

Empower a democratic world parliament now!

by Jim Stark, Founder of the NGO Vote World Parliament (VWP) and author of the book
World Democracy through a Global Referendum



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Recommended ballot question for the VWP global referendum

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

YES

NO

Humanity really needs a democratic world parliament because (1) we are smart enough to resolve all our disputes through law rather than through the use of force, and because (2) we are civilized enough to not even *want* to beat up a person, a country or a religion simply because we might disagree with him, her or it. And when I say “we,” I mean the overwhelming majority of ordinary people everywhere ... virtually all human adults.

There is no good reason why we can’t live as comfortably under *world* law as we now live under national, provincial (“state” in the U.S.) and municipal law. This is true of most people living in democratic countries and for virtually all people *not* living in democratic countries who would, if given a choice, prefer democracy to whatever other system they were born into. In the same way that the dawn of the “sovereign state” (see *Treaty of Westphalia*, signed in 1648) had the effect of ending wars among a region’s cities, a democratic world parliament should end all war—and preparations for and new threats of war—by providing reliable legal remedies for the resolution of all our serious disputes. Even terrorist groups should be less inclined to use force if there were a new global legal order where they could get a truly fair hearing for all their “grievances,” for the “provocations” that “force” them to “defend” themselves with guns and bombs.

A global regime of “collective security”

While money isn't everything, it is important. I mention this fact because it would cost much less to establish a global regime of collective security than to maintain an armed force for each of the 194 (or so) “sovereign” nations, just as it costs much less to have a local police force protecting all of us against all local threats than it would be for each family to arm itself to the teeth just in case a neighbour across the street might decide to attack you. The total tax burden *for security* for your lifetime should be cut *at least* in half by a democratic world governance body, and the security that could be delivered would be far greater through a democratic law-making world parliament than it is right now in a system of 194 national armies plus 194 national spy agencies (and so on).

As far back as the 1940s, scientists realized that an all-out nuclear war *could* kill (and likely *would* kill) every person on Earth, and leave our “homeland” uninhabitable. We need to permanently remove the threat of nuclear war from the list of our possible human futures, and that will require that we eschew *all* war and “criminalize” all war in world law. Only a democratic world parliament and government would have a realistic chance of doing all that. And yes, I know—criminalizing war won't rid humanity of all war immediately, or even soon, but *not* criminalizing all war is about as idiotic an idea as decriminalizing murder, rape, theft, slander, infanticide, assault, fraud, etc.

There are other supranational issues besides war, of course, the most dangerous of which seems to be climate change. It is now clear that climate change is an “existential threat,” a threat to human survival. Al Gore has called our current circumstance a “true planetary emergency,” and if we expect a patchwork of bilateral or national initiatives to solve this critical global problem, we are most likely dreaming ... in Technicolor.

Corruption-proofing democratic institutions ... like the DWP

If we are to avoid both planetary destruction *and* planet-level tyranny, there is a way to do that.¹ We know how to use common technologies (audio recorders, video recorders, and lie detectors) to fully “corruption-proof” any institution—a national parliament, for example—by making it *completely* transparent. These technologies, used carefully and openly, can assure all people that they just don't need to worry about the possibility of a “Hitler” gaining control of the democratic world parliament. If we construct a truly hyper-democratic world parliament, common sense dictates that it must have total and continuously-verified integrity by using whatever technology is required to accomplish this very high standard. It must also be *literally impossible* for military force to be used inappropriately by the “DWP” (democratic world parliament). For that matter, it must be *equally impossible* for all MGPs (Members of the Global Parliament) and all World Parliament staffers to tell any lie at all and get away with it (see Chapter 5 of *World Democracy* for more about this). Just as body cams will, in time, eliminate virtually all illegal “blue on black” (police on African-Americans) violence in the USA. So it is that these basic devices will change the very consciousness of all DWP workers and elected officials, to the point where they will know with certainty that *the truth will out ... no*

¹ There will always remain the remote possibility that some evil genius will find a workaround. As the great American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson has said, “Human nature scares me to bits.”

matter what! Think about all this in terms of your own life, how it should be better. Governance and policing without any lies at all ... *ever!* What a concept!²

World law as one of the necessities of life

There are enormous injustices in this world, and history surely teaches us that there is no peace without justice, no justice without law, and no law without “*governance*”—in this case, *world law* and *democratic global governance*. Business needs stability just to operate, and war is the epitome of *instability*, even though a few industries can and do profit handsomely (if temporarily) from every modern war. A future where companies and corporations can operate smoothly and profitably for tens of thousands of years is quite doable ... *if* we construct a new and verifiably fair world legal order.

According to former U.S. Senator George Mitchell:³ “We benefit enormously from technology ... but we also suffer from [its] consequences. It is now easier, takes fewer people, less skill [and] fewer resources to kill large numbers of people than at any time in history.” (This was said on *Newsnight*, CNN, May 9, 2002.) In the future, a twelve-year-old might be able to make a purchase online and poison an entire city. To survive as a species, we must accept *enforceable world law*⁴ as one of the necessities of life.

The principle of subsidiarity

No serious person would today would be so foolish as to suggest that we tear down any or all of our democratic municipal, provincial or national governments, even accepting that they are not exactly perfect. In 20 or 30 years, if a democratic world parliament is in place and doing its work routinely and well, virtually no one would suggest that we might be better off without it. And as for the question of which level of government should use its good offices to resolve a particular dispute, the principle of “subsidiarity” should apply at all times, meaning that all “issues” should be resolved by the *smallest appropriate political unit* (or its corresponding juridical apparatus). Just as we don’t want our provincial (or “state” in the USA) government meddling in our municipality’s deliberations, we don’t want a *world* parliament, no matter how democratic it might be, meddling in our *national* affairs, our *provincial* affairs or our *municipal* affairs.

Will there be arguments about the demarcation lines between jurisdictions? Yes, of course there will, but we will sort those out the way we now do when the three current levels of governance squabble, through the courts and through negotiation, mediation, arbitration and political discourse. No one would deny that democracy can be a rather messy business at times, but whatever its weaknesses, it is by far the best governance model that humanity has ever concocted, and it is a whole lot more tolerable and useful than nuclear war, or any war, for that matter. In 100 years, people throughout the world will have to re-read their history books to understand how it was that humanity “spoke

² Hence my 2-volume, 1,243-page novel about an infallible, digital, voice-analyzing lie detector, entitled *The LieDeck Revolution* (both volumes are available from Amazon)

³ President Obama’s special envoy for Middle East peace from 2009 to 2011

⁴ World law is not the same thing as international law. International law applies almost exclusively to relations between and among national governments, whereas world law will also “reach to individuals,” as the three established levels of law do now. (I should add that recently, the scope of international law has been redefined to include at least *some* relations between nation-states and individuals.)

truth to power” way back in the early 21st century. “No more war,” we said, loudly, as a species, and we really *really* meant it! Simply put, war is mass murder, and no matter what the circumstances, it is inexcusable. And by the mid-21st century, we, the people will have conducted a successful global referendum on democratic world governance to make very sure that our elected politicians didn’t miss the point. We must leave war far behind us, dumped unceremoniously into the dustbin of history, just as we humans did with cannibalism, slavery, rape, and so many other abominations of the past, whose absence from modern history texts help qualify us as being at least partially civilized.

The GlobeScan poll

We have before us the opportunity to become the founders of a world of law and justice that must exist if humanity is to survive and thrive in the near and distant future. This will likely be the greatest opportunity that 21st-century generations will have, the last chance to clear a safe path across this last huge political barrier. I tend to think that the task of building a democratic world parliament is not really all that complicated or that difficult,⁵ but there is no denying that it will be *big*. And of course in setting out to craft a new democratic institution, we have only to study the growing pains of our existing law-making and law-enforcing bodies to guide us through the jungle of past errors so that at the least we don’t fall into the same traps as those that befuddled our ancestors. And unless we who live in my tiny town of Shawville, Québec, Canada are the first-ever folks to even *attempt* to harmonize our existing legal realities (meaning municipal, provincial and national law) with *world* law-making and *world* law-enforcement, we will have no shortage of examples as to how to do that ... and/or how *not* to do it. As well, there will surely have to be some sort of guidance committee to help newbies as to the blending of these various levels of law-making and law-enforcement.

Global referendum ballot wording suggested by GlobeScan

Do you favour or oppose the creation of a new UN Parliament made up of representatives directly-elected by citizens and equivalent to the UN General Assembly?

If, say, 99% of all human adults voted in favour of the creation of a democratic world parliament and government, I think no-one would *dare* to even *try* to prevent us from building what we had all (or mostly all) voted for. No political issue gets 99% support, but there was an 18-nation GlobeScan poll done on this item in 2004, and it predicts that a global referendum on building a democratic world parliament would pass quite strongly. The overall GlobeScan numbers (see below) were 63% in favour and just 20% opposed. To see the GlobeScan voting percentages *country by country*, see again the chart below. (Canada’s people were 65% in favour and 28% opposed! The Americans were 55% in favour and 35% opposed, while the Russians were 33% in favour and 22% opposed.)

These preliminary and limited results may be too high in every instance. In time, I think there will be VWP opponents yelling that “the sky is falling” (and other panicky

⁵ Bear I mind that crafting the UN *Charter* was done in a matter of months, not years ... or decades.

warnings about our plan). My words of caution are these: alarmism is never completely out of fashion, and sometimes (though hopefully not here) the alarmists get it right. The numbers below seem to indicate a probable “slam-dunk” for world democracy.

**GlobeScan’s results concerning a global referendum
on the creation of a democratic world parliament**

| COUNTRY | FAVOUR % | OPPOSE % |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Mexico | 80 | 5 |
| Brazil | 73 | 10 |
| Indonesia | 73 | 13 |
| Italy | 70 | 20 |
| China | 68 | 20 |
| Argentina | 66 | 6 |
| Germany | 66 | 24 |
| Canada | 65 | 28 |
| Philippines | 65 | 29 |
| Chile | 64 | 8 |
| Great Britain | 64 | 28 |
| South Korea | 62 | 33 |
| Poland | 59 | 9 |
| India | 56 | 22 |
| Australia | 56 | 35 |
| Turkey | 55 | 18 |
| USA | 55 | 35 |
| Russia | 33 | 22 |
| | | |
| Average | 63 | 20 |

Answers of “It depends” + “Neither” + “Don’t know” + “No answer” = 17%

We found yet another poll on point. What was billed as a “major new survey” found that the “vast majority of people all over the planet” are “ready to embrace a global government in the hope that it would save humanity from catastrophes and/or major threats.” This recent survey was done by ComRes (a research consultancy specializing in corporate reputation, public policy and communications for the Stockholm-based group Global Challenges Foundation.⁶ They found that 71% of the general public wish to see the creation of a new “supranational organization” to make *enforceable* global decisions about major threats to humanity such as climate change, pandemics, “AI” (artificial intelligence) turning against human civilization, weapons of mass destruction (“WMD”), natural disasters, and asteroids.

So ... what exactly *is* a supranational organization? It is an international or global political body made up of “member countries.” A supranational organization such as we seek at Vote World Parliament wouldn’t replace national governments, of course, but *it would place all or most global interests above those of nation-states*. As the

⁶ The Global Challenges Foundation was founded by a former stock market trader, Swedish billionaire Laszlo Szombatfalvy, in 2012.

London Independent reported, almost 70% of people in the UK supported the idea of a global government, with 62 per cent saying they already considered themselves global citizens. Another 54% of British respondents said they **would happily give up some degree of national sovereignty** in order for worldwide threats to be more readily dealt with by this new global body! This survey collated information from 8,100 people in eight major countries, encompassing half the world's population. These countries were Australia, Brazil, China, Germany, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the USA. The exact wording of their survey question was this: **Do you think that a new supranational organization should be created to make enforceable global legal decisions to address global risks?**

NOTE: **UN Ambassadors:** Agreeing to be a partner in this UN resolution (below) with other delegations will eventually require another decision by the national government that you represent, a decision to sponsor, co-sponsor, or at least vote in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly. Here is a draft of such a UNGA resolution.

Draft United Nations Resolution
for a
Global Referendum
on the creation of a
Democratic World Parliament

THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

EXPRESSING deep concern over the danger of nuclear war and the danger that other WMD (weapons of mass destruction) may be used by national governments and/or non-national groups, either of which could imperil the existence of life on Earth,

MINDFUL of the profound problems (climate change, HIV/AIDS, etc.) that persist and worsen for lack of resources while more than one trillion (1,000 billion) dollars are spent on armaments every year,

BEARING IN MIND that all nations and all people need security in this age of “overkill” weapons, and that real security is now possible only through the establishment of an effective and widely supported world legal authority,

AFFIRMING the interest of all individuals in expressing their preferences on a matter as fundamental as the survival of humankind, and asserting a human right on the part of all adults to participate meaningfully in such a basic choice,

RESPECTING the principle of subsidiarity, whereby issues are handled by the lowest appropriate level of government, thus leaving national issues to national governments, local issues to municipal governments, and so on,

REALIZING that people of every background would be inclined to support the creation of a directly-elected world parliament that is authorized by the human race to adopt and enforce legislation on such supranational issues as security, justice, peace, and the protection of the natural environment,

RECALLING that Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* provides that “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government [and that] this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which ... shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,”

KNOWING that because the will of the people is the basis of all political power and authority, a clear expression of that will in a mandate emerging from a successful Global Referendum must be given effect to by all national governments,

ACCEPTING that the above principles find strong support in the *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty*, whose Preamble states that: "... all peoples have an inalienable right to ... the exercise of their sovereignty ... and that, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status,"

REALIZING that a substantial mandate from the people of all nations would provide a compelling base of legal and political support for the establishment of a democratic world parliament and government to effectively address threats posed to humankind such as weapons of mass destruction and environmental degradation,

DETERMINED to provide to all adult human beings (aged 16 or older) the opportunity to formally express their views on these matters,

1. **RESOLVES** to seek the unanimous agreement of all Member-states to a brief and simple expression of the goals expressed above;

2. **PROPOSES** to use this ballot wording (below) for the Global Referendum;

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

3. **CALLS UPON** each Member Nation to voluntarily collect its "national component" of the formal Global Referendum before January 1, 2028;

4. **ENCOURAGES** each Member Nation to seek full and open debate of all sides of the issue prior to holding the referendum vote among its national population ("yes" and "no" votes collected in the internet-based preliminary referendum from citizens of that nation will be destroyed if and when a *formal* national referendum using official voters' lists is launched in any given nation);

5. **DETERMINES** that no one may cast a ballot before having attained the age of sixteen;

6. **RESOLVES** that the collection of each "national component" of the Global Referendum must be accompanied by a minimum level of United Nations supervision to ensure the fairness of the voting procedures; and

7. **DECIDES** to form a committee to study the idea of a Global Referendum on the creation of a Democratic World Parliament, and report back to the next Session of the General Assembly.

* * * * *

Other key numbers

If a town of 7,000 people held a local referendum and only 10 people voted, yielding 6 "yes" votes and 4 "no" votes, the mayor would be laughed out of office if he or she then said: "The ballot proposition passed by a 3-to-2 margin, so it will be added to our municipal bylaws!" While this aspect can be argued back and forth, let's agree that *at least 50% of "eligible" voters* (residents of this town who are 16 or older) must vote for the final tally to have its full force and effect within the town's borders. Let's also agree that *at least 50%* of all eligible voters must cast their votes in any *global* referendum for its overall outcome to be considered worthy of inclusion into *world* law.

The customary criteria for declaring a winner in a yes-no referendum is 50% +1, a simple majority of *those who voted*. However, this basis for deciding our winner is *not* sufficient for present purposes. Creating a democratic world parliament would surely amount to a permanent and profound change in the world's political and legal order, so it can't be settled by one ballot (like the "1" in "50% +1"). So, let's also agree that in any *global* referendum, ***substantially more than half*** of all votes must be "yes" votes for the ballot proposition to "pass" and then be included in the emerging body of world law. A 2/3rds majority would do the job nicely, though an even higher "yes" vote would be even more useful in becalming those who voted "no" and may still feel bitter about the "loss" that their "side" of the issue had suffered.

Let's now look at some other key numbers. One third of the 7.5 billion people alive today (2018) are designated "children," since they are under the age of 16 and are thus ineligible to vote. So, the **total electorate in a global referendum isn't** 7.5 billion, but 5 billion! If the minimum 50% of all eligible adults vote (that's 2.5 billion votes) and if 2/3rds (67%) of these 2.5 billion votes are in the "yes" column (67% of 2.5 billion votes comes to about *1.68 billion* "yes" votes), such an enormous mandate would be claimed by many legal scholars (and, even more importantly, by most of us "common folks") to be ***legally binding under international law!*** As I wrote in *World Democracy* (modified slightly here for the sake of brevity):

In 2005, we asked the late Dr Terence P. Amerasinghe (a distinguished law professor from Sri Lanka) whether a mandate from a "successful" global referendum would have our hoped-for legal force and effect. "***Of course*** [emphasis his] a global mandate would be legally binding," he said emphatically. "But," he added later, "***it will never be possible to conduct a global referendum or collect such a global mandate.***" In other words, we told him how this historic goal could actually be accomplished, and he basically threw up his hands at the amount of work involved. (I expect VWP will disprove these last two assertions. My advice? Never say never.)

Consent of the governed

If you already "believe in" democracy, then you already know that democracy means, most prominently, "governance *with the consent of the governed*." In other words, if we hope and intend to create a democratic world parliament, step #1 ***must*** be to conduct a world referendum to secure the consent of those who would be governed ... effectively the consent of the ***entire human race*** (or most of us, at any rate). A public opinion survey simply won't do the job, even though surveys can certainly inform and influence both the "yes" and the "no" campaigns when an issue is "put to the people" in a referendum. As I wrote in *World Democracy*:

It took the devastation of nineteen million deaths in WWI to compel us to establish the League of Nations ... but *we got it wrong*, because that institution failed to prevent the recurrence of mega-death. It took WWII, with another 50+ million violent deaths, to prompt us to create the United Nations ... and *we got it wrong again!* Then the Cold War (from the late '40s to the late '80s) caused about 20 million *more* deaths ... [and] these forebears *still* did not grow the UN into a directly-elected, democratic body, into the kind of world parliament and government that we needed to have and trust if "omnicide" (human extinction) was to be avoided *forever* (or at least until our sun goes nova, which it will do in about five billion years, scientists tell us).

The most effective trigger for global political reform might well be to lob 50 or 100 Hiroshima-sized nukes into the 21st Century's history books. That might smarten us up (well, let's say those of us who survived WWII), but only a madman (or a madwoman, I suppose) would consider this act to be an ethical or legitimate "motivator." As Albert Einstein famously said: "The unleashed power of the atom has changed everything save our modes of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe." So ... how on Earth do we get ourselves unstuck from this ghastly fate?

In my carefully considered opinion, the best way to proceed would be for the UN General Assembly to pass a resolution calling for the "formal" global referendum to be held nation-by-nation in the expectation that people everywhere will vote strongly in favour of the ballot proposition. However, getting a resolution proposed and passed in the General Assembly cannot be accomplished simply by asking politely for what we want. We must therefore start by using the internet to tap into the membership lists of sympathetic NGOs, service clubs, religions, political parties and so on to collect votes in our *unsanctioned, internet-based* global referendum—all the while seeking national governments that are willing to co-sponsor a draft resolution in the General Assembly (see pages 6 and 7 in this article for our offering in this regard).

Let's try to collect that "bare minimum" of 1.68 billion "yes" votes ourselves!

Legal issues can be argued six ways to Sunday, as you surely know, so it is important to point out that even if our assembled global mandate is not accepted in some quarters as legally binding under international law, it will nevertheless be judged by most world citizens as being "politically compelling," which is effectively the same thing as being "legally binding" (see Chapters 10 and 11 of *World Democracy* for more on this aspect of things). So, let's try to collect that "bare minimum" of 1.68 billion "yes" votes on the live internet ballot, for starters, and through the efforts of other NGOs (see Chapter 14 of *World Democracy*), then try a little later for our hoped-for series of government-run *national* referendums, the *formal* global referendum, using voters' lists borrowed from whichever government (municipal, provincial or national) we are cooperating with for a particular vote.

But why not stick with the plan of voting on the internet and through other NGOs? If we could get our "bottom-up," unsanctioned effort off the ground and establish some real momentum, there will be serious efforts by our opponents to corrupt our systems. We will, after all, be in the business of challenging the traditional power and authority of the nation-state through our plan to collect those 1.68 billion ballots by ourselves and thereafter to form a "people's house" within the larger UN structure. If our efforts are said to be the result of a mere consultative or advisory referendum, there will surely be lineups of legal experts and scholars ready to argue that our referendum result is itself an *ex post facto* world law (meaning it has already acquired retroactive legal force and effect), and that such near-unanimity ought to be rebranded as a legally binding global mandate.

We concede that only a government-run referendum could be properly scrutinized, and thus produce a result that is *assuredly* valid. National governments will use official voters' lists for their elections, of course, but we'll need to "borrow" those lists to apply them to the government-run national referendums. In May, 1981, the NGO I headed at

the time (Operation Dismantle) used a piggybacking method to achieve more than 200 Canadian municipal referendums on balanced and verifiable nuclear disarmament (see Chapter 8 of my first published book, *Cold War Blues*). Vote World Parliament's 194 proposed *national* referendums (one per nation) should be held in tandem with national elections to keep costs down, and referendum organizers would (with permission from whichever particular government owns them) use these official voters' lists to prevent everyone from voting more than one time in the national election *or* in their national segment of the *formal* global referendum.

The emergency committee of atomic scientists, having explored for two years all means other than world government for making responsible the control of atomic energy effective, has become convinced that no method other than world government can be expected to prove effective, and that the attainment of world government is therefore the most urgent problem now facing mankind. United Nations Resolution (1948)

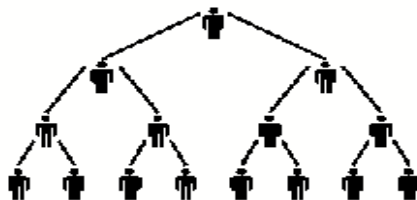
If we get that bare minimum of 1.68 billion “yes” votes that would be needed to constitute a “compelling” global mandate, I can't imagine anyone even *trying* to tell the entire human race to go fly a kite. ***We, the people, are the supreme political authority on Earth!*** If we were to say “no” to all war forever by saying “yes” to the creation of a democratic world parliament tasked with preventing all war, then that's how it will be!

The above words echo the U.S. *Declaration of Independence*, and are also mirrored in Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of Dec. 10, 1948 U.N.G.A. Res. 217A (III), which provides, inter alia:

The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be [held] by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote **or by equivalent free voting procedures.** [Bold emphases here are mine, and I can find no conceivable reason why a fair global referendum on the creation of a DWP would *not* qualify as an “equivalent free voting procedure.”]

Chain voting, or How long would it take us to “win” using only internet balloting?

If everyone who votes “yes” agrees to get two new people to vote “yes” within a week or two of casting his/her own ballot, and gets both of his or her new “yes” voters to commit to finding two *more* new “yes” voters within a week or two (to continue the chain) **the overall vote count will increase exponentially** (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128, 256, etc.), **doubling every week or two**, and we can theoretically reach or surpass our target of 1.68 billion “yes” votes *in as little as 31 weeks ... less than a year!* Below is a diagram representing the math supporting a geometric progression where the “common ratio” or “factor” is two.



The miniature person at the top of the diagram is you, or some other person taking on the task of world-saving and/or world-building. The next level down represents the second week of the chain, and the slanted lines to your left and right indicate that in your first whole week, you have recruited 2 people to vote yes⁷ and they each recruited 2 brand new “yes” voters. I cropped this simple diagram off the internet where it was being used to show how one case of an infectious disease could easily cause a huge epidemic in a very short period of time.

As I wrote in *World Democracy*, “Chain letters, pyramid schemes and some ‘multi-level marketing programs’ are immoral because they depend upon a false hope of easy riches.” They are *designed* to steal money from people, which is why many legislatures have made such schemes “illegal.” But they do work *up to a point*, and sadly, people do fall for them every day. However, if we were to modify a pyramid design such that ***no money at all*** was solicited, and the only reward or prize at the end of the process was the achievement of world peace through world law, surely no one could object, and who knows, some people might even break out in spontaneous applause! So ... VWP is launching a ***pyramid-type*** scheme like that, a *good* one, a “chain reaction” or “domino effect” event that can end up playing a decisive role in eliminating war, thus saving all of humankind (not to mention myriad other life forms).

So, here is your personal fast-track assignment, your suggested participation. Please bear in mind that numbers just cannot lie. However, people *can and do*, and I expect collecting our global mandate will be far more complicated than what you’ll see on any graph. Some people will lie about their age—say they’re 16 when they’re only 15—or claim that they have not voted before when in fact they have. Also, cheating in a referendum is effectively to admit that your “side” of the issue can’t win *in the absence of that cheating*. But these are tomorrow’s problems. Today’s challenge is to get our people-powered global referendum off the ground and find new ways to anticipate and counter voter fraud or election “meddling.”

We must also consider the possibility, however remote, that our global referendum might fail—by attracting more “no” votes than “yes” votes, for instance. Public opinion polls and VWP’s online voting results to date indicate that such failure is very unlikely for us, but you never know. As of August 16, 2018, we had 22,309 votes, and 95.3% of these were “yes” votes. However, we must be honest, even to ourselves, and admit that our success is not assured. We must hold fast to our conviction that humanity is *much* better than war, and that democratic world governance is both necessary and possible. Today’s wondrous technologies allow us to act, politically, *on a global scale!* With the internet, this global referendum could well go viral, and if it does, we all win.

Hearken not to the voice which petulantly tells you that the form of government recommended ... is impossible to accomplish. James Madison, No. 14 of *The Federalist Papers*, 1787-88 (all 85 essays were published under the pen name Publius)

⁷ You are not asking them to vote “yes” or “no,” just to vote their mind, or conscience. If they ask which side you are on, you can tell them, but use your best judgement as to whether to tell them you are “in it to win it” for the “yes” campaign. If you find you must disagree with someone who is flat-out challenging or ridiculing our plan or the wisdom of creating a DWP, try to disagree *without being disagreeable*.

Can we really collect a global mandate in less than one year?

At the risk of repeating myself, yes, we can do that *if* the first “yes” voter brings in two **more** “yes” voters within a week or two of his or her own vote, and receives rock-solid promises that those two will **each** do the same thing and bring in two **other** new “yes” voters in the following weeks, etc. If you grant us this premise, we can guarantee this result!

Beware the fast-talking critic who swears that it can’t happen the way I say it can, or who suggests that we are somehow tricking people into voting this way or that. Most people are fundamentally honest, but some, it must be admitted, are not. I stand with that first group, as do all of you, I expect ... unless you do or say something regrettable that changes your status among your workmates, relatives, teachers, peers, etc. Please do this “job” that I have assigned to you. Do it properly and soon and it will become one of the great memories of your life if it all works as planned, something your kids and grand-kids will be proud of you for doing, since they will certainly be among the beneficiaries of your gift of peace for their entire lives, and so on through hundreds or thousands of new generations to follow.

The hard part of this campaign will be the start. We’ll do our part, but this massive “job” requires that millions upon millions of ordinary people will have to take up the cause. Remember, we are asking you to work at this for just a couple of hours, and that over the course of a week or two, so ... ***please do it now ...or tomorrow***. And if you find you want to work at this for more than a couple of hours per week, go ahead.

* * * * *

Chain voting checklist

- 1 Did I cast my own “YES” vote at www.voteworldparliament.org? _____
- 2 Did I tell my “recruiter” that I voted, and that I promised to start two chains? _____
- 3 Did I get one other person to vote and also promise to advance my chain? _____
- 4 Did I get a second person to vote and also promise to advance my chain? _____
- 5 Did my first recruit *confirm* that he or she got two more new recruits? _____
- 6 Did my second recruit *confirm* that he or she got two more new recruits? _____
- 7 Did I tell my recruiter that my 2 recruits voted *and got their 2 recruits each*? _____
- 8 Did I start a new chain if one of my recruits failed to do his or her entire job? _____
- 9 Did I confirm to my recruiter that my #1 through #6 have all done their jobs? _____
- 10 Did I consider starting a new chain even though I already did my “job”? _____

Below, fill in the names of the *direct* recruits in your two chains (#1 and #2). Later, fill in the names (#3, #4, #5 and #6) of the next “generation” of “yes” voters on your two chains. You must confirm that your two direct recruits (#1 and #2) did their job *in full*, but it may be a good idea to confirm that their four new recruits *also* did *their* job IN FULL, and did it within a week or two of casting their own votes. Each of these new people should of course fill in their own name beside the word “Me” (on the left side, below), then carry on from there.

Please print or write clearly

| | | |
|----------|------------|------------|
| | | (#3 _____ |
| | (#1 _____ | (|
| | (| (#4 _____ |
| Me _____ | (| |
| | (| (#5 _____ |
| | (#2 _____ | (|
| | | (#6 _____ |

If possible, do not write on this page. Make a paper copy and write on that. If you have ten checkmarks and seven names written in, you are encouraged to scan your filled-in copy of this page and keep it safely stored for your future family (and others) to look at and to value. If you want to send us a copy in an email attachment, our email address for this is voteworldparliament@tlb.sympatico.ca. And you can rely upon VWP to keep all such records private.

A “live” referendum ballot and a UN resolution await your attention

If you haven’t voted, a “live” referendum ballot awaits you at voteworldparliament.org. As well, a draft UN resolution for a formal, nation-by-nation global referendum (see pages 6 and 7 in this paper) awaits the day when a few national governments realize that the human race really *does* need a directly-elected, representative, transparent and democratic world parliament.

Consider yourself encouraged to write to the head of your national government and to your nation’s foreign minister about these ideas, and consider yourself encouraged to ask your national government to sponsor or to co-sponsor the UN resolution mentioned above and establish the creation of a democratic world parliament as an “aspirational” goal that your government embraces. Most important, *complete* your two voting chains and get your friends and relatives to vote by telling them about this idea in person, or by emailing them the VWP URL, or by offering them the use of your smartphone (if

you have one) for a few minutes, (or ... you can key in the other person's details as dictated to you by the new voter, except for the overall "yes" or "no" response to the referendum question itself, of course. You may want to show off the VWP site. Under the two links "Vote Info" then "Public Record," voters' *first names only* are presented publicly, usually within 24 hours of the casting of each new vote.)

A new position from the Canadian prime minister

As reported by **THE CANADIAN PRESS** on August 25, 2016, Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, said the following:

As a government, we need to look forty years down the road, not just four—to the next generation, not just to the next election—because when a government takes that long view, it can deliver extraordinary results for Canadians.

If Mr. Trudeau fleshes out the above perspective with concrete policies, VWP and most other NGOs will offer to work with him and his government and contribute all we can to the required plans and preparations. Looking forty years into the future is not easy, but it is also not impossibly difficult.

A constitution for the world

In addition to the global referendum on creating a democratic world parliament (which we now assume will pass strongly), we must also face the need for a constitution for the world. No democracy can operate without a constitution, and if we are to move events towards the creation of a democratic world parliament and government, we will need a carefully-crafted world constitution.

We will ask Canada (in cooperation with other established democracies) to prepare to host a world constitutional framing convention, composed of representatives of many national, provincial and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations and religions, as well as constitutional lawyers and scholars, to prepare a draft constitution for the world. We anticipate as well a great need for a World Electoral Commission to prepare for the first-ever global general election, and to prepare for the presentation of the draft world constitution to the whole human race for ratification, likely through *yet another* formal, nation-by-nation global referendum, perhaps five or ten years down the road ... however long it takes.

Your own voting booth, and 99 languages

Do you want this plan to work? If so, become a vote collector. Get two more people to do as you will have done in the period following your own vote. This would take little of your time—a couple of hours, tops—but the effort to grow the vote count is the key to making the global referendum go viral ... which is what it's going to take for this project to succeed. And for those who feel really enthusiastic about this plan, you can install a "voting booth" onto your smartphone using the step-by-step instructions which can be found at <https://voteworldparliament.org/shadowbox/getballot.html>. (This can be done in any of the **53 languages** we have included so far.) **no. now 99? cost go up?**

This could actually work!!!

For the *complete* picture, go to Amazon.com and buy *World Democracy through a Global Referendum*. (This new book is currently being re-written by author Jim Stark, but it should be available from Amazon by **November** of 2018.) But whether or not you choose to do this, please realize that you **now** have here a golden opportunity to participate in a world-altering initiative that really deserves your full support. As the late David E. Christensen (former VWP Board Member and the author of *Healing the World*) wrote to us: “This (he meant the VWP plan of action) could actually work!” It is time now for you to agree that this plan *could* actually work. And if you and I and millions of others all do our small bit, it *will* work, and *we will truly save the world!*

A brief word from the President of VWP

Ted Stalets of Franklin (that’s near Nashville, TN, USA) is the president of Vote World Parliament. A long-time futurist, he wrote the following words of wisdom with the aim of having them included in this article.

In my opinion, VWP’s plan for a global referendum is humankind’s best chance to avert disaster and put us on the road to a sustainable peace and responsible ecology. The great 20th-Century thinker Buckminster Fuller once opined ... “You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a brand new model that makes the existing model obsolete.” Our NGO, Vote World Parliament, and Jim Stark’s book, *World Democracy*, provide the kind of “new model” that Fuller had in mind! To order the book, go to Amazon.

The best way to predict the future is to invent it. Alan Curtis Kay

And as a final quote, I offer this wonderful quote (one of my favourites): “**If leaders won’t lead, let the people lead, and the leaders will surely follow.**” Benjamin B. Ferencz, a former Nuremberg prosecutor, an advocate for global justice and the author of *New Legal Foundations for Global Survival*

For *hundreds* of additional authoritative and supportive quotes, mostly from famous people, see the last 49 pages (!) of *World Democracy*. There you will realize anew that we stand in truly great company. And finally, make a decision as to what numbers of “yes” votes you want to bring to the fight by this time next year. We hope to have the global mandate (1.68 billion “yes” votes) collected and brought to bear on political decision-makers by then. If you are privately or publicly planning to bring in “no” votes, we will respect your right to use our materials and our website for such purposes, but I think you may want to chat with some of our people to see if this is a decision you might want to reconsider. We all want to end up on the right side of history.

OUR LOGO

In time, we will try to popularize this logo by placing it on coffee cups, T-shirts, etc., as one stream of income for VWP. We love this logo, and we thank New Zealander Hugh Steadman for it. The logo says it all; no great need for words or translations. Although

it has been promised that we will never solicit you for money, we'll need some money to carry on, so we put a "donate" button on the first page of our website in the event that you or others may feel inspired to help get this campaign off the ground.

Is Vote World Parliament a membership organization?

VWP is *not* a membership organization with annual fees, conferences, newsletters and other time-consuming activities. *We are a 21st century political campaign*, and anyone who wants to participate is encouraged to do so. If you, as an individual, vote, you are then as involved as any other individual participant in the world, whether you're a "yes" voter or a "no" voter. We also gratefully accept any endorsements for our project from clubs, sports teams, educational institutions, political parties, commercial outlets, movie stars, published authors, etc.

If I change my mind, can I then change my vote?

Earlier in this article, I wrote:

We must also bear in mind the possibility, however remote, that a global referendum may fail ... by getting more "no" votes than "yes" votes, for instance.

Other "for instances" have cropped up, and deserve our focused attention. The global referendum could fail because too few eligible voters (16 years old or older) bothered to vote. As well, it could fail because a global referendum seeking a mandate for the creation of a DWP *had* seemed like a lost cause or a dangerous idea when this young voter first heard of it, but now it seems more realistic ... even hopeful. This particular voter didn't take the idea seriously back then, when she voted, so she checked the "no" box on her live ballot. Now this early voter has changed her opinion, but she figures there is no way of changing her vote. What to do?

Three days before the 2016 U.S. election, the TV had wall-to-wall coverage of the related events, predictions and such. As I watched all this, I learned a new (for me) fact.

Up until election day, in many states, a citizen who had already voted in an *advance* poll can go back to her polling station, ask for a new ballot, and reverse her choice for president. If this can be done in an American election, it can also be done by us, and that idea would augment the referendum's fairness. Since our *formal* world parliament referendums will almost certainly be piggybacked onto national elections, this idea can be implemented for global referendum voters, especially since every referendum ballot has a unique number (to see voter ID list, click on <http://voteworldparliament.org/vote-now/public-record>). To change her vote months or even years after her ballot was first cast in an *advance* poll, this voter just gives her first name *and voter ID number* (which number she has faithfully kept ever since she voted) to the poll worker and approves the reversal of her previous referendum vote from a "no" to a "yes" ... or vice versa.

A personal word about this campaign and its founder, me ... Jim Stark

As the person who conceived of this campaign, I've been encouraged to write the book ... then carry on. I try, but it's difficult for me, as I suffer from Parkinson's disease and

Empower a democratic world parliament now! A summary, by Jim Stark

several other maladies). It would be a shame if this potentially historic initiative failed to get tried out because of a damned physical sickness. I guess I don't mind not reading the final chapter of this campaign, but I sure would like to witness the "wheels-up" moment. Do your part please, and we will indeed succeed.

Final Word
regarding a
Global Referendum
on the creation of a
Democratic World Parliament

A curious historical note: While the GlobeScan Poll (see page 5 of this document) indicates that in 2004, global public opinion was about 75% in favour of a "world parliament," and while most people expect that U.S. public opinion will run against the world democracy proposal discussed herein, more than half a century ago there was a referendum in a U.S. state, piggybacked onto the 1948 election, and it was a *landslide* in favor of a "UN parliament" (as they called it). An article by Joseph Lyford, "Vote For World Government," from the *New Republic*, December 12, 1948 (in the late David Christensen's book *Healing the World*) describes it thus:

On the day after the [American] election, the commentators were too busy explaining that Harry Truman was still president to pay attention to an interesting political development in the state of Connecticut. Along with the newspapers, they ignored what turned out to be the only real landslide victory in the nation. The victor in this one-sided electoral contest was, oddly enough, not a candidate for public office at all! It was a referendum proposal to change the United Nations into a "limited world government" ... and it "won" by a vote of 130,548 to 11,467, a stunning 12-to-1 margin!

Empower a democratic world parliament now!

by Jim Stark, Founder of the NGO Vote World Parliament (VWP) and author of the book
World Democracy through a Global Referendum



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