

Global Citizenship Ethics for Effective Global Governance – the Rio 2012 Window of Opportunity!

Global governance solely based on national governments and their coordination mechanisms is not sufficient anymore to cope with the magnitude of **global challenges** of our time. **Resources of global civil society have to be integrated into global governance in order to harness the full potentials of wo&menkind** for safeguarding our common future (especially in terms of **knowledge** and **financial means** for collaborative action but also in terms of **coherence of individual choices and actions of global citizens** that summed up constitute significant **drivers of global challenges**). **People all around the world are concerned** about the global problems, they know that their wellbeing will strongly be influenced by these global dimensions and they are **willing to contribute their fair share** to effective responses to these challenges on all relevant levels – thus contributing to **effective global governance**.

The concept of **philanthropy** – meaning **donating money, goods, time, or effort** for pursuing the **common good** or/and to support a **charitable cause**– is an important **corrective** to the mainstream of **self interest focused market economy and consumerism** which are among the **root causes of many global environmental problems** of 21st century.

There is an important role for **philanthropy** and **global civic engagement** to play in **addressing global challenges** and in **building capacity** for **global societal change** towards more **sustainability**. In order for positive systemic integration of philanthropy in **global governance** to function in a **coherent** way, a **shared vision** of a range of **stakeholders** is needed as well as there are needed **new structures and processes** for **global cross-sectoral coordination**. **New institutional and legal frameworks for mobilization of resources of global civil society for global** (especially environmental and economic) **governance** are needed and the **UN Conference on Sustainable Development** www.uncsd2012.org/ in Rio 2012 might be the **window of opportunity of wo&menkind** to achieve this **paradigm shift**.

The Normative Basis: Standards for Duties of Global Citizens towards Global Community need to be developed!

Article 29 (1) of Universal Declaration on Human Rights (“*Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*”) could serve – perhaps in combination with **Earth Charter** (www.earthcharterinaction.org) - as a **normative foundation for the development of global citizenship ethics** towards **broad mobilization of philanthropic engagement globally**.

V. REVIEW OF OPTIONS FOR POLICY-RELEVANT ETHICAL ACTION

V.4 Voluntary commitments

Ethical objectives do not necessarily need to be pursued by “policies” in the strict sense – still less by regulation that gives legal form to specific principles. Ethics can also be embedded in concrete social practices, and thereby have real effects on behaviour and social structures, by means of voluntary commitment, the essence of which is that those actors who subscribe to certain principles or values act unilaterally, without waiting for any requirement or incentive to do so. ... On the other hand, the view was expressed in many workshops that the key challenge is to give a binding character to ethical principles. ...

The principle that the potential of voluntary commitments deserves careful study, and perhaps practical attention, has been quite widely supported. However, there has been little specific discussion of what exactly might be done, how and by whom to further such an objective. It appears therefore that further work is needed to reach practically relevant conclusions in this area.

Source: UNESCO, World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, Towards an Ethical Framework for Climate Change Policies – Interim Report of the Extraordinary Session at UNESCO Headquarters, 28-30 June 2010, page 28

*Recommended further reading: Yvonne von Stedingk (former member, Directorate General of Human Rights, Geneva): **Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual to the Community and Others**, March 25, 2009, Presentation at the conference *Leadership and Good Governance: Innovative Approaches to World Peace*, Paris, France, May 2006 <http://www.upf.org/united-nations/human-rights/1738>*

The Rio 2012 Window of Opportunity (= Window of Responsibility) --> Launching of a “Global Citizenship (Ethics) Compact” !!

Is there a need for a ‘Global Forum on Philanthropy and Civic Engagement related to Global Challenges’?

With the initiative to establish a ‘**Global Forum on Philanthropy and Civic Engagement related to Global Challenges**’ we would like to provide a **point of crystallization** for those who are interested in a **structured multi-stakeholder dialogue** including **UN system, grantmaker associations/foundations, Civil Society Organizations, faith based organizations, university and school networks** (especially those focusing on **education for sustainable development and on open educational resources**), **artists, media and general global civil society** on **innovative resource mobilization and capacity building related to global challenges** and for **momentum building towards global citizenship ethics**.

Potential Scope and Activities of the Global Forum:

1. Organizing **annual or biennial conferences** for cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder communication and coordination
2. Conceptual development of an integrative **global challenges oriented philanthropy information system**
3. voluntary **standard setting and assessment mechanisms** for philanthropy sector and Civil society organizations (for those which receive funds from global citizenship ethics driven philanthropy sources)
 - in terms of **financial transparency and accountability** (e.g. similar to www.glasspocket.org),
 - in terms of **environmental ethics** (e.g. based on Earth Charter www.wevalue.org/) and **global citizenship ethics** and
 - in terms of the **level of coordination with global efforts of UN system** (e.g. UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development, UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, etc.)
4. promotion of a **strong cultural shift towards a culture of global citizenship ethics and global social responsibility based global philanthropy** (linked with Article 29 of Universal Declaration on Human Rights “*Everyone has duties towards his community*”). This shared vision building towards **global social responsibility based global philanthropy could comprise:**
 - **mobilization of financial resources** of global civil society in support of global governance and the work of UN system
 - **mobilization of knowledge of global civil society in support of global governance** (e.g. initiating collaborative knowledge systems, promoting and inspiring Open Educational Resources movement, social innovation information systems, etc.)
 - **Artistic expression/music in support of global governance** (e.g. Global Challenges Song World Cup www.glocha.info)
 - **linking Volunteerism** in support of global governance and the work of UN system **with the mobilization of financial and intellectual resources**
 - Promoting **Social entrepreneurship** in support of global governance and the work of UN system

Global Citizenship Ethics and Global Forum Related Past and Planned Activities/Events:



International conference “**Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change**” organized by **Centre for Social Innovation Vienna– Austrian Science Office Ljubljana** www.aso.zsi.at in cooperation with **European Foundation Center** www.efc.be , **Slovenian Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology** and other partners June 2008 in Portorož/Slovenia - <http://www.glocha.info/conferenceindex.html>

Outline of a “**UN Alliance of Civilizations Global Citizenship Ethics Youth Disaster Relief Initiative**” developed in the context of United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Summer School in Aveiro/Portugal August 2010 with following components:

- “(Pakistan) Disaster Relief Youth Song World Cup”
- “(Pakistan) Disaster Relief Aid Youth Fund Raising World Cup”
- “(Pakistan) Disaster Relief Social Innovation World Cup”

<http://www.glocha.info/iaai/index.php/component/content/article/71-unaocsummerschool>



International Conference “**Earth Charter - Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World**”

Ahmedabad/India, November 2010

Workshop “*Global Challenges and Global Governance*”

Paper Miroslav Polzer “**Global Citizenship Ethics for Effective Global Governance – From Ideas to Action**”



Suggestion 1: Thematic Debate on “**Ethics and Global Governance**” (with a special session on “Philanthropy”) at 66th session of **UN General Assembly**, autumn 2010

Suggestion 2: Linking Earth Charter/Philanthropy with UN normative framework via standard setting work related to **Article 29 of Universal Declaration on Human Rights** (anchoring global philanthropy in **Global Citizenship Ethics** and “Human duties in the context of global challenges”)

Suggestion 3: “Global Civil Society Compact” event at Rio +20 conference (in analogy to UN Global Compact for the business sector); possible content: self regulation and verifiability based quality standards of civil society organizations

Suggestion 4: “Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative” with Indian billionaires as first phase promoters – one element: ‘**Global Forum on Philanthropy and Research/Education Funding**’



November 4th meeting of M. Polzer with **Ms. Sukhman Randhawa (Office of the Advisor to the Prime Minister of India** on Public Information Infrastructure and Innovations Mr. Sam Pitroda) @ **Planning Commission of India** in New Delhi presenting the idea of a **Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative** with Indian billionaires as first phase promoters; received very **friendly and positively**; I have been assured that the presented **ideas and concepts will be studied and discussed further** and general cooperation on innovation issues has been envisaged

Breakfast Round Table Discussion at **WINGS Forum 2010**

(**Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support – the global network of networks in philanthropy**) Saturday 20 November 2010, Como/Italy

“**Is there a need for a ‘Global Forum on Philanthropy and Research/Education Funding?’**”



http://www.wingsweb.org/programmes/wingsforum_main.cfm



- Marcos Kisil, Institute for the Development of Social Investment, Sao Paolo, Brazil,
- Paula Jancso Fabiani, Fundacao Maria Cecilia Souto Vidigal, Brazil
- M. Polzer Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna & IAAI Vienna-Ljubljana
- Hanna Surmatz, European Foundation Center, Brussels
- Roberto Calingo, chief executive, Asia Pacific Philanthropy Consortium

- February 7 2011, New York, meeting M. Polzer with **United Nations Assistant Secretary General for Policy Coordination and Interagency Affairs Mr. Thomas Stelzer** (responsible also for United Nations Office for Partnerships <http://www.un.org/partnerships/>) to discuss the idea of a ‘**Global Forum on Philanthropy and Research/Education Funding**’ on a UN systemic level.

- March 1-3 2011, Bled/Slovenia: Conference “**Imagining the Worst – Foresight, Ethics and Extreme Climate Scenarios**” organized by Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana – **Centre for Social Innovation Vienna** www.zsi.at in cooperation with **UNESCO Ethics in Science and Technology division**

- Efforts will be made to organize a **UNU Midday Forum** <http://www.ony.unu.edu/events-forums/MDForums/> on the issue of a potential “Global Forum on Philanthropy and Civic Engagement related to Global Challenges” as a coordination and cooperation platform of **UN system and philanthropy sector** in New York to discuss the idea with global governance experts and UN practitioners (*to be confirmed*)

- “**Global Citizenship Ethics/Global Forum on Philanthropy and Civic Engagement related to Global Challenges**” side event to the 64th Annual **United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) / Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Conference** (The title of the Conference is “**Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens**”) in Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011 will be aimed for.

- Lobbying is under way for a **Thematic Debate on “Ethics and Global Governance”** during **66th UN General Assembly** (early 2012)



Contact: Miroslav Polzer

head of Austrian Science Office Ljubljana www.aso.zsi.at which is part of **Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna** – and Secretary general of **International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges** www.glocha.info, member of **Academic Council on the UN System** www.acuns.org

Address: Dunajska 104, SI 1000 Ljubljana/Slovenia, tel.: +43 664 4203648, email: polzer@zsi.at