

# INVITATION

## Education for Peace & Planet: From Histories to Futures

Monday, 22 September 2025 | 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM ET

The Interchurch Center & Online  
475 Riverside Dr, New York, United States

**RSVP: In-Person | Online**



Center for Sustainable Development  
EARTH INSTITUTE | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



## Background

Our world is at a crossroads. While technological progress and rising living standards have created unprecedented opportunities, inequalities are widening, civic space is shrinking, and the foundations of democracy and global cooperation are under strain. War, conflict, and forced displacement are increasing, and the planetary crisis – from climate change to biodiversity loss and pollution – threatens the future of life on Earth. These interconnected and compounding challenges demand a renewed global commitment not only to today's urgent needs, but to the rights, dignity, and well-being of future generations.

At the Summit of the Future 2024, world leaders adopted the Pact for the Future and its annexes: the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, calling for bold, systemic change to build peaceful, just, and sustainable societies. Education lies at the heart of this transformation. It connects us to one another, broadens our worldviews, and builds the skills, values, and agency needed for meaningful dialogue and collective action. Yet, as emphasized by UNESCO's International Commission on the Futures of Education, current education systems are not yet delivering on this promise. To meet the challenges of our time, we must fundamentally reimagine why, how, what, where, and when we learn.

**“It’s never been more urgent to empower learners to become global citizens that actively care for people and the planet. Ages of Globalization demonstrates the potential of innovative educational approaches that go beyond the traditional teaching practices and that embrace more active and experiential learning. It leverages digital tools for learners to better understand and deal with complex issues, like global warming.”**

**Stefania Giannini**, UNESCO's Assistant Director-General for Education

To catalyze change, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University, Mission 4.7, SDGs Today and the Global Schools Program have launched the Ages of Globalization, a free, interdisciplinary, and interactive learning initiative inspired by Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs' influential book. It is designed to prepare learners worldwide to confront today's complex global challenges and shape sustainable futures.

Launched in beta during a high-level Pre-Summit of the Future event in September 2024, the initiative has already engaged over 13,000 learners and educators from 165 countries. Participants embark on an immersive journey through seven ages of human history, exploring how geography, technology, and institutions have shaped our interconnected world. Through dynamic video lectures, lesson plans, monthly live dialogues with global leaders, virtual visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, action-based learning activities, and interactive maps, learners

- deepen their understanding of sustainability challenges and their complex interlinkages while exploring disruptive ideas and alternative solutions;
- cultivate values such as empathy and compassion for people and the planet; and
- take action for sustainable transformations in personal, societal, and political spheres.



## Context

On 22 September 2025, on the margins of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly and NYC Climate Week, educators, students, policymakers, and global partners will come together to spotlight the critical role of education in advancing peace, sustainability, and global cooperation. As conflicts escalate and planetary boundaries are breached, this gathering underscores the urgency of reimagining education systems to equip learners with the knowledge, values, and agency needed to shape more just and resilient futures. **This event provides a unique platform to elevate diverse voices, share transformative practices, and strengthen global collaboration across sectors and generations.**

## Programme

10:00 – 10:30 AM	<b>Coffee &amp; Welcome</b>
10:30 – 11:00 AM	<b>Keynote Address: Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs on “The Importance of Education for Peace &amp; Planet: Advancing SDG 4.7”</b>
11:00 – 12:00 PM	<b>Panel I: Learning Across Ages – How History Prepares Us for the Future (Reflections from the Ages of Globalization)</b>
12:00 – 12:30 PM	<b>Spotlight 1: Schools for Goal 7</b>
12:30 – 1:30 PM	<b>Lunch &amp; Networking</b>
1:30 – 2:30 PM	<b>Panel 2: Emotional Wellbeing &amp; Planetary Futures</b>
2:30 – 3:00 PM	<b>Spotlight 2: Climate StoryMaps – Eco Ambassadors Solutions Lab</b>
3:00 – 3:15 PM	<b>Meditation &amp; Reflection</b>
3:15 – 3:30 PM	<b>Spotlight 3: Launch of the AoG Higher Education Series</b>
3:30 – 4:00 PM	<b>Coffee &amp; Networking Reception with a Purpose</b>

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