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**PREVENTING A PLANETARY COLLAPSE:
VALUES-BASED GOVERNANCE NOW!**

PREVENTING A PLANETARY COLLAPSE: VALUES-BASED GOVERNANCE NOW!

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Our global future urgently needs a more inclusive form of multilateralism and a global governance that engages all stakeholders. The G20 is the most effective institution to ensure greater inclusiveness, representativeness, and legitimacy to move towards re-balancing political, economic, and social transformations with justice, security, equity, and community. The time is now for a Values-Based-Planetary-Governance (VBPG) co-created by and based on the power of citizenry, the planetary nature of human life, and the foundations for a rights-based society. Raising the collective consciousness enables the VBPG to address those challenges no country, or community, can resolve on its own.

Global challenge

In the Era of Citizenry (e.g., civil society and NGOs, corporate sector, and community organizations), a state-only-centered multilateralism is not sufficient to address our planetary challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic added urgency to addressing other underlying threats to humanity, including climate change, global inequalities, and regional conflicts (The Elders 2020a). We need innovative solutions rooted in ethical-value leadership and shared global responsibility. Today, multilateral institutions face tremendous challenges in implementing their missions, be it in public health, financing for development, food security, schooling, or governance at all levels (The Lancet

2020). Most institutions, social media, and global forums struggle to provide effective mechanisms for voicing concerns, promoting dialogues, and informing stakeholders at all levels of decision-making.

Global Citizens. We are witnessing the growing importance of global citizens who seek self-empowerment solutions to social, economic, political, and environmental challenges. The management of the global commons, and the institutional and social integration needed from global to local and from local to global, should not depend just on countries' voluntary contributions. Thus, the multilateral solutions emerging from the framework dictated by the nation-state relation of the 1648 Treaty of Westphalia (Chikvaidze 2020) may not embrace the holistic mechanism needed to respond adequately to complex transnational realities and planetary challenges and build a common human future (Partzsch 2020). It is vital to raise collective awareness through the adoption and realization of shared collective values in which civil society plays a fundamental role. We need governance mechanisms that will bond nation-states' institutions to all other relevant actors. Multilateralism must establish the grounds for a Values-Based Planetary Governance based on a set of shared collective values, on powerful and sustainable alliances, and on new notions of progress, welfare, transformation, right livelihood, and development. These collective values are essential for a new multilateralism to develop that reflects our universal, global, and planetary citizenship.

Reclaiming Multilateralism. The challenge is to reclaim multilateralism with new forms of people's planetary wide participation, universal rights, and sustainable development (Adams and Luchsinger 2012). Seventy-six years after the creation of the United Nations (UN), multilateralism must reflect a new set of core shared collective values that will secure a world where everyone can thrive in peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet (UN 2020a). The

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inclusive and global consultations that emerged in 2020 for the United Nations 75th anniversary was a good attempt to give voice to diverse actors and initiate dialogues within and across national borders, sectors, and generations. However, the process needs to be institutionalized and people empowered by the establishment of a permanent forum and representative council to listen to their hopes and fears while advancing local, regional, global, and planetary solutions. Its absence has created a complex situation: a mix of multilateral and multi-polar systems of dispersed coalitions of interest, resulting often in stalled negotiations and inadequate solutions.

The time is now for the G20 to support a credible process of inter-governance innovation at the global and planetary level, an innovation that embraces the values of citizenry and promotes effective reforms of multilateral organizations (e.g., the IMF, IBRD, WTO, WHO, ILO).

True Global Cooperation. We need to rediscover the essence of true cooperation. A Values-Based Planetary Governance will greatly strengthen rather than weaken individual country sovereignty. With the rapid surge of citizens' involvement in global governance (the climate change movement, the parliament of world religions, and so many more), new community values (opportunity, empowerment) and global values (security, stability, peace) are emerging. These collective values will shape different forms of systemic engagement. These values will bring to bear a different set of organizational norms (sharing access to innovation), rights (human rights and migration), regulations (access to ocean fisheries), policies (combating climate change), principles (shared responsibilities), goals (UN Sustainable Development Goals), methods (establishing new global convention on climate change), procedures (new multilateralism) and actions (protection of natural forests) at all levels.

Global solution

Effective Planetary Governance. Values-Based Planetary Governance is a framework emerging from a shared planetary vision and shared collective values and leading to a planetary consensus for an effective program of action. Values-Based Planetary Governance, and its values-based foundation, requires a growing collective awareness and commitment to become an empowering form of governance rather than a disempowering process of decision-making. Values-Based Planetary Governance embraces the values of inclusion, interdependence, mutual support, citizen involvement, global destiny, and shared responsibilities, and establishes institutions which materialize those values. It is not just a practice, but a crucial set of mutual values: consultation, inclusion, peace, participation, partnerships, solidarity, justice, compassion, love, equity, and equal rights. A meaningful post-COVID-19 strategy must build a better world in which people, economy, nature, and institutions are in sync with sustainable and inclusive human development and transformation. A planetary vision finds its legitimacy within the commitment of people and their communities.

Relevant Global Solutions. Many global solutions exemplify the idea of global citizenry for a VBGP. They are rooted in past processes, which resulted in the creation of the United Nations in 1945, the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, and the international commitments for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement in 2015 (The Elders 2020b; Brundtland 2020). During the 1945 San Francisco United Nations Conference for International Organization, the finalized charter constituted the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN General Assembly as official channels and concrete mechanisms for listening to the voices and expertise of civil society and multiple actors. The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), created in 2000, is another example of shared governance on matters related to native, original, aboriginal,

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and first people. In its advisory capacity, the PFII reports to the body within the framework of the United Nations System that reports to the ECOSOC. The formulation of the SDGs and its targets were also the result of a global public consultation and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders around the world, especially with the voices of the poorest, most vulnerable people (UN 2015). More recently, another example emerged in the 2020 United Nations Global Consultations, launched on its 75th anniversary (UN 2020c).

Stakeholders Participation. Numerous other examples of multi-stakeholder, participatory, and people-centered approaches to multiculturalism inspire systemic integration solutions beyond borders and beyond nation-state. We need the promotion of more effective multi-stakeholder coalitions. We need actors beyond the central state and the government, and we need to include the voices of civil society, the private sector, and local governments. While the shortcomings of traditional multilateral solutions hinder commitment to multilateral agreements such as the 2015 UNFCCC Paris Agreement, we have seen how city mayors, private sector leaders, and NGOs carry on with these important commitments. This is reflected in other multi-stakeholder responses: the Civil 40 (C40) network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change; in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), among others (Pantulian 2020).

The Value of Inclusiveness. We need an inclusive, networked, and effective multilateral system based on the proposed Values-Based Planetary Governance. To meet new commitments, we need (1) a new planetary vision, which is the aim, (2) a new planetary governance, which is the instrument, and (3) a new planetary consensus on an action program, which is the desired outcome. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) work on the Happiness Index, the effectiveness of governance, and the

equity index are examples of how to construct such a proposal. Multilateral global solutions to planetary challenges must be rooted in the values integral to global citizenship (Brown 2016; report of the Global Citizenship Commission). The following global solutions are essential priorities for realizing a new and needed multilateralism.

Promote Direct Citizen Participation:

Participation must be made meaningful by having an approach to restoring our human aspirations where mutual respect and mutual accountability is woven into its very fabric. Therefore, the G20 should focus on a bottom-up approach that validates, through consensus, a new set of values. This will change the core elements guiding many international institutions (e.g., the UN, WBG, WTO, ILO) whose claims are so dispersed and erratic. Our planetary challenges must determine the path and the collective ethics of this new VBPG for planetary citizenship. It is particularly necessary to establish, with a sense of urgency, a systemic values-based approach that will prevent the collapse of the existing multilateral system and will establish trust, legitimacy, and effectiveness. Any step in this direction must be based on clear strategic priorities with respect to those challenges no country can face by itself. Finally, it is important to maintain and strengthen positive change. This implies the end-result of any process and provides a meaningful post-implementation governance structure for measuring impacts (Chowdhury 2021).

Adopt People-Centered Values: The goal must also be to balance the aims and values of multilateralism with the important surge of citizen empowerment. This is consistent with the G20s' pillars of People, Planet, Prosperity (PPP), the 5P approach of the UN's SDGs that adds Peace and Partnerships, and the Values20 (V20) vision of creating human-centered policy solutions with values such as integrity, solidarity, and sharing. This demands an equitable response to and a collective awareness of the global character of the challenges we face. The objective must also embrace these collective

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values, guide the path towards sustained prosperity, and attain equality, inclusion, protection of the vulnerable, promotion of women's empowerment, and universal access to education. These are all people-centered values essential to the future of a multilateralism that promotes responsible globalization, empowers citizens, and leaves no one behind (Kharas, Snower, and Strauss 2020).

Embrace a Planetary Decision-Making Path (Awareness): The path proposed here will need to consolidate and enlarge the concentric circles of actors who are to exercise the power of planetary governance, thus, to have strength, diversity, and inclusiveness in planetary governance. This is not just a matter of modernization, but also a matter of co-creating a new vision for planetary decision-making based on cooperation and embracing new values and principles to match our true reality and aspirations (sustainability, equity, rights, and responsibilities). The world is at a tipping point where new forms of governing the commons through stakeholder participation are no longer optional (Bosselmann 2015; Boston 2016).

Construct New Narratives for Planetary Values (Self-Realization): Invariably, the rules governing decision-making in the multilateral system are greatly influenced by such values as freedom, democracy, caring, sharing, and cooperation. In turn, these values take form depending on the state of play, the level of collective consciousness, and the preferences expressed by various actors. Thus, different rules and values will construct alternative narratives of what humanity is trying to accomplish among competing claims (e.g., the narrative of sharing, the narrative of solidarity, the narrative of compassion, the narrative of collective existence). The VBPG represents the foundation for a new narrative which responds to the realization that we are a planetary collective and not the arithmetic sum of individual countries or communities. In this narrative, nobody will lose sovereignty because all actors will identify with and gain from its co-creation and implementation. Co-creation will expand and

deepen national sovereignty. This will be a sovereignty that emerges from a notion of right livelihood on our planet. This is the true meaning of the term planetary governance suggested here, which expands on previously suggested value-based policy recommendations (Schubert and Alsharif 2020; Biermann 2014).

Commit to Global Sustainable Development (Transformation): Cooperation is not optional for the G20 and the world. Responsibility for global equity is universal, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic (United Nations 2020b). Thus, bringing to the fore new forms of leadership, intelligent alliances, and effective instruments to attain the expected results is in our hands. We cannot allow the debate on values and social norms to be swept under the carpet. Now is the time to govern by empowering planetary citizens and to enliven new forms of human prosperity (material and spiritual) by embracing the values of equity, justice, legitimacy, participation, representation, deliberation, inclusion, systemic coherence, accountability, ethics, morals, and more.

The New Path

The Horizon: Expansion of the G20's Convening Powers. Consider convening a special session of the G20 devoted to identifying and designing a selected number of value-based policies and adding specific task forces to the existing ones.

The Foundation: The G20's Shared Planetary Responsibilities. Require strong country-level community engagement and support for effective implementation of the SDGs. It is fundamental to embrace sustainability, interdependence, and interconnectedness. G20 proposals will gain more traction at local and regional levels by adopting a value system that includes participation and deliberation. These value-attributes are the key ingredients needed to overcome, for example, the challenges of today's health pandemic, climate change, extreme poverty, and social inequality.

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The Critical Path: G20 Enhanced Planetary Governance of the Global Commons. Realize the G20 commitment to the People, Planet and Prosperity (PPP) based on human-centered social, economic, gender, and political values. Foster cooperation among G20 members through new forms of interaction based on collective reciprocity and shared empowerment. Provide an institutional framework to organize, strengthen relationships among nation-states, and shape the character of a common PPP vision, policies, and programs, leading to new outcomes.

The Solutions: G20 Aspirations for Multilateral Governance. Pursue aspirations of multilateral governance beyond the leading powers, beyond the G20's original economic-and-finance-only focus, and beyond the competing north-south vs. south-south approaches. Multilateralism is in crisis and requires new formulations to adequately respond to current and future crises (Donati 2020; Eggel and Galvin 2020). The G20 is instrumental in promoting effective multilateralism in its orientation toward resolving global challenges such as pandemics, global poverty, and climate change (Jokela 2011). Therefore, the G20 should reflect specific values in carrying out its responsibility for our common future and global shared responsibility.

The Values-Based Framework: G20 Transitioning to Rights-Values-Based Societies. Support a transition to rights-based societies in which human rights and natural rights play a fundamental role. This demands enhanced collective awareness of the G20 member nations' rapid transition away from those values and institutional mechanisms offered by the market to societies governed by all forms of rights (e.g., right to education, water, housing, clean environment). This is a key ingredient in finding economic, social, and environmental solutions to global challenges. Today's international mobilization to address climate change, women's empowerment, and poverty alleviation are important examples.

Policy recommendations

Putting Values into Action

A participatory form of multilateralism and multi-stakeholder mechanisms for consultation are vital in facing the challenges of our interconnected world. A planetary vision is essential to developing an identity that extends beyond national boundaries, strengthening human and ecological integrity, and empowering all stakeholders to pursue better policies.

Action 1: A G20 Values Caucus. National and specialized caucuses could serve as preparatory content for V20 as an ongoing focus integrated to the G20. This supports the participation of civil society in G20 decision making, embedded into collective values.

Action 2: The League of Citizens (LOC). The G20 should consider the creation of a new planetary, citizen-based organization, the League of Citizens (LOC), a Citizens Council would ensure development effectiveness and may take a form similar to a UN Council. A seed exists in the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) for indigenous peoples.

Action 3: A World Council of Values (WCV). Solutions to planetary challenges are shaped by existing value systems. The G20 should take the lead in strengthening the World Economic Forum (WEF) and World Social Forum (WSF) by establishing the World Council of Values (WCV). This would bring to the fore the importance of new values for multilateralism and planetary governance. The V20 and Action 4 (below) may become the seed for the proposed organization.

Action 4: A Planetary Citizens' Network for Climate Change. Through technology-integrated mechanisms and local chapters, this network will provide an open and free citizen dialogue across critical

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contents, local actions, community development, and shared governance.

Action 5: An Immediate Action Plan for Planetary Sustainability. The G-20 should pursue attainment of the SDGs, promoting policy priorities to clean all rivers, groundwater, and oceans; protecting natural forests; greening cities; and intervening in environmental hot spots. A “super green fund” must be considered. Its design and implementation must include consultation and participation with civil society.

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