

# Villars Institute

● SUMMIT

15-17 March 2023

## Accelerating and Scaling Systemic Change

A net zero and nature positive economy requires accelerating the transition of our energy and food systems. It entails shifting away from fossil fuels that produce ¾ of greenhouse gas emissions to sustainable and renewable sources of energy. That said, the climate problem cannot be solved in isolation when it is directly linked to the biodiversity crisis. The agrifood sector, together with forestry and other land uses, contributes over 20% of CO<sup>2</sup> emissions. It is also the principal cause of biodiversity loss as half of the planet's habitable land is used for agriculture. If research and development continue mostly in silos then governments, businesses, and universities will waste precious time independently finding incomplete answers. The premise of the **Villars Institute** Summit ("*Villars Summit*") is that the climate and biodiversity crises must be addressed holistically through structured and systematic collaboration with individuals possessing diverse skills and with institutions promoting transdisciplinary knowledge. This entails convening the right people and at the right time in **Villars-sur-Ollon**, a Swiss alpine village nearby Geneva and Lausanne.

## Building a Diverse Community of Practice

Transforming our energy and agrifood systems also depends upon adopting behavioral, economic, and technological changes at a speed and scale unprecedented in human history. This requires interdisciplinary and intergenerational collaboration, which, along with systems leadership, define the Villars Institute. Our first step is to build a community of practice that will work together on: 1) defining the nature of the adaptive problem(s); 2) developing an integrated framework for understanding them; and 3) determining accountability for any innovative, problem-solving approaches to be considered.

## Exercising Systems Leadership

Participation in the *Villars Summit* is by invitation only and limited to 250 guests. It will take place from **15-17 March**, only 4 months after the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 27) and 3 months after the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15). In this regard, the *Villars Summit* is an appropriate moment to debrief the outcomes and commitments from the two global conferences from an integrated, systemic perspective.

The Villars Institute will begin consulting with its **partners** on the summit's program, the desired outcomes of the inaugural meeting, and its strategic goals for future editions. The primary goals of the 2023 *Villars Summit* are to:

- Focus on the deep connectivity between our biodiversity, climate, energy, financial, food, forest, ocean, soil, trade, and water systems.
- Curate different expertise and differing viewpoints to identify critical chokepoints as well as points of leverage for systemic change.
- Combine the unique capabilities of participants to catalyze action towards common goals and shared outcomes (i.e., **Systems Leadership**).
- Support relevant partner initiatives including expert consultations, working groups, technology ventures, and public engagement.
- Engage in intergenerational collaboration with the **Villars Fellows** and shape the agenda for the **Villars Symposium** (27-30 June).

## Next Steps (Co-Design)

We will contact you to schedule a meeting at your earliest convenience to get your ideas and recommendations on participants and the program.