



Interim Paper on "New Institutional Arrangements" Cross-cutting Theme of the [NGO Millennium Forum](#)

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This interim paper is meant as a basic framework document on the cross-cutting theme of "New Institutional Arrangements", drawing together proposals for new institutional arrangements pertaining to the six main themes of the NGO Millennium Forum:

- Peace, security and disarmament;
- Eradication of poverty;
- Human rights;
- Sustainable development and the environment;
- Facing the challenge of globalization: achieving equity, justice and diversity;
- And strengthening and democratizing the United Nations and international institutions.

There have been a number of viable, achievable, innovative proposals for new institutional arrangements in each of these areas, which we will outline here. This list is not exhaustive. While there are innumerable numbers of possible proposals which could be included, we have chosen to highlight only those which appear to have gathered a significant coalition of supporters among civil society, governments and UN agencies. We welcome further proposed additions for inclusion.

This paper is being posted to our website at <http://www.worldfederalist.org> as well as distributed to our listserv on United Nations reform <un-reform-list@igc.org>. Please feel free to disseminate this to other groups who may be interested in it.

Peace, Security and Disarmament

Rapid Deployment Forces

A number of recent initiatives have highlighted the need for some form of rapid-reaction standing peace force at the command of the Security Council. In Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's report to the Security Council in 1992 entitled "An Agenda for

Peace" he proposed the establishment of stand-by "peace enforcement units," special military units made available by member states to be "on call" to respond to situations of outright aggression of one state against another.

The Commission on Global Governance called for a "UN Volunteer Force" comprised of 10,000 personnel to respond quickly to humanitarian and security emergencies. The Global Action to Prevent War calls for the creation of "standing contingents of civilian police trained for peacekeeping missions to accompany peacekeeping forces, undertake peacekeeping missions of their own, or conduct other tasks at the request of the UN Secretary-General, the Security Council, international courts, or the regional security organizations."

Regional Security Bodies

The Global Action to Prevent War calls for the establishment of "universal-membership regional security organizations in the Middle East, South Asia, and North-East Asia comparable to those in Europe (OSCE), Africa (OAU), the Americas (OAS), and South-East Asia (ASEAN); and strengthen the conflict-prevention and peacekeeping capabilities of all regional security organizations."

Eradication Of Poverty

The Tobin Tax - and other alternative funding arrangements

The INTGLIM report "Renewing the Spirit of Rio" noted the need for increased study of alternative funding mechanisms to support development aid and environmental protection, suggestion establishing a subcommission of the CSD to explore the matter. The Commission on Global Governance also highlighted the need to study alternative funding proposals further such as the Tobin Tax.

An Economic Security Council

The Commission on Global Governance proposed the creation of an "Economic Security Council" as a global forum to provide leadership in the economic, social and environmental fields.

Human Rights

Establish a Permanent International Criminal Court

The NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, a global network of hundreds of civil society organizations, has been campaigning for the creation of a permanent

international criminal court for more than five years. This court would bring to justice those perpetrators of the worst violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, include war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The Commission on Global Governance, the UN Secretary General, the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice, and a host of other organizations, governments, UN agencies and public figures have strongly supported the creation of an ICC as the next significant step on the protection of international human rights.

Sustainable Development and the Environment

A New Mandate for the Trusteeship Council

The Commission on Global Governance has proposed that the Trusteeship Council, whose mandate is in their view now nearly obsolete, be charged with overseeing the management of the "global commons." Similarly, the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in his "Programme for Reform" issued in July 1997 (A/51/950), proposed that Member States utilize the Trusteeship Council to exercise trusteeship over the global environment and common areas such as oceans, atmosphere and outer space. He also proposed that the Trusteeship Council serve as a link between the UN and civil society on these matters.

Strengthen the Commission on Sustainable Development

The 54th UN General Assembly passed a resolution in support of establishing an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly of developments in ocean affairs. This process would serve to bring greater coherence between the Law of the Sea Treaty negotiations and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The INTGLIM report noted that several experts recommended that the CSD be given more authority in relation to the Bretton Woods Institutions and the World Trade Organization. Some suggestions included inviting representatives of the CSD to the annual meetings of the Bretton Woods Institutions and the WTO, and ensuring that representatives from those bodies are in attendance at CSD sessions.

The INTGLIM survey also concluded that subcommissions of the CSD should be created along the lines of the Human Rights Commission in order to give better focus to discrete environmental matters.

Facing The Challenge Of Globalization: Achieving Equity, Justice and Diversity

Greater Transparency, Accountability at the WTO

A number of NGOs and networks concerned with development, poverty, and fair trade issues have voiced concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability at the World Trade Organization. Such groups as the Women's Caucus, the Third World Network and several others present at the last round of ministerial meetings in Seattle in November 1999 called for increased participation and access for civil society to these negotiations.

Strengthening and Democratizing the United Nations and International Institutions

Civil Society Participation

Numerous NGOs and networks have recommended that NGOs be extended consultative rights directly with the General Assembly. The INTGLIM report recommended that "governments' complete the process of extending NGOs rights of access and participation to the General Assembly and its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies. These rights should be based, in principle, on the arrangements agreed to in 1996/31." This position has been supported by the NGO Committee on Disarmament and the Commission on Global Governance. The UNGA Working Group on Strengthening of the UN System strongly supported strengthening the links between the United Nations and civil society.

The Commission on Global Governance has called for an annual "Forum of Civil Society" consisting of representatives of organizations accredited to the General Assembly. Several NGOs and networks of NGOs have supported various mechanisms for NGOs to have an institutionalized role within the UN system, particularly the Millennium Peoples Assembly Network.

Reform of Security Council

The Commission on Global Governance argued that reform of the Security Council was central to reform of the UN system. In their view, a form of regional representation for new "standing" members should be introduced. And they proposed a two stage process of phasing out the veto.

In March 1997, Ambassador Razali, in his capacity as Chairman of the Working Group on the Question of Equitable Representation on and Increase in the Membership of the Security Council, presented a paper synthesizing the majority view regarding expansion

of the Council. His proposal envisioned increasing Council membership from 15 to 24 by adding five permanent members (one each from the developing States of Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from the industrialized States - generally recognized as Germany and Japan), and four non-permanent members (one each from Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean). In Razali's proposal the new permanent members would not have the right to veto, a right which a majority of countries hope would eventually become obsolete. In addition, the proposal urged the original permanent members to limit the use of the veto to Chapter VII of the Charter, which deals with the Council's enforcement powers.

A UN Parliamentary Body

The call for an UN parliamentary body has a long history. Recent examples include its mention in the Commission on Global Governance's report, reports on UN reform from the two recent UN Secretaries General, and the Millennium People's Assembly Network. The UN Parliamentary Assembly is often envisaged as comprising representatives of existing parliaments around the world who would convene on an annual basis prior to the UN General Assembly in order to comment on the agenda before the GA. The growing cooperation between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations is a positive development, as is the inclusion of parliamentarians on Member State delegations to UN negotiations.

Weighted Voting

The Center for War/Peace Studies has spearheaded efforts to increase dialogue on the "Binding Triad" and other weighted voting mechanisms within the General Assembly to integrate the demographic and economic characteristics of Member States into UNGA voting.

Selected Bibliography

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