

CALL FOR PAPERS

Call for Papers: V20 South Africa Summit

October 16-17,2025

Cape Town, South Africa

Introduction

The challenges that our global and planetary civilisation faces in the 21st Century are typically complex and integrated. They cannot be solved by the perspective of a single discipline, country, region, level of governance or sector working alone. Rather, they require cooperation and collaboration across disciplines and sectors, as well as across different levels of governance in the different countries and regions of the world.

Hence, 21st Century challenges are typically referred to as “wicked” problems or “grand problematiques”. These include, for example: climate change; migration; pandemics; severe degradation of global life-supporting ecosystems; the fourth industrial revolution; artificial intelligence and the new economy of data-driven behaviour modification; poverty and inequality; socio-cultural changes and contestations; the proliferation of mis/disinformation and asymmetric hybrid warfare; corruption and state capture; as well as unfolding changes in the global political order as we move towards a multi-polar world.

Global change phenomena such as climate change and environmental degradation are not only impacted by human activities; they impact human activities themselves and under some future scenarios present an existential threat to our global planetary civilisation and future generations. Dealing with these change phenomena requires balancing between how we make decisions around human activities that drive these phenomena – as well as how we prepare for, and adapt to, the impacts of them. It also necessitates balancing between the respective short-term and long-term objectives and goals of the countries and regions of the world, and those of global planetary civilisation itself.

Similarly, more exclusively human-driven change phenomena such as the fourth industrial revolution, artificial intelligence and the emergence of a new global technology-based capitalism based on data-driven behaviour modification, or changes in the global political order; also requires balancing between the decisions we make that influence the evolution of these phenomena and preparing for how they might impact societies in turn – as well as balancing between short- and long-term interests at both the global and sub-global scales and levels of governance. The same can be said of phenomena such as migration, poverty and inequality, and the other highlighted global change phenomena.

The sustainable development goals are a good example of a global compact that expresses the goals and objectives of our global planetary civilisation as a collective. There are other global compacts, for example; those seeking to stem global corporate corruption and corporate wrongdoing.

Irrespective of what challenges we face or goals and objectives we pursue – whether as individual nation states, regions or as a global planetary civilisation – we cannot escape the fact that the most pressing challenges we face are fundamentally interconnected. They require multi-scalar and multi-level responses that coordinate between decisions made at different scales and levels of governance ranging from the local to the global, and taking into account short to long term timeframes.

The current global rules-based order consists of the only broad set of institutional arrangements that we have to achieve this kind of coordination. Powerful global policy- and decision-making bodies such as the G20 are key to achieving the cooperation and coordination that is required to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. Unlocking a better future for all who live on this planet depends on how well this can be achieved.

Values are key to how decisions are made. Decision-making essentially entails foregrounding certain preferred values over others in particular contexts and situations. This is a complex activity in itself because it involves balancing instrumental (or strategic) prerogatives with value prerogatives. In turn, these prerogatives vary

depending on the particular challenges being faced by different actors and stakeholder groups in their respective local, national and regional contexts.

That is, decision-making is values driven. It requires grappling with diverse perspectives, competing value positions and strategic priorities (typically those of stakeholders), in order to –arrive at shared understanding of different perspectives and consensus positions where trade-offs can be agreed upon. Here, the processes of learning, participation and negotiation are crucial to producing decision-making agreements.

Values are also critical for organising and we organise around values. That is, values serve as organising principles. The values that we find consensus on and adopt when we are organising act as value scripts that support strategic coherence in decentralised decision-making in organisations. This also extends to the coordination and cooperation of networks of organisations and groups. Shared values are hence key to the processes of coordination of decision-making both within and between organisations and groups that share the same over-arching goals and objectives, as well as how they cooperate to achieve them.

The key thematic areas that the South African Values 20 working group have adopted for the South African chapter of the G20 summit in 2025 are solidarity, equality and sustainable development. The framing for each thematic area can be outlined as follows:

Solidarity: Through solidarity, we can create an inclusive future that advances the interests of people at the greatest risk of being left behind. This is important in an interconnected world, where the challenges faced by one nation affect all nations. The disparities in wealth and development within and between countries is unjust and unsustainable.

Equality: By promoting equality, we strive to ensure fair treatment and equal opportunities for all individuals and nations. We aim to break down systemic barriers that limit participation in economic, social, and political life, regardless of economic status, gender, race, geography or any other characteristic. A values-based

approach to equality is essential to promoting inclusive policies, ethical governance, and sustainable development.

Sustainable Development: Sustainability involves meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In line with our theme, we will seek to strengthen and advance the international effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

We view each of these thematic streams as key to achieving the over-arching goals and objectives of the peoples, ecologies, countries and regions of the world. Whether their emphasis may be more developmental in orientation (as is the case in Africa and the Global South) or more transformative in orientation (as is the case in the countries of the Global North, which is seeking to transform its modes of industrialisation, consumption and waste, for example), we view these themes as universally useful, even though they have been selected specifically for the South African context.

We are interested in contributions that illustrate the role that values play in actualising the outcomes represented by each thematic stream as articulated above. We are particularly interested in the role that the following values – values-based leadership, dignity, Ubuntu, ethical governance (integrity), ownership and agency, equity – and the interactions between them, play in achieving the thematic outcomes. However, the call is not restricted to these values alone; we expect that other values may emerge as critically important to achieving thematic outcomes in different contexts and situations and invite contributions that account for these as well.

We invite researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and industry professionals to contribute their research papers on these important themes. Envisaged areas of contribution are scoped out in the table below, and please note that these are not exhaustive or restrictive lists but serve as guidelines for contributions.

We appeal to contributors to place emphasis on both critical thinking and the practical implications of their contributions. In this respect we expect contributors to maintain academic rigour *and* produce practical, accessibly written contributions at

the same time. **We will specifically prioritise contributions that emphasize the importance of the contributions in respect of practical implications and relevance to real-world praxis.**

We also appeal to contributors to submit papers that accord with the foundational values and spirit of the V20 initiative (please refer to the Appendix for more clarity). In this respect we also encourage contributors to account for their own positionality in their papers, as well as the contextual and situational factors pertaining to their respective contributions.

Join us in advancing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and shaping the future of values practices. Submit your work and be a part of the V20 community dedicated to driving positive change through insightful research and practical insights.

Themes and Proposed Areas for Contribution

Solidarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Multilateralism - challenges and opportunities for global cooperation ● Mechanisms and approaches for consensus decision-making in complex contexts ● Building trans-local solidarity in the Global South ● Non-aligned movements and a multi-polar world ● Strengthening solidarity through dialogue and collaborative action ● A discussion on contestations on diversity ● Exploring the solidarity economy ● The debate on solidarity and taxation ● The spread of conflicts and crises and implications for solidarity movements ● Contextualising core values and principles of solidarity
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economic justice and sustainable policies ● Employment equity, workplace justice, and labour rights ● Income and expenditure equality

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Global equity through economic justice and inclusive growth ● Equitable access to education and skills development ● Universal health coverage ● Social cohesion and reducing systemic divisions ● Inclusive governance leadership diversity, and political representation ● Civic engagement and participatory policymaking ● Ethical governance and policies ● Gender equality in the workplace and leadership ● Rural-urban and geographic disparities ● Climate justice and sustainable development ● Intersectional equality and identity justice
<p>Sustainable Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sustainability – a wicked problems perspective ● Reconceiving sustainable development from a Global South perspective ● Managing polarities and creative tensions ● Inclusive vs. extractive / exploitative institutions ● Asymmetric power or wealth relations ● Regenerative approaches, soil health, health systems etc ● Global risks and planetary collapse ● Decoloniality and sustainability Values in Sustainability ● Degrowth, post-growth, wellbeing economy and alternative ● Actualising SDGs in a multi-polar world ● Ubuntu and Sustainability Decoloniality ● Breakdown of the international rules-based order ● Systems thinking and sustainability ● System dynamics approaches to sustainability. ● Futures and sustainability ● Inter-generational dynamics and Impacts ● Digital inclusion and AI governance

Please review our submission guidelines for detailed information on formatting, referencing, and other requirements. We will be using a single-blind review process to evaluate all submissions.

We look forward to receiving your submissions and engaging in meaningful discussions to transform the values landscape. Together, let's create a better future through knowledge and collaboration.

Submission Guidelines:

1. Please submit your research paper's 250–300-word abstract by **June 30, 2025**.
2. The portal for submission will open on the **1st of April 2025**. The link will be posted on the Values 20, Summit 2025 page. <https://www.values20.org/summit-2025/>
3. In preparation for the submission, please ensure that you are able to select:
 - The values your paper explores (Dignity/Ubuntu/Ethical governance/Ownership and Agency/Equity/Values-based Leadership)
 - The stream you work relates to (solidary, equality and sustainable development)
 - Select sub-stream (refer to the call for papers)
4. Notification of Abstract Acceptance: **20 July 2025**
5. Full page Submission: The full paper should be submitted by **20 September 2025**
6. Should your paper be accepted, you will present your paper at our V20 South Africa summit on the **17 October 2025**. The conference will be hybrid, so participants who are not able to present in person in Cape Town, South Africa on the 17 October 2025 can present online.
7. Selected papers will have the opportunity to be published in conference proceedings.
8. Submissions should be in MS Word format and follow academic writing standards (using APA 7th edition referencing)

Conscious of our responsibility, we, the Values 20 community, commit ourselves to promoting evidence-based, human-centered policy solutions that contribute to overcoming global challenges.

We unite in the belief that values should be a constant subject to discussion and consideration in policymaking and seek to contribute to this debate by bringing values-based perspectives and policy recommendations to the attention of the world's leaders.



PROF CAMAREN PETER

Dr Camaren Peter (PhD) is an Associate Professor at the Allan Gray Centre for Values-Based Leadership at the UCT GSB. He is also the Executive Head of the new Centre for Analytics and Behavioural Change (CABC NPO). He is a pure scientist by training, having studied theoretical physics and astrophysics before obtaining his PhD from the UCT GSB in 2010.

Peter is a systems and complexity theorist who has applied complexity thinking to a variety of problem domains. Over the past decade he consulted extensively in a policy and advisory capacity on sustainable development, with a particular focus on the urbanisation challenges of the developing world. Peter has worked closely with a wide range of local and global institutions, and has published widely, contributing to both policy and academic discourses.

His first book – titled “Lazarus in the Multiple: Awakening to the Era of Complexity ” (Zero Books, UK) – was published in 2016, and is a posthumanist exploration of the 21st Century human condition. It deals with themes ranging from memory to forgiveness, reconciliation, ethics, freedom, disruption and the need for a transition to a new politics and society. It is aimed at leaders and strategists in particular, who are grappling with the challenges of the 21st Century.