



The WorldVoter

the newsletter of

Vote World Parliament

— democratic world parliament through a global referendum —

www.VoteWorldParliament.org

Vote World Parliament President is Jim Stark; Vice President is Ted Stalets

www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com

This site, above, is for the book *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

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(This issue and all previous issues are posted at www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com)

Quotes of the month

I have high hopes that the Vote World Parliament project [the global referendum] will harness the awesome power of the Internet to initiate a serious dialogue on the possibility of establishing an effective federal world government. James A. Yunker, *Political Globalization: A New Vision of Federal World Government*

The global referendum on democratic world government is a compelling mobilizing strategy to jumpstart a grassroots movement to usher in a just world order for the human polity and gaia. Saul Mendlovitz (editor), *On the Creation of a Just World Order: Preferred Worlds for the 1990s*

It is absolutely undeniable that ... some of [the UN's] most influential and powerful members do not buy, as applicable to them, the principles therein contained. In fact, they defend and apply the law of the jungle—might makes right.... The United Nations has not achieved the fundamental goals for which it was created.... If the United Nations is evaluated having those [goals] in mind, then ... it has failed.... I have come to the conclusion that the time has already passed for reforming or mending our organization [the UN]. What we need to do is reinvent it. Father Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, the former president (2008-2009) of the General Assembly of the United Nations

The hope that a radical transformation will occur in world politics lies in the entry onstage ... of a new political subject, the only political subject that possesses democratic legitimacy: the citizen.... Empowering the citizen of the world means to

build up at the global level those checks and balances that have nurtured the evolution of democracy. **Daniele Archibugi**, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens*, p. 284

News in brief

WATUN to mobilize its member organizations (MOs) for the global referendum on establishing a world parliament

A letter is to go out in a few days to all 27 member organizations of the World Alliance to Transform the UN (WATUN), asking them to take action according to the WATUN resolution of last December 2. Each organization will be asked to:

1. formally **endorse** the global referendum on a world parliament;
2. ask all staff, directors and members to **vote** at www.voteworldparliament.org;
3. recommend similar actions to other civil society organizations, and **collect referendum ballots** “however possible and as fast as possible”;

and,

4. give your formal support to the **draft UN resolution** for a formal global referendum on WP.

For the referendum campaign to go **viral**, it must reach and catch on outside the confines of the WP movement, of course, but it is surely up to the movement to ignite the fuse and get things rolling.

The letter to member organizations reads in part:

And if the universe unfolds as we hope it will, the member NGOs of WATUN will all do their part to see what we can do by way of giving birth to “**Big Mo**,” and our issue will emerge from virtual obscurity to public prominence in the next year or two. With any luck at all, a strong “**global mandate**” from the entire human race (or at least most of us) will be in our hands within a decade. Leverage of that magnitude has never existed before, and may well prove to be an **irresistible force for change**.

VWP becomes a “membership” organization

Vote World Parliament—formerly known as Vote World Government—has existed for more than five years, and there have been very few substantial donations of money. In fact it’s fair to say there have been very few donations, period. All our financial records are open to public scrutiny on the site at <http://voteworldparliament.org/about/finances/>. And the nearly \$8,000 we owe doesn’t even include any value for the **years** of labor that **Jim Stark**, **Earleen Devine** and **Ted Stalets** have put into the project. We have no choice

but to ask those who are receiving our newsletter to consider becoming “members.” So now there is a “**Become A Member**” button on our new site. Please use it, if you can.

A Christmas present for the ages

On Christmas day, 2009, we received an email from a **Pradeep Poonia**. His organization, **Manav Pragti Sansthan**, is in district Churu in the Rajasthan state of India, and he is associated with **Bhawani Kusum**, our “main man” in India and the country coordinator for Intersect Worldwide. Pradeep wrote to tell us that they had collected **4,000 votes**, and would be submitting them soon. Now there is a Christmas present to remember, even if it was not intended as a Christmas present! We are deeply grateful for your work, Pradeep, especially for the enthusiasm shown by the front line young people who went out into the villages and got the ballots. As **Confucius** said, “Even a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step.” It is a mantra here at VWP headquarters that collecting 2 billion “yes” votes (which is what we need to win the day) is **not a hard job ... just a big one**. Pradeep and his friends are taking a large step towards our goal, and the human race is in their debt for having genuine faith in the global referendum before most people have paid any attention to it. Bravo!

Voting “yes” or “no”

As votes start to arrive in larger and larger numbers from vote collectors, a new danger is found. To deal with it, here is a PS that I added to an email to one NGO leader:

PS I notice that every vote today was a “yes.” While that is indeed rather wonderful, I hope those who are asked to vote are assured that if they are inclined to vote “no,” that’s okay too. When our results start to command notice in the media and in political circles, we will be attacked vigorously by those who oppose us, and I want to be able to say that I encouraged all voters to express their own opinions when choosing between “yes” or “no,” and that I asked all vote collectors to make this abundantly clear to all prospective voters before they voted.

The point is, we had an “incident” in this regard once before, at City Montessori School in India, and we must be careful not to assume that anyone with any common sense will agree with us as to the desirability of creating a democratic world parliament.

Editorial, by Brian Coughlan

Linking up with the World Parliament Experiment

The **World Parliament Experiment** (<http://www.tgde.org>) is a novel and radical concept to bring online voting, on specific and detailed global issues, to the general public. It allows anyone to participate in a concrete way in the ongoing discussion about how our world should be governed. The site sprang from the imagination and determination of **Dr. Rasmus Tenbergen** (<http://www.rasmus-tenbergen.de/tenbergen/rtenglish.htm>), the Executive Director of the Institute for Leadership Development in Bonn, Germany.

After discussions with the **WPE**, they have agreed to table a resolution—which they are confident they can endorse—supporting Vote World Parliament’s efforts. The resolution

is already underway in the “future vote” (<http://www.tgde.org/showvote.phtml?id=930>) section of the site. The [WPE](#) is an open and collaborative endeavour which means that anyone can [register](#) (<http://www.tgde.org/register.phtml>), and begin to participate in the vote. To that end I would like to encourage everyone who receives the newsletter to pitch in and vote on our resolution! If you see anything else that interests you, feel free to express an opinion there too—the more, the merrier.

Please note that *two* votes are required for each [WPE](#) resolution. The first relates to moving a “future vote” to “current vote” status, and the second is to vote on the actual resolution itself once it has been accepted as a current vote. It’s important to do both, as the greater the number of votes at each stage, the greater the legitimacy a given resolution will ultimately have. The more computer savvy among you will be easily able to monitor this for yourselves.

Despite our very different approaches to global governance, [WPE](#) is a natural complement to [VWP](#) (<http://voteworldparliament.org/>). On our site you only really get to vote once, on theirs you can *create* a vote on whatever issue takes, tickles or inflames your fancy. So if you’ve made your voice heard on the referendum, and voting every few weeks is all you reasonably have time for, then [WPE](#) is an opportunity to renew your commitment to global governance at regular intervals, and on subjects that interest and concern you. Not that we want to undercut our own “brand” here; clearly, if you have the time to spare we could use your help at [VWP](#) as well!

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Brian Coughlan is the Liaison Officer of Vote World Parliament, an NGO dedicated to launching a global referendum on the creation of a democratic world parliament (see www.voteworldparliament.org or www.RescuePlanForPlanetEarth.com; 121 supporting authors list is at <http://voteworldparliament.org/allies-initiatives/authors-campaign/>)