



Vote World Parliament

— world democracy through a global referendum —

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STUDENT PEACE REFERENDUM

by Jim Stark, founder of the NGO Vote World Parliament and author of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*
(soon to be re-released under the new title, *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*)

This is a short document. To read the student referendum long document online, [CLICK HERE](#)

We ask you to achieve a high school referendum using the VWP ballot (below), and if successful, invite a few other schools to join in with guidance from the organizers in the prior school, and so on.

**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative,
transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized
to legislate on global issues?**

YES

NO

Steps to follow, positions to take:

- 1 Get the name of a local high school principal where there are a significant number of students who are 16 years of age or older.
- 2 Set up a meeting with him or her, making clear that the principal is free to invite a teacher to participate, and/or a student (perhaps the students' council president if there is one).
- 3 At that meeting, explain that our plan is to get young people to make a key decision on the future of their world; specifically, on whether they would like to see the creation of a directly elected, democratic world parliament to legislate (make laws) on global issues.

4 Make it clear that this program is not tied to any political ideology or religious belief, and in fact is not political at all in the partisan sense of the word. In short, VWP is not left wing, right wing, centrist, Christian, Muslim, atheist, or anything else along these lines.

5 If the VWP proposition fails among students, it will be an early indication that perhaps the human race is not ready to move beyond war and create world law at the global level as we have already done successfully on the national, provincial and municipal levels.

6 If the VWP ballot succeeds among students at your chosen school, this will serve as a springboard for relevant discussion of global issues among the youth of your area, both in class and outside of class. And it will further serve as a platform from which to involve a couple of other schools in the same general geographic area.

7 Make it clear that if the administration allows us to proceed, the students at the centre of the planning committee will welcome a faculty advisor to assist or oversee the process. If the school administration says “no” to this plan, we will respect that decision, although we reserve the right to proceed with the global referendum in other ways.

8 In the absence of administration permission, and even in a situation where the school’s students’ council does not endorse the VWP plan, there is nothing stopping a group of supportive students from standing on any public property and collecting ballots (just off of school property, or any other space that is “public”) before school begins, during the lunch break and/or after school. If this is the only way a student referendum can be done, bear in mind that the refusal of permission (by the school administration, faculty or even students’ council) will motivate some students to assist us using this last ditch strategy to accomplish an “end run” around the authority that sought to stop this “movement.” And there is of course the option for students to use their own computers to vote online at the VWP web site (www.voteworldparliament.org ... the online referendum currently has in excess of 22,000 votes, of which more than 95% are “yes” votes). However the collection of votes is done, after the deadline, the votes have to be input onto the VWP site, and the final numbers and percentages should be announced to the school and to the local media.

9 Once you have a student or a group of students ready to launch the project, be prepared to assist them with logistics. Print up hundreds of ballots from the attached document. We have set it up as four short ballots per page, so that the cost per ballot is negligible. You’ll have to cut each printed page into four. Set the voting period at one week, or maybe two weeks, so that you (and we) can declare the proposition a winner or a loser, and continue the effort elsewhere.

10 All voters must be 16 years old or older, and no donations can be accepted by a vote collector from any voter.

11 Explain to anyone who dismisses our approach to world peace that we believe and intend to prove that a global mandate exists for the creation of such a democratic world parliament. And if that mandate is 67% “yes” or higher, and encompasses at least half of the adults in the world, most people would consider such a result to be legally binding

under international law ... and politically compelling even if it is not generally accepted as legally binding under international law.

12 Direct anyone interested (even if they don't vote right away or at all) to our web site (<https://voteworldparliament.org/>), and be sure to mention that the book on this initiative (*Rescue Plan for Planet Earth: Democratic World Government through a Global Referendum*) is now a free download on our site, and that a longer paper on the student campaign is at <https://voteworldparliament.org/pdf/studentreferendumprogramhowto.pdf>.

13 While we are *for* democratic world government, it is best to emphasize that primarily, we seek to establish a world parliament, the “missing ingredient.” Here is the argument as we frame it. You are encouraged to take the same or a similar position, and bear in mind that a parliament is one part of an overall governing institution, the part which, more than any other, makes the governing institution accountable to the people and democratic:

WE HAVE WORLD GOVERNMENT NOW, BUT NOT WORLD DEMOCRACY

One basic fact must be acknowledged. *We have world government now*, even though most people have no idea that this is so! The fragmented world government that exists now consists of the UN General Assembly, the UN Security Council, UN agencies such as the World Food Programme (or WFP, which accounts for more than 90% of the UN's spending), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Bretton Woods financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank, and, more recently the World Trade Organization (WTO), the (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and in recent decades, the G8 and G20. And not to be ignored are the privatized efforts such as the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland and the Bilderberg Club. And we must add to this mix the U.S. government, which frequently behaves as if it were the government *and* the policeman of the world. So, we do have a rather chaotic form of world government already, but we do not have *accountable* world government, meaning *we do not have world democracy*, and that fact is profoundly disturbing because democracy is, in all probability, the only ideology that can navigate humanity safely through the next million years.

14 Explain that VWP ultimately seeks a UN resolution (see <http://tinyurl.com/3sjb53w>) which calls for the conduct of the global referendum nation by nation, in tandem with national elections, and using national assets like official voting lists to make sure no one votes more than once. (If Canada, for instance, decides to do the Canadian “component” of the global referendum in conjunction with the next national election, scheduled for 2014, all votes cast by Canadians *prior* to that national event would be deleted from the online tally. We, the people, can actually finish collecting the global mandate without any help from nation-states or the UN, but their assistance would be warmly welcomed, and this would obviously be the most efficient way to proceed.

15 The one somewhat credible objection to the creation of a democratic world parliament is that it (or any other world governing body) would morph into “world tyranny” at some point in the future. By way of rebuttal, no one knows that for sure and there are ways that we can use to prevent such a terrible development. The only reliable antidote for political corruption is transparency, and the way to implement a *zero tolerance* policy for political corruption in the democratic world parliament is to have a regime of *total transparency*. It isn't a difficult thing to do, and it should work forever. (See Chapter 5 of *Rescue Plan* for more on this.)

16 Explain that VWP has been preparing for this day for **eight years**, and that almost all of the issues have been resolved. The most important issue is the wording of the ballot—the “question” or “proposition,” as it is called (see below). It is hard to believe how much work is represented in those 22 words. Bottom line—you **cannot change the wording of the ballot under any circumstances**. It says *precisely* what it must say, and it can be *fully defended*. Now all we need is a couple of billion “yes” votes.

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES

NO

NOTE: Please inform us if you represent a new school that is now committed to carrying this plan forward.

Printable short ballots (4-up)

Separate 4 ballots with scissors, collect votes (minimum voter age 16), go to www.voteworldparliament.org and transfer data from one paper ballot to an active digital ballot, click "Submit Vote," and continue on.

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized to legislate on global issues?

YES NO

First name

Family name

Country

Date of birth (or age)

**Printable long ballot
for the global referendum on a democratic world parliament**

**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative,
transparent and democratic world parliament that is authorized
to legislate on global issues?**

YES **NO**

Only your **first name**, your **country**, the **date your vote was cast**, and **how you voted** will be posted on the Internet at <https://voteworldparliament.org/vote-now/public-record/>, but do we ask for the additional information to protect the integrity of the voting process. Please fill in the boxes below.

Given name (no nicknames please)	required
Family name (surname)	required
Street address	<u>not</u> required
City or town	<u>not</u> required
State or Province	<u>not</u> required
Postal or Zip Code	<u>not</u> required
Country	required
Date of Birth or Age (must be 16+ to vote)	required
Email address (yours or a contact)	<u>not</u> required

PLEASE NOTE: This printed ballot will be submitted by way of the Internet by one of our volunteers. Your vote will be assigned a number as its ID, and this ID will be posted on the Internet with your vote as soon as we have your vote. If you want to know this ID number to show to a family member later, for instance, or just for your records, ask our volunteer for it, and he or she will look it up and give it to you. (Since these ID numbers are assigned to ballots in the order that ballots are received, the ID number of your vote is also *approximately* the number of people who voted before you.)

You can vote online if you prefer. To vote online, go to <https://voteworldparliament.org/>

QUOTES

If you have a speech to make, a class to give, a paper to hand in or just a general wish to find authoritative people who support the overall and particular goals of the Vote World Parliament initiative, here are a few quotes that should help out (we have hundreds more, should you need them).

* * *

I loved your book.... I think you have a brilliant idea that bypasses governments and puts the power in the hands of ordinary people. I was particularly impressed with the way you addressed the questions that arise in the mind of the reader. **Mary-Wynne Ashford**, MD, PhD, co-author (with Guy Dauncey) of *Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions to Violence, Terror and War*

There is no salvation for civilization, or even the human race, other than the creation of a world government. **Albert Einstein**

The idea of a global vote is a powerful one and Jim Stark needs to be commended for putting all the arguments together and presenting them with clarity, logic and passion.... I think the steady development of such a worldwide appeal has the potential to be one of the great forces leading the world in the direction of DWG [democratic world government]. From a review of *Rescue Plan* by **Lyndon Storey**, author of *Humanity or Sovereignty: A Political Roadmap for the 21st Century*

We need to promote the democratization of globalization before globalization destroys the foundations of national and international democracy. **Boutros Boutros-Ghali**, former Secretary-General of the United Nations.

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 common good of all nations involves problems which affect people all the world over: problems which can only be solved by a public authority ... whose writ covers the entire globe. We cannot therefore escape the conclusion that the moral order itself demands the establishment of some sort of world government. **Pope John XXIII** in *Pacem in Terris*

As scientists, we understand the dangers of nuclear weapons and their devastating effects, and we are learning how human activities and technologies are affecting climate systems in ways that may forever change life on Earth. As citizens of the world, we have a duty to alert the public to the unnecessary risks that we live with every day, and to the perils we foresee if governments and societies do not take

action now to render nuclear weapons obsolete and to prevent further climate change. **Stephen Hawking**, author and cosmologist, in a news conference January 17, 2007, organized by the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists

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*

The international community should support a system of laws to regularize international relations and maintain the peace in the same manner that law governs national order. **Pope John Paul II** said essentially the same thing, as follows:

Mark my words ... the only problem which deserves the devotion of contemporary man, the problem to which I myself am determined to devote the rest of my life, up to my very last day ... is, very simply, the survival of the species. It is a question of knowing whether mankind ... will disappear by its own hand, or whether it will continue to exist. **Albert Einstein** (circa 1947)

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

I have worked all my life to get a democratic world government, but obviously we don't have one yet. Too many of us did too little to save the world. Now I am dying. My dying wish is that you get off your butt and give this global referendum plan a chance to work." The late **Ross Smyth**, a former national president, World Federalist Movement—Canada; Board Member of VWP; author, *One World or None*

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*

Leaders are indispensable, but to produce major social change many ordinary people must also be involved. **Anne Firor Scott** (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

This [global referendum] initiative is vital to the very future of humanity. People everywhere must understand the necessity of democratic world government for the survival and flourishing of life on the Earth. Vote World Government brings our one real option for a decent world order to the attention of humanity. God bless this movement. **Glen T. Martin**, author of *Ascent to Freedom: Practical and Philosophical Foundations of Democratic World Law*

The mandate from a successful global referendum on establishing a world parliament would be the first legitimate expression of the people's world sovereignty to make world law. World law will be at a higher level than what we know as international law, and what we are really doing with the global referendum is embryonic world law. **Francisco Plancarte**, President of the Mexican NGO Planetafilia and a member of the Inter-American Bar Association. (Washington D.C.)

Referendums are a substantial part of the transformation of a delegative democracy into a participative one. Using them at the global scale in order to democratize the international political order constitutes an extraordinary way of appealing for a world democracy through worldwide democratic tools. **Fernando Iglesias**, author of *Globalizar la Democracia: Por un Parlamento Mundial (Globalizing Democracy: Appeal for a World Parliament)*

The future depends on what we do in the present. **Mahatma Gandhi** (From the November 2009 newsletter of Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota)

I would be proud and honoured to be a part of the group advocating a global referendum on democratic world government. Your proposal sounds practical, and I hope with all my will that it becomes a reality. **Kai Nielsen**, author of *Globalization and Justice*

Problems such as global warming and nuclear weapons make it clear that the global community needs a functioning democratic government. We need a global constitution, an elected global parliament that can make global laws, a global judicial system that can determine which individuals are guilty of breaking those laws and a global police force and prison system that can apprehend and punish those individual criminals rather than trying to punish whole nation-states. The global referendum gives individuals the opportunity to register their views on this important but generally-neglected issue. **Ronald J. Glossop**, author of *Confronting War: An Examination of Humanity's Most Pressing Problem*

Jim Stark's *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* is a triumph. It belongs in a class with Thomas Paine's "Common Sense." **John Kintree**, St. Louis Public Library

Our greatest responsibility is to be good ancestors. **Jonas Salk**

If given a choice between what we have now—a hodgepodge of uncoordinated, contested, non-representative, under-resourced international organizations and

institutions of “global governance”—and what we could have—a democratic world “government”—I am convinced that the vast majority of humanity would choose the latter. The problem has been that this choice has not been available ... until now. The global referendum on democratic world government offers a means for humanity to make such a choice. **James P. Muldoon Jr.**, *The Architecture of Global Governance: An Introduction to the Study of International Organizations*

If we cast our minds ahead into the future, and ponder our past history, it becomes totally obvious that a civilized planet like ours must have a democratic world government. Future generations will be surprised that it took us so long. **Guy Dauncey**, *Stormy Weather: 101 Solutions to Global Climate Change*

We will, I believe, come together in a global community. The members of that enlightened community will recognize that we are made in the image of our environment; i.e., that we are divine and that we have to operate, not in a survival of the fittest manner, but in a way that supports everyone and everything on this planet. **Bruce Lipton**, *The Biology of Belief*

The continued reliance on purely national forms of democracy has become radically insufficient in a global age. It is no longer a question of whether democracy should define the contemporary world, but of which type of democracy we should wish and indeed hope to have. **Patrick Hayden**, *Cosmopolitan Global Politics*

The most important decisions have migrated away from institutions under citizens’ control and towards international power centres free from any form of democratic supervision. Globalisation thus brings about the crisis of democracy. How long can democracy last in a world where citizens are excluded from participating in decisions which determine their destiny? Globalisation must be democratised before it destroys democracy. **Lucio Levi**, *Crisi dello Stato e governo del mondo (Crisis of the state and world government)*

History has given our generation an enormous responsibility and two daunting tasks: If civilization is to survive, we must not only stabilize global population, but also, even more importantly, we must eliminate the institution of war. **John Avery**, “Against the Institution of War” (article)

You are leading the way, brother. Somehow, some way, this species needs to embrace your leadership or, eventually, cockroaches will be running the whole gig. Bless you for your vision. **Jim Kanady**, author of *Capital Offenses* and *A Different Winter*

I am really impressed by the faith and courage of the VWG team. Most people are not very interested in problems of global governance, unfortunately ... [so] I’m not terribly optimistic ... but you never know, perhaps [the global referendum] might suddenly take off! **Christopher Hamer**, author of *A Global Parliament: Principles of World Federation*

Jim Stark's suggestion for a global referendum is a great idea to kick start a real democratic global government movement. I hope millions of people around the world join in! **David E. Christensen**, author of *Healing the World: A Primer About the World and How We Must Fix it for Our Children*

The global referendum on democratic world government is an excellent initiative. World government is urgently needed to help solve the global problems we can foresee, such as global warming and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. **Frank Barnaby**, editor, *The Gaia Peace Atlas*

Global problems—from climate change to nuclear proliferation—need global solutions. Existing structures of international governance are failing to deliver in these and other key areas, such as the Millennium Development Goals. This suggests that a step change is needed to create effective, legitimate and democratic global governance. Such a development would need to be backed by decisive support in a worldwide referendum open to all global citizens. **Oliver Tickell**, author of *Kyoto2: How to Manage the Global Greenhouse*

All acts of creation begin with a single step. The creation of a global referendum is a necessary first step in creating the political will necessary to create a viable global government. **Jerry Tetelman**, author (with Byron Belitsos) of *One World Democracy: A Progressive Vision for Enforceable Global Law*

I hope my presidency will address what has become a universal clamor all over the world for the democratization of the United Nations. I promise to give full support to the working group on the revitalization of the General Assembly. **H.E. Miguel D'Escoto**, President of the General Assembly of the UN, June 2008

Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment nothing can fail; without public sentiment nothing can succeed. Consequently, he who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. He makes statutes or decisions possible or impossible to be executed. **Abe Lincoln**, 1858

The question is not one of “surrendering” national sovereignty. The problem is not negative and does not involve giving something up we already have. The problem is positive—creating something we lack ... but ... imperatively need—the extension of law and order into another field of human association which heretofore has remained unregulated and in anarchy. **Emery Reves**, *The Anatomy of Peace*

Law is merely what enables us to live together in peace without having to love one another. **Mark Van Doren**, American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and critic

Your people will judge you on what you can build, not on what you can destroy. **U.S. President Barack Obama**, Inaugural Speech, 2009

The nations of the world have a stake in one another. Barack Obama, “A time for global action,” an Op-Ed piece, March 23, 2009

Law is merely what enables us to live together in peace without having to love one another. Mark Van Doren, American Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and critic

The essential notion is the replacement of anarchy with the rule of law reaching to individuals. Joseph Preston Baratta, Ph.D., from an article entitled “The World Citizens Party: Ideas for the Future”

There are no passengers on spaceship earth. We are all crew. Marshall McLuhan

It is no longer sacrilegious to consider that democracy can be applied even outside the state. Daniele Archibugi, in his new book, *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy*

The United Nations is not living up to its expectations in curbing conflicts among nations and we need a new charter.... No country should possess veto power. H.E. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former president of India

... the present world situation ... makes it necessary to have a world constitution, a world parliament, and a world government.... Throughout her long history, India has always believed in the idea of humanity as a single family. Bairam Jakhhar, then-Speaker of the Lok Sabha (the People’s House of India) in 1985

For the first time in human history, world government of some sort is now possible. Geoffrey Blainey, Australian historian

We face problems we hadn’t even imagined, and they’re cropping up all over. I think the ability of the nation-state to deal with them individually, the way we used to, is disappearing, because national borders are eroding.... This financial crisis ... has shown us that we have a global economic system, [but] we don’t have a global political system.... Almost all our institutions were built or refined during, or for, the Cold War. General Brent Scowcroft, co-author (with Zbigniew Brzezinski), *America and the World* with a.

Global governance is just a euphemism for global government.... [the] core of the international financial crisis is that we have global financial markets and no global rule of law. Jacques Attali, adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France

[E]ven as we celebrate tonight, we know the challenges that tomorrow will bring are the greatest of our lifetime - two wars, a planet in peril, the worst financial crisis in a century. U.S. President-elect Barack Obama in his victory speech, November 4, 2008.

I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that. **Thomas Edison**, almost 100 years ago!

We're borrowing money from China to buy oil from the Persian Gulf to burn it in ways that destroy the future of human civilization. Every bit of that has to change. Former U.S. vice-president **Al Gore** to the Democratic National Convention where Barack Obama accepted the presidential nomination in Denver, Colorado (August 28, 2008)

Evidence of the new Congress and administration's national priorities was confirmed in President-elect Barack Obama's victory speech, who called on America to defend a "planet in peril" as one of the three great challenges of our time. **Sue Brown**, Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation Action Fund

In just 100 months' time, if we are lucky, and based on a quite conservative estimate, we could reach a tipping point for the beginnings of runaway climate change. **Andrew Simms**, policy director, New Economics Foundation

A candle has to burn itself in order to give light to others. You are that candle.... Jim, fire symbolizes also Holy Spirit. According to Greek mythology, fire was in possession of gods only. Prometheus stole it from god Zeus to give to humans when they lived in dark caves. This gift brought productivity also in the field of art and literature. You are bringing productivity in the field of peace with your new thoughts and fresh energy. Congratulations. **Dr. Stephen Gill**, Poet Laureate of Ansted University and the author of more than 20 books

Sadly, our political evolution is lagging far behind our ability to effectively address our most pressing problems. One of my favorite quotes comes from the genius of Buckminster Fuller: "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." Vote World Parliament is building that new model. **Ted Stalets**, futurist, VP of VWP and literary agent for Jim Stark's book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*

At best, the UN is part of the bureaucratic system that has brought us the IMF and the World Trade Organization but has failed to do much about preventing mass murder or the violation of human rights even in Rwanda or Somalia, let alone in more organized and powerful states. I think we are as likely to grow a lily from an acorn as [we are] to grow a democratic world parliament from the UN. **Caspar Davis**, World Federalist Movement—Canada, Victoria Branch (In an article called "Two Views of a Democratic Global Parliament," he compares our global referendum initiative with the idea of a UN Parliamentary Assembly, and concludes that: "Stark's idea sounds more radical and perhaps quixotic, but I think it may actually be more practical.")

Democracy is the best revenge. **Bilawal Bhutto Zardidi**, then-19-year-old son of Benazir Bhutto, three days after his mother's assassination (it was one of her favourite sayings)

The sea ice in the Arctic is toast (meaning it will all be gone soon), but (action to combat climate change) may change whether or not we are toast too. **Andrew Weaver**, climate modeler, School of Earth and Ocean Sciences at the University of Victoria in Canada, in an article entitled “Arctic ice cover shrinks to new low after summer thaw” (When you say in North America that something “is toast,” it means that it is destined to die or disappear in the near future.)

I’m reading your fabulous book [*Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*]. Best compendium of ... quotes I’ve ever read. You’ve put a great deal of thought into these issues and I salute you for the important groundbreaking work you are doing. You can quote me on that. Thank you so much for sending it to me. **Arthur Kanegas**, American filmmaker

**For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see,
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonders there would be,
Saw the heavens fill with commerce, argosies of magic sails,
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales...
Till the war-drum throbbed no longer, and the battle-flags were furled
In the Parliament of man, the Federation of the world.**

“Locksley Hall,” a poem by **Alfred Tennyson**, 1842

On March 21, 2007, former American vice-president Al Gore [now also a Nobel Laureate for his work on climate change and his role in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*] **testified to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.** “Nature is on the run,” he said. “Future generations will suffer ... and they will ask, ‘What in God’s name were they doing? Didn’t they see the evidence? Didn’t they hear the warnings?’”