



# Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

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## STUDENT REFERENDUM PROGRAM

### **The organization:**

Vote World Government is a non-profit organization registered in Québec, Canada as “VWG.org.” Its role is to hold a global referendum on the creation of a democratic world government by whatever legal means are possible and, assuming the referendum passes, to convert that global mandate into the reality of a democratic world government.

**Note:** The term “democratic world government” is often shortened to “DWG.”

### **The overall objective:**

The objective of our program is to collect a mandate from the entire human race for the establishment of a “democratic world government” (see *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*, available at [www.voteworldgovernment.org/books.shtml](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/books.shtml)). If 50% of all adults (16 years old or older) in the world vote, and 67% or more vote “yes,” such a mandate would be accepted by many as legally binding under international law ... and would be politically compelling even if it were not legally binding. The point of this paper is to encourage students at your high school, college or university to organize a school-based referendum. This would be open not only to all students, but to their friends and families as well.

### **The first school mini-referendum:**

The first school referendum took place in November, 2007 at City Montessori School in Lucknow, India. Slightly more than 7,000 ballots were collected from students and their families and friends, and these votes were 90% in favour of the proposition on the ballot, which reads as follows:

**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected,  
representative and democratic world government?**

## **Why we should start with students:**

For a list of the ways that previous generations have essentially wrecked and endangered the world, read the first chapter of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* (posted online free at <http://www.rescueplanforplanetearth.com/3freechapters.html>). Through negligence and ignorance, the older generations alive today have left the younger generations with such a disastrous mess that perhaps no amount of work will repair what is wrong with the world (especially global warming, or climate change). It is today's youth who will suffer most. If students can't see that and do what it takes to change our course trajectory, then tomorrow's youth may face literally hopeless odds. Here is a passage from page 25 of *Rescue Plan*:

**On March 21, 2007, former American vice-president Al Gore** [now also a Nobel Laureate for his work on climate change and his role in the film, *An Inconvenient Truth*] **testified to committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. "Nature is on the run," he said. "Future generations will suffer ... and they will ask, 'What in God's name were they doing? Didn't they see the evidence? Didn't they hear the warnings?'"**

Today's youth are the people that Al Gore was talking about, and if your generation is to take on the job of repairing the damage caused by previous generations, it is through your schools that you can best get yourselves organized.

## **The immediate objective:**

We ask that students (and teachers and others, if possible) complete a referendum at your school, college or university as a way of kick-starting the global referendum, and also as a way of raising consciousness about the danger we face and the political solution that is possible. Ideally, this should involve some pre-vote activities—debates, articles or letters in the school paper, a formal "yes" campaign and perhaps a formal "no" campaign too—whatever it takes to encourage informed voting.

## **Three ways of proceeding:**

This is not hard to do, and it was both fun and exciting at City Montessori School, where it began. Try method #1 first, and if you fail, try method #2, and if that doesn't work, use method #3 below. You'll succeed—one way or another. Whether or not your referendum directly triggers a global referendum, you will surely remember this achievement for the rest of your life, and you will always be proud of it.

The appendices at the end of this document should be printed and used for a presentation to the principal (or administration or faculty) or to the student council or union (as well as for your own information). The logistics of how to conduct the referendum within your educational institution are for you to decide. You may want to do the student referendum all on one day, and set up voting stations in high-traffic areas, and ink-stamp the hands of voters so that no one can vote twice (that might take a lot of volunteers—at least two per station). You may want to print the ballot in the student paper, and set up drop-off boxes

for completed ballots. Or you may have to go with Method #3, below, and do it all off of the school property.

**Method #1—Get the principal/president and the teaching staff to support the effort and help get this referendum done:**

Some principals, teachers, administrators and school board representatives are terrified of getting involved with anything “political.” However, neither the organization Vote World Government nor the global referendum itself is affiliated with any political party, religion or ideology. Our aim is to establish a new order of law, world law, just as our ancestors had to struggle to establish national law, provincial law and municipal law, and that is not the kind of activity that can be called “political” in the partisan sense. World law is what it will take for humanity to survive, so the dividing lines of partisan politics, religions and all else must be kept out of the picture. Make the attempt to get the support and approval from the administration and the staff of your school, but be prepared to be rejected. If you are successful (as they were at City Montessori School in India), that’s terrific. But if not, make it clear that you intend to proceed with or without their support, and then consider a change in plan, meaning one of the next two strategies.

**Method #2—Get the student council or student union to sanction and organize the referendum:**

The student councils of high schools have *limited* freedom to make decisions concerning programs in the school, and the idea of running a referendum on DWG is a non-partisan activity, and one of the only promising steps that young people can take to try to reverse the deadly directions that the world is now moving in. The support of the student council and student newspaper (if one exists) is a good basis for a referendum, and that can bring this debate to the forefront. In a college or a university, student unions have much greater freedom to act, and should be asked to support and/or sponsor a school-wide referendum on DWG. It should be brought to their attention that the referendum can be done *without* their support, and members of a student union (or student council in a high school) must consider the optics of a situation where they decline to help and the referendum turns out to be a tremendous success. (Student council or student union members would feel a little foolish if they turned this proposal down and then thousands of high schools, colleges or universities throughout the world did referendums on democratic world government and got very positive results).

[NOTE: Eventually, once the groundswell of popular support is very clear, we plan to ask that a formal resolution be presented to the United Nations General Assembly calling on all nations to hold formal national referendums as part of a global referendum. **Appendix 5** below is the UN resolution that we want proposed. Whether or not your student council or student union supports the school-based referendum, they should be asked to support the global referendum as outlined in the UN resolution, and they should be asked to send a letter to the head of your national government and to the local/national media informing them of that support. The student body can even ask your national government to *sponsor* the resolution in the UN General Assembly, or to co-sponsor it if another nation agrees to

be the primary or lead sponsor, or to at least agree in advance to vote *for* the resolution if it is introduced into the UN General Assembly by other nations.]

### **Method #3—Start to collect votes on your own, and recruit other vote-collectors:**

It is suggested that those who want this to happen should not waste a lot of time trying to convince an administration, faculty or student council or union that doesn't understand or is inclined to play it safe, or even vote against the referendum. The tools needed to do the job are downloadable from the "Volunteer" link of our website, and there is no law in any democratic country that says you can't stand on public property very near the front doors of a high school or university and encourage people to vote for a sane and sensible global political option (or against it, if they prefer). As people vote, many will ask questions and some will volunteer to help, or respond positively to requests to become a vote collector. If the first two strategies aren't working, one person with the courage to get things started can trigger a referendum at his or her high school or college or university.

In an approach like this, it is imperative to transmit the essential message in as few words as possible, and to do it in a way that is loud enough to hear, a little more assertive than a normal conversation, but not so emphatic as to sound shrill or bossy. In my opinion (and I had about ten attempts at this), the best words to declare the initiative to students as they walk by on their way to or from school are these:

**“Please vote in the global referendum on democratic world government. This is not some radical or naïve idea. It is sensible, it is democratic, it is urgently required for human survival and it is up to us to get it done.”**

It is likely a good idea to have a clipboard with a blank ballot fastened there, and to have a lot of cutout cards so that people can take them and vote on their computers when they get home, if they prefer. Cards can be photocopied from **Appendix #2** below (10 cards per 8.5" x 11" page). To print out ballots, see **Appendix #1** below, or the **Vote Collector** link inside the **Volunteer** link at [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org).

### **Who gets to vote:**

All adults (16 years old or older) are eligible to vote. This referendum can be based in a school, but it does not have to confine itself to the student body. We invite every caring student to download **Vote Collector Forms** (from the **Volunteer** link on our site, or at <http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/collector.pdf>) and canvas your friends and family members outside the school. There is no reason why a school of only 500 students can't deliver 1,000 votes, or 2,000, or even more.

### **Being prepared as a vote collector:**

For social reasons and security reasons, it is a good idea to collect votes in pairs, two vote collectors working together (even three). If a question comes up, one person can refer to a document (such as the pamphlet or article below, **Appendices #3** and **#4**), while the other

one continues to collect votes. If a person expresses an interest in collecting say 4 or 8 more votes (they are set up 4 per page in **Appendix #1**), one collector can get the new volunteer to print his or her name at the bottom of these 4 or 8 ballots and explain where the filled-in ballots are to be dropped off, and by what date, while the other continued to collect new votes. People who show interest but do not want to be pressed into voting immediately can be given a card (see **Appendix #2** below) and asked to vote online on a computer later, when they've made a decision. When things slack off, you can put your name at the bottom of more ballots, and cut them out with scissors, while you wait. It is a good idea to have copies of the pamphlet and article with you to show to people who ask a question about the initiative. These can be photocopied from **Appendices #3** and **#4**. It is also a good idea to have a copy of the UN resolution with you in case people ask where all this effort is leading. Student referendums are useful, but to do the global referendum, the ideal way is to have the UN pass a resolution and have the vote happen nation-by-nation, and that *is* our plan, except it is not going to happen at all unless there is action on the ground, especially by young people. It is a good idea to keep several copies of the UN resolution with you in case a student or other person wants to study it. It is **Appendix #5** below. If you do not have a spare copy, you can always give the inquirer a small card (see **Appendix #2**) and tell him or her to get a copy from the **Student Referendum Program** document that is downloadable from the **Volunteer link** of the VWG site.

### **Recruiting further vote collectors:**

If you have a voter who expresses some enthusiasm for the idea of a global referendum or for the idea of democratic world government, you should ask if he or she is interested in taking a sheet of 4 ballots and getting them filled in by friends or family and returning the filled-in votes to the student council office or wherever filled in ballots are being received up to the date when inputting is scheduled to begin. If they are interested, make sure they print their name where it says "Collector" at the bottom of each of the four ballots before letting them have a page, and make sure they understand that they should get them filled in as soon as possible, and returned as soon as possible to the central office where all the filled-in ballots go.

### **Voting procedure:**

The **Vote Collector Form** (**Appendix #1**, below) has 4 ballots on an 8.5" by 11" piece of paper. They are to be cut apart with scissors or a paper cutter. A vote collector, whether at a table inside a school or out on a street, must print his or her name at the bottom of each ballot (where it says "Collector") before anyone uses those ballots to vote.

There are only two things that need to be established prior to accepting a vote from any person. The person cannot have voted before. The person must be 16 years old or older. It is that simple, and having gotten past those hurdles, the voter should be assured that only his/her first name and country of residence will appear on the VWG website (click on the "Public Record" link to see votes). Voters should also be told that they do not have to say what their email address is, and even if they do say, no one will ever see our database or have access to it for any purpose except for purposes of conducting the referendum. Also,

every voter should be encouraged to help, and one way of doing that is to download a file called “fast track” from the **Volunteer link** of our site.

### **Pamphlet and article (Appendices #3 and #4):**

Whatever approach is used (through the principal or administration, through the student council or union, or out on the street), it is a good idea to hand out copies of the pamphlet or article, but of course these cost money to produce. Collecting money from voters is not permitted. If you assemble a committee of ten people to sponsor the referendum, you can put in a few dollars each. If you contribute \$2 each, that’s \$20, and photocopies can often be had for 5 cents each or less, or laser-printed for less than that. You can hand out cards, which cost less than a penny each. Once your group has grown, you can put together a bit more money and decide if you want to hand out pamphlets or articles.

### **Dealing with filled-in votes:**

All filled-in paper ballots collected at a school, including those from family members or friends of students—must find their way to a central depot by a certain date (be sure to set a realistic deadline—give the referendum one month to get as far as it’s going to get). At that stage, any ballots still unseparated should be cut apart, because the first job is to collate alphabetically by last name. Then you can take all the ballots that start with “:A” and do another sort by the 2<sup>nd</sup> letter of the last name (Ableman comes before Anderson, for instance). By inputting votes after such a collation, it is easier to spot duplicate votes. Duplicate votes should be stapled together and dealt with later (once all legitimate ones have been input). If one person has voted twice that can be an honest mistake, so you can input the data once onto the VWG site. If one person has voted 3 or more times, that’s not an accident, and those votes should be stapled together, crossed out and not input, since it is best to disqualify troublemakers, no matter which side of the issue they are on.

### **Inputting votes onto the Vote World Government website:**

Everyone is free, of course, to input their own vote onto the website (assuming they have a computer with Internet access, or can use someone else’s). If you are collecting votes, however, there are several things to remember.

1) The information from a paper ballot must be input at [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org), the VWG website, as soon as possible. Votes will be authorized by VWG within one day, and every voter will be assigned a “voter ID” (voter identity) number in case any voter is inclined to check his or her vote at any time in the future. (Only the first name of a voter and his or her country is visible to the public on our website.)

2) Make sure that you input information accurately. Even if you’re getting *mostly* “yes” votes, do not assume you got *only* “yes” votes. Check carefully each time. People are free to vote “yes” *or* “no,” and we all need to be totally honest in this process. If you click on “submit vote” and then realize you have accidentally given incorrect information, send us

an email (see the “Contact us” link on the front page of the site) telling us about the error, so we can fix the situation at our end. Then re-input that ballot with the correct data.

3) The easiest way to input votes is as a team, with one person reading out a first name, and spelling it, and the other person typing it in. Then the reader would read and spell the family name of the voter, and so on through the data. When words are spoken aloud, it is a lot easier to catch mistakes and duplicates. It is also a good idea to take a break every now and then, as this work can become tiresome. Generally, we find it is possible to input one or even two ballots per minute, but it is best not to sacrifice accuracy for speed.

### **Media involvement:**

Don't be shy to go to the local TV stations, radio stations and newspapers as a group and tell them that they ought to do a story about your efforts to establish a democratic world government. It is always a good idea to be sure that you are ready for all questions, and it is a good procedure to practice on each other, thinking up loaded and unfair questions. It is also a good idea to never lose your cool. If an interviewer is too hostile, you can always end the interview and tell him or her that you would be happy to speak to them again later once they have understood that this is a serious initiative. If you have a really sarcastic or unfair interviewer, a good quote to use is the one I used as the very first words in the very first chapter of the book, as follows:

**All truth passes through three states: First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. And third, it is accepted as self-evident.** Andrew Schopenhauer, German philosopher (1788 - 1860)

However, most interviewers are fair and polite, and while you can't be expected to know everything there is to know about international relations, the best advice is to stick to the message. If you are asked, for instance, what you would do about the Israeli-Palestinian problem, you say that that seemingly eternal feud is an example of what happens when sovereign states are left to work things out on their own. If war is to be against world law, as defined by a democratic world government, the DWG would have to order a cessation of hostilities both ways and convene a negotiating forum and spend whatever amount of money is required to negotiate a settlement no matter how long it takes, and once a world parliament has spoken, national leaders will be held responsible for any offences against the negotiated settlement. It just isn't your job to predict what that settlement would look like, or how it would be enforced. If you had cities in your country going to war with one another because there was no national government to prevent that, you would be working to establish a national government, not predicting how such a national government would do its job and resolve the issues behind the conflict. Remember, stay on message.

### **Caution:**

Don't get pulled into a discussion of the a “one-world” government, by which is meant a tyrannical global government that erases all national borders, enslaves the human race and implants microchips in our heads at the behest of some “evil elite.” Such conspiracy theories abound on the Internet, and we refer to their proponents as “the tinfoil hat gang.”

Be clear in explaining that the role of the *democratic* world government is to govern the world on global (or “supranational”) issues, while respecting all the legitimate rights and powers of national (and provincial and local) governments, and negotiating solutions in instances of shared or overlapping jurisdictions. The principle of “subsidiarity” is a very important basis for any DWG, and that principle means that all political issues should be resolved by the lowest or smallest appropriate level of government (meaning that when national governments are coping, there’s no need for the DWG to intervene, but if one or more national governments cannot or will not cope with a serious problem, the DWG can step in, assume jurisdiction and legislate a solution, ideally in concert with all the nation-states involved).

### **Additional activities:**

Get organized at your school so that there is a DWG club or association. There are many more interesting things to discuss than how to get votes, but getting votes is the thing that can get us the democratic world government that we so desperately need. So talk about anything that seems relevant, but never forget, getting votes is what will make this dream come true.

Get your school library to buy a copy of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* by VWG president Jim Stark. You might also buy one yourself and write a review for the student newspaper. Reviews and three free chapters are posted at <http://www.rescueplanforplanetearth.com/>.

### **1. Chain reactions:**

Your group should set as one objective the bringing of two other schools (or colleges or universities) into the referendum process. In other words, if you know someone sensible at another school, get this document into their hands, then help them to get a referendum going there, at the other school. Your group may be able to get a few organizations that parents belong to to take up the cause and do a referendum within a service organization or a church, synagogue, mosque, or temple. You might also try to get the employees of a company to vote in their own referendum. The possibilities are endless.

[There is a “chain vote” idea in the *Rescue Plan* book that is also downloadable from the “Volunteer” link of the VWG website. It shows a remarkable way that the entire global referendum could, *at least theoretically*, be completed in one year, *started by one person, which could be you!* You are encouraged to take a look at this “fast track” plan and give it a try. It won’t work perfectly, but it will work *to an extent*, and if enough people try it, it could be a major player in the overall quest for the global mandate for DWG.]

### **2. Seek endorsements:**

Send a delegation to see your city or town council, and ask them to endorse the concept of a democratic world government *and* the idea of a global referendum as the democratic way to establish and authorize this new level of law. You can also ask your city or town council to consider a municipal referendum on DWG, using the same ballot, conducted in

tandem with the next municipal election (the cost will be perhaps two cents per voter; this was done back in the 1980s by more than 200 cities and towns in Canada using a ballot on nuclear disarmament, so this figure is not conjured up out of thin air). See who knows a famous sports star, singer, or movie actor, and get them to personally endorse the global referendum on DWG (we will keep a list of these people on the VWG site, but you must inform us when you get such an endorsement). If they really care, ask them to create a YouTube video announcing that they have voted “yes” to democratic world government, and saying *why* they voted “yes,” and encouraging others to follow their example.

Another idea is to ask your city or town council to endorse the UN resolution (**Appendix 5**, below). Endorsing that idea may get them off the hook for running a local referendum, and if that’s how it looks to you, that’s okay, but make sure they include a commitment to write your national government (your head of government and foreign affairs minister), in an effort to get that government to make the proposal in the UN General Assembly, or to co-sponsor the UN resolution if another nation takes the lead position as the sponsor, or minimally to agree to vote for it if it is raised in the General Assembly.

### **Allies, friends of democratic world government:**

One non-profit organization can’t likely take this plan from conception to completion, so eventually there will have to be a coalition of organizations, working together. The ideal way of doing it would be for the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution calling on every nation to hold a national segment of a global referendum on the creation of a DWG in tandem with its next general (national) election, and we have written to the ambassador of every member state of the UN with our suggested resolution (there are no takers yet, but in time, *with traction on the ground, especially among youth*, we do expect to get this ideal strategy going). In the meantime, endorsements by other organizations are helpful, and we encourage all other organizations (religions, companies, trade unions, service organizations, political parties, etc.) to support the referendum effort .

### **Fundraising:**

Vote World Government (VWG) went deeply in debt before support started to build, and we may need many millions of dollars to complete a global referendum. Bottom line? Donations are urgently needed from those who are fortunate enough to be able to donate to the cause (type [www.voteworldgovernment.org/donate.shtml](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org/donate.shtml) into a browser or see the “**Donate**” link on our site), so organizing a fundraiser for VWG is truly encouraged. And it wouldn’t hurt if there were concerts or walkathons or other events in aid of VWG, or in aid of the larger goal of democratic world government, I should say, since VWG is just the non-profit that has been set up to kick-start the larger effort, and we will very happily dissolve this outfit when or if we are able to turn over the initiative to a large coalition of organizations. And since it is mostly in aid of future generations that this effort is being made, I suggest that the students involved do something to raise some money not only to pay for pamphlets and ballots used by their fellow students, but also to support the VWG organization. We need you to succeed, and you need us to succeed.

## **Translations:**

This document exists only in English at the present time. Most human beings speak only one language, and that language isn't English. Therefore, we need people to translate this document into all other languages (and we need people to translate the short form of our website into other languages as well ... and the entire *Rescue Plan* book, eventually). So, if you have skills in this area, let us know, and volunteer. We particularly need people to translate a short form of the VWG site into other languages (at present it's in only sixteen languages; English, Spanish, German, French, Arabic, Japanese, Russian, Hungarian, Finnish, Farsi, Hindi, Hebrew, Urdu, Thai, Italian and Portuguese).

## **Courage:**

There is no time for worrying about how many people will get annoyed at you or at us for doing what we're doing. There are many scientists warning us that there isn't much time left during which human intervention may do any good, and there are some governments and companies that still deny even the science of climate change. Try to defend this new global referendum initiative politely when challenged, but don't waste a lot of time trying to change anyone's mind. State your case, and get on with the work of collecting ballots. A multi-nation opinion poll suggests that such a world referendum should pass with 75% or so in favour. Our job is to collect however many "yes" votes it will take for everyone, even including national governments, to concede that the human race has spoken as one, for the first time ever, and to honour that proclamation.

Good luck, and please remember the old saying: "The harder I work, the luckier I get."

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## **Excerpt from the first formal review [February 13, 2008] of the book:**

"This is a brave and visionary book ... [It] is full of hope and inspiration and will leave the reader with a clear objective and direction. *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* should be required reading in every school and by every politician." — Jerry Tetelman, California president of Citizens for Global Solutions and co-author of *One World Democracy*

## Global referendum paper ballots for vote collectors

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world government?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YES</b> ___                      <b>NO</b> ___</p> <p>(Only your vote, your first name and your country will be visible at <a href="http://www.voteworldgovernment.org">www.voteworldgovernment.org</a>.)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">First name _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Last name _____ (print clearly)</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Voter's full mailing address _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Birthday month / day / year _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Date of vote _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Voter's signature _____</td></tr> </table> <p>Collector (print) _____</p> <p>Voters must be <b>at least 16</b>, and you can <b>only vote once</b>.</p>	First name _____	Last name _____ (print clearly)	Voter's full mailing address _____	Birthday month / day / year _____	Date of vote _____	Voter's signature _____	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world government?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>YES</b> ___                      <b>NO</b> ___</p> <p>(Only your vote, your first name and your country will be visible at <a href="http://www.voteworldgovernment.org">www.voteworldgovernment.org</a>.)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">First name _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Last name _____ (print clearly)</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Voter's full mailing address _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Birthday month / day / year _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Date of vote _____</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 2px;">Voter's signature _____</td></tr> </table> <p>Collector (print) _____</p> <p>Voters must be <b>at least 16</b>, and you can <b>only vote once</b>.</p>	First name _____	Last name _____ (print clearly)	Voter's full mailing address _____	Birthday month / day / year _____	Date of vote _____	Voter's signature _____
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Separate these four ballots using scissors. As soon as possible, the data from these ballots must be input at [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org). (VWG.org is a non-profit organization registered in Québec, Canada.)

<p><b><i>Democratic World Government through a global referendum</i></b></p> <p>Is it time to create a directly-elected, democratic government for the world? Many people think it is. Visit <a href="http://www.voteworldgovernment.org">www.voteworldgovernment.org</a> to learn more ... and to cast your own vote.</p>	<p><b><i>Democratic World Government through a global referendum</i></b></p> <p>Is it time to create a directly-elected, democratic government for the world? Many people think it is. Visit <a href="http://www.voteworldgovernment.org">www.voteworldgovernment.org</a> to learn more ... and to cast your own vote.</p>
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# Vote World Government

— democratic world government through a global referendum —

## Rescue Plan for Planet Earth

### Attention high school, college and university students:

The several generations of people before your generation have substantially wrecked the planet, partly out of ignorance and partly out of negligence. My name is Jim Stark and I am 64, so I was part of the problem. Apologizing to your generation isn't nearly enough, so I have written a book about it called *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth* (my publisher will release it in mid-2008). This plan has been called practical and promising, and I hope that it works (for all our sakes). Here is the situation in brief, as I see it, and the fix.

If garbage was collecting on the streets where you live and there was no running water or electricity because the municipal government had somehow been dissolved or disbanded, you would have to reinvent the city or town council to get these problems taken care of.

If all schools and hospitals open in your province were now closed because the provincial government had been scrapped, you would have to re-establish a provincial government to get those intolerable situations repaired and under control.

If foreigners were streaming across your country's borders, taking whatever they wanted of your country's resources and just shooting anyone who objected or resisted, and this was happening because somehow there had been a collapse of your national government, you would have to re-establish that government to regain control of your country.

It is ridiculous to seriously suggest that we would be better off *without* those three levels of government, and yet we have *global* problems that are literally threatening the survival of humanity (climate change and enough nuclear weapons to wipe out civilization *at least* ten times over), and there is no serious campaign to establish a government at the global level. Well, now there *is* a campaign that has a good chance at succeeding, and it is up to you and your friends and families to make it a reality before we pass the tipping point on global warming or fall into a suicidal World War III.

We know how to set up a democratic and completely corruption-free world government (it isn't even terribly difficult), and we think this can be done *in a decade*. Democracy is government *with the consent of the governed*, so if we want a DWG (democratic world government), we have to conduct a global referendum to see if the human race is ready to

finally grow up, and act like a united species, for the first time ever. Scientists have told us that there is little time left (a few decades) to prevent the most catastrophic aspects of climate change, so we have only one chance to get this right. Where do we start?

1. Hold a referendum based in your school, where you and others can vote (if you are 16 or older), and get your family members, neighbors and friends to vote too. You can go to our site to vote online or you can download ballots (there's a "printable ballot" link), take them home with you and canvass your family, your neighborhood and any other groups that you can contact. Submit the completed votes to the online referendum on our site.
2. Insist that your library buy at least one copy of the book, *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth*, so that you and other students (and your teachers) can read it without spending money.
3. Go to [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org), click on the Volunteer link and start a "chain vote" (there is a document there that tells you how to do a "fast track" program, and why you should do it). Other good ideas are also listed there.
4. Get your teachers to address the idea of democratic world government (*for or against*), and demand an assembly to hear other speakers or a student debate on this issue.
5. Start a VoteWorldGovernment club at your school and get at least two other schools to follow your example on all the points mentioned above (and this point too).

And one final piece of advice. The *last* thing we need at the global level is a government that is vulnerable to corruption, and that is why we want (and why we must insist on) a full-spectrum regime of transparency. In other words, our democratic world government will not be like any national or other government in that *every word spoken by an elected DWG member or by a senior DWG bureaucrat must be taped, transcribed and posted on the Internet for anyone to see or study, and every penny in or out of the organization must also be out there, on the Internet, for any amateur sleuth or forensic accountant to check. This DWG has to work perfectly honestly all the time, and it has to last forever*, so these unprecedented safeguards are absolutely necessary. We have the required technology, so if we also have the willpower, that is how things will be done.

I will give the last word to my friend, 86-year-old Ross Smyth.

"I have worked all my life to get a democratic world government, but obviously we don't have one yet. Too many of us did too little to save the world. Now I am dying. My dying wish is that you get off your butt and give this global referendum plan a chance to work."

**Below is the global referendum ballot "question" or "proposition"**

<b>Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world government?</b>			
<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check one box only	<b>NO</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

Vote World Government, P.O. Box 1102, Shawville, QC Canada J0X 2Y0  
[www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org) — [voteworldgovernment@webruler.com](mailto:voteworldgovernment@webruler.com) — 1-819-647-6113



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## **We need a democratic world government**

A short article by Jim Stark  
President, Vote World Government

Humanity needs a democratic world government because we are smart enough to resolve our disputes through law rather than through the use of force, and because we are quite civilized enough to not even *want* to beat up a person or a country that we may disagree with. And by “we,” I mean the overwhelming majority of ordinary people everywhere.

There is no good reason why we can’t live as comfortably under *world* law as we do now under national, provincial (or “state”) and municipal law, and just as the formation of the nation ended wars among provinces and cities, democratic world government will end war between or among our nations. Even “terrorist” groups should be less inclined to even *want* to use force if there is a new (and totally transparent) global legal order where they can get a fair hearing for their grievances.

While money isn’t everything, it is important, and it will cost much less to institute a global regime of “collective security” than to maintain an armed force for each of the 194 “sovereign” nations, just as it costs far less to have a local police force protecting all of us against all local threats than it would be for each family to arm itself to the teeth in case a neighbor from across the street might attack. The tax burden *for security* for your lifetime may well be cut in half by a democratic world government, and the actual security that can be delivered will be far greater through a democratic world government than it is in the current world of 194 national armies and 194 spy agencies.

As far back as the 1960s, it was realized that an all-out nuclear war could kill every person on the planet, and perhaps all life on Earth. We need to permanently remove the threat of nuclear war or any war using weapons of mass destruction (WMD) from the list of possible futures, and that will require that we ban war altogether. Only a democratic world government has any realistic chance of doing all that.

There are many other supranational issues besides war, the most dangerous of which is climate change (or global warming). It is now clear that climate change is a serious threat to our very existence. Al Gore has called this a “true planetary emergency.” If we expect a patchwork of national initiatives to solve this problem, we are dreaming.

We know how to use technology to “corruption-proof” a government and make it *totally* transparent, so we won’t need to worry about the possibility of a “Hitler” gaining control of the democratic world government. If we are going to construct a democratic world government, common sense dictates that it must have full and verified integrity, using whatever technology it takes to accomplish this extremely high standard. It must be made *impossible* for military force to be used inappropriately at the global level.

There are enormous injustices in the world, and history surely teaches us that there is no peace without justice, no justice without law, and no law without government—in this case, *world* law and democratic *world* government.

More perhaps than anything else, business needs stability to operate, and of course war is the exact opposite of stability, even if a few industries profit temporarily from war. A future where a company can operate smoothly and profitably for thousands of years is possible only if we construct a democratic world government.

According to former American senator George Mitchell (the architect of the Mitchell Plan for peace in the Middle East): “We benefit enormously from technology ... but we also suffer from [its] consequences ... it is now easier, takes fewer people, less skill [and] fewer resources to kill large numbers of people than at any time in ... history.” (This was on *Newsnight*, CNN, May 9, 2002.) In the future, perhaps a twelve-year-old will be able to make purchases on the Internet and poison an entire city. To even survive as a species, we must accept law as one of the necessities of life, and that must include *world* law (this is not the same as international law; international law applies mostly to governments, and world law would also apply to individuals, like the other three levels of law do).

No person today is foolish enough to suggest that we tear down all of our democratic municipal, provincial or national governments, even though they aren't perfect. In twenty years, if a democratic world government is in place and doing its work routinely, nobody will suggest that we might be better off without it, either.

We have in front of us the opportunity to become the “founders” of the world of law and justice that must exist if humanity is to survive and thrive in the years 2500 or 25,000 or 250,000 ... not to mention the year 2,500,000. This might be the greatest opportunity you will ever have, the chance to carve a path across this last political frontier. The task of building a new and democratic world government is not that difficult, but it is huge—which means we should start immediately and work very hard.

If, say, 95% of all human adults voted in favor of the creation of a democratic world government, no one would dare to try to stop us from building what we had voted for. No political issue ever gets such high support, but there is a poll, done within 18 nations, that shows that a global referendum on constructing a democratic world parliament would pass strongly. The numbers were 63% “yes,” 20% “no,” and 17% said they weren't sure or gave no answer. So, let's collect the two billion or more “yes” votes that it will take to comprise a “compelling” mandate. Our legal research indicates that with perhaps 66.6% of all votes being in the “YES” column, and if for instance 50% of all human adults cast votes, such a mandate would be “legally binding” under international law (this in addition to being politically compelling).

If you are a democrat, then you know that democracy means governance *with the consent of the governed*. In other words, to get a democratic world government, we must first have a democratic world referendum. The ideal way would be for the UN to pass a resolution calling for such a global referendum, but since that will likely prove difficult to accomplish, we can start by using the Internet, and a ballot now awaits your participation at [www.voteworldgovernment.org](http://www.voteworldgovernment.org). (A draft UN resolution is also ready for the moment when a few national governments decide that we really do need something *a great deal* better than the UN to resolve supranational conflicts and defend human rights.)

In addition to the global referendum, we need to come to grips with the obvious need for a constitution for the world. We would like Canada to host a “framing convention” of NGOs (“non-governmental organizations,” for the uninitiated), scholars, individuals and governments to prepare a draft. We anticipate the need for an electoral commission to prepare for the first global general election, and to prepare for the presentation of the draft world constitution to the human race (likely through a second global referendum).

For the full picture, go to the Internet address above, click on the “Books” link and buy a copy of *Rescue Plan for Planet Earth: Democratic World Government through a Global Referendum*. (You can read three chapters free, accessed from the Books link.) One way or another, please come to grips with this new and potentially world-altering initiative. It truly deserves your support, and as David E. Christensen (the author of *Healing the World*) recently wrote to me, “This could work!” Yes indeed—it could work.

**Draft United Nations Resolution**  
for a  
**Global Referendum**  
on  
**Democratic World Government**

**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**

**EXPRESSING** deep concern over the danger of nuclear war and the danger that WMD (weapons of mass destruction) may be used by non-national groups, either of which could imperil the existence of life on Earth,

**MINDFUL** of the profound problems (climate change, HIV/AIDS, etc.) that persist and worsen for lack of resources while more than one trillion (1,000 billion) dollars are spent on armaments every year,

**BEARING IN MIND** that all nations and all people need genuine security in the age of “overkill” weapons, and that real security is now possible only through the establishment of an effective and widely supported world authority,

**AFFIRMING** the interest of all individuals in expressing their preferences on a matter as fundamental as the survival of humankind, and indeed asserting a human right on the part of all adults to participate meaningfully in such a basic choice,

**RESPECTING** the principle of subsidiarity, whereby issues are handled by the lowest appropriate level of government, thus leaving national issues to national governments, local issues to municipal governments, and so on,

**REALIZING** that people of every background would be inclined to support the creation of a directly-elected world parliament that is empowered to adopt and enforce legislation on such supranational issues as security, justice, peace, and the protection of the shared natural environment,

**RECALLING** that Article 21 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* provides that “The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government [and that] this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which ... shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,”

**KNOWING** that because the will of the people is the basis of all political power and authority, a clear expression of that will in a mandate emerging from a successful global referendum must be given effect to by all national governments,

**ACCEPTING** that the above principles find strong support in the *Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of*

*their Independence and Sovereignty*, whose Preamble states that: "... all peoples have an inalienable right to ... the exercise of their sovereignty ... and that, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status,"

**REALIZING** that a substantial mandate from the people of all nations would provide a compelling base of legal and political support for the establishment of a democratic world government to effectively address threats posed to humankind, such as weapons of mass destruction and environmental degradation,

**DETERMINED** to provide to all adult human beings the opportunity to formally express their views on this matter,

1. **RESOLVES** to seek the unanimous agreement of all Member States to a brief and simple expression of the goal of Democratic World Government;
2. **DECIDES** to use this wording: "**Do you support the creation of a directly-elected, representative and democratic world government?**" on the ballot in a Global Referendum;
3. **CALLS UPON** each Member Nation to voluntarily collect its "national component" of the Global Referendum before January 1, 2018;
4. **ENCOURAGES** each Member Nation to seek full and open debate of all sides of the issue prior to holding the vote among its national population;
5. **DETERMINES** that no one may cast a ballot before having attained the age of sixteen;
6. **RESOLVES** that the collection of each "national component" of the Global Referendum must be accompanied by minimum United Nations supervision to ensure the fairness of the voting procedures; and
7. **DECIDES** to form a committee to study the idea of a Global Referendum on Democratic World Government, and report back to the next Session of the General Assembly.