



The unprecedented speed and increasing complexity of global social transition exceeds the understanding, national policies and the expertise of prevailing theories among the academics, strategists and diplomats at the local, national and global level. Without a deeper understanding of the forces at play, it is difficult to frame and implement effective responses.

WAAS@65 charted the interwoven symptoms and consequences of global turbulence - in governance, economic inequality, peace and security, education, science and technology, climate and ecology, and culture - and identified their root causes and deep drivers. The conference also identified a number of high potential solutions to address the identified root causes of the turbulence which merit in-depth examination and development in order to render them into operable practical strategies.

This year's WAAS@66 Summit builds directly on these findings to explore concrete, integrated solutions for global turbulence. Its objective is to transform the growing awareness of causes and solutions into practical strategies that can lead to action. The conference will be organised across three one-day civilizational themes - Peace, Prosperity, and Freedom – and four structural streams: scale of change, its global nature, human consciousness and societal transformation, knowledge and capacity enablers. The fourth day will close with a general assembly of the members of the World Academy.

September 8, 2026

14:00 – 14:50 CEST

Session 1: Opening Plenary Session - The State of Our World: Why Global Turbulence and Why Now?

The WAAS@65 Conference explored the interwoven dimensions of global turbulence as they manifest in governance, economic inequality, peace and security, education and consciousness, science and technology, climate and ecology, and culture, together with their psychological foundations and the integrative strategies needed to address them. This session examines why turbulence is rising and why solutions must be integrated across civilizational dimensions. It introduces the Peace, Prosperity, Freedom framework and the four-day programme architecture.

15:00 – 15:50 CEST

Session 2: Issue-Setting: PEACE - The Architecture of Global Security

This session maps the structural threats to global peace - retreat from multilateralism, competitive nationalism, democratic erosion, breakdown of international rule of law - and the solution directions Day 2 will develop: Common security, leadership development, and restoration of trust. It examines peace and the seven dimensions of human security, and the structural conditions for durable peace and setting the solution-oriented tone for the day's sessions.

16:00 – 16:50 CEST

Session 3: Issue-Setting: PROSPERITY - The Economics & Technology of Human Security

This session examines the structural sources of economic turbulence - underinvestment in human security, inequality, SDG failure, mispriced ecological resources, concentrated

economic power - and the solution directions Day 3 will develop: World Investment Plan, financial reform, technology for sustainable development, Human Security for All, how to achieve global prosperity and the revitalize the SDGs of Agenda 2023 as a viable framework for progress, how the world's transition to an information age plays into this and what it will take to make universal progress once again.

17:00 – 17:50 CEST

Session 4: Issue-Setting: FREEDOM - Liberating Minds and Restoring Democracy in the Battle for Human Consciousness in the Age of AI

This session explores the governance, educational and cultural challenges posed by AI and social media and how they colonise minds through information manipulation, generating social polarisation and democratic erosion. Day 4 will map the potential to control the threat and harness the power of AI as a liberator of knowledge, democratiser of education and enhancer of human creativity. It will introduce measures for national and global cognitive freedom and identify conditions of governance, education and cultural conditions under which technology can become an instrument of liberation rather than control, and proposals to restore trust in AI as an instrument to promote transparent governance and market incentives.

18:00 – 18:50 CEST

Session 5: Preparing Global Leadership for the Emerging Future and Changing the Way We Think

The polycrisis is systemic and cannot be addressed by the same reductionist, disciplinary-silo thinking that created it. This session examines the specific conceptual frameworks - in security, power, sovereignty, freedom, democracy, and economic value - that must change, and what integrated transdisciplinary thinking looks like in practice. It explores how AI can help overcome the barriers of rational thinking and conceptual systems, and what a new paradigm of integrated knowledge requires. The session poses critical questions required for effective global leadership, including the understanding, skills and capacities leaders need to prepare the world for a peaceful, prosperous and free global society, the type of changes needed in the way we think, and the type and content of leadership education required.

September 9, 2026

DAY 2 – PEACE -- Building a Foundation for Global Security & Cooperation

13:30 – 14:50 CET

Session 6: Global Peace Offensive

The session uses structured discussions to identify practical solutions for peacebuilding, applying the GPO framework to current crises, as set out in the Vision for a Global Peace Offensive and the Call for Action, co-signed by WAAS, EASA, Alma Mater Europaea University, and a growing network of academic and civil society partners

15:00 – 15:50 CET

Session 7: Science and Technology for Peace

This session examines how science, technology and green innovation can serve as practical instruments of peace and human security. It explores scientific collaboration to build trust between nations and communities, while avoiding the risk of these technologies being weaponised. The session will focus on how sustainable innovation can be deliberately channelled to advance the Global Peace Offensive's goals, turning the shared global challenges into a platform for cooperation rather than competition.

16:00 – 16:50 CET

Session 8: Education for Peace

This session examines opportunities for education as the foundation for lasting peace. It focuses on curricula and pedagogy that equip the next generation with the competencies needed to build a prosperous, peaceful civilisation. Partnerships will be described, such as the UNESCO-MOST BRIDGES, the Earth-Humanity Coalition, and Global Peace Education Network. Possibilities will be discussed to embed sustainability and peace education to mobilise youth and emerging leaders for peacebuilding.

17:00 – 17:50 CET

Session 9A: Reversing the Retreat from Democracy, Redesigning Multilateralism & Global Rule of Law

This session studies the mechanisms to counter the erosion of democracy by electoral systems, media capture, plutocratic financing - and evidence-based strategies to reverse backsliding toward autocracy and plutocracy. It looks at scalable strategies that can be implemented to build momentum for multilateral institutional transformation, including Security Council veto reform, new participatory mechanisms, and alternative multilateral financing.

17:00 – 17:50 CET

Session 9B: Making Common Security Operational

No state can achieve lasting nuclear security alone. In a world of nuclear weapons, cyber vulnerability, artificial intelligence, missile defense instability, hypersonics, space assets, great-power rivalry, and regional crises, unilateral security becomes self-defeating. One state's attempt to maximize its security often becomes another state's reason to increase its own risk posture. Common security insists that security must be mutual, not merely adversarial. It seeks security with others, not only against others. That is the right strategic direction. Common security is not a sentimental idealism, but a possible replacement for deterrence. A common-security mechanism earns real replacement value only when it can show how it substitutes for a specific security function that nuclear deterrence is currently believed to provide. This session discusses the question, *how can common security be made operational?*

18:00 – 18:50 CET

Session 10A: Universal Human Values, Human Security, and New Narratives for Global Cooperation

This session explores ways to strengthen global consensus around ethical principles as the foundation for cooperation - and the narratives, institutions and processes needed to restore this consensus against reactionary pressure. The Human Security for All (HS4A) campaign reframes the prosperity agenda around everyday vulnerabilities. The session discusses new

investment, governance and measurement frameworks to make HS4A operational at national scale.

18:00 – 18:50 CET

Session 10B: The Planetary Arts Movement – A Pathway for the Future

This panel session gives an introduction to the Planetary Arts Movement - a new WAAS initiative launched earlier in 2026 in collaboration with strategic and committed allies. World leading artists and architects shaped the original mission of WAAS, providing inspiration for creative solutions to address global challenges in the 1960s. The Planetary Arts Movement has been set up to revitalise the role of the Arts within WAAS - by shining a light on understanding the root causes of global turbulence, and promoting creative inter-disciplinary solutions to our increasingly complex and inter-related challenges that we face today and into the future. This session introduces the planetary arts manifesto and launch events, explores the historical context of the Arts within WAAS, and outlines the forward plan. This is followed by insights from representatives of the Planetary Arts Committee on how the Arts enables a unitive vision, innovation, and mobilises youth leaders with networks, advocacy and cultural transformation. Lastly, reflections are made on the role of the Arts as a tool for diplomacy and leadership for Peace and the Planet.

September 10, 2026

DAY 3- PROSPERITY -- Financing Human Security & Sustainable Development

13:30 – 14:50 CET

Session 11: EXTRA InfoHub: Navigating Existential Risk in an Age of Global Turbulence: Towards Systemic Intelligence and Resilience

In a period marked by global turbulence across natural and social domains, existential risks can no longer be understood as isolated phenomena; they are emergent properties of deeply interconnected systems. This session explores how a more integrated and anticipatory approach to risk will lead to better informed, more integrated decision-making at all levels and across sectors, in support of human security and resilience. It examines three interrelated key requirements: Continuous risk awareness in a rapidly evolving world, systemic and holistically integrated understanding of risk, and enhancing the quality of risk information itself - by developing assessment tools to rate the credibility, coherence, and comparability of various risk reports which can otherwise provide biased, conflicting or unverifiable information.

15:00 – 15:50 CET

Session 12A: Global Solutions to Raise the World's Platform – A World Investment Plan

This session explores the scope for creating a global economic boom in the process of investing in building the assets that can address the issues and unlock opportunities. It looks at solutions that might constitute a world investment plan ranging from climate mitigation and adaptation, through universal education, financial inclusion and affordable housing, to biodiversity as the planetary life-support system underpinning all other goals.

15:00 – 15:50 CET

Session 12B: Bridging the Science-Policy Gap

This session is about strengthening science advisory capacities in governments; creating formal science-policymaker dialogue channels; integrating foresight into decision-making; Public Peace Offensive for Health, and Science-Art-Human Security initiatives as practical models; and the vision of a science-policy-society platform for structured public deliberation.

16:00 – 16:50 CET

Session 13A: Tapping the Positive Potential of AI for Addressing Global Challenges

This session will explore the possibilities of using AI to address global turbulence, covering challenges in a wide range of areas including decision making, education and the future of work.

16:00 – 16:50 CET

Session 13B: Addressing Climate and Ecological Threat Multipliers

This session focuses on an integrated policy and investment frameworks for decarbonisation, biodiversity protection and circular economy development - combined with early warning systems, risk insurance, nature-based adaptation and the Public Peace Offensive for Climate.

17:00 – 17:50 CET

Session 14A: Strategies to Address Job Security and Economic Inequality

This session presents concrete strategies for full employment and reduced inequality: AI-based lifelong reskilling; working-time reduction and productivity sharing; technology dividend and fair taxation of automation; active labour-market policies; care economy expansion; living wages and collective bargaining; universal social protection; true-cost accounting, job guarantee, basic income and public employment programmes.

17:00 – 17:50 CET

Session 14B: Management of Global Social Transformations by Mobilising Science & Technology as a Force for Good

Technology can serve as the structural architecture of future society rather than a sectoral tool. Core and systemic technologies can be building blocks of the Fourth Industrial

Revolution. This raises the questions of who controls them, of digital colonialism and the colonisation of the mind. This session examines technology as a civilizational-scale structural force and identifies governance choices and institutional frameworks required for integrated, conscious transformation at global scale. It addresses the need for conscious global governance of technology: ethics-by-design, adaptive foresight, inclusivity of the Global South, alignment with the SDGs, and the creation of a transition pathway for the planet. It proposes conscious global governance of technology, an architecture that serves human freedom, and the establishment of emerging technologies as global commons.

September 11, 2026

DAY 4 – FREEDOM -- Liberating Minds, Restoring Democracy & Human Agency

13:30 – 14:20 CET

Session 15A: Rethinking Education for Peace, Human Security and Sustainable Development

How can education become an antidote to social turbulence? This session presents the World University Consortium human-centred model, the HS4A education initiative; and the AI-powered future of global higher education - meeting the challenge of doubling enrolment to 500 million students by 2050 through accessible, transdisciplinary systems governed in service of human values.

13:30 – 14:20 CET

Session 15B: The Evolution and Democratisation of Social Power

This session covers three interrelated WAAS projects on reducing distortions in democracy, markets and media through transparency, inclusivity and accountability, drawing on the Global Baku Forum 2026 discussion on balancing social power.

14:30 – 15:20 CET

Session 16A: AI for Education, Employment and Life-long Learning

This session explores the numerous ways in which AI can be harnessed for education, employment and lifelong learning by all.

14:30 – 15:20 CET

Session 16B: Limits to Rationality, New Cognitive Frameworks, and Creative Capabilities of Cognitive and Symbiotic Systems

This session studies the structural limits of rational thinking - disciplinary silos, cognitive bias, heuristics, zero-sum frameworks - as barriers to civilizational transformation; remedies for the moral crisis underpinning global turbulence and ethics after modernity; AI as a symbiotic partner; transcending disciplinary boundaries, promoting integrated thinking and subjective wisdom; proposals for AI-Assisted Symbiotic Leadership Decision-Making System and leveraging AI to elevate human intelligence.

15:30 – 16:20 CET

Session 17A: Educating Future Leaders

This session examines what leaders need to understand to be effective in this age of rapid change, complexity and global turbulence. It asks how to support students who want to learn and help them understand their mission and values, so they use technology as a tool rather than a crutch. New approaches will be explored to measure and deliberately develop the key competencies needed to deliver human-centred education at scale.

15:30 – 16:20 CET

Session 17B: Liberating the Human Mind

This session studies ways of overcoming cognitive biases.

16:30 – 17:20 CET

Session 18: Closing Plenary Session - Insights, Solutions and Commitments

This concluding session consists of a consolidated synthesis across the themes of Peace, Prosperity and Freedom. It will feature specific WAAS and partner commitments, and a formal Declaration of Intent specifying follow-up actions in the twelve months ahead. It will also be a preview of WAAS@67.

17:30 – 19:30 CET

General Assembly