… where water - the giver of life - stands front and center. The blue gold is treated as a common good, for each and every one of us to cherish and protect, to use and pass on in maximal quantity and equal or superior quality than we received it. We are all stewards of water's - and hence our own - wellbeing.

Collectively, many systems have been put in place to regenerate and monitor our aquatic world. Underwater and airborne drones - some as small as a fish or a dragonfly - monitor the quality and quantity of surface and subsurface water bodies. Also in the past transition period - from a polluted, Wild West world in which water was there for anyone to take to where we are now - these technologies played a key role. For example in pointing fishermen to areas where to could fish for trash instead of fish and thus earn extra income while helping to clean the oceans and lakes.

Even higher up in the skies, remote sensing systems such as satellites & stratospheric platforms are continuously providing real-time data for monitoring eco-systemic health. The same data also feeds into smart contracts which distribute value and compensation for those actors and actions that have a positive impact on water-based (eco)systems (cf. fishermen, farmers, industry, citizens, …). These technologies allow to put numbers on "blue" activities so that costs and benefits can be calculated in the most transparent of ways: evidence-based and data driven. It also gives a bottom line to political discussions and decisions regarding aquatic ecosystems.

After all, water has and allows for tremendous value generation. It provides energy from wind, hydrogen, waves and currents, the sun, temperature differences etc. and allows to store it. It provides drinking water through desalination, food through plankton, algae, fish, etc. It provides a medium for transport, opportunities for healthcare, tourism and awe-inspiring aesthetic experiences, and so much more.

Now that we treat water as a commons in BLUE, we have come to realize that in order to be good ancestors we cannot just take from it, we merely borrow it. At a certain point we have to pass it on. Thus, we need to treat it with care. This changed the way we go about things quite a bit.

The enforcement of sustainable fishing, agricultural and aquacultural practices have led to major shifts in land and ocean use, urban and rural planning, business models, etc. The placement of infrastructures at sea comes with responsibilities: how does the sea and the life it harbours get better because of it? This has led to practices like 'supra-structuring', i.e. the grafting of one type of infrastructure onto another, combining their functionalities, e.g. energy infrastructure and coral reef repair together, or flood protection and phyto-remediation (i.e. sanitation using plants) together, etc.

Some activities - such as deep sea mining - have either been abandoned altogether or undergone drastic changes. Think about sustainable shipping and person transport over water using vessels which not only damage less, but actually help restore ecosystems. Many a battle has been fought over areas in which the privatization of drinking water supply, water treatment or water transport has split societies into haves and have-nots. The world anxiously awaits the tumbling of the last water billionaire as a one-(wo)man source of major conflict.

Our physical world has changed because of our water-centric society. As sea levels rose, new systems had to be devised in order to live with sometimes rapidly changing aquatic circumstances. Sea level rise and increased extreme weather events led to the design of 'sponge cities' with overflow parks, absorbing green facades and floating neighborhoods , regenerated wetlands and mangroves.

Our water-centric world has not only changed what we do and how we do it, but it has also changed us as human beings. All kinds of new rituals in which water plays a key role have been designed to reconnect people and their existence, key moments in their lives, with water. Ocean sanctuaries form the backdrop for some of these life-changing or -anchoring moments. Our reconnection with water has led to important behavioral and organizational changes. From different patterns of spending time to new roles and responsibilities, each one of us is a 'water manager' now.

In our new world, not administrative boundaries, but bio-regional ones - defined by rivers, lakes, seafronts, aquifers, etc. - are at the basis of governance structures. Water takes precedence in just about any formal decision making process, from climate adaptation and food production to education and building permits. It is considered not only a threat (cf. floods and droughts) but also part of the solution (e.g. carbon sinks, urban cooling, oxygen production, tourism etc.).

Most decision making processes regarding water management in BLUE involve whole communities, not only taking into account the perspective and voice of humans but also of non-human stakeholders in the ecosystem's dynamics. Also technologies - from biotechnology to AI and robotics - which allow us to tap into and render intelligible nature's needs and wants, play an important role in this endeavor.

BLUE is not only the colour of the sky ...

PANTOPICON <

ITC ILO International Training Centre

ETF Working together Learning for life European Training Foundation

... where the world's deserts bloom with opportunity.

Ever since the world's hunger for renewable energy, raw materials, space etc. reached peak levels, countries and global businesses have turned their attention to the deserts.

Rather than allowing these arid lands to be privatized and once again having value being siphoned out of the desert countries, new "glocal" regulations and innovative financial instruments - often facilitated by smart contracts and blockchain technologies - have enabled fairer models of value (re)distribution.

All kinds of power dynamics have long threatened the stability of desert regions and prevented their renaissance. Now however, a new era has finally begun. In the shades of endless solar panel fields, water flows again and new vegetation emerges, from bio-engineered agricultural crops for food and building materials, to seedlings of native shrubs and trees. Who would have thought that solar energy farms would once be key to reforestation efforts to turn the world's deserts back into fertile lands? From solar farms and battery systems to wireless power transfer infrastructure, from space elevators and "hyperloops" to "droneports", from sustainable glass industries and rare earth material mines to high-tech food farms and synthetic biology labs ... the deserts are buzzing with activities not found elsewhere in the world.

In their efforts to mitigate desertification, some countries have experimented with geo-engineering, trying to induce cloud formation and rainfall. Some succeeded, many didn't. Most encountered widespread global backlash over their experiments' unpredictable consequences and potential disturbance of the planet's weather systems and climate patterns. Ensuing flash floods have cause massive erosion and collapses of infrastructure in some desert regions and neighboring urban areas.

For this and other reasons, greening the desert has also met strong resistance from activists who try to protect their unique ecosystems, who fear to disturb or deplete the huge aquifers buried deep underneath the desert floor. Also the impact on indigenous communities' livelihoods, culture and deep knowledge continues to worry many. Indeed, life has changed a lot for the desert people. Though few have settled, many have transformed their ways of life. Some argue that they have won more than they have lost, that their nomadic lifestyle has offered them an advantage in an increasingly mobile, scarcity imbued world. Various nomadic communities and tribes have led the way in sustainable, mobile, decentralized and diasporic community development and governance. From being at the periphery, they now find themselves in the center of the world's attention when it comes to innovative, sustainable lifestyles and desert entrepreneurship.

There is no denying. The heartbeat of the desert accelerates as security is sought and found, through either more stable governance structures or globally monitored private investments.

Entrepreneurial oases across the world's deserts attract caravans of entrepreneurs, adventure-hungry settlers and tourists alike. Whether attracted by sandstorm sailing or surfing sand dunes (as the world's ski resorts melted under the pressures of climate change), or because of a deep longing for emptiness in an increasingly dense world, ever more and more diverse groups of people find their way to the desert.

Often unburdened by strong state structures or corporate interest, a significant number of these oases have sprung up as utopian communities, trying out new ways of living, featuring new types of architecture and urban planning (e.g. underground cities), economic systems, societal and resource governance (e.g. citizen assemblies, decentralized autonomous organizations, etc.). However fragile, physical remoteness and digital proximity have established new trade routes of often radical transformational ideas along these oases.

The vastness of the world's deserts provides many new opportunities. Technologies have allowed people to overcome many limitations of their undeniably harsh living conditions. As a consequence, flows of migration have changed, sometimes even reversed, welcoming an influx of people not just from neighboring countries but also from the rest of the world, including the global north. Not just pioneers and adventurers, or fortune seekers but also everyday people, find a new home in beautiful new desert cities. More than cities, one could assert many of them more strongly resemble city states. Several have even declared independence or succeeded in negotiating special rights such as freeports or economic exclusion zones.

And then of course there are a few private billionaire oases or corporate villages (e.g. owned by the 'waterlords' of the nearby desalination plant). Some are merely functional, for housing workers or maintenance personnel, but others are also owned by luxury brands from beyond the hospitality industry which have opened up branded experiences to welcome tourists as well as permanent residents in their version of a perfect lifestyle.

The desert radiates a new golden age ...

TO YELLOW

WELCOME

... where nothing is as old as the new! People have truly discovered the value of putting their creative edge to good use. Private companies, but also civil society and the public sector have long realized creativity is the key ingredient for progress and prosperity, even for repairing the planet and tackling other societal challenges. The arts, crafts, entertainment, fashion, design, architecture, advertising, game development as well as R&D, all of them shine bright.

Cultural and creative industries blossom like never before. Entire countries have turned up their cultural production and turned its arts, culture and creative industries into a key component of their economies, their export, diplomacies and soft power. Our human nature as storytellers and storycravers has surely played into this success, yet it runs broader and deeper. When you put on your augmented reality glasses you immediately notice the personalized ads in the streets. Take them off and you notice amazing architecture, no longer tainted by billboards. You have access to personalized services, some of which are triggered automatically through geolocation, smart sensors, sentiment analysis and/or smart contracts.

No wonder in such a world, schools and universities no longer look like a cookie-cutter production line for prepping youth for standardized profiles in the labor market. In ORANGE, the educational system puts creativity front and center. Whether expressed through dance, drawing, singing, making videos or crafting intricate virtual worlds, creative skills count as much as mathematics, spelling or philosophy. One learns most of them in a playful way, through experimentation, gamification, but also travels, exposing oneself to different realities, different knowledge systems and cultural expressions (e.g. traditional, indigenous knowledge & skills). Also STEM has gotten up to STEAM, thanks to more attention to the arts and humanities in curricula. Especially the latter has enabled a more profound societal discourse around the arts, nurturing a language and framework of values extending beyond mere aesthetics. A more enlightened entrepreneurial spirit and more profound socio-political engagement has liberated the arts and creative sectors from being a mere corner of economic activity, allowing them to permeate every aspect of people's lives.

As the amount of laborless value creation - due to automation, robotization and algorithmization (even more so than financial constructions)- has overtaken most labor-driven forms of production and value generation globally, important shifts in the way we spend our time have taken place. In several places around the world, the introduction of a universal basic income, has liberated people from drudgeries of labor for life support, enabling them to do different things or do things differently, opening the floodgates to creative labour. Overall, creative expression has shifted meaningfulness of human activity, patterns and mechanisms of social status etc. In all types of activity, action and reflection find unity in creativity, not unlike in the world of crafts. The latter have changed profoundly, as new technologies have given rise to new types of craftsmanship, e.g. in synthetic biology, sustainable gardening and food production, AI-enhanced multi-sensory storytelling, olfactory art, augmented fashion, etc.

Before, many forms of creative expression and its valorization depended on entire industries. Now technology and creative tools have put the power of the many into the hands of the few, often of an individual. Where people were once limited or pushed into the role of mere consumers of creative content, increasingly they have become prosumers (i.e. producer-consumer hybrids), if not of creative content itself, then of data and information surrounding it.
Along with this shift and the growing population of creators, also the management of intellectual property rights has changed to reflect and better deal with this new reality.

With more power in the hands of the individual, people have more control over where and under which circumstances they wish to work and create. In ORANGE, many roam the planet, basically living a neo-nomadic lifestyle. It is facilitated by more streamlined financial, fiscal and legal regulations and services, protecting people wherever they go. Moreover, digital tribes of likeminded creatives allow these nomads to swiftly connect to local networks no matter where they land. Neo-nomads - sometimes also called digital nomads - have become a new lens for many cities, regions and countries through which to look at what they have to offer in terms of quality of life, from public services to cost of living and hospitality towards 'others'.

Perhaps even more than other economies, the creative economy is an attention-based economy. Hence also financial means flow where attention flows. In sports for example, some of the best paid athletes are now big names in e-sports, while some of the most impressive infrastructure revolves around new phygital (i.e. physical-digital) activities. In showbiz, some of the most popular bands are AI-human hybrids, their shows holographic marvels to be enjoyed in any space from a stadium to a cosy living room.

In ORANGE change is fast but creative values persists and skills are cherished, transformed and passed on ...

... a world where we have learned to do more with less after reaching the limits of our planet. The focus is now on mitigating further ecosystem decline and regenerating where damage has been done.

Financial systems have put ecosystem and human health at the forefront, leading to large-scale regenerative finance (ReFi) efforts. Subsidies now support sustainable practices, taxing activities with high environmental footprints, and rewarding positive contributions to ecosystems. New regulatory frameworks support these shifts at all levels, from global to local. Also transparent pricing mechanisms ensure environmental and social costs are factored into products and services. Simultaneously, smart contracts help producers Yet and consumers benefit from product reuse, while blockchain technologies track materials through their lifecycle, redistributing value as they move through the supply chain.

In many cases, merely encouraging sustainable options has proven insufficient. Hence certain unsustainable practices have been phased out or banned in favor of more environmentally friendly alternatives. No industry or activity has been spared in this.

It is worth noting that most products in GREEN are designed for disassembly, which allows for more easy reuse and recycling of their components. They all carry materials passports that track what they are made of, ensuring materials find their way to the next best use in their lifecycle. This system enforces producer responsibility, making manufacturers accountable for the entire lifecycle of their products. Not only has what we make and how we make it changed, but also where we make it. Cities and regions, for example, have adjusted zoning laws to cluster businesses that benefit from each other's byproducts, energy, or water flows. This has led to industrial symbiosis, where one business's waste becomes another's resource. In food production, for example, aeroponic and hydroponic urban agriculture facilities make use of excess heat and water from nearby businesses, creating more efficient resource loops in urban and rural areas alike.

Food production has undergone a radical shift. Agriculture now focuses on biological pest control and sustainable practices like permaculture. Chefs and health professionals have helped prioritize food quality and nutritional value over sheer quantity, reducing land, water, and energy use. Such practices not only allow to regenerate soil and increase biodiversity but also redirect agricultural byproducts to other industries, such as packaging, construction, textiles ...

The circular economy's success depends on closing resource loops and connecting material flows at multiple levels. Transnational collaboration has become key, with cities aligning their economic structures with the local, natural ecosystems they most depend on (e.g. rivers and aquifers, hills, soil, forests, mycelium networks, ...). These "bioregions" have placed ecosystems at the center of governance, linking all decisions to resource availability and ecosystem health.

Transportation of materials has also transformed. While there is pressure to keep material flows local, global flows still exist for certain scarce resources. However, their means of transport have become more sustainable, with an increase in the use of underground pipelines, blimps powered by renewable energy blimps, and drone ships. Additionally, miniaturized processing plants on electric trucks or ships now move to where they are needed, enabling localized material loops and reducing the footprint of transport.

Yet in GREEN less flows in general. Virgin materials now make up only 20% of construction projects. Most materials used in infrastructure are recycled or reused, thanks to mobile processing plants that allow for on-site repurposing. Nature-inclusive building practices have reduced the need for some construction materials entirely, as natural processes handle tasks like insulation, air quality control, and pest management. Moreover, AI helps plan the most valuable next steps for materials in their lifecycle, minimizing their environmental footprint. 3D printing technologies, combined with virtual and augmented reality, have transformed how we design and manufacture items, enhancing circularity and reducing the need for raw materials. This has helped turn the philosophy of "cosmolocalism" into a reality where heavy materials stay local, while data, processes and designs travel globally, fostering innovation, efficiency and ecosystem health.

When it comes to the knowledge enabling all of this, indigenous know how has become more valued, especially in areas like building techniques, reducing food waste, and using biomaterials. This knowledge is now shared globally, supporting sustainable practices across different regions.

AI and remote sensing technologies, such as satellites and drones, monitor material scarcities and track the environmental and social impacts of material use. This global monitoring system helps manage material-related activities, from cradle to grave.

In GREEN, the concept of waste has disappeared. We no longer manage waste streams, but instead manage streams of materials for reuse and recycling. Even sewage treatment recovers valuable materials like pharmaceutical compounds and microfibers. People now routinely swap, repair, and upcycle items rather than discarding them. Repair cafés, mending circles, and swap parties have become popular social activities, reflecting the shift toward a circular mindset. Energy recovery, such as incineration, is only used as a last resort when higher-value reuse or recycling options are not feasible.

No great transition without significant socio-economic impacts. Also in GREEN, this has prompted policymakers to ensure a socially just transition. Policy, regulatory, and financial measures have been put in place to protect vulnerable communities and ensure that the benefits of this transformation are shared equitably. Social equity has become an integral part of the transition to a regenerative economy, helping to build a future where both people and the planet thrive.

… a world centered on care and fostering a healthy and resilient society: physically, mentally, and relationally. Here, individuals are deeply aware of their interdependence with others and the environment, whether human-made or natural.

This awareness guides societal organization, emphasizing resilience and balancing efficiency with redundancy, much like in nature. Throughout various crises, this focus on interdependence has proven invaluable. It has shown time and again how organizations tackle societal challenges in parallel and diverse ways, creates a robust framework for dealing with adversity.

Public funds have been directed toward infrastructures that foster health, connection and collaboration. Multifunctional neighborhood centers, fablabs, care facilities, digital platforms for citizen assemblies, and financing mechanisms for public-private partnerships are all part of this infrastructure. Innovative physical and digital spaces enable people and organizations to meet, self-organize, co-create, and co-maintain their communities. They support social and socio-ecological networks essential for a health- and care-focused society. One sees it in both urban and rural areas, sometimes even in mobile or AI-assisted forms, extending the reach of care through tele-medicine and providing access to international expertise. Beyond its core functions, such infrastructures also play a pivotal role in knowledge creation and sharing, reinforcing the social fabric. In community healthcare centers, for example, a strong focus on prevention helps reduce healthcare costs in the long run. Here and elsewhere information flows both ways - from health and care experts to citizens and back. As such, it catalyzes innovations in personal, community, and public health on a global scale. AI-leveraged data fuels predictive policies and evidence-based medicine while global healthcare now incorporates also knowledge from indigenous & non-Western traditions. Both on a data and a human level, such interconnectedness has been key to building resilience, especially against pandemics.

Among the growing attention to mental health and social/relational wellbeing, loneliness is a key focal point in WHITE. It is mostly addressed by fostering strong social connections. Rather than isolating people in care facilities, care is integrated into social settings. Neighborhood doctors collaborate with healthcare and social workers, architects, and mobility experts to optimize physical, mental, and social health. Urban planning, for example, reflects a biophilic design philosophy, recognizing our inherent connection to nature, which improves mental and physical health. This holistic approach (i.e. positive healthcare) lowers costs, keeps people connected and enables localized, integrated care. Planning also encourages walking, cycling, and public transport, complemented by flexible mobility options like bikesharing and robotaxis. This allows people of all ages and abilities to move more freely. In general, a positive focus on people with disabilities ensures they are not only cared for but also participate actively in society. Most daycare facilities and elderly care homes are colocated, while co-housing arrangements adapt as people's needs change and high-tech carepods can be temporarily placed near existing habitations.

Also the educational system plays a crucial role in sustaining a healthy and caring society. It emphasizes empathy, reciprocity, and socio-emotional skills, thereby fostering relational intelligence and preparing individuals to engage meaningfully with others. The system also pays ample attention to developing healthy habits when it comes to technology use (e.g. social media, AI companions, virtual worlds).

Work-life balance is a key feature of WHITE. People caring for elderly parents or young children are supported by flexible work arrangements and a system that provides room for and values both professional and community caregiving. Redundancies built into the socio-economic system ensure this doesn't become overwhelming. Activities can be easily rescheduled, and others can step in to help, improving also the gender balance in both professional and informal care work.

Also here technology is central to healthcare, with telemedicine, wearable diagnostics, and AI assistants rendering it continuous, personalized, and accessible to all. Intelligent systems and robotics assist where human capacity is strained. Drone services expand the reach and speed of healthcare. Many technologies are co-designed and co-developed through open-source collaborations involving the public sector, civil society, and ordinary citizens. This accelerates innovation, increases market fit, transparency, and interoperability. Meanwhile, advances in biotechnology, like diagnostic labs on a chip, cognitive boosters for knowledge workers, artificial organs, and gene therapies, are transforming lives. Genetic screening at birth is now standard, offering powerful new means of prevention and healthspan planning. Also, healthcare research extends beyond human biology to explore how our health is tied to planetary health, as seen in microbiome studies.

Sectors once considered unrelated to healthcare now play key roles. Urban planners, architects, and interior designers prioritize mental and physical well-being. Smart clothing, once developed for astronauts, is now available for everyday use. The agricultural sector "grows" medicine through "pharmafarming" and develops "nutraceuticals" with the pharmaceutical industry. The latter has undergone major changes through legislation and innovative players making drugs more affordable and accessible, even for rare diseases.

Caring for others, maintaining infrastructure, and protecting the environment in WHITE are collective responsibilities, supported by smart technologies. These activities are recognized and rewarded, through financial compensation or alternative credit systems like time or care credits.

While some societies struggle with aging populations, others are experiencing youth booms. Both reshape economies. Investments in research and development focus on healthy longevity - physically, mentally, and socially - addressing challenges from child mortality to aging. These imbalances also influence migration, with countries attracting workers from populations with different age structures.

... where old is the silver gold. This world shows that an aging population in terms of both its needs and its capabilities - or wisdom even - can be a powerful force for progress and prosperity. Much value - not all financial - can be gained from the global generational spread in general and the silver generation in particular.

Looking at the challenges of an aging population and low birth rates in many industrialized countries, one would almost forget how in other parts of the world the average age occupies the other end of the spectrum; two realities leading to interesting new patterns of socio-economic opportunity. Several countries with younger populations try to attract the elderly and their capital by providing care tourism and comfort services focused specifically on older people. Simultaneously, new migration pacts take shape, matching the needs of countries with a welfare system and working population under stress due to care needs of their aging population, with the needs of countries with a young population in need of jobs. Some societies have opted for a more technocentric approach, training robots and AI systems to provide buddy services to elderly, fighting both loneliness and lack of healthcare workers.

It is abundantly clear: focus and metrics in SILVER have steadily shifted from mere aging to aging healthily, from lifespan to “healthspan”. One sees advertisements promote longevity drugs and diets, as well as bio-engineered food adjusted for age and dating services. Yet there is so much more out there. It are not only the healthcare, pharmaceutical and leisure industries that invest in the business opportunities that an aging population brings along.

Also government stimuli have shifted from a focus on traditional elderly care to preventative healthcare and healthy aging. A more active elderly population is not only good for the economy, but also for the social tissue. There is immense value in the reciprocity of caring between generations.

Make no mistake however: in SILVER the image of the elderly is one of opportunity for both young and old. After all, the needs of the elderly extend far beyond that of mere healthcare and general care. It is also about a need to contribute to society, to transfer knowledge and skills, to invest in the next generations, to nurture relationships, to provide memory ... Stimulated by fiscal benefits and a broadening spectrum of non-binding retirement options, the number of silver entrepreneurs has boomed over the past decades. The myth that active elderly would somehow limit the options of the young has been busted. On the contrary, most aging countries have not only shifted the retirement age but also widened and rendered more attractive the options for elderly to remain an active part of the economy and society as such.

When it comes to accumulated knowledge, skills and life learnings, the wisdom of the elderly is both socially as well as economically of tremendous value. In some cultures this has been valued for generations, in others it has been rediscovered and revalued more recently. It has led, in many countries, to more elderly taking up key roles in lifelong learning, providing educational services in both formal and informal contexts, from childcare and lifecoaching for teens and adults to business mentorship and networking support.

Looking at the physical surroundings in SILVER, one can notice how also urban planners have shifted their attention from the once popular elderly housing to multi-generational living systems. Whether one talks about a singular home with a temporary modular care unit in the garden or a co-housing structure in which inhabitants simply switch dwelling as their needs shift when entering a new phase in life, all enable dynamic, futureproof living conditions for young and old.
Furthermore, public, private as well as community supported mobility services adjusted for age keep all mobile and connected. Redesigning the village or neighborhood for multigenerational and extended families has led to many benefits, not in the least in terms of quality of life, as active elderly allow younger members of the family to better balance their work-life rhythms, but also to increase empathy and grow deeper bonds between generations. Some even build out a second or third career while embedded in a healthy local context.

Also in more rural areas, community driven circles of care and integrated 'quality of life' services focus on a healthy, supportive social tissue benefiting all generations, including elderly. Anything from housing design to mobility services, from social kitchens to, are designed to be accessible to elderly. "If it works for the elderly, it works for everyone" is a popular adagio and design principle.

This attitude extends from the living context to the workplace which is equally actively managed as a multi-generational context, benefiting informal knowledge transfer and stimulating cross-generational empathy and understanding. This inclusiveness has allowed societies to overcome some former pitfalls, such as growing generational divides translating into political polarization between young and old.

SILVER shows all ages carry value and opportunity.

... a world in which technological magic is no longer science fiction but a daily reality. Every facet of life is touched by amazing technological advancements, extending human capabilities.

The industrial revolutions have blurred the definition of technology, which now transcends the mechanical, electronic, and digital realms to include biological, genetic, and quantum dimensions. Technology is no longer a sector but a transversal force, influencing all activities: from AI decision systems in government to personalized digital public services, clean technologies, and regenerative finance using blockchains. Technological innovation drives progress in diverse areas like asteroid mining, quantum cybersecurity, gene editing, and synthetic biology, pushing society forward in ways once unimaginable.

In GOLD, no challenge is too big or small for a technological solution. The private sector benefits from this in major ways. Some choose secrecy and patents to protect innovations, while others embrace open-source design. Civil society, grassroots movements, and governments are all increasingly involved in deep tech platform development for others to build on.

Although GOLD thrives on entrepreneurial spirit and technological reach, history has proven that there are limits. It is essential to align technology with the values that humanity holds dear. Given that borders mean little in a fast-paced digital world, people have turned to supranational and global governance to manage the impact of technology. Lessons learned from climate adaptation and space technology have revived belief in global governance, which now oversees the development and use of technology, as well as its environmental and societal impacts (e.g. global and off-planet material harvesting). The demand for natural resources, energy, and water - necessary for the technology-driven world in GOLD - threatens the environment. Push-pull legislation and incentives are used to manage this impact and ensure a balance between progress and preservation. When it comes to our planet, ironically, it is technology itself which helps us gain greater awareness. With real-time monitoring of ecosystems through powerful sensors and satellites, and policy simulations on digital twins of cities and the planet, we better understand the challenges we face.

As technology reshapes the world, traditional boundaries, structures, and limitations are dissolving. GOLD challenges (geo)politics and governance structures, creating tighter connections between local and global realities. The concept of ownership has shifted to 'usership,' turning many material aspects of life into subscription services. For instance, the line between public transport and autonomous vehicle services is becoming blurred.
Inspired by nature, artificial intelligence systems are driving increased diversity and resilience, particularly in the technological market. The dominance of large tech companies and heavily centralized systems - whether public or private - is fading as the world recognizes that concentrated power stifles true progress. With humanity facing immense challenges, we can no longer afford such power dynamics.

Artificial intelligence now taps into natural intelligences, sometimes even challenging human understandings of the world and decentralizing humanity from the dominant worldview. Its progress is not always smooth or predictable, often leading to conflict as humans grapple with AI's limitations.

Education, as traditionally conceived, has been replaced by continuous, lifelong learning. Personalized AI companions and gamification offer free access to global learning experiences, enabling individuals to adapt to the fast-paced world. Human enhancement technologies, from brain boosters to neurological implants and exoskeletons, allow many to transcend their natural limitations. While this enables people with disabilities to participate more fully in society, it can also be misused by those seeking an unfair advantage for social or economic gain.

In the end, one could assert that technology has become a global belief system, shaping economics, politics, and even human relationships. At its most extreme end there are those who view technology not as an extension of humanity, but as a near replacement.

Despite the technological boom, there are still those who resist it. GOLD has its share of techno-phobic, techno-weary, and techno-averse groups. The latter often include descendants of those harmed by concentrated technological power, as well as those who believe the world is increasingly designed for machines and algorithms rather than humans. Some advocate for technological detox moments or technology-free zones, while others engage in outright sabotage in defense of 'human' or 'natural' values. The techno-weary question whether overreliance on technology erodes human capabilities or even humanity itself, persists.

In GOLD, technology continues to reshape every aspect of life, offering unprecedented opportunities while posing profound challenges. As society races forward, it must constantly reconcile technological advancement with the preservation of human values, capabilities, and the environment.