We need your help

When citizens’ assemblies generate public debates they can transform what’s politically possible. This is what happened with the Irish and French citizens’ assemblies. We hope to achieve the same, but to do this we need your help: to use assembly members’ stories and proposals to ignite local, national and global debates.
Contains

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“Last month, I launched Our Common Agenda, a roadmap to begin rebuilding our world and mending trust. The Global Citizens’ Assembly for COP26 is a practical way of showing how we can accelerate action through solidarity and people power.”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
1. What is the Global Assembly?
Snapshot of Milestones

Our Guiding Mission
To give everyone on earth a seat at the global governance table

Vision
To create a permanent global citizens’ assembly that by 2030: has over 10m participating in it annually, is recognised as a powerful driver of improving our ability to tackle global issues such as climate change, health and inequality; is recognised by over 50% of the global population and is funded mostly by citizens’ donations.

3 Year Objectives
To have run at least 2 global citizens’ assemblies that have had a profound and positive impact on global climate decision-making.
“citizens’ assemblies can provide a counterweight to hyper-partisanship and disinformation on social media by convening people outside of adversarial political systems to call in expert testimony.”

Matthew Green, Reuters, 10 December 2020
Across the world, citizens’ assemblies are creating policies far more ambitious than anything politicians have come up with on their own.
2021

A Year of Prototyping

Many of these methods have never been explored at this scale and many new methods are needed to cross bridges never before met, therefore 2021 is a year of prototyping and learning.

So that we can grow over time and bring millions of people to the global governance table.

The Global Assembly has three parts
100 people, a descriptive sample of the global population representative by gender, age, education and geography chosen by civic lottery.

The Core Assembly will present their findings at COP26, the UN Climate Change Conference this November.
Anyone on earth can participate by running or attending a Community Assembly.

The Community Assembly Toolkit [download] allows anyone to run their own Assembly anywhere on earth in e.g. communities centers, libraries, schools, organizations, and more.

Community Assemblies will follow the same learning journey as the core assembly but over a time period that works for the community.

They will produce stories, decisions and data that will feed into COP as well as the wider influencing work of the Global Assembly.

These can take place from 5 October up until 1 January 2022.
Throughout 2020 & 2021, we have been building a global network of cultural support. **We will be launching a call for artists around the world to respond to the idea of the Global Assembly**, and will be uploading responses to an online platform.

The story of the Global Assembly will come to people through their favorite hip hop artists, a popular YouTuber or through the storyline of a chart-breaking soap opera, rather than just through the political pages of a newspaper or an academic journal.
The Learning Materials [download] support people to understand:

1. What is the climate crisis?
2. What is the ecological crisis?
3. Why are we in a climate and ecological crisis?
4. International negotiations
5. What is the impact of climate change and the ecological crisis on...
   ...human health and livelihoods?
   ...food security?
   ...water security?
   ...land-based biodiversity and ecosystems?
   ...oceans and marine life?

They can be used by anyone but have been designed to support the deliberations of the Core and Community Assemblies.

They were put together by our Knowledge & Wisdom Committee chaired by Sir Bob Watson.
Assembly Labs:
Multilingual simultaneous deliberation

8 Sessions 23 Lab Partners 19 Countries

Key outputs:
- Multilingual Text-Sharing, Voting & Clustering on Miro
- Zoom consecutive translation (in-person & remote)
- Participant Hosting Protocols (in-person & remote)
- Multilingual & Multicultural facilitation norms
- Hand Signals - Nonverbals

![Diagram of Miro boards with multilingual text-sharing and voting]
Two Governance Committees

Knowledge & Wisdom

Professor Sir Robert T. Watson, University of East Anglia (Chair)

Dr Nafeez Ahmed, System Shift Lab
Dr Stuart Capstick, Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation, Cardiff University
Professor Purnamita Dasgupta, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi
Professor Saleemul Huq, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh
Professor Michael N. Oti, Petroleum Geology, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Jyoti - Dr Jeneane Prevatt, The Fountain, Sacred Economics, Indegenous Wisdom
Professor Julia Steinberger, Ecological Economics, University of Lausanne

Global Governance & Participation

Professor Nicole Curato, Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra (Chair)

Professor Baogang He, Deakin University, Australia
Professor Bonny Ibhawoh, Human Rights History and African History McMaster University, Canada
Poonam Joshi, Director, Funders Initiative for Civil Society, UK
Professor Helene Landemore, Yale University, USA
Dr Tiago Peixoto, Senior Public Sector Specialist, World Bank
Vijayendra (Biju) Rao, Lead Economist in the Development Research Group, World Bank
Natalie Samarasinghe, United Nations Association
Digital by default

The Assembly will be digital by default, but distributed events can take place face-to-face based on organisers' discretion and local Covid-19 regulations and best practice.
2. How are people selected?
Citizen Selection Step 1

Sortition
On June 24, we selected 100 points on the globe by lottery, using a NASA database of human population density. The 100 points produced by this lottery (also called a sortition) are the locations from where we have recruited participants for the Global Assembly. In the future we hope to perform this global lottery with 1,000 points. The data and the open source code used to do this are freely available.

Sortition is a method of civic lottery that has been used in citizens’ assemblies around the world.

For more detail see: https://globalassembly.org/sortition
In order to design our methodology, we first designed the values we would be guided by. These are “regulative ideals”: these principles guide the process, even where they are not perfectly achievable.

**Values of Selection**

- **Equality**: Anyone on the planet could be chosen.
- **Representation & Diversity**: The Assembly will be a representative sample of the globe. We segmented by gender, income, education levels, views on climate, geography.
- **Inclusion**: We will work to eliminate any barriers to participation.
- **Transparency**: The algorithms, code, tools and processes are fully open.
- **Equal Compensation**: Everyone who participates will be compensated and valued equally.
- **Learning**: This has never been done before. This is a process of learning and improvement as we work towards holding a 1,000-person assembly in the future.
Community Hosts

We believe in order for something to be authentically global, it must also be authentically local. Therefore we designed our methodology to include organizations from all around the world.

We call these international implementation partners ‘Community Hosts’. 

We define a “community host” as: trusted organizations in local communities that bring people together around common activities and beliefs, such as community centers, public libraries, cultural venues, sports clubs, co-working spaces, innovation hubs, urban centers, youth centers, faith-based institutions, and educational institutions, among others.

They are located at the 100 points on our map.

They find, recruit and then support the 100 assembly members.

1 point = 1 Community Host supporting 1 assembly member
Final Selection

Community Hosts for each 100 map points, undertook random on street recruitment of 4-6 people, diverse in: age, gender, education and attitudes towards climate.

These then formed a second pool of 675 people. A second sortition was then undertaken on the 27th of September, stratifying this sample down to a group of 100, making it as proportionally representative as possible.

See profile data of participant selection process on next slide.
NOTE: final selection may look different from 'Confirmed' depending on citizen attrition rate and other 'human' factors.
3. Key moments and stories
Six Step Process:
Before, During & After COP

Before COP
Step 1. Understanding the Current Situation (Oct. 7th - 13th)
Step 2. Reviewing Scenarios, Pathways, NDCs & Principles (Oct. 14th - 20th)
Step 3. Developing Principles to Guide Discussions at COP (Oct. 21th -30th)

During COP
Step 4. Participation in & Observation of COP (Nov. 1st - 20th)
  Green zone & Blue zone

After COP
Step 5. Review Commitments & future Agenda setting (Dec. 4th - 18th)
Four Key Moments

5 Oct. 2021: Launch of Global Assembly
Everyone on planet earth is invited to join the Global Assembly and be heard at COP and beyond.

1 Nov. 2021: Launch of Citizens Proposals at COP26
The assembly members’ proposals are presented at COP26. This will happen in the Green Zone Cinema Auditorium at 13:00 - 15:30 - at the same time as the world leaders are making their initial presentations. So we will be able to see to what extent leaders proposals match what citizens want.

Assembly members will call national country witnesses and review their commitments against their proposals.

2 Mar. 2022: Launch of Final Report
The final report will be launched containing all the data from the Core and Community Assemblies as well as the citizens proposals for what they want the Global Assembly to focus on next. The aim being for the citizens proposals to influence decision-makers and influencers across key global bodies (e.g. WEF (Davos), UN, World Bank, member states etc).
“The Global Assembly is leading to a tremendous kindling of interest, understanding of how ordinary people can be involved in public governance and hope.

Climate change impacts are very real for us, with the increasing number of warm days and nights, cyclones even on the west coast of India, extreme rainfall events and flash floods. Community Hosts from some parts have been dealing with floods. We are recovering from Covid, but vector-borne diseases, especially dengue, are increasing. This is because conditions for mosquitoes to breed are favourable over larger tracts and for longer.

The last few months have been very exciting because through the Lab processes [Global Assembly method development], and now as the actual assembly process starts up, new tools and methods for facilitating deliberation are being developed, tested, improved, for use across time zones, languages, and governance regimes.”

Sanskriti Menon, Cluster Facilitator, Pune (India)
Through the Global Assembly we have over 15 trained spokespeople from communities across the world. This is a sample:

Takunda Chingtonzo, Zimbabwe (English and Shona and Ndebele)
Claire Mellier, France (English, French).
Sanskriti Menon, India (English and Hindi)
Susan Nakyung Lee, South Korea (English and Korean)
Grace Oluchi, Nigeria (English, French and West African Pidgin)
Eva Sowebion, Senegal (English, French, Wolof)
Richard Wilson, UK (English)
Fatima Zamba, Morocco (English and Arabic).
A colleague in Sierra Leone has explained to us how daunting it will be to be working with a participant who never went to school and has never been anywhere near a computer and speaks a rare dialect. But of course this is why the Global Assembly is important, we have done all that we can to ensure that this is a genuine snapshot of the human family as it really is.

One community member in India who is a doctor, has been explaining to us that she can attest to the fact that many of her patients are suffering conditions that can be directly linked to the effects of climate change in the community where she operates.

Many of the younger members of the worldwide network of the Global Assembly are repeating the same story over and over: this process is absolutely the future as they see it for humanity to progress, it’s a foregone conclusion, “it’s a no brainer.”
SAMPLE IMAGES YOU CAN USE

Photo Credit: Mrs. Swera Kumari, Representative of Chandrama Kalyan Kendra Organisation. Siwan, Bihar, India

People in the photograph:
1) Mr. Kanahiya Prasad (Participant) At post-Pakwalia, Siwan, Bihar India. - Left side in the photograph
2) Mr. Pankaj Kumar Shrivastava, Secretary of Chandrama Kalyan Kendra Organisation, CH for Siwan, Bihar, India - Right side in the photograph

For photo details email flynn@globalassembly.org
4. Why do we need a global citizens’ assembly?
RIGHT NOW WE FACE A CHOICE: MORE PEOPLE POWER OR LESS

Crises like covid or climate change require radical and potentially unpopular policies as well as mass behaviour change. We can achieve this through more top-down or more bottom-up means.

BUT THINGS WILL NOT STAY THE SAME
There is significant evidence that citizens’ assemblies generate:

**Good policy**  ➤ climate policies commensurate with the challenge supported by a majority of the public

**Inclusion**  ➤ diverse and representative. Anyone can be involved through Community Assemblies

**Activation**  ➤ participants’ self-efficacy is built and they discover how the world works and how they can change it

**Empathy**  ➤ solidarity between groups that disagree as an antidote to polarisation

**Truth**  ➤ participants and observers are supported to engage deeply with evidence and lived experience

**Participation**  ➤ citizens’ role as leaders in addressing the climate emergency is highlighted, their knowledge and role as change-agents emphasised
Overcoming polarisation through type three communication

All assembly members will be supported to engage with one another at the level of type 3 communication. This supports people to transcend traditional debate and understand one another's fundamental hopes and fears. This is not about consensus-building but generating respect for each other's positions.

1. Opinions
2. Beliefs + Values
3. Governing sentiment (Fears, hopes)
5. What’s the theory of change?
Three objectives and one big assumption

Objectives:
1. Encouraging institutions to implement assembly proposals
2. Activating citizens to take actions themselves and support the proposals
3. Prototype a new way of decision-making.

One Big Assumption
Institutions will not act on recommendations without significant encouragement.

The network diagram on the next page provides a graphical representation of the high level theory of change for the Global Citizens' Assembly for COP26 and is based on the classic Aspen Institute Theory of Change model. In the diagram:
- Orange square = ultimate outcome
- Green squares = outcomes level 1
- Purple squares = outputs level 2
- Grey squares = outputs level 1 (process outputs)
- Yellow squares = activities level 2
- Red squares = activities level 1
- Light blue circle = assumptions.
6. A global distributed operating system
AWISH (Sierra Leone); Creative Space Startups (Oyo, Nigeria); De Stuyverij (Belgium); South Bend Civic Space (Indiana, US); Equi Youth (Zambia); Grapevine (UK); Lok Shakti Samiti (Chhattisgarh State, India); Sharon (Republic of Korea); Radeza (Mozambique); Oppakr Institute (Iran); SEWEN (France); Khin Moet (Myanmar); Guardiões do Meia Ponte (Goiânia, Brazil); Socotri Women's Foundation for Response & Development (Socotra, Yemen); Typography (Krasnodar, Russia); Casa per la Pace Milano and La Prossima Cultura (Italy); Karkhana Pvt Ltd (Nepal); Lyceum Training Services (Syria); Youth Education (Cote d'Ivoire); Umami (Egypt); Koon Space (Madagascar); PI Collective (Indonesia); El Ateneo Asociación Civil (Argentina); Consumidores Ecuador (Ecuador); Bridges to the future (Morocco)
In order to ensure the Global Assembly is a truly global, decentralised and locally rooted initiative we opened the call to invite people and organisations around the world to become full partners and received an incredible response.

So far the Global Assembly consists of:

- 660+ Organizations & Volunteers expressed an interest since end of June
- 100 Community Hosts around the world secured
- 50+ Assembly Facilitators secured to run the meetings
- 23 Lab Partners have prototyped, refined and finalised the new tools and methods needed
- 10 Regional and Linguistic Leads
- 9 Cluster Facilitators.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Cluster Count</th>
<th>Countries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td>18 locations</td>
<td></td>
<td>All locations in India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td>18 locations</td>
<td></td>
<td>All locations in China</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Anglophone</strong></td>
<td>12 locations</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Belgium, Ethiopia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Francophone</strong></td>
<td>8 locations</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Uzbekistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arabic</strong></td>
<td>6 locations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cluster 1
G1000.nu

Cluster 1
Spanish-Speaking Cluster
iDeemos

Cluster 2
UDaan

Cluster 2
Lusophone Cluster
Delibera

Cluster 2
Anglophone Cluster
Community Organisers

Cluster 3
MSU - Center for Local Governance Studies

Cluster 3
India Cluster
Center for Environmental Education

Cluster 3
China Cluster
Shimmer SDGs Hub

Francophone and Arabic-speaking Clusters
School of Collective Intelligence
Local Community Host Network

Community of Practice (CoP)

A Level Decentralization
Public participation organizations, deliberative democracy practitioners, universities, think tanks. Led by Cluster Facilitators.

B Level Decentralization
Authentic community spaces in the same administrative district as sortition-selected locations. I.e. libraries, sports clubs, coworking spaces, community art venues, youth centers.
Locally hosted, globally connected

GA Core Circle

Regional/Linguistic Clusters

- Community Host
- Community Host
- Community Host

Core Assembly Participant
Core Assembly Participant
Core Assembly Participant
Core Assembly Participant
>50% of the Global Assembly funds will go directly to grassroots community convenors or citizens (70% of whom earn $10 a day or less)
Designing a Global Deliberation Schedule

The Core Assembly takes place in:

- **100-person Plenary** sessions in optimal UTC time frame
- **5-person Breakout** sessions with 3 hour longitudinal groupings
Pre-COP26 deliberations

Block 1 (Oct 7 - Oct 13, 12 hours)
Understanding current situation

- Oct 7 : 1.1B Induction
- Oct 9 : 1.2P Opening Plenary
- Oct 12 : 1.3B Review of learning materials
- Oct 13 : 1.4B Review of learning materials

**Purpose:**
1. Induction of the Assembly members (AMs)
2. Introduction about the Global Assembly (GA)
3. Introduction about the current situation
4. Climate & ecological situation
5. Global decision-making structure and climate global governance

Block 2 (Oct 14 - Oct 20, 12 hours)
Reviewing Scenarios, pathways, NDCs & principles

- Oct 14 : 2.1B Introduction to the scenarios and pathways, review visions, choose scenarios
- Oct 16 : 2.2P Q&A on scenarios and pathways, consolidation of vision
- Oct 19 : 2.3B Fairness witnesses and deliberation
- Oct 20 : 2.4B Effectiveness witnesses and deliberation

**Purpose:**
1. Understand the implications of the many (number TBC) temperature rise scenarios that we face and their impacts
   1.5°C, 2°C, 3°C+ [These scenarios need to be validated by K&W Committee based on latest IPCC and UNFCCC data]
2. Understand different pathways for reducing emissions and the implications on NDCs
   What are the pathways options?
   What do these pathways mean in terms of the pace of change?
   What is a carbon budget?
   What are NDCs?
3. Deliberate on the principles of effectiveness and fairness
4. Based on the principles, vote on scenarios & pathways

Block 3 (Oct 21 - Oct 30, 12 hours)
Developing Principles to Guide Discussions at COP

- Oct 21 : 3.1B Input to template on fairness/effectiveness parameters, surfacing of additional principles
- Oct 23 : 3.2P Review consolidation of templates, mixing breakout rooms to review and discuss
- Oct 26 : 3.3B Review consolidation of COP Submission
- Oct 30 : 3.4P Validate COP Submission

**Purpose:**
1. Review the votes on scenarios, pathways & level of confidence in the ability of NDCs to secure the pathways
2. Review fairness/effectiveness deliberations & surfacing of additional principles
3. Deliberate on additional principles
4. Votes on COP26 key messages submission
COP26 + Post deliberations

Block 4 (1 - 20 Nov, 14 hours)
Participation in and Observation of COP

Nov 1 - 12: Open Sessions for observation of COP (± 8
Nov 16: 4.1B Review and deliberation on COP
Nov 20: 4.2P Consolidating of observations from COP

Purpose:
1. Deliver submissions to COP
2. Members gain first-hand experience of global decision-making platforms, and observe the impact of their submissions.
3. Encourage peer-to-peer learning amongst members on their observations

Block 5: (Dec 4 - Dec 18, 18 hours)
Review Commitments & Future Agenda Setting

Dec 4: 5.1P Invited witnesses
Dec 7: 5.2B Revisions of COP submission
Dec 11: 5.3P Consolidation sessions for public statement and introduction to future Global Assembly scenarios
Dec 14: 5.4B Discussion of consolidated public statement & future GA scenarios
Dec 16: 5.5B Continued discussions
Dec 18: 5.6P Validation of public statement, agenda for GA2.0, closing

Purpose:
1. Revise submission to COP as a public statement, that incorporates observations from COP
2. Set agenda for “GA2.0”
7. Historical Precedent
Over the past 20 years we have been experimenting with deliberative democracy and over the past decade we have been refining the approach through citizens’ assemblies.

2000s
Experimenting with deliberative democracy

2010s
Prototyping & refining national citizens’ assemblies

2020s
Scaling a global citizens’ assembly to meet global crisis