

**CALL for papers for the international conference entitled:**

## **RESPONSIBLE GLOBAL MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Ibnou Zohr University, Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences,  
Agadir, Morocco  
April 9 and 10, 2026**

### **Problem statement**

We are currently facing a critical geopolitical situation, marked by persistent regional crises, the resurgence of armed conflicts, the rise of terrorism, and the scarcity of natural resources. These geopolitical tensions shake the world daily. While the Near and Middle East, the Great Lakes, the Sahel, and Eastern Europe are raging, the governments of certain countries, such as China, the United States, and Russia, are claiming the right to reshuffle the cards. The rise of terrorism (jihadism, ethnic cleansing, genocide, dictatorships, etc.) is matched only by the appetite of major powers to push boundaries and redraw the borders of the world's countries. The economic, technological, ecological, health, and social issues, which have become hyperbolic, constantly call into question the political models that govern us at the heart of globalization.

Undeniably, the quest for sustainable peace and development is being tested more than ever. Many questions arise such as: How can we explain the failure of modern society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ten years after their formulation? How will we achieve peaceful, inclusive and just societies that respect the human rights proclaimed by the UN in 2015? How can we establish effective, accountable institutions that work towards achieving the SDGs? What is the responsibility of citizens and leaders in the political or economic spheres? What about educational institutions?

This conference<sup>1</sup>—which aims to be resolutely international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary—is a joint initiative of the UNESCO Chair for Higher Education, Research, and Innovation in Responsible Global Management (Bern University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland; Ibn Zohr University, Agadir, Morocco; Gaston Berger University, Saint-Louis, Senegal)<sup>2</sup> and the UNESCO Chair for the Culture of Peace (Félix Houphouët-Boigny

<sup>1</sup> This is the second congress organized by the UNESCO Chair for Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Global Responsible Management (ESRI-GGR). This Chair was created in 2024. In March of the year of its inauguration, the team of the UNESCO Chair in GGR organized its first congress in Dakhla (Morocco): "Responsible management in the digital age and facing global challenges: crises of leaders or leaders of crises" (see Abentak & al. 2025, access <https://arbor.bfh.ch/handle/arbor/45040>).

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.bfh.ch/fr/recherche-gestion/domaines-de-recherche/institut-marketing-und-global-management/unesco-chair/>

University, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)<sup>3</sup>. It is organized in collaboration with the UNESCO Chairs in Training of Sustainable Development Professionals (Bordeaux Montaigne University, Bordeaux, France)<sup>4</sup>, Emerging Practices in Technologies and Communication for Development (Bordeaux Montaigne University<sup>5</sup>), and Interculturality, Good Governance, and Sustainable Development (University of Bucharest, Bucharest, Romania)<sup>6,7</sup>.

At the heart of the reflections that led us to organize this event, two major paradoxes have stood out. The first lies in the use of armed violence—often under the guise of restoring or preserving peace—which in reality generates destruction, social fragmentation, and lasting instability. The second is manifested in our frantic quest for well-being, pursued through excessive consumption and production that, paradoxically, undermine the ecological, social, and psychological foundations of well-being itself—while fueling, directly or indirectly, numerous conflicts. Faced with these contradictions, it is urgent to rethink the foundations of our coexistence. Sustainable peace and development cannot come about without profound awareness and responsible commitment at all levels: both individual and collective.

## Objectives

The objective of this conference is not only to reflect and debate together on the potential and limits of responsible management—of oneself and of the Other (in the broad sense)—but also, and above all, to identify or invent new means of concrete action to co-construct sustainable peace and a sustainable future. For example, how can we build society without the "We" of sectarian communitarianism annihilating the possibilities and principles of living together and building humanity? Or what social skills and innovations can we cultivate and develop to address the deterioration of international relations into exclusive, dictatorial, and totalitarian management methods instead of peaceful coexistence and inclusive sustainable development that take into account the diversity characteristic of all species and all spaces?

Higher education and scientific research have an essential role to play in developing innovative and responsible management models for sustainable peace and development. They are also essential for creating innovative training programs that will lead to the social transformations necessary for the establishment of inclusive, ethical and supportive governance systems, promoting peaceful coexistence and sustainable development for future generations.

In short, this conference aims to:

- analyze contemporary changes in global conflicts and crises from the perspective of responsible management;
- identify best practices in ethical governance, responsible management, and peace education;

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://chaireunesco.org/about>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr/fr/international/chaire-unesco-de-l-universite.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.u-bordeaux-montaigne.fr/fr/international/chaire-unesco-de-l-universite.html>

<sup>6</sup> <https://unesco-chair.unibuc.ro/en/home/>

<sup>7</sup> The ideas and opinions expressed in this call for papers are those of the authors. They do not necessarily represent the views of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization in any way.

- propose avenues for action to strengthen international cooperation and social inclusion, in order to promote greater equity, equality, and justice;
- explore the role of universities and research in developing strategies for peace and sustainable development;
- promote constructive dialogue between researchers, decision-makers, civil society actors, and the private sector.

## **Themes / Research Areas**

### **Area 1. Responsible Governance for Sustainable Peace and Development**

Sustainable peace and development cannot be achieved without collective awareness and responsible commitments, both at the individual and societal levels. They require comprehensive management that integrates balance between self and Other, recognition of the fundamental needs of individuals and groups, inclusive social relationships, and the preservation of the ecosystems in which they exist. Today, faced with the rise of authoritarian governance, the fragmentation of societies, and the erosion of multilateralism, a key question arises: could responsible global management (RGM) be a response to contemporary challenges?

The objective of this area is to explore, both theoretically and practically, the conditions, skills, and social innovations necessary for the emergence of inclusive, ethical, and sustainable modes of governance. How can we prevent sectarian communitarianism from destroying community life? How can we promote governance structures that ensure diversity, inclusion and peaceful cooperation rather than domination and exclusion?

### **Area 2. Education, Culture of Peace, and Responsible Citizenship**

In a world where the rise of nationalism, authoritarian regimes, and conflicts is undermining international cooperation, education and research play a key role in building sustainable peace and development. Far from being simple tools for transmitting knowledge, they are levers of social transformation that enable the development of responsible citizenship based on respect for human rights, diversity, and inclusion.

However, global governance is undergoing a profound crisis: international institutions are struggling to guarantee peace, while hate speech and discriminatory violence are on the rise. In this context, how can we rethink education so that it promotes ethical, inclusive, and supportive governance? How can higher education and research contribute to the development of responsible management models and the training of leaders committed to preserving community life and sustainable development?

### **Axis 3. Global Challenges, Human Security, and Sustainable Development**

Sustainable development is intrinsically linked to world peace. As the Brundtland Report emphasized in "Our Common Future" in 1987, it is impossible to promote sustainable development without peace, just as it is impossible to ensure lasting peace without social justice and environmental protection. However, the rise of armed conflicts, climate crises, and

competition for natural resources jeopardize the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

SDG 16, which aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies," is particularly threatened by the erosion of democratic institutions, the rise of hate speech, and impunity for war crimes. Climate change is now an aggravating factor in conflicts worldwide. The scarcity of natural resources (water, arable land, fossil fuels) is exacerbating tensions between communities and states, as demonstrated by water conflicts in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa. Natural disasters, droughts, and mass population displacements are creating humanitarian crises, conducive to the emergence of new armed conflicts. Climate change is thus contributing to increasing socioeconomic inequalities and interstate rivalries, directly threatening international stability.

#### **Axis 4. Geopolitics, Conflicts, and New Forms of War**

Since the end of the Cold War, humanity hoped that major armed conflicts would be a thing of the past, ushering in an era of global peace and prosperity. However, General Le Borgne's prophecy, which announced in 1990 that "war is dead," has not come true. On the contrary, 35 years later, we are witnessing a worrying resurgence of armed conflicts, geopolitical tensions, and multifaceted crises on a global scale. Indeed, C. P. David and O. Schmitt (2020) note a decline in security, stability, and multilateralism. While it is true that major powers no longer directly engage in total wars since the end of the Cold War, it is also true that they are engaging, by proxy or surrogate, in various wars and conflicts around the world. Far from disappearing, war has evolved and is taking on new forms: international armed conflicts, civil wars, terrorism, cyberattacks, the militarization of technologies, and the instrumentalization of information. These transformations are amplified by economic and ecological issues that exacerbate tensions surrounding natural resources and geopolitical balances. At the same time, discrimination and hate speech are spreading, fueled by new technologies and the misuse of digital media. This situation reveals a profound shift in international relations and the threats to sustainable peace and development. It also raises the question of stakeholder involvement in conflict prevention and crisis management (for example, regarding Resolution 1325 and other inclusive mediation strategies).

#### **Area 5. Artificial Intelligence and Social Media**

The rise of digital technologies and artificial intelligence poses a double-edged sword for world peace. On the one hand, social media and digital platforms can mobilize public opinion against injustices and human rights violations, as evidenced by the #BlackLivesMatter, #FreePalestine, and #MeToo movements. On the other hand, these same technologies are used for propaganda, disinformation, and mass surveillance, fueling social polarization and violence.

Cyberwarfare, military drones, and artificial intelligence are contributing to a new form of asymmetric warfare, where attacks are no longer limited to the battlefield but also target critical infrastructure and civil society. This development poses major ethical challenges in terms of compliance with international humanitarian law and the protection of civilian populations.

**Contributions from various disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, political science, economics, and environmental science, as well as cross-disciplinary and innovative approaches at the intersection of theory and practice, are particularly encouraged for all five themes.**

**For proposal submission formalities, see the CALENDAR hereafter.**

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Launch of the call for papers: May 5, 2025
- Deadline for submitting abstracts in French or English: June 15, 2025
- Response from the scientific committee: September 4, 2025
- Submission of papers: December 4, 2025
- Return the papers reviewed to the authors: February 4, 2026
- Resubmission of revised papers by authors (if necessary): March 10, 2026
- Conference date: April 9 and 10, 2026 (a comprehensive abstract will be requested before the conference)
- Expected publication date: September 2026

**GUIDELINES FOR FORMATTING ABSTRACTS:**

Proposals for papers must be submitted by June 15, 2025, in the form of an abstract in French or English. In these proposals, you are asked to:

- indicate the title of the proposal;
- mention the last name, first name, institution, and email address(es);
- situate the abstract within a specific thematic area;
- write an abstract of no more than 3,500 characters, including spaces and bibliography, with 5 keywords and a title;
- present the problem statement related to the title, as well as the theoretical and conceptual framework within which you are working;
- present the corpus (in case of an empirical study: field of study; linguistic or literary corpus, case study, etc.) and the methodology adopted (collection and analysis) or the main guiding ideas and their articulation (in the case of a substantive contribution);
- conclude with the main points of the contribution;
- include, after the abstract, a list of up to 5 keywords;
- close with a short, indicative bibliography;
- *Papers must be written in French or English and must not have been the subject of another conference or publication.*

Please use the suggested template for your submission.

Members of the scientific committee may submit a proposal, which will also be reviewed in a double-blind manner.

**Proposals will be subject to a double-blind peer review process. SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS BY JUNE 15, 2025, to MR. ABDERRAHIM OISKHIN at the following address: [abderrahim.oiskhine@uit.ac.ma](mailto:abderrahim.oiskhine@uit.ac.ma).**

**PARTICIPATION costs:** DH 500.— (EUR 50.--).

**SCIENTIFIC committee**

ABENTAK Malika (Morocco) - STALDER Pia (Switzerland) – MEITE Méké (Côte d’Ivoire)

ABRIANE Ahmed (Morocco)

BOUAZIZ Si Mohamed (Morocco)

BOUCHAREB Redouane (Morocco)

COULIBALY Nanga Désiré (Côte d’Ivoire)

DAMOME Etienne (France)

DASCĂLU Ileana (Romania)

DJADEU Colette (Cameroon)

DRIOUCH Aziz (Morocco)

ELOUIDANI Abdelkbir (Morocco)

HOFMANN Elisabeth (France)

KOUKKOUS Abellatif (Morocco)

KUNZ Nathan (Switzerland)

NOUHOU Bouba (France)

PALLOT Elisabeth (Switzerland)

SAIR Aziz (Morocco)

ȘERBAN Oana (Romania)

SERRANO Omar (Switzerland)

SOUSSE Houssine (Morocco)

SY Kalidou (Senegal)

TOURE Amidou (Côte d’Ivoire)

WAKRIM Mohamed (Morocco)

YOKOLI Amani Charles (Côte d’Ivoire)

ZARI Hicham (Morocco)

**REVIEW Committee**

ABENTAK Malika & STALDER Pia & MEITE Méké

COULIBALY Nanga Désiré

DJADAU Colette

SY Kalidou

TOURE Amidou

YOKOLI Amani Charles

**ORGANIZING Committee**

AABID Jamal

ABENTAK Malika

AIT NASSER Malika

AGNAOUI Fatima ZAHRA

ALHYANE Latifa  
 ALAOUI Sakina Ouarda  
 ATLASSI Mustapha  
 BOUAZIZ SI Mohamed  
 COULIBALY Nanga Désiré  
 DATSI Taouifik  
 DRIOUCH Aziz  
 HAITI Fatima Zahra  
 IDABBOU Hasna  
 KOUKKOUS Abdellatif  
 MAALEMI Tarik  
 MADI Ahmed  
 OISKHINE Abderrahim  
 SAIR Aziz  
 STALDER Pia

## INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Abentak, M. & Stalder, P. (coord., 2025). Gestion responsable à l'ère du numérique et face aux défis mondiaux: Crise de leaders ou leaders de crise ? Congress Proceedings, Open Access: <https://arbor.bfh.ch/handle/arbor/45040>.
- Adler, N. J. (1997). Global Leadership: Women Leaders. *Management International Review*, 37, 171–196.
- Badie, B. (2007) . Le défi de la puissance. Dans Badie, B. et Devin, G. (dir.), *Le multilatéralisme. Nouvelles formes de l'action internationale*, pp. 215 -232. La Découverte. <https://doi.org/10.3917/dec.badie.2007.01.0215>.
- Bendell, J. (2018). Deep Adaptation: A Map for Navigating Climate Tragedy. *IFLAS Occasional Paper 2* [www.iflas.info](http://www.iflas.info). <http://www.lifeworth.com/deepadadaptation.pdf> (accessed on 4.1.21).
- Berg, E. (2020). *La guerre et la paix : Approches et enjeux de la sécurité et de la stratégie*. Presses de Sciences Po.
- Bertrand, M. (2004). *L'impuissance de la puissance. Essai sur les nouvelles relations internationales*. Fayard.
- Bertrand, M. (2020). WAGNER, société militaire privée (SMP) et nouvel outil de la stratégie géopolitique moderne russe. *Sécurité globale*, N° 24(4), 43-66. <https://doi.org/10.3917/secug.204.0043>.
- Boniface, P. (2022). La montée en puissance des opinions publiques, pp. 40 à 41. In P. Boniface, *Atlas des relations internationales. 100 cartes pour comprendre le monde de 1945 à nos jours*. Armand Colin (Hors collection).
- Carayol, V. & Laborde A. (dir.) (2021). *Incivilités numériques : Quand les pratiques numériques reconfigurent les formes de civilité au travail*. Paris : De Boeck Supérieur.
- Cattaruzza, A. (2023). L'environnement en géopolitique : ressource ou menace ? Dans Cattaruzza, A. et Limonier, K. (dir.), *Introduction à la géopolitique* - 2e éd, pp. 278 -314. Armand Colin. <https://doi.org/10.3917/arco.catta.2023.01.0278>
- Collin, S. & Marceau, E. (2022). Enjeux éthiques et critiques de l'intelligence artificielle en enseignement supérieur, *Revue international d'éthique sociétale et gouvernementale*, Vol. 24, No 2. <https://doi.org/10.4000/ethiquepublique.7619>

- Conseil de sécurité (2024). Les femmes et la paix et la sécurité. Rapport du Secrétaire général. New York, <https://docs.un.org/fr/S/2024/671>
- Coutau-Bégarie, H. (2010). Quelle stratégie pour le XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle ?, pp. 23-31, *Primavera*, No 125.
- David, C.-Ph. & Schmitt, O. (2020), *La Guerre et la paix : Approches et enjeux de la sécurité et de la stratégie*. SciencesPo, Les presses.
- Delori, M. (2023). Demain, des guerres de l'eau ?, pp. 115 -122, dans P. Boursier & C. Guimont (dir.), *Écologies. Le vivant et le social*, La Découverte.  
<https://doi.org/10.3917/dec.bours.2023.01.0115>
- Dhiman, S. K., Marques J. F., Schmieder-Ramirez J. and P. G. Malakyan (2023). *Handbook of Global Leadership and Followership. Integrating the Best Leadership Theory and Practice*. Cham: Springer.
- Djadeu, C. & Coulibaly, N. D. (2024). *Le Marketing social en Afrique: Améliorer l'efficacité de la communication pour le développement*. Publié de façon indépendante; ISBN-13 : 979-8326337450.
- Durant, J. M. (2023). Constitutional Ethics, Human Rights and Responsible Leadership. In M. Saks (Ed.). *Responsible Leadership. Essential to the Achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*. London: Routledge, pp. 29-48.
- Hofmann, E. & Tapin, J. (2022). La citoyenneté, la démocratie et la cohésion sociale au cœur du développement durable : quelles compétences professionnelles pour des concertations inclusives ? *Cahiers COSTECH*, No 5, 26 avril,  
<http://www.costech.utc.fr/CahiersCOSTECH/spip.php?article136>  
<https://shs.cairn.info/la-guerre-et-la-paix--9782724625158-page-433?lang=fr>.
- Jordans, E., Ng'weno B., & Spencer-Oatey H. (2020). *Developing Global Leaders. Insights from African Case Studies*. Cham: Springer/Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kipre, P. (2009). De la guerre et de la paix en Afrique. *Afrique contemporaine*, automne, pp. 133-146.
- Le Borgne, C. (1990). *La Guerre est morte..., mais on ne le sait pas encore*, Grasset.
- Le Caisne, L. & Lamotte M. (2019). Fake news, mensonges et vérités, *Monde commun*, 2019/1, No 2., 208 p.
- Manirakiza, D. (2020). Les nouveaux espaces de la contestation ? Facebook, opinion publique et émergence d'un espace démocratique au Burundi. *Cahiers d'études africaines*, p. 271-301. <https://doi.org/10.4000/etudesaficaines.30142>
- Mbembe, A., Rioux R. & Kodjo-Grandvaux S. (2022). *Pour un monde en commun. Regards croisés entre l'Afrique et l'Europe*. Arles : Actes Sud.
- Mendenhall, M. E., Žilinskaite M., Stahl G. K., and Clapp-Smith R. (2020) (Eds). *Responsible Global Leadership*. New York: Routledge.
- Nubukpo, K. (2024). *L'Afrique et le reste du monde De la dépendance à la souveraineté*. Odile Jacob.
- Stalder, P. (2025). Gestion Globale Responsable : de la théorie à la pratique. In *Actes du colloque « Gestion responsable à l'ère du numérique et face aux défis mondiaux : crise de leaders ou leaders de crise ? École Nationale de Commerce et de Gestion (ENCG) Dakhla*, congrès organisé dans le cadre des activités de la Chaire UNESCO en Gestion Globale Responsable, 4-5 mars 2024 <https://arbor.bfh.ch/entities/publication/073ea333-aeeb-4d7e-a47a-bc60e5f7bd61>.



- Sy, K., Stalder P., Veillette J. and Gohard-Radenkovic A. (2018). Diversité(s) au cœur des politiques et des pratiques: Entre l'Europe et l'Afrique, *Alterstice - Revue Internationale de la Recherche Interculturelle*, 7(2).