



Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

Promoting global unity since 1947

This newsletter and more at our website: <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>

JANUARY 2015

OUR VISION: We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect universal human rights and freedoms, foster sustainable development, and solve related problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires the involvement of informed world citizens to create and maintain effective democratic global institutions that will supplant the law of force with the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

OUR MISSION: We are a membership organization working to build political will and devise initiatives to promote our vision. We undertake our mission by organizing educational events, communicating global concerns to public officials, collaborating with globally engaged organizations, and disseminating proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions, suggesting the creation of new agencies when necessary.

2015, the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations A Year to Affirm the Community of Nations

UN Climate Talks Move Forward Jim Nelson



Climate negotiators in Lima Peru for the annual United Nations climate summit are quietly making significant progress. There are encouraging signs of growing momentum toward a new climate deal by late next year in Paris. There are good reasons to be hopeful!

Recent announcements have strengthened confidence in prospects for Paris. There are pledges from a variety of countries for a new \$20B Green Climate Fund. The European Union has recently agreed on new ambitious emissions goals. President Obama's recent trip to China concluded with a joint announcement by the US and China of their emission targets for 2020 and beyond.

Behind the scenes in Lima, proposals seem more constructive and concrete. There is a significant degree of convergence among key countries on the broad outline of a Paris deal.

I attended the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP 15) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (as did President Obama) in Copenhagen 5 years ago. My sense of momentum toward a deal is perhaps noteworthy since most voluntary agreements are expiring. Certainly there is greater global consensus on the likelihood of climate change and its profound adverse effects.

Although we are unlikely see any fundamental breakthroughs in Lima Conference of Parties (COP20), that's ok. Lima is a stage setting conference. Its goal is to lay a smooth path for the final year of this four-year round of negotiations culminating in Paris. To do that these meetings must produce measurable commitments.

Now is the time that nations needed to spell how they will present their "intended nationally determined contributions" to the Paris binding agreement. This required some tough compromises in particular to different areas such as mitigation, adaption and financial commitments.

Apart for genuine differences (county size, economy, development maturity), there are varied approaches to addressing climate change. Parties will want their special interest or emphasis to be reflected in final Lima draft.

My special focus in recent years is using revegetation (often referred as reforestation). There are many sources like the Center for Climate Studies that believe this approach can be low cost alternative for dealing with climate change.

New vegetation can take up heat trapping “greenhouse house gases”.

It is difficult to make a general statement that new plantings absorb carbon better or cheaper than other alternatives. However, carbon storage is just one of the benefits of vegetation. Many additional benefits include reducing erosion, filtering water, and preventing floods.

Diverse plantings can provide habitat for wildlife; everything from graceful songbirds to agriculturally important pollinators. A robust population of native plants can dramatically improve the resilience of natural areas and the productivity of agriculture. We can begin on a small scale throughout the world from barren regions or even relatively “green areas” like Minnesota. It also has the potential to provide jobs in rural areas that chronically need employment opportunities.

The road from Lima to Paris will not be an easy one. However, if we see the leadership among major countries that has emerged in recent weeks, a durable agreement in Paris with strong accountability is possible. Let us continue our grassroots efforts; both figuratively and literally. When the people lead the leaders are sure to follow!

Jim Nelson is a four decade long active member of MN CGS. Over the years he has served in several capacities on the Board of Directors including president in 1995. Jim can be reached at kdjnelsonATgmailDOTcom

The Importance of Diverse Global Perspectives in Developing Global Solutions **Gail Hughes, Chapter President**

In my November column, I discussed what I consider to be a false dichotomy between those who would focus on democratic world federalism vs. those who would focus on global issues. I argued that the two are interrelated – or at least, can be, through the underlying concepts of global identity and global citizenship. This time, I would like to draw attention to a potentially more fundamental culture clash within our organization: attempts to address global problems through diverse, global perspectives (as represented by decision-making in the UN General Assembly), versus attempts to address global problems through US. foreign policy perspectives.

On the one hand, we are a global organization in that we promote global solutions to global problems. On the other, in recent years much of the efforts of our national organization have gone towards lobbying members of Congress about US. policies which address global problems. As global citizens who identify with people across the world, we promote solutions that will benefit everyone, rather than solutions that would favor our country at the expense of others; yet the foreign policies of every nation (including those of the U.S.) are designed to promote what’s perceived to be the ‘national interest’ of that country.

This tension exists within the General Assembly (GA) itself, since representation is by nation. The UN Ambassadors from member countries are there to represent their country, rather than to represent humankind as a whole. Furthermore, as Joe Schwartzberg mentions in his book*, UN personnel are likely to represent the elites in their countries, rather than a cross-section of their populace.

What gives me hope is that those in the General Assembly can’t avoid hearing diverse views from others around the world. Perhaps that is the greatest strength of the GA at present; because over time, hearing diverse perspectives, including those of “The Other” with whom their country is in conflict, is likely to lead to greater empathy and cross-cultural understanding. If UN representatives develop multicultural and global perspectives, and if they expand their identities to incorporate global citizenship, they will have the capacity to make enlightened decisions that will result in the just and sustainable global solutions we desperately need.

As for resolving this issue at the national and Chapter levels of Citizens for Global Solutions: global and national initiatives can be aligned through a “think globally/act locally” approach, if they are consciously coordinated to ensure that they are not at odds. We can check to see that our efforts promote truly global policies. For example, UN institutional advocacy (e.g. to democratize the UN, establish a UN Parliamentary Assembly, or pay our UN dues), and lobbying U.S. Congressmen to ratify UN treaties and proposals that have the broad support of most of its members (such as CEDAW**, the International Criminal Court, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child) would be appropriate, because doing so would help to implement global values as reflected by a broad consensus of the UN membership. However, when views within the UN diverge along Global North/Global South, East-West, or some other lines, we should consider diverse global perspectives before lending our support. Otherwise, without realizing it, we may endorse U.S. foreign policies that undermine, rather than promote, global values such as peace, economic and environmental sustainability, and human rights.

*See Chapter 2, “Reform of the General Assembly”, in Joe’s book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, 2013, for his ideas to alleviate this problem.

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota has a long and proud history going back to 1947.

The current Board, listed below, come to CGSMn from varied backgrounds, ages and interests. We meet generally on the 1st Thursday evening each month. If interested in a specific issue, let us know.

Dr. Gail Hughes, President
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Margaret Mead said it well, long ago: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world, indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

Editorial Comment: With the Nov. 2014 issue, Dr. Joseph Schwartzberg announced his retirement as editor of this newsletter. I volunteered to "give it a go", working to fill some very large shoes! There are no plans to change the general layout of the newsletter, which has a long history - 60 numbers since 2000. The quotations this year will all come from Dr. Schwartzberg's book, *Transforming the United Nations Systems, Designs for a Workable World*, which a number of us have spent some months discussing in book club format. I highly recommend the book (Ordering information at end of Dr. Schwartzberg's article, "Plan C", elsewhere in this newsletter.)

Particularly solicited are your comments and commentaries for this newsletter. The next deadline is mid-February. Send submissions to Dick Bernard, dick_bernard@msn.com or 6905 Romeo Road Woodbury MN 55125-2421. My personal philosophy is that effective newsletters reflect diverse voices and points of view. I hope to hear yours.

Dick Bernard, editor.

My personal commentaries on assorted topics and issues can be found at my blog. The Jan 1, 2015, post concerns the 70th birthday of the United Nations <http://www.outsidethewalls.org/blog/2015/01/01/>

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM: TIME FOR “ PLAN C”

Joe Schwartzberg

In any given period, the international system is characterized by some minimally acceptable rules of order. These rules may be partially codified; but, to a large extent, they are tacitly understood, generally reflecting the balance of power perspectives of a small number of influential states. This essay considers systems in the period since World War II.

Plan A: Traditional Power Politics Plus a Weak United Nations System

The United Nations Charter, adopted in 1945, was not a democratic document. In the Security Council, the sole UN agency to enjoy binding powers, the so-called P5, the principal victors in World War II, were not only given permanent seats, but also the right to veto any resolution of which they disapproved. All other members reluctantly accepted this dispensation, relying for protection on their sovereign immunity from outside intervention. In theory, all states were sovereign equals. Each could do whatever it wished, no matter how immoral, within its own borders. Nor did it matter whether its actions were for the good of the planet. Nevertheless, most states behaved reasonably and the system worked well enough to help avert World War III and to provide modest benefits to needy nations.

In its early days, the UN was looked upon favorably by the United States, which, together with its allied and client states, mainly in Latin America and Western Europe, could win just about any vote in the UN General Assembly. The Soviet Union, naturally, frequently used its veto to block Western initiatives. But, as the UN expanded, mainly because of decolonization in Africa and most of Asia, the balance of power shifted. What had been a primarily East-West contest morphed into opposition between the global North and South. In the new power configuration the South won many victories, but they proved to be pyrrhic in that decisions were non-binding, unenforceable and largely ignored by powerful states. New agencies continued to be created to deal with issues of global importance, but they were typically under-funded and inadequately staffed. The United States continued to pay lip service to the importance of the UN, but we also made sure that it did not become a serious contender for global political power.

Overall, the planet continued to be wracked by political, economic and social injustice. Looming environmental dangers were ignored. Leaders and diplomats were largely oblivious to many mounting dangers and failed to recognize the sowing of the seeds of terrorism.

Plan B: An Abortive Pax Americana

With the unanticipated implosion of the Soviet Union in 1989, a seemingly promising new era dawned in world affairs. The United States emerged as the sole hegemon in a politically uni-polar world. Its capacity to lead was unprecedented. Many of our leaders, however, especially on the political right, perceived the global situation as enabling the establishment of a “New American Century,” a Pax Americana backed by worldwide acceptance of free-market capitalism and guaranteed militarily by “full spectrum dominance” (on land, sea, air, and outer space) and marked by pro-American, nominally democratic regimes on all continents. Remaining adversaries were to be hemmed in by a global network of hundreds of military bases. To be sure, it would be expensive; but it was a scenario we believed we could afford.

But there were problems. Nobody ever asked us to be the world’s policeman and political arbiter. We lacked the skill to export democracy to other lands. Most of the world did not buy into the neo-con myth that we were the “shining city on the hill” And then came 9/11! Our response was the unwinnable global War on Terrorism that has obsessed our political thinking ever since. Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and other nations have wreaked incalculable death and devastation and drained our economy of trillions of dollars and precluded meaningful reforms in our own country and abroad. For all practical purposes, the UN was relegated to a bit and subservient part. And most of our political establishment still doesn’t get it.

Plan C: A Transformed United Nations System

All of the problems confronting our planet before 9/11 are still with us. Some, especially climate change, have become appreciably worse. Plan B isn’t working and needs to be replaced. We need truly global, not essentially unilateral decision-making. The United Nations must be transformed and strengthened. Decisions must be binding, democratically reached, accepted as legitimate, and enforceable. The global South deserves to have an appropriate voice in world affairs. Terrorism must be addressed, not by killing ever-greater numbers of presumed potential

perpetrators, but by eliminating its root causes in global and local injustice. Ordinary citizens deserve to be represented in a World Parliamentary Assembly. Better ways must be found to tap the wisdom of civil society. Unilateral military adventurism must yield to duly authorized missions carried out by a competent standing peace force. The jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court must be made universal. The list goes on.

Happily, solutions are in sight. Suggesting how best to address these issues is the purpose of my most recent book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. The book, published by the United Nations University Press in 2013 has been enthusiastically endorsed by numerous prominent world thinkers. You may easily order a copy on-line from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or the Brookings Institution Press.

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM * **Free and open to the public**

Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Ave S. Minneapolis. Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Ave adjacent to Church, enter building from lot on LaSalle Ave side
More detailed bios of all speakers can be seen at <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>

Thursday, January 15, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Title: "Global Health: The Greatest Story Rarely Told"

Presenter: Christy Hanson, Dean of the Institute for Global Citizenship and a Distinguished Lecturer in International Studies, Macalester College

In this session, Christy Hanson will provide an overview of trends, problems, and successes in global health, including the role of United Nations agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) in preventing pandemics.

In addition to her teaching and administrative duties at Macalester College, Christy Hanson has nearly 20 years' experience as a practitioner of international public health. She has provided technical support to countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America through her previous positions with USAID and UN agencies. She is currently a member of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's technical review panel, and is the chair of a WHO task force on the impact of neglected tropical disease control. Hanson's research focuses on the dynamics between poverty, health care seeking behavior, and health system response, particularly for the care of infectious diseases.

Thursday, February 19, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Title: Getting Serious About Environmental Problems

Presenter: Jonathan Larson

Minnesota author Jonathan Larson will present ideas for applying technology to create sustainable societies. His 'blueprint' draws from innovations across the globe, as well as from the great economic minds of early Minnesotans such as Thorstein Veblen and Alvin Hanson.

Larson is the author of two books. The first, *Producers and Predators: An Introduction to Industrial-Environmentalism*, was published in Finland. An extensively revised version was published in 1992 by Riverdale Press of Massachusetts entitled *Elegant Technology: Economic Prosperity from an Environmental Blueprint*. For the last five years, he has devoted his energies to a blog devoted to heterodox economics called *real-economics*.

*** NOTE re Third Thursday series: Since 2000 Citizens for Global Solutions has presented 105 Third Thursday programs on a great variety of current topics. 115 speakers have shared their insights on their area of interest/expertise. Make a habit of attending these no-cost events. You won't be disappointed. A complete list of past programs can be found at the website.**

**Beginning A Twin Cities and Midwest Master Calendar
2015, the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations:
A Year to Affirm the Community of Nations
Some Significant Anniversaries and Events as Known***

bold-faced: 2015 Events

underlined: History events remembered

Jan 15, 2015 - Talk: Global Health: The Greatest Story Rarely Told, Dr. Christy Hanson, Citizens for Global Solutions Third Thursday, Jackman Room, Plymouth Congregational Church Minneapolis 7-9 p.m. (On going information on Third Thursday programs at <http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>)

Jan 27, 1945 - 70th anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz

Feb 11, 1990 - 25th anniv Nelson Mandela released from prison

Feb 19, 2014 - Talk: Getting Serious About Environmental Problems, Johnathan Larson, Citizens for Global Solutions Third Thursday (see Jan 15, 2015 for location and time.)

Mar 6-8, 2015 - Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College <http://nobelpeaceprizeforum.org/>

Mar 25, 1965 - March on Selma (enroute to Voting Rights Act)

March through December, 2015 - numerous events sponsored by St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee. <http://www.stpaulnagasaki.org/events/60th-anniversary-events-in-2015/>

Apr 9, 1865 - 150th anniv American Civil War ends

Apr 30, 1975 - 40th anniv of Vietnam War end

May 1, 2015 - 51st World Law Day in Twin Cities: Lynn and Donna Elling 3rd Annual Annelee Woodstrom speaks on War Child: Growing Up in Adolf Hitlers Germany (reservations requested)

May 6, 1945 - VE Day, 1945 70th anniversary of end of WWII in Europe

May 25, 2015 - Memorial Day Observed, Vets for Peace, Vietnam Memorial, State Capitol

Jun 15, 1215 - 800th anniv of the Magna Carta

Jun 18, 1815 - 200th anniv of Napoleon meeting his Waterloo. Europe has long period of peace.

Aug 6&9, 1945 - 70th anniversary of Atomic Bomb, Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Aug 6, 1965 - 50th anniversary of the U.S. Voting Rights Act

Aug 22-November 25 - "From War to Reconciliation: 70 Years of Peace Between Us." Hiroshima and Nagasaki Exhibitions, Landmark Center, St. Paul, MN. Sponsored by Hamline University, School of Education; World Citizen, Inc.; and the Saint Paul / Nagasaki Sister City Committee (www.stpaulpeace.org)

Aug 27, 1928 - Signing of Kellogg-Briand Pact

Sep 2, 1945 - VJ Day, 70th anniversary of Japanese surrender.

Sep 21 - Annual Observance United Nations International Day of Peace. <http://www.un.org/en/events/peaceday/>

Oct 22, 1995 - Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (<http://www.mapm.org/>) founded in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

Oct 24, 1945 - United Nations founded by 51 Founding Member Nations

Oct 25-28 - International Conf in Minneapolis: MN2015 Democracy for a Sustainable Future
<http://www.startribune.com/local/minneapolis/276202511.html>

Nov 11, 2015 - Armistice Day (11-11-1918) Observance Vets for Peace, USS Ward Memorial, near Veterans Service Building St. Paul.

Dec 1, 1955 - 60th anniversary of Rosa Parks arrest.

***Additions, Corrections, etc., welcome: contact dick_bernard@msn.com, or write Dick at 6905 Romeo Road Woodbury MN 55125-2421**

Co-Sponsors of this Calendar (additional co-sponsors and calendar additions welcomed):
A Million Copies Initiative <http://www.amillioncopies.info/>
Citizens for Global Solutions Minnesota (<http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org/>)

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORKABLE WORLD TRUST

On December 23 Joe Schwartzberg signed the documents that legally established The Workable World Trust, the principal purpose of which is to promote proposals for global governance put forward in his book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, published in 2012 by the United Nations University Press and warmly endorsed by such leading global thinkers as former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali; Thomas Pickering, former US Ambassador to the UN and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs; Sir Brian Urquhart, former UN Undersecretary-General; Alfred de Zayas, UN Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order; and many others.

The Trust is grateful for the willingness of Mark Ritchie, the distinguished past Secretary of the State of Minnesota, to serve as Honorary Director.

The Trust's agenda will include the following activities:

- To increase sales of Joe's book in Anglophone countries, largely in the form of an e-edition.
- To subsidize translation of the book into major world languages, specifically into Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Arabic.
- To create and disseminate electronic teaching media keyed to the ideas put forward in the book.
- To promote conferences relating to the book as a whole and to specific proposals therein.
- To liaise in regard to various proposals with staff of the UN Secretariat, national missions to the UN, national ministries of the external affairs, appropriate NGOs and INGOs, think tanks, influential media and academics, and other potentially influential persons and agencies.
- To provide partial financial support for carefully vetted specific initiatives to agencies with goals similar to those of the Trust.

Future activities of the Trust will be noted periodically in this Newsletter.

PLEASE JOIN CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA

If you believe in our Mission and Vision (see statement below masthead), please consider becoming a member by making an annual donation. This is your opportunity to invest in strengthening a Minnesota organization with a 68 year history that is truly international in focus, devoted to proposing effective solutions to problems that affect every one of us. **Suggested donations:** \$10 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$40 for couples. But contributions in any amount will be welcome: more if you can, less if you are short of funds.

Name _____ Donation enclosed (\$10, \$30, \$40, or other): _____

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YES! I am interested in serving on one of the Committees – please contact me with further information (circle):
Organizational Stability Global Governance Youth Initiative Educational Events/Participatory Projects

*Please make checks payable to “Citizens for Global Solutions” and mail to
Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St., #414, Minneapolis, MN 55403*

This calendar will be revised based on input from persons like you. It is a good opportunity to recognize the 70th anniversary of the United Nations later this year.

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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The splitting of the atom has changed everything, save our mode of thinking, and thus we drift toward unparalleled catastrophe.

Henceforth, every nation's foreign policy must be judged at every point by one consideration: does it lead us to a world of law and order or does it lead us back to anarchy and death?

Albert Einstein