

November 2025

World Forum for a Sustainable Society on Earth

Prelude

Humankind is at a suicidal war with Nature.

Human activity has resulted in alarming levels of pollution of the hydrosphere, atmosphere, land, food and living organisms, ranging from unicellular organisms to plants and animals. One consequence of atmospheric pollution is the rapid change of the climate, which could make large parts of the planet — or even the whole planet — uninhabitable.

The systematic destruction of life support systems, particularly over the past 50 years, demonstrates that *our society is organised and governed in an unsustainable way*.

The most important and urgent task in human history is to transition from our current, unsustainable “civilisation” to a society that is organised in a sustainable way.

Although further severe damage is inevitable, we probably have two or three decades left to build a sustainable society and avoid *the worst-case scenario* of an uninhabitable planet.

Consequently, we have decided to establish the World Forum for a Sustainable Society on Earth (WFSSE).

The first WFSSE is expected to take place in Cetinje, the historic capital of Montenegro, from 2 to 9 October 2026. This town has a rich history and is surrounded by two national parks and the stunning Adriatic coastline. The exact dates of the WFSSE will be announced in February 2026.

The concept of the WFSSE

The World Forum for a Sustainable Society on Earth (WFSSE) will have two different parts:

Part One

Science and Scientists in the Service of Humanity

Part Two

Dialogue between scientists and other parts of society

During the first part of the WFSSE, we are planning the following two events:

1. A scientific conference entitled 'A Sustainable Society on Earth', exploring the impact of human activity on the planet and how this is expected to evolve, as well as the consequences for living beings, people, society and the economy.

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2. Roundtable: 'A Sustainable Society on Earth'. This event will focus on scientific discussions and proposals for organising and governing human society in a sustainable way.

For a technologically advanced society to be sustainable, its decision-making system must be based on scientific knowledge. Scientists must consider and recommend a system of governance that never disregards scientific knowledge. To this end, they should consider different ideas, including radical ones, such as adding a fourth power — 'the scientific power', or the power of knowledge — to the existing legislative, executive, and judicial powers. The primary purpose of 'the scientific power' would be to ensure that the laws of nature are fully respected within the decision-making system. (Note the analogy with judicial power, which ensures respect for human laws.)

The second part of the WFSSE will consist of a dialogue between scientists and representatives from different sections of society, such as socially responsible businesses, donors, major non-governmental organisations, and celebrities. This dialogue is crucial for building mutual understanding and successful collaboration between scientists and the rest of society.