

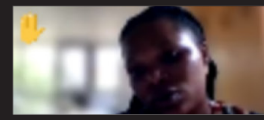
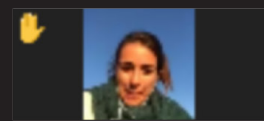
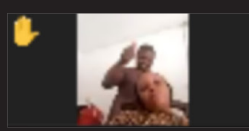
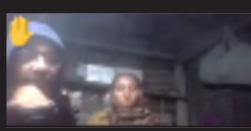
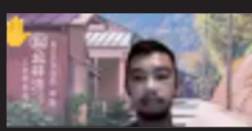
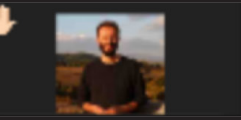
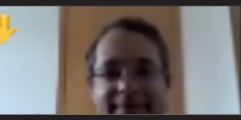
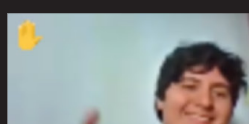
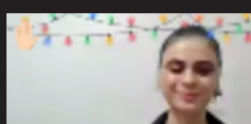
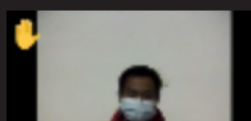
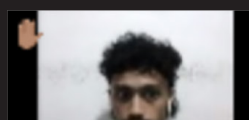
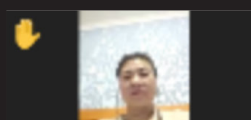
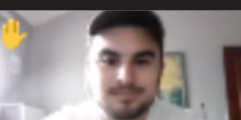
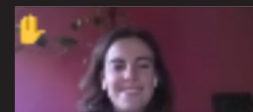
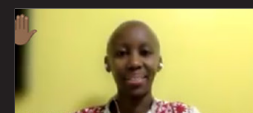
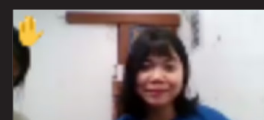


# Report of the 2021 Global Assembly on the Climate and Ecological Crisis

## Executive Summary

Giving everyone a seat at  
the global governance table

November 2022



“

**I am a farmer myself and I feel a lot has deteriorated over the past few decades. The environmental degradation leading to floods and droughts has significantly affected our cultivation... Now, due to increase in temperature and change in rainfall patterns, a huge proportion of crops get wasted on the field itself. [This is] affecting us greatly in terms of finance, which is why a lot of farmers are dying in our country everyday. Hence I feel we who suffer the most from climate change should be given a place in climate decision-making. Thank you.”**

Mulki Devi, a farmer from Bihar State, India, and member of the Global Assembly's Core Assembly, speaking at the first day of COP26, November 1, 2021<sup>a</sup>

“

**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. You are helping to send the message loud and clear: people everywhere want bold, ambitious climate action, and now is the moment for national leaders to stand and deliver.”**

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, October 2021

#### Footnotes

a. Global Assembly (2021), Citizens from the Global Assembly Present their Statements. Available [here](#).

# What is the Global Assembly?

In 2021, the Global Assembly set out to give everybody on Earth a seat at the global governance table. It consisted of three components:

## 01

### Core Assembly

100 people selected by global civic lottery (or ‘sortition’), representing a snapshot of the world’s population. They collectively produced the People’s Declaration for the Sustainable Future of Planet Earth (summarized on the next page).

## 02

### Community Assemblies

Self-organized events that could be run by anyone anywhere, using the same learning materials as the Core Assembly, and guided by a ‘do-it-yourself’ Toolkit.

## 03

### Cultural Wave

An invitation to artists and creators to develop work that expressed the idea of the Global Assembly and the climate and ecological crisis in a way that would reach people through popular culture.

Each component responded to the framing question:

“  
How can humanity  
address the climate and  
ecological crisis in a fair  
and effective way?”

This Executive Summary is an abridged account of the purpose, methods, and impact of these three components and the Global Assembly initiative as a whole.

# People's Declaration for the Sustainable Future of Planet Earth

A summary

This People's Declaration<sup>b</sup> was co-created by the members of the Global Assembly's Core Assembly. **It was presented to the world at COP26<sup>c</sup>** in November 2021 and refined during the weeks that followed. Its final form was ratified by Assembly Members by majority vote on December 18, 2021.

## 01

The Paris Agreement is humanity's best chance; it must be affirmed and enforced by all governments and people, and rigorously monitored in collaboration with citizens and grassroots mechanisms.

## 02

Equity must be a core focus when meeting the goals in the Paris Agreement; spreading responsibility according to the capabilities and historical contributions of countries and corporations is vital.

## 03

Actions on the climate crisis must be participatory, enabling people at all levels to contribute to decisions on climate, particularly groups from countries least historically responsible for and most affected by the climate crisis.

## 04

The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment must be included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and protected at multiple levels of law; we should raise awareness and citizen engagement on human rights in relation to climate and the environment.

## 05

This Declaration is grounded in the importance of Nature having intrinsic values and rights, and in all beings on Earth forming an interconnected whole; we must protect Nature from Ecocide legally, engaging communities and establishing multiple governing bodies to enable this.

## 06

Education on climate change must be formally integrated, within the school syllabus and in governmental communications, and also informally disseminated through more accessible platforms, like social media, to reach as many as possible.

## 07

To ensure a fair and just Energy Transition, we must ensure that countries and people with less means are supported through a gradual change, and recognize the shared responsibility between citizens, governments, and corporations in enabling it.

### Footnotes

b. Full version available [here](#).

c. COP, or Conference of Parties, is an annual conference which serves as a decision-making body of the UNFCCC. The UNFCCC, or United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, is an international convention aimed at preventing harmful human impact on the climate system.



# Why the Global Assembly matters

Citizens' assemblies are becoming increasingly popular around the world<sup>d</sup> as a tool to resolve complex issues that politicians struggle to address, such as abortion,<sup>e</sup> social care,<sup>f</sup> and political reform.<sup>g</sup> Climate change is one such issue, but affects the whole world and therefore presents an unprecedented challenge for existing global governance structures; a point at the forefront of the UN Secretary General's 2021 report, *Our Common Agenda*.<sup>h</sup>

Indeed, citizens' assemblies are emerging as a frontrunner for how to improve climate governance.<sup>d</sup> Over recent years there have been at least 80 climate assemblies across the world,<sup>i</sup> and there have been calls for a global citizens' assembly since at least 2011,<sup>j</sup> as a way to inject civic energy and impetus into the UN's global climate negotiations (Conference of the Parties, or COP). This is because, when run well, they:

- tend to generate **high-quality policies** which have a strong chance of working because they are evidence-based and commensurate with the challenge in question;
- are perceived by the public to have **high legitimacy** as they are made by a representative sample of people, not politicians (in whom trust is low and declining in many countries);<sup>k</sup>
- **activate citizens** to take action on climate, as well as engage in politics and society more generally (critical given that people's actions are linked to 72% of global greenhouse gas emissions due to consumption of food, products, energy, and travel);<sup>l</sup>
- **generate respect and solidarity** between diverse social groups, as a counterweight to hyper-partisanship and disinformation.

## Footnotes

- d. The Economist (2020), *Amateurs to the rescue & Some assembly required*. Available [here](#).  
e. An Tionól Saoránach (2017), *First Report and Recommendations of the Citizens Assembly on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution*. Available [here](#).  
f. Involve (2018), *Citizens' Assembly on Social Care: Recommendations for Funding Adult Social Care*. Available [here](#).  
g. Warren & Pearce (2008), *Designing Deliberative Democracy: The British Columbia Citizens' Assembly*. Cambridge University Press. Available [here](#).  
h. United Nations (2021), *Our Common Agenda - Report of the Secretary-General*. Available [here](#).  
i. Büergerrat (no date), *Citizens' Assemblies worldwide*. Available [here](#).  
j. Dryzek et al (2011), *Toward a Deliberative Global Citizens' Assembly*. *Global Policy*, 2(1), pp. 32-42. Available [here](#).  
k. OECD (2020), *Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave*. OECD Publishing, Paris. Available [here](#); Perry (2021), *Trust in public institutions: Trends and implications for economic security*. UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs. Available [here](#).  
l. Dubois et al (2019), *It starts at home? Climate policies targeting household consumption and behavioral decisions are key to low-carbon futures*. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 52, pp. 144-158. Available [here](#).

This latter point is especially important for global climate governance given that impacts of emissions are often felt most acutely in places which are, or have historically been, least responsible for generating them; be it those affected by changing weather patterns and sea-level rise, or the impacts of mitigation measures such as lithium mining (a mineral used for electric vehicle batteries and photovoltaic panels).<sup>m</sup>

In February 2022, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II's report on "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" found that: "Inclusive governance that prioritises equity and justice in adaptation planning and implementation leads to more effective and sustainable adaptation outcomes."<sup>n</sup>

**One of the key successes of the 2021 Global Assembly is how it was able to engage global citizens in IPCC data** in a way that supported personal and collective meaning-making, enabling everyone taking part in deliberations to deepen their understanding of their lived experience of climate change, while generating empathy and understanding between people with very different lives.

One of the limitations of local and national climate citizens' assemblies (see definition in the box below) appears to be that they tend not to generate the multinational mutual understanding required for a globally just transition. For example, in Climate Assembly UK, 'global fairness' was identified as the 19th (out of 26) most important principle.<sup>o</sup> This is perhaps not a surprise given that only UK citizens participated, but UK climate policy has a major global impact, especially when one considers the country's historic role in the Industrial Revolution. **Mechanisms such as the Global Assembly may therefore provide an important way to help people understand the tangible global impacts of their local or national actions.** In essence, the Global Assembly could operationalize the 1992 Rio Earth Summit Agenda 21 motif, to 'think global, act local'<sup>p</sup> – an intention that the last 30 years has taught us is easier said than done.

#### Footnotes

m. Eckstein et al (2021), *Global Climate Risk Index 2021*. Germanwatch. Available [here](#).

n. IPCC (2022), *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability* (p. 30). Available [here](#).

o. Climate Assembly UK (2020), *The path to net zero: Climate Assembly UK full report*. Available [here](#).

p. United Nations (1992), UN Conference on Environment & Development: Agenda 21. Available [here](#).

## What is a citizens' assembly?

In a citizens' assembly, members of a population come together to learn, deliberate, and make recommendations on a certain issue. Compared to other forms of citizen engagement, citizens' assemblies are characterized by:

- being **demographically descriptive** of a population by criteria such as age, income, geography, and political views;
- the **selection of members by lottery**, so that as far as is possible any person from the target population has an equal chance of being selected;
- the provision of **significant time for high-quality, in-depth deliberation**, especially between people with **different views and backgrounds**;
- the provision of information materials and witness testimonies that seek to be **accurate, accessible, and balanced** to support meaningful and informed deliberation;
- the **support of participants through financial compensation and other provisions**, such as childcare and digital access, to ensure the process is as **inclusive as possible**.

## Prototyping new global governance infrastructure

At the start of the project, the organizing team began without a precedent or an institutional mandate. That is, no one had run a global citizens' assembly before, and no international institution was calling for one to exist.<sup>q</sup> Therefore, the **Global Assembly 2021 was framed as a year to prototype** the methodology and explore where a global citizens' assembly could fit into the current global governance ecosystem.

**By the end of 2021, the Global Assembly had created a precedent for a global citizens' assembly**, had overcome challenges around the methodology of the Core Assembly, and had established institutional support. The project received the backing of António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, who said, "The Global Citizens' Assembly for COP26 is a practical way of showing how we can accelerate action through solidarity and people power."

**Members of the Core Assembly presented their Declaration at a dedicated event on the first day of COP26**, alongside speakers including the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, Ugandan climate justice activist, Vanessa Nakate, and key architect of the Paris Agreement, Laurence Tubiana.<sup>r</sup>

### Footnotes

q. Although the topic had been gaining interest in academia and civil society.

r. Global Assembly (2021), *Citizens from the Global Assembly Present their Statements*. Available [here](#).



# Mission, vision, and goals

The guiding mission of the Global Assembly is **to give everyone on Earth a seat at the global governance table**, through new global governance infrastructure. The long-term vision is that, by 2030, a permanent global citizens' assembly exists in which more than 10 million people participate every year to address all manner of common global issues.

The goals for 2021 were focused on establishing:

- the methodology for how to run a global citizens' assembly;
- a global network of organizations capable of running a global citizens' assembly;
- the institutional support necessary to influence global climate decision-making;
- engagement methods to increase awareness of, and participation in, a global citizens' assembly.

Underpinning all this was a Theory of Change which built on learnings from recent national and local citizens' assemblies, while innovating to account for differences between policy-making environments at the national and global levels.

The overarching outcome of the Theory of Change – **“to address the climate and ecological crisis in a fair and effective way”** – is supported by three routes to impact:

- **Encouraging institutional actions:** Some citizens' assemblies focus on influencing institutions only; the Global Assembly operates on the assumption that institutions will not act on citizen recommendations without external pressure. Therefore institutional partnerships, public support, and media coverage are fostered to encourage governments, businesses, and other institutions to act.
- **Encouraging citizens' actions:** Each of the three components of the Global Assembly aims to nurture self and collective efficacy, to activate citizens to take action (e.g. to become politically active or change their lifestyle), and to influence others, inspired by their learnings.
- **Developing a new governance model:** There is a growing recognition that global crises, be it climate or public health, are symptoms of a governance crisis. The Global Assembly seeks to demonstrate that alternative ways of taking decisions exist, and that these may help us address the climate and ecological crisis.

A more detailed explanation of the Theory of Change can be found in Chapter 1 of the full-length Report.

# Three components of the Global Assembly

## 1. Core Assembly

From October through December 2021, 99<sup>s</sup> Assembly Members convened over 20 sessions across 12 weeks – a total of 68 hours. Together, they wrote the **People's Declaration for the Sustainable Future of Planet Earth** (see pages 4 and 5), which was presented at the United Nations' COP26 in Glasgow.<sup>r</sup>

Core Assembly Members were chosen by a specially-designed global civic lottery. As far as the organizers are aware, this was the first time such a global selection process had been undertaken. **Together, Assembly Members formed a descriptive sample of the global population** according to geographical location, age, gender, education level, and attitude towards climate change. This process was facilitated by global partners at the world-region scale (Cluster Facilitators) and local level (Community Hosts).

**The Core Assembly was structured into five blocks** (see table below) with Assembly Members spending most of each three-hour session in online Breakout Groups, with three to five of their peers from nearby time zones. Each Breakout Group was led by a trained Facilitator who was supported by a dedicated Notetaker. Plenary Sessions with all Assembly Members were held on Saturdays.

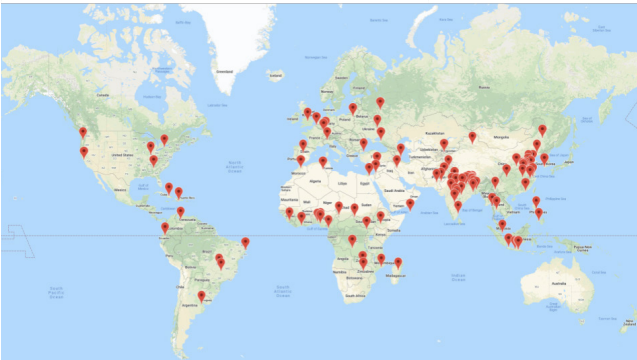
<b>Block 1</b> (October 7-13) Understanding the situation	Foundational learning about the climate and ecological crisis, story sharing from personal perspectives. Development of conversation principles.
<b>Block 2</b> (October 13-20) Reviewing scenarios, pathways and principles	Continuation of learning, with a focus on governance and potential impacts of climate projections. Voting process trialed on conversation principles developed in Block 1.
<b>Block 3</b> (October 21-30) Developing submissions to COP26	Generation of content for the initial version of the People's Declaration for the Sustainable Future of Planet Earth. Content and title of the Declaration approved by a clause-by-clause majority vote.
<b>Block 4</b> (November 1-20) Participation and observation at COP26	Online observation of COP26 proceedings. Collection of themes for further discussion.
<b>Block 5</b> (December 4-18) Review commitments and future agenda setting	Learning and deliberation on topics highlighted during COP26 observation. Iterative review and amendment of the Declaration, approved in final session by majority vote.

### Footnote

s. Out of a planned 100. Of these, 98 remained with the process to the end.

## Steps to selecting Assembly Members by global civic lottery

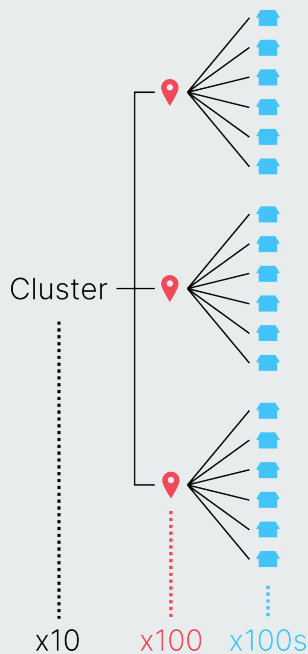
### 1. Global location lottery selects 100 points



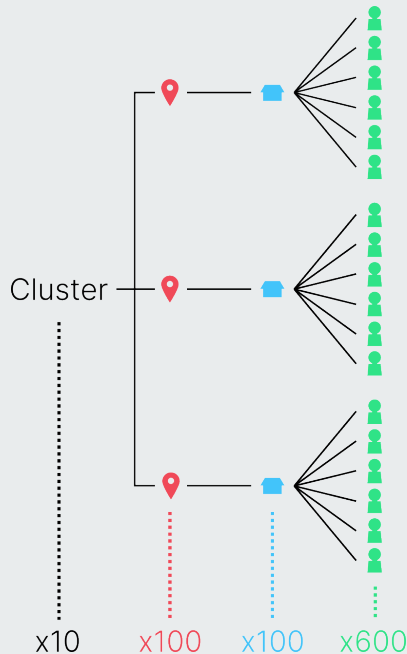
### 2. Form clusters of these points

India		Spanish
China		Portuguese
Anglophone		0°-45°E
Francophone		46°-90°E
Arabic		91+°E

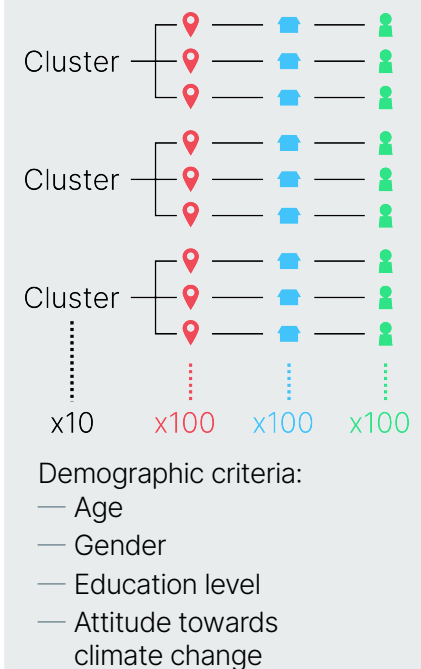
### 3. Find potential Community Hosts at each point



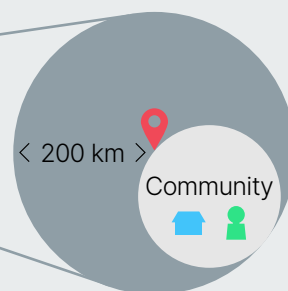
### 4. Recruited Community Hosts recruit 4-6 potential Assembly Members for their point



### 5. Sortition for final 100 Assembly Members, one from each point



Outcome: 100 Assembly Members hosted by 100 Community Hosts within 200 km of the 100 locations



Over time, Members expressed increasing interest in the climate and ecological crisis (rising from 53% to 69% ‘very interested’) and a reduction in political apathy (49% to 29% ‘not at all...’ or ‘hardly interested in politics’). Emotions (such as anxiousness, anger, hope, and empowerment) were also recorded, and peaked after witnessing COP26. By the close of the Assembly, all Assembly Members expressed ‘some...’ or ‘a good amount of confidence’ in humanity’s ability to deal with the climate and ecological crisis and 94% felt the Global Assembly could make ‘some...’, ‘considerable...’ or ‘a lot of difference.’

These and many other insights are described between pages 133 and 167 of the full-length report.

“

**It is a lifetime changing experience. I have never been properly educated and never thought that I would meet people from different countries and learn things I have never thought [were] important.”**

Assembly Member from Myanmar, December 2021

## 2. Community Assemblies



While the Core Assembly was designed to give anyone on Earth a chance of selection, only 100 people could be chosen. To broaden engagement, Community Assemblies were designed to take place in parallel with the Core Assembly. Community Assemblies lasted three to eight hours and used the same learning materials as the Core Assembly. They were run independently with the help of a [dedicated Toolkit](#).

Despite the absence of any formal lottery selection mechanism, a strong diversity of people participated. This included a roughly equal division of men and women, a range of literacy levels and ages, and a wide variety of professional backgrounds. About 1,300 people participated from at least 41 countries, speaking at least 13 languages.

### Step 01 > Step 02 > Step 03 > Step 04 >

You bring together a group of people to form the 'Community Assembly'.

You learn together about the climate and ecological crisis.

You deliberate on the following question: "How can humanity address the climate and ecological crisis in a fair and effective way?"

You share your Community Assembly's key messages, which will inform the Global Assembly's report.

#### The simple four-step outline for a Community Assembly

While connections between the Core and the Community Assemblies need to be developed (along with more effective Community Assembly data capture), it is clear that Community Assemblies are a very promising format for enabling many more people to participate. As well as supporting citizens to take action in their local contexts, this is critical to generating the external pressure that will drive institutional action and lead to effective global governance infrastructure.



“

The participants said that they were unaware about climate change actions and crises. They were unaware about COP and international and national developments to reduce greenhouse gasses. They took interest to be part of future discussions on climate change to increase their knowledge and prevention from the climate change crisis.”

Community Assembly Organizer, Nawabshah, Pakistan

Community Assembly in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo



### 3. Cultural Wave

Citizens' assemblies, and other deliberative processes, are not often encountered outside of political, academic, or 'high brow' news circles. The Cultural Wave was designed to raise awareness of the Global Assembly through popular culture, making it more accessible to the wider public. The approach was co-developed with a global community of creatives – including French designer Nelly Ben Hayoun, and British musician Brian Eno – and piloted in 2021, resulting in a range of artistic responses, including poetry, street art, and community quilt-making.

Experiences of climate change expressed through a traditional quilt-making project in the Philippines



A mosaic created by a group inspired after running a Community Assembly in China



# Organizational principles

## Decentralized global delivery network

As a global initiative rooted in local engagement, the Global Assembly was delivered by partners from all over the world. Among the 400+ individuals and 120+ organizations from 112 countries, these delivery roles included:

Role	Activities
100 Community Hosts in 49 countries	Each responsible for recruiting and facilitating the attendance of one Assembly Member as well as the provision of translation/contextualization and payment
56 Hosting personnel (Facilitators, Notetakers, and Editors)	Responsible for implementing and documenting deliberations in Core Assembly sessions
23 Lab Partners	Testing, refining, and finalizing the materials and methods used for the Core Assembly
9 Cluster Facilitators	Leading decentralized delivery of the Core Assembly, providing regional support, and promotion of all Global Assembly activities
A Core Delivery Team	Formed from members and associates of founding partner organizations, responsible for project development, incubation, launch, and coordination of delivery
A Community of Practice	Containing around 85 individuals from over 36 countries who assisted in several aspects of the initiative such as the recruitment of Community Hosts

## Decentralized structure

A decentralized structure was adopted for practical and values-based reasons. For example, a practical need of the Core Assembly was for local partners who could recruit and support Assembly Members within their local context. The founding delivery partners established a non-hierarchical structure, inspired by ideas such as holacracy and distributed leadership, and co-created the following set of guiding values, which were subsequently agreed by all staff:



# 01

We build new decision-making infrastructure

# 02

We trust in people

# 03

We build empathy between people

# 04

We focus on the means, not the ends

# 05

We recognize our biases

# 06

We emphasize learning in practice

# 07

We are open

# 08

We are independent

Full descriptions of these values can be found in Chapter 1 of the full report.

## **Communications**

To publicize the Global Assembly, relationships were forged with individuals, organizations, and platforms to amplify the Assembly's reach into global networks. This resulted in more than 50 written media stories around the world, hundreds of thousands of people reached via social media, interviews on national radio and television, and dozens of conference appearances, including seven at COP26. These appearances featured Assembly Members and members of the Core Delivery Team, all of whom received professional spokesperson training.

## **Funding**

The Global Assembly received US\$ 972,535 in 2021, which was funded predominantly by charitable foundations (European Climate Foundation, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group, and One Project) with £100,000 (US\$ 140,845) from the Scottish Government, and a small number of donations from individuals. All funders accepted the condition that they would have no influence on any aspect of the Global Assembly.

As the amount raised was below the US\$ 1.2m target, the decision was made to prioritize funding for the Core Assembly, resulting in fewer resources being available for Community Assembly and Cultural Wave activities. Nonetheless, these elements were successful pilots which engaged many people around the world and provided valuable experience for the future development of the broader methodology.

## **Governance**

The Global Assembly was overseen by two governance advisory committees, the Knowledge and Wisdom Advisory Committee and Global Governance and Participation Advisory Committee, chaired by Sir Robert Watson and Professor Nicole Curato respectively. The institutional connection with the UNFCCC COP process was made possible thanks to input from a group of institutional and governmental advisors.

# Achievements and opportunities

First and foremost, the 2021 prototyping year revealed that organizing **a global citizens' assembly is possible** and that many people across civil society and institutions find the idea inspiring and want to support it.

The successful Core Assembly has demonstrated that it is possible to convene a snapshot of the world's population to deliberate a common issue and produce a collaborative output in the form of the People's Declaration. As a whole, **the Global Assembly represents a new approach to citizen participation in global governance**, distinct from informal pathways, such as protest, and formal pathways, such as observation at transnational negotiations.

There is great potential for a global citizens' assembly to improve global climate governance and the governance of other intractable global issues. To do so, however, will require a deepening of its impact and development of its operating model. The following key achievements and opportunities for improvement provide a summary of the more detailed findings available in the full report.

## Key achievements

**Global coverage:** Implementing a global citizens' assembly requires the ability to operate in a very wide range of countries and across varying socio-political landscapes. The Global Assembly built a team of partner organizations beyond the 49 countries identified by the global lottery, including Belgium, Brazil, China, Ecuador, Russia, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, the United States of America, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe,<sup>t</sup> and embraced the diversity of language and cultural context into its methodology.

**Methodological innovation:** There were dozens of methodological innovations required to deliver the Global Assembly. For example:

- **New sortition methodology:** A multi-step global civic lottery was developed, including an algorithm for location lottery and method of local recruitment.
- **Multilingual deliberation and co-creation:** Online dialogue was supported between Assembly Members speaking different languages, and an approach to generate, revise, and vote on the content of a shared document was prototyped successfully.
- **Expanding participation:** The wider public was enabled to contribute through the distributed activities of Community Assemblies and the Cultural Wave.
- **IPCC data based learning materials:** New multimedia learning tools were developed to enable people to engage intellectually and emotionally in the latest IPCC data.

### Footnote

<sup>t</sup>. See the map of lottery selected locations on the [Global Assembly website](#).



- **Development of a global, decentralized team:** Several innovations were adopted by the Global Assembly’s decentralized network to create resource efficiencies and underscore the value of global co-ownership. These included the localization of participant recruitment and hosting, decentralization of decision-making wherever possible, and equality of staff payment across organizations without geographical weighting.

**Positive Assembly Member experience:** According to a poll taken at the end of the Core Assembly, 97% of Assembly Members described their experience as valuable to them personally. There was also a strong increase in Members’ political interest, as well as various indicators of opinions shifting as a result of better understanding and growing respect for the views of others. Taken together, these hint at the powerful benefits that citizens’ assemblies could have for a politically disenchanted and ideologically fragmented global populus.

**Institutional support:** From 2019, the Global Assembly received ongoing institutional support from staff at the UN Secretary-General’s Office, UNFCCC, COP26 hosts (UK Government), Scottish Government, UN Foundation, COP26 Champions Network, and others, all of which were critical to its success. It also received support from key individuals such as António Guterres, UN Secretary-General; Alok Sharma, the chair of COP26; Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland; and Nigel Topping, High-Level Champion for Climate Action, COP26. This support is a positive indication of the impact this model could have on the global governance ecosystem in the future.

## Opportunities for improvement

**Institutionalization:** In order to effectively influence global decision-making the Global Assembly needs to consider the pursuit of both ‘insider’ and ‘outsider’ routes to influence. A stronger ‘insider’ strategy would involve deeper engagement in the annual COP conference and policy development process; this might include Assembly Members engaging with national delegations or having a more formal role at COP. This type of formal institutionalization, however, is likely to require more than just a mandate; institutions would need to make alterations to policy-making structures in order to integrate the recommendations of any global citizens’ assembly meaningfully. On the other hand, a stronger ‘outsider’ strategy might mean working with social movements that could act on, and advocate for, the People’s Declaration, and encourage wider participation in Community Assemblies. Ultimately, the right combination of both approaches may be mutually reinforcing.

**Refining the methodology:** Between resource limitations and the natural learning process, there is room for improvement in several areas of the Global Assembly methodology. These include:

- Developing ways to devote more time to deliberations in the Core Assembly, perhaps by increasing the length of the process or by including offline reading time into the participation commitment
- Furthering decentralization of the global implementation team and distribution of the Community Hosts' roles amongst more individuals or organizations
- Increasing the capacity and impact of Community Assemblies by offering more training and support to those running the events, seeking ways to integrate with the Core Assembly, and exploring routes to policy impact, for example through more informative data capture and a comprehensive process for collating outcomes
- Expanding the activities of the Cultural Wave and the broader communications strategy, alongside partnerships with institutions and social movements, in order to maximize public awareness

**Organizational development:** The Global Assembly was co-initiated and coordinated under the umbrellas of three organizations, one African and two European, in a loose structure guided by shared values and trust. Future global citizens' assemblies would benefit from a formalized organizational structure with a more globally distributed leadership team. There is an opportunity to collectively build such an organizational structure for the Global Assembly — together with current and future Assembly Members, partners, collaborators, advisors, and individual contributors worldwide — that is as innovative and representative as the Global Assembly itself.

**Independent governance:** In tandem with organizational development, it is essential to continue improving the governance advisory committees' capacity, diversity, and independence from the delivery team as the Global Assembly transitions to more durable future arrangements. The addition of a stakeholder panel could increase the legitimacy of the Global Assembly, and engage a wider diversity of actors across the private sector and civil society. Moreover, the informal advisory committees and relationships with other institutions of global governance could be formalized.

# Next Steps

At the close of the Core Assembly, at least 90% of Members who responded to a survey about the future said (1) they were interested in joining an alumni community, (2) they would like other individuals, organizations, and governments to endorse the People's Declaration, and (3) that **the Global Assembly should become a permanent part of global decision-making**. Ninety-eight percent recommended a global citizens' assembly on the climate and ecological crisis be reconvened in 2023 to continue their work.

The individuals and organizations who developed the 2021 Global Assembly are now focused on promoting the People's Declaration and advocating for the concept of a global citizens' assembly as part of the solution to the climate and ecological crisis, and the crisis in global governance. This includes supporting Assembly Members themselves to speak about their recommendations.

Further, the team is working towards an internal governance structure appropriate to stewarding the future vision of the Global Assembly. In late 2022 a formal evaluation of the Global Assembly will be published by a team of academic researchers, which will inform the next steps.

Any future global citizens' assembly will need to consider how it can become a more powerful driver of change by:

- **influencing the actions of power holders** such as nation states, global institutions and corporations;
- **influencing the official UNFCCC COP** decision-making process;
- ensuring **many more people know about the assembly**, and others like it, and are inspired to get involved;
- dramatically **increasing the number of people** who can be involved in, and experience the benefits of, participating in it;
- developing **robust internal governance mechanisms** to ensure transparency and accountability of decision making;
- ensuring that principles of **decolonization and depatriarchalization** are institutionalized in its operations;
- providing **a model of global governance that inspires** others as to what effective global governance looks like;
- supporting many more **citizens to take action** based on assemblies' outcomes.

The 2021 Global Assembly has the potential to mark a **paradigm shift in global governance**. We, the authors, hope that this report, together with the upcoming external evaluation, sets out the approach and methodology behind the Global Assembly (not only its successes, but also its flaws) in such a way that other actors can learn on our experiences; and that new initiatives emerge **to support every global citizen to take their seat at the global governance table**.

## Core delivery partners



## Global delivery partners



## Other founding partners







This Executive Summary was written and edited by members of the Global Assembly Core Delivery Team.

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