



global action
platform
food+health+prosperity

Building a Global Action Platform to Create Abundant Food, Health, and Prosperity

Fifth Anniversary Update

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A Founding Vision of Abundance

The grand challenges of poverty, health, and economic prosperity can be solved. Indeed, it is possible to harness an emerging alliance of institutions, a growing knowledge base, technology platforms, and innovations to unleash an abundant and ecologically sustainable future for every person and for the earth.

Global Action Platform began with this bold vision in 2012. Today, our founding vision is gaining ground. Indeed, with the 2015 launch of the Sustainable Development Goals, this vision is being embraced actively by a growing network of corporations, universities, investors, governments, and NGOs around the world.

How and Why We Started

We started Global Action Platform in response both to local needs and as a counter to the world's increasing list of unmet grand challenges. Instead of focusing on scarcity and trade-off dilemmas, we decided to build a university-businesses platform for solutions. Locally, we also wanted to promote collaboration among twenty-two universities and a network of businesses in the urban setting of Nashville.

Our interest focused on systemic solutions that would be economically viable, scalable, and sustainable. We also wanted to work toward solutions that benefited both society and the environment. We believed, and still do believe, that abundance precisely means a state in which the planet's ecosystem and the people who are part of it, flourish together.

To launch our efforts, in November 2012, four hundred leaders from ten nations, representing the corporate, research, government, finance, media, foundation, and NGO sectors convened at the first Global Action Summit in Nashville, Tennessee USA. The goal of this international gathering was to begin framing an agenda for abundance with a focus on three interconnected systems—food, health, and prosperity. At the conclusion of the inaugural Summit, an integrated approach to these three issues was defined as an urgent priority needing attention.

On November 14-15, 2016, we will convene for our fifth Global Action Summit to continue to advance this agenda.

Why Food, Health and Prosperity?

Founding leaders in our global initiative started with an economic concern—how to advance sustainable, shared economic growth and prosperity for a growing global, urban population. Such an economic foundation is essential to the social and political stability necessary for solving other challenges. Further, it became clear that the growing global challenges of food and health—basics for human capital—had to be addressed while developing ways to expand shared prosperity.

The connection between society and the earth's ecosystem and climate is established directly through agriculture and food. Food, in turn, is critical to health; and health is foundational to human society and the creativity that leads to prosperity and problem-solving. Food, health, and prosperity, hence form an amplifier sequence—food amplifies into health, health amplifies into prosperity—and also form a feedback loop to enable society and nature to flourish together, since innovation loops back to manage environmental conditions.

Building a Global Action Platform

The challenge the world faces now is to frame long term solutions and innovations that have the capacity and promise to create abundant food, health, and prosperity for everyone within the capacity of the planet's ecosystems. Solutions are simultaneously local, regional and global. In short, solutions require local cross-sector leaders to imagine, to explore—and to specify—how innovation can create abundance, and how we can efficiently and much more effectively connect and network invested leaders, research institutions and innovators to collaborate in fulfilling the promise of abundance.

The Global Action Platform has been created as a mechanism to connect and align efforts to create abundance through innovation. The Platform is built around four interconnected functions: **Convene, Challenge, Connect, and Communicate**—and two “living laboratories”—one urban and one rural. Through the Platform, an integrated series of financial investments, tied to expert knowledge and leadership, technology and data analysis, and global multimedia communications are being implemented.

Convene

Our convening activity is anchored in an annual Global Action Summit, hosted by Fareed Zakaria, CNN. The Summit frames an annual agenda and helps to build a growing leadership movement for abundance. In addition, we convene Leadership Forums with the World Bank, the National Press Club, Meridian International Center, and the UN. Through these ongoing events, we engage corporate, university, investment, NGO and government leaders who can have a profound impact on food, health, and economic development.

Challenge

To advance scalable solutions, we have also launched a \$500M Challenge Impact Fund. Through the Fund, Global Action Platform targets investments in businesses that are economically viable and can scale sustainable solutions for food, health, and prosperity. In line with a growing global movement toward impact investment as a new norm, Global Action Platform is working to take a leading role in identifying and investing in businesses that create strong financial returns coupled with strong social and environmental impacts.

Connect

Third, through our Connect programs, we have created online collaboration and problem-solving tools to help our partners continue to work together on an ongoing basis. In partnership with Intel, we are also developing a Global Data Scenario Lab to provide our partners with big data analysis for predictive and prescriptive analytics and innovation.

Communicate

In a special partnership with Diplomatic Courier, Global Action Platform shares our findings and ideas through two annual publications that are mailed to 25,000 global leaders in hard copy and read by millions of people online. Thus, *by communicating globally, leveraging technology, making impact investments, and mobilizing leaders, Global Action Platform is working toward the goal of ending poverty, hunger, and providing for the health of everyone.*

We represent one approach, and a specific network of collaborating partners working intentionally to create abundance and to achieve the goals of SDG 1-3.

Living Laboratories: oneCITY Urban Model

In addition to the core program activities described above, Global Action Platform is involved in real world applications and model development in two “living laboratories.” This is critical, because large scale models and innovation will be needed to prepare for the world’s emerging mega-cities.

As the world’s population approaches ten billion, seventy percent of that population will live in urban areas, the largest percentage in human history. This will create tremendous pressures on both urban and rural areas. Cities must begin planning now to provide scalable, sustainable solutions for the food, health, and economic opportunity needed by this enormous urban population.

To help address these challenges, Global Action Platform is working with oneC1TY, a twenty-acre innovation campus being developed in Nashville, Tennessee. Through our partnership we are working to test and model solutions for tomorrow’s mega-cities. With a million square feet of space and five acres of green space, oneC1TY is a Leed-certified community that includes

office space, research labs, two residential towers, two hotels, a conference center and the headquarters of Global Action Platform and our Global Data Scenario Lab.

Global Action Platform serves as the think tank and trusted convener of oneC1TY, providing thought leadership and convening programs to build a strong community and culture of innovation.

Living Laboratories: Caraga Comprehensive Rural Development

At the same time, rural areas around the world will face new challenges to produce the food needed by large urban populations and to provide for the well-being and prosperity of the people who live outside cities. This need will be especially pronounced in the tropics, where much of the projected population growth will occur in the coming decades.

To address this challenge, and to create a new benchmark for comprehensive rural development, Global Action Platform is working as the exclusive NGO partner of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Solutions and the Indigenous People's Economic Union (IPEU) of the Philippines. Starting with an initial 1.2M acres of land, we will work with the IPEU to create a sustainable social, economic, and environmental plan for the indigenous people of the region. As one of the most bio-diverse undeveloped areas of the world, this region offers tremendous opportunities to model innovative, large scale solutions for agriculture, health, and economic development.

Innovation for Abundance

The future welfare of both human beings and the planet depend on a distinctly human resource—innovation. Our emerging economies demand more timely solutions, access to innovation, improved efficiencies and high impact results. On this there is broad consensus.

Mobilizing leadership for action; investing in viable business solutions, leveraging technology, communicating, and testing and creating rural and urban models for sustainable solutions is key to addressing the world's grand challenges.

As we strive to implement scalable, sustainable solutions, leaders and innovators will need to collaborate more closely together through a shared platform. With a growing network of university-business-government-NGO-media partners, the Global Action Platform aims to become a primary distribution channel and change agent for a world of abundance.

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