



**Citizens for  
Global Solutions, Minnesota**  
Promoting global unity since 1947

**NOVEMBER 2014**

**OUR VISION:** We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect universal human rights and freedoms, 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 do this by organizing educational events, by communicating global concerns to public officials, by disseminating proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions and to create new agencies when necessary, and by collaborating with other globally engaged organizations.

## **PROMOTING GLOBAL IDENTITY AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP: LESSONS FROM NELSON MANDELA**

**Gail Hughes, Chapter President**

In our discussions about the mission of our organization at both the national and local levels, there seems to be a dichotomy regarding whether our focus should be on promoting “world federalism” (which entails making the UN more democratic by being more representative; and establishing a World Parliament in which representation would be by population rather than by nation), or on “global issues”, a direction taken by the national organization. Our Minnesota Chapter’s new Mission Statement encompasses both, on grounds that global governance organizations are needed to deal effectively with global problems; but that global citizens both want and need to learn about the global issues that would be on the agenda of a transformed United Nations.

I suggest that we should also promote the underlying and unifying concepts of “global identity” and “global citizenship”. Those who think of themselves as being citizens of the world, as well as citizens of their local community, state, and nation, are likely to empathize with people around the world and to feel a responsibility to do what they can to improve life for all on a healthy, sustainable planet. They are also likely to feel the need for more democratic global institutions that will be more fair and effective in addressing global problems. Global citizens are needed as members of a transformed United Nations, as well. Ideally, members would not

merely represent a nation, region, culture, or gender, but would consider the good of the world as a whole when casting their votes.

Is it too idealistic to hope that people around the world will acquire a global identity and the accompanying rights and responsibilities of global citizenship? I think not. People change - and, especially, expand - their identities with ease. Think about rooting for your football team. Most of the players aren’t even from your state; and next year, you’ll be cheering for players that joined your team from the ranks of last year’s ‘arch enemy’!

The genius of Nelson Mandela is that he was able to expand the identities of various peoples in South Africa to think of themselves first and foremost as South African, rather than as White, Black, Colored, Xhosa, Zulu, Afrikaner, etc. This was Mandela’s first order of business, and it was achieved within his first few years in office. He believed that a unifying identity was needed before South Africans could act in concert to achieve other goals.

We can learn from Mandela about the importance of a unifying identity. Until a critical mass of people around the world think of themselves as global citizens, members of international organizations will work towards somewhat different, ‘provincial’ goals, rather than to create truly Global Solutions - solutions that benefit humankind as a whole.

# WHY I FAVOR WORKING FOR “A WORKABLE WORLD”

Joe Schwartzberg

As some readers of this Newsletter are aware, a World Federalist Institute (WFI) was established as a think tank attached to Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS) in 2004 when the World Federalist Association (WFA) changed its name to Citizens for Global Solutions. WFI's creation was a concession to those die-hard members of WFA, including me, who saw the creation of CGS as turning away from the noble, but no longer politically fashionable, goal of achieving a democratic, federal world government. WFI's mandate was to generate and disseminate ideas on ways by which to promote the original WFA mission. WFI contained some of the best minds and most dedicated members of our movement. It acted mainly through exchanges on the Internet and increasingly, in recent years, via telephone conference calls. These remarks are offered to enable readers to put the following essay in an intelligible context.

## A WORKABLE WORLD

In WFI's conference call of September 16, we discussed possible future relationships between those of our associates who, like [C.E.O.] Don Kraus, would have CGS focus on relatively near-term issues (e.g. CEDAW, ratifying the Law of the Sea Treaty, establishing a standing UN rapid -deployment force) and those who, like Tad Daley, choose to focus on the long-term goal of full-bore world federal government. (To be sure, Tad also held out the possibility of doing the two together). Several speakers correctly noted, that, unlike the late 1940s, the political climate in the United States has now shifted so markedly that advocacy of anything like "World Government" would be greeted with derision and scorn by most politically aware Americans.

The concept of a "World Federation," in my judgment (based on observations in hundreds of public and academic meetings) would fare only slightly better. Further, among the enlightened minority who are willing to entertain the idea of a world federation, the prevailing opinion seems to be: "Sure, it might be a good idea; but it will never happen." And they will then rattle off one or more reasons why any attempt to create that federation is bound to fail. Some will admit that it *could* happen, but that it would be only centuries into the future, which, given the existential threats facing us, is much, much longer than humankind can afford to wait. And, while it is true that several movements (e.g. anti-slavery, women's suffrage) have engaged activists for several generations, virtually no one will invest much human capital in promoting a goal whose achievement lies *hundreds of years* in the future.

The foregoing considerations guided me when I selected a title for my book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*. I intentionally kept the goal modest. Modesty enhances credibility. I stressed that I was not trying to create a future Utopia, but, rather, an *achievable* set of reforms, designing broadly acceptable, even if imperfect,

structures and procedures for dealing with problems of truly global importance. Those problems might, perhaps, not always be wholly resolved (think of climate change, terrorism, pandemics, economic and social inequities, etc.); but they can be substantially mitigated, thereby reducing human misery and the likelihood and severity of violent conflict. But, even relatively modest goals, I argued, are unattainable under our present global system, predicated as it is on unbridled national sovereignty. There had to be mechanisms for *enacting and enforcing binding legislation*.

The initial set of problems subject to binding global decisions would have to be carefully circumscribed. Climate change would, almost surely, head the list; international migration would probably not make the initial cut. (I cited a list of included and precluded issues suggested by the international lawyer, Paul Szasz.) At first, therefore, it would not occur to many observers that the seeds of a comprehensive system of federal world government were being sown; and I saw no need to make that point explicitly until Chapter 14, "A New Global Governance Architecture." (A diagram in that chapter, one may note, includes all the essential agencies needed for a viable federal government. It is the *architecture*, not the *name*, that is really important. Various routes are possible to bring about that architecture. While I would not rule out the possibility of a constitutional convention, as per Article 109 of the Charter, I think it more likely, at least in the early stages, that modest evolutionary change will be the rule.

What changes are most needed and most likely to serve as catalysts for further evolution? In my opinion, a World Parliamentary Assembly and meaningful Civil Society Coordinating Councils (not yet on many radar screens) should head the list, along with an elite, all-volunteer, standing internationally recruited, rapid deployment peace force. (It is one thing to talk about abolishing war at some far-off date, but quite another to work for preventing mass

slaughter in our time.) I think that WFI advocacy of *a few, carefully designed key agencies* would draw many more activists and much greater funding to our cause, than feel-good exhortations to promote some nebulous future federalist entity.

In this essay I have noted the problematic nature of world government advocacy. With good reason, most people are leery of government. But have you ever encountered anyone who would question the desirability of a "workable world"? Readers will, of course, offer different interpretations as to what a workable world might entail. Fine! We will benefit from lively debates on that subject. Good ideas will

surely come from such exercise. We will inevitably differ on the desired end points of our march down the road to a workable world, some hoping for nothing short of world federalism, others being willing to settle for some set of intermediate goals; but so long as we can agree that our present system is broken and needs to be fixed, we in WFI should be able to work together amicably and attract numerous followers as we do so. Any real-world journey begins at the place one is at. Ours must begin in our present messy, problem-ridden world. Our problems are existential and must be addressed in the short term, whatever our future vision may be.

## A WORKABLE WORLD TRUST

Following up on the thinking indicated in the essay above, Joe Schwartzberg, who is approaching his 87<sup>th</sup> birthday, is putting a large part of his life's savings into the establishment of a Workable World Trust, the principal purpose of which will be to promote and disseminate, both locally and worldwide, specific proposals in his most recent book, cited above. Towards that end the Trust's projects will include the following:

- a) Publication of the work in **an inexpensive e-edition**, quite likely through the Brookings Institution Press.
- b) **Translations** of the book into Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Russian and Arabic, in that order of priority, and publishing those translations in e-editions.
- c) Creation, with Louise Pardee, a series of **13 DVDs** keyed to various chapters of the book and aimed at high school and college students.
- d) Sponsoring or co-sponsoring **conferences on Global Governance** at prestigious institutions such as the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.
- e) Providing financial **support for worthy projects** by individuals and organizations whose goals are compatible with those of the Trust.

## THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public.

**Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman Room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Avenue S., Minneapolis**  
Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Ave. adjacent to church; enter building from lot on La Salle Ave. side.

**Thursday, November 20, 7:00-9:00 p.m.**

### **THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN CONFLICT: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES**

The ongoing conflict in East Ukraine is one of the most tragic and geopolitically significant developments in the post-Soviet space. Its causes are mired in mind-boggling complexity. One of its signal consequences has been the demise of the taken-for-granted, post-Cold War international order. The conflicting narratives that have followed the Russian annexation of Crimea have complicated attempts to understand the origins of the conflict. The presentation will examine the historical, economic, and geopolitical causes of the conflict and its possible implications.

**Presenter: Dr. Artyom Tonoyan.** A native of Armenia, Dr. Tonoyan is a research associate and consultant at East View Information Services, a Minneapolis-based research and information firm specializing in the countries of the former Soviet Union, China and the Middle East. At East View, he is engaged in a research project on election politics in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Georgia. He earned his Ph.D. in religion, politics and society from Baylor University in 2012. He has authored a number of peer reviewed articles and book chapters on various aspects of religion and politics in Russia, Ukraine and the Caucasus, and currently is finishing a monograph on religion and nationalism in the South Caucasus.

**NOTE: There will be no Third Thursday Global Issues Forum in December.**

## PLEASE JOIN CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA

If you believe in our goals (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 that is truly international in impact, bringing 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**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*

### **Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota**

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

Editor: Joe Schwartzberg

President: Gail Hughes

144 Warwick St. SE

Minneapolis, MN 55414

[www.globalsolutionsmn.org](http://www.globalsolutionsmn.org)

*Another world is not only possible; she is on her way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing.*

**Arundhati Roy**