

# INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING (IYGU)

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 2016 Opening



## Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

Online Conference

[Zoom Link](#)

Organizer:

UNESCO Chair Global Understanding for Sustainability  
Friedrich Schiller University Jena

14:00

### Opening

Achievements of the 2016 International Year of Global Understanding (IYGU)

#### Welcome Addresses

Prof. Dr. Andreas Marx, President, Friedrich Schiller University Jena

Dr. Roman Luckscheiter, Secretary-General, German Commission for UNESCO

14:30

### Why we need Global Understanding

#### Moderation

Prof. Dr. Erika M. Robrahn-Gonzalez (Brazil/Portugal) &

Prof. Dr. Enrique Aliste Alumna (Chile/France)

**Prof. Dr. Gordon McBean (Canada)**, Co-founder of the IPCC, Co-Nobel Prize laureate for peace; former President, International Council for Sciences (ICSU)

**Prof. Dr. Luiz Oosterbeek (Portugal)**, President, International Council of Philosophy and the Human Sciences (CIPSH)

**Prof. Dr. Michael Meadows (South Africa/China)**, Past-President, International Geographical Union; Fellow, Intentional Science Council (ISC)

**Prof. Dr. John M. Dudley (France/New Zealand)**, Executive Director, 2015 UN International Year of Light; 2025 UN International Year of Quantum Science and Technology

**Garry Jacobs (USA)**, President & CEO, World Academy of Art and Science; Chairman, board and CEO, World University

**Prof. Dr. Lesley Green (South Africa)**, Anthropologist, UN Decade of Science for Sustainable Development (2024–2033)

**Howard Blumenthal (USA)**, TV Producer, Disney Channel/Sesame Street; Co-founder of MTV; Founder, Kids on Earth

- 15:10 **Arts & Global Understanding I**  
**Andy Innes (South Africa)**, Musician & Producer; anthropologist and anti-apartheid activist for/with Nelson Mandela as musical director, Johnny Clegg Band
- 15:20 **Keynotes**  
**Introduction**  
**Prof. Dr. Paul Shrivastava**, Penn State University; President The Club of Rome:  
*The Quest for Peace for a New Humanity Era*  
**Prof. Dr. Hartmut Rosa**, Friedrich Schiller University Jena:  
*Resonance for Global Understanding*
- 15:50 **Art & Global Understanding II**  
**Bartu Elci-Ozsoy and his SHARE Ensemble (Turkey / France)**, Musical Artist, Conductor and Composer; Ambassador of The Jena Declaration (TJD)
- 16:00 **Panel: Live Discussion**  
**Moderation**  
Prof. Dr. Erika M. Robrahn-Gonzalez (Brazil / Portugal)  
**Art & Global Understanding III**  
**Andrea Green (USA)**, Composer, Broadway New York  
Contribution: *Under the Moon*  
Panel discussion with  
**Prof. Dr. Enrique Aliste Alumna (Chile / France)**, IYGU Regional Action Center Latin America; Sorbonne University  
**Margalit Berriet (France)**, Artist, The Jena Declaration  
**Bartu Elci-Ozsoy (France)**, Artist; Ambassador of The Jena Declaration  
**Prof. Dr. Lesley Green (South Africa)**, Anthropologist, University of Cape Town  
**Dr. Joanne Kauffman (USA)**, The Jena Declaration  
**Prof. Emer. Aharon Kellerman (Israel)**, University of Haifa, Israel, former vice-president, IYGU  
**Dr. Wesam Ad Mahoum (Palestine)**, Global Ambassador for Sustainability  
**Prof Dr. Maria Paradiso (Italy)**, International Science Council, Paris  
**Prof Dr. John Pickles (USA)**, University of Chapel Hill  
**Samantha Waki (Kenya)**, The Grass Company and The Jena Declaration
- 17:00 **Wrap-Up of the Conference / Conclusions**  
Joanne Kauffman & Benno Werlen
- 17:15 **Art & Global Understanding IV (Outro)**  
**Andrea Green (USA)**, Composer, Playwright, Theater Director & Music Therapist, Broadway New York  
**& Henry Nevison (USA)**, Emmy Award Winning Film Writer & Producer  
Contribution: *We're All in This Together*