



## THE WORLD POLICY FORUM

### Interview with President Dennis J. Snower about the Global Solutions Initiative Foundation

*What makes Global Solutions so important?*

We are experiencing a period of crisis in international cooperation – exactly at a point in time when the world is facing vital challenges that demand more international cooperation, not less. Climate change, digital upheaval, and imbalances in the global distribution of wealth are challenges for all of humankind. We need a revival of multilateralism – one that includes not only governments, but also civil society and the younger generation. The Global Solutions Initiative wants to help get us there.

*How does the Global Solutions Initiative plan to achieve these aims?*

We focus primarily on the G20 because, on the one hand, it is made up of states that have a great deal of international influence and, on the other hand, makes sure that all regions of the world are represented.

To be effective, we contact the respective G20 Presidency and offer the help of the world's leading think tanks and scientists to discuss G20 issues and develop concrete policy recommendations. In doing this, we are also creating a worldwide network that is itself already part of a new multilateralism.

It is crucial that we re-establish the link between technical-economic and social progress. The divergence of economic and social progress is one of the main reasons we're seeing so much social disintegration in so many countries. New signs of these growing divisions can be seen in many societies almost daily. They only reinforce the crisis in international cooperation because protectionism and isolationism are once again being touted as the best strategies for protecting wealth. This message is economic, political, and social nonsense, but, unfortunately, it seems to be going down extremely well in many countries - a very dangerous development.

*Is the Global Solutions Initiative a partner of the country holding the G20 presidency?*

Yes. Last year, we cooperated with Argentina, this year with Japan and for next year we have already contacted the Saudi Arabia presidency. As a network of think tanks, we of course remain independent. But we take our cues from the priorities set by the presidency – although, if necessary, we also incorporate topics important to us. It is crucial to bring together civil society and politics, and to bring in the perspective of future generations.

*How do you take the interests of the younger generation into account?*

We have the Young Global Changers program. It allows us to offer students and people just beginning their careers the chance to take part in our main conference – the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin – and to make their views heard. We are also offering these Young Global Changers the chance to visit our Summer School. These talented individuals



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will learn from leading global scientists. We think it's crucial to include young people, and we invest a lot of time, money and effort into it.

*Who participates at the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin?*

The world's leading think tanks will be there, as will top decision-makers from the G20 countries. German Chancellor Angela Merkel will give a speech, for example, and we are expecting other high-ranking government officials from all over the world. We will also be inviting non-governmental organizations and other civil society representatives. Admission to the conference is by personal invitation only. But in principle, everyone is welcome to contribute to Global Solutions.