A World Parliament.

Online and Real-world by 2011.

Summary proposal

November 2008

Version: 1.2

Summary Proposal: World Parliament

Vision

To create a World Parliament by 2011.

Mission

To establish the current "World Parliament Experiment" (WPE) as an online and real-life World Parliament based on one person, one vote (http://www.world-parliament.org) by 2011.

Overview

Its objective is to create an institution (adopted by and as part of the UN as soon as possible) that is directly elected and supported by the majority of the world population.

A decisive step of the WPE will be the first online parliament vote to create a real-world Interim World Parliament in 2010 and a fully functioning World Parliament by 2011.

It is expected that the Interim World Parliament will then be formally adopted into the UN (by 2011 or even before) and interact with other existing institutions.

What is a World Parliament?

The "missing piece" in world government and the United Nations.

A "parliament or assembly" elected by the citizens of the world.

Reforming the current structure of the UN and some of the regional bodies where Governments decide the members of the General Assembly.

A forum for the voice of the citizen.

Global democracy made real.

How realistic is a World Parliament?

It is almost a reality.

The EU, Swiss and Argentine parliaments in the last 5 years have passed resolutions to create such an Assembly.

Gerorge Monbiot the acclaimed writer has spelt out detailed proposals.

Figures such as Olivier Giscard d'Estaing, Nelson Mandela, Boutros-Ghali and Andreas Bummel have created and supported the Committee for a World Parliament and the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) Campaign to establish a World Parliament.

The WPE was founded in 2000 to both work with the UN but also to create faster-track activity to make a World Parliament an interim and then actual reality within the UN.

The WPE could also be maintained as an adjunct to the UN to allow for greater diversity of opinion: a vox pop.

What would the World parliament do?

1. Debate and agree action on the most important issues facing the world:

- climate change
- poverty
- nuclear proliferation
- conflict resolution
- global finance

2. Lead on the most important political questions:

- UN reform: clearer structure and budgets

- The work of the world parliament itself: pass resolutions on: UN reform and oversight: General Assembly, Security Council, World Bank etc

- Regional reform and oversight: EU, AU etc

3. All designed to expedite:

- conflict resolution
- nuclear proliferation
- evaluating progress on 1st UNMDG
- creating the 2nd UNMDG

4. Focus oversight of the 3 most important regional conflicts:

- Middle East: Palestine/Iran/Afghanistan

- Africa: Sudan/Congo/Somalia

- Asia: Kashmir/Sri Lanka/Burma

- Americas: Haiti, Colombia, Bolivia

- Europe: Belarus, Transdniestra, Kosovo

5. Facilitate recognition of new states (example Kosovo) for the UN.

6. Establish criteria for the use of military force by the international community: peacekeeper and peace enforcement; end military dictatorship

Many if not all these points are recognised by the UN and EU and various national parliaments already.

The main issue is the World Parliament has not yet been establsihed.

Background: Phase 1

The WPE was created by Rasmus Tenbergen in 2000.

Activity to date is:

Online: The WPE already has over 900 members and representatives from all corners of the world. They participate in weekly online votes on issues, procedures, and representatives. It is possible and oftentimes realized by the members that they can change any aspects of the project at any time, if there is enough support for a proposal. The results of the online deliberations are introduced into the political process by the WPE representatives as campaign claims to real-world decision-makers. The organizing work is done in regional and thematic working groups including a monthly global chat session.

Real-world: In addition to the online activities, the WPE organizes yearly real-life conferences, past real life events include:

2000: Boston, USA, Harvard University
2001: Boston, USA, Harvard University
2002: Bonn, Germany, University of Bonn
2003: Porto Alegre, Brazil, World Social Forum
2004: Mumbai, India, World Social Forum
2005: Porto Alegre, Brazil, World Social Forum
2006: Bonn, Germany, University of Bonn
2007: Trondheim, Norway, (with 400 members from 100 countries)
2008: Bonn, Germany, University of Bonn

We are now ready for Phase 2: creating an Online Parliament and Real-World Parliament

What are the most important aspects to consider?

1. Size of Online and real world Parliament: based on the Monbiot model: 600 transnational electoral districts, starting with 60 online
2. Voting: direct online with monthly summaries, monthly voting of parliamentarians, citizen forum with possibility to influence directly via online petition at any time
3. Structure: a US/UK model of Upper and Lower Chamber: the Lower Chamber elected as above and Upper Chamber from a list of candidates provided by Lower Chamber eg Nelson Mandela etc
4. Role: if not accepted by UN initially, created outside with possibility to become second chamber of General Assembly later, and ongoing interaction with regional parliaments, especially European parliament
5. Policies: initial policies – "only" moral authority first later legal competencies (compare development of European Parliament)
6. Location: first online, later an initial Parliament established in Brussels or Strasbourg from EU offices
7. Organization: The WPE is in progress as a charity under German law

Outline Timeline: 2008-2011

2008-2009

November 08 – create new version of website (explanation part)

January 09 - create new version website (technology part, more explanation)

February 09 - publish a book (including reports on past activities and plans for the future)

March 09 – real world meeting: Germany – provide outline proposals for an Online World Parliament

April 09 – advertise the Online Parliament for pledges

June 09 – publish a pamphlet

Aug 09 – WPE 2009, simultaneous real world meeting in all corners of the world, at least one per continent, confirm proposals,

September 2009 - establish "1st World Parliament" with permanent parliamentarians (60 +) on the Internet

2010-2011

Jan 10 – start communications campaign to collect individual support for permanent online Parliament

June 10 – real world meeting: USA, with all internet parliamentarians

Jan 11 – publish 2nd book

June11 – establish permanent real world parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg

Outline Funding

50,000 Euro: create website

50,000 Euro per meeting/forum

100,000 Euro: online advertising

400,000 Euro EU advertising: UK and Germany then 200,000 Euro per territory

400,000 Euro pa: mini-parliament running costs

200,000 Euro pa: charity running costs: staff, building

Total budget:

- web and advertising: c.550,000 Euros (plus extra territories)
- forums and international meetings: 50,000 Euros each
- charity and parliament running costs: 600,000 pa

Appendix: Related Websites

General information on the WPE can found on the main website:

http://www.world-parliament.org

Theoretical background information on the general discussion about a World Parliament and the special approach of the WPE:

http://www.ifld.de/essay/worldparliament.pdf

Other related organizations and information on the global democracy movement:

http://globaldemo.org/resources/organisations