



20 February 2021 Virtual Conference
Summary Report

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The World Federalist Movement, founded in 1947, is an independent, international, non-governmental, non-profit organization committed to the realization of global peace and justice through the development of democratic institutions and the application of international law. We have members around the world that are dedicated to spreading world federalism. Our members work on diverse issues to promote global governance, such as creating a UN Parliamentary Assembly, raising support for the International Criminal Court, strengthening the European Constitution, and reducing small arms trafficking.

For more information, please visit our website: <https://www.wfm-igp.org/>

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Introduction

The World Federalist Movement (WFM) convened its second virtual conference on 20 February 2021, following the success of its first virtual conference on 24–25 October 2020. This one-day conference explored democracy and supranational governance, peace and security frameworks, and environmental justice as well as their relevance to the struggle to achieve world federalism. The following report summarizes the key messages and takeaways from each session.



How Democracy Integrates Supranational Governance

Camila López Badra, Democracia Global (Argentina)

Andreas Bummel, Democracy Without Borders (Germany/South Africa)

Camila López Badra, Executive Director of Democracia Global, stressed that we need a global democracy, including an effective, robust world parliament and judiciary. Of particular relevance to the COVID-19 pandemic today is the fact that the suggested world parliament would create a transparent, interconnected global healthcare system and establish mandatory early warning standards and protocols to address pandemics. Badra continued on to emphasize the role of young people in achieving world federalism, especially since many already feel like global citizens. It is the World Federalist Movement’s duty to provide hope and opportunities for the youth to mobilize and effect change. The youth need an activist education to help them understand the global issues affecting their lives and take action towards a more just and sustainable world.

Andreas Bummel, Executive Director of Democracy Without Borders, called attention to the need for world federalist actions to focus on strengthening and defending democracy. He contended that it is not only hard to imagine—but also (arguably) undesirable for—the participation of an autocratic State in supranational integration, which is a key goal of world federalism. He further noted that the proposed UN Parliamentary Assembly would be a tool for both democratizing the United Nations and helping to improve democracy at the national level.



Towards a Rules-Based World

Shirine Jurdi, MENAPPAC, Lebanon

Adilur Rahman Khan, Odhikar, Bangladesh

Shirine Jurdi, the Middle East and North Africa Regional Liaison Officer at the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), discussed the significance of the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP). She argued that the international community must meaningfully commit to the values of RtoP, noting that state sovereignty comes with privileges and responsibilities. She highlighted the need for greater positive public opinion about RtoP, covering its full scope instead

of disproportionately focusing on its third pillar of intervention. And when responding to mass atrocities, preventative measures must precede military interventions.

Adilur Rahman Khan, Secretary of Odhikar, stressed the need for legitimate and effective judicial mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), to provide justice for victims of international crimes. Despite the slow nature of its processes and geopolitical hostility towards it, the ICC remains a critical tool for attaining accountability. He also asserted the importance of solidarity and constantly being ready to mobilize against injustice. Such grassroots movements and demonstrations should be led by the youth, as it is their future at stake.



Environmental Justice

Stephen Hockman QC, International Court for the Environment Coalition (United Kingdom)
Jojo Mehta, Stop Ecocide Foundation (The Netherlands)

Jojo Mehta, co-founder of the Stop Ecocide Campaign, described the push for the International Criminal Court (ICC) to recognize ecocide as a crime due to the seriousness of the destruction of ecosystems. An internationally accepted legal definition of ecocide would help States domestically criminalize it. If ecocide were criminalized by the ICC, corporations could be deterred from undertaking actions that destroy the environment for fear of being prosecuted alongside war criminals and/or of damaging their reputations.

Stephen Hockman, the leading authority on the campaign for an International Court for the Environment (ICE), proposed the creation of a court dedicated to environmental justice. Such a court would provide a centralized system of environmental dispute resolution and be accessible to a variety of actors, ranging from individuals to States. An ICE that engages scientific experts would clarify the legal obligations of companies and States to preserve the environment and standardize environmental law. He argued that the establishment of an ICE is an essential component of fighting the climate crisis on a global scale.