

Constitution of the World

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Dr. Marty Alpert is an MD and a successful entrepreneur in the Informatics business in Ohio. This paper was brought to our notice by Professor Mihajlo Mesarovic, joint author of "Mankind at the Turning Point" and long-time Member of The Club of Rome. Dr. Alpert would welcome discussion of these issues. Copies of the 23-page Constitution of the World, may be obtained from :Dr. Marty Alpert, Click Technologies Inc.180, Basswood Lane, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022; Telephone (216) 247-3801; Fax: (216) 247-9215; e-mail: msecura@aol.com

Introduction

The world is at a threshold of new and major opportunities and problems. There is an understanding that these opportunities and problems are global and will result in major social changes. A growing number of people sense that something is very wrong and have a willingness to set things right but have no direction regarding what needs to be done.

Several years ago I began to think about these problems and formulated some solutions. I then did an extensive review of the available literature, reading approximately three hundred books, before defining the problems and deciding how to address each of them in a long-lasting, global, and just manner.

Justice has historically been defined as impartiality. These concepts are incorporated in the great doctrines of humankind.

However, as we advanced socially and technically, it became clear that we must go beyond impartiality to achieve justice. We need to implement a justice that provides equal opportunity which, because of our advanced communications and computing technology, we can now achieve for everyone through education. Communications in this way can substitute for transportation which was the last great motivator of social change. The time has come not just to bring equal rights, but equal opportunity to everyone.

Other obvious world issues such as pollution, debt (Is the world bankrupt?), war and peace, ethics, and global corporations also need to be addressed. These can only be addressed in the context of a world organization that encourages differentiation and promotes equal opportunity within nature's constraints.

Violating these constraints has endangered civilization. The world and humankind will survive but the condition of that survival has a wide range of possibilities and we now are determining which of those possibilities will be realized.

This *Constitution of the World* represents an effort to begin formulating our collective ideas to determine how we as a

world want to live: in a world polluted through our uncaring rapid expansion, in strife, with constraints, with ignorance for those who by the accident of birth have limited resources, with immorality, self-enteredness, military based, in fear – or in a clean world where thought and care control expansion, in peace, in abundance, with knowledge for all, with ethics, world-centered, technology based, and in security. Each of these options depends on whether we choose to be divided or united.

The goal of this *Constitution of the World* is to formulate a basis for our discussion of what is best for humankind and our posterity.

Some of the main points of this document are:

- The form of government is a democratic republic. Each person has a right to vote

directly on each issue or through their representative as a proxy.

- The central Federation and each Region (continent) has one House of Congress. These Houses of Congress act as check and balance on each other.
- There is a Business Committee which comments on laws before being presented to congress and has veto power.
- An annual confidence/no confidence vote is established.
- Supreme Court decisions are required to be made in the context of both law and society and a mechanism is established for the citizens to overturn a Supreme Court decision.
- All policies must be consistent with a sustainable environment.
- The economy is based on the gold standard and attempts to provide for a more equitable distribution of opportunities and challenges in the world with limitation on the amount that is spent on defense and the percentage of wealth held by the top five percent of the population.
- Free trade, free flow of capital, and competitive access to raw material are established.

The first principle of this constitution is that all policies must be consistent with a sustainable environment

- Corporations receiving funds through public offerings are required to return at least ten percent to the government.
- Money from the Federation will be put aside in an interest bearing account for each person born to provide increased opportunity in their future.
- Education is stressed and electronic access to education and information will be provided to everyone.
- Ethics is provided a prominent and formal position.
- Human Rights, including securing the rights to the substantive base for indigenous people, are enumerated and guaranteed.
- Government and Industry cooperate to support technology and establish long and short term goals and worldwide standards of communications.
- Weapons are limited to single-action devices. Defense personnel can be deployed to support social causes.
- Nation-States have the right to experiment with different forms of government. Their boundaries will be guaranteed.

Summary

The goal of this document is to provide a method to insure a sustainable environment and protect and enhance justice and human existence worldwide. It is not a substitute, nor is it inconsistent with the U.S. Constitution. It is just that people are hungry, but there is enough food; people are looking for work, but there is a lot of work to do. This needs to be addressed. We live in a very strange world. The problem is organization.

The basic organization of world government presented here is a central Federation that operates in conjunction with five Regions (continents). The Federation and Regions each have a legislative body: a Senate for the Federation which consists of 20 members from each Region, and a House of Representatives for each Region which consists of members from Nation-States in that Region, the number depending on the population. Each legislative body of the Federation and Regions also has a Business Committee which is equal in size to five percent of the respective House of Congress. The Federation and each Region have an Executive branch (President) and a Judicial branch, which consists of a Supreme Court, lesser courts and mediators.

The new proposed organization is an attempt to harness the power of working together so that the cost of controlling each other and protecting each other is diverted to improving each other, and thus decreasing the need for control and protection.

The first principle of this constitution is that all policies must be consistent with a sustainable environment. Individuals or heads of companies are responsible for acts against the environment which are considered crimes

against humanity. The artificial low cost of products resulting from the failure to consider environmental impact, the use of depressed labor standards, and the use of artificially low cost energy sources are eliminated. Product costs will go up to reflect the additional social costs that have been disregarded for so long.

We are presently trying to solve all our economic, social and political problems by increasing production. The more one increases production, the more one needs to increase production. This creates an unstable situation. Hence, in this Constitution, a new and simple model for economic organization has been developed that should provide for more equitable distribution of funds and opportunity in the world. This, in itself, will go a long way to solve deep world problems like over-population, food supply, etc. The economy is based on the gold standard, and annual change is simply based on population change, the needs of the citizens, and the desired improvement in the standard of living that is attainable within a sustainable environment. This economic structure provides enough money to do, but not necessarily to have. Full employment and supplementary benefits are provided for. However, people receiving these benefits must be on a program that will lead to independence from them. The percentage of wealth held by the top five percent of the population is limited. Defense spending is limited and cannot exceed the medical or education budget. The budgeting is also forced to provide funds for long term programs. Free trade, free flow of capital, and competitive access to raw material are established. Corporations receiving funds through public offerings such as stocks, bonds, etc. are required to return at least ten percent to the government. This return represents a dilution for the corporation but increases the importance of cooperation between business and government as well as decreasing the government's need for outside money. More minor constitutional additions are that campaign funds are limited and only provided by the government, the expectation that retirement age will change with longevity to decrease the need for social service funding, and a provision that some money from the Federation will be put aside in an interest bearing account for each person born to provide increased opportunity in their future.

Education is a key to implementing any worldwide policy and with the new advanced communication technology, electronic access to education and information will be provided to everyone. Educating for understanding, tolerance, and cooperation is stressed.

Ethics is provided a prominent and formal position in the world government. An ethics review board will be established to provide ethics guidelines, and aid implementation and monitoring of ethics programs. Any organization or program receiving public funding is required to have a formal ethics policy. Government secrecy can only be applied to areas that are vital.

Human Rights are enumerated and guaranteed. These are similar to those of the International Declaration of Human Rights. Additions include securing the rights to the substantive base for indigenous people and providing for educating the citizens.

There are provisions for a religious forum for discussion of issues and to provide recommendation.

The government will support technology including establishing worldwide communications standards. Long and short term goals must be established, with an understanding of the social and environmental impact.

Weapons are limited to single action devices. All mass destruction weapons need to be eliminated. Defense personnel can be deployed to support social causes like the distribution of food.

Nation-States' boundaries are guaranteed. To change boundaries peacefully when negotiations have failed requires a two-thirds vote by the people in the area immediately affected and a majority vote of the Region. Nations can experiment with different forms of government. All debt between members is forgiven.

Each member of the House of Representatives is elected for four years. Each member of the Senate is elected for six years and each member of the Business Committee, which is elected by the one thousand largest transnational enterprises in each region, is elected for two years. Meetings are held electronically. An annual confidence/no confidence vote by the people is established. A "no confidence" vote requires a general election within three months for all offices except those just filled.

To establish a law requires a majority vote by all citizens directly or by proxy through their representatives in their respective House of Congress (Senate for the Federation and House of Representatives for the Regions); but before a vote can take place, any new bill must be presented to the Business Committee for review. Within two weeks they must return the bill with comments. Four things can then happen. First, the President can veto the bill in which case it goes back to the House that originated the bill, and in

order to become law, a two-thirds affirmative vote is required. Second, the Business Committee can veto the bill, in which case an affirmative vote by a majority of the same House is required but now each member of the Business Committee has a vote as well (essentially provides for a five percent increase in the number of votes in the respective House).

This provides for closer cooperation between government and corporations. Transnational corporation's representatives are provided a formal advisory role and a significant role in establishing policies. Third, if the House of Representatives of any Region rejects a Federation Senate bill or the Federation Senate rejects a bill by the House of Representatives of any Region, the bill is returned to the House of Congress that originated the bill and a two-thirds affirmative vote is required for passage of the bill. A vote by the non-originating House is strictly optional. It is expected that this would only rarely occur. Fourth, no vetoes are received and the bill becomes law.

The President/Vice President is elected for four years through a general election, using secret ballots. The powers of the President are similar to those of the U.S. President.

The Supreme Court members are appointed by the President and require an affirmative vote by a majority of the respective House of Congress and can serve for life. There is an emphasis placed on the social responsibility of their decisions and the need to have these decisions made in the context of both law and society.

There is a mechanism to overturn Supreme Court decisions. The respective House of Congress through a two-thirds vote can call for a general citizen vote on Supreme Court decisions. Lesser courts and mediators are also established.

Finally, in all this, there is an attempt to emphasize the dignity of humankind and to emphasize that this document only sets minimums; humanity must strive for higher ends to achieve a society when no minimum standards are necessary.

