



Commission 3 Final Resolutions

Global democracy and United Nations Reform; Federalism at different levels

A) PREAMBLE

- 1) WFM's vision is to create a fair, just and sustainable world, where the needs of all world citizens are addressed and all people have a voice;
- 2) WFM strives to achieve this through the creation of a democratic world federation via multiple democratic and participatory means;
- 3) Recalling WFM's longstanding commitment to the necessity of reforming the United Nations system in accordance with the principles of democratic federalism;
- 4) Noting the tremendous progress that has been made by our fellow world citizens and civil society organizations on the need for democratic global governance;
- 5) Recalling in particular the numerous statements of policy advanced over the years by world federalists, including resolutions at WFM Congresses in San Francisco (1995), Chennai (1998), London (2002), and Geneva (2007), as well as the resolutions adopted by the Buenos Aires (2010) and Washington DC (2011) councils;
- 6) Mindful also of the core principles that guide the movement, as reflected in the WFM constitution (preamble) and the widely recognized characteristics of federalism (democratic governance, subsidiarity, rule of law);
- 7) Recognizing that our pursuit of these world federalist objectives can be advanced through a number of approaches to political and social change, and requires the organized will and collaboration of a multiplicity of partners and stakeholders;
- 8) Recognizing that new communications technologies have fostered a growing global civil society, with affiliations and networks that transcend traditional, national, or geographical based groupings and could be helpful tools in the development of forms of democratic governance;
- 9) Affirming that critical political challenges shaping the future of humanity, such as international security, economic governance, protection of the environment, are global challenges that are difficult to address in a world where democracy is still contained by national borders;

10) Affirming also that unregulated or poorly regulated globalization erodes state sovereignty and diminishes democracy, and consequently that citizens are challenged to evolve democratic institutions at the world level;

11) Recognizing that democratic transparency and accountability should apply to both existing and future global institutions by way of global, democratically representative, parliamentary oversight bodies;

12) Recognizing that compliance with international law, as enshrined in a treaty, is inadequate in the absence of a court or scrutinizing body within the treaty itself, and recognizing the absence of an enforcement mechanism for customary international law;

Hereby resolve to support multiple approaches including transformation of the United Nations system and the democratization of global governance, and toward these ends identify the following objectives:

B) GLOBAL DEMOCRATIZATION

The Arab Spring, the Occupy movements, indignados, and other forms of social protests have shown an increasing discontent with the existing global political order and raised the question of democratizing globalization through globalizing democracy. These groups are vindicating many of the values which have been part of WFM's core principles, including human rights, accountability and democratic representation. They exemplify how global democracy and world federalism are complementary principles in the quest for a united and peaceful world.

These bottom-up developments have been matched by the statements made by many of the most prestigious thinkers specializing in global politics. These statements have also recalled many of the federalist principles, proposing a federal structure for the international and global level of politics, including regional parliaments, the creation of a UNPA, the reform of the UN and the strengthening of UN agencies on finance, environment and security.

WFM considers that reconnecting these initiatives and channeling civil society's energy into the concrete development of a world parliament and a democratic global order must constitute a key pillar of the strategies of the movement in the near future.

C) RULE OF LAW

In an era of globalization, WFM welcomes the continued expansion of international judicial regimes attached to functional agencies and international treaties, including a growing trend to recognize non-state entities (individuals, groups, transnational corporations, etc.) in international legal regimes.

WFM regrets that governments have not upheld the obligations and mandates of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and supports a process to ensure that international agreements are binding, enforceable, and include specific means and mechanisms to be fully funded and implemented.

WFM regrets that governments have not made better use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and renews its call for UN member states to recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

WFM calls upon all governments to join the Rome Statute for the International Criminal Court.

D) UN REFORM

UN Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA)

Recognizing the profound democratic deficit throughout the United Nations system, the WFM reaffirms its support for a World/U.N. Parliamentary Assembly. Such an Assembly could be established by the General Assembly under Article 22 of the UN Charter and, thus, would require no Charter amendments. It could develop in stages, beginning with parliamentarians elected either by their respective national legislatures or, if countries are willing to do so, by direct popular elections. It could later be constituted by direct popular elections entirely. The Parliamentary Assembly could, in concert with the UN General Assembly, be accorded gradually increasing legislative competence.

The Assembly envisaged would provide needed popular input to the other organs of the United Nations system; enhance the probability that UN decisions will reflect global public opinion; add legitimacy to the decisions made; provide a template for democratic decision-making, where needed, at the regional and national level; give people a sense that they have a meaningful stake in the UN system; and foster a spirit of global citizenship. The primary purposes of establishing the UNPA are:

- To overcome the democratic deficit of the UN
- To increase the democratic legitimacy of the UN
- To create better transparency and accountability between the UN and citizens

However, reforms for global democratization must not be restricted to UN processes.

UN Security Council reform

The disparity in size and power of member states leads to serious shortcomings in the UN's structure and decision-making procedures. WFM supports the reorganization of the Security Council on the basis of regional grouping of states (such as EU and AU) to overcome and avoid 1) power hierarchy and 2) fragmentation of the UN.

WFM notes the ongoing efforts, particularly at the UN General Assembly, aimed at reforming the Security Council and supports reform of the Security Council to represent the major regions of the world with a rational, objectively determined, veto-free system of weighted voting that will lead to more open, transparent and equitable decision-making.

WFM supports, in principle, the elimination of permanent membership and the right of any members to veto Council decisions.

WFM supports measures that lead to the elimination of the veto, such as proposals to limit the use of the veto in situations of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Consequently, WFM recognizes that the use of the veto or an informal threat to exercise the power of the veto by P5 members of the UN Security Council in cases of genocide and other mass atrocities constitutes a failure to fulfill the Security Council's responsibility to protect and maintain international peace and security for the international community.

WFM supports enhanced civil society participation in and monitoring of the Security Council (acknowledging in particular the recent leadership of NGOs such as "Security Council Report" and "Global Policy Forum").

WFM draws attention to Article 27.3 of the UN Charter, which stipulates that 'a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting' on the matter and supports efforts to ensure that this article is respected.

WFM supports measures that enable Security Council procedures to become more open, transparent, accountable and efficient.

E) Global economic, social and environmental governance

WFM recognizes the need for a more coherent and integrated structure of global economic, social and environmental governance, one that makes the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization, and the family of UN-affiliated agencies more accountable in respect of the values, policies and decisions of the UN.

WFM reaffirms its longstanding support for the strengthening and reform of the ECOSOC (UN Economic and Social Council) in order that it be based on regional representation and empowered to play a central role in global economic, social and environmental policy and decision-making, until a democratic global parliamentary body is created.

WFM supports efforts to strengthen the international environmental governance structure, such as through the creation of a World Environmental Organization.

WFM supports effective measures that provide the UN with its own revenues from sources independent of contributions from member states, e.g. revenues derived from progressive taxation of the international economy, on specified transnational corporate activities, a carbon tax, or other new innovative means of financing, such as those that have been discussed in the Financing for Development process; as well as a substantive increase in the budget of specialized agencies and other UN program funds.

WFM supports all the efforts made by civil society, citizens, governments and UN functionaries in order to make the UN system more democratic, accountable and transparent, including the creation of new agencies, the enhancement of the General Assembly in relation to other parts of the UN system such as

the Security Council, the participation of NGOs within the UN structure, the strengthening of the links between the UN structure and the International Criminal Court, the inclusion of weighted voting mechanisms and the reform of UN-associated agencies such as the IMF and the World Bank.

F) Regional Federalism

WFM welcomes the fact that international politics reflects a growing commitment to investing political and decision-making authority in regional and sub-regional supranational organizations.

WFM reaffirms its support for the strengthening and democratization of regional and sub-regional supranational organizations, recognizing that three supranational parliaments already directly elect representatives (European Parliament, Parlandino, and Parlacen) .

WFM encourages all regional organizations in their extension to the regional level and its empowerment through the direct election of representatives and the development of real legislative powers.

WFM should take action to have an official accreditation in all regional institutions.

WFM should encourage regional organizations to follow the example of South African reconciliation in promoting reconciliation and the pacific settlement of disputes.