

# A new kind of education in response to systemic global challenges\*

Dr. Georgios Kostakos, Executive Director  
Foundation for Global Governance and  
Sustainability (FOGGS)

## Global Challenges and Human Responses

### Five key functions



## What usually happens in practice

### *Institutional Inertia, Silo-Mentality and Short-Termism*

1	Scientific findings partially accepted by the broader public / Conspiracy theories / The precautionary principle not heeded by many
2	Advocacy to have it included in international agendas resisted by specific economic and other interests and leaders
3	Lack of decisive leadership and clear vision to address the challenge
4	Incomplete and/or disjointed strategy formulation and policy-making
5	Partial implementation of concrete measures, with a fragmented approach and inadequate resources

As an example:

***SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 13***

***Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts\****

\* Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change.

## Climate Change – the sustainable development challenge par excellence...

- Climate change is NOT an environmental challenge
- The root causes of climate change are deeply entrenched in the way our economies and societies work
- Entrusting environmental negotiators and career diplomats to negotiate solutions to this challenge as a whole has clear limitations
- Paying lip service to action by countries, businesses and other interested actors promising major contributions that they do not deliver does not help
  - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs  
an effort to connect the dots, but in practice...  
This is the only SDG with an asterisk!

\*Heroic and sad this is, when the UNFCCC predominance is acknowledged by higher-level leaders; note also the “failure” of Copenhagen (COP15)

## There have been attempts to go around this, though... *Institutional and other innovations*

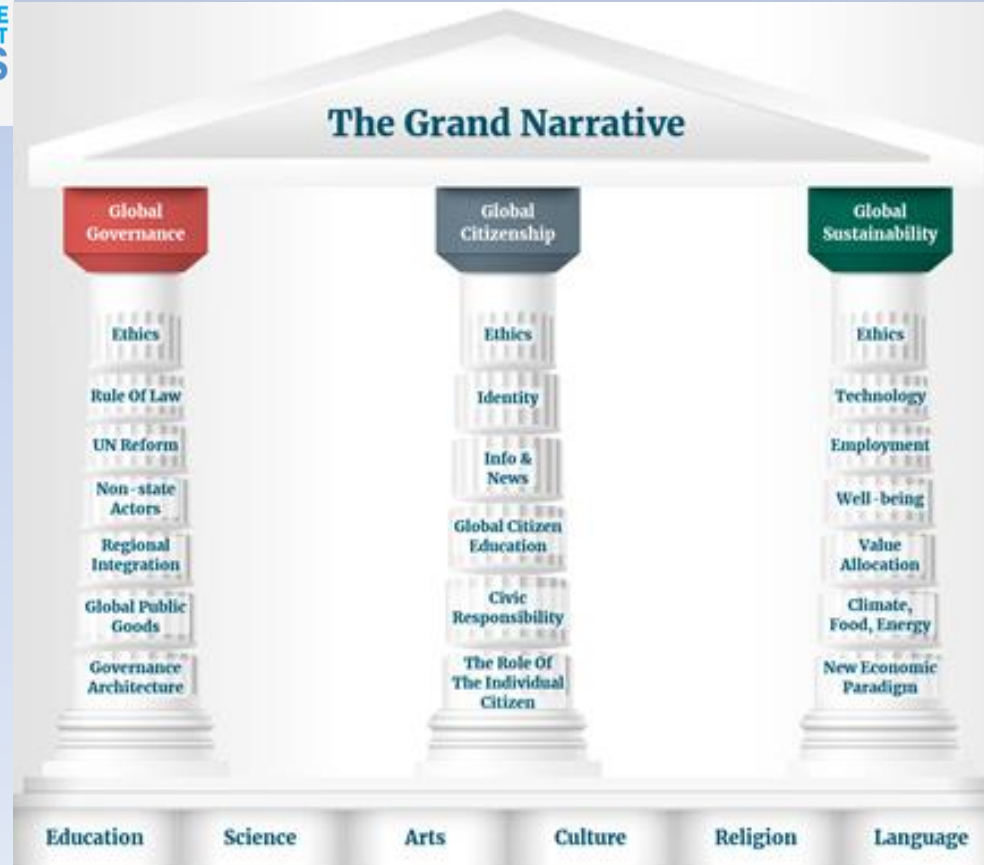
<p>2007: <b>First High-level Event on Climate Change</b> convened by the UN Secretary-General in New York, bring together 80 heads of state or government – series of such evens since</p>	<p>2009: Leaders arrive in great numbers in <b>Copenhagen</b> and even negotiate among themselves key provisions (2°C, USD100 billion per year); negotiators sabotage but agreement stays</p>
<p>2012-2015: 2030 Agenda, SDGs and High-level Political Forum a clearly comprehensive / systemic approach</p>	<p>2015: <b>Paris Agreement</b>, a legal innovation with innovative “nationally determined contributions”</p>
<p>Climate change established as new global commons and increasingly discussed in other fora too, within and outside the UN system, such as G7, G20, World Bank, IMF, WTO, IOM</p>	<p>EU decides its 2020, 2030 and 2050 targets, including 20% of overall budget to be dedicated to climate-related spending (to be increased to 25% for next seven years after 2020).</p>
<p>NAZCA portal and registered commitments by non-state actors, including businesses and local authorities</p>	<p>Citizen’s Climate Pledge, focusing on the power and responsibility of the individual citizen and consumer.</p>

Things are happening, but are they happening at the scale and as fast as the magnitude and urgency of the challenge require?



*Need citizen awareness and active engagement...*

*...in the context of an enabling human narrative – see [SDGs](#) and [FOGGS' Grand Narrative](#) for big-picture / systems thinking*



## What else is needed, in addition to systems thinking?

Values and ethics at all levels (perhaps an ancient systems thinking tool?)	(Moral) Leadership
Responsibility of each and every individual	Sense of global citizenship
Acknowledgement of grievances and steps to alleviate losses for large numbers of people	The polluter pays principle
The precautionary principle	Common but differentiated responsibilities

Global governance reform, global citizenship education, leadership as a public service, sustainability and resilience a core objective of humanity



*for*  
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