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A large crowd of diverse people, seen from an aerial perspective, is arranged in a large 'U' shape that frames the central text. The people are wearing various colored clothing and some are wearing orange hard hats. The background is a plain white surface.

CONFERENCE REPORT

**"GLOBAL RESILIENCE
CONFERENCE: INTEGRATED
LEARNING & LEADER
DEVELOPMENT"**

New Delhi, India

3 October 2018

Held at the International Conference Centre in New Delhi, India

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Conference Agenda

Meeting in New Delhi, India on 3 October 2018 on the special occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's birth, the Global Challenges Forum Foundation (GCF) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) co-convened the "Global Resilience Conference on Integrated Learning and Leader Development," hosted by the ACTS Group of Institutions in collaboration with Orient Black Swan.

The Conference was part of the "Global Knowledge Networking" (GKN) series - an initiative to help address global resilience challenges by fostering innovative partnerships in training and education. The Global Knowledge Networking initiative promotes a cooperative framework at different levels and in different capacities for innovative learning and interactive events for action worldwide. The Conference built upon on a series of previous workshops and strategic dialogues in the United States, Europe, and the Middle East that have identified key challenges and pointed toward collectively owned opportunities.

The Conference saw a distinguished and diverse group of experts from around the world come together in an attempt to guide the way ahead in education and leadership. There was an overarching agreement of the role Global Knowledge Networking should play in empowering future leaders, their organizations, and institutions to address global challenges through integrated approaches that make knowledge manageable and actionable.

Global Resilience

The central focus of the day's deliberations was the development of global resilience and using leadership and integrated education as means to that end.

The one surprising constant in the last eighteen years since the turn of the millennium has been unexpected and rapid change.

From small personal changes to political and social upheavals, environmental disasters both expected and unexpected, the need to develop resilience has become urgent and immediate. There is an urgency in this call for the development of global resilience at the personal, social and global levels to bounce forward better.

Growing knowledge and accelerating changes in sophisticated technologies have brought enormous benefits but have also increased vulnerabilities and threats. A combination of increased awareness and changing conditions has compounded stresses and shocks from both natural and manmade causes. People now need to be resilient in the face of a widening range of emergencies. Security needs to be defined more broadly as freedom from want and freedom from fear. Shared global threats to the environment and challenges to health, maritime, cyber, and energy security, as

well as threats posed by terrorism and hybrid warfare need to be addressed at all levels.

Resilience should not just aim to restore the status quo after a crisis- the goal should be to wind up stronger than before and "be prepared to bounce forward better".

The Conference:

Conference Co-Chairs were Mr. John Samuel, former Postmaster General of India and Dr. Sanaya Nariman, Educationist and author of "Science Venture" and "Galaxy" Series of textbooks.

The one-day interactive workshop entitled, "*Global Resilience Conference: Integrated Learning and Leader Development*", brought together addresses and panel discussions that to help develop a network of ideas, actions and processes to make knowledge globally relevant for tomorrow's agile, resilient and effective leadership. The goal is to wind up stronger than before— "to be prepared to bounce forward better."

The conference built upon a series of previous workshops and strategic dialogues held in the United States, Europe and the Middle East that have identified key challenges and pointed toward collectively owned opportunities.

Progressive discussions led from challenges to opportunities to solutions and developed a network of ideas, actions and processes to empower youth and make knowledge globally relevant for tomorrow's agile, resilient and effective leaders. In support, the Conference embraced the April 27, 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between the GCF and UNITAR to establish a "Global Resilience Consortium" and its application to Sustainable Development by 2030 and beyond.

Convening Bodies

The Global Challenges Forum Foundation

The Global Challenges Forum Foundation is an organization of think tanks, research centres, and academic institutions with the goal of contributing to the much-needed resolution of existing and future global security challenges. Consisting of a dynamic online community sharing solutions through collaborative networks, a series of issues specific sub-forums that occur throughout the globe, and an annual summit organized as a “forum of forums,” the GCF builds on a diverse membership and worldwide network of partners to propose solutions to global challenges. Recognizing the complexity, imminent risks, and potential impacts of the 21st century problems and the need to develop more integrated, holistic, and bottom-up approaches, representatives from strategy centres, academia, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, and business are brought together through the Global Challenges Forum in the spirit of global partnership and a cosmopolitan ethos.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research, an autonomous body of the United Nations established in 1963, is a dedicated training arm of the United Nations System and aims to enhance the effectiveness of the UN through diplomatic training, and to increase the impact of national actions through public awareness-raising, education and training of public policy officials. UNITAR provides training and capacity development activities to assist mainly developing countries with special attention to Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other groups and communities who are most vulnerable, including those in conflict situations.

The ACTS Group of Institutions

ACTS is an acronym for Agriculture, Crafts, Trades and Studies. The ACTS Group of Institutions (formerly known as ACTS Ministries) is a registered Society working across India in the areas of education, environment, and social entrepreneurship. ACTS was started in 1979 by Dr Ken Gnanakan (PhD London University) and currently works with children and young adults in slums, villages, towns, and cities. Their aim is to develop a community of people learning to live through integrated holistic education and environmental and health action and preparing a people who will build a sustainable society. Today, ACTS is committed to total development through projects that revolve around education, environment and health programmes. The work at ACTS includes a number of exciting projects, including slum schools, a village community health centre, bio-gas production, and government-recognized schools and colleges that provide affordable quality education across India.

Morning Session

The conference began with Dr. Walter Christman, Chairman, Global Challenges Forum Foundation (GCF), delivering his keynote address, highlighting the complex nature of modern times that have given birth problems more complicated than what humanity has seen in the past. He illustrated how certain complex problems are faced worldwide and are not restricted to any political boundaries, necessitating international organizations like the GCF and UNITAR to promote strategic partnerships and global perspectives in the hunt for solutions. In support, he outlined a methodology based upon knowledge curation, connectivism and action learning to navigate complexity.

The first panel discussion revolved around leadership development for building global resilience. Panellists on this session were Mr. Raymond Marciano, Director of Security and Risk Management, Global Strategic Analysis, LLC; Mr. Sebastian Hofbauer, Program Coordinator, UNITAR and Executive Director, GCF; Mr. Pavan Duggal, Advocate at the Supreme Court of India and Chairman, International Commission on Cyber Security Law; and Ms. Sargun Lalia, Youth President, NGO Support and Advisor-Youth Affairs, GCF. The panel was moderated by Prof. M.S. Rao, author of '21 Success Sutras for Global Leaders'.

All the speakers brought different perspectives to the ideas of leadership and leader development.

A continuing thought was that an essence of being a leader lies in 'being, knowing and doing', as captured by Mr. Raymond Marciano. The idea of failures as weakness was challenged and the value of failure was elaborated as an important learning mechanism to be an efficient leader. Important tools such as internship modules, leader development programs, simulations, role playing, and problem solving were discussed as a means to create leaders from today's youth.

A leader of global resilience is one who has the ability to identify opportunities from challenges and turn them into solutions. The journey from knowledge to experience creates the abilities that are needed to lead. Emphasis was laid on integrated learning as a prerequisite bridge for this journey from knowledge to experience to leading.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations were highlighted as an essential guiding compass for the efforts of all the convening bodies in moving towards global resilience.

Empowerment of resilient and natural leaders- be it professionals, students, or individuals in remote places- was a central theme of the discussions. There is a need to empower and actualize their vision through integrated efforts and shared knowledge. Most importantly, a leader is not one who moves forward alone, he takes others along with him, because for a leader progress means nothing without community.

For global resilience, leadership needs to be bottom-up rather than top-down- the drive for change needs to come from within the people and within the communities and this is where leadership becomes a guiding force. A salient agreement was that local and regional understanding should guide global and transnational governing. In order to be an effective leader, it is necessary to own the problem and then become the part of the solution.

An interesting insight was given by Mr. Pavan Duggal on the technological security challenges that characterise modern times. For efficient leadership and resilience, the new age issue of cyber security needs to be understood and technological advancements need to become tools of resilience rather than threats.

The panel concluded that for development of global resilience, the strength remains in learning by doing and leading by doing.

Afternoon Session

The second session of the conference was focused on integrated education as a route to global resilience. A keynote address by Dr. Ken Gnanakan, Chancellor, ACTS Group of Institutions, India and Vice Chairman, GCF brought home the idea of 'a rhythm of education' which implies a holistic and integrated learning system.

The focus was on integrating what we learn and what we do and embrace the '3 Hs' of an integrated education system- the head, heart and hands- the reason, the emotion and the action.

This was followed by a speaker note by Mr. Tony Marak. He emphasized on the role of youth in leadership as a step into the future. He also talked about the importance of balance in one's life and its need to build a better tomorrow. He shared the Greek typology of people: (a) the idiots who are self-centred (b) the tribe who is community centred (c) the citizens who live for the benefit of others.

A panel discussion on 'Integrated Learning to Build Resilience' was moderated by Mr. Marak and included the panellists, Dr. Vani Vasudevan, President, R & D Orient Blackswan; Dr. Sanaya Nariman, Educationist and author of 'Science Venture' and 'Galaxy' textbook series; and Dr. N. Saravankumar, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

It was highlighted that education has the power to transform the community in ways unimaginable and should, thus, be harnessed wisely. Being a global citizen in the twenty-first century requires the capability to learn, unlearn and relearn. It was agreed that learning is a continuous process and knowledge knows no bounds. It can play a critical role in making an integrated and connected world with no boundaries in the minds of the people. Thus, emphasis was laid on integrating what we learn and what we do. The youth must be provided with a holistic learning environment with focus on multiple intelligence to foster critical thinking and help develop a more informed leadership. A shift from teacher-driven education to learning-driven education is the need of the hour.

Dr. N Saravanakumar gave an interesting insight from the point of view of governmental institutions. He said that India's education system is more like an examination system and this needs to move into being a system of multi-sensory experiential learning.

There was an underlying theme of learning from experience to empower individuals and communities alike to actualise visions of progress even in the face of obstacles. Another prominent point of discussion was the important role education plays in aligning motives as well as diversifying perspectives- imperative for a truly global society.

Conclusion

The Global Resilience Conference adopted a unique visioning exercise by Prof. M.S. Rao and Dr. Sanaya Nariman. They highlighted all the important points discussed at the conference. Dr. Walter Christman encouraged suggestions from the audience regarding the problems that need to be solved in order to achieve global resilience. This was a profound thought experiment and effort towards uniting minds in the aim to do better, together. This session was the realisation of the solution-centred approach of the convening bodies and the idea was to be able to bring all the stakeholders together in a grand scheme of building a knowledge repository for leadership development and integrated education.

The Conference workshop recommendations were subsequently incorporated into the development of the Delhi Proclamation, in the spirit of the Geneva Declaration and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It issued a call to raise by 2030, through integrated learning and leader development, 'One Million Youth Leaders for Global Sustainable Development' whose purpose shall be to carry forward the U.N. SDGs beyond 2030 to foster global resilience in response to the emerging challenges of the 21st Century.

Appendix A- Delhi Proclamation (Draft as of 1.11.18)



THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES FORUM FOUNDATION

“DELHI PROCLAMATION”

Meeting in New Delhi, India on 3 October 2018 on the special occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi’s birth, the Global Challenges Forum Foundation (GCF) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) co-convened the “Global Resilience Conference on Integrated Learning and Leader Development,” hosted by the ACTS Group of Institutions in collaboration with Orient Black Swan.

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The Conference invited a distinguished and diverse group of experts from around the world to guide the way ahead and to shape a broad understanding of the continuing role that Global Knowledge Networking should play in empowering future leaders, their organizations, and institutions to address global challenges through integrated approaches that make knowledge manageable and actionable.

Progressive discussions led from challenges to opportunities to solutions and developed a network of ideas, actions and processes to empower youth and make knowledge globally relevant for tomorrow’s agile, resilient and effective leaders. In support, the Conference embraced the April 27, 2018 Memorandum of Understanding between the GCF and UNITAR to establish a “Global Resilience Consortium” and its application to the United Nations Seventeen Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

The Conference, therefore, and in the spirit of the *Geneva Declaration* and the United Nations Seventeen Sustainable Goals concluded to raise by 2030 through integrated learning ***One Million Youth Leaders for Global Sustainable Development*** whose purpose shall be to carry forward the U.N. goals beyond 2030 to foster global resilience in response to the emerging challenges of the 21st Century.

One Million Youth Leaders for Global Sustainable Development by 2030

To help mobilize this new generation of youth leaders for global sustainable development by 2030 in fulfilment of this ***Delhi Proclamation***, participants agreed to:

- Support transformative education to promote innovation, multiple intelligences and progressive change with the aim to bridge the gap between simple literacy and extensive education.
- Pursue equity in education to reach peoples in disconnected and deprived areas through tools of integrated learning, such as skill-training, vernacular training, and distance education.
- Build a comprehensive set of tools to make education value-centric, experiential and practical through the use of simulations, games, financial and cyber literacy, and e-learning.
- Contribute to the development of social responsibility in educational shareholders (students, teachers, parents etc.) through awareness modules and sensitization to pluralism.
- Evolve a system of peer mediation networks, teachers as leaders, and education alliances starting from the grassroots upwards to promote the concept of “learning local to lead global.”

The Conference Co-Chairs request the Chairman of the Global Challenges Forum Foundation to carry out this Proclamation through a plan of action, supported by the Vice Chairman to promote Integrated Learning, and the Youth Advisor to the Chairman to lead in promoting Youth Leaders for Sustainable Development. They are tasked in pursuit of this Proclamation to undertake consultation with global cities, nations, international bodies, corporations and non-profit organizations, religious bodies and any other engaged in promoting innovative learning in pursuit of next generation leader development. They are requested to explore the ways and means to establish a Global Resilience University to assist in implementation.

As an initiative of the Global Challenges Forum Foundation, all subsequent activities will be carried out in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations of the Canton of Geneva or other legal jurisdictions as may be appropriate. The Conference invites all like-minded organizations seeking the same aims to adopt activities in their own name under this banner.

This Proclamation is made by the Undersigned on behalf of the Global Resilience Conference on Integrated Learning and Leader Development in the name of all humanity on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Honorable John Samuel
Chairman

Dr. Sanaya Nariman
Co-Chairman