

## **Wake Up Call, ECOLISE contribution to the Humanity Rising Global Solutions Summit, 2020**

We, a community of individuals and organizations across the globe, recognise that the COVID 19 coronavirus had created an unprecedented global crisis that calls into question the very fundamentals of the way our society works.

We believe that a unique opportunity presents itself for Humanity to come together to re-think the way we relate to each other, to nature and to the Planet

We have witnessed how traditional lifestyles and practices have been turned upside down. Conventional wisdom no longer has any meaning or sense. Everyone across the globe is engaged in the same conversation, grappling with the question of how to re-invent ourselves and to create a new vision for the future that can be a basis for renewal and increased resilience to future challenges. Everything has been disrupted. We have been humbled by the power of the virus

We in Humanity Rising seek to convene a global commons with the desire to build a global coalition to identify creative and imaginative solutions to address the current pandemic.

We recognise that the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with unprecedented climatic, ecological, and other challenges threatens our very existence. The human death toll has already surpassed all initial estimates. Many would argue that these threats have been provoked by centuries of ongoing extractive and exploitative institutional systems and practices, a structural dependence on unconstrained economic growth, and the unfettered spread of unsustainable lifestyles. We are now receiving our just desert for these reckless practices. Tragically, as always, it is the most vulnerable, the poorest in society, and ethnic minority groups that suffer the most.

We have seen how Governments across the globe are struggling to put out the flames of the pandemic, with huge swathes of the world population placed in lockdown on a scale never seen before. Communities across the planet are questioning what the future holds for them, trying to find local solutions, seeking inspiration and help from their families, their elders and from within their local communities, despairing that their national governance systems are increasingly distant and irrelevant.

We believe that the answers must lie in fostering inclusive collaborative approaches to the governance of the commons and global stewardship of ecosystems, resulting in a systemic transformation within and across society.

We have a vision of a compassionate, equitable and regenerative society of empowered and resilient communities that thrive on diversity and inclusion and live within planetary boundaries.

We believe that the COVID-19 pandemic must provoke a radical re-thinking of the way in which society operates. The old economic and social models have failed. A new paradigm is needed that can inspire the development of a holistic culture of regeneration, of social and economic justice and ecological integrity.

We in Humanity Rising are issuing this global Wake-Up call, a call to leaders of all forms of society, across all borders, to dare to think the unthinkable. This unprecedented crisis calls for unprecedented action. The time is now.