TOGETHER FIRST

A global system that works for all

Author	Global Governance Forum	Yes
[illegible]	[illegible]	Short

Global catastrophic risks mitigated	Risk multipliers managed	Implementation timeframe

DETAILS

Global Governance and the Emergence of Global Institutions for the 21st Century

A joint proposal by Augusto Lopez-Claros, Arthur L. Dahl and Maja Groff

Global Governance Forum

Global Governance and the Emergence of Global Institutions for the 21st Century

Cambridge University Press will initiate wide dialogue on the future of global governance, presenting a package of core UN reforms to modernize the current global governance system to resolve urgent global risks.

Unacceptable levels of global catastrophic risk exist because of the lack of global governance institutions able to reduce or eliminate them. Our proposals directly address the dynamics in the present global system that prevent the management of the full range of global catastrophic risks, and propose the necessary institutional, educational and ethical solutions. A reformed United Nations or successor organization with capacity to issue binding legislative (in narrow areas of international concern), and effective executive and judicial functions, is essential to counter such risks.

Stimulated by the Global Challenges Foundation call for proposals (and before winning the New Shape Prize), we combined our economic, legal and scientific expertise and long experience within intergovernmental organizations to write our book “Global Governance and the Emergence of Global Institutions for the 21st Century”, published by Cambridge University Press on 23 January 2020. We propose the essential reforms necessary to make the UN fit for purpose in today’s world. Our book addresses the widespread impression that UN reform is impossible by showing practical ways forward.

The book starts with a brief history of global governance, and looks at European integration as an example of building supranational institutions. It then proposes reforms to the central institutions of the United Nations, including making the General Assembly a global legislative body, adding a possible World Parliamentary Assembly, and creating supporting advisory mechanisms including a Chamber for Civil Society and structures for scientific advice, technology assessment and ethical review. The Security Council would be replaced by an Executive Council with management functions, overseeing an International Peace Force and systemic disarmament, and supported by a new UN funding mechanism. To strengthen the international rule of law, the International Court of Justice would be given binding jurisdiction, supported by a universalized International Criminal Court, an Anti-corruption Court and a Human Rights Tribunal, with an International Attorney-General and international judicial training institute.

Our proposals explicitly address catastrophic risks from armed conflict and weapons of mass destruction, global financial collapse, inequality and poverty, climate change, biodiversity loss, uncontrolled technological innovations, and other system failures threatening the planet and human society, through the necessary reforms to global institutions to make them more inclusive, responsible, accountable and effective at the global level. These would then put in place solutions relevant to each catastrophic risk.

To govern and manage multiple global risks, the UN Specialized Agencies would be strengthened, along with new institutions of economic governance for the private sector and to address inequality. The global financial architecture would be reformed with a strengthened International Monetary Fund. To respond to global environmental crises will require organizations with binding authority over climate change, and management of the biosphere. Addressing corruption and providing education for transformation are important cross-cutting issues. Such a renewed global governance system would be founded on the values and principles already largely defined in UN declarations and covenants. We also propose some immediate steps forward to bridge the governance gap and

alternative scenarios on how to get from here to there.

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Our proposals won the 2018 New Shape Prize of the Global Challenges Foundation and have already attracted considerable interest in international circles, including at the United Nations. The book should stimulate many groups to address those issues of global risk governance that interest them.

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Our Global Governance Forum (http://www.globalgovernanceforum.org/), launched along with the book, is the [illegible] would [illegible] on four [illegible] UNFCCC [illegible] management of [illegible] across [illegible] from loss [illegible] system-wide ability to manage and respond to the mitigation and adaptation challenges; (2) issues pertaining to the setting up of a World Parliamentary Assembly as a means of enhancing the democratic legitimacy of the UN and as possibly the most promising avenue for unblocking the current paralysis in UN reform; (3) security issues around the themes of the peaceful settlement of international disputes, the establishment of an international peace force, including consideration of the range of operational details underpinning the creation of such a force (e.g., recruitment, size, command structure, funding, scope of interventions, among many others) and models of systemic international arms control; and, (4) pathways to the establishment of, and design features for, more effective international institutions and judicial mechanisms for international human rights and anti-corruption obligations.

We already have close ties with Together First and see it as the ideal platform to take our work to a wider audience.

We are also collaborating closely with the proposed Climate Risk Governance Commission, and expect close interaction with the UN Secretary-General's UN@75 dialogue on "The Future We Want, the UN We Need". These conferences will draw from various stakeholder groups, including government, the business community and civil society. They will provide a platform for an exchange of views on vital global governance questions, bringing together a range of specialized expertise that will contribute to the development of innovative ideas and the exploration of pathways for action. The focus will be on initial reform steps that do not require Charter revision.

Beyond the short term

This proposal focuses on the initial steps, profiting from the important events launched in 2020, in what should become a more fundamental and widespread effort to reform the UN system, as outlined in our book. In the medium term, we hope to contribute to the initiation of an intergovernmental process to renew the UN system. In the long term, the adoption of something resembling our proposals would give the world the institutions it needs to ensure both national autonomy and diversity, and planetary sustainability, with the international community collaborating intensively to preserve its shared, collective interest in eliminating global catastrophic risks.

Obviously, collaboration with Together First and its partners would be important to increase the impact of these activities.

In addition, we plan to develop a Global Catastrophic Risk Index to signal to governments the risks they are facing. We are also collaborating in the proposed Climate Risk Governance Commission.

If these initial efforts are successful, we expect that receptive governments will take up our proposals and initiate intergovernmental negotiations around the best ways forward.

The Global Governance Forum web site, http://www.globalgovernanceforum.org/, should go live with the book publication on 23 January 2020.