Global Governance Project

one world, one people, one voice

The Global Governance Project

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Executive Summary

All over the world people dedicate their time, talents and resources to improving the lot of humanity and the health of our planet. Despite their efforts, the people of the world are plagued by poverty, inequity and war; and the earth's ecosystems are threatened by pollution, resource depletion and climate change. These issues are global in scale.

Today, 195 countries operate separately and make decisions in their own best interests. Millions of companies act to benefit their owners and shareholders. And seven billion people follow disparate laws, moral codes and societal norms. With so many competing interests at play, it is little wonder there are so many global problems that we seem unable to resolve. Currently, there is no effective mechanism for government jurisdictions to coordinate decisions and actions on regional and global issues, which is exactly what is required to resolve these issues.

> With so many competing interests at play, it is little wonder there are so many global problems that we seem unable to resolve.

Economic, communication and transportation networks are global and require coordinated global regulation. The impacts of our actions are global, and rival the great forces of nature, and require coordinated global action. The focus on our differences instead of our common humanity may lead to global war and catastrophe. The lack of attention to the impact of decisions may trigger a cataclysmic event.
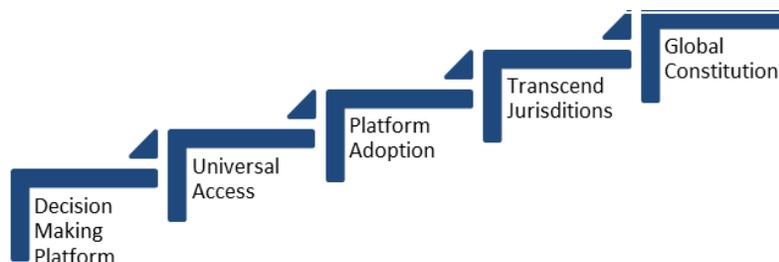
Democratic governments, once beacons of hope, are becoming less democratic as legislators cede power to parties and the executive. Governments of all types, all over the world, are more focused on keeping power than on the common good. Most governments do not factor the full impact of decisions into the decision making process. It is not lack of will or lack of effort that keeps us from reaching our potential. It is a lack of effective governance at the global level - global issues require global solutions.

It's clear we need a better way to coordinate our efforts. We need a better way to link people together, to determine best practices in governance, to find solutions to our most pressing problems and to ensure the viability of our planet for future generations.

We are *one people* living in *one world* and we need to speak with *one voice*. We need global governance.

To respond to this need, the Town of Stratford, Prince Edward Island, Canada, created the One *Governance Foundation*. The *One Governance Foundation* proposed a five step plan to develop a better global governance system and a better world. It is the *Global Governance Project*.

One – we create an internet based decision making platform that will enable legislators and governments to have a continuous and meaningful dialogue with citizens, experts and other stakeholders on all issues under consideration. This will allow people to share their information, knowledge and ideas widely and enable legislators and governments to make the best, most informed decisions. It will also allow governments to share data, in a usable format, to be used for the common good.

Two – we provide universal access to the decision making platform including to those who cannot vote freely, have no internet access, or have any other barrier to participation.

Three – we ask all legislators and governments to adopt the decision making platform to facilitate democratic decision making within their jurisdictions and we remove restrictions on the ability of legislators to vote freely on all issues. This will allow legislators to truly represent their constituents and be the agents of democracy they are intended to be; and allow governments to focus on the common good.

Four – we link legislators and governments together across jurisdictions to facilitate shared decision making on issues that are regional or global in scope or impact. The decision making platform will facilitate global collaboration and enable legislators and governments to coordinate decisions and actions on common and similar issues leading to better, more informed decisions.

Five – we use the decision making platform to develop a global constitution, with a human rights and earth charter, enforced via an independent judiciary and the rule of law. Iceland demonstrated that a constitution could be crowdsourced. A global constitution will allow us to achieve peace and harmony and ensure the future of humanity and the planet.

In five steps we can return democracy to the people; restore honor and purpose to the role of the legislator; allow governments to focus on the common good; and create an effective mechanism to solve cross- jurisdictional, increasingly global issues. In five steps, we can eliminate discrimination, inequality, terrorism, war and the unsustainable assault on the planet. In five steps, we can save the millions of lives, trillions of dollars, and vast amounts of precious resources that are consumed by international conflict. In five steps we can build a better governance system and a better world!

The decision making platform is designed to enable legislators and governments to facilitate decision making and to coordinate inter-jurisdictional activity. It aims to become the legitimate voice of the people of the world as expressed through a global constitution and the universal application of the rule of law. A global constitution will mean harmonized governance, economies, currencies, trade and migration. Global peace and harmony are possible - if we develop an effective global governance system.

The only thing that stands between us and a better world is enough of us deciding that to put the effort into developing an effective global governance system. It will be a large effort at first, but it will lead to a better world and to significantly less effort on a continuing basis. Join the effort to design, build and operate the decision making platform; use the platform to coordinate and inform decisions; ask legislators and governments to adopt the platform to improve the decision making process within their jurisdiction and to collaborate on decisions with other jurisdictions. We the people can create our own destiny!

By incorporating best practices in governance, the decision making platform will ensure that outcomes are more democratic, sustainable, effective and efficient. It will include elements to help ensure equity, inclusion, sustainability, civil discourse, fair representation, effectiveness and efficiency.

> *"We can do no great things - only small things with great love."*
>
> Mother Teresa (1910-1997); Founder of the Missionaries Of Charity

Global peace and harmony are possible. Meeting humanity's needs without compromising future generations and the planet is possible. Working together to reach our highest human potential is possible. Many people, who share common values and goals, doing small things, can achieve greatness.

The technology and knowledge that we now have at our disposal make the proposed global governance system a realistic and achievable solution. A better world is possible through the development of a better global governance system.   Join the *Global Governance Project* and change the world!

one world, one people, one voice

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Current Governance Paradigm

Governance is, fundamentally, the process of making decisions collectively. The current global governance model is a collection of formal and informal governance systems that, inherently, are different from one another in their beliefs and customs.

> "*Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.*"
>
> Winston Churchill - Speech in the House of Commons, 11 November 1947

Our formal governance model is 195 nation states that occupy their own territory and have their own ideology and legal systems. After almost 100 years of international attempts to cooperate through the League of Nations (1919) and the United Nations (1945), there is not much harmonization of political systems, values, laws or customs internationally; and a growing belief that democracy, in its' current forms, leave much room for improvement.

Informally, we are governed by a diverse collection of cultural, economic, religious and other systems. They are many and varied, all with different beliefs and customs which influence our actions. The complex web of differences among the myriad of belief systems leads to conflict and inefficiency and stands in the way of building a better world.

The following are some of the more problematic aspects of our current global governance model.

Nationhood

Nationhood or, more specifically, the multiplicity of independent nations, is a defining aspect of our current global governance model. Each nation has its own set of rules, norms and values. Each nation is responsible for its relationship with other nations. International relations are facilitated by a multitude of international agencies, treaties and agreements.

The differences in rules, values and norms between nations are the source of conflict between nations and a barrier to collaboration on global issues.

International and extra-national conflict requires that much of our collective human effort to be spent on diplomacy, espionage, terrorism and war leading to untold human suffering.   International regulations and practices differ greatly between nations, leading to trade, immigration, monetary, boundary and other issues which also consume a tremendous amount of our collective effort.

Independent nations try to do what is best for their citizens first and foremost which often precludes the resolution of regional and global issues; such as climate change, overconsumption, poverty, inequality and the unjust distribution of wealth.

It seems highly unlikely, in our current global governance model, that our nations will ever be able to agree on common values and rules. War, diplomacy and trade will continue to cost us trillions of dollars, millions of lives and vast amounts of resources.

Our current global governance model is not equipped to deal with the reality that we are a global village. To overcome the conflict between governments, we must find a way to replace conflict and competition with collaboration and cooperation.

Perspective

You can tell the perspective of governments by what they measure and report on. The most common measures in current use are, by far, economic growth measures. Most governments seek to continually grow their economies in order to generate more tax revenue and more jobs. Unfortunately, it is not possible to grow the economy continuously because our natural resources are finite.

More rare and often absent are measures about the "quality of life' of constituents or the quality of the environment. When they are present, they are often deemed less important than the economic growth measures. This narrow perspective has led to ridiculous inequity and unsustainable consumption.   In the private sector, where non-economic measures are found, they are usually secondary to profit.

Favoring any measure of success over others results in imbalanced decisions which means winners and losers. There does not have to be winners and losers. If we consider the full consequences of collective decisions and actions, in balance, we can make equitable, sustainable decisions. We must broaden our perspective and give fair consideration to environmental, cultural and social factors, as well as economic factors, when we are making decisions.

Representation

In democratic countries around the world, we elect millions of people each year to represent us in the decision making process. In many multi-party governments, the people who are elected are not able to represent the interests of their constituents as well as they should. The partisan system requires that attention be paid to supporters, the media, lobbies, policy and messaging to sway votes (increasingly enabled by Big Data) and other factors. These factors interfere with the ability of legislators to govern for the common good.   The power of the executive and the power of the party erode the power of the people by eroding the voice of their representatives. The short term focus on elections precludes the long term thinking that is required to ensure sustainability. Partisan democracies are becoming less and less democratic.

In many non-democratic countries, the people often do not even have a say in their governance; people are not free; and a few usually benefit at the expense of the many. All in all, the people of the world are not represented nearly as well as we should be, and could be, in the governance process.

Competition and Information Hoarding

We compete with each other for power, for money, for territory - whatever there is to compete for. Some will say that we are wired that way - we need to compete to survive. In order to compete, we hoard information to use for competitive advantage. Much of what humanity has learned from research, inspiration and observation is suppressed by governments and corporations for competitive or other reasons. It is also suppressed to compensate the originator and/or owner of ideas.

As a result, we make decisions without access to all of the information that is required to make the best decision. In our increasingly global community, our decisions often affect other people and/or the planet, not always in a good way. We make many decisions with access to a limited amount of information leading to less than optimal decisions.

It's interesting how competitive reality shows are so popular in many countries. We seem to find it much more interesting to watch the drama of conflict, the pain and suffering of failure and the rapture of winning. It's exciting. Elections, sport competitions, betting, the stock market - our political, social and economic systems are based on competition.

Unfortunately, competition precludes the broad sharing of information and ideas that would lead to more effective collaboration and better, more informed decisions for the common good.

Global Networks

The world is a truly global place. Transportation networks are global allowing the movement of people and goods. Economic networks are global allowing the movement of money. Communication networks are global allowing the movement of information. We are global in almost every way except for the one that counts the most –

> We are global in almost every way except for the one that counts the most – governance!

governance! Each country can control these networks within their jurisdictions. Outside their jurisdiction, these networks can only be controlled by agreement among nations. The effective governance of these global networks requires a level of collaboration that is almost impossible to achieve with 195 independent nations, each looking out for their own interests. Our current fractured global governance model is not equipped to deal with the reality that we are a global village.

State of the Nations

Currently, there are millions of people who donate their time and money to help solve global societal issues such as poverty and hunger, war, disease, inequity, injustice, environmental degradation and global warming. There are also many responsible companies that are doing their part to ensure that the world is a better place. The charitable sector is larger than ever before and growing to take on more of the workload in trying to resolve global issues.

Despite these efforts, the problems with our current governance paradigm precludes humanity from reaching its potential. Global power and wealth are concentrated in the hands of a few while hundreds of millions of people suffer. The provision of basic necessities and healthcare is far from universal. Conflict, war and terrorism continue to plague us. Irreparable harm is being done to the planet and future generations are being compromised.

Our world is increasingly global but our governance systems are not. Our conversations are increasingly democratic via the internet but our governance systems are not. The current global governance model benefit a small minority of the people at the expense of the vast majority of the people and, at the expense of the planet which sustains us.

A New Approach

There are many government jurisdictions that have adopted innovative approaches to governance to better meet the needs of their citizens and address global societal issues, such as
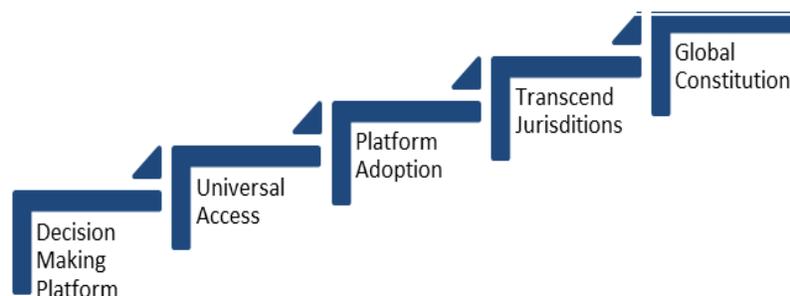
- finding ways to truly and democratically engage citizens in the decision making process.
- strategic performance management where a positive vision of the future is continuously pursued.
- embracing and celebrating diversity and ensuring that there are no barriers to participation in decision making and community life.
- balancing the impact of decisions on economic, social and ecological systems so that there is equity for all people and for the planet - Sustainability.

We can take a new approach to governance by leveraging technology to develop an internet based decision making platform, incorporating these innovative approaches to governance, to facilitate collaboration on the global scale that is required.

Global Governance Project

The Town of Stratford created the *One Governance Foundation* to build a better global governance system; a global governance system that leads to more democratic, sustainable, effective and efficient outcomes for humanity and for the planet. The *One Governance Foundation* is proposing a five step plan to develop a better global governance system and a better world. It is the *Global Governance Project*.

The proposed global governance system will be facilitated by a technology platform that will enable legislators and governments to consult broadly and meaningfully with citizens, employees, subject matter experts and interested persons to share information and decision making in each government jurisdiction; and allow information and decision making to be shared across jurisdictions where the issues transcend jurisdictions. What follows is the proposed five step plan.

Global
Constitution

Transcend
Jurisditions

Platform
Adoption

Universal
Access

Decision
Making
Platform

Step One – Decision Making Platform

We create an internet based decision making platform that will enable legislators and governments to have a continuous and meaningful dialogue with citizens, practitioners, experts and other stakeholders on all issues under consideration.

If one person makes a decision, it is informed by their experience and knowledge. If ten people share their knowledge and experience and collaborate on a decision, they will make a better, more informed decision. If one hundred people collaborate, the decision will be even better. If subject matter experts, practitioners and other stakeholders are included, the decision will be better again.

Having the best information is a prerequisite to making the best decision. It is now possible to share information, knowledge and ideas freely and widely through the internet, as Wikipedia and its relatives have demonstrated. The decision making platform will enable more citizens, subject matter experts, practitioners and other stakeholders to be involved in the democratic dialogue about issues.

Step Two - Universal Access

We provide universal access to the decision making platform including to those who cannot vote freely, those with no internet access, those with a disability or any other barrier to participation. Decisions are more equitable when all people and all perspectives are adequately represented in the process. The proposed global governance system will be designed to allow anyone who wants to participate in the governance process to do so. Barriers to participation will be identified and removed.

Universal access will allow us to share our information, knowledge and ideas freely. Shared knowledge will lead to shared understanding and the resolution of the conflict that often stems from the lack of knowledge, or ignorance.   Sharing our collective knowledge widely and freely will allow us to deploy it to the greatest advantage of the greatest number. To facilitate information sharing, we will find a way better way to compensate the originator/owner of an idea so that the reward is not more important than the application of the idea for the greater good.

> *Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.*
>
> Confucius

Step Three – Platform Adoption

We ask <u>all</u> legislators and governments to adopt the decision making platform to facilitate democratic decision making within their jurisdictions and to take back the authority they have ceded to the executive and the parties.

When legislators and governments use the decision making platform, their decisions will be informed by the information, knowledge and ideas that are shared by citizens, experts and other stakeholders. Legislators will be truly representing the people and making the best, most informed decisions on issues. Governments will be free to focus on the common good.

Using the decision making platform to inform government decisions will enable a collaborative, continuously improving governance model to emerge. It will end the continuous and inefficient re-invention of government every time a new team wins power. It will end the confrontational and un-collaborative political process. It will allow the short term problem solving, election cycle governance approach to be replaced with a long term, vision inspired governance approach. It will democratize and flatten government organizations and significantly reduce the large amount of resources that are currently dedicated to policy, management and communications.

The decision making platform will enable legislators to have a continuous, meaningful dialogue with citizens, experts, employees and other stakeholders and become the agents of democracy they were intended to be; and governance will be much more effective and efficient as a result.

Step Four – Transcend Jurisdictions

We link legislators and governments together across jurisdictions to facilitate shared decision making on issues that are regional or global in scope or impact.

Humanity is now impacting the planet's ecosystem, to the point where many scientists say that we are in a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene. For the first time in history, humanity can and does cause fundamental and potentially catastrophic changes to the planet's ecosystem on a scale that rivals the great forces of nature. Some of these changes may soon be irreversible.

We have altered the carbon cycle, we have altered the nitrogen cycle, we have acidified the oceans and we are wiping out species.   This is clearly not sustainable.

The level of cooperation that is required from 195 independent nations to successfully coordinate human global activity is elusive and difficult to achieve. Given the continuation of global conflict, poverty, The United Nations model has proven ineffective for resolving war, poverty and many other global issues.

Humanity is now impacting the planet's ecosystem, to the point where many scientists say that we are in a new geological epoch – the Anthropocene.

The answer is not to stop globalization which is not possible or desirable. The answer is a more effective mechanism to coordinate human activity on the scale that is required. This coordination will be achieved by linking legislators and governments together to coordinate decisions on regional and global issues. Decisions will be made based on the geography of the issues and not the geography of jurisdictions.

Our economic, communication and transportation networks are global but our governance is not.   The decision making platform will provide legislators and governments with an effective mechanism to coordinate decisions on regional and global issues. This will allow the full range and impact of cross jurisdictional, increasingly global issues to be considered leading to the best, most informed decisions.

Step Five – Global Constitution

We use the decision making platform to develop a global constitution. In constitutional democracies, the constitution sets out the basic rights of the citizens of the country. The quality of the constitution is a key determinant of the quality of life for citizens of the country.   All of the formal and informal governance systems in the country are subject to the constitution. It binds people through the rule of law, subject to appeal to an independent judiciary.

Constitutions, and in particular, the human rights and earth charters, are the legal mechanisms through which societies express their values; and guide their society towards the desired state. If one examined the constitutions in true constitutional democracies, one would find a lot of common ground.

Many government jurisdictions have already demonstrated that people from diverse backgrounds can agree on basic human values like respect for one another and for the planet.   Iceland demonstrated that it is possible to crowdsource a constitution. The Icelandic government did not adopt the constitution but a process was designed and a draft constitution was developed. We have the knowledge and technology to crowdsource a global constitution.

Legislators and Governments can use the decision making platform to develop a global constitution, with a human rights and earth charter, and the independent legal and law enforcement system that is required to uphold it. This would allow us to harmonize governance, economies, currencies, trade and migration.

If the people of the world were united under a global constitution, most of the conflict and competition that is caused by the myriad of different rules, or lack thereof, would be eliminated. Peace on earth, equity and a planet that can sustain future generations would be possible.

> A global constitution would bind all of the formal and informal governance systems in the world to it - one ethos to rule them all!

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Earth Charter provide a solid foundation upon which to build a new global constitution. A global constitution would bind all of the formal and informal governance systems in the world to it - one ethos to rule them all!

Decision Making Platform

The *One Governance Foundation* plans to incorporate the following elements into the design of the decision making platform to ensure that the outcome is more democratic, sustainable, effective and efficient. The design elements are based on best practices in governance. They will be improved when others add their information, knowledge and ideas to the design process.

Sustainability

To achieve sustainability, the full impact of decisions and actions must be considered in balance. We cannot continue to put one dimension of an issue, or a few dimensions of an issue, ahead of all others. This is a key failure of our current fractured and fractious global governance model – we continually elevate one ideology above others and make decisions that are biased towards that ideology.

This often results in harmful consequences in other areas. Decisions are best when their full impact is considered in balance.   If we consider all issues in this way, we will be governing ourselves more sustainably. The decision making platform will be designed to require the full impact of decisions to be identified and fairly considered to ensure global sustainability.

Inclusion

Ensuring that everyone can participate in the democratic process is a fundamental requirement for an effective democracy.   All barriers to participation must be identified and overcome to ensure that all voices can be heard and that there is no discrimination. Decisions are better and more accepted when citizens are given the opportunity to participate fully in the decision making process.

The full participation of citizens in the decision making process also leads to transparency which makes it more difficult for any person or organization to benefit unduly from decisions. The greater the participation of people in the decision making process, the greater the assurance that decisions favor the common good.

Civil Discourse

At its core, democracy is people working together to make decisions for the common good. Effective democratic governance requires civil discourse.

Criticism alone is detrimental to civil discourse. Criticism without forethought is often the fight or flight response - our base instinct reacting to our situation. Political and corporate attack ads are meant to appeal to our base instinct to motivate support for their brand. Anonymity allows individuals to criticize indiscriminately, which makes working together for the common good very difficult to achieve.

Constructive criticism, or criticism that is accompanied by new ideas or information, is beneficial to civil discourse. Offering new ideas and information means that we have thought about the issue, and have something positive to contribute to advance the conversation.

The decision making platform will be designed to entrench civil discourse in the collective decision making process by disallowing anonymity and criticism, unless it is accompanied by a positive suggestion or new information that will advance the conversation.

Equity

To ensure an equitable distribution of our limited resources, there must be complete transparency. This will make it very difficult for any one person or group to put their interest ahead of the collective best interest. The decision making platform will be designed so that all information and knowledge that is shared is accessible to any user – complete transparency.

To ensure equitable representation in the decision making process, all viewpoints must be fairly represented so that no demographic groups can impose their values by signing up more participants. The decision making platform will be designed so that each demographic group in each area of the world that participates in the decision making process will receive the same proportion of the vote that they represent, where consensus cannot be achieved and voting is required.

Effectiveness

Many organizations can attribute their success to strategic performance management, which is creating a vision of the desired future, developing and carrying out actions to make that future happen and measuring the results to determine if the desired outcome was achieved. It results in a continuous improvement process, a continuous march towards the desired future state. The decision making platform will be designed to incorporate strategic performance management principles into the decision making process.

Efficiency

Different governments make decisions all of the time, often about similar issues, sometimes even about the same issues, without consulting with one another, sharing information or collaborating on action. This is repeated all over the world and results is a complex web of operational practices and regulations and making resource use and deployment less efficient.

The decision making platform is designed to facilitate a wiki approach to governance to enable governments to improve decision making within their jurisdiction, and to share decision making on common or similar issues across jurisdictions. This will lead to the wide adoption of best practices in operations to maximize internal efficiency and the harmonization of regulations to maximize the efficient movement of people, goods and services among government jurisdictions.

In the end, we will have *one giant global best practice* for governance.

In summary, the proposed global governance system is designed to democratize, globalize and harmonize the decision making process and end the continuous churn of disparate and diffused decision making. It is designed to replace conflict with collaboration and lead to a global constitution and the universal application of the rule of law.

It is made possible by the knowledge and technology that we now have at our disposal to build the decision making platform. The proposed design of the decision making platform is based on best practices in governance. It is intended, not as a prescription, but as a starting point that will improve as others share their information, knowledge and ideas.

The Result

The purpose of the *One Governance Foundation* is to build a global governance system that leads to more democratic, sustainable, effective and efficient outcomes for humanity and for the planet. So how is the proposed global governance designed to deliver those outcomes?

Democratic

The decision making platform is designed to enable people to truly represent themselves in the democratic decision making process. The more that people participate in the decision making platform, the more informed that legislators will be. Legislators who use the decision making platform will be truly representing the people and making better, more informed decisions.

There are millions of people around the world who are engaged in the decision making process now. They are trying to create a better world but they are working in isolation. The decision making platform will allow them to coordinate and harmonize their efforts. Think of it as crowd sourcing the democratic decision making process. Complete transparency and civil discourse will help to ensure that the democratic dialogue is positive and productive.

The decision making platform will improve the democratic decision making process and enable people of all nationalities, cultures, races, and religions to share their common interests and joint efforts to make better the world a better place.

Sustainable

There are still billions of people in the world who are in need. There are also a few million people who have such an absurd share of the wealth that they have generated entire industries to satisfy their purchasing power. The gap between the rich and poor is wide and growing. This is the result of imbalanced decisions among economic, social, cultural and environmental systems.

Practitioners of sustainability subscribe to the notion that people must live in a way that meets their needs, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Practitioners of sustainability also subscribe to the notion that decisions and actions must be holistic and inclusive. The impact of decisions on natural, social, cultural and economic systems must be considered fully and in balance. The decision making platform will be designed so that the full impact of decisions is identified to ensure that decisions are sustainable.

Effective

The decision making platform will enable harmonized decision making through the sharing of information, knowledge and ideas leading to more effective decision making. The decision making platform will require the desired future to be defined and the desired outcome to be measured, to ensure the decision making process itself is effective. This strategic performance management approach is used by a great many successful individuals and organizations in both the private and public sector.

The global constitution will be the legal method through which we articulate our vision and basic human values and help to ensure that we achieve the desired future state.   Civil discourse and complete transparency will also help to ensure that effective decisions are made by ensuring that decision making process itself is equitable, positive and productive.

Efficient

Wikipedia and its relatives have successfully demonstrated the wiki approach for knowledge sharing. The decision making platform takes the approach one step further to shared decision making.   The decision making platform will enable governments to make the most efficient use of our precious time and resources through the wide adoption of best practices and harmonization of regulations leading to *one* giant global best practice and vastly improved efficiency.

In Summary

Governance is fundamentally the process of making collective decisions. Good governance can be broadly defined as making collective decisions that are in the best interest of all of the people and of the planet that sustains us. By this definition, the current global governance model is not working very well.   The world is an increasingly global community that requires a global approach to governance.

We have the means and the opportunity to create a new global governance model to address global societal issues and to overcome the problems with our current global governance model. The proposed global governance system is designed to do just that - a 21st century solution to 21st century problems!

The people of the world keep governing themselves in the same way hoping for a different outcome. Barack Obama thought that he could change the United States and the world when he was first elected on a message of hope and a promise of change. He found out that the current governance system does not allow even the President of the United States, the person that many believe to be the most powerful in the world, to make that kind of change.

> We are *one* people living together in *one* world and we need to speak with *one* voice.

In five steps we can return democracy to the people; restore honor and purpose to the role of the legislator; allow governments to focus on the common good; and create a mechanism to solve trans-jurisdictional, increasingly global issues. In five steps, we can eliminate discrimination, inequality, terrorism, war and the unsustainable assault on the planet. In five steps, we can save the millions of lives, trillions of dollars, and vast amounts of precious resources that are consumed by international conflict. In five steps we can build a better governance system and a better world.

The proposed global governance system is designed to enable legislators and governments to use the decision making platform to democratize decision making within their jurisdiction and to coordinate inter-jurisdictional activity. It is designed to create a common global narrative which is expressed through a global constitution, enforced by an independent judiciary and the rule of law.

We are *one* people living together in *one* world and we need to speak with *one* voice.

Call to Action

To achieve a better world we must build a better global governance system. That is the purpose of the *One Governance Foundation*.

Individuals everywhere are invited to help create the proposed governance system. The foundation needs people to:

- design, build and operate the decision making platform.
- participate in the issue discussions and share information, knowledge and ideas.
- persuade legislators and governments to adopt the decision making platform.
- act as moderators and rapporteurs for the issue discussions.
- link, translate and synthesize the issue discussions globally.
- operate and fund the foundation.

The development and implementation of the decision making platform is a very large undertaking. However, the resulting global governance system will, on an ongoing basis, take but a fraction of effort that is required for governance now.   Once we have a Global Constitution, associated laws and harmonized best practices, we will need only to change them when new information and ideas emerge. The tremendous effort and resources that are required to sustain our multi-national governance systems and the constant reinvention of the proverbial wheel will be a thing of the past.

Legislators and governments everywhere are invited to adopt the decision making platform to democratize governance in their jurisdiction and to facilitate shared decision making between legislators and governments across jurisdictions on regional and global issues.

Join the Global Governance Project and change the world!

Conclusion

The world is a global village and it needs a governance system that is global in scope to harness collective action for the greater good. The heart of the proposed global governance system is an internet based decision making platform that incorporates best practices in governance. The decision making platform will be owned and operated by the people of the world, represented by all that participate in the effort in some way.   Participants can and will improve the design of the decision making platform by sharing their information, knowledge and ideas.

It is actually possible to build a better world! The technology and knowledge exists to build the decision making platform. Let's leverage that technology and knowledge and join together on a project to guarantee our collective future.

Can you imagine a world where everyone's needs are met? Can you imagine a world where we don't tax the planet beyond its capability? Can you imagine a world where we distribute the fruits of our labour more equitably? Can you imagine a world where people are safe and healthy? These are the kind of things that inspirational leaders like Mahatma Ghandi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela were striving for. Unfortunately inspirational words alone cannot make their dreams come about. The world needs a better governance system, a mechanism to translate these dreams of a more peaceful and prosperous world into reality. The *Global Governance Project* is designed to help the people of the world to imagine and deliver just such a world!

The *Global Governance Project* will enable legislators, citizens, subject matter experts and other stakeholders to share information, knowledge and ideas leading to the best, most considered and informed decision about issues. It will allow people to focus on what unites them instead of what divides them. It will enable a meaningful global conversation about global societal issues, leading to efficient, effective and accepted solutions.   It will bring structure and meaning to the visionary sustainability mantra "*Think Globally, Act Locally*."

We can redirect the massive resources that are now spent on governance, war, trade and diplomacy. We can distribute the wealth more equitably so that everyone benefits from the prudent use of the earth's finite resources. People's basic needs can be met in a way that allows the planet to continue to provide for future generations. We just need to improve our governance.

> *"It always seems impossible until it's done"*
>
> Nelson Mandela

People around the world must stop hoping that someone will come along and change the world for the better. People have to assume that responsibility themselves. Help humanity to reach its highest potential - join the *Global Governance Project* and change the world!

one world, one people, one voice

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