



**Global  
Challenges  
Foundation**

# **Towards democratic global governance**

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The submission proposes the creation of the Global Wiki, a legislative body sharing features of Wikipedia and social media. The entire world population is encouraged to participate in a discussion regarding global problems. All potential solutions are debated and developed simultaneously. As certain solutions stand out through the reputation of their creator on the Global Wiki community they would be further developed by an increasingly stronger consensus. Implementation is in the hands of two executive bodies, the Permanent Council focusing on long term decisions, and the Crisis Council convening in an emergency. A Judicial council monitors the activities of all the other institutions. All participants are allocated a reputation score based on whether their contributions are representative, effective and relevant. The members of the executive and judicial branches are drawn by lot from the users with the highest reputation. The system is to be financed by a global tax on financial transactions.





# 1. Abstract

The proposed model of global governance is democratic in the original sense of the term: government by the people. Although its institutions are separated into the traditional structure of “legislative”, “executive” and “judicial” bodies, power is in fact concentrated in the legislative body. The executive and the judicial institutions do not have any real power, yet they bear great responsibility. The implementing agencies comprise the final element of this model. The activities of all these institutions are defined by a fundamental charter.

The legislative consists of an information platform that combines certain characteristics of Wikipedia and also of social networks. The entire population of the world is asked to participate. Any problems of global relevance are discussed in this arena, where the relevant solutions are also formulated. This platform will be known as the “Global Wiki” in this document.

In the traditional legislative process, a single solution is chosen very early in the process and is then formulated down to the very last detail by civil servants, supervised by the executive. It is then submitted for approval to the legislative body, which may propose amendments. Final approval by popular ballot is possible in some countries, but this is fairly rare.

Here, all potential solutions are debated and developed simultaneously by the entire population within the framework of the Global Wiki according to the interest generated by these solutions. As the process continues, certain solutions will stand out from others, thanks to their intrinsic qualities and the particular interest they have generated. These solutions will then be selected to be quickly developed in greater detail. If a solution attains a certain level of development and a consensus has been reached in its favour, it is passed on to the executive for effective implementation. If several possible solutions attain the required level of development simultaneously, then the discussion continues until a consensus has been reached for one of the solutions. This could be a combination of all the proposed solutions or a new solution may emerge that is judged as being even better than the previous ones. During the entire development process, care is taken to verify that the solutions under discussion are in accordance with the fundamental charter.

The solution is then passed on to the executive, which supervises and coordinates its application by the implementing agencies. The executive is made up of a “Permanent Council” and a “Crisis Council”. The Permanent Council is a permanent body and administers the application of the solutions generated by the Global Wiki in the medium and long term. The Crisis Council only meets in the case of an emergency and can decide on specific measures for the short and very short term. If these measures are not consistent with the solutions already being applied, they can only be applied for a limited period of time. The Permanent Council decides whether these solutions will be reapplied. A consensus reached via the Global Wiki will decide whether these solutions are to be continued.

The “Judicial Council” constitutes the judicial branch. It monitors the activities of all the other institutions and publicly announces any breach or contradiction with the fundamental charter or the solutions generated by the Global Wiki.



Any contradictions between the solutions generated by the Global Wiki and the fundamental charter not detected by internal verification are the remit of the Judicial Council.

In this model of governance, the transparent functioning of all the institutions is the essential ingredient for ensuring people's trust. For this purpose, all contributions, consultations and decisions produced by all the institutions are archived in perpetuity and are made available to the entire population for consultation without restriction or time limit.

The implementing agencies have the same role as the specialized agencies of the UN. These agencies are integrated unchanged into the new governance model. New agencies can be created according to need. The agencies define their model of governance, in accordance with their inherent functional constraints. Nevertheless, they are encouraged to evolve into models of governance that are similar to the global model. If certain agencies cannot ensure complete and immediate transparency for reasons connected to their functioning, they are required to take all steps necessary in order to establish this transparency within a reasonable time limit.

The fundamental charter that forms the basis of this model of governance is an extension of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Furthermore, the charter stipulates that the well-being of people and the protection of the environment take precedence over economic interests.

Every human being has the option of participating in the Global Wiki. Each participant is allocated a "reputation". This reputation is evaluated according to a range of criteria, such as whether contributions are representative, effective and relevant and whether they comply with the fundamental charter. This reputation is defined at global level; geographical criteria are not applied.

It is possible that the participation of some populations will be restricted by the governments of some states. States are only represented within this model of governance via the participation of their population in the Global Wiki, thus these governments relinquish direct influence at global level.

The members of the Permanent Council are drawn by lot from those Global Wiki participants whose reputation has reached a certain level. They hold office for one year. The members of the Crisis Council are chosen by lot for a one-year term of office from members leaving the Permanent Council. The members of the Judicial Council are drawn by lot for a one-year term of office from those Global Wiki participants whose reputation provides evidence of legal expertise.

– In order to guarantee the financial independence of this model of governance, the financing of the institutions and the implementing agencies is not dependant on state contributions. It will be funded by the collection of a tax on transactions in the global foreign exchange market.



## 2. Description of the model

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Systems of governance are the management tools of human societies in the same way a hammer is a construction tool or a car is a mobility tool. It is advisable here to consider two types of governance: the internal governance of a society and the external governance of relations between societies.

Each era establishes appropriate tools of governance given the technology available and the size of the groups living within the society. From the dawn of time to the era of the hunter-gatherer, the governance of the societies of our ancestors was completely determined by behaviours resulting from genetic evolution and carried out in family groups, largely organized in a hierarchical manner. In human terms, the maximum size of these societies could not exceed one hundred people. If the groups grew larger, they broke down into splinter groups whose relations were largely conflictive, alternating between the beginnings of trade and early guerrilla warfare.

The invention of agriculture led to the establishment of communities made up of a much greater number of people, yet still restricted by the threshold of biological limits. Therefore the first tools of governance had to be invented in order to attain a certain level of stability in these societies once they had grown beyond this limited size. Two distinct approaches developed with regard to internal governance: one aimed to allocate communal resources and decision-making power equitably, the other, in contrast, aimed to concentrate resources and power in the hands of a minority. These two approaches have continued to the present day, although non-egalitarian societies have been the most prevalent. Thus kingdoms developed, then greater and greater empires, until planetary limits were ultimately reached. During this growth period, lower levels of governance were maintained at local and regional level.

Appropriate tools were also required for external governance. Thus it became necessary to organize the growing sector of trade while also regulating armed conflicts, if these could not be prevented. It was also during this distant time that diplomacy and embassies came into being, concepts that have basically not evolved any further up to the present day.

Throughout the course of history, inventions like writing and printing and the establishment of universal education generated a growing demand for democracy, at times successfully. Nevertheless, the tools used in Western democracies were developed in the 18th century and are not appropriate for the technology of today. The time has come for a new form of governance, building upon, for example, the global information network, big data and deep learning.

Globalization and the emergence of great environmental challenges have created the need for internal global governance. Moreover, 20th-century attempts at governance, like the League of Nations and the United Nations, have not evolved beyond the historical concept of diplomacy between nation-states. The model of governance described below is an attempt to break out of the current impasse.



## **CORE CONCEPTS**

In order to avoid the problems that confront current systems of governance, the proposed model is guided by certain fundamental concepts.

The model is conceived in such a way that it prevents the development of a political elite that aims only to maintain its own power. The creation of autocratic and bureaucratic regimes or of economic oligarchies would also be impossible. The entire process of researching and formulating solutions, as well as the decision-making process, encourages the free participation of the world's population. No entity, state or otherwise, has the right of veto. If the aim is to reach the greatest possible consensus, it is unacceptable that any one minority can block the implementation of a solution. If a solution has been found and accepted to resolve a specific problem, yet is not subject to binding clauses, it can be immediately implemented by the parties involved, even if the agreement has not been ratified by a majority of stakeholders. The financing of the institutions of governance, as well as the implementing agencies, is not dependant on states. The financing is funded by a tax raised on all global foreign exchange market transactions. The Universal Declaration of Humans Rights must be supplemented by the clarification that the well-being of people and the protection of the environment take precedence over economic interests. The declaration must be transformed into a fundamental charter and all decisions must comply with it. If complete transparency is not an option, it must nevertheless be maximized where it cannot be total. All consultations, decisions and implementations are the subject of public traceability; as far as possible, this should be total and continuous. Exceptions are only accepted for certain implementing agencies, and, if specific conditions make it impossible to proceed differently. These exceptions cannot under any circumstance be made permanent and every effort must be made to address this within a reasonable period of time.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE INSTITUTIONS**

This model utilizes the same paradigm as most modern states: legislative, executive and judicial. Nevertheless, and unlike current practice, "power" is concentrated in the legislative body; the role of the executive is limited to everyday logistical administration.

The legislative body consists of a participatory platform called the Global Wiki, and is open to everyone in the world. The purpose of the platform is to promote the discussion of global problems, propose and develop solutions and gradually select the most consensual solutions. Once a consensual solution – even an imperfect one – stands out from any rival solutions, it is passed on the executive institution for implementation.

The executive is composed of two entities working jointly: the Permanent Council and the Crisis Council.

The Permanent Council supervises and directs the implementation of all solutions by the implementing agencies over the medium and long term.

The Crisis Council deals with all urgent problems that cannot be solved by the legislative body due to its inherent inertia. The Crisis Council can select solutions that have not been generated by the legislative body as long as they do not contradict the fundamental charter or the solutions generated by the Global Wiki. The Crisis Council can order the implementing agencies to take immediate action.



The judiciary is comprised of the Judicial Council, which is responsible for guaranteeing that internal rules and the principle of non-intervention are respected in local affairs.

It is helpful here to clarify that responsibility, rather than power, is delegated to the Permanent, Crisis and Judicial Councils. These have been allocated the responsibility by the people for monitoring and supervising implementation of the decisions generated by the Global Wiki.

The implementing agencies apply the solutions generated by the three powers using the model adopted by the specialized agencies of the UN. If relevant and useful, most of the existing agencies will simply be integrated into the new model of governance. Other agencies can be created according to need.

Notably, an agency must be created that administers the IT infrastructure of the Global Wiki.

A further agency to be created is the “Department of Finance”. Its role is to collect a tax on international payment transactions and to allocate the sums raised to other implementing agencies, according to the decisions taken by the Permanent, Crisis and Judicial Councils. It does not have decision-making power with regard to the allocation of the funds raised.

This model of governance does not include security forces like the “Blue Helmets”. The actions of the latter have never resolved armed conflicts; at best, they have managed to contain specific conflict situations. Nevertheless, this option has not been excluded. If the need for such security forces should emerge from the Global Wiki, they could be established.

### **IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**

The implementing agencies will take over the current role of the specialized agencies of the UN. Most of the latter will be reintegrated unchanged and will continue their activities with no major modifications. Others, whose usefulness is debatable, could be decommissioned, while other new agencies will be created according to need.

The implementing agencies operate under the supervision and authority of the Permanent, Crisis and Judicial Councils. While their own internal governance is defined according to requirements related to their field of expertise, they are encouraged to evolve towards the model of governance proposed here.

Of the new agencies that must be created, two will play a crucial role and will not have the option of redefining their own model of governance:

The Department of Finance is the agency with the function of levying a tax on the global foreign exchange market and allocating the sums raised to other implementing agencies, according to the decisions taken by the Permanent, Crisis and Judicial Councils. It does not have decision-making power with regard to the allocation of the funds raised. “Global Wiki Support” is responsible for the development and maintenance of the hardware and software infrastructure of the Global Wiki. This agency also has the role of making available, to any person requiring this, the source code and data required to facilitate the effective functioning of the participatory platform.



Total transparency is essential for establishing and ensuring people's trust with regard to the work of these two agencies.

### **FUNCTION OF THE GLOBAL WIKI**

The participatory platform, known as the Global Wiki, is inspired by social networks that facilitate communication for users and by Wikipedia for its collaborative and transparent operating model.

As is the case with all social networks, the platform will be moderated. This moderation manages any "trolls" by influencing their reputation, while still ensuring the inalienable right to participate in discussions.

The Global Wiki will allocate a reputation to each participant. This reputation is evaluated according to a range of criteria, such as whether contributions are representative, effective and relevant and whether they comply with the fundamental charter. This reputation is created at global level and geographical criteria are not applied.

Given that the number of contributions will be enormous, the Global Wiki will also include a tool that reviews contributions so that key concepts can be extracted from the mass of contributions and reintroduced into the system and then discussed in greater depth and by more participants.

These ideas are classified into categories with attributes like social, environmental or other acceptability, feasibility of implementation, originality, cost of implementation, compliance with the fundamental charter, etc.

The aim is that the key concepts that emerge will gradually become projects that could be implemented by one of the existing implementing agencies; if an appropriate agency does not exist, a new one would be created.

Clearly, this platform must be managed with complete transparency (as is the case with all the other governance institutions) in order to ensure the effective functioning of the moderation tool and the idea review tool. The management structure could be similar to the current operations of Wikipedia.

Every inhabitant of our planet would have the right to participate in the formulation of solutions and the decision-making process via the Global Wiki. As a consequence, it would represent its own interests: those it shares with public opinion as well those of its nation.

If, for reasons linked to the internal governance of a nation, its inhabitants are not permitted to participate in the Global Wiki, this nation would forfeit some of its influence upon the respective institutions.

Everyone will receive login access to the system for the development of solutions. This login will guarantee the authenticity of participants by preventing identity theft or the creation of multiple identities by one individual. The issue of anonymity is still to be clarified: this would certainly provide protection against any machinations by local powers that do not respect human rights but, equally, makes it much more difficult to ensure the effective functioning of the Global Wiki.





## **APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE AND THE TERM OF OFFICE**

The members of the Permanent Council are drawn by lot from those Global Wiki participants whose reputation has attained a certain level. Those participants who do not wish to participate in the Councils can waive their right to do so. There is no minimum or maximum age limit for participation in this process. If a person is especially advanced for their age and their reputation is good enough, they will not be excluded simply because they have not reached an arbitrarily fixed age. The term of office is one year and cannot be extended.

The members of the Crisis Council are drawn by lot from the members of the Permanent Council just before the latter are reappointed. The term of office is also one year and cannot be extended.

The members of the Judicial Council will also be drawn by lot from the Global Wiki participants, and are selected initially because their reputation provides evidence of legal competence. The term of office is also one year and cannot be extended.

Selection by lot at global level will, by default, lead to a geographical distribution that is not representative of the current global population. With the goal of ameliorating this negative result, the world will be divided into cells that each contain approximately the same number of inhabitants. One person will be drawn by lot from each cell. In order to ensure that this segmentation does not lead to yet another type of geographical identification, the cells will be randomly recalculated every year by moving the centre of the new cells to the borders between the cells of the preceding year.

The size of a cell is calculated by the number of people it contains and by the number of members of the Permanent Council. Given a global population of 10 billion people and the number of members of the Council being set at 100, each cell would contain 10 million people. If the Council consists of 500 members, the cells will thus comprise 2 million people, and so on. In the case of the Judicial Council, the world will also be divided into cells. This will be defined in the same way as Permanent Council, that is, according to the number of members.

In the case of the Crisis Council, the lots will be drawn, independent of any geographical criteria, from the members of the Permanent Council of the preceding year.

## **PROTECTION OF THE PRIVATE SPHERE**

A dilemma exists between the need to respect the private sphere and the need for transparency.

On the one hand, respect for private life is valued very highly in today's society. It represents a fundamental protection against intrusions from the "powers-that-be" into the lives of individuals, particularly in non-democratic states. The anonymity of participants in the participatory platform is therefore essential.

On the other hand, in an ideal scenario, individuals could express themselves freely and transparently in order to minimize the risk of bias or the manipulation of discussions. Thus a mechanism would need to be set up that guarantees the anonymity of individuals and ensures that no one individual can participate via several different identities.





However, it has not yet been ascertained whether it is actually feasible to simultaneously guarantee both anonymity and the transparent authentication of contributions. It is reasonable to presume that this will not be feasible.

In this case, it will be necessary to relinquish one of these two requirements, if only partially. But which one?

Sacrificing the requirement for transparency in order to respect the private sphere questions the very foundations upon which this model of governance is built. This would open the door to all the usual abuses of the current systems of governance, by permitting actors to hide behind the protection of the private sphere to conceal their questionable and unacceptable behaviour.

The lack of anonymity for participants runs the risk of dissuading many people from taking part in discussions on the platform and from expressing themselves with the necessary candour. Initially, this appears rather unfortunate, but we should not overlook the potential resulting benefits. In fact, if participation is reduced in those countries that do not respect the freedom of expression of the individual, these countries will experience a proportional reduction in their representation. Therefore, respect for fundamental freedoms will be encouraged.

#### **MECHANISM FOR REVIEWING CONTRIBUTIONS**

By hypothesizing that each participant will make an average of one contribution every day and that 10% of the global population will actively participate in the platform, a total of 1 billion contributions would be submitted to the platform every day. At this level, it would be unrealistic to try and manually sort and classify such an incredible number of contributions, while expecting significant ideas to emerge.

It is essential that this processing is carried out using specialized tools that utilize the latest cutting-edge technologies. In today's world, we will probably draw on big data and its associated algorithms as well as the deep learning systems of artificial neural networks.

Of course, such tools must be designed and used with the highest possible level of transparency. Likewise, the software and datasets utilized for learning must be available as open source material for all persons wishing to monitor its effective operation.

#### **FINANCING**

The global foreign exchange market generated the sum of around USD  $5.1 \times 10^{12}$  per day in 2016 [1], which is around USD 2 million billion per year. Levying a charge of 0.005% would be enough to produce the sum of USD 100 billion per year. This would form the core funding for global governance and the implementing agencies. This extremely low percentage would have practically no influence on the total sum of the conducted transactions.

It is obvious that the figures mentioned here are only examples and that the actual rate would need to be set to meet real needs.



## **FUNDAMENTAL CHARTER**

This model of global governance is based on the following fundamental principle: the well-being of people and the protection of the environment take precedence over economic interests. This principle is of such vital importance it has been elevated to the status of dogma: it cannot be called into question, unless by a consensus of more than 90% of all the people subscribing to the Global Wiki.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights must be extended to become a fundamental charter; all decisions must comply with this charter.

The charter can be amended by the Permanent Council (with the exception of the above-named principle). These amendments result from the proposals generated by the Global Wiki if the participants have reached a consensus.

## **3. Motivation**

### **A) CORE VALUES**

These values are part of the fundamental charter. They are an extension of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all decisions taken by the institutions must comply with them. As the entire legislative and executive process must be administered by all people and no power is delegated to a minority, it is reasonable to hope that the decisions made would be guided by the goal of goodwill for all humanity and by respect for the equal worth of all human beings.

### **B) DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY**

The right of veto is not only excluded, it is conceptually impossible in this model. The experience of the Security Council of the United Nations is the perfect example of how the capacity to obstruct is inherent in the right of veto. The Crisis Council has the option of taking urgent decisions without being required to seek the approval of the other institutions. Nevertheless, it is imperative that these decisions comply with the charter and that they have only provisional validity. It is not possible to extend such measures without the consensual approval of the other institutions. It is the task of such institutions to discuss without delay the adequacy and future relevance of any decisions made by the Crisis Council. The Judicial Council can oppose the decisions of the Crisis Council but without suspensory effect. If there is opposition, it is the Permanent Council that annuls or modifies the decisions of the Crisis Council and this must occur within a reasonable time period.

### **C) EFFECTIVENESS**

The implementing bodies are required to act according to the decisions made by the institutions (Permanent Council, Crisis Council, and Judicial Council). However, they may not contravene the charter or other legislation. They must also attain the agreement of governments (and, in the case of conflict, potentially all the involved parties) of the territories in which they take action. This effectively gives the right of veto to governments on their own territory but not on the territories of other nation-states. The institutions and implementing bodies are funded by a levy on international payment transactions and are thus not dependant on the goodwill of national governments.

### **D) RESOURCES AND FINANCING**



The financing of the institutions and the implementing bodies is covered by a levy on international payment transactions and is thus not dependant on the goodwill of national governments. The collection of the levy and its redistribution to institutions and implementing bodies will be the responsibility of the Department of Finance. This will not have decision-making power and may only carry out decisions made by the institutions. It administers emergency reserves. The Permanent Council will allocate the regular budget of the bodies. The Crisis Council may allocate extraordinary funds in order to enable the implementation of decisions. The Judicial Council monitors the distribution of resources to ensure they are fair.

#### **E) TRUST AND INSIGHT**

Maximum transparency – if total transparency is not possible – is the foundation of the structure of the institutions. These bodies, since they may already exist, may enjoy a certain autonomy in their organization due to the specific nature of their roles and objectives and may have reduced transparency, which thus has a negative effect on people's trust. However, these bodies are encouraged to reorganize in such a way that they offer greater transparency.

#### **F) FLEXIBILITY**

The charter and the structure of the institutions may be amended by the emergence of a consensus from the Global Wiki and the Permanent Council. However the fundamental principles of the transparency of institutions and the precedence of the well-being of people and the environment over economic interests are of such vital significance they have been elevated to the status of dogma: they may only be called into question if a consensus demanding this is supported by more than 90% of all the participants subscribed.

#### **G) PROTECTION AGAINST THE ABUSE OF POWER**

As the terms of office of the members of the institutions are limited, non-renewable and drawn by lot, concentration of power is basically impossible. Nevertheless the abuse of power could still occur. The detection and censure of any abuse of power within the institutions is the main task of the Judicial Council. Yet the Judicial Council itself is not free from the risk of the abuse of power. The transparency intrinsic in the model of governance enables every participant to detect any abuse of power and to report and censure this via the Global-Wiki. This is the best means of protection against the abuse of power, except obviously, when a consensus develops that supports the abuse of power in question.

#### **H) ACCOUNTABILITY**

The fact that the members of the institutions are drawn by lot from those Global Wiki participants who have the best reputation strongly limits, without excluding this entirely, the risks of incompetence, cronyism, malice and systematic opposition to any solutions proposed.

The members of the institutions do not enjoy any legal immunity during their term of office. As the term of office is very restricted, there is basically no point in resorting to litigation with regard to a member so as to prevent them fulfilling their term of office.



If, while exercising these functions however, a member proves to be utterly incompetent, has made multiple attempts to abuse their power or disrupted in other ways the effective functioning of the institutions, this person may be removed from office by a majority decision of the Permanent Council as well as by a consensus of the same opinion, generated by the Global Wiki.

## References

- <http://www.bis.org/publ/rpfx16.htm>