

# **The Role of the People of the World in Ratifying the Noo-Constitution**

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Humankind faces both enormous challenges and tremendous opportunities as we enter the second Decade of the new Millennium. Our growing ecological and societal challenges are unprecedented as both our global civilization and survival as a species are in serious jeopardy. Opportunities for large-scale transformation are also unprecedented being driven by on-going revolutions in spiritual understandings, scientific knowledge, advanced technologies, and global communications.

The challenges before us are both man-made and products of the modern age. The long list includes; nuclear war, terrorism, climate change, eco-system destruction, resource depletion, disease, pandemics and toxic pollution of our air, water and land. Increasing ecological degradation and resource exploitation go hand in hand with mounting insecurity and militarization, rising criminality and corruption, growing economic and social polarization and escalating religious and cultural conflict.

At the same time the promise of this new Century includes deeper understandings of the natural world, the Cosmos and ourselves together with incredible new tools: alternative energies, sustainable technologies, world communications, global information exchange, space exploration, biotechnology, nanotechnology, robotics, artificial intelligence and many others yet to be discovered.

Yet we remain in the midst of a growing global crisis as the large-scale negative trends interact with and reinforce each other. Regrettably the majority of citizens of Planet Earth are neither aware of this survival crisis nor of the major societal shifts necessary to address it. And especially in the shrinking time-frame that many scientists are now telling us may remain to do so before hitting irreversible ecological and societal ‘tipping points’. We may have perhaps less than five years and likely no more than ten years to accomplish the needed large-scale shifts.

Accordingly, the question for our time and generations is: *Will humanity be overwhelmed by the growing challenges confronting us or will we overcome them through collective leadership and collaborative action to enter a new era of human development and achievement?*

The global crisis confronting us arises out of actions and behaviors which are founded upon an older view of reality and the world. The opportunities before us result substantially from fresh insights about the natural world, its systems and processes.

“Thought precedes Action”. This simple statement represents the greatest hope for our future. Our unique ability to think ahead and determine a course of action is what distinguishes us the most from the rest of the natural world. All other species are driven primarily by basic instincts and needs. They cannot pause to reflect and choose. We human beings alone can.

As “how we think” significantly determines “how we act” changing our current thinking is the key to changing our actions. And, changing our actions is the key to changing our future.

The ability to reflect, to think ahead and to choose actions in advance are the culmination of the evolutionary advantages our species Homo sapiens has developed over its 2.5 million year history. They arise out of two advanced human qualities: language and self-reflective consciousness. When these essential qualities are directed towards the future we call this ability 'foresight'. Foresight enables us to imagine the future - to consider a preferable action, situation or scenario and attempt to achieve them.

The goals we desire or preferable future scenario we imagine is undoubtedly a reflection of our personal values and beliefs as well as our Worldview. These subjective and changing perceptions form the framework for "how we think". Personal values and beliefs are mostly influenced by family and community views while our Worldview is formed collectively by society-at-large.

The main reason for our current dilemma is that the Worldview that gave rise to our prosperity is incorrect in its major assumptions, values and beliefs and this Worldview has now been 'globalized' to every part of the world. With our old Worldview and our new technological prowess we have managed to extract and convert the Earth's natural resources to human purposes at an ever-accelerating rate, mostly over recent decades. The faster we do so the better it appears to us to be. As a result of this apparent prosperity many more people are born each new generation and many people are living much longer. However one day, and that day may be sooner than we think, the reckoning will come. Our "capital" will be all but gone and an inevitable civilizational decline and collapse will occur. Our "progress" is, accordingly, unsustainable and thus ultimately illusory.

Humankind has thus arrived at its defining moment - the crossroads of history. It is a time of decision and the decision cannot be postponed any longer. We have evolved as a species to the point where we must now consciously chose the course of our future evolution. There are now two clear paths before us: the sustainable one, which can lead to unprecedented prosperity for humanity, and the unsustainable one we are presently on which may well lead to our extinction.

History contains countless examples of civilizations that have destroyed themselves through unsustainable resource use, violent conflict or disease. However, all previous civilizations were local or regional and not capable of large-scale global destruction. That is not the case for our global civilization of today. To avoid this fate we must write a new chapter in human history and evolution, one that transcends the past and shapes a positive future for all.

To truly appreciate the incredible abilities we have developed and the tremendous responsibility we must now assume on behalf of future generations it is essential to understand our place in the Universe and in Cosmic evolution. We must understand where we have come from and what we are made of. We must know of the forces that have driven the evolution of life for 15 billion years. And we must know of the many miracles that have enabled a barren rock in a minor galaxy to burst forth with all the diversity of life we see on this our Earth. Only then will we be truly prepared for the great task now before us.

From the perspective of our on-going socio-cultural evolution, humankind appears to have crossed an evolutionary threshold in the middle of the 20th Century entering a period of greatly accelerated development. After the end of the Second World War, the complexity and power of

human knowledge and tools began to increase exponentially. Almost every aspect of human life has been thoroughly changed over this period. At the time there was no mass media, television, personal computers, satellites, fax machines, cellular phones, Email, Internet websites, on-line Social Networking, etc. Man had not yet walked on the Moon in 1945 and humanity had not yet viewed the magnificent image of our own "blue planet" as seen from space.

The rapid societal changes experienced in the second half of the 20th century appear all the more remarkable when viewed against the perspective of historical time. The transformation of our civilization over those few decades has been all encompassing and there is no end in sight. Evolutionary change has now become revolutionary change and the pace continues to quicken. However, these years have also brought about some of the greatest challenges we have ever had to face. This is the great paradox confronting us today. Our foremost period of progress has also led to our most serious crisis.

Many millions of people around the world are now aware of this situation. After all, the alarm bells have been ringing for over 40 years. However, many people have responded to this awareness with undue optimism that a technological solution will save us. Others deny that we have any real problems perhaps because they share the current "aura of invincibility" permeating our civilization. For many the issues are too overwhelming and present an overload of information. Finally, to some our concerns appear manageable. This may be because we typically only address our challenges one at a time - climate change today, nuclear threats next month, overpopulation the following month, etc. The reality, of course, is that all our global crises are occurring simultaneously, continually interacting and reinforcing each other.

Technology does present great promise and will undoubtedly play a crucial role in shaping a preferable future. Technology, alone, however will not suffice. The powerful global macro-trends now in motion cannot be quickly reversed. Technology has also often proven to be a "mixed blessing" in the past, when not used wisely.

Shared human values and new societal organizations are equally crucial to our future. For the first time in human history a global consensus on 'Universal Values' may be capable of being formed. This is due to our new understandings and our abilities to communicate globally. We would in essence be agreeing upon the collective understanding of Humankind at this point in our evolution and this understanding will give rise to new types of societal organization.

Existing societal institutions, which we would expect to look for leadership, have unfortunately failed us so far on this biggest of collective challenges. Our political leaders are too busy worrying about the next short-term election to think about the future 10 or 20 years from now. Business leaders have invested heavily in the current Worldview and its related economic system. Our religious leaders seem to be mainly focused on the issues of the First Millennium not the Third. Educational leaders appear confused about their role in preparing students for the future. While the mainstream media are too busy covering the important stories of the day such as the latest 'celebrity break-up' to address the growing 'elephant in the room'. In general, all are preoccupied with lesser or even trivial issues and are therefore not seeing the 'big picture.'

Fortunately today there are many people who are aware and actively engaged in this greatest of challenges and opportunities. It is the 'People of the World' who are primarily addressing humanity's future with vision and action today. There are millions of people and millions of organizations working each day for a better world and a positive future. It is they who are leading the way to building a new global society. They have realized that we must collectively adapt to changing realities and a changing environment by changing ourselves and our consciousness. They have understood that our current assumptions about Nature and reality are erroneous - that the opposite of our older Worldview appears to be true. They know that the decisions we make today will have a much larger impact on the future of humanity than those of any previous generation.

The millions of 'world citizens' and 'global actionists' awake to our great challenges and opportunities today are the evolutionary vanguard for humanity's future. They are us. This is the work that we have come together to do and to lead by example through committed action in service to humanity and its future. The essence of our work is to co-create the foundations of a global humanity and a planetary civilization and to thus initiate the next phase in our socio-cultural evolution - the development of the Noosphere.

The opportunity to shift upwards to this next level of our collective development has been enabled by the recent and on-going revolutions in information and communication technologies. Our present ability to communicate globally across national borders and cultural boundaries gives rise to the opportunity to create a unified global consciousness based on shared human values and concern for the future.

A number of elements are essential to the creation of a new global humanity and planetary civilization, which in my view are synonymous with the evolution of the Noosphere. The first is the Conscious Evolution of the thinking of a sufficient number of people alive today to a 'Planetary Consciousness', which has been defined by Dr. Ervin Laszlo as "a holistic consciousness with an integrated vision of people, society, life, and the Universe. On the personal level it is the consciousness where socially and ecologically destructive behavior is unacceptable. In regard to society it is the consciousness that other people, whether they live next door or in distant parts of the world, are an integral part of the human family of the living system of Earth. And in regard to nature it is the consciousness that we cannot do anything to the wider community of "Gaia", of all things on Earth, without also doing it to ourselves."

Further essential elements for the development of such a planetary civilization are the creation of a foundational document which incorporates the shared values of such an evolved planetary consciousness together with symbols and icons of planetary citizens of Earth such as a 'global flag' and a 'global anthem'. Just as every nation has a national constitution, a national flag and a national anthem so we need one for all the citizens of Planet Earth which enhances and transcends the national ones.

Thanks to the on-going efforts of our colleagues who created the Noospheric Spiritual/Ecological World Assembly and the numerous forums and gatherings convened so far, we have the "Noospheric Ethical/Ecological Constitution for Humankind". This foundational document of a truly planetary civilization is an evolutionary and living Constitution for all humanity and is the

first such document of its kind intended to have collective legal rights and responsibilities for both Humanity and Planet Earth above and beyond the existing legal frameworks of nation-states.

As this crucial document is 'by and for the People of the World' it should be the people of the world who carry it forward to ratification and implementation worldwide. The means to do so are at hand and the Noosphere Constitution can be a central mission of growing global grassroots initiatives to enable synergistic collaboration among millions of planetary citizens and 'better world' organizations.

I have myself co-initiated two such attempts in association with the Club of Budapest - the World Wisdom Alliance in 2006 and the Worldshift Alliance in 2009. Presently I am on the planning group of a major, new like-minded initiative joining forces with many other individuals and organizations.

The key aspects of these initiatives are two-fold in my view. The first is the creation of a global on-line 'Mega-Community'. A 'community of communities' which will bring together all sectors of society and all cultures as well as ecological groups, peace groups, development groups, poverty groups, etc. working for a better world through a multi-faceted Web-based community. The tools to create such a global mega-community exist today for the first in our history.

Ultimately, hundreds of thousands of organizations and millions of people can connect, communicate and collaborate in shared vision and action toward a sustainable, just and peaceful world and future for humanity. It will be a worldwide community of planetary citizens and organizations who can together shift the future from our present path of breakdown to one of breakthrough, based upon the Noosphere Constitution as the foundational document of this global community and eventual planetary civilization.

As this global community is created as a self-organizing, evolving and sustainable virtual organism it can generate a World Movement of planetary citizens towards a peaceful and sustainable future. This collaborative World Movement will feature shared Campaigns, World Days, Global Events, Media and Education and can integrate the People's online ratification and real-world implementation of a Noosphere Constitution as its central element.

Both the related Mega-Community and World Movement are now in the process of co-creation. Everyone can join in this shared effort. Synergistic collaboration and integration is now the key to our shared future.

Acting today for tomorrow we can choose to apply our efforts collaboratively for the benefit of all Humankind. We will then begin a remarkable new chapter in Humanity's Evolutionary Story - the coming of the Noosphere Age!

*As an Appendix to this paper I am including the 'Worldshift 2012 Declaration' which was initially drafted by Dr. Laszlo and myself in the fall of 2008. We invite everyone who shares this vision and mission to endorse the Declaration at [www.worldshift2012.org](http://www.worldshift2012.org).*

# **WorldShift 2012 Declaration**

## **A Declaration of Global Emergency and Emergence**

### **THE CRISIS AND THE OPPORTUNITY**

There is no doubt that we are now in a state of global emergency. This unprecedented worldwide crisis is a symptom of a much deeper problem: the current state of our consciousness; how we think about ourselves, and our world. We have the urgent need, and now the opportunity, for a complete rethink: to reconsider our values and priorities, to understand our interconnectedness and to shift to a new direction - living in harmony with nature and each other.

Every person, community, and society in the world is already, or will soon be, affected by this global crisis, through climate change, economic breakdown, ecosystem collapse, population pressure, food and water shortages, resource depletion, nuclear and other threats. If we continue on our present unsustainable path, by mid-century the Earth could become largely uninhabitable for human and countless other forms of life. However, total system-collapse could occur much sooner caused by eco-catastrophes or escalating wars triggered by religious, geopolitical or resource conflicts.

These threats are real. The underlying causes of the present worldwide crisis have been building momentum for decades and could soon become irreversible. Estimates of when the points of no return will be reached have been reduced from the end of the century, to mid-century, to the next twenty years, and recently to the next five to ten years.

The window of opportunity for shifting our current path and breaking through to a peaceful and sustainable world may be no more than a few years from now. This timeline coincides with the many forecasts and prophecies that speak of the ending of the current cycle of human life on this planet, and the possible dawning of a new consciousness, by the end of the year 2012.

Today, forward-thinking groups and individuals all over the world are addressing the many opportunities presented at this critical time. Designs for sustainable systems, structures and technologies are being developed and implemented in all sectors, at all levels and in every society. This global awakening is a hopeful sign of the vitality of the human spirit and our ability to respond to the dangers we now face with insight and creativity.

The totality of our current efforts does not yet match the scope, scale and urgency of the necessary transformation. But if we collaborate and act with vision, foresight and commitment we can lay the foundations of a global community that is peaceful, just and sustainable. We may then ensure our survival and wellbeing, as well as that of future generations. As global citizens, our top priority is to accelerate our evolutionary shift to a planetary consciousness and, together, co-create this new world and a positive future for humanity - while the window of time is still open.

### **AN URGENT CALL**

*We accordingly issue this urgent call to all the people of the world to deepen our awareness of both the dangers and the opportunities of the present global crisis and declare our firm commitment to work together to bring about a timely and positive WorldShift, for the survival and wellbeing of the entire human community and the flourishing of all life on Earth.*