

“New Paradigm of Sustainable Human Development” - Report on the recent activities of the World Academy, its Partners and its Centers

Ivo Šlaus

Dag Hammarskjöld University College,* World Academy of Art and Science

“Our century has given birth to a great epoch, but the great moment finds a stunned generation and even more stunned politicians.”

(F. Schiller, *The Present Moment*, 1796)

“It is absurd to believe that everything is going to change, but politics will and can remain the same.”

(Y. Dror, *Avant-Garde Politician*, 2014)

Introduction

International conference on “New Paradigm of Sustainable Human Development G-Global – a New Form of Global Dialogue” was convened by the World Academy of Art and Science and by the Al-Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on November 5-7, 2014, in association with the Club of Rome, European Movement International, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, Green Cross International, Partnership for Change and other organizations. The starting point of the conference was that the current socioeconomic paradigm is unsustainable and that the world urgently needs a new paradigm. The increasing speed and complexity of global challenges do not mean

· Among partners of the World Academy are CERN, UN Academic Impact, Inter-Academy Panel, European Leadership Network, Library of Alexandria, Institute for Cultural Diplomacy and Global Round Table, and among World Academy centers are Dag Hammarskjöld University College and Center in Bucharest led by former President of Romania Prof. Emil Constantinescu.

they are insoluble. Challenges can be converted into opportunities by leveraging the pressure and urgency of our problems to reject outmoded ideas, ineffective institutions and fragmented policies and to replace them with more effective approaches. Solutions to our problems can possibly be found in a human-centered approach. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev sent a personal message to the conference, calling for the creation of a truly inclusive global dialogue – G-Global – on solutions to the problems confronting humanity. Keynote address to the conference was given by Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, President of the Kazakh Senate and former Director General of the United Nations at Geneva, and his keynote address follows:



Resolution International Conference on “New Paradigm of Sustainable Human Development G-Global – a New Form of Global Dialogue”

Participants of the international conference on “New Paradigm of Sustainable Human Development G-Global – a New Form of Global Dialogue” held at the AI-Farabi Kazakh National University (Almaty, Kazakhstan), November 5-7, 2014, supporting the decision of the previous conferences at the United Nations in Geneva, the Library of Alexandria, the Academy of Developing Countries (Trieste), the Montenegrin Academy of Sciences and Arts (Podgorica), University of California at Berkeley, Washington, Ottawa, and Nizami Ganjavi International Centre (Baku) on the multidimensional global crisis confronting humanity today, and aware of the urgent need to revise the existing development paradigm by joint efforts and to create more effective mechanisms for the implementation of the sustainable development concept, adopt this resolution with the following provisions:

Article 1. Conference participants recognize that uncontrolled globalization generates instability and crises in social, political, military, economic and financial sectors

and agree on the need for urgent measures to formulate a new concept and approach for sustainable development of the whole world. The rapid pace of technological development has outstripped the speed of adaptation by societies and cultures, resulting in rising levels of turbulence, conflict, inequality, unemployment and social alienation. Intensive technological development, stressful social change and increasing population pose global threats to human society and the health of the biosphere.

Article 2. The conference supports the ideas reflected in the address of the President of Kazakhstan N. A. Nazarbayev for the participants of the Forum and recommends employing unique communication platform G-Global as efficient guide for achieving sustainable human development.

Article 3. Conference participants emphasize the need for transition to a human-centred development paradigm based on universal human rights and responsibilities, global rule of law, and democratic institutions for global governance.

Article 4. The conference strongly endorses the ten principles for a new paradigm presented at the conference, including the shift in emphasis from quantitative growth to quality of life, environmental preservation as a prerequisite for sustainable human development, reducing of corruption by bridging the gap of social inequalities between the rich and poor at the global level, and respect for cultural polycentricism.

Article 5. Conference participants, from the aspect of sustainable development, are aware that the new paradigm must reflect the crucial role of creation of a global security environment based on nuclear disarmament, mutually beneficial cooperation based on equality and social justice education.

Article 6. The paradigm should maintain the development of domestic political stability through a democratic framework as a counter-measure against terrorism, separatism and religious extremism, at which demographic growth provokes unemployment, drinking water shortages and conflict potential in world politics.

Article 7. The new paradigm needs to balance economic growth with natural resource constraints and reconcile the needs and aspirations of individuals for consumption and social advancement with the limitations imposed by the carrying capacities of the earth's biosphere.

Article 8. The conference supports the establishment of a global network of institutions to monitor, forecast and analyse current political, economic, environmental and social forces and trends, to develop long-term strategic plans and formulate a new paradigm for the sustainable evolution of human society on the planet.

Article 9. International mass media and communications technologies should play a leading role in projecting a practically achievable and sustainable vision of the future world and strategies by which humanity can realize it.

Article 10. Conference participants recognize that conducting of an in-depth analysis of globalization processes requires fundamental changes in our educational system to promote trans-disciplinary theoretical concepts and models, as well as inter-disciplinary approaches for problem-solving. Economic theory needs to be integrated with ecological, political and sociological concepts to ensure that economic development promotes individual human welfare and well-being, as well as stable and sustainable societies.

Article 11. A concerted international effort is required to enhance the role of educational institutions as instruments of conscious social evolution by expanding access to education at all levels, enhancing quality, promoting social integration of universities with society to ensure relevance of education, fostering academic mobility, coordinating joint activities, extending international relations between universities, and involving universities in the establishment of educational standards at pre-university and other levels. In order to increase the adaptability and resilience of present and future generations, it is equally necessary to introduce pedagogical methods that foster active participative learning, team collaboration, independent thinking, innovation, leadership and socially responsible individuality.

Article 12. It is also essential to support modernization of production methods and systems to maximize natural resource productivity and recycling and to minimize ecological damage. Emphasis on knowledge-intensive technologies and services is needed to aid the transition from an industrial economy to a knowledge-based service economy.

Article 13. Conference participants support efforts to cooperate in the frame of the UNAI Program, the UNESCO Program on environment and environmental education to actively promote the “Model Plan for Sustainable Development of the Universities” in all countries and to attract other international and non-governmental organizations in order to spread sustainable development programs within the frame of G-global.

The conference included four trans-disciplinary, interrelated tracks exploring the interactions and interdependence between governance, international security, human rights, and law; economy, finance and employment; education and human development; as well as energy, resources and the climate.

The conference concluded with the Declaration that follows:

Speech of HE Nursultan Nazarbayev President of Republic Kazakhstan

**Dear participants of the Conference,
Rector of the University,**

We are here today to discuss the vital problems of sustainable human development. AI-Farabi Kazakh National University is hosting this forum as part of the United Nations Academic Impact program. Well-known foreign and Kazakhstan's experts, members of the World Academy of Art and Science, public figures and scholars are participating in this event.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized the importance of this conference, drawing attention of the international community to the global dialogue platform and sent a message on this occasion.

Let me deliver this message.

*To the participants of the conference on
“New Paradigm of Sustainable Human Development G-Global –
a New Form of Global Dialogue”*

Dear friends,

It is symbolic that this conference is held at AI-Farabi Kazakh National University, a leading research and education centre in our country, recognized as a global hub of the United Nations Academic Impact program.

The 21st century gave rise to numerous challenges to economy, environment, geopolitics, natural resources and energy. The interdependence of political, financial and economic systems resulted in the implications of local problems and actions of any country, regardless of size, for global security. Deep qualitative changes in the very paradigm of world development are needed to overcome these challenges.

Against this backdrop, Kazakhstan's G-Global initiative is undoubtedly crucial. We have established a unique communications platform that generates new ideas and solutions. This project has been successfully implemented both at regional and international levels. It has a powerful intellectual potential of talented young people and representatives of the public and business sectors.

As a platform for international discussions, G-Global has been promoting innovative ways of efficient management and fostering harmonious and dynamic balance between people, resources and the environment.

Our goal is to refine all major activities of humankind and to change the mentality of the people.

I am confident that the conference will contribute to the global efforts to develop a new paradigm of sustainable human development.

I wish all participants of the conference successful and fruitful work.

***President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Nursultan Nazarbayev***

Let me now move on to my address on the Ten points of the new paradigm.

Distinguished participants, Dear colleagues,

Rector of the University,

The theme of this conference is very acute.

Contemporary challenges create the need for a new paradigm of global development. That is why Kazakhstan is helping to tackle this problem. President Nursultan Nazarbayev launched the G-Global initiative that aims at uniting efforts of the international community to establish a just and secure world order.

This initiative offers an absolutely new form of global discussion. There is no doubt about the accomplishments of the elite G8 and G20 groups, yet we believe that the world should listen to the views of other countries and hear their proposals on current developments. In our opinion, such redistribution of global roles is more consistent with the principles of democracy and inclusive responsibility and it pays due regard to the needs of a multipolar world.

The G-Global project envisages an open dialogue of the community of nations willing to make a worthy input into the promotion of stability and sustainable development of humankind. This means that the principles of equality and mutual respect must prevail in international relations.

It is our firm belief that, while overcoming the Cold War stereotypes, fostering trust based on global interaction and enhancing multilateral cooperation, we can steer the economy out of this vicious cycle of crises and recessions.

The main principles of the world order in the 21st century set out in the G-Global initiative will build a solid foundation for a cohesive multipolar world.

Expectations that at the end of the Cold War the world would become a safer place to live in melted away. World community is jam-packed with new threats to global security, whereas international relations have strained to the point that reasonable concerns about the return to the Cold War emerged.

The 21st century is witnessing once again political and economic instability, regional conflicts, extremism, terrorism and organized crime. The world is still jeopardized by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the resumption of high-tech arms race. Social and demographic problems are significantly growing in scope: the widening gap between rich and poor countries, rising migration flows, overpopulation of the Earth, pandemic diseases, mounting hunger and fresh water shortage. Morals and ethics are eroding; globalization is amplifying the risk of ideological, cultural and religious conflicts. Anthropogenic action has brought humankind to the line beyond which the future existence of the human race may become questionable.

In view of these pressing challenges, we should ponder over the existing paradigm shift to ensure sustainable human development and security.

First, it is necessary to adjust priorities in the very essence of economic activity. The ultimate goal of economic development is not only and not so much to achieve quantitative growth, but also to tackle issues related to the quality of life, that is, science, health, education and culture.

Sustainable economic growth should be measured by technological efficiency and safety, high quality of goods and services, sound consumption standards and a resource friendly approach.

GDP per capita is not the only economic success indicator. Wealth distribution, social well-being, compliance with international living standards, the rule of law and respect for human rights and freedoms should also be taken into account.

Second, it is essential to reassess the environmental factors in this new paradigm of sustainable development.

Sixty per cent of life-critical ecosystems on the Earth are under the threat of destruction. Global warming caused by greenhouse effects resulting from anthropogenic activity may lead to universal catastrophes. Since 1980 the number of natural disasters has increased fivefold, and over the past 15 years overall damage reached USD 100 billion.

Attempts to achieve economic growth by increasing natural resource consumption are a dead end. Mankind uses natural resources 50 per cent faster than they are renewed.

Environmental preservation and reproduction should be a prerequisite for sustainable human development.

Third, human capital plays a crucial role in sustainable development. Its potential depends on the quality of education, healthcare and social well-being.

In this regard, the United Nations Millennium Development Goals are extremely important. The MDGs helped many countries, including Kazakhstan, improve their quality indicators of development. Although not all goals can be achieved by 2015, the experience gained worldwide is indispensable to future sustainable human development. The Millennium Development Goals Plus will be built on this experience.

Fourth, the widening gap between the rich and poor poses a major challenge to sustainable development and undermines global stability.

According to Oxfam International, fighting against poverty, 85 per cent of the richest people on the planet own USD 1.7 trillion, the wealth of the half of the world's population, or 3.6 billion poorest people.

The contrast between multibillionaires and people living on 1 dollar a day or even less is a source of despair, hatred and radicalization in the latter group. Social stratification gives rise to public protests and may hinder the world's economic growth.

Corruption corroding morality and undermining domestic security only aggravates social inequality. According to Tax Justice Network, crooked business people, working with corrupt officials, have embezzled USD 30 trillion over the last 15 years – or 40 per cent of the current gross domestic product of the world. Between 2000 and 2011 USD 1.2 trillion ran from the European Union to secret offshore financial havens, while USD 4 trillion disappeared from China and USD 1 trillion waned from Russia.

The new concept of sustainable human development should outline measures to overcome this situation by bridging social inequality gaps at the global level.

Fifth, social inequality is deepening with the growth of world population that reached 7.2 billion people and by 2100 it will increase to 12.5 billion. Nowadays over 80 per cent of world population does not have enough food, a job or appropriate living conditions.

Demographic growth provokes the threat of hunger, which in turn requires more rational use of agricultural resources.

The UN estimates that roughly one third of the edible parts of food produced for human consumption gets lost or wasted globally, which is about 1.3 billion tons per year. It is an unaffordable luxury, undermining global stability as almost one billion people on the planet are starving.

The problem of unemployment has worsened with technological progress. According to the UN, in 2014 the number of the unemployed is expected to increase to 203.2 million people worldwide; the number of working people earning less than 2 dollars a day will grow to 840 million people. Young people are confronting unemployment problems; nearly 75 million people under the age of 24 are unemployed. People looking for a job often have to migrate to other countries and the number of these persons is close to 235 million.

We should focus on the shortage of drinking water.

The UN estimates that currently 750 million people lack access to safe drinking water.

Acute water shortage inflamed 37 interstate conflicts over the past 50 years. According to foreign estimates, by 2030 water scarcity will deteriorate to the extent that social instability and armed conflicts may sparkle in some parts of the world. This problem is also relevant to our region.

Therefore, great attention must be paid to developing and poor countries, provided that they make efforts to embark on the path to sustainable development, including economic reforms and transformation of political institutions.

Sixth, new approaches should be applied to the balance between national culture and universal values. Changes in the global way of thinking should take into consideration the diminishing Eurocentric influence and strengthening of “non-Western” views. Asian cultural values became popular due to the rapid economic rise of Asia. The concept of a new world order should reflect the principles of cultural polycentricism, bearing in mind the equal value of each culture to world civilization.

A good example of this approach is Kazakhstan’s policy to ensure interethnic and interfaith peace and harmony, underpinned by the principle of “unity in diversity”. At the initiative of our country the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013-2022).

Seventh, it seems necessary to reframe the paradigm of widespread competition that sets people, economies and countries against each other.

We should rely on mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of equality, mutual respect and teamwork for the common good. Even if this thesis may seem to be a utopian idea, the new view of competition as the engine of progress should also embrace interaction elements that will facilitate the harmonization of the modern world and reduce its turbulence.

In this regard, integration developments are extremely important. As a strong supporter of international integration efforts, Kazakhstan proposed to establish the Eurasian Economic Union that can positively influence the international situation on the vast Eurasian continent.

Eighth, the sustainable development paradigm should include the creation of a new world order in view of existing and future security threats. Against the backdrop of geopolitical shifts from a unipolar world to a multipolar one, the importance of regional organizations is growing.

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia initiated by Kazakhstan has become a tangible factor in global politics. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization plays a positive role. The Collective Security Treaty Organization is gaining strength. Active involvement in these organizations aimed at strengthening their potential is in the national interest of our country.

We should be ready to upgrade a number of outdated provisions of the UN Charter while unconditionally maintaining the basic principles of international law. The fear of opening Pandora's Box must give way to understanding and consideration of new realities.

Our world is constantly changing, yet the Charter has been frozen for 69 years since its adoption. At the same time we cannot cast doubt on the fact that the United Nations is an indispensable universal organization.

One of the major concerns is the slowdown in negotiations in main areas of disarmament, be it cutting off the production of fissile materials, negative guarantees, preventing arms race in outer space or general and complete disarmament. New threats and challenges should not overshadow disarmament problems. It is crucial to Kazakhstan, which holds a leading position in this area, having closed down the nuclear test site on its territory and renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal.

Ninth, the new security paradigm should answer the following questions: how to deal with terrorism and extremism, how to prevent the threat of civilizational faults and how to reduce conflict potential in global politics.

The problem of religious extremism that puts international security in jeopardy is very acute. Jihadists aiming at establishing a global "Caliphate" clearly demonstrate the size of this peril. With available military equipment and funding jihadists are making attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. These facts highlight the need to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and to eliminate arsenals of chemical and bacteriological weapons as fast as possible.

The fight against extremism and terrorism must imply international military cooperation and preventive social measures. The growing popularity of jihadist ideas to establish a kind of "Islamic state" on the territory of a number of regions makes it evident that the ideology of militant intolerance resonates with young people in many countries. It is necessary to counter this "fire and sword" ideology with education and tangible steps to restore social justice, eradicate poverty and strengthen confidence in the future.

It is vital to struggle against separatism, which manifests itself in armed clashes and terrorist attacks. In terms of legal framework, we should eliminate fundamental contradictions between the right of nations to self-determination and the principle of territorial integrity enshrined in the UN Charter. The world is mostly self-determined and therefore the priority could be given to the territorial integrity of states.

There is a need for eliminating the causes of separatism.

No room should be left for ambiguity and double standards. Border delimitation treaties must be strictly adhered. All countries should respect the constitutional order of other nations, especially neighbouring ones, in order to cooperate with them for the benefit of peace and security.

Tenth, sustainable development implies domestic stability. As history has shown, democracy is usually a guarantee of stability. Yet democratization is an evolutionary trend that can neither be artificially stepped up nor imposed. Historical experience, cultural traditions and national mentality of every country need to be taken into account.

The recent developments in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Egypt demonstrated that a well-thought-out approach, tolerance and political tact should be displayed in democracy building.

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Many issues of sustainable development ought to be addressed both at national and global levels. Unfortunately, we are not witnessing this yet. Due to economic crises, some countries are facing serious difficulties in the implementation of relevant programs. The UN Security Council is split by discord, impeding the ability of this vital UN body to deal with the most pressing issues of contemporaneity. It was the case with Syria. Ukrainian crisis led to a deteriorating international situation and sanctions stand-off, damaging economies not even involved in the conflict. The interests of countries are infringed, but what is more important is that the life of the middle class, the pillar of democracy, is getting worse.

Being a part of the international community, Kazakhstan is interested in strengthening international cooperation to address global sustainable development. President Nursultan Nazarbayev outlined our vision of long-term development in the Kazakhstan 2050 Strategy and I highly recommend foreign participants of the conference to read it.

Thank you for your attention.