

UN/Globenet

A proposal for reshaping global governance

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4/14/2017

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A. ABSTRACT

The United Nations is now in the same situation as the League of Nations in the 1930s when the world was sliding from the Great Depression into World War II. World leaders fixated on national interests are ignoring equally the vivid signs of a potentially cataclysmic breakdown in world order and the hugely positive implications of major contemporary trends. The former reflect the grim realities of the Industrial Age, the latter the promise of the Information and Communications Revolutions. This paper argues that the difference between the two futures is effective international cooperation through a United Nations System reformed by flattening its hierarchical processes into a seamless network and functioning as the central node of global networks (UN/Globenet).

1. Institutions

The intergovernmental institutions of UN/Globenet would retain the substantive differentiation of the UN System but their secretariats would be merged into specialized networks capable of seamless interaction. UN/Globenet would interface with designated external networks through a web site that governments would be invited to replicate, creating a seamless and fluid global governance structure. All sub-national entities down to the community level would be invited to use a new network structure (described below), with administrative nodes at the national and regional levels, allowing coordinated action at all or some levels.

2. Regulations

The UN Globenet Charter would draw on the UN Charter and subsume those of the Specialized Agencies. Operational rules would be distilled from the existing regulatory apparatus of the UN System. Relevant sections of this regulatory framework and precedents would be called up automatically whenever an intergovernmental or administrative authority initiated action. That computer-generated text, modified as necessary, would replace the preambular sections of current UN resolutions setting out precedents.

3. Decision-making

Intergovernmental bodies would make decisions with expert support drawn from a unified System-wide secretariat and from a global roster of networked independent experts. This would avoid the silo effect and allow nuanced decisions on complex issues. Action-oriented consultations would follow a well-defined and transparent path progressing from substantive clarification at the expert level to sub-regional, regional and global consideration of political and socio-economic interests. With all precedents and nuances noted separately, draft decisions could be phrased clearly and shared with dedicated networks of practitioners for feedback before finalization.

4. Control Mechanisms

UN/Globenet would be controlled by a set of value-based cardinal rules and oversight mechanisms.

- a. The cardinal values governing personnel, policies and action would be honesty, transparency, equality of all individuals, sovereign equality of States, non-discrimination, promotion of nonviolence, social inclusion, compassion for life, and respect for Nature.
- b. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) would continue as an independent entity supported by an automatic and permanent electronic registry of all official actions in the form of text and time-stamped audio and video recordings.
- c. Administrators would periodically consider analytics on key action areas.
- d. There would be robust protection of whistleblowers.
- e. An autonomous organ of UN/Globenet would be organized by professional journalists to provide coverage of all aspects of its work. Supported by a global cooperative of media organizations, it would be self-financing.
- f. Systematic violations of cardinal rules by an external network would trigger a graduated scale of punitive responses leading up to excommunication from UN/GLOBENET and, where appropriate, collective enforcement action.

5. Appointment of key individuals

Vacancies at the level of Executive heads of UN/GLOBENET entities would be advertised on a web page visible to all networks. Governments and designated expert networks would be able to nominate candidates. Relevant bodies at national and regional levels

would interview and express opinions on candidates before final selection by the General Assembly acting by secret ballot or acclamation.

6. Functions, Responsibilities, Mandates

The deliberative, coordination, thematic, operational and expert functions of existing UN bodies would remain largely unchanged except where overlap or duplication needed remedy. The main UN organs and Specialized Agencies would thus continue to function as now but all would engage with relevant external networks. With revised mandates, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization would operationalize a jointly run Situation Room under the aegis of ECOSOC. Networked with national central banks and Trade ministries, it would receive real-time analytics on world trade and payments and coordinate management of stable currency exchange rates. For the rest:

- 1) The General Assembly would receive real time reports from its subsidiary bodies, the Security Council, ECOSOC and Specialized Agencies. It would get feedback from designated expert networks that would also have a key role in implementation.
- 2) The Security Council with a regionally balanced permanent membership would have disarmament as its highest priority. It would implement the 1966 US-Soviet "McCloy –Zorin Accord" on general and complete disarmament unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 1722 (1961). To that end, it would network with national intelligence and police forces to create

an early warning and response system to address international tensions, build collective confidence, and prevent conflict. No country would have the power of veto.

- 3) ECOSOC would coordinate external networks through its subsidiary bodies and the Specialized Agencies. It would report to the General Assembly on socio-economic and environmental developments, implementation of *Agenda 2030*, and the ongoing work of the IMF-WTO Situation Room.

7. Financing

A decentralized crowd funding system (explained below), supervised by UN/Globenet but under the control of individual member States would finance all network expenses, implementation of *Agenda 2030* and all operational activities for development.

8. Functioning of the System

When UN/GLOBENET is operational and integrated with a mature geospatial information framework, it would analyze widely sourced data and generate prompt strategic responses at multiple levels ranging from the national to the regional and global. It would maintain international peace and security, manage a stable macroeconomic system, and mobilize action on the massive demographic and environmental challenges facing humanity. At every level, networked decision-making would devolve to legitimately representative authorities. In operation, UN/GLOBENET

would be a democratic, fully funded, non-bureaucratic and effective system of world governance.

B. DESCRIPTION OF THE MODEL

To understand UN/Globenet design and functioning, it is necessary to look at the nature of international organizations, the lessons to be learned from their experience and contemporary trends shaping world affairs.

1. Understanding International Organizations

The first international organizations were a response to the need for transnational cooperation created by industrial technology. The *International Telegraph Union*,¹ founded in 1865, was the earliest. The second, the *International Meteorological Organization* (1873),² aimed to improve maritime safety by the telegraphic sharing of newly standardized weather information. The third was the Universal Postal Union (1874), established to deal multilaterally with the swelling volume of mail carried by railways and steamships that had swamped bilateral arrangements requiring each international letter to be weighed and paid for at every border. All three agencies had small bureaucracies with staff drawn from their host countries; they survived the First and Second World Wars and are now Specialized Agencies of the United Nations. In the wake of enormously destructive World Wars fought with industrial technologies, the League of Nations (1919) and the United Nations (1945) were created with the primary objective of preventing conflict. A quarter century after its creation, the United Nations took on board a historically new problem, the devastating impact of industrial technology on the natural environment.

2. The Delusional Roots of Modern War

The World Wars of the 20th Century were caused by two delusions that afflicted the imperial elites of Europe. The first was one that Adam Smith had tried unsuccessfully to debunk 130 years earlier: that monopoly control of colonial resources and markets was essential to the prosperity and power of Europe's imperial Powers.³ The intra-European rivalries set off by that idea escalated from limited skirmishes with sword and musket to wars fought with industrial technologies of mass destruction. The First World War killed some 10 million people; the Second took some 60 million lives. The second delusion, Karl Marx's concept that a "dictatorship of the proletariat" would usher in a communist utopia, led to revolution in Russia, the establishment of the *Union of Soviet Socialist Republics* (USSR) and the 43-year "Cold War" between it and Western free market economies. During the "Cold War" the two delusions came together in the so-called "proxy wars" of Africa, Asia and Latin America; they were ideological in part but also reflected the efforts of the imperial Powers (who had shape-shifted into the "leaders of the Free World"), to crimp and manipulate the independence of colonized peoples. The "proxy wars" killed more people than both World Wars combined.

3. Origin and Impact of Market Mechanisms

The joint-stock corporation and its funding mechanism, the stock market, were European innovations to share the high cost and risk of trans-oceanic trade. They had two massive unintended consequences. One was the emergence of an investor class unconcerned with what corporations did to produce profits. That disregard blinded investors in the mercantile era to the misery of enslaved and colonized people in distant lands; in the industrial era it became moral torpor in the face of the brutal abuse of labor and the natural environment in their own

societies. The second unintended consequence was the evolution of corporations into giant transnational entities with the economic and political power to shape global production and consumption patterns on a scale hugely destructive of natural ecosystems. By the end of the 20th Century, human activity had become, for the first time ever, the dominant factor shaping the biosphere. Species are now being driven to extinction by habitat loss at a rate approaching that of the period 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs died off. There is also the prospect that atmospheric warming could accelerate the rate of loss to the level of the Permian Extinction 250 million years ago when 95 per cent of species were killed by a prolonged searing heat wave.

4. Egregious Failures

The League of Nations and the United Nations failed in their primary task of preventing war and in a number of their secondary aims:

1. **Failure to Prevent War:** The League failed because it was dominated by imperial Powers determined to pursue their interests without regard to those of others. The collective security system envisaged in the UN Security Council was meant to avoid a repetition but the “Cold War” nullified it for a half century and by the time it ended the Council’s Permanent Members had become the world’s primary arms merchants and war profiteers.
2. **Failure of Economic Cooperation:** The League had no mechanism to promote economic cooperation and was a bystander as the shortsighted “beggar thy neighbor” policies of major trading nations collapsed the world economy into

the Great Depression. To avoid a recurrence the UN had the International Monetary Fund supervising a system of fixed currency-exchange rates, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade⁴ to increase free trade. However, the IMF's system fell apart in the early 1970s and after that the world has staggered from one crisis to the next; the latest, in 2008, precipitated the Great Recession from which the world has yet to recover.

- 3. Failure of the International Civil Service:** The Covenant of the League of Nations gave no guidance on creating an impartial multinational Secretariat but the organization's first Secretary-General was a man of integrity who set that as his ideal. The Secretariat under him (numbering 707 at its peak in 1931), was widely respected. That esteem was lost rapidly under his successor, an admirer of Hitler. The UN Charter did specify the need for an impartial, independent and high quality international civil service but it remained an unrealized ideal because the Permanent Members of the Security Council⁵ (P-5) would not countenance it. The first Secretary-General resigned; the second was killed in a suspicious plane crash; the third declined a second term until assured of his freedom to speak publicly about the Vietnam War.⁶ The fourth was a Nazi accused of war crimes during World War II whose appointment signaled the fatigue of the P-5 with integrity in the person of the Secretary-General. Since then incumbents have had little independence or were too inept to require control.⁷ The insistence of the P-5 on filling top posts in the Secretariat with their

nationals further weakened the integrity of the Secretariat, as did a national quota system that politicized UN staff appointments and promotions processes.

4. **The Failure of Integrity:** Under the conditions described above, the Secretariat sank into cynicism and came to be dominated by careerists obedient to the most powerful States and willing to be silent about their negative international role.

Most egregiously, the UN Secretariat has been blind to the following:

- **The Global Black Market:** As European empires dissolved in the second half of the 20th Century a string of some 70 money laundering “tax havens” came into existence around the world, most in small former colonies. According to figures from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime cited by the 37-member Financial Action Task Force (FATF), some \$1.9 trillion is laundered annually into the world economy.⁸ The drain of wealth has been particularly heavy from the poor countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America; Washington based [Global Financial Integrity](#) reported in December 2015 that developing countries had lost \$7.8 trillion in illicit transfers between 2003 and 2014.⁹ The UN generated the statistics that GFI analysts used to reach their finding; the UN was unable to do that or to look at the larger picture and report the existence of a global black market that could be the size of the American economy.
- **Drug Trafficking:** The East India Company’s colonial era trade of opium evolved into the voluminous 20th Century trafficking of a range of

psychotropic drugs because of the policies pursued by the League of Nations and the United Nations. The League brought the 1912 Opium Convention into force and tried unsuccessfully to enforce its prohibitionist regime; the United Nations continued prohibition and extended it to a range of other drugs. Prohibition proved entirely counterproductive, for it created a lucrative market for criminals and made its expansion hugely profitable. Drug trafficking is now the single largest source of laundered funds and is intimately tied to terrorist organizations: the Taliban oversee opium/heroin production in Afghanistan; Al Qaeda, ISIS and other groups traffic the drugs through the Middle East and Africa to major markets.

- **The manipulation of Islam:** At the end of the 19th Century Islam was a quiescent force in every region now roiled by jihadist fanaticism. That transformation was almost entirely the result of imperial policy: the British-supported creation of Saudi Arabia¹⁰, Pakistan¹¹ and Israel,¹² and the founding of the Muslim Brotherhood¹³ in the colonized “Canal Zone” of Egypt. Those initiatives created the unending crisis of Palestine, put control of Islam’s holiest places and enormous wealth in the hands of Wahhabi extremists, made Pakistan a State-sponsor of terrorism and established a secretive apparatus to mobilize jihadists around the world.

In combination, the global black market, drug trafficking and “Islamic terrorism” constitute colonialism by other means, draining wealth into imperial Europe from all regions of the world, especially the weakest and most defenseless countries. The resulting violence and chaos has created millions of refugees and required the UN to field peacekeeping and humanitarian operations with multi-billion dollar budgets but the Organization’s analysts have avoided any mention of root causes. The most recent example of that reluctance to engage with reality is *Agenda 2030* which dismisses in just 24 of its 15,000+ words the problems of terrorism, money laundering and the illicit drain of wealth from developing countries.

5. Historic Successes

Despite their crippling problems both the League and the United Nations have historic successes to their credit:

- **League Successes:** The League’s International Labor Office (ILO) initiated the first concerted effort to improve the conditions of industrial workers. Its Health Office had a major role in fighting epidemic diseases and in spreading the use of insulin to treat diabetes. Its refugee agency did heroic work after the war and laid the foundations for the UN Office of High Commissioner for Refugees.
- **United Nations Successes:** The United Nations General Assembly has created and codified a body of international law stretching from the ocean floor to Outer Space; it extended the mantle of equal human rights to all of humanity. The UN Statistical

Office built the global framework that brought into view the major economic and social crises afflicting the world. The General Assembly's programs to help children and refugees (UNICEF, UNHCR) have rendered invaluable service. The UN System has had an important normative role in many areas, and often also an operational one. The UN pioneered the role of civil society in global governance through the consultative status of Non-Governmental Organizations in the Economic and Social Council. Perhaps most importantly, the United Nations brought to life the idea that all nations are accountable to a common moral standard. In sum, its successes have laid the foundations essential for a peaceful world.

6. Lessons Learned

The following lessons learned from the experience of the United Nations are relevant to planning a fourth generation international organization:

- The UN Security Council concept of five Permanent Members maintaining international peace and security has proved to be fundamentally unsound.
- The exercise of the veto in the process of selecting a Secretary-General has debilitated the post and corrupted the Secretariat.
- The UN Charter ideal of an independent international civil service has failed in practice. The UN Secretariat has been unable to perform its most basic task of reporting honestly on international issues.

- Existing UN structures can handle normative tasks that require issues to be dealt with in specialized silos but have been unable to deal effectively with complex, interrelated policy issues that require a holistic approach.
- Market mechanisms for financial and monetary interactions among nations have proved to be corrupt, undependable and prone to recurrent crises.
- The United Nations has engaged only minimally with civil society (through ECOSOC's consultative arrangements); it can be significantly expanded through UN/Globenet networks.

7. The Changing Context

A fourth-generation international organization must deal with a world that is being fundamentally transformed by the impact of the Information and communications revolutions of the last three decades. The following five aspects of change require a reinvention of global governance.

- **Connectivity and Data Revolutions:** Beginning from a standing start three decades ago, basic mobile telephone service has become global, and is now accessible to almost the entire world population; 165 countries also have '4G' high-speed mobile networks offering smart phone access to the Internet. Some 3.5 Billion people – almost half the world population – have broadband access to the Internet. The world's largest data processor is Google; in 2015 it was dealing with 3.5 billion requests per day and storing 10 exabytes (10 billion gigabytes) of data. Total Internet traffic has grown dramatically, from approximately 100 GB of traffic per day

in 1992 to 100 gigabytes per second (GBps) in 2002; in 2015, that had risen to more than 20,000 GBps. In 2015, global IP traffic was an estimated 2.5 quintillion bytes of data (that's 2.5 followed by 18 zeros); by 2020, that is projected to increase to 2.3 Zetabytes (add another three zeros) per year.¹⁴ To put that in more comprehensible terms, by 2020, the gigabyte equivalent of all movies ever made will cross the global Internet every two minutes and it would take more than 5 million years to watch all the video shared in a month.¹⁵ This vast acceleration of Internet traffic has led scientists to speculate if a global neural network is emerging that will at some point generate an autonomous planetary consciousness, a Global Brain.¹⁶

- **Geospatial Information Management:** Governments have made a rapidly accelerating effort in the last six years to create a system for global geospatial information management (GGIM). Guided by an ECOSOC expert committee, countries around the world have been cooperating on capacity-building, norm-setting, data collection, data dissemination and data sharing aimed at creating a [global geodetic frame of reference](#) to manage all aspects of GGIM.¹⁷ Once it is in place the planet will be able to grow a “skin” of location-specific data integrating all available economic, social, environmental and cultural information, viewable on any smart phone in perspectives ranging from Big Data visuals to weather forecasts and local entertainments. Smart phones could also be programed to report automatically to the nearest database on a variety of variables, including environmental conditions; that would make the analogy of a planetary “skin” exact.
- **3D Printing:** The basic technology for 3D printing dates back to the inkjet printers of the 1980s. The first patent for a printer that shaped three-dimensional forms was

granted in 1987 and the first operating printer was made in 1992. Since then 3D printing (by layering and hardening materials), has made astonishing progress.¹⁸ In 1999, a 3D printed frame coated with a layer of cells taken from a patient was used for an implant that faced little chance of rejection. In 2002 a 3D printer made a fully functional miniature kidney. In 2006 3D printers were making prosthetic limbs and engineering industrial products. In 2008 an open source program produced self-replicating printers. The same year, a human leg complete with knee and ankle joints was printed out as a single prosthetic. In 2009 the first blood vessel was printed out, the first robotic aircraft and drivable car were produced, and gold and silver used to print jewelry. Other materials in use now include plastics, polymers, resins, titanium, concrete, food and human tissue. In 2017 an entire house was printed using concrete in sub-zero weather.¹⁹ Developers are aiming at a 3D “desktop factory” capable of printing out any and all industrial products of the finest quality.

- **Renewable Energy:** Renewable energy production has been increasing at historically unprecedented rates and has remained competitive despite a dramatic decline in global fossil fuel prices; it is now a mainstream source of power, accounting for about half of newly added electricity generating capacity.²⁰ By the end of the next decade India is projected to be drawing on non-fossil sources for over 56 per cent of its power.²¹ By 2030, the use of clean energy will probably be double the level of 2014, with the largest share being solar energy.²²
- **Demographic Change:** The UN medium variant projection shows world population increasing to 9.3 billion by 2050 and 10.1 billion by 2100.²³ A fertility level just half a child per woman below the medium projection would push population growth into

the “low” variant, reducing the total number of people on the planet to 6.2 billion in 2100, the same as at the start of the 21st century. Experience has shown that such a change can be caused by educating women, giving them access to reproductive health care,²⁴ and eliminating child, early and forced marriage. In short, the change can be made by improving the status of women in the context of economic and social development. Such development will also be of critical importance in creating jobs for the 1.9 billion youngsters who will turn 15 between before 2030, and providing adequate care for people over 60 (who will increase from 10 to 16 per cent of the world population in the same period).²⁵ Effective global governance is essential to ensure the rapid development necessary for optimum outcomes.

8. Major Implications

The trends noted above point to a series of dramatic outcomes, among which are the following:

a. End of Mega Corporations

With small and medium manufacturers able to locate and sell to niche markets on the Worldwide Web, giant corporations will lose all the competitive advantages of mass production. As mass markets disaggregate into differentiated local markets, large hierarchically organized corporations will lose their economic rationale. As that happens it is likely that a whole row of industrial-era dominoes will fall:

b. New Economic Realities

The plummeting price of off-grid renewable energy and increasingly sophisticated 3-D printing point to the emergence of capacity to produce the highest quality of industrial product in the remotest locations. That will make most factory-scale production

unnecessary. Without mass production there will be no need to concentrate labor, energy and other commodities at particular locations. As small and medium manufacturers return to the historical norm of sourcing locally/regionally available raw materials global trade will reorient into regional patterns. Most bulk shipping of commodities, oil pipelines, goods trains and long distance trucking will become unnecessary.

c. **End of Urbanization**

Decentralized manufacturing will reverse the trade and industry-driven urbanization of the last four centuries. Cities will revert to being cultural/educational centers and hubs for regional trade. Urban real estate valuations will increasingly reflect aesthetic and social considerations.

d. **A New Globalization**

Trends such as the shift from brick and mortar retailing to e-commerce,²⁶ the borderless sprawl of social media²⁷ and the shift of advertising from broadcast television to digital media,²⁸ point to a new globalization driven by individual preferences and disruptive of corporate realities.²⁹ The rapid development of artificial intelligence and robotics will thus not serve corporate profitability and cause mass unemployment³⁰ but support economically self-sufficient or entrepreneurial communities. With better global governance and much better funding of human development through crowd-funding (see below) it is possible to contemplate accelerated progress towards all 17 goals of *Agenda 2030* and a shift from the medium to the low variant projection of world

population growth. In sum, the trends indicate the reversal of every negative legacy of the industrial era, including climate change.

e. Dealing with Disruption

The outcomes of the projected changes will be uniformly positive but the process will be unavoidably disruptive. We can already see in the most advanced economies the type of problems that are likely to develop globally. The surge in American e-commerce is decimating the traditional retail industry (which reportedly lost almost 100,000 jobs between October 2016 and May 2017);³¹ and the shift from broadcast to digital advertising is changing the economics of the giant conglomerates that dominate branding and marketing. Far more disruptive changes lie ahead as mass production becomes uneconomical and the financial infrastructure supporting giant corporations falls into disuse. The unemployment effects could lead to widespread social disruption unless small and medium manufacturing takes up the slack. For that to happen, it will be necessary for governments to invest massively in promoting the use of off-grid renewable energy and 3D printing, and cooperate in sharing technology and other resources. UN/Globenet can enable the close and flexible intergovernmental cooperation necessary; the system for crowd-funding described below should be able to generate almost unlimited financing.

9. Crowd-Funding

The Internet and the Worldwide Web make possible a new financial mechanism, crowd-funding through a strictly regulated lottery. Two examples below illustrate how that will

work, one relevant to developing countries and the other to developed economies (Greece is taken as example).

a. Housing Lottery

All developing countries have an acute shortage of adequate shelter and grossly inadequate financial resources to remedy it. A web-based National Housing Lottery (NHL) under the aegis of the central bank could deal with the problem by offering housing units as prizes. The NHL would sell just enough lottery tickets for each unit to cover payment to the owner/builder plus an extra tranche to provide revenue for the development of sanitation, water supply, waste disposal, transport, and communications infrastructure. The NHL would ensure a rapid turnover in the housing market, incentivize builders, and provide housing for the price of a lottery ticket. It would have a quick, continuing and broad impact on employment and economic growth. With prize winners having the option to take attractive cash awards instead of houses there would be continuing interest in the lottery. Crowd-funding the housing sector will put conventional financial institutions out of business but their staff could be easily absorbed by the NHL.

b. Lottery Tourism

Greece is taken as an example because it provides easily comprehensible figures. Some 22.5 million tourists pay to enjoy a Greek vacation every year. A government-organized web-based lottery offering as prizes all-expense paid visits to Greece (awarded in the form of credit cards usable only in the country), would generate enormous interest globally. Assuming that all 22.5 million tourists came to Greece by winning lottery

tickets and that the government sold 10,000 \$1 lottery tickets for each prize, revenue generated would be \$225,000,000,000, which is about the same as the country's GDP. The number of tickets sold for each prize could be easily adjusted upward to bring in whatever revenues the government needed.

10. Key Conclusions

To sum up, the world is trending towards a series of positive changes that can reverse the deeply negative legacies of the industrial era. For the first time in human history the technologies coming into mainstream use will allow democratic governance of both political and economic systems. The regulated lottery as a new form of crowd-funding will make it possible to fully fund the implementation of *Agenda 2030*, equalizing human development around the world and accelerating the demographic transition. However, the short term impact on jobs and livelihoods could be extremely disruptive unless the transition is taken in hand through intensified and effective governance. The transformation of the United Nations into UN/Globenet is thus an urgent priority.

11. Activating UN/Globenet

The creation of UN/Globenet will require no major change in the differentiated intergovernmental structures of the UN System. However, it will require the Secretariats of all agencies, funds and programs to function as part of a seamless network. That will require the UN System to flatten its hierarchical secretariats into networks and engage a global constituency through a new pattern of information flows. The following sections describe how that change can be engineered.

Step 1: Flattening the UN System into a Network

The flattening process would have the following steps

- **Conceptual:** The process would begin with an analysis of the mandates and resolutions of all agencies in the UN System to identify primary thematic and operational differentiations and similarities. The outcome of the analysis would be (1) a conceptual organigram presenting a broadly rationalized picture of the UN System, without duplicative or overlapping areas; and (2) a compilation of the substantive content of resolutions, decisions and statements for consideration by a committee of jurists charged with distilling the rules that will guide UN/Globenet. (Any major differences among the jurists would not be papered over; they would be flagged, explained, and left for future resolution.)
- **Functional:** Governments, civil society organizations, UN System staff (including former staff) and individuals with relevant expertise should be invited to comment on the conceptual organigram, especially on how work flows could be optimized. The end products would be (1) an organigram showing how the UN System could best arrange substantive and administrative work flows, and (2) a consolidated list of reports necessary to meet all existing mandates from intergovernmental bodies. Once the organigram and list are considered by ECOSOC and approved by the General Assembly and the governing bodies of the Specialized Agencies, staff members would be invited to identify the reports they are interested/qualified to help write. That would create thematically oriented networks of expertise within the UN System relevant to each mandated report.

- **Networked Writing of Reports:** For each report there would be one “pen-holder” and the rest of the relevant network would function in advisory, research and drafting roles. For each report the penholder and supportive network would initially produce a Terms of Reference (TOR) document, outlining its content and purpose. The TOR would be shared with designated governmental experts and revised by the penholder before sending it to independent experts chosen to produce the first draft of the report. Any major differences among the independent experts would be flagged, explained and annexed to the report, the final version of which would be written by the penholder with the support of the internal network. It would flag and explain any substantive differences among the experts for consideration by governments. All stages of the TOR and draft reports would be part of the permanent record in the UN/Globenet Registry.

Step 2: Engaging External Constituencies

- **Mapping Constituencies:** Both conceptual and functional organigrams from Step 1 would be used to identify the relevant external audiences UN/Globenet should engage. Governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic experts, journalists and all those with relevant expertise would be invited to register their interest in becoming external constituents of UN/Globenet. The end result of the process would be a map of external constituents arranged by thematic, operational and expert relevance, and a roster of governmental and independent experts able and willing to serve as consultants to UN/Globenet on a “when needed” basis.

- **Watchdog Reporting Service:** Professional journalists on the register would be mandated to organize an independent, self-financing service reporting on UN/Globenet. It would have news agency, investigative and opinion sharing functions, supported by the capacity for audiovisual coverage of events. Administration of the independent organ would be patterned after that of existing news agencies like the Associated Press and the Press Trust of India, both run by a cooperative of media organizations.
- **Web Presence:** UN/Globenet would develop a web site with pages serviced by internal networks functionally equivalent to current Departments and Offices (but incorporating networked staff in all agencies). Governments would be invited to replicate the UN/Globenet web site and arrange their own staff in alignment with UN/Globenet patterns to allow a smooth interface with the Organization and with each other. Governments and designated expert networks would interact directly with UN/Globenet. All others would do so through a new global institution described below, the “Community Corporation Network (CCN).”

Step 3: The Community Corporation Network

The Community Corporation Network (CCN) would be a global framework for information flows reflecting the interests and concerns of ordinary people around the world. Its basic unit would be the *Community Corporation*, a web-based business oriented to generating profits by serving community needs. It would offer a standardized interface to local social, environmental and governance entities/services and link to the CCN network which, when

fully extended, would have sub-national, national and regional nodes. At the global level the CCN would interface with UN/Globenet.

- The standardized fully featured Community Corporation web site would be developed under the aegis of UN/Globenet and given to partner institutions charged with optimizing it for national use. The national partners would sell the model web site to entrepreneurs interested in establishing community level businesses. Entrepreneurs would generate revenue by meeting the needs of their local community. At a minimum that would include giving local businesses a presence in a digital mall; providing a platform for local groups to negotiate discounts in the purchase of cars, appliances, insurance, etc.; facilitating access to educational, health care and other social services; and crowd-funding development projects and environmental protection campaigns.
- In every country the first batch of entrepreneurs chosen as operators of CCN web sites would be carefully vetted to ensure that they fit the UN/Globenet value profile. The expansion of CCN network would thereafter be overseen by the national partner organization in collaboration with the network of entrepreneur-operators on a commission basis. (If unsuitable people assume control of a CC unit UN/Globenet would delink it from the network.)
- Each Community Corporation would work with local journalists/media to provide local news, including on the functioning of the CCN; it would also carry news generated by the independent organ of UN/Globenet journalists. The CCN would have editorial boards overseeing the news flow at national and regional nodes.

- The security element of the CCN linking local authorities would allow finely tuned responses to any threats to law and order; the transparency of the network would make it virtually impossible for corrupt authorities to misuse it. The pursuit of the community's economic, social and environmental interests would also be greatly enhanced by the network's capacity to draw on the best available expertise and operational connections. When fully extended, the CCN under the guidance of UN/Globenet would be a powerful tool for maintaining peace and security and promoting sustainable economic, social and environmental development. It could safeguard vulnerable sections of societies, respond to emergency situations and mobilize appropriate action to deal with any environmental problem. In all its operations the CCN would be a strongly democratic force.

C. ARGUMENTATION

Globalization is a phenomenon old as life. The exodus of the human species from Africa some 150,000 years ago was part of the process. So was the sharing among far flung human communities of everything from fire and stone tools to metals, seeds, and farm animals. Sophisticated ideas traveled with spices, gold, gems and silk: fables and epic stories, concepts of a universal law, the Zero and the One God. The sharing process has been rife with anomalies. The emergence of rich civilizations fired the barbarian lust for conquest that created empires compounding races and cultures. Missionary faiths traveled with murderous adventurers. Slaves and indentured servants, refugees from famine, sword and fire, became the agents of prosperity in distant lands. Resistance to imperialism set off the democratic and human rights revolutions that transformed the

world. The industrial revolution accelerated wealth creation enormously but it poisoned the globe and gave it a fever; in the process it made humanity aware of its planetary responsibilities. Today, as the world is torn by terrorist wars, the young play electronic games with their peers across all borders and scientists speculate about a global brain. Overall, these processes have brought humanity to an unprecedented situation: global governance must be planned with the expectation that life on earth is preparing for a giant evolutionary leap.

1. Core Values

“For what shall I handle a dagger, O Lord,” exclaimed the 10th Century poet Devara Dasimayya. “What can I pull it out of or stab it in, when you are all the world?” That question has come from great souls down the ages, and yet the world has always lived in a welter of blood spilled by the powerful in their noisy delusions of greed, fear and hatred. The electronic connectivity of our age has for the first time given the powerless the means to counter those delusions and bring under control the dementia of organized violence and war. To that end, UN/Globenet will be guided by a clear set of universal values: honesty, nonviolence, equality of all individuals, non-discrimination, social inclusion, compassion for life and respect for Nature. It will have the means to mobilize strongly against those who violate those values.

2. Decision-Making Capacity

As the central node of a networked system of information sharing from the community level to the national, regional and global, UN/Globenet will be able to perceive problems early and mobilize action swiftly. It will be able to draw globally on the best available

expertise to guide strategy and ensure its implementation locally within a framework of community-oriented values. None of this will require convening conferences and adopting resolutions. Decision-making can be democratic, situation-specific, well focused and based on the best information and expertise available.

3. Effectiveness

The Community Corporation Network will keep UN/Globenet closely in touch with real time developments, allowing well-focused action and close monitoring of effectiveness.

4. Resources and Financing

UN/Globenet supported by the CCN and using the regulated lottery as the core crowd-funding institution will be a passage out of the oppressive dark ages of finance when most people require a mortgage (literally, engagement until death) to get a home. The network and the lottery will ensure the adequacy of human and financial resources without taxes (which will have utility only to promote certain patterns of consumption and discourage others). This seems utopian until we consider that taxes are an inherently unfair and oppressive imposition by elite groups meant to assert political control as much as to meet economic needs. Even without UN/Globenet, it is unlikely that the current system of elite control and profit will go unchallenged for long. As the economic burdens of the past are lifted from the mass of the world population and education made universal, human intellectual and creative functioning will achieve a potential as yet unimagined.

5. General Security

The UN/Globenet Security Council's primary mandate would be the program for general and complete disarmament unanimously endorsed by the UN General Assembly in resolution 1722 adopted at its 16th session in 1961. With that end in mind, the Council will be networked through its Military Staff Committee, composed of all members, with national intelligence and police organizations throughout the world. Such a networked Council will be able to prevent disputes from escalating into conflict. On a larger scale, the CCN will be able to keep watch on and deal with group intolerance and threats to minorities. It will also be able to resolve differences within a democratic and transparent framework.

6. Flexibility

The internal arrangements of UN/Globenet and its openness to independent external expertise will ensure that every issue receives attention from multiple perspectives. That will guarantee the flexibility of UN/Globenet governance; its networked structures and instruments will prevent rigidities of attitude or policy.

7. Accountability and Transparency

UN/Globenet as a networked organization will be far less prone to abuse of authority than closed, hierarchical bureaucracies. It will also have multiple mechanisms to ensure accountability. The permanent electronic Registry will be a transparent and inviolable record accessible to all networks. The Office of Internal Oversight Services will provide continuing scrutiny of official actions; so will the coverage provided by the independent

journalistic arm of UN/Globenet. Strong whistleblower protection will discourage malfeasance.

c. Major Obstacles

Obstacles to the peaceful emergence of UN/Globenet will come mainly from three sources: the neocolonial criminal system embedded in the global black market; the organized crime groups that traffic drugs globally; and the corporate elites heavily invested in the industrialized world economy.

1. The Global Black Market

The global black market is operated through 70 or so money laundering “tax havens” and millions of anonymously owned “shell companies,” all enabled by the acceptance of “secrecy jurisdictions” by the rest of the world. That acceptance reflects a reluctance to interfere in matters considered to be matters internal to sovereign States. However, tax havens and shell companies are not merely internal concerns of secrecy jurisdictions; they are a threat to all other jurisdictions and, in fact, exist in a state of undeclared war with them. Concerted measures at national and international levels to withdraw recognition of and cooperation with secrecy jurisdictions would be an appropriate response. The aim would be to make it impossible for banks in “tax havens” to engage in money transfers without ensuring the identity and legal nature of those involved. These changes can be initiated by a General Assembly directive to ECOSOC to reorient the work of its Expert Committee on Tax Matters towards the elimination of tax havens and shell companies.

2. Rewriting Drug Laws

The existing prohibitionist international drug conventions are primarily responsible for creating the international markets for so-called “illicit drugs.” If governments agreed to make all the substances covered by the international drug conventions available without cost by a doctor’s prescription, it would immediately make trafficking unprofitable and end the involvement of organized in trafficking. It would also prevent corporations from entering the decriminalized drug market. Without profit, there would be no drug pushers or corporate advertising to promote abuse and addiction. Those problems would become a social and medical concern, to be dealt with in the best interests of the individual and community. The rewriting of the International Drug Conventions can be initiated by the United Nations General Assembly during its 71st session and finalized at its special session scheduled for 1919.

3. Elite Resistance

The prospect that current trends will dismantle the entire edifice of elite financial, economic and political dominance built up through history will surely bring resistance. That is unlikely to stop change but by stalling or preventing adaptive measures it could cause enormous disruption and harm. We can see this happening with the denial of global warming. Elite efforts to stall economic and institutional adaptation to the major trends noted above could cause mass unemployment, economic turmoil and political strife. The only defense against that prospect is open discussion. A broad understanding that we are approaching a profoundly important evolutionary inflection point might determine human destiny.

¹ The ITU was renamed the International Telecommunications Union in 1934; it is now the oldest Specialized Agency in the UN System.

² The IMO was succeeded by the World Meteorological Organization in 1950, a UN Specialized Agency.

³ In *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), Smith argued that Britain's monopoly of trade with its American colonies made no economic sense. The British people not only paid for the products of the colonies but also had to bear "the whole expense of maintaining and defending the empire." Just the interest on the debt incurred by the government to retain the American colonies by force, Smith argued, was "greater than the whole extraordinary profit, which it ever could be pretended, was made by the monopoly of the colony trade."

⁴ Replaced by the World Trade Organization in 1995.

⁵ Britain, China, France, Russian Federation, United States

⁶ Secretary-General U Thant's efforts on Vietnam and the responses of the Johnson administration are reviewed in considerable detail in his 1978 memoir, *View from the United Nations*, (pages 57-84). On 1 September 1966, Thant addressed a letter to the members of the Security Council declining a second term and emphasizing the escalation of the war in Vietnam as a serious concern (UN document S/7481). After the Security Council tried without success to agree on another candidate, its president (Uruguay), made a statement on 2 December, appealing that Thant take a second term. The statement also noted that members of the Council "fully respect his position and his action in bringing basic issues confronting the Organization and disturbing developments in many parts of the world to their notice as he has done in his statement of 1 September 1966, to which we accord the closest attention." See also "As Split Security Council Gets Set to Pick S-G, the Past Offers Ironic Parallels, Interesting Contrasts." *International Documents Review*, Volume 7, #36, 14 October 1996, pages 1- 2.

⁷ The following have served as UN Secretary-General: Trygve Lie (1946-1953), Dag Hammarskjold (1953-1961), U Thant (1961-1971), Kurt Waldheim (1972-1981), Javier Perez de Cuellar (1982-1991), Boutros Boutros-Ghali (1992-1997), Kofi Annan (1998-2007), Ban ki-Moon (2008-2016). Antonio Guterres took office on 1 January 2017.

⁸ www.fatf-gafi.org/pages/faq/moneylaundering/

⁹ www.gfintegrity.org

¹⁰ Britain supported the teenage Ibn Saud to take over his family's old seat of power in Riyadh when it was under the control of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I it turned a blind eye as Saudi Arabia took the Hijaz (where Mecca and Medina are located), a territory under Britain's League of Nations Mandate. That acquisition made the Saud family's marginal and extremist Wahhabi creed a mainstream force in the Islamic world. The 1924 discovery of oil in Arabia added enormous wealth to Wahhabi influence. That influence and wealth have been consistently and openly used to promote Sunni/Salafist intolerance against followers of Shia Islam and other faiths.

¹¹ Britain divided India on religious lines in 1947 to create Pakistan. At a time of chaos, when there was not a single formed unit in the Pakistani Army, it organized the invasion of Kashmir that precipitated the first "India-Pakistan" war, with British officers commanding both sides. During that conflict a British officer established Pakistan's *Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence* (ISI), the military spy agency that has controlled the country ever since. The ISI created the Taliban after the exit of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and supported its rise to power. Under its rule Afghanistan became the source of more than 90 per cent of the world's illicit supply of opium and heroin, generating annual revenues of over \$60 billion according to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime. The country also became the global headquarters of Al Qaeda.

¹² The British government's November 1917 "Balfour Declaration" expressed support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, a territory that Arab leaders thought had been promised to them after the end of World War I. When Britain acquired the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine in 1922, it allowed unrestricted Jewish immigration and settlement in the territory, radically altering its demographic balance. The British appointment of a radical member of the Muslim Brotherhood (see Note #13) to the newly created and influential post of Grand Mufti of Jerusalem led to massive anti-Jewish violence, including the 1929 Hebron Massacre and the uprising of 1936-1939 that made Palestine a pan-Islamic issue. During World War II, the British created a "Jewish Brigade" in its Army, providing a formed battle-tested military unit for the defense of Israel, which declared independence in 1948, immediately after Britain abandoned its Mandate.

¹³ The Muslim Brotherhood was founded by Hassan al Banna in 1928 in the British-controlled "Canal Zone" of Egypt. Its first six members were all Arab employees of the British and their mosque was paid for by the Suez Canal Company. In a decade the Brotherhood had a following of 500,000 throughout the Middle East and was the mobilizing force of the violence directed at the growing population of immigrant Jews in Palestine. More broadly, it has been the primary force promoting jihad against the perceived enemies of Islam globally, including progressive Arab intellectuals, Jews, Israel, Soviet Union/Russian Federation, India and the United States. The Brotherhood has provided the leadership of every major "Islamic" terrorist organization in the world, including Al Qaeda, Taliban and ISIS.

¹⁴ [The Zettabyte Era — Trends and Analysis – Cisco Updated:Jun 02, 2016 Document ID:1465272001812119](http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/collateral/service-provider/visual-networking-index-vni/vni-hyperconnectivity-wp.html) <http://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/solutions/collateral/service-provider/visual-networking-index-vni/vni-hyperconnectivity-wp.html>

¹⁵ [Surprising facts and stats about the big data industry March 17, 2015](https://cloudtweaks.com/2015/03/surprising-facts-and-stats-about-the-big-data-industry/) by Daniel Price: <https://cloudtweaks.com/2015/03/surprising-facts-and-stats-about-the-big-data-industry/>

¹⁶ [Principia Cybernetica is an international organization of scientists developing an evolutionary systemic philosophy drawing from Systems Science and Cybernetics.](http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/MASTHEAD.html) <http://pespmc1.vub.ac.be/MASTHEAD.html>

¹⁷ <https://vimeo.com/89695290>

¹⁸ [T. Rowe Price Infographic tracing the history of 3D printing:](https://individual.troweprice.com/staticFiles/Retail/Shared/PDFs/3D%20Printing%20Infographic%20FINAL.pdf) <https://individual.troweprice.com/staticFiles/Retail/Shared/PDFs/3D Printing Infographic FINAL.pdf>

¹⁹ [3D Printing Industry 1 March 2017](https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/apis-cor-3d-prints-house-one-day-106783/) <https://3dprintingindustry.com/news/apis-cor-3d-prints-house-one-day-106783/>

²⁰ [Renewables 2016: Global Status Report. REN21 Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century page 17.](#)

²¹ "India to reach 57% renewable penetration by 2027, forecasts government" by Ian Clover PV magazine 21 December 2016. <https://www.pv-magazine.com/2016/12/21/india-to-reach-57-renewable-penetration-by-2027-forecasts-government/>

²² International Energy Agency projection 2015.

²³ The medium variant of the 2010 Revision of World Population Prospects. World Population Facts 2011/2

²⁴ Worldwide, at least 1 in 10 women who are married or in a union still have an unmet need for family planning information and services. *Integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda*. Report of the Secretary-General, para 52. E/CN.9/2015/3.

²⁵ Ibid paras 16, 27

²⁶ E-Commerce Is Killing Traditional Retail Yahoo Finance March 7, 2017 By Nicholas Kitonyi
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/e-commerce-killing-traditional-retail-220106161.html>

²⁷ Facebook alone deals daily with 2.5 billion pieces of content, 2.7 billion 'likes' and 300 million photos – all of which adds up to more than 500 terabytes of data. <https://cloudtweaks.com/2015/03/surprising-facts-and-stats-about-the-big-data-industry/>

²⁸ Digital Ad Spending Will Surpass TV Spending For The First Time in US History. Brandon Katz. Forbes. 14 September 2016

²⁹ Business Insider Mar. 3, 2017. The CEO of the world's biggest ad company says Amazon — not his 3-month-old daughter — is what keeps him up worrying at night [Lara O'Reilly](http://www.businessinsider.com/wpp-ceo-sir-martin-sorrell-amazon-keeps-me-up-worrying-at-night-2017-3). <http://www.businessinsider.com/wpp-ceo-sir-martin-sorrell-amazon-keeps-me-up-worrying-at-night-2017-3>

³⁰ The End of Work: the decline of the global labor force and the dawn of the post-market era. Jeremy Rifkin 1995 Putnam Publishing Group.

³¹ The Silent Crisis of Retail Employment by Derek Thompson. The Atlantic, 19 April 2017.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2017/04/the-silent-crisis-of-retail-employment/523428>