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Chapeau

A New Global Social Contract is one of the best ways toward eradicating human suffering and improving peace and security, increasing cultural development and giving youth an exciting future and everyone a new global identity and the beginnings of a new form of global governance. People around the world are not only citizens of their respective countries, but with technology such as their personal smart phones, they now also can have a global identity and vision best enabled with a new Global Social Contract. Everyone on earth could participate in this new global level of involvement in things such as popular votes at the United Nations to aid in policy making, and the mass of humanity to further the sciences and human culture. Everyone could contribute whatever funds they have for global problems directly through their smart phones and more efficiently, instead of through the usual channels. A new Global Social Contract and global identity pushes people to think about and help others to a better life and better future as fellow global citizens. With the ability to vote through smart phones, we now have the beginnings of a new form of global governance for global issues of interest to all, for the present and future!

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

Opening up participation to the general public globally introduces a new vector of possible financing from the global collective of humanity. This is a more direct way of financing the Sustainable Development Goals in addition to the traditional methods. This would be free of politics and such as it is global and ultimately a decision for each individual. This would be done from each person's smart phone and would only increase funds to solve the world's problems. Because this is individual and global, there would be many more avenues to financing as there would be an enormous increase in individuals introduced to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Chapter II. International peace and security

Having this new global layer populated by everyone on earth who can vote from their smart phones, opens up the very real and practical aspect of popular votes at the United Nations. Having billions of people vote against potential acts of war in the making, is a powerful influence against war in a popular vote that member nations would have to take into account. A global layer populated by the general public outside normal geopolitical norms, cultures and religions, opens this venue to new ways of policy making and solving problems that are difficult otherwise.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

Adding a new global layer populated by the general public is the ultimate in digital cooperation. This borderless reality, this new layer of involvement above the current geopolitical structure, encompassing all of humanity, is the best arena for the development of science, technology and innovation as all of humanity can be used to solve whatever problems may befall us. Eight billion people connected together is the best creative pool for advancing science, technology and innovation.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

This new Global Social Contract was made for our youth and future generations. This is the future with everyone connected globally with their own global identity, solving problems as a planet in addition to individual nations and through the United Nations. The interconnectivity of the current technology already makes this inevitable. The foundation for a new global layer of cooperation for each individual through their own global identity is already here, especially for our youth who have mostly embraced this concept as a normal part of their lives. This is the future and it is for them.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

A New Global Social Contract is one of the best ways to transform global governance. People around the world are not only citizens of their respective countries, but with technology they now also have a global identity and vision best enabled with a new Global Social Contract. A new Global Social Contract focused on the needs and well-being and dignity of all individuals on earth cements the obligations of each individual in the world to think about and help others to a better life as a global citizen. This type of social contract extends outside of the current geopolitical norms and adds new synergies that could not exist in the current geopolitical state, and the payoff for participation is different from the usual needs for sustaining life. Furthermore, decision making, and governance would have to be a global construct for individuals or else you are back to the current geopolitical models. This could be looked at as an additional layer at the United Nations where individuals can work together as global citizens to improve the lives of all. The United Nations is the best place for such a new Global Social Contract as much humanitarian work such as the Sustainable Development Goals are there, and this new Global Social Contract will add to those efforts and develop human society to this new global reality.

Every Social Contract has to have a purpose and this new Global Social Contract has as its foundation the concept of increasing happiness as its payoff for participation. This is not some hypothesis but the result

of a thirteen year experiment we undertook to find out what makes people happy. The experiment is called “The Fortress Experiment” and focused on what was important in our lives and ultimately how we should all live our lives. The conclusion of the experiment was that as individuals and as a humanity we should, in addition to laws and other cultural and religious aspects of our lives, strive for the greatest expression of our mental and physical abilities, not only because it makes rational sense in enriching our culture and bringing forth all ideas to solve whatever problems may befall us; but most importantly because it makes us happy!

So, if allowing the fullest expression of our abilities makes us happy, to deny freedom of expression by social exclusion or inequality would make us unhappy by restricting ideas and cultural development and most importantly personal development. Therefore, a culture fostering free expression would seem to be desirable, but could this result in any negative consequences? We can answer this concern by stating that in the 13 years we followed all participants, no harm was done to their families, their communities, and their nations. This concept is simple, easily understood by all, and the elasticity of use and sureness of theory is broad and strong enough to become a concept called a “Positive Mandate for Humanity”. By looking at social problems through the viewpoint of this goal of freest expression of humanity’s physical and mental abilities, we see that this concept solves many social problems with the adoption of this broad mandate. Many parts of the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” such as Article 19 now become self-evident to all because they are needed to allow us the freest expression of our mental and physical abilities because it makes us happy. Social inequalities such as systemic exclusion from higher education, barriers to career opportunities and even social growth such as cultural barriers to choosing a partner and marriage, are now looked at as restrictions of our fullest expression in those areas and thus all are addressed by this one concept alone. Adopting a mandate such as this would seem to have the largest benefit to all people on earth and at the lowest cost and other resources. This idea of happiness would be the central theme of this new Global Social Contract.

Global general public participation in this new Global Social Contract could be done through smart phones potentially giving everyone on earth a vote on activities related to that new Global Social Contract. This vote would be held through an application on smart phones and allow for governance and decision making within this new sphere of the new Global Social Contract. The numbers increase yearly but in 2022 there were approximately 5.3 billion or 65.7% of the earth’s population who are online, and of that approximately 4.97 billion or 93.8% (that are online) use mobile devices to access the internet (Statista). For a report on this very subject, we provided a working platform for a general public popular vote at the United Nations through a smart phone application and secure servers. The Android application used for this vote was coded for the current operating systems for smart phones in the world, and we had working examples of this application at a side event we hosted at the 55th Session of the Commission for Social Development (“Improving the Online Participation of the General Public at United Nations Events”) on February 7, 2017 at the United Nations in New York City. Such an application could be downloaded by a smart phone user to their device and opening the application would allow that user the ability to vote in a popular vote on global issues, or for governance within this new sphere of influence in this new Global Social Contract.

Our study also showed that 72.34% when polled would endorse this form of public participation at the United Nations. It was then shown that the total burden on the internet of a one-day global vote of all 7.7 billion people on earth would only increase data usage by one eighth of one percent that day.

Finally, the study showed that the Preamble and Article 8 and Article 71 of the “Charter of the United Nations”, permit men and women without discrimination to participate at the United Nations in all its organs. I am a citizen of the country I live in, but I also have an identity as a global citizen, and what happens in a country halfway around the world can be as important to me as what happens in my own country. Everyone on earth is a citizen of the world and as the ultimate stakeholders all our voices matter. Participation of everyone on earth is possible as a part of this new Global Social Contract.

So, what we have here are the most important building blocks for a new Global Social Contract, the central idea of increasing happiness and a way for humanity as individuals to participate in popular votes at the United Nations and governance in their own sphere of operations. We could look at this as a new layer of interaction in the geopolitical landscape either as a part of current United Nations operations as enshrined in its constitution, or as a third house at the United Nations. Human society is always developing and an individual global identity and global participation for every person as part of a new Global Social Contract, can only be seen as a good thing for the future of humanity.