. But this systemic interdependence is also a source of strategic leverage. When solutions are designed to address root causes rather than symptoms, and integrated across domains, interventions in one area generate cascading positive effects across others. Integration is not merely an analytical preference; it is the practical condition for effectiveness.

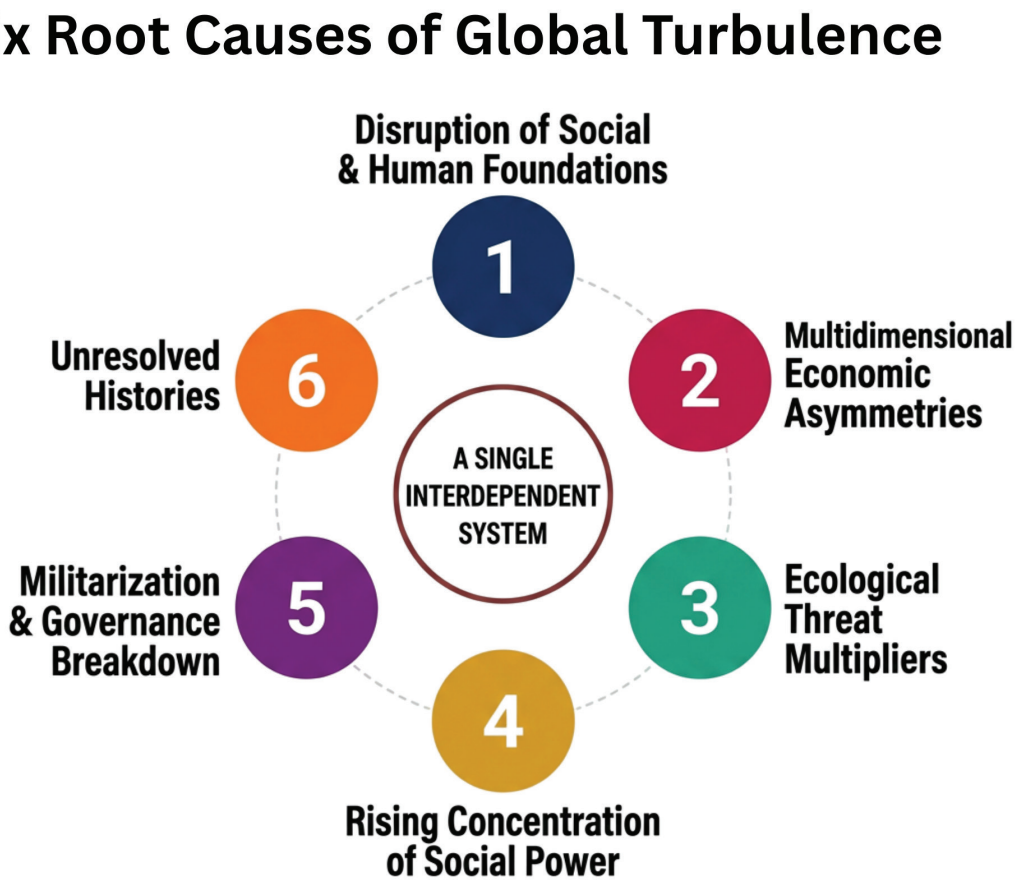
"Humanity's capacity to innovate now exceeds its capacity to imagine the consequences."
– Seshadri Velamoor



"Abundance and security solutions are here now – their equal distribution is our biggest task."
– Mariana Bozesan

4 SOURCES OF GLOBAL TURBULENCE: ROOT CAUSES

The drivers identified above are not parallel problems amenable to sequential solutions; they form an interdependent system of root causes.[3] We identify six root causes, drawing out the linkages between them.



4.1 The Disruption of Social and Human Foundations

The global turbulence of our era is not, at its root, a political or economic crisis, though it manifests powerfully in both domains. It is the product of a deeper movement of social evolution that has placed enormous stress on the existing social framework. Increasing stress, uncertainty, and a pervasive sense of instability have made global society susceptible to extremist ideas, populist leaders, and the revival of failed historical responses. As consumerism, hyper-individualism, and algorithmic manipulation erode shared ethical frameworks, societies are left polarized and incapable of the moral consensus collective action requires—a crisis not only of doing but of being.

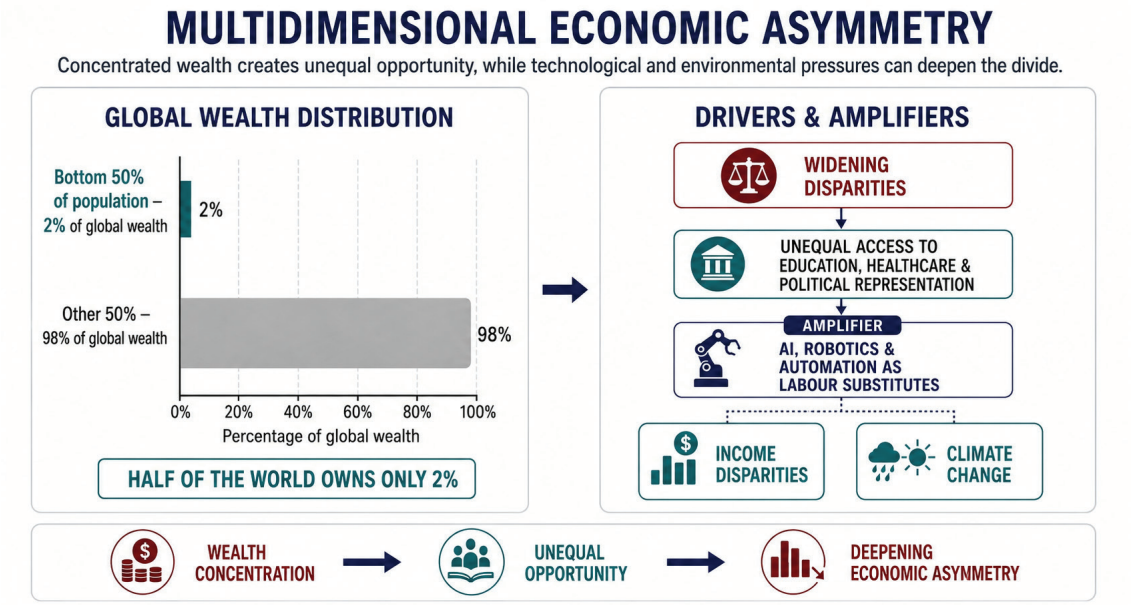
> ***"We are living in times where we no longer share the belief that tomorrow will inevitably be better than yesterday."*** **– Erkki Tuomioja**

Cultural heritage and identity have become focal points of this anxiety. The accelerating pace of social change has destabilized long-established senses of collective identity, making communities vulnerable to manipulation by movements that promise the restoration of a simpler, more coherent past.

4.2 Multidimensional Economic Asymmetries

Post-Cold War globalization generated real growth while concentrating its gains and building in fragility—the paradox of progress. Economic inequality is not merely a social justice concern; it is a structural driver of political instability, institutional erosion, and governance failure. The growing application of AI, robotics, and automation as substitutes for human labor is intensifying these pressures, fueling the populism and institutional rejection now visible across both advanced and developing economies.

"The current global system of capital is not designed to serve the world – it was designed to serve industrialists and colonial powers." – Ketan Patel



4.3 Ecological Threat Multipliers

Environmental degradation is both a product of and a structural amplifier of every other dimension of the polycrisis. Global CO_2 emissions reached 37.8 gigatons in 2024.[4] Temperature rise has already crossed 1.5°C.[5] The IPCC projects a rise of 2.5 to 3.0°C this century under current trajectories.[6] The ecological crisis is simultaneously a food security crisis, a migration crisis, a public health crisis, and a source of geopolitical competition over diminishing resources. Its danger lies in transmission: crop failure and water stress drive displacement, displacement strains fragile states, and competition over land, water, and minerals hardens into geopolitical rivalry—loading fresh stress onto systems already near their limits.

"The world is caught in a vicious circle – the polycrisis exacerbates the lack of progress on the SDGs, and the lack of progress on the SDGs worsens the polycrisis." – Christian Hansmeyer

4.4 Rising Concentration of Social Power

The accelerating concentration of social, economic, technological, and political power is destabilizing societies, eroding shared reality and trust, outpacing the adaptive capacity of existing governance systems, and seriously undermining the promotion of peace, human security and sustainable development. Four interlocking dimensions were identified: political capture by wealth; economic concentration through monopoly and oligopoly; media consolidation algorithmically amplified toward polarization; and algorithmic power exercised by a handful of global technology corporations over the systems that mediate social interaction. Through this last dimension runs a novel mechanism—cognitive colonization—as AI-driven systems shape attention, perception, and decision-making at the level of neural response, extending concentrated power inward to preference and judgment themselves.

"Algorithmic systems now personalize persuasion at the level of neural response, turning propaganda from a broadcast tool into a continuous feedback mechanism of behavioral conditioning." – Ketan Patel

4.5 Militarization and the Breakdown of International Coordination

Over the past decade, military spending has climbed to an all-time high. The INF Treaty is defunct; New START has been suspended; nuclear arsenals are being modernized. Simultaneously, there is a profound crisis of legitimacy in the existing global order, with public trust in political institutions declining across democracies and authoritarian models gaining ground. Underlying these trends is a deeper normative

shift: the return of force as an accepted instrument of statecraft. As the rules-based order loses authority, might increasingly substitutes for legitimacy, and the resort to coercion—military, economic, and technological—is once again treated as a normal exercise of power rather than a breach of international norms.

> ***"The problem with the world today is that we have a governance gap... institutions created after the war like the UN, IMF, and World Bank have evolved only marginally, while the world has changed at a much faster pace."*** – **Augusto López-Claros**

4.6 Unresolved Histories

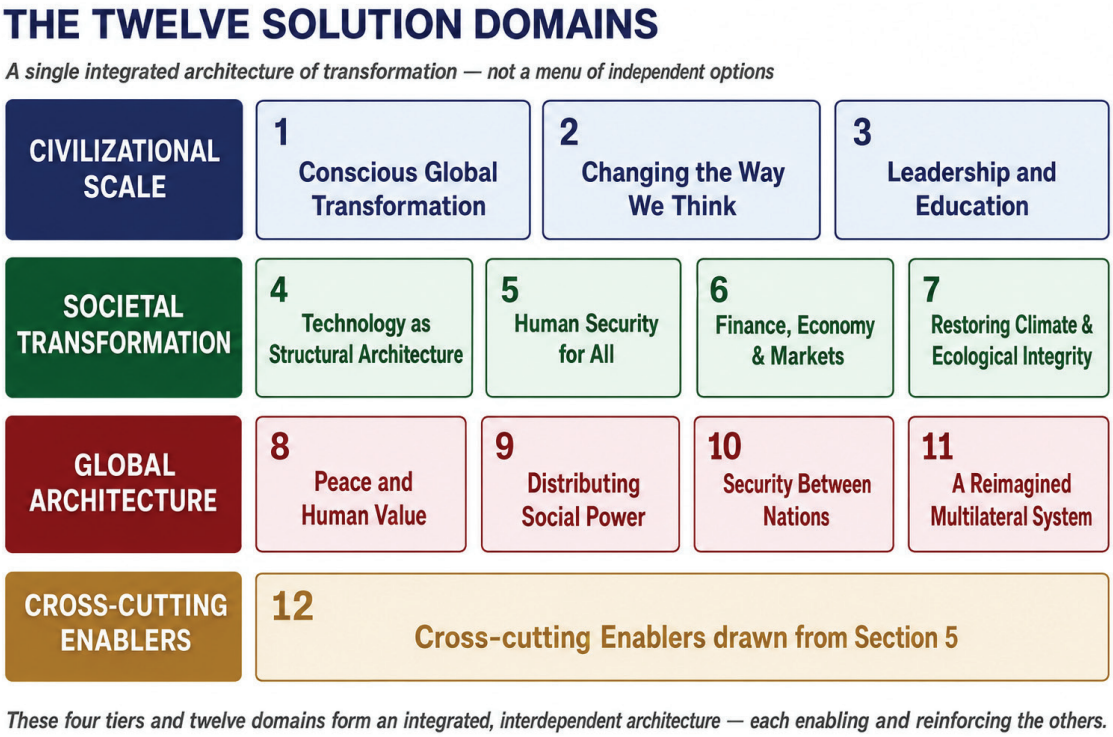
Wars, border and resource conflicts have overspilled to shake stability and peace. This has been seen in the Russia-Ukraine war, the Israel-Gaza war, the Sudan civil war and the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), which recorded 65 active conflicts in 2025—the highest number since researchers began collecting data in 1946. Of these, the number of direct conflicts between individual states doubled from the previous year to eight in 2025, also a post-1946 record. Unlike the newer drivers, these represent unresolved pasts spilling into the present—which is why the diagnosis points toward root causes rather than symptoms.

> ***"Today's accumulating conflicts are a direct result of not addressing root causes in the past, the peace struck in the past was not a peace; each conflict is an indictment of a previous resolution that was not a solution."*** – **Garry Jacobs**

Taken together, these six root causes form a single, self-reinforcing system—which is why no one of them can be solved alone, and why the solutions must be as interconnected as the crisis itself.

5 SOLUTIONS: AN INTEGRATED AGENDA FOR TRANSFORMATION

The solutions presented in this section emerged from the full breadth of WAAS@65 deliberations among WAAS Fellows and partner organizations (referred to in Acknowledgments). They are organized across twelve domains that form an integrated architecture rather than a menu of independent options. This helps us to identify high potential areas where thought that can lead to action. It is intended to lay the foundations and outline the scope for continued research to formulate effective strategies, foster a shared sense of collective global identity, build a consensus and harness the energies and efforts needed to address the root causes identified above.



CIVILIZATIONAL SCALE

5.1 Conscious Social Transformation

The central focus of the Academy's current work is humanity's need to make a first-of-its-kind evolutionary transition—from the haphazard process of subconscious social change to a clear, stable pathway for conscious social evolution. In the absence of valid theory, social development remains largely trial-and-error: a process with a high failure rate, needless destruction, and a vast wastage of time, resources, and life. The dismal outcomes of transition strategies across Eastern Europe in the 1990s, the halting progress of many African and Asian economies, and the persistent linkage between rising incomes and environmental depletion, crime, and violence all reflect one fact—humanity is pursuing social development without the knowledge or power needed to guide it.

Global society is now so complex that a deep understanding of social development is itself essential knowledge for effective leadership. WAAS@65 affirmed the development of a comprehensive theory of global social evolution as one of the Academy's most pressing intellectual responsibilities, reviving the initiative launched under WAAS President Harlan Cleveland in 1998–99. Grounded in the interaction of human social processes with institutional, technological, ecological, and psychological forces, such a theory is the foundation without which conscious transformation cannot be systematically guided.

Its formulation could rank among humanity's greatest discoveries; an effort to become more fully conscious of ourselves, our capacities, and our potential. It would require inquiry into the forces underlying social evolution, the patterns determining its speed and direction, the causes of reversals and retreats, the means by which leaders can guide movement under conditions where no person, nation, or institution is in control, and the ultimate power of the collective will of all nations for peace, security, and prosperity.

Human beings at the center. The theory would place human beings at its center. The ultimate determinants of development cannot be the instruments themselves—technology, capital, infrastructure, policies, institutions—for none exists independently of society. The power of determination lies with the human beings who create and use these instruments; all else would be viewed in relation to human capacity, motivation, and action.

Realizing the transition depends on six enabling conditions: embedding this knowledge in the education of youth and current and future leaders; integrating solutions across all dimensions of social reality; ensuring inclusive participation of all stakeholders; pursuing innovation in its broadest organizational, institutional, and cultural sense; shifting mindset from zero-sum to interdependent thinking; and anchoring governance in universal values.

Present circumstances make the initiative urgent: technological innovation compresses major social transitions from decades into years; revolutionary technologies are reshaping every sector of society and the aspirations of individuals worldwide; humanity is converging from a collection of relatively independent groups into a single interdependent global community; and its power to destroy itself and other life is growing—forces whose combined impact is the turbulence now taking shape.

> ***"The long, slow process of subconscious evolution through millennia will no longer suffice. It is the conscious knowledge of the collective evolutionary process that is the key ingredient."***
> **– Elena Mustakova**

> ***"Advances in development theory can enhance our social success rate by the same order of magnitude that advances in theoretical physics have multiplied technological achievements in this century."*** **– Harlan Cleveland**

5.2 Changing the Way We Think

Conceptual shifts. Every dimension of the solutions agenda depends on a prior transformation in the concepts through which leaders, citizens, and institutions understand the world—the domain that most directly answers the moral and epistemic root cause of Section 4. Ten shifts emerged from our dialogues as characteristic, spanning how we define security, sovereignty, value, knowledge, democracy, time, identity, freedom, power, and accomplishment (see inset 1).

Inset 1 · The Ten Conceptual Shifts in Consciousness

I. **Security –** peace and human security, not merely the absence of external threat.

II. **Sovereignty –** balanced with global responsibility.

III. **Economic value –** GDP replaced by measures of welfare, wellbeing, externalities, and ecological sustainability.

IV. **Knowledge –** reintegrated to reconcile objective science with subjective values.

V. **Democracy –** evolved to distribute freedom, power, and security to all.

VI. **Time horizons –** extended beyond electoral cycles.

VII. **National identity –** reconceived as inclusive rather than exclusionary.

VIII. **Freedom –** open, plural, resilient to manipulation – the ability to set others free, not to impose one's will.

IX. **Power –** the capacity to achieve collectively valued goals.

X. **Accomplishment –** optimizing the peace, freedom, welfare, and sustainable wellbeing of all.

"We need to redefine concepts like peace, security, and democracy – they have become obsolete."
– Fadwa El Guindi

Integrated knowledge and systems thinking. Addressing the nexus of issues confronting humanity requires integrating fields of knowledge now siloed in narrow disciplines. Systems thinking—transdisciplinary by nature—maps the interconnections between governance, economies, technology, ecology, and culture, and should inform every stage of policymaking. One wetland-restoration project can simultaneously sequester carbon, protect against flooding, create jobs, enhance biodiversity, and build civic trust; education reform combining environmental literacy, peacebuilding, and digital skills can strengthen governance, economic resilience, and conflict prevention at once. Coherence requires inter-ministerial councils, integrated budgeting, and sustainability impact assessments, underpinned by an Integrated Global Data Platform consolidating climate, health, economic, and conflict data.

Objective and subjective knowledge. WAAS was founded on the recognition that subjective dimensions of knowledge cannot be measured yet are essential to decision-making. Several of the Academy's founders helped build the atomic bomb and spent their lives regretting the genie they released—the founding lesson that correct objective measurement of science and subjective perception of the arts are both essential. AI, already deployed across society from social interactions to war, is potentially that moment again for the world at large. A symbiotic model combining AI's range and speed with human judgment can aid decision-making: AI cannot know our subjective reality, but it can ask the right questions to ensure we consider every subjective dimension, placing moral decision making back in the hands of people.

The moral crisis. A moral crisis is a deep driver of global turbulence. While institutional failures, governance gaps, and inequality are widely acknowledged, the erosion of shared ethical frameworks draws less attention—reducing morality to social convention and leaving society vulnerable to emotive subjectivism, polarization, and paralysis over justice and fairness. Drawing on Elena Mustakova's theory of critical moral consciousness, moral motivation, agency, and discernment can be cultivated through education, leadership, and discourse; without ethical renewal, technical and institutional solutions will not hold. WAAS's role is to embed universal values in governance and citizenship and mobilize thought leadership.

"A global ethic is not an idea of the past; it is a mindset for today and a hope for tomorrow."
– Isabella Bunn

Science in the Service of Society. Science is humanity's most powerful instrument for discerning truth, solving its hardest problems, and unlocking new possibilities to advance—yet its standing at the center of

public and political life has eroded, and its findings no longer reliably move decisions. Decades of research on climate, public health, and ecological systems have failed to generate political will at the scale required. The gap is relational, not informational: more data and louder warnings cannot close a distance built from lost trust and the disconnection of expertise from the lived experience of those who must act. The task is therefore twofold—to restore science to its rightful place in collective decision-making, and to sustain its forward march as the engine of truth, solutions, and human possibility. WAAS has begun to pursue this with two initiatives: EXTRA, mapping the full interdependent spectrum of existential risk so converging threats are seen whole; and Science & Society, rebuilding trust through projects where science and governance visibly deliver together for the public good.

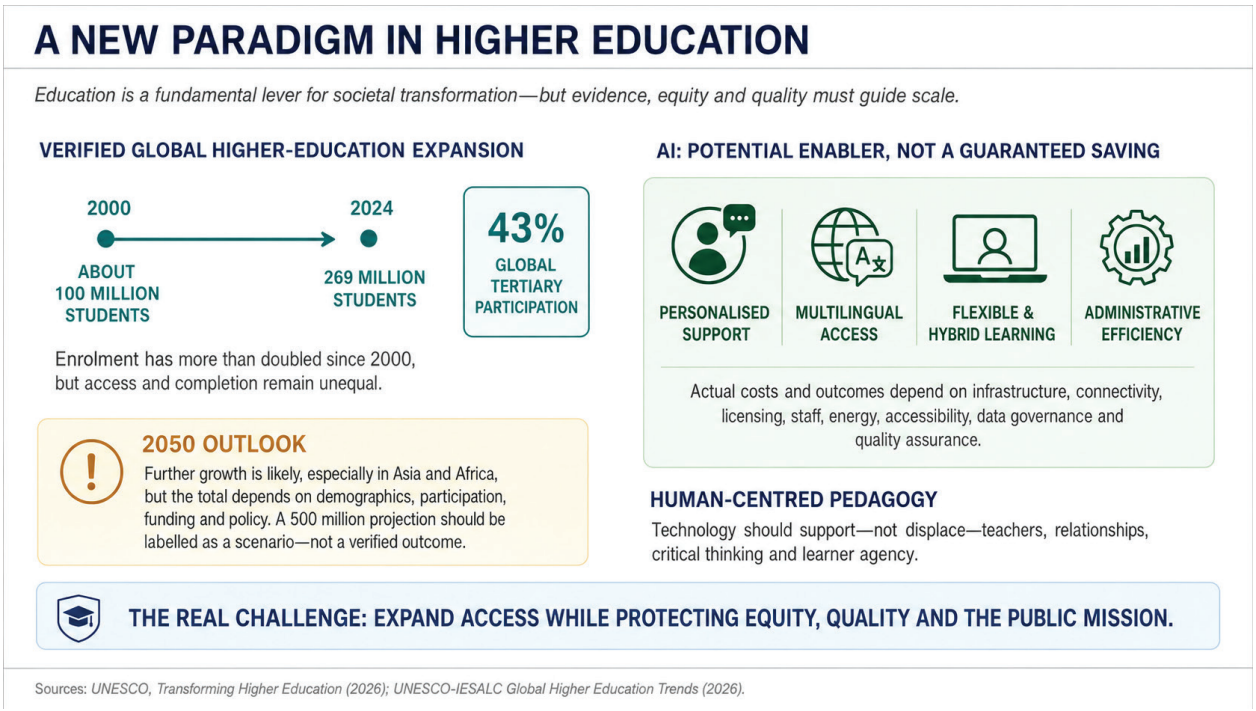
5.3 Leadership and Education

A Global Leadership Academy. Neither prevailing social theory nor established educational practice has prepared leaders for the civilizational-scale transition now underway—and new theory will not take hold unless it is assimilated by those at the helm of government, multilateral institutions, business, civil society, and academia. WAAS proposes a Global Leadership Academy to develop and disseminate a transdisciplinary curriculum grounded in conscious social evolution, the dynamics of systemic transition, and the integration of scientific knowledge with human values. It can be built with partners such as AE4RIA, AMEU, ASU/GFL, CoR, EASA, F4G, GPEN, GPOC, and IAC, and delivered through partner universities via WUC.

> ***"The Global Peace Offensive can succeed only if the higher education system can forge new generations of leaders in diplomacy, multilateralism, prevention of war, and promotion of peace."***
> **– David Chikvaidze**

A new paradigm in higher education. Education is at once the slowest and the most fundamental lever for civilizational transformation. Global higher-education enrollment is projected to double to 500 million by 2050, and AI-powered hybrid systems can deliver personalized, multilingual, self-paced learning at roughly a quarter of conventional cost. The transdisciplinary paradigm—linking sciences, humanities, and arts around real-world human-security challenges—should form its intellectual foundation, and person-centered pedagogy, recognizing the vast untapped potential within each individual, would displace the transmission model that focuses on the subject rather than the student.

> ***"Education must move from replicating society's practices to intentionally steering the development of society."*** **– Pavel Luksha**

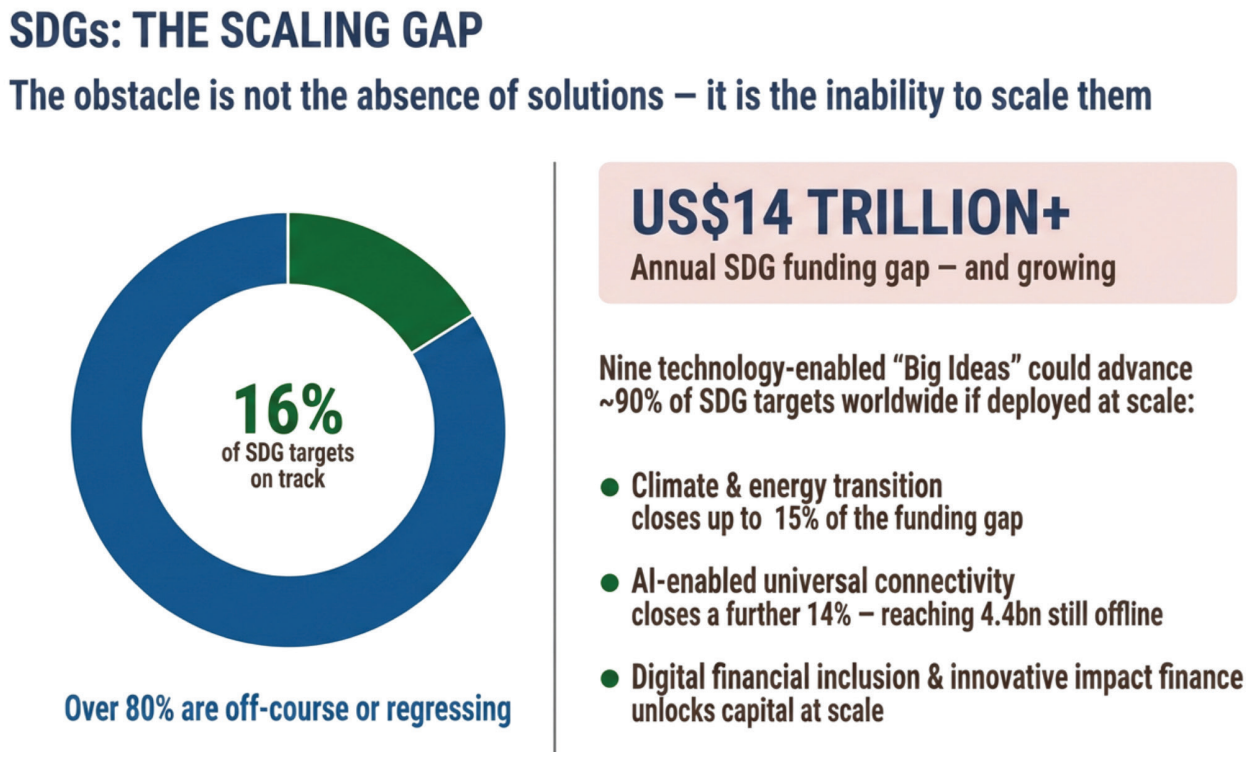


5.4 Technology as Structural Architecture

"Let us apply the wizardry of technology to the wonders of humanity." – **Alison Goldwyn**

Direction, not invention. Science and technology have always been among humanity's most powerful agents of change, but their influence is now planetary in pace, scale, and scope. Technology is not destiny: its outcomes depend on the governance, ethics, and consciousness that shape its use. The same capabilities that could solve humanity's most intractable problems can equally deepen inequality, erode democracy, and destabilize society—so the challenge of our era is to ensure that exponential capability evolves in tandem with social wisdom and ethical maturity. Rising distrust of AI, in the absence of adequate oversight, has itself become a source of instability; WAAS, and its partners examining the future of core and systemic technologies, Force for Good, and ISII, work with governments, industry, civil society, and academia to identify the sources of that distrust and co-create governance models and corporate best practices.

Scalable solutions for the SDGs. Failure to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is among the most significant sources of global turbulence—yet the obstacle is not the absence of solutions but the inability to scale them at the pace the crises demand. Only 16% of SDG targets are on track, over 80% are off-course or regressing, and the annual funding gap has grown beyond US$14 trillion. The deficit is not one of resources: unlocking even a fraction of global wealth, paired with the right solutions, can reverse the trend, because the SDGs are market-making opportunities, not merely obligations. Drawing on Force for Good's 2025 research with WAAS, a coherent set of technology-enabled solution areas could together advance nearly 90% of SDG targets if deployed worldwide—climate and energy transition alone closing up to 15% of the gap, and AI-enabled universal connectivity a further 14%.[7] These solutions follow a hierarchy of human needs (see inset 2): essential life-support systems at the base, then digital financial infrastructure and connectivity, then education and decent work, then climate resilience, then systemic shifts such as pricing natural assets—all underpinned by the precondition of global peace.



"We live in a defining moment in history – the dying out of a collective system based on extraction, profit, and the rule of might, and the emergence of a new and more humane global organization of life. We must understand the rapid paradigm shift underway – from competing identities to collective global consciousness rooted in interdependence." – **Elena Mustakova**

Inset 2 · Technology-Enabled Solutions for the SDGs

Nine "Big Ideas" – capable of advancing up to 90% of SDG targets at scale:

I. **Climate & energy transition –** integrated policy and investment for decarbonization, biodiversity, and circular economies.

II. **Universal connectivity with AI –** affordable access for the 4.4 billion still digitally excluded.

III. **Online basic services –** AI—and blockchain—enabled healthcare, education, and e-commerce.

IV. **Digital financial inclusion –** digital IDs, mobile payments, inclusive banking.

V. **Innovative impact finance –** green and SDG bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, blended finance.

VI. **Pricing externalities –** embedding environmental and social costs into accounting.

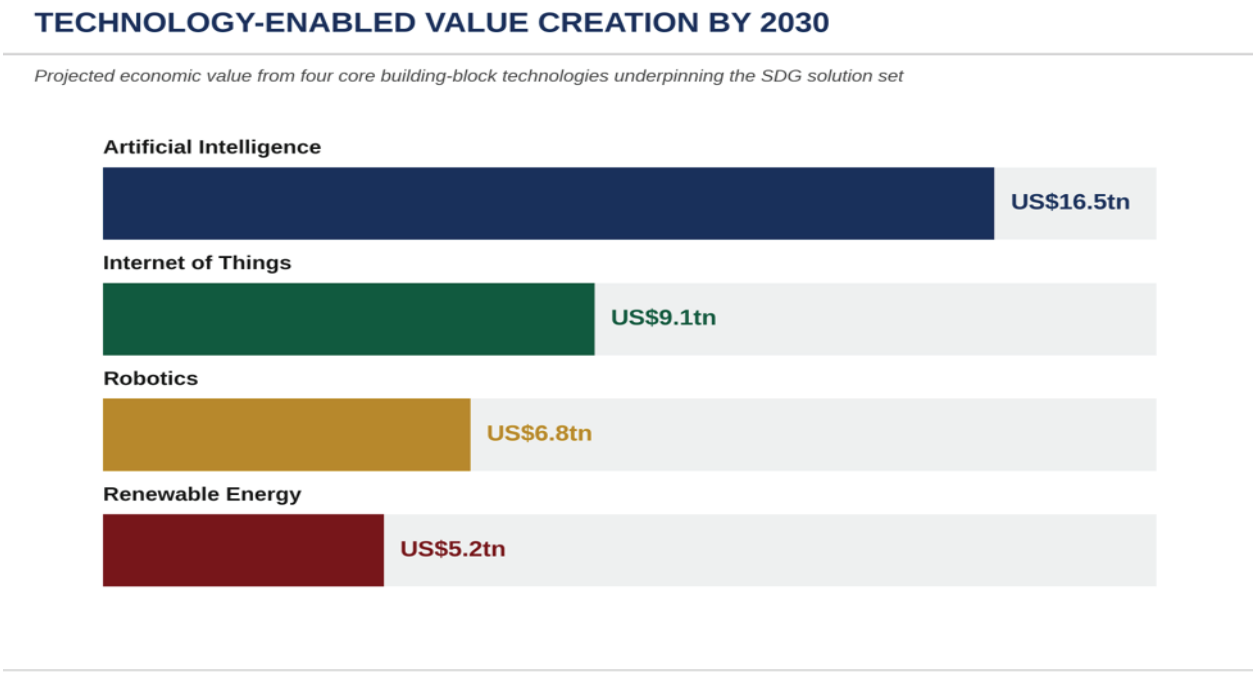
VII. **Human essentials –** affordable medicines, clean-water tech, gene-edited crops.

VIII. **Unlocking human potential –** lifelong learning, skills, civic participation.

IX. **Climate resilience –** early-warning systems, risk insurance, nature-based adaptation.

Building blocks – AI, IoT, robotics, renewables, big data/cloud, blockchain, drones, advanced materials, smart grids, biotechnology (to 2030); nanotech, quantum, fusion, gene editing, AR/VR/XR, 3D/4D printing, space tech, advanced cybersecurity, neurotech (beyond 2030). AI alone could generate US$16.5tn of value by 2030, IoT US$9.1tn, robotics US$6.8tn, renewables US$5.2tn.

Cognitive sovereignty. The information era marks a shift from territorial domination to domination over cognition, as AI-driven platforms shape neural activity, emotion, and belief at scale—with the power to erode autonomy and political agency, or, directed otherwise, to expand human potential. The next world order will be defined not only by who owns the AI-enabled platforms and commands their algorithms, but by whether humanity can align them with its highest capacities for reflection, empathy, and collective self-determination. Protecting cognitive sovereignty is therefore a structural design goal, not an afterthought (the governance dimension is developed in 5.8).



5.5 Human Security for All

A language everyone speaks. Human security is the most powerful organizing framework available for connecting the macro-level ambitions of the SDGs to the lived experience of ordinary people. The Human

Security for All (HS4A) campaign, launched by WAAS with UNTFHS in 2022, has demonstrated this reach—from 130,000 technology leaders at CES in Las Vegas (sustained four years running), to parliamentarians representing 170+ nations through the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to schoolchildren in India through SpellBee International's Classroom-to-Community initiative.

> *"Without human security, there cannot be national or global peace and security. Without enhancing human security, global turbulence cannot be addressed."* – **Janani Ramanathan**

The investment imbalance. The central distortion would need to be confronted directly: defense spending keeps rising while investment in the SDGs declines. Shifting resources toward the root causes of human insecurity is not a charitable aspiration but the most effective and durable form of security investment available—a theme that recurs across peace (5.9), finance (5.6), and climate (5.7).

5.6 Finance, Economy and Markets

Capital exists; direction is missing. The global financial system administers roughly US$433 trillion in assets without adequately accounting for the social and environmental consequences of how that capital is deployed. The constraint on sustainable development is not money but architecture: Force for Good's World Investment Plan identifies US$123 trillion in investable assets to 2035—across energy, digital infrastructure, healthcare, education, and affordable housing—of which 72% offer commercial returns, against an SDG funding gap of US$92–112 trillion that is modest beside global wealth of some US$700 trillion.[8] Embedding the pricing of externalities into financial reporting standards, beginning with the ISSB framework, would reshape investment calculations and redirect capital at scale. The real challenge ahead is to turn needs, which are likely to remain unfunded, to markets, which continue to seek risk-return opportunities across the world and fund that at scale.

> *"There is enough money in the world to fund the world's sustainable development and energy transition needs. But capital does not flow to needs—it flows to solutions."* – **Christian Hansmeyer**



Democratizing finance. Three-quarters of the world's population remains unbanked or underbanked. Digital wallets, blockchain, and AI-based microcredit scoring can democratize access while embedding

sustainability criteria—F4G's 'finance for all' aligning directly with WAAS' 'human security for all.' Responses would need to operate at every level: globally, reforming trade and tax systems, a global minimum corporate tax, and debt relief; nationally, progressive taxation and universal digital public infrastructure on the model of India's, which has financially included over 500 million people in about a decade, building on China's earlier lead in mass inclusion at scale; and locally, cooperative enterprises, community-owned renewables, and circular-economy initiatives.

Pricing the commons. The next frontier in financial innovation is valuing the global commons—the shared natural, social, and cultural assets on which all economic activity depends—through externality-linked instruments: biodiversity bonds tied to measurable carbon outcomes, impact-weighted equity indices ranking firms by net externality performance, tokenized natural-asset markets for transparent trading of ecosystem services, and credit-rating adjustments reflecting externality performance.

Full employment and reduced inequality. Enhancing the future of job and income security is an essential condition for peace, human security, social stability and effectively addressing global social turbulence. Fifteen strategies in five themes are identified for achieving these objectives. Additional work is needed to develop these opportunities into effective implementable solutions.

> ***"Rather than asking 'can we afford full employment?', the question should be 'can we afford not to have it?'"*** – **Randall Wray**

Inset 3 · Themes for Strategies for Full Employment and Reduced Inequality

I. **Employment as a right**. (1) National job guarantees at living wages in green, care, and community roles, financed counter-cyclically, (2) embedded in macroeconomic governance as an automatic stabilizer.[9]

II. **Skills and transition**. (3) Lifelong learning through accredited micro-credentials in AI, green, and care sectors; (4) shorter working weeks with no loss of pay; and (5) active labor-market policy via Sectoral Transition Compacts and Just-Transition Hubs.

III. **Fair taxation of technology**. (6) Automation and digital-services taxes funding reskilling, with (7) progressive wealth taxes and a global minimum corporate tax.[10]

IV. **Decent work and protection**. (8) A care economy with certified carers; (9) revitalized MSMEs and local production; (10) living wages through indexed minimums and collective bargaining; and (11) portable universal social protection.

V. **Inclusion and cooperation**. (12) True-cost accounting and wellbeing indicators; (13) human-security-first budgeting that shifts defense spending toward jobs and skills; (14) digital public goods like broadband and AI job-matching; and (15) global cooperation through a UN/G20 transition compact.

5.7 Restoring Climate and Ecological Integrity

> ***"Making peace with nature is not different from making peace among ourselves."*** – **Carlos Álvarez-Pereira**

Climate change and ecological degradation are systemic amplifiers of every other dimension of the polycrisis (see Section 4.3). Military expenditure diverts resources from climate investment, while climate breakdown generates the conditions for further unrest, conflict, and forced migration. Climate strategies would therefore be integrated, equitable, and systemic—mainstreamed across all policy domains rather than confined to an environmental silo—and innovative financing would be urgently scaled. Nature-based solutions are especially powerful because they deliver simultaneous co-benefits across carbon sequestration, biodiversity, jobs, and public health. The Public Peace Offensive for Climate (developed under 5.9) treats ecological restoration as a pathway to rebuild trust between divided communities: joint reforestation and water-management initiatives can foster cooperation while addressing the environmental stressors that drive conflict, supported by a proposed Global Climate Resilience Council and instruments such as green bonds, debt-for-nature swaps, and climate insurance.

GLOBAL ARCHITECTURE

A stable global architecture cannot be built at one level alone. It ascends through widening circles—from the values held by individuals, through the distribution of power within societies, to the security arrangements between nations, and finally to the collective institutions that bind them. Each circle enables the next: values without distributed power are sentiment; distributed power without inter-state security is fragile; and security between nations without durable institutions cannot last.

5.8 Peace as a Human Value

Redefining security from the ground up. WAAS@65 placed the inseparable relationship between peace, social stability, and human security at the foundation of the solutions agenda, and redefined security itself: not the protection of states by force, but a human value realized from the level of communities and individuals upward. The competitive security paradigm is not only morally corrosive but strategically self-defeating. AI-based weapons and drone warfare have drastically reduced the strategic advantage of large-scale weaponry, democratizing violence and leveling the battlefield, so that no accumulation of arms now buys the security it once promised. The pursuit of national security through military preparedness—rejected at the end of the Cold War and now revived amid rising turbulence—has failed. We are therefore compelled to address the root causes of violence and eliminate war at that level, through a commitment to peace, human rights, and human security extending down to communities and individuals.[11]

5.9 Distributing Social Power

Four dimensions of concentration. The concentration of social power—political, economic, media, and algorithmic—is among the deepest structural drivers of global turbulence, and it is self-reinforcing: each form of concentrated power can be used to entrench the others, so rebalancing must act on all four at once (see inset 4). Political power is captured when concentrated wealth finances democratic processes, calling for caps on donations and public campaign finance. Economic power distorts when markets become instruments of dominance—monopolies restricting entry, finance favoring speculation, corporations shifting profits to avoid tax—and rebalancing means reasserting the public purpose of the economy through antitrust and fair taxation. Media power concentrates as ownership narrows viewpoints and engagement-driven algorithms spread polarization and misinformation, demanding pluralism, independent journalism, algorithmic transparency, media literacy, and verification tools such as blockchain time-stamping. Algorithmic power, held by a few technology corporations, arises from the asymmetry between those who design digital systems and those who depend on them—requiring human-centered governance built on accountability, transparency, and ethical use.[12]

Inset 4 · Power Concentration and the Principles for Rebalancing

I. **Political capture by wealth** – cap political donations; public campaign finance.

II. **Economic monopoly & oligopoly** – strengthen antitrust; equitable taxation.

III. **Media consolidation & manipulation** – ownership diversity, transparency, verification tools.

IV. **Algorithmic control of attention & belief** – global ethical standards for AI and data governance; user training.

Evidence from practice. Rebalancing political power is not theoretical: across most European and other established democracies, public financing of parties is the norm and corporate money is tightly constrained (see inset 5). The contrary case of the United States, where Super PACs and independent expenditures have weakened existing limits, demonstrates the need for stronger, not weaker, controls.

> ***"Finance alone will not do it. You need finance, technological change, and behavioral change led by leadership at the top."*** **– Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Special Envoy on Financing the 2030 Agenda**

Inset 5 · Political-Finance Reform in Practice

France – corporate donations banned; individual donations capped at €4,600/year; state reimbursement above a vote threshold.

Germany – public financing covers 40–50% of party revenues by vote share.

Norway, Sweden – state provides 70%+ (Norway) and two-thirds (Sweden) of party revenues.

Canada – corporate and union donations prohibited; individuals up to CAD 1,725/year.

Brazil, Mexico – Brazil banned corporate donations (2015); Mexico allocates public funds by past performance.

Japan, South Korea – Japan limits corporate contributions to parties only; South Korea pairs strict limits with vote-share financing.

Giving voice. Beyond constraining concentrated power, rebalancing means widening who holds it. Universal citizen participation—especially of youth and future generations—is essential to express the aspirations of the global public, supported by remedies such as citizen assemblies and participatory, transparent democracy.[13] A joint WAAS–F4G initiative proposes a transnational digital platform to give voice to the silent billions and empower them to support systemic change.

5.10 Security Between Nations

From competitive to cooperative security. A society that has redistributed power inward must still secure itself outward, and the same logic applies between nations as within them: security built by excluding others is self-defeating. As the 1994 International Commission on Peace and Food recognized, the more secure an exclusive bloc feels, the more insecure the excluded become. The long-term destination is therefore a Global System for Cooperative Common Security that strengthens each nation's security without raising others' threat perceptions, grounded in the principle that force is no longer a legitimate instrument of national policy.[14]

The Global Peace Offensive. Translating that principle into method, the Global Peace Offensive (GPO)—institutionalized through GPOC and established in Slovenia in September 2025 as a joint venture of WAAS, EASA, and AMEU—operationalizes the theory of Graduated Reciprocation in Tension Reduction (GRIT): credible, incremental, publicly visible acts of goodwill that alter the psychological climate of confrontation. Reciprocity works where deterrence cannot, because it changes the other side's expectations rather than merely raising the cost of attack. Its three tiers move from confidence-building measures, through cooperation for human security, to long-term resolution via cultural and educational diplomacy. Sustaining peace also requires rebuilding institutions, restoring livelihoods, reconciling communities, and delivering justice through transitional mechanisms—truth commissions, reparations, inclusive constitutional reform—as an ongoing process, not a one-time event; recent events in Gaza and the Gulf illustrate both the urgency and the difficulty. WAAS, EASA, and AMEU are also developing AI tools to support scientific diplomacy for peace talks and conflict prevention. Regional bodies matter too: while the UN remains the central platform, the African Union, ASEAN, and the OSCE are often better placed to mediate locally, and strengthening their capacity and coordination with the UN can enhance their effectiveness.[15]

5.11 A Reimagined Multilateral System

> ***"We need to repurpose multilateral institutions… we must look at how they reinforce old paradigms of dominance and hierarchy, or how they can work into the new paradigm."*** **– Petra Kuenkel**

The widening circles culminate in their binding institutions—but the UN, World Bank, and prevailing development model were built for a more unified world and have adapted only marginally while the world fragmented. The result is a system that increasingly cannot act, because it rests on a single brittle premise: that everything requires everyone.

The way forward is not to abandon universality but to differentiate it, matching the consensus a decision requires to what is being decided—a system of three tiers rather than one. At the level of values—human rights, dignity, the renunciation of force—the standard stays universal: all or none, with no legitimate opt-out. At the level of action, where unanimity is neither available nor needed, coalitions form around common interests—climate, security, health, trade—and proceed without waiting for the slowest party. At the level of legitimacy, authority can no longer come from governments alone: institutions must mobilize the publics of the world, beginning in their ivory towers but ending diffused into the field, merged with the people they serve.

So conceived, transformation is a redesign of how consensus, action, and legitimacy are organized, not a single act of reform. The obstacles to reforming existing institutions are daunting, but it would be an error to delay achievable actions until reform arrives; visible success on scalable solutions, and visible diffusion of institutions into the publics they serve, builds the momentum that makes deeper reform possible. Despite the retreat from the UN founders' vision, no better formula has been embraced by humanity—193 nations reaffirmed it only a decade ago in Agenda 2030 and the Paris Accord—and an inclusive system, tiered and diffused rather than monolithic, remains in the end the only durable solution.

> ***"The big challenge for all of us is to try through our collective efforts to win the game back again for multilateralism… to make a peaceful world where people would prosper, we must cooperate."***
> **– Bertie Ahern**

CROSS CUTTING ENABLERS

The preceding domains deliver solutions; their deployment depends on a set of cross-cutting capacities that no single domain owns. Drawn together from across Section 5, these are the standing enablers—the knowledge, human capability, infrastructure, and coordination—that build humanity's collective ability to implement change at scale. They are what turn a portfolio of solutions into a capacity to act.

5.12 Cross-cutting enablers drawn from Section 5

Enabler	What it builds	Type	Paragraph Number
KNOWLEDGE & THEORY			
Process of conscious social evolution	The missing science of how societies change deliberately, the foundation for guiding transformation at the national, regional and global level	Knowledge	5.1
Integrated systems thinking	The cognitive method letting any domain see its interconnections	Knowledge	5.2
Graduated Reciprocation (GRIT)	A transferable method for de-escalating any confrontation	Knowledge	5.10
Tiered-consensus multilateral design	An architecture matching consensus to decision type, with legitimacy diffused into publics	Knowledge	5.11
Restoring science to society	Returning science to the center of decision-making and sustaining its advance	Knowledge	5.12
HUMAN CAPABILITY			
Global Leadership Academy & education paradigm	The pipeline of leaders, and the system-wide capability to act across silos	Capacity	5.3

Enabler	What it builds	Type	Paragraph Number
Human–AI symbiotic decision-making	A general decision capability pairing AI's range with human judgment and values	Capacity	5.2
Cognitive sovereignty safeguards	Protecting human agency and sovereignty that collective decision-making depends on	Capacity	5.4
INFRASTRUCTURE			
The 19 core technologies	The shared technological substrate underpinning solutions across every domain	Infrastructure	5.4
Integrated Global Data Platform	A shared evidence base consolidating climate, health, economic, and conflict data	Infrastructure	5.2
Digital democratization of finance	Shared financial infrastructure extending participation to the unbanked	Infrastructure	5.6
Global citizen-voice platform	Capacity for mass participation and legitimacy across the agenda	Infrastructure	5.9
CAPITAL & COORDINATION			
World Investment Plan	The capital architecture that turns needs into markets, maximizing the value of human and planetary assets	Coordination	5.6
Pricing and accounting for human actions	Pricing nature and the externalities of human activity to enable investment to flow according to value and values	Coordination	5.6

These twelve domains are not a list of programs but a single architecture of transformation. They ascend in deliberate order—from the civilizational foundations of how we think and lead, through the societal work of economy, technology, and security, to the global architecture of power, peace, and multilateral order. Beneath them lies a further layer: the knowledge, capability, and infrastructure that turn any one solution into the collective capacity to act. What unites them is a single shift—from fragmented, reactive responses to conscious, coordinated transformation aimed at root causes rather than symptoms. That shift is the work the Academy now sets before the world, and the agenda WAAS@66 is convened to advance.

6 THE THREE-THEME SOLUTIONS FRAMEWORK FOR WAAS@66

The World Academy of Art & Science will convene its 66th Annual Summit in September 2026, building directly on the diagnostic and analytical work of WAAS@65. WAAS@65 charted the interwoven dimensions of global turbulence and identified their root causes and deep drivers, and also identified a considerable number of scalable solutions and the capacities required to address the sources of global turbulence. WAAS@66 is designed as a solutions conference to build on the work of WAAS@65. Taken together, these are required to support three civilizational themes for the success of human civilization: Peace, Prosperity, and Freedom. WAAS@66 is convened as a solutions conference around them, to turn this analysis into shared action.

The three-theme structure reflects the Academy's conviction that the challenges facing humanity are civilizational in scope and cannot be addressed through sector-by-sector policy reform alone. Peace, Prosperity, and Freedom are not separate agendas; they are mutually constitutive conditions for the

conscious social transformation that the moment demands. Peace without prosperity is fragile; prosperity without freedom is hollow; freedom without peace cannot last. They stand or fall together, on the common foundation of humanity's collective capacity to transform itself and its environment for shared progress.

> *"The SDGs were historic – 193 nations agreed on a global agenda. But we now need an upgrade – a regenerative development framework that builds on the SDGs."* – Amanda Ellis

6.1 THE STATE OF OUR WORLD: Why Global Turbulence and Why Now?

Day 1 of WAAS@66 will provide a summary of the conclusions of this report identifying both the sources and symptoms of global turbulence and identifying key issues that would need to be addressed in order to deliver effective solutions.

6.2 PEACE: The Architecture of Global Security

Day 2 will address the structural conditions for durable peace in the twenty-first century, developing concrete proposals across: the architecture of global leadership and preparation of leaders for civilizational transition; the operationalization of the GPO across active and potential conflict zones; the transition from competitive nationalism to global common security through nine scalable strategies; the redesign of multilateralism and revitalization of global rule of law; strategies to reverse the retreat from democracy; the strengthening of universal human values and new narratives for global cooperation; the democratization of social power; and the integration of the arts and humanities through the Planetary Arts initiative.

6.3 PROSPERITY: The Economics & Technology of Human Security

Day 3 will address the economics of the transition, examining how the world's resources can be directed toward building the assets that address pressing challenges while unlocking new opportunities. Proposals will cover the World Investment Plan and the nine transformative solutions capable of advancing 90% of SDG targets; global financial reform including externality pricing and democratization of access to finance; strategies for full employment and reduction of economic inequality; bridging the science-policy gap; integrated climate and ecological strategies; mobilizing science and technology as a force for good; and the operationalization of HS4A at national scale.

6.4 FREEDOM: Liberating Minds and Restoring Democracy in the Human Agency

Day 4 will address the battle for human consciousness—ensuring that technology, and AI in particular, serves human freedom and dignity rather than concentrating power and colonizing minds. Sessions will examine threats to society in the age of AI; technology as structural architecture; the near future of AGI; the creative and symbiotic potential of AI as a partner in human flourishing; the limits of rationality and new cognitive frameworks required for civilizational transformation; rethinking education for human



security and conscious social evolution; and the full spectrum of existential threats through EXTRA.

7 CONCLUSION

The WAAS@65 conference made three foundational propositions that now define the Academy's work. First: the world is not short of knowledge, financial resources, or technical solutions—what is lacking is the integrated vision, knowledge of the process of global social evolution, and conscious coordination and political will to deploy them at the scale the moment demands. Second: effective responses must address root causes at depth, not merely manage symptoms at the surface. Third: the transition underway—from fragmented, reactive, crisis-driven evolution to conscious, cooperative, values-guided transformation—represents both the greatest challenge and the greatest opportunity of our era.

This report has presented the evidence and expert deliberation that grounds these propositions: the eight structural drivers of global turbulence, the twelve integrated solution domains, and the cross-cutting capacities that enable them, the portfolio of concrete projects through which the Academy is beginning to translate analysis into action, and the outline of the programs WAAS seeks to further develop in 2026.

The WAAS community—its Fellows, partner institutions, and the wider network of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers—is well positioned to contribute to this civilizational task. Not as the sole actor in a vast and complex field, but as an intellectual anchor, a convener of diverse expertise, and a catalyst for the coalitions and commitments that the scale of the challenge requires.

> ***"The world is not short of ideas, tools, or money. What we lack is unity of purpose, trust, moral clarity, and transformational leadership – both individual and institutional."*** **– WAAS@65 Closing Session**

The collective resolve to solve is now the work. WAAS@65 named the task; WAAS@66 must galvanize to discharge it; and the years that follow will measure whether our era chose transformation while the choice was still ours to make.

8 KEY VOICES FROM THE CONFERENCE

The following selection of perspectives from WAAS@65 speakers illustrates the breadth, depth, and intellectual richness of the conference deliberations. They are offered not as isolated quotations but as concentrated expressions of the larger analytical frameworks that shaped the conference's conclusions.

> ***"Safety is not a competitive advantage; it's a global public good. Governance is not just regulation – it's inclusion, culture, and conscience."*** **– Mariana Todorova**

> ***"Crises now trespass the system in which they are embedded. We cannot govern risks anymore in silos."*** **– Ortwin Renn**

> ***"The SDGs are no less than a litmus test of the level of progress of our civilisation. They go to the root of our ability to deliver peace, prosperity, and freedom to all – regardless of our differences."*** **– Ketan Patel**

> ***"The struggle to preserve our first truly global civilization demands we strengthen our world constitution and fortify human rights through an empowering globalisation of conscience and compassion."*** **– Francis O'Donnell**

> ***"To manage global transformations, we must rethink not only policies, but also the process by which they are made. We must invite ethics, equity, and participation at the heart of decision-making."*** **– Gustavo Merino**

9 WAAS PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENTS

WAAS@65 served as both a conference of analysis and deliberation and the launch platform for a portfolio of concrete projects through which the Academy and its partners are translating the solutions agenda into action.

9.1 Global Peace Offensive Center (GPOC)

Established in September 2025 at AMEU in Maribor, Slovenia, as a joint venture of WAAS, EASA, and AMEU. The GPOC functions as a research, training, and coordination hub for peace practitioners worldwide, developing and applying diagnostic tools linked to conflict and human security, offering university courses on peace-offensive diplomacy, conducting research on peace opportunities, and collecting best practices from successful peace processes. National, regional, and international partners include the BSUN, CoR, GSI, GPEN, NGIC, and WUC.

9.2 EXTRA: Existential Threats and Risks to All

A multidisciplinary working group within WAAS curating materials from leading organizations globally to create an up-to-date, comprehensive overview of major existential threats and risks, enabling the strategic foresight needed to create pathways toward human security for all. EXTRA maintains a directory of threats alongside a directory of proven solutions. Partners include the One Young World-IAC Security Council, F4G, AE4RIA, and SDSN.

9.3 Human Security for All (HS4A)

The ongoing WAAS campaign in partnership with UNTFHS, the Consumer Technology Association, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and SpellBee International projects the human security framework across multiple constituencies, from technology industry leaders at CES to schoolchildren in India. The WAAS-CTA partnership has been renewed for the fourth time in 2026, confirming the technology sector's receptivity to the human security framing. SpellBee International's Classroom-to-Community model is being tested across thousands of schools in India for international scale.

9.4 Planetary Arts Movement (X-Arts)

The Planetary Arts Movement is an integrated initiative recognizing the complementary roles of science and art in addressing human security and sustainable development challenges. The project is guided by six Planetary Art Principles: Wisdom, Ecology, Creativity, All-inclusiveness, Narrative, and Networks—a framework intended to co-create a flourishing planet for all. Programmatically, X-ART organizes its work around four thematic clusters—Planet, People, Peace, and Prosperity—each addressing root causes of global crises (climate collapse, inequality, conflict, unsustainable development) while linking artistic expression to the Sustainable Development Goals.

9.5 TIC Trauma Informed Care

Established by IACP, WAAS, WUC, the University of Torino, BSUN, WSF, the University for Sustainability (Santa Fe, New Mexico), the POP Movement and the Ukrainian Psychological Association in response to the Ukraine-Russia crisis. The project has trained 45 Ukrainian psychologists as TIC trainers, certified 300+ health professionals in TIC practices, conducted 66 trauma recovery sessions for Ukrainian refugee families in Italy, and developed TICbot—a trauma-informed AI chatbot for safe, evidence-based psychological support. Next steps include EU-level funding (€420,000/year for five years), expansion of multilingual capacity, and integration of TIC curriculum into higher education and public sector training.

9.6 Strategies to Restore Trust in AI

Several WAAS Fellows, F4G, and ISII research, design, and implementation initiatives seek to identify the sources of public distrust in AI, demonstrate its links to global turbulence, and engage governments, industry, civil society, and academia in co-creating governance models and corporate best practices.

9.7 Global Leadership Academy

A proposed transdisciplinary leadership curriculum on the process of global social transformation, to be developed in collaboration with NGIC, AMEU, EASA, IAC, and ASU/GFL and delivered through WUC. The curriculum will seek to equip leaders in government, business, academia, and civil society with the understanding of global social transition dynamics, integrative thinking, and ethical grounding needed to address civilizational-scale challenges.

9.8 AI-Powered Future of Global Higher Education

WAAS has been promoting a global, AI-enabled higher education system at conferences organized by the UN Summit of the Future, CES and UNESCO 2025, and the India AI Impact Summit 2026. The initiative addresses the challenge of doubling global higher education enrollment to 500 million by 2050 through accessible, affordable, transdisciplinary, AI-powered systems delivering personalized, multilingual learning at approximately 25% of the cost of conventional delivery.

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