

**UNLEASHING FINANCING
AND OTHER RESOURCES
FOR
A WORLD THAT WORKS FOR
ALL PEOPLE AND NATURE**

Compiled from the Work of

The NGO Task Force on Financing; and
The NGO Major Group Commons Cluster

By

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I: INTRODUCTION

The United Nations and its Member States, aided by stakeholders worldwide, are deciding which changes humanity must make if we are to survive until 2030 and beyond. Discussions center on the environment, the economy and society at all levels, how each person can be included in the process and no one will be left behind. Success will depend on the availability of financing and other resources and how these are used.

No amount of resources will guarantee sustainable development unless these are used to create the shift in consciousness and the structures necessary for long-term human survival. This is evident from the escalating crises created by our present use of resources.

The financing mechanisms listed below is therefore followed by two suggestions:

1. that all be given access to the Internet to unleash the creativity of all people; and
2. that a **giant web portal for sustainable development** be created that would function as
 - a worldwide market place for acquiring sustainable goods and services, many of them for free;
 - a worldwide learning center to help all master the art of sustainable development, including accountability for their impact on the Earth System;
 - a means for people worldwide to give input to UN-organized global consultations and submit input to UN conferences. Such ongoing contact between people and their governments via the UN can begin to form an inclusive governance structure and will promote global solidarity; and
 - a structure that could form the basis for a sustainable economy and community at all levels.

This document is built upon a *Listing of Financing Mechanisms* which was prepared for Governments as they were developing Agenda 21, during the third preparatory meeting (prepcom) of the *UN Conference on Environment and Development* (UNCED, held in 1992). The idea for this listing originated with Ambassador John Bell of Canada, who was then the Chairman of the Governmental Working Group on Financing. He suggested that the *NGO UNCED Taskforce on Financing* prepare a Listing of available financing mechanisms to aid the Committee in its work. The NGO Task Force on Financing consisted of some 80 NGOs.

As the global community now develops its agenda for action until 2030 and beyond, the former Co-Convenor and Chair, now the Coordinator of the UN NGO Major Groups Commons Cluster, suggested the original listing be updated and made available to all Member States and to those parts of the UN now contributing to the post 2015 agenda. This includes both the Open Working Group now developing Sustainable Development Goals the Experts on Financing focusing specifically on sustainable development and the High Level Political Forum.

This present listing is not meant to be exhaustive, but to give an idea of the vast array of resources available and the degree of creativity that exists. It is hoped that what is mentioned here will spark further creativity in creating new resources and implementing those listed.

Many of the resources listed are quite complex. The Appendices provide further details to better comprehend these.

The present document has grown, if not in scope then in its diversity. It has been infused with the work of Commons Action for the United Nations and its successor, the NGO Major Group Commons Cluster, a network of individuals and representatives of ECOSOC accredited NGOS.

Both the original version and the present one were compiled by Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, Co-founder of both above mentioned networks as well as the NGO Task Force on Financing.

The former document and the present one both focus on the capacity building phase and describe how resources can be unleashed and structures developed to shift from our present debt-based economy to a more sustainable economy and community centered on the well being of all people and nature and fed by a basic income for all.

II: FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

Since no action is perfect from the perspective of sustainable development, each financing mechanism is accompanied by its advantages and disadvantages from that aspect. The Listing is by no means comprehensive. It is meant to give an idea of the diversity of financing mechanisms available.

Objectives of the Capacity Building Phase

1. To make every man, woman and child aware of:
 - the effect of global problems on the quality of their individual lives;
 - The creative possibilities of resolving global problems;
 - how a sustainable lifestyle benefits individual health, economic well-being and the meaningful connection between people; and
 - to develop educational structures that can help people find inner fulfillment. This is essential to stem escalating consumption that is based on the mistaken impression that possessions, food, and social status will fill the inner void.
2. To build capacity for a more inclusive and sustainable world economy. For instance:
 - income from various fees, taxes and fines can go to a ***Global Fund for Sustainable Development***. This would both finance restoration of damage to the Earth System and provide a basic income for all people. A basic income for all people is touched upon in Parts I and III.
 - a World on the Web that Works for All can be created to supply people with the resources they need, maximize consciousness raising and experience in living sustainably; and to enable all people to participate more knowledgably in global problem solving.
3. To make studies of sustainable economic and other structures that require time and careful planning before they can be implemented
4. To show that there is no absolute right or wrong in the actions we take and each action has advantages and disadvantages from the perspective of sustainable development; and that all have to be responsible for the cumulative impact of their actions on the Earth System.

A. Governments as Donors

Existing financing mechanisms with governments as donors can become a corner stone for this initial phase, provided standards for sustainable development are adopted, new and additional resources are made available for projects which implement these new standards, and measures are taken to ensure their transparency, democracy in decision making as well as full stakeholder participation.

Initial Suggestions

- **Funds for countries with economies in transition and middle income countries should also be made available as necessary without this affecting the level of funding for developing countries.**
- **Funds and other assistance for LDCs.**
- **Fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund**

In addition, the NGO UNCED Taskforce on Financing Mechanisms and members of the NGO Major Group Commons Cluster urge all governments of developed nations to meet the 0.7% of GNI target for ODA. **All should reach the 0.7% target in their own self-interest.**

Realizing the constraints, experienced by some governments in attaining their ODA commitments to developing countries, the NGO UNCED Taskforce suggests that the "national plans" approach be adopted during capacity building by which developing countries would draw up national plans, incorporating their own priorities for sustainable development for presentation to national and multilateral lending agencies. Projects which do not meet criteria of lenders could be redesigned with the help of U.N. agencies, chosen by the developing countries. This would provide donors with specific, well-designed projects for their consideration and enable developing countries to meet their specific objectives without imposition of conditionality by other governments. Additional funds should be made available to middle income countries with viable projects for sustainable development. On no account should ODA enable donor nations or outside corporations to gain political say over how a recipient nation is run.

A.01 Examples of existing financing mechanisms

- The IDA, which lends to the LDCs at very low interest rates with increased funding to cover incremental costs.
- The World Bank; The IMF; A revised GEF
- Regional banks
- The UNEP Voluntary Fund
- The Montreal Protocol Multilateral Fund
- Green Climate Fund
- The UNDP country programs and funds
- Other multilateral funds, situated in Specialized U.N. Agencies.
- Bilateral aid.

Advantages

- These multilateral funding institutions, while providing aid to governments, will ensure that the global dialogue on the parameters of sustainable development is continued among governments, experts of these lending institutions and people receiving resources. This action will raise consciousness among these sectors while deepening the understanding of sustainable development.
- These mechanisms already exist and do not require the time and resources needed for the creation of new institutions.
- They provide adequate funding for capacity building by meeting ODA funding targets of 0.7% of GNI, and therefore restore faith of developing countries in the North.
- They reflect the obligation of the North to the South as a result of transfer of resources from the south to the north.
- The "national plans" approach enables waste to be cut: countries have a specific idea of what they are funding in advance.

Disadvantages

- Since some of these lending institutions have weighted procedures of decision making, those with less power may have less say regarding the "fairness" of new formats.
- If not done democratically, they will reinforce North/South charity relationships based on injustice.
- There is only long range return.
- Inter-Governmental organizations may be more inefficient than the private sector.
- Many governments are, at present, experiencing shrinking markets and recession and are likely to experience great opposition among their citizens if they finance development abroad, while large development problems persist at home.
- Some do not see the relationship between recession, poverty and destruction of the environment and are loath to spend money on development.

A.02 Redirection of funds due to changes in governmental fiscal policy.

A.02a. Examples include:

- Removal of subsidies and other fiscal incentives that result in environmental degradation.
- Removal of incentives for over-production.
- Taxation of activities which result in environmental degradation and using these funds to help developing countries implement sustainable development policies.
- Pension funds sometimes contain large amounts of funds that can be developed. These could be invested in the implementation of sustainable development policies.
- Requiring banks to ask for higher interest on loans to companies for unsustainable activities. The extra income would fund activities contributing to sustainable development at lower interest rates.

Advantages

- Elimination of subsidies will result in greater economic efficiencies
- Earlier action to undo environmental excesses through subsidies in the past will reduce the

overall environmental debt that must be paid in the end.

- Taxation of or higher interest on loans for unsustainable practices raises consciousness, discourages unsustainable practices and provides monies for sustainable development.
- Use of large investments such as pension funds for sustainability both promotes sustainable development and makes it unnecessary to solve additional problems related to unsustainable investments of pension funds in the future.

Disadvantages

- Infrastructures of many countries are already accustomed to subsidies, therefore Governments might meet strong resistance until Phase II.
- Companies are likely to fight higher interest rates or taxation of unsustainable practices. This would make it hard for Governments to act, where they owe their influence to members of the business community.

A.02b, Pigouvian (or Pigovian) Taxes, such as the Tobin Tax

A pigouvian tax is a tax placed on a negative externality to correct for a market failure. For example, a factory does not take into account the damage their emissions cause to the air, since there is no market for air pollution. By imposing a pigouvian tax a government can artificially create a cost for such activity - a cost equal to what the price would be had a market for such activity existed; or a cost so high that it deters the activity all together. An alternative form of pigouvian tax would add that those perpetrating the harm can be required to restore the damage they have caused as well as pay the tax. Revenue from such taxes can be used to restore damage done the environment or society. If the taxes are high enough they could take the place of tax or income—at least until people are no longer tempted to do this harm. Income from pigouvian taxes could go to the Global Fund for Sustainable Development.

Advantages

- It is a tool that raises consciousness with regard to our impact on the Earth System.
- It can offset the costs of damage done and pay for restoration;
- It deters harmful activities
- It can raise enough money to make it possible to no longer pay income tax, thereby providing disincentives and incentives that make more sense.

Disadvantages:

- Income from pigouvian taxes decrease if they succeed in deterring damage to the Earth System.
- If the tax is not high enough it an become a means for the rich to pollute as they will
- As a means to take the place of income tax, pigouvian taxes, if effective will become unnecessary as people cease harmful activities; and so other avenues to raise tax revenues will be needed.

A.02c. Shifting taxes from income to a modest rental fee for use of commons resources. A much more detailed explanation of this mechanism can be found in Appendix I.

A.02d. Transfer of financial resources by governments through their private sector and NGOS in developing countries to balance global environmental funding.

Some governments funnel part of their funds for sustainable development through NGOs specialized in grass roots development to ensure the funds reach the required sector of the population.

Advantages

- By expanding direct funding for NGOs with expertise in the field of sustainable development, government's effectiveness and reach in carrying out sustainable development policies would be significantly increased.
- Valuable people to people learning,
- Promotes relations between private organizations and NGOs in the North and the South.
- Organizations are already in place. No setup costs.
- May involve less bureaucracy and be more efficient.
- Provides a more direct channel between northern and southern NGOS.
- Facilitates transfer of eco-development funds from the North to the South.
- Increased awareness of citizen's rights and how they are won, for both Northerners and Southerners.
- Builds solidarity and understanding between nations and the hemispheres.
- Builds on-the commitment of participants to enhance the quality of life and democracy in the world.
- Overcomes charity-type attitudes to development and aid work.

Disadvantages

- Government may place some conditions on the grant money, such as no aid to countries which have poor relations with the donor country.

A.02e. Debt for nature swaps

Circumstances should be identified which would facilitate alleviation of debts of poor countries. This can be done, using "debt-for-nature swaps", and other similar mechanisms.

Advantages

- Debt is retired. This frees resources

Disadvantages

- Undermines sovereignty
- Land use may conflict with national priorities and traditional livelihood of local peoples
- If countries do not have the funds to repay debt, then it would be difficult to invest funds in sustainable development without printing extra money which could have a devastating effect on their economies.

A.02f. Re-negotiation and debt forgiveness.

A guiding principal in all cases should be not to strip debtor nations of their financial and other resources needed for sustainable development.

Advantages

- Countries would not be forced into even worse financial situations.
- CO2 sinks counter CO2 pollution.

Disadvantages

- Once a country has not been able to pay its debts, donor countries might hesitate to lend them money in the future.

A.02g. Southern sustainable development self funding through privatization

Many governments in economically poorer countries possess huge state properties and enterprises which are not generating net income. If a percentage of these were sold, capital could be provided for joint ventures with the North. As these ventures begin to become productive, shares could be sold to employees and the general public, using a system of investment and disinvestments. Governments must impose standards of sustainable developments on these enterprises.

Advantages

- Governments in the South would receive capital from holdings which are at present unproductive. As businesses flourished, they would receive tax revenue.
- Citizens in the North and in the South investing in these ventures would become wealthier in partnerships which would begin as North-South enterprises, but would lead to capital growth in the South and short term investments in the North.
- There would be relative security in such ventures:
- Developed country expertise in business management could promote efficiency and effectiveness and lead to more democratic management in the developing country as the populace grows richer.
- Democratic management would discourage misappropriation and corruption.
- Governments in the developed countries would benefit from increased tax revenues as foreign markets for their goods and services increased.

Disadvantages

- Temporary loss of sovereignty.
- Enterprises could be bought up by the rich, who without adequate supervision might keep wealth in their own hands when competing with less sophisticated investors.
- Possibility of rushed development.
- Move of management talent may be somewhat colonial
- Wealth may flow to the very rich.
- Privatization may enclose natural resources needed by all.

A.02h. Redefining national Ministries (Departments) of security to include the environment.

Highly industrialized countries are increasingly using guided missile systems as opposed to soldiers and armies as the primary means of warfare. Armies are becoming redundant. There is a growing understanding that the primary threat to human life is that we are at war with our natural environment. Moreover as countries realize the positive effects of global interdependence on their daily living, the likelihood of wars could decrease. All this would lead to substantially reduced military budgets. Redundant military resources both people and R&D can then be employed to heal the rift between humanity and the environment. The redeployment could focus on redirecting R&D for sustainable development; setting up a Global Satellite Monitoring System which can be used to reverse

environmental degradation, improve resource management and monitor developing environmental hazards; creating an international panel of experts specializing on environmental hazards; and retraining the military for deployment for building infrastructure in underprivileged areas, helping with cleanup and emergency help in disaster areas. Such training would contain a number of elements that are used when peacekeeping forces are trained when they are transferred from a country's army to the U.N.

Advantages

- Mobilizes existing infrastructures to meet a pressing environmental need.
- Redirection of a large body of people from aggressive activities to concerns relating to sustainable development.
- If this project is implemented in a timely manner, this could decrease the possibility of a disused military becoming a destabilizing force.
- Countries which are moving to more sophisticated form of warfare (such as highly accurate laser weapons) whereby soldiers are no longer necessary are able to use this personnel for constructive activities.

Disadvantages:

- A disused military may become a destabilizing social force which threatens democracy.
- Society could be negatively impacted by existing military management if these are not adequately trained for the new activities.

B. Governments and Peoples are Donors

B.01 Funds for women, indigenous peoples and other underrepresented groups. Examples include: **The Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean**

This fund has the strong support of the President of Bolivia. It is to be financed by voluntary contributions, which will be administered by the Inter-American Development Bank with participation of representatives of the indigenous peoples. The objectives of this fund are both to support the development of indigenous communities and to preserve their skills, so that they may be shared with the rest of humanity. A fascination with the wisdom of indigenous peoples is beginning to develop in the media and through the widespread quotation of the Speech of Chief Seattle.

Advantages

- This fund is particularly important because it would promote the flow of practical understanding of sustainable living from indigenous peoples to the rest of the world. **Sustainable development must be sensitive to the natural systems and only some indigenous peoples still possess the knowledge needed by the rest of the world.**
- Land claim settlements can be used in some circumstances to provide funding.
- Based on local systems

Disadvantages

- This fund will be financed by voluntary contributions, which could limit its size.

B.02. The Norwegian Government Pension Fund

The purpose of the Government Pension Fund is to facilitate government savings to finance rising public pension expenditures, and support long-term considerations in the spending of government petroleum revenues. The strategy for the management of the Fund is designed based on the expected long-term effects of different investment choices.

Norway's sovereign wealth fund is taking steps to become more active in [proxy voting](#). In the second quarter of 2013, the sovereign fund voted in 6,078 general meetings as well as 239 shareholder proposals on environmental and social issues. Norway's Government Pension Fund Global (GPF) has the potential to greatly influence the corporate governance market in Europe – possibly China as well.

Advantages

- The wealth derived from natural resources (global commons) are invested in future generation.
- The Norwegian population is vigilant to see that contracts go to companies that have a good environmental record.
- Being a source of public debate it is a good consciousness raising mechanism.

Disadvantages

- Exploitation of oil is causing much environmental damage.
- Oil is a depletable natural resource.
- For many an objective of sustainable development is to live in the post-oil era.

C. People as Donors

C.01a. Grameen Fund, Bangladesh - Women's Fund.

This fund provides small loans to women. Once these are repaid, other women's projects are funded.

C.01b. The Trickle Up project

This is similar to the Grameen Fund in that amounts of US\$100 are made available to people in developing countries wishing to begin, say, a cottage industry. Once this is operational and the funds are repaid, the next initiative can be financed.

Advantages:

- It empowers women and the poor respectively, and introduces feminine values and innovation into the economy.
- The Grameen Fund has a 98% pay-back rate, despite high interest rates.

Disadvantages:

- Standards for sustainable development will have to be adopted.

C.02 The Earth Stamp Proposal

This proposal seemed extremely promising when it was suggested at the Earth Summit in 1992. Now with the advent of email, its impact would be much less. Perhaps its description here can inspire like projects that are more relevant to today's situation.

Every year on Earth Day, the Spring Equinox, every country would issue an Earth Stamp. To maximize consciousness raising aspects all schools would participate in national stamp designing competitions. The project would be launched by all heads of state on the same day during their "State of the World" address on radio and TV, during which honorary mention would be made of the winners of the stamp designing competition.

Advantages:

- This initiative would have had wide appeal. It would have raised not only the children's consciousness, but also that of their parents. Within two years "sustainable development" would be more commonly understood by everyone.
- This first phase of the Earth Stamp Initiative would have had considerable consciousness raising value, it would also motivated the population for the second phase where Stamps could have been used to generate considerable funds for sustainable development.
- Monies would have been provided from people worldwide a bit at a time.
- This first phase would have created a basis for the second phase when a surcharge would be applied to all telecommunications services.

Disadvantages:

- The importance of stamps is fast diminishing as the use of E-mail increases.
- Competes with existing stamp programs.
- If stamps are issued with surcharge, the sale of stamps would compete negatively with that of other telecommunications on which there would be no surcharge.

C.03. Support of the U.N. Campaign, using U.N. seals.

Seals are sold to people to affix to their documents and mail for consciousness raising and funding purposes. The Pax World Foundation was able to present a check for \$10.125 to the U.N. Secretary General's office at the end of 1991.

C.04. Global lottery (National Lotteries)

The U.N. and an established Global Alliance of civil society delegates would launch a Global Lottery, to raise funds in support of projects and programs which further the principles and goals of sustainable development.

Design and management of the Global Lottery would be handled by a management team comprised of government and civil society representatives and lottery experts they select to assist them. Although this lottery has not been used on a global scale, the Government of the Netherlands has developed a lottery based on citizens postal address codes. The huge funds raised by this lottery are given to Dutch NGOs involved in the development of developing countries.

Advantages:

- Lotteries can advertise aspects of sustainable development to be financed and would raise consciousness among a wide population base.
- They are highly effective in raising substantial sums of money from a wide population base.
- Tickets can be sold by NGOs and Governments, adding reasonable profit, enabling a multiple effect and wide distribution of tickets.

Advantages of the Dutch version of such a lottery from a participant:

- Local merchants from each postal code district supply products for winning postal districts. This draws customers when people collect their prizes from local merchants.
- Recently postal code areas have won sturdy and fashionable bikes in the colors of the Postal Code Lottery and a camaraderie developed between neighbours. Neighbours saw themselves as sharing similar values and having an interest in similar good causes.
- A monthly amount can be deducted from ones bank account, so there is no need to buy lottery tickets each month.
- There are many prizes in the form of goods. These can be quite small, such as a quart of ice cream or a bunch of flowers. These do not decrease the amount of money made available for sustainable development and yet they do reward lottery players.

Disadvantages:

- The global lottery could be seen as competition with existing state lotteries.
- A disproportionate number of lottery tickets are bought by the poor.
- As a form of gambling, it can be seen to increase addictive behavior.

C.05. Fund for sustainable development: Donate One Meal Campaign. This Japanese initiative encourages people to forgo three meals a month and contribute the money saved to a Fund for Sustainable Development. The Rissho Kosei-Kai, using this method of fundraising, had been able to donate \$6 million every year for the past 15 years to United Nations in the run up to the Earth Summit.

Advantages:

- Wide consciousness raising with regard to the plight of those that do not have food, the value of food and of all natural phenomena that sustain human beings.
- Encourages frugality.
- Empowerment of the grassroots to provide funding for their own activities.
- Poor contribute relatively less than the rich.
- Frees NGOs from the constraints often imposed on them when they receive government funding.
- Stimulates creative thinking for other fund raising initiatives.
- Encourages NGOs to pool their resources to expand their infrastructures.

Disadvantages:

- It requires extended infrastructure which many NGOs do not have.

C.06. A Green forum of the peoples.

People at the local level elect a council, which decides what is environmentally sound. The local councils elect national councils and these in turn elect an international council. The councils decide sustainable development standards and raise funds to implement them.

Advantages:

- This has wide consciousness raising appeal, because people must then think about their daily behaviours in the light of sustainable development.
- This process, coming from the people, will motivate people to become knowledgeable about the issues.
- Opportunity for local leaders to get involved.

Disadvantages:

It will take much coordination to implement without the help of Governments.

C.07. Local currencies to stimulate employment.

Where national currency is in short supply, there is often both a great need for goods and services as well as underemployment, but supply and demand can not be matched because there is a shortage of the national currency. Since hard currency is based on marketable goods and services, a local currency can be created by matching supply and demand.

Two books go into great detail on alternative currency circuits and how these can contribute to sustainable development. For more information, see the book by Richard Douthwaite: *Short Circuit. Strengthening Local Economies for Security in an Unstable World*. ISBN 1 874675 60 0. Also Bernard Lietaer, *The Future of Money, A New Way to Create Wealth*. ISBN [90 225 28197](#).

C.07a.The LETSystem is the best known of these. Here those participating make a list of goods and services they are interested in providing and how much these would cost in the local currency (points with a variety of names which tend to be similar in value to the national currency). Each participant in the LETSystem has a list of goods and services, available through the LETSystem. Members are then paid by check in the local currency. At regular intervals the checks are sent in to a central administrator who credits and debits participants accounts accordingly. This system is taxed in some countries. In others it is welcomed by Governments as a way of combating underemployment and movements of populations to more industrialized areas. Software is now available that makes administration very simple.

Advantages:

- People are protected from the instabilities of the world and national economies.
- Money and other resources are kept within the community.
- Employment is generated.
- A sense of community is fostered.
- People tend to do work they enjoy.
- People learn to appreciate one another.
- People are less likely to leave rural or economically backward areas in search of employment.
- The LETSystem has spread throughout the world both to developed and developing countries.
- People tend to pull their weight and not use more than they give.

Disadvantages:

- Even though the LETSystem has spread to many different locations, it has tended to remain within a select "alternative" group of citizens within each area.
- People mistrust the system because the currency does not have the appearance of being credit worthy.
- Not all goods and services can be purchased in this way.
- It is not suitable for manufactured goods that require a large outlay of national currency.
- It requires a level playing field. For instance, it cannot be played by a combination of businesses and individuals.

C.07b. Local coins

This system uses coins or banknotes as local currency.

Advantages:

- This system has all the advantages of the above.
- In addition the coins and banknotes tend to foster more confidence in the system. In some cases local merchants have proved willing to accept the currency. In one instance, a coal producing community, merchants in other towns were also willing to accept the currency, since they were able to use it to purchase coal with the alternative currency.

Disadvantages:

- This system has most of the same disadvantages as the above systems, and
- More funds are required initially to produce the local coins and banknotes.

C.07c. Time Dollars

This system is similar to the LETSystem in that a local exchange of goods and services is encouraged. Instead of setting prices for individual goods and services, participants exchange services in time increments. In this way an hour of massage would be equivalent to an hour of baby-sitting or an hour of psychotherapy.

Advantages:

- Similar advantages to the above systems.
- No funds are required initially to begin this system.
- It requires very little organization. It can even spread by word of mouth.

Disadvantages:

- Similar disadvantages to above systems, and
- This system does not take account of the time, energy and other resources that have been necessary to develop ones skills.

C.08. Global Reference Currency (GRT) and the Terra unit.

The GRC is a unit of currency which is not tied to a specific country and which can be used as a point of reference for international contracts and commerce, called the Terra. The Terra would be tied in value to a combination of specific goods and services, considered to be of durable value. This would prevent the wild fluctuations that have occurred since the unit of currency was untied from physical reality by Nixon and promote trade between rich and poor countries. Thus the Terra would be an equivalent of the gold standard. One Terra might, by way of example, be tied to the value of: 1/10 of a barrel of oil (Brent quality) + 1 bushel of wheat + 2 pounds of copper, + 1/10 of an ounce of gold, plus, etc, etc.

Advantages:

- It would be a buffer against the wild fluctuations in currency value since it was untied from the gold standard.
- It would by definition be able to be made non-deflationary.
- Its value can easily be converted into any national currency by checking the value of the resources from which its value has been calculated; its value would be published all over the world in real time.
- It can readily be converted into any national currency or into the basic materials which compose its value.
- It will stabilize economic cycles.
- It can be introduced gradually as there is a readiness. It does not have to be accepted all over the world to be useful.

Disadvantages:

- Warehousing costs for the basic materials of which the value of the Terra is composed. These costs have been estimated to be 3-3.5% per year.

C.09. Products and services provided for free by Commons communities and networks.

Commons are groups and networks of people who jointly manage one or more resource in such a way that all stakeholders benefit equitably. Many of the resources they provide are free.

Commons are meeting a wide range of their own and community needs from local to global levels. Many focus specifically on sustainable development. They include: sustainable communities and education at all levels and in quite diverse fields. Wikipedia is an example of a commons. So, too, local to regional commons for water preservation, management, and for long term legal protection; groups for managing fisheries, forests and irrigation. There are entrepreneurial clusters where groups repurpose/upcycle waste into new products (e.g., REculture); artists, cooperatives tapping land-fill gas for production energy needs or for materials for they can use for their art; Brazilian Recycling Co-ops where marginalized people who sort garbage can be empowered to organize through *Participatory Sustainable Waste Management* models for income opportunities. Appendix II lists many more examples.

Advantages

- Where these are dedicated to the well being of all people and nature they create a strong foundation for a sustainable economy at all levels.
- Where such commons are dedicated to the well being of all people and nature they form an excellent basis for the giant web site to promote the exchange of resources and services for sustainable development. Part III describes this in more detail.

Disadvantages

- Many are created as a reaction against aspects of society that are considered not okay. Some foster enmity.
- Where these have been created to benefit a small group of people at the expense of others they are not sustainable

D. Funds Provided by the Commercial Sector

D.01. Issue of Green Bonds by International Organizations

such as the World Bank. The bonds will have a long reimbursement term: 20 - 30 years.

Advantages:

- The interest paid will be low and would be free of taxes in the respective countries.

Disadvantages:

- Funds must be used on projects that will provide a sustainable source of revenues. This vision may be lost.
- Governments must forego tax revenue.

D.02. A small tax on advertising.

Advantages:

- Large sums could be generated (Over \$50 billion is spent each year on advertising in the U.S. alone).
- It would curb consumption patterns.

Disadvantages:

- The commercial sector might object if the consciousness raising campaign has not been successful.
- It might discourage advertising, which creates jobs and services.

D.03. A clearinghouse for projects which promote consciousness raising and sustainable development. These would be situated in Regional Banks and be open for financing by individuals as well as corporations.

D.04. A clearinghouse of materials within regional banks, which would assess the strengths and weaknesses of "soft window" loan facilities within each regional bank. This will be done with a view to strengthening those regional loans to include non-governmental sustainable development inputs into soft-window funding opportunities.

Advantages:

- This will create a link for North-South trade.

Disadvantages:

- New costs.

D.05 Projects using investment/disinvestments projects for economic democracy and security: Management in the South could be strengthened to see that funds are used efficiently and effectively for their intended purpose. Joint ventures between northern investors and southern medium-sized businesses could be undertaken. As a phase is completed, shares of the enterprise could be sold

with the condition that those buying a minimum number would be eligible for work in the enterprise. This would free up money for reinvestment in the enterprise.

Advantages:

- This project would raise consciousness in the commercial sectors of North and South with regard to mutually beneficial enterprises.
- Small investors from the North would have a relatively secure way of investing small sums of money for a short term in new markets. This would help Northern economies.
- Trade between North and South would both promote industrialization of the South and help firms to build efficient management styles.
- Corruption would be difficult, because employees who would also be shareholders would be alert to how their money was spent.
- Governments in the South would receive tax income from these expanding middle-sized firms. Governments in the North would also benefit from tax income as world markets expand.

Disadvantages:

- A means of assuring sustainability must be developed.
- Cultural differences could be a challenge.
- If jobs are bought up by the rich, there may be discrimination against the poor.

D.06. Resource transfers among parties to trade agreements to enable developing countries, which will experience extra environmental costs due to increased foreign investment, to manage environmental concerns.

As a part of newly negotiated trade agreements, the parties can agree to assess a small fee from each new investment, e.g. a percentage of capital invested, to form a fund to assist developing countries to cope with the substantial up-front expenses which will accompany new foreign investments. These may include housing, safe drinking water, sanitation and pollution monitoring and other infrastructures.

Advantages:

- Developing countries need to invest in infrastructure to deal with new investments.
- Populations will move and concentrate in new areas.
- The fee described here would provide early revenue for government preparation for increased foreign or domestic investments.

Disadvantages:

- Investment partners are likely to resist imposition of extra fees. An agreed upon point of collection must be effective and easy to monitor.
- A tax on investment will create an artificial high hurdle rate for new proposals. Some beneficial projects will not be funded, if tax is too high.
- Government agencies must be able to assess and monitor pollution reduction plans of new industrial plants. This capacity must be built long before tax revenues from foreign investment would be expected to yield sufficient revenue.

D.07. Convert current tariffs to a re-location fund.

Many developing countries suffer trade disadvantages because they produce only a narrow range of commodities or low value added products, which are vulnerable to sudden shifts in world market demand. At the same time, they lack funds to invest in diversification, especially into enterprises based on more sustainable production methods. As parts of the overall negotiations to reduce tariffs, an intermediate solution would be to convert existing tariffs on developing country commodities into a fund to be repatriated to the country of origin to support investments in "alternative sustainable economic enterprises" in that country.

Advantages:

- Provides a form of savings for investment in a diverse range of production.
- This is not traditional development assistance and need not be appropriated or distributed through foreign aid mechanisms.

Disadvantages:

- Loss of tariff revenues by importing countries.
- We are looking to get rid of certain tariffs to promote greater trade movement from developing to developed countries.

D.08. Tradable permits

These enable the environmental planners to meet overall goals for pollution reduction while permitting liquidity of transfer of emission privileges among polluters. This will enable emitters to upgrade new plants to a much higher level of reduction than required in order that old plants, due to be retired soon, may continue at present levels. Ultimately, the use of this instrument could lead to an even greater level of emission reduction as old plants are retired. These include tradable permits regarding industrial emissions of various pollutants. On the other hand it is a way for the very rich to continue business as usual while the idea is to reduce pollution especially among those that pollute most. For this reason this financing mechanism is discouraged and it is replaced by the cap and share version put forward by the Feasta Sky Fund and many others and mentioned below and in Addendum 1.

Advantages:

- Tradable permits facilitate pollution reduction in negating the business case for economic efficiency through continued emission.
- There could be an initial financial flow to the South.

Disadvantages:

- There is a problem with international trading of pollution permits between the North and the South. This could be another form of flow of wealth away from the south.
- This mechanism is more suitable as a local mechanism than as a global mechanism.
- Strict timetables must be set for reduction of emissions in the North, otherwise it will be a way for businesses to avoid making changes toward sustainability.
- This financing mechanism is seen as a license to enable those that can afford licenses to pollute and degrade. It has been adjusted and limitations added.

D.09. Trade incentives

These could be used in select cases to ensure that certain sustainable projects are able to get a start in the market place. Sustainable products would receive financial incentives or preferential pricing.

Advantages:

- This program can be introduced without widespread international opposition or risk of a trade war.

Disadvantages:

- Subsidies of sustainable production will build a case for subsidies for all sustainable production. Subsidies introduce inherent inefficiencies in regional economies.

D.10. Trade sanctions to bring about a ban on trade in unsustainable products and processes.

Currant bans on ivory and rhino horn could be extended to include non-sustainable forest products, trade in many diverse forms of biodiversity as needed and agricultural products. A sophisticated dispute settling mechanism will be essential to this option.

Advantages:

- This option deals directly with the problem of sustainable development.
- Making business more difficult for non-sustainable producers will help sustainable producers to compete.
- Action to ban non-sustainable production will prevent the destruction of living resources.
- Total world agreement would-not be required to go ahead with this proposal.
- Although this would involve a reversal of some major GATT rulings, once that significant barrier had been overcome, blocks of trading nations could have some freedom to create and defend trading blocks centered on major environmental principles of sustainability.

Disadvantages:

- Trade war could result from the creation of many different trading blocks with different standards of environmental sustainability. This could be reduced by setting up regions with consensus on sustainability issues.
- Sanctions and tariffs could create a black market in non-sustainable products.
- Major GATT rulings would have to be reversed.

D.11. Incentives by commercial sector to encourage their clients to take action for sustainability.

Companies donate a percentage of their earnings from customers to fund this. In the USA a long-distance telephone company, donates a percentage of the amount it receives from each customers long-distance calls to NGOs working for sustainable development. Each year customers vote on which NGOs should receive the money. The Company also makes customers aware of important votes to be taken in the US Government on issues of sustainability and offers to send letters to customers' representatives to influence the vote toward sustainability.

- a. Other long distance telephone carriers form an association with an NGO working on sustainable development. **A percentage of all income from long distance calls received from members of that organization is contributed to the NGO.**
- b. **The (former?) Body Shop used its premises to make customers aware of social issues,**

including issues of sustainability. They also have been known to use a percentage of their profits to force companies (such as Shell) to adopt sustainable practices.

Advantages:

- The companies gain customers who are willing to pay slightly higher prices to contribute to sustainable development and are often willing to pay.
- Such businesses have an attractive image.
- The more customers use the services of such companies, the more they contribute to sustainable development. They are therefore likely to make extra use of such companies.
- This is a win/win/win relationship: customers benefit, companies do and so does sustainability.
- Companies are in a position to raise the awareness of their customers significantly.

Disadvantages:

- Less money available to invest in the company

D.12. Cooperatives.

These owner operated businesses with 1 billion members worldwide, tend to do well even in times of economic downturn, because the owners/workers all share in the profits. They tend to be both hard working and take care of the resources they use. If these are natural resources they tend to be good stewards of those aspects of nature.

Advantages:

- They promote productive employment
- They are often created to make up for lacks in other business models.
- They promote responsibility among their members

Disadvantages:

- Such services can be more expensive.
- Cooperatives can be inward looking and are often created in reaction to inadequacies of society. Unless these are dedicated to the well being of all people and nature they might not contribute to social cohesiveness in a larger sense.

D.13. The Global Fund for Sustainable Development. In Appendix I this is referred to as the Global Resource Fund)

This Fund would be fed by a number of activities, many of which are mentioned above, such as fines for unsustainable activities, a tax on all emails, income by shifting tax from income to a small rental fee for the use of natural resources. The implementation of Fund operations would begin immediately upon adoption of its Charter. Start-up funds to pay for free access to the Fund's market and credit transfer program are authorized by the Charter. Its funds would be applied to compensation to communities who suffer from the exploitation of resources under their jurisdiction; restoration of the global commons; and a basic income for all people to be used for the implementation of article 26 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the development of their full personalities. This would unleash the potential of the grass roots population.

Advantages:

- The Bank values natural systems.
- Creates new wealth.
- Earns increasing economic freedom for all shareholders.

- Renews the earth's ecosystem.
- Generates its own start-up funds.
- Establishes a steady state economy.
- Sustains the earth's eco-system.
- Supports the U.N.
- Helps to resolves the issue of sustainable living on earth.

Disadvantages:

- People receive money, but there may not yet be sufficient constraints to it being spent on unsustainable goods and services.
- If funds are spent carelessly, the large increase in individual wealth could undo sustainable development gains.

D.14. Funds generated from fees for the use of natural resources are discussed in Appendix 1 in much more detail.

III. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

The greatest human resource for development is human creativity. With the growth of global communications, this is being unleashed as never before.

The Private Sector: Business as a Generator of Resources for Sustainable Development.

The importance of business to implementing creative ideas is well understood. Businesses, motivated by profit making, build on people's creativity and use it to develop goods and services to make further profit. With both creativity and finances at their disposal, business has justifiably been seen as the engine that drives economies.

Businesses are not necessarily sustainable, be it in their use of resources, or in their social policies. For they are primarily beholden to their stakeholders. Cooperatives which are owner operated businesses are often exceptions due to their structure and because they have often been created to overcome perceived social problems.

The Public Sector: Governments as Enabler of Human Creativity

Governments' task is to create an enabling environment in which their citizens can flourish and benefit the nation as a whole. Since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, great strides have been made. But Governments, too, face limitations, particularly that of national jurisdiction. For most of the problems that are escalating are global in nature and can not be controlled nationally.

Where the private and public sectors face constraints, people, where possible, fill in the gaps.

Examples of how people are promoting sustainability include:

- Local communities dedicated to sustainable life styles and resource production;
- Local Economic Trading Systems (LETSsystems) to regenerate flagging local economies, using local and even global currencies, time sharing or barter;
- Fair trade initiatives to ensure that businesses in developing countries make equitable profits when selling to developed nations;
- Myriad examples of empowerment through resource sharing and commons management—many transcending national boundaries—such as sustainable water, waste, forest, fisheries management, the rehydration of drought stricken areas;
- People and NGOs providing small-scale loans and funds to jump-start development in impoverished areas;

- Innovative licensing to promote free access and use of culture, research, science and technology;
- People worldwide from developed and developing countries are providing education, information and tools, many for free (such as Wikipedia); as well as their insights, research and theories on how to live more sustainably.

Many of these initiatives are based on the equitable sharing of both responsibility and benefits by all stakeholders. This age-old phenomenon is increasingly known as *commons*, since Elinor Ostrom won the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences in 2009 for her work in this area. Cooperatives are owner operated and the business arm of the commons approach with one billion members worldwide. (See the UN Secretary General’s Report, A/68/202.)

Commons tend to be a particularly useful resource for sustainable development: Through their management/benefit structure they take particularly good care of their natural and social resources; generate hard work, goodwill and social cohesiveness; and perform well even in times of economic downturn. ***Such commons as are dedicated to the well being of all people and nature are beginning to create building blocks for a sustainable economy and community at all levels.***

THE LARGEST AND MOST EMPOWERING COMMONS IS THE INTERNET.
For further examples of commons, please see Appendix II.

Constraints

The private, public and “people’s” complement one another in unleashing people’s creativity world wide. At the same time, this creativity will remain unsustainable until specific shifts have been made. These include.

1. **Shifting from a debt based economy to one that is based on the well-being of all people and nature.** For building on our present debt-based economy is like building on quick-sand. Where production relies on borrowing, producers must fuel consumption if they are to repay their debts. The debt-based economy is pulling society apart where it leads to cut-throat competition, increasing the gap between rich and poor and destroying the environment through unsustainable production and consumption (See Appendix III.). A number of ways of shifting to a more sustainable economic foundation are discussed in II and IV and in Appendices V, VI and VII.
2. **Governing the Earth System as a global commons, stewarded by all people.** The Earth System is one integral whole within which each human being, all actions and every aspect of nature are inextricably linked. This is briefly touched upon in Part V, A World on the Web that Works for All under the section on Long-Range Planning. Studies are at present underway on how this can be done, among other by the Earth Condominium Initiative.
3. **Ensuring that all are individually accountable for their impact on the Earth System.** For it is the combination of all actions of all people worldwide that determines whether we live within those planetary boundaries that support human life (see Appendix IV.). This means that *all* must be accountable for their individual impact on the Earth System.
4. **Education that decreases the inclination to over-consume.** This involves implementing Article 26 (2) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the full development of each person’s unique potential. For when people feel fulfilled they are no longer seek in vain to fill the inner void through over-consumption. At the same time, the forces that drive the evolution of

each human being are linked to those that have produced sustainable forms of matter and life since the Big Bang.

Here are two possible ways of unleashing the necessary resources both to develop and to develop sustainably.

1. Universal Internet access; and
2. A mechanism on the web that will mould how creativity is used. We are referring to this as: A World on the Web that Works for All.

These would:

- provide the resources to unleash human creativity;
- provide a learning center that would teach people about sustainable action and enable individual development;
- foster participatory governance and accountability at all levels, including globally.
- provide a means for long range planning with input from all stakeholders for a shift to an economy at all levels based on the well being of all people and nature.

IV. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

The Internet provides access to the creativity of people worldwide.

It can put people in touch with goods, services, culture, information on every conceivable subject and education at all levels from locations worldwide. This further accelerates creativity. It makes resources available many for free, including education at every level and in every imaginable field.

Universal access to the Internet has been studied in detail by the UN. Technology is available to reach people even in the remotest parts of the world and there have been good prospects for funding. Now the time is ripe.

In addition to the technology, this would initially require facilitators in every community, especially those with a high level of illiteracy and where people lack Internet experience. These facilitators can alert their communities to the resources pertinent to their specific development and provide Internet access to their citizens as needed. *Internet access for all people will empower, citizens and their communities to develop in their unique ways. It is one of the greatest resources to close the gap between rich and poor and will provide means of implementing all Sustainable Development Goals.*

V. A WORLD ON THE WEB THAT WORKS FOR ALL

This would be a giant web site dedicated to fostering *the well being of all people and nature*. It would be agreed by governments and implemented by the UN Secretariat with participation of stakeholders worldwide. It could become: a global market place and a learning center for sustainable development. It could build global governance and accountability in a variety of ways. Finally it could help to build a foundation for a global economy based on the well being of all people and nature.

A Global Market Place for Sustainable Goods and Services

This World on the Web that Works for All could be developed into a global market place for goods and services for sustainable development. Some would be purchased, many would be free.

Each product and service would be listed with its advantages and disadvantages relative to sustainability as experienced by users worldwide, including, where relevant, carbon, water and ecological footprints.

This market place would empower people for it would also list financing mechanisms to enable **all people and communities to develop in their unique ways**.

It would also include:

- **internships** offered to farmers, women, people wishing to start small businesses, teachers and so many others offered by the United Nations and its Family of Specialize Agencies;
- **Peer to Peer initiatives** like that offered through town twinning or fair trade organizations.
- **Best practices in every conceivable field**. Here all communities can participate, since each is faced with its geographic, socioeconomic and other combination of characteristics that required it to meet the challenges inherent in their unique situations.
- **Education at all levels**. Even Harvard professors are teaching tens of thousand people and MIT makes all its coursework and teaching materials freely available on line.
- **The transfer of science and technology**. Where copyrights are strangling creativity, the commons movement have responded with a host of ways of making resources available through mechanisms such as General Public Licensing, Open Source and placing science, technology, research and culture in the Open Domain.

Thus the World on the Web market place would:

- Provide people with the means to develop their individual potential and find individual meaning in their lives.
- Allow communities to develop organically according to their specific needs, resources and cultures and to create natural connections with others from local to global levels as the need dictated. This would build unity based on a kaleidoscope of diversity, and help to **close the gap between rich and poor**.

A Giant Learning Center

It is the sum of all actions by all people that determines whether the Earth System can support human life. Moreover each person is inextricably entwined with all others and the Earth System as a whole. For this reason it is urgent that all people engage in an ongoing process of learning to develop sustainably.

The World on the Web that Works for All can foster such learning in a number of ways:

1. By listing the advantages and disadvantages of each product and service in the opinion of those using them. Thus the mere contemplation of entrees on the World on the Web would constitute an ongoing learning process in what constitutes sustainable development.
2. The World on the Web would moreover contain specific information, best practices, metrics and education so that all can focus on their individual sustainable development needs.
3. It could contain a learning area where people could be taught to become individually accountable for their impact on the Earth System, for instance, by learning to apply relevant metrics to daily activities.

In this way the World on the Web would become a giant learning center for sustainable development within which every step taken by users would add to their proficiency.

A Mechanism to Develop Governance and Accountability at All Levels

Governance from the Grassroots Upward

The World on the Web that Works for ALL would contain a section for Governance and Accountability. This would provide both the know-how on how to implement the rights of both individuals and countries and also the means to hold all accountable for agreements made.

It would contain:

1. Information necessary for participatory governance:

- information on individual and nations' rights;
- listings of agreements entered into by nations with targets and deadlines and each nation's strategy for sustainable development from local to global levels;
- the informational details necessary to enable people to participate knowledgeably in governance and political decisions from local to global levels; including
- means to give input to the United Nations and Member States on issues being decided at the global level.

Since June 2012, the United Nations has organized a number of global consultations, reaching as many as one billion within the span of 6 months. And these included the poorest and most marginalized. Through the World on the Web that Works for All, initially with the help of facilitators, all people would eventually be able to join.

2. There would be ways for people to connect, including across various boundaries, such as meeting facilities on the web, ways of writing joint documents, translation modalities, etc.
3. There would be ongoing information on opportunities for individuals and groups to influence governmental decisions, including at the UN.

In this way, active governance structures would form, as stakeholders and governments would solve problems together and hold one another accountable.

Here are a number of elements that would belong in this section:

A section on national strategies.

This would enable governments to become more accountable through national strategies that focus on global collaboration and exchange of best practices. Each would have a Council for their implementation.

Chapter 8 of the Agenda 21 stated that “governments should adopt a national strategy for sustainable development (NSDS) that should build upon and harmonize the various sectoral economic, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country. It should operate “with the widest possible participation”, and it further encouraged countries to develop or improve “mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of concerned individuals, groups and organizations in decision-making at all levels”. Chapter 37, again, stressed the need to build up national consensus for implementing Agenda 21. This was reiterated again by the General Assembly in 1997, by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002.

Well constructed national strategies are indispensable for countries to develop sustainably. They can provide a road map, a means of establishing the degree to which a nation is on track and enable all concerned—governments, citizens and the UN—to see where assistance is needed and to provide it.

Now, 20 years later, these strategies leave much to be desired. Some countries fear that their national strategies would expose them to conditionality with regard to the receiving of international aid.

To overcome this possibility national strategies could be placed on a World on the Web that Works for All. Each national strategy would show the role to be played by local authorities and individual citizens as well. Thus accountability would be spread.

At the same time, the means for help would be immediately at hand. Citizens who need help could reach out to their peers locally, nationally and internationally; cities can reach out to cities with similar challenges; and nations can reach out to others in their region. In this way, the failure of one country to find ways to implement their national strategies becomes the failure of the international community where there has been outreach but not solutions have been found.

A section on how to implement metrics to increase accountability for people’s and nations’ individual impact on the Earth System

To date there is no metric that correlates individual/group/national activity with regard to its impact on the nine planetary boundaries within which human life can survive. (Please see Appendix IV). For this

reason it will be necessary to begin with other metrics that are performing an important service in measuring people's family footprint (which consists of a combination of their ecological, carbon and metric footprints). This seems to give a good impression of the degree to which a person's consumption and production patterns are sustainable.

Measuring ones footprint in this way could be introduced by each government in small steps: first making it mandatory for people and groups to make their footprint known annually (perhaps on the World on the Web), then when citizens and corporations see the resulting benefits to society, the economy and the environment, governments can make it mandatory for all to stay within their allotted limits once the relevant metric has been developed. There are a number of financing mechanisms that show how this can be arranged by means of fees, taxes and shifts in the tax system.(See for instance a number of financing mechanisms in II. Financing Mechanisms; and Appendix I)

A section on other means of becoming accountable:

Agreements entered into by nations, including the targets to be met, can be listed in the section on Accountability on the World on the Web.

Agreements entered into by businesses could also be publicly monitored in the same way: both the positive and the negative and general observations.

There could be global monitoring by individuals with the help of mobile phones reporting corrupt, violent and inappropriate behaviours of people in public office, teachers, clergymen or individuals in other positions of power.

Eventually there could be a section listing each person's needs, best practices and level of accountability.

A Section for all Stakeholders to Input Long Range Planning for an Economy at All Levels Based on the Well-Being of All People and Nature.

From the outset, a number of studies will have to be made and plans will have to be developed to bring about the incisive shifts mentioned above (see at the end of III.) These include:

- Ways of generating ongoing financing for sustainable development without impinging on nature and weakening natural systems;
- How to shift from a debt based economy to one based on the well being of all people and nature with the ongoing input by all stakeholders (see Appendix V.)
- How to finance the shift (see Appendix VI.)
- The management of the Earth System as a global commons, including how humanity can jointly steward and benefit from those aspects of the Earth System essential to all; and whether perhaps the Earth System as a whole—together with the already existing global commons—might be managed by changing the mandate of the UN's Trusteeship Council, which has completed its task.

Here are some in more detail which would be mutually reinforcing and could be implemented separately or together:

A Global Fund for Sustainable Development

Above under **II. Financing Mechanisms** a number of ways were mentioned that would generate income for a Global Fund for Sustainable Development. These include: a carbon tax; fees from permits to exploit natural resources where exploitation has been permitted; and taxes from the use of surface land and natural resources instead of income. These monies could be partially used to recompense local communities that suffer from the exploitation (even where prior informed consent had to be given); and the local restoration of natural systems. The rest would go to the Global Fund for Sustainable Development (which has been given diverse names above). The fund would be used to restore global systems and for a possible basic income for all people. This basic income should only be used for goods and services with low impact on the Earth System. The impact of all goods and services mentioned on the World on the Web that Works for All would be easily calculated as the pros and cons of every product are converted into a point system. Such a Fund is also discussed in Appendix I.

A Commons Based Economy

As mentioned above: commons (and cooperatives, their business arm) tend to share characteristics that are favorable from the perspective of sustainability: They

- share equitably in decision making and benefits resulting from joint activity; and
- tend, through their benefit structure, to take good care of their resources.

These are the values that also underlie the World on the Web that Works for All, where they are also dedicated to the well-being of all people and nature.

As such commons and others of like mind empower one another by sharing best practices on the World on the Web, participants will be weaving a foundation of mutually reinforcing relationships, based on caring, sharing and a sense of community from local to global levels. This can become the skeletal structure of an economy centred on the well being of all people and nature. Specific additional steps are described in Appendix V. How this can be financed is described in Appendix VI.

A Self-Financing World Marshall Plan and a Basic Income for All People

Although A World on the Web would list financing mechanisms, additional income on a regular basis would greatly empower the most needy. We have already discussed a number of ways to create a basic income for all using fees, taxes, etc.

Appendix VII describes a way of generating both a basic income for all and a Marshall Plan for the Earth while growing a supplementary economy that is fully sustainable. The complexities of this system have been worked out in two books by Kooistra, financed by the Dutch Government. His approach was endorsed by a large number of experts in the field including Nobel Prize Winner, Jan Tingbergen. It is outlined in more detail in Appendix VII.

How the Earth System can be stewarded as a global commons with input from all stakeholders worldwide. This might be done together with existing other global commons under auspices of the Trusteeship Council which has completed its original mandate.

This is being worked on by the Earth Condominium Initiative in Portugal and a book will appear about how this can be approached by Paolo Magalhaes. This too would have to be studied in depth by a Commission of Eminent Personalities with input from stakeholders worldwide.

Summary

Change is accelerating. It is therefore hard to plan ahead. Yet with the World on the Web that World for All, all would be engaged in a constant process of development while learning how to act sustainably individually and together. At the same time, such a web site fully dedicated to sustainability would involve all people actively in the process.

EVERY ASPECT OF THE WORLD ON THE WEB THAT WORKS FOR ALL ALREADY EXISTS. IT IS UP TO US AS INDIVIDUALS, GOVERNMENTS AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO BRING ALL PARTS TOGETHER.

APPENDIX I:

EXCERPTS FROM A SHIFT FROM PRIVATIZATION AND ENCLOSURE OF THE COMMONS TO A LOCAL-TO-GLOBAL COMMONS GOVERNANCE.

By Allana Hartzok

The needs of the people and the needs of the planet are one and the same. How we hold the earth is how we hold each other. We belong to the earth and the earth belongs to us.

The phrase “earth rights” points to an emerging new form of local-to-global governance that understands and affirms both the rights of the earth to her biological and ecological integrity and the human right to equitably share the earth as a common heritage. Clarity concerning these emerging new roles of governance, or “earth rights democracy,” can be found in growing numbers of consensual statements as follows. For instance, the UN HABITAT II Action Agenda, endorsed by all UN member state delegates at the Istanbul global conference on June 15, 1996, in Section B 55, states:

Access to land and legal security of tenure are strategic prerequisites for the provision of adequate shelter for all and for the development of sustainable human settlements affecting both urban and rural areas. It is also one way of breaking the vicious circle of poverty. Every Government must show a commitment to promoting the provision of an adequate supply of land in the context of sustainable land-use policies. While recognizing the existence of different national laws and/or systems of land tenure, Governments at the appropriate levels, including local authorities, should nevertheless strive to remove all possible obstacles that may hamper equitable access to land and ensure that equal rights of women and men related to land and property are protected under the law. The failure to adopt, at all levels, appropriate rural and urban land policies and land management practices remains a primary cause of inequity and poverty. It is also the cause of increased living costs, the occupation of hazard-prone land, environmental degradation and the increased vulnerability of urban and rural habitats, affecting all people, especially disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, people living in poverty and low-income people.[3]

Earth rights mandates for governance will establish clear and enforceable covenants and contracts for the fair sharing and careful stewardship of the commons. Citizens joining together – “commoning” – are already transcending partisan politics and arriving at common objectives. They are forming powerful movements capable of building a world that truly works for everyone as well as for Mother Earth.

Claiming the Commons.

Here is a list of several commons domains, both natural and social and ways in which these can be cared for and shared for the benefit of all people and nature. This financing mechanism proposes ethics, practices, and policies for assuring that they are both fairly shared and responsibly cared for in

perpetuity. At the end of 1.6, please find a way in which the resulting funds from this shift in the management of natural and social resources can be divided for use from local to global levels. The natural resources discussed here are:

- (1) Surface Land Site Value
- (2) Lands Used for Timber, Grazing, Oil and Mineral Extraction
- (3) Control Of and Emissions Into Air and Water
- (4) Electromagnetic Spectrum, Satellite Orbital Zones, and Outer Space
- (5) DNA, the Deep Commons of Inner Space, and Intellectual Property Rights
- (6) On Commons Governance, Earth Rights, and Who We Are As Human Beings

The following ideas live very much in the global consciousness. There are a number of financing mechanisms that build on the principles discussed here. Many advocate that a strict cap be placed on the exploitation of all depletable natural resources. Some suggest that permits for the use of what remains be auctioned annually to the highest bidder and that the cost of the permits be passed on to all those who make use of the resulting resources and products. Almost all advocate that funds from the a fund will reimburse local communities affected by the exploitation of natural resources and provide a small percentage to a global fund administered by the United Nations to help restore the global commons and also provide a basic income for all people. At the end of 1.6., please find more detailed ways in which the funds collected might be disbursed from local to global levels.

Advantages:

1. Because people benefit from the quality of the natural resources they rent, they are likely to take greater care of them, provided they have long term leases.
2. Social control of commons resources is likely to develop and will hold people back from abusing them for fear of social chastisement.
3. A more even playing field is created that allows the gap between rich and poor to decrease.

Disadvantages:

1. This requires a shift from the “haves” to those that have less. This is a power shift and as such can bring with it opposition by the rich and powerful and bloodshed and destruction of livelihoods if those with less persist.
2. If Indigenous Peoples and those that live off the land and have little access to funds, this approach will result in the destruction of peoples and their livelihoods. This must be avoided at all costs.
3. Where there is no long-term lease on natural resources, an attitude can develop to take without giving back and resources can become depleted. It is therefor useful to use this financing mechanism together with the institution of pigouvian taxes, long term leases and other ways of ensuring that resources are not depleted or damaged through short-term exploitation.

Here follow a number of examples of how the above principles can be carried out.

(1) Surface Land Site Value

Land value is a price or monetary measurement accruing to surface land that increases as population grows and development proceeds.

Problems:

(a) When surface land is treated as a market commodity for speculation and profiteering, land prices further increase, and faster than wages and the return to productive capital. Classical economists called this process “the law of rent” with the term “rent” meaning a socially created value (a commons). Land value or “rent” is thus an “unearned income” when privatized. Those engaged in the productive economy must then assume ever increasing debt in mortgage payments in order to gain access to the surface land commons for housing, business locations, sustainable small farm agriculture and other “real economy” activities.

(b) Surface land ownership is highly concentrated worldwide as a result of enclosure, colonization, and rent-seeking behavior. Even more highly concentrated is the control of the most valuable surface land sites in urban areas. In addition to paying land rent and mortgage interest to private sector rent-seekers and profiteers, the ordinary citizen now pays taxes on wage incomes and/or small business profits.

(c) As a consequence of the two above problems we now have an extreme concentration of wealth and private financial sector control of the global economy to the detriment of ordinary people, the productive economy, and the environment.

Solutions:

a) Rent”- the unearned income accruing to surface land and other natural commons – is socially created and therefore should be “captured” or “returned” to society as a whole in order to finance common basic needs for education, sanitation, public transportation and other social goods. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NATIVE PEOPLES AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE OFF THE LAND AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MONEY ARE NOT CHARGED FOR THEIR USE OF THE LAND AND THAT LANDS BELONGING TO NATIVE PEOPLE REMAIN UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION. THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT MUST BE APPLIED.

b) The policy known variously as “land value capture”, “land value taxation” or “site value rating” removes taxes from houses and other buildings as well as from wages and other earned incomes (thus increasing purchasing capacity on the “demand” side) and shifts the tax base to a simple “pay for use” charge on surface land according to the accurate assessed value of sites (thus maintaining land value stability and affordability on the “supply” side).

Advantages:

- Research of leading land economists indicates that surface land rent is sufficient to pay for needed public goods. Thus there is no need to tax wage labor and the private production of goods and services of the “real” economy. This public finance method provides the proper incentives or signals necessary to maintain genuine market freedom while assuring fair wealth distribution.
- Reclaiming the “surface land rent commons” while relieving taxes on the real economy provides the proper balance of public and private sectors. This policy is recommended by the founding documents of UN HABITAT and is a key to poverty eradication. It correctly harnesses market incentives for affordable housing for all, assures good use of valuable urban lands, and promotes rural land reform. This approach to “people/planet finance” is essential for building a new economics beyond both the “old right” and the “old left.”

Disadvantages:

- This requires a change in power structures. Land is taken away from those with power and given to those who have had less power. This hard to achieve.
- It is possible that humanity will not be motivated to take this step until after huge crises have affected rich and poor alike; or until there has been a popular uprising. Both might result in numerous deaths and loss of livelihoods.
- Those that wield power frequently wield influence in government that would have to initiate the changes and might frustrate the governmental processes.
- Even powerful people who are predisposed to this change are loath to oppose powerful peers.

(2) Land used for Timber, Grazing, Oil and Mineral Extraction

Problems:

- a) As with surface land, the access and control of these commons domains are also concentrated in the hands of a few individuals and conglomerates. Even when these activities occur on state owned lands which are considered to be in the public domain, those gaining access frequently pay substantially less than full rent into public funds.
- b) The terms of access to these resources often are not conditioned upon legally enforceable agreements or codes that fully protect and sustain these lands.
- c) The combination of the two above stated problems means that the public is not receiving a fair return for use of these resources (fair share rights) nor are these resources being utilized in a sustainable manner (responsible use). Timber lands are too often monocultures; grazing lands are over-grazed; oil and minerals extractive most often do not internalize the full environmental and social costs of resource extraction.

Solutions:

- a) Contracts and conditions for use of land for timber, grazing, oil and mineral extraction should be negotiated, written, and legally agreed upon via a process of open, transparent, and sufficient input by

citizens in the locality or regions impacted by these activities. In some cases it can be expected that citizens would decide that “no use” for these purposes would be deemed “highest and best use” of these lands.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NATIVE PEOPLES AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE OFF THE LAND AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MONEY ARE NOT CHARGED FOR THEIR USE OF THE LAND AND THAT LANDS BELONGING TO NATIVE PEOPLE REMAIN UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION. THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT MUST BE APPLIED.

b) When citizens, via processes of participative, deliberative democracy, agree that land should be utilized for the purposes of timber cutting, grazing, oil or mineral extraction, they should be fully informed by non-partisan experts as to the potential “rent” that could be captured for the public fund via land use fees or royalty payments. Alternatively the price for access could be arrived at by public auction.

d) Broad based citizen input should also determine the conditions for use of the land for these purposes, meaning that in addition to fees or royalty payments, contracts will detail the requirements for environmental protection and full sustainability in perpetuity.

e) Contracts determined by citizens for the use of their commons for timber, grazing, oil or mineral extraction need to contain clear methodologies and formulas for adequate financing for both monitoring and enforcing the contract agreements.

f) Furthermore, citizens should, again via processes of participative, deliberative democracy, determine the expenditure of public funds received via land use fees or royalty payments for timber, grazing, oil and minerals extraction. For instance, citizens might decide that a certain portion of these funds would be directed to financing renewable energy technologies and/or that a portion would be distributed directly to each resident as a “citizen dividend” representing a “fair share” return for use of the commons

Advantages

- Citizens are fully involved in decision making and in sharing the benefits from this form of management. They are likely to take care of the land.
- The results of good land and resource management flow back into the hands of the people and lead to a higher standard of living and thus a more flourishing economy.
- Greater equality between people and greater prosperity lead to greater social harmony and can lead to greater popularity of firms that before were to be seen as not socially responsible. This will improve such firms’ business prospects.

Disadvantages

- Again a shift in power is required with all the problems listed above.
- If people are not properly informed about what causes land degradation and the dangers of enclosure, it is likely that problems will escalate unabated.
- Since people are mostly affected by the extraction of minerals and oil through pollution of land, water, oceans and the effects on biodiversity. It is likely that people will decide against mineral extraction.
- On the other hand people might decide for mineral extraction and not cap deplete able resources leading to a further pollution, species and soil loss.

(3) Control Of and Emissions into Air, Water, or Soil

Problems:

- a) Currently the full cost of industrial production is not internalized by those using our air, water and soil commons but instead is externalized onto the citizenry as a whole. As a result the health and quality of life for humans and other life forms is at risk, as are the interconnected ecosystems of the entire planet.
- b) Current economic structures are based primarily on the drive for private profit by large scale industries and entities who wield power and control which is disproportionate and out of sync with the needs and benefits of the people as a whole.
- c) The strong push worldwide for further privatization of these commons and their capture and control by an elite few desiring profit over people and planet is cause for growing alarm among the world's citizenry.

Solutions:

- a) A first step is to bring full awareness to the world's citizens that current forms of industrial and economic production are in too many cases causing more harm than good to our families, friends and neighborhoods. This broadening of collective consciousness concerning the common heritage domains of air, water and soil and how they are currently being used and by whom is an essential for reclaiming the air, water and soil commons. Again, this is a call for participative, deliberative democracy with a focus on our fundamental physical well-being.
- b) As stated above regarding timber, grazing, oil and mining extraction, enforceable codes and covenants for the fair share and sustainable use of our air, water and soil commons need to be established from the local to the global levels. Fees for use, not abuse, of these commons need to be set forth. Pollution taxes need to be sufficient to incentivize steadily decreasing the damaging use of these commons and to instead shift to benign and regenerative forms of economic production. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NATIVE PEOPLES AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE OFF THE LAND AND DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO MONEY ARE NOT CHARGED FOR THEIR USE OF THE LAND AND THAT LANDS BELONGING TO NATIVE PEOPLE REMAIN UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION. THE PRINCIPLE OF PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT MUST BE APPLIED.
- c) Since pollution taxes and fees are often passed on to the end user, meaning the citizen as consumer, it is essential that taxes on wage earners eliminated in order to increase overall purchasing capacity.
- d) In that overall improvements to the social order also increase the desirability and thus the land value of particular land sites and locations, not only for towns and cities but also for countries that have cleaner environments than others, it is essential when implementing pollution taxes and other commons use fees that the consequent increase in surface land values be socially captured and placed in common funds for the benefit of all (as described in #1 above). The "claiming the commons" paradigm thus will be holistic and integrated in its approach to the various commons domains.

(4) Electromagnetic Spectrum, Satellite Orbital Zones and Earth's Atmosphere

Problems:

a) There are high real estate values in both spectrum and space. The access for information transmission to the commons of the electromagnetic spectrum, worth multi-billions of dollars, has literally in most countries been given away to a few large media conglomerates.

b) Satellite orbital zones are regions of outer space where satellites are balanced in equipoise between the gravities of the earth and the moon. These are highly desirable nature-created locations, and are yet another form of commons for which the world's citizens are receiving no fees for use. Not only this but these regions are now littered with defunct satellite and other debris, space junk for which there is as yet no garbage collection services.

c) With great alarm we note the new race for space for purposes likely to be antithetical to the peace and safety of our planet, people and other precious life forms of our earth. Powerful new systems (such as HAARP – high frequency active auroral research program) have harnessed the capacity of the ionosphere in order to create weather events and locate valuable mineral resources. These systems are now capable of inflicting massive destruction upon those who would challenge current constellations of power and privilege.

Solutions:

a) A mass awakening is required. Artists, writers, intellectuals, military leaders, people in government and the media along with ordinary citizens need to work together beyond political and partisan lines to convert the use of the electromagnetic spectrum, outer space and the ionosphere from malevolent to benevolent purposes.

(b) We must secure only peaceful uses of outer space and make certain that funds and subsidies are not directed to those engaged in projects, technologies, or endeavors which seek to use these commons for destructive purposes. Those individuals, companies or governments that persist in the use of the spectrum or space for anti-social purposes must be boycotted, embargoed, shunned and shamed. If they do not stop and redirect their efforts to benevolent, life promoting purposes they must be subpoenaed by courts of law and put on trial for crimes against the earth and humanity.

(c) The world's citizens, connected via local-to-global parliamentary and deliberative democracy movements, must claim their commons of the spectrum, satellite orbital zones, the multiple layers of our atmosphere, and outer space. Similar to the previously stated commons solutions, use of these commons should be based upon transparent and enforceable agreements, codes, contracts and covenants which set forth conditions for both socially and environmentally responsible use of these commons, along with substantial and sufficient fees for their use, to be placed in a global common fund and utilized for the well-being of all people, other life forms, and the planet in its entirety.

Advantages

- Abuses can be controlled by world public opinion and massive social actions.
- Monies accrued can be used for people worldwide.

- People now having access to these dimensions are likely to find increasing positive uses that can benefit large numbers of people and help solve global problems.

(5) DNA, the Deep Commons of Inner Space, and Intellectual Property Rights

Problems:

a) Humans privileged with high technology, time, talent, and funding have penetrated deeply into the building blocks of life itself, deciphering much of the DNA helix as well as the constructs of molecules, atoms, and subatomic particles. Knowledge about these realms and others throughout the ages has been used for both “good” purposes which further the evolution of life and “evil” (“live” spelled backwards) purposes which impede, block, obstruct, or deviate from the evolutionary path. In our current era these discoveries are too often used for power, profit and control over other humans and life forms.

b) Claiming the right to these commons by “discovery” is not a sufficient rationale for vesting the power of this knowledge in the hands of a few over the many. Doing so would be similar to European claims to the land and natural resources of the Americas and Africa during the times of colonial conquest when the “new lands” were deemed to be “terra nullius” or empty lands devoid of “civilized inhabitants.” Discoveries made which unlock the secrets of DNA and the deep inner space commons, if not transparently made and claimed on behalf of all humanity, cannot be considered legitimate claims. Use of these discoveries to modify life forms, as is done with GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and the patenting of seeds and other life forms for private profit, is anti-social and will not be permitted under enlightened governance of, by, and for the people and the planet.

c) The “genie is out of the bottle” regarding for-profit patenting of DNA for life form modification, the use of the deep commons of atomic structures for the creation of weapons of mass destruction, and privatized intellectual property rights over commons knowledge and resources.

Solutions:

a) Most so-called “intellectual property” derives from and builds upon multitudes of human scientific and cultural explorations and endeavors generated throughout the ages. We need to bring forth ethics and policies that carefully decipher what belongs to individuals and groups due to their particular efforts and what in fact belongs to humanity as a common heritage to be utilized for the benefit of all.

b) It is unrealistic to imagine that we can put this genie back in the bottle. Our challenge is to now honor and recognize the power of this genie so that he/she can truly serve the evolutionary path, the unfolding journey of life on planet earth. All explorations and discoveries that delve into the deep commons of inner space need to be exposed to the sunlight of transparent, open public knowledge. The right to undertake such explorations can only be granted on this basis.

c) There can be no secret laboratories pursuing such knowledge for power, profit and control by the few over the many. We the people of the planet need to know who is doing what and where in these explorations into deep inner space. Our universities and public think tanks can then focus on the ethical considerations of these activities and how discoveries made can best serve the common good.

d) Similar to our approach to the other common resource domains, codes, covenants, and contracts regarding inner space commons need to be developed in participatory and deliberative democracy civic processes. The right to use this knowledge should be based upon a full understanding and acceptance of the clear benefits of this knowledge (along with resultant new technologies) and a full and fair sharing of the benefits. Those individuals, groups or companies whose labor made possible these discoveries should then be fairly compensated for their singular contributions. Any and all patents issued should

contain a sunset clause of no longer than an average human lifetime.

Advantages:

1. Untold harm to people, their livelihoods and the planet can be avoided through transparent action with regard to above processes;
2. Where these are visible to the many and better understood, opportunities open up to put these understandings to constructive use.
3. These processes confront us with the intricacy, magnitude and mystery of Mother Nature. This awe can awaken the necessary respect for Nature's rule over all aspects of human life.

Disadvantages:

See above.

Concluding remarks on Local-to-Global Commons Governance, Earth Rights, and Who We Are As Human Beings

Local to Global Commons and Commoning

Non-governmental organizations like Global Education Associates and others working for a more peaceful and just world suggest we imagine the shape of the emerging world as a pyramid with three basic levels: a small tier at the top for global institutions, a greatly slimmed down second band of national governments, and a vast sturdy base of local governance.

Actions for claiming the commons can readily be integrated into such a three-tier system of local-to-global governance. Percentages of the fees collected from charges for the use of the various commons domains could be disbursed up or down these tiers based on criteria of equity, as some nations and regions of the earth are better endowed with natural resources than others. Freedom to live or work in any part of the globe would also further equality of entitlement to the planet.

Appropriate commons domains to fund cities, regions, states and global levels can be delineated as follows:

Local:

Surface land values, such as sites for homes, businesses and industrial activities, are well-suited to finance cities and towns. Combined with the removal of taxes on wages and sustainable production, fees for use of valuable surface land sites prevent land speculation and profiteering, thus keeping land affordable while at the same time enabling workers to keep what they have earned. Fees for surface land use would be helpful for rural areas also where they would promote non-coercive land reform. The capacity for citizens to directly access affordable rural land will further the transition to sustainable, organic farming and a revitalized rural 'eco-village' culture.

Regional:

State, regional, or national bodies may be best constituted to collect user fees for forestry, mineral, oil and water resources. Precise configurations for the allocation of resource use fees between state, regional and federal levels would vary according to the situation of particular nations. In any case, Commons Funds would be established upon deliberation of those living in any particular state, region or nation.

Global:

Urgently needed is the establishment of a Global Resource Agency or Global Commons Trust to collect user fees for transnational commons. This would include parking charges for satellites placed in geostationary orbits, royalties on minerals mined or fish caught in international waters, and use of the use of the atmosphere, outer space and the electromagnetic spectrum.

Other significant global revenue sources are taxes or fees based on the polluter-pay principle, such as international flights or aviation fuel, international shipping, or dumping at sea. A tax on currency speculation has also been proposed. To be considered is whether international arms trading should be heavily taxed or completely abolished.

The Global Resource Agency or Global Commons Trust (This is called Global Fund for Sustainable Development) could also be responsible for monitoring the global commons (e.g., the ozone shield, forest reserves, fish, biodiversity), determining rules for access, issuing permits and collecting resource revenues. Such a body could also assume substantial authority for levying fines and penalties for the abuse of common heritage resources.

Revenues raised from access fees for the use of global commons could fund sustainable development programs, environmental restoration, peacekeeping activities, or low interest loans for poverty eradication. Funds are also needed on the global level to finance justice institutions such as the World Court and the International Criminal Court and to facilitate policy convergence in areas such as trade, currency exchange, and human rights.

The Global Resource Agency or Global Commons Trust could be mandated to distribute resource use revenues equitably throughout the world as calculated by formulas based on population, development criteria and currency purchasing capacity.

An integrated, holistic system of nested commons domains, with clearly defined covenants and mandates to protect and fairly share our local-to-global natural resources, will give each and every person the capacity to build a life worth living. There will be no more children dying from lack of food or clean water, no more destitute, homeless people, and no more wars over land and natural resources. With basic needs securely met for all, humankind will be able to advance to creative dimensions of expression and enlightenment. Our nature as universal, even cosmic beings will unfold.

Footnotes

[3] For the several points of the Section B 56 Action Agenda on Ensuring Access to Land to go: http://www.earthrights.net/docs/un_hab2.html or directly to and search the UN HABITAT website.

[4] Elemental Composition of the Body, http://web2.airmail.net/uthman/elements_of_body.html.

[5] What Percentage of the Earth's Surface is Covered by Water? http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_percentage_of_Earth's_surface_is_covered_by_water

APPENDIX II:

EXAMPLES OF COMMONS, INCLUDING COOPERATIVES

*Our lives today are threatened worldwide by crises on all fronts. Commons Action for the United Nations – a group of people from all walks of life – and the Commons Cluster for the UN--a network of UN ECOSOC accredited NGOs—believe that applying the principles of a **commons** approach will enable us to resolve these crises at their very core.*

People all over the world are already benefitting from one or more commons. Together, the diverse types of commons complement and support one another and are already forming a framework for a global community in which all can thrive, including and *especially*, nature.

What is a Commons?

Because of its characteristics, a commons empowers people, encourages them to take care of the fruits of society and nature entrusted to their care, and builds a sense of belonging and community.

Examples of commons have existed for many centuries. Within village settings, for example, the commons consisted of a central green area where villagers allowed livestock to graze. Or, they could access forests owned by a nobleman or king where they had free access to hunt, fish, and gather berries and firewood.

According to Elinor Ostrom who won the Nobel Prize for Economic Sciences in 2009, a commons minimally consists of:

1. **Commons Goods**: those fruits of nature and society that everyone needs to survive and thrive. These include our atmosphere, oceans and forests, biodiversity, all species of life, natural systems, and minerals; our food, water, energy, art, cultural, technology, healthcare and spiritual resources; and, also, a free news media, and the trade and finance systems we use.
2. **Commoners**: Groups of people who share the resources (users, producers, managers, providers).
3. **Commoning**: inclusive, participatory and transparent forms of decision making and rules governing access to, and benefit from these commons resources. Decisions are made by those directly responsible for the resource (according to the principle of subsidiarity).

A commons has **boundaries**, specifying community membership and the extent of the resource; and, **value**, created through the preservation or production coming from these commons goods and resources.

There is the **recognition** that the Earth is a living system of interconnected components on which all life depends. (UN Resolution 65/164 on Harmony with Nature.) This enables commons members to deal with problems that are interconnected like food, water, energy and climate change, for instance.

Participants in the commons listed below support and complement one another where their actions and activities follow – in practice – the “all-win principle.”

The All-Win Principle

We live in a world in which all people and nature are part of an integrated whole. Therefore, the more we empower one another and nature to flourish – without causing harm – the more we create an all-win universe.

Commons that Adhere to the All-Win Principle Are Beginning to Form the Building Blocks for a Commons-Based Economy Centred on the Well-Being of All People and Nature

Commons exist worldwide. They range from the local to global levels. Most commons are run by commoners—people as opposed to governments--but many governments work with their peoples using commons approaches. There are also commons created and managed under the auspices of the UN: Outer Space, Antarctica, The Sea Bed administered according to the Law of the Sea Treaty.

Now a Commons Abundance Network (CAN) is being formed to enable commons at all levels to learn from one another, network, plan and act in unison, so that they can begin to form a commons-based economy in embryo centred on the well-being of all people and nature.

Examples of Diverse Commons

Local Communities

We will look first at commons that deal with our most basic needs. In the next section, we will show how other commons can support these communities so that they ultimately can become the building blocks of a commons-based global community.

Commons are as old as humanity itself. In early times, family and tribal communities lived in harmony with nature and made communal decisions because each person played a vital role in the survival of the community. Today, indigenous communities which have largely maintained a commons approach continue to exist worldwide.

The commons approach has more recently been applied by communities wishing to live in greater harmony with nature and other people. They also seek to develop ways of resolving the economic, social and environmental crises that exist. Here are just a few of the many varied examples.

The Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) founded in 1995 has helped to develop an estimated 1,000 ecovillages (500 self-identified). The Network's training program (www.Gaiaeducation.net) is helping many thousands of others to get started in countries ranging from China and Japan to the Brazilian slums. In Brazil, ecovillages consist of at least 1,500 people, 50 percent of whom cannot read or write.

These communities have developed housing with all the modern comforts. Their houses conserve energy and water and recycle all their waste. Decisions are made by all members of the community. Some work for the community while others work outside.

Recently, the Government of Senegal agreed to use the ecovillage design to transform 14,000 traditional villages into ecovillages. They have an Ecovillage Ministry that is working with this model to build sustainable communities where economy is just one aspect. In addition, the Global Ecovillage Network is now also working closely with the Transition Towns movement which has some 300 Transition

Towns which are developing ways to live without oil.

Other sustainable communities include the 1,800 villages of the Sarvodaya network in Sri Lanka and a growing number of green-focused co-housing communities, including:

- Geovillages, a project of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) that encourages villages to become sustainable and to share best practices;
- The participatory local Agenda 21 sustainable community planning processes where interested stakeholders help to develop a plan for the community to become as sustainable as possible;
- Transition Towns, where community groups explore and implement ways of living without oil and oil-based products as a way of preparing themselves for a time when oil reserves will have become depleted. (transitionnetwork.org)

These communities use a wide range of other resources.

Participatory Budgeting in New York City.

New York City is experiencing a new kind of democracy. Through Participatory Budgeting, residents of eight Council Districts are directly deciding how to spend at least \$10 million of public money. From September 2012 to April 2013, community members are exchanging ideas, working together to turn ideas into project proposals, and voting to decide what proposals get funded.

Commons in Cities Can Include

Bike Lanes, Community Gardens, Parks,

Food Production and Water Conservation Commons

Permaculture is a form of agriculture based on an ecosystem approach. Foods are grown together in such a way that all plants and animals support one another. Plants form food and habitat for one another and for animals (chickens, for instance) and the waste generated by each species fertilizes the soil and/or provides food for other species. Vegetation can hold moisture and serve to conserve water supplies. The system keeps going as long as the food is harvested without disturbing nature's balance.

Permaculture can be used on rooftops, on city lots and even in small gardens where food is grown vertically along walls, up tree trunks, and in multileveled barrels. It is suitable for all types of soils since the types of plants and animals used in a system will depend on what types of living things a specific type of environment can support.

Decisions as to which types of food can be grown are ultimately determined by nature – the type of soil, climate, etc. in a specific place. So people and nature can be seen as managing and making decisions together.

The Slow Food and the Community-Supported Agriculture movements are commons that are concerned with organic quality, both of the food itself and the land on which it is grown.

There are thousands of successful commons groups for managing fisheries, forests and irrigation. Such groups have existed since humans first inhabited the planet. Other examples are the ejidos in Mexico where the government promotes the use of communal land shared by the people of the community. Also, there are the acequias in Spain, the Andes, northern Mexico, and the modern-day American Southwest – community-operated canals that carry snow runoff or river water to distant fields.

Farmers Markets are commons organized by farmers. These can be used by communities to sell food not needed by their members. Profits from the sale of foods would be used to enhance food production as needed to finance other community needs. A small part could go to a global fund administered by the UN (possibly a Trusteeship Council) to support the global commons (earth, air and water quality outside of local or other jurisdictions). Funds could also be used to provide a basic income for all people.

Community managed city/school gardens and food co-ops are further examples of commons activities involving food production and sharing.

Such commons can make use of low-cost products that allow us to live comfortably without harming the environment, such as the honey provided by the **honey bee**.

Like-minded individuals, innovators, farmers, scholars, academicians, policy makers, entrepreneurs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in more than seventy five countries over the last twenty years have documented more than one million ideas, innovations and traditional knowledge practices.

While being careful to fully acknowledge and reimburse the source, they make this information available for others to use. An example is a fridge made of wood and cloth that uses the cooling characteristics of water to keep products cold in hot weather; or a solar oven made of cardboard and aluminum foil. Both are run on the free energy from the environment. (<http://www.sristi.org/hbnew/aboutus.php>)

Healthcare

Doctors, nurses, and staff with the same or diverse specializations make collective decisions in a clinic setting in order to optimize working conditions and services for their patients.

Education

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art 26 b, states that each human being has the right to an education for the full development of his/her personality.

A current phenomenon that appears to be growing rapidly sees colleges and communities providing excellent education both for their teachers and their students for free. All that is needed is access to the Internet.

Harvard professors who would give seminars to just 20 students find that they can have thousands of students from countries all over the world when the students listen to or watch lectures and study in clusters using the Internet. OpenCourseWare, an online program operated by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), offers free lecture notes, exams and videos for more than 2,000 courses studied at the school (<http://ocw.mit.edu/about/>).

Other examples include:

- Thousands of scholars and academics who share their work with colleagues and the public at large;

- Open Educational Resources, an initiative which provides teaching and learning materials online for everyone to use;
- Many millions of online texts, videos and musical works
- Open access to public speakers and use of academic journals.

CSOs are closing the information technology divide by providing cheap computers where these are needed. They are also improving computer software and making it freely available using a variety of innovative licensing modalities.

Students, faculty and staff of educational institutions can participate in a type of commons when they help to decide the running of the school together. For example, there is the approach designed by A.S. Neil and implemented first at Summerhill and then in many other schools including the 15th Street School in New York City.

At Union Graduate School/Union Institute and University, students helped to decide who could be accepted by the university. Two fellow students sat on each student's doctoral committee to ensure that the quality of work for which a doctorate was approved was up to the level they wanted for their university. When the university encountered financial difficulties all students were called together to discuss solutions.

Information and Discussion

Using the Internet, the world's largest digital commons, a person can freely access millions of web sites which provide virtually everything one wants to know about almost every topic. Literature, works of music and art, advice on health and legal matters and many, many more subjects are all available with the click of a mouse.

The web site, Flickr, is a commons that makes photos available for free download while YouTube allows people to share their films worldwide.

Free meeting and planning modalities exist via Skype, Gmail, WillYou.TypeWith.Me, Flashgroups, and the commons-based free software technologies which enable people to meet, share ideas and plan no matter where they live.

Security

Examples of a commons approach to security:

- Neighborhood Watches;
- Red Berets on New York subways;
- Volunteer groups where citizens add to the resources of local police forces to increase the safety of communities;
- The unarmed protection of civilians and peace in international settings (See: www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org; and www.peacebrigades.org/)

Regional Examples of Commons Preservation, Management *(This section developed by Mary Beth Steisslinger)*

THE COMMONS, n., gifts of nature and society; the wealth we inherit or create together and must pass on, undiminished or enhanced, to our children; a sector of the economy that complements and counterweights the corporate sector. Civic-based commons governance provides a check and balance to the corporate drive for profit and undue influence on government.

1. Arvari River Parliament in Rajasthan, India:

Starting in the 1980's thru tribal water restoration techniques, the revival of the Arvari River system was achieved by the mid1990's. Formerly dry channels filled only briefly by the monsoons, now support year-round aquatic life. As a result, the government gave the contract for catching fish to a private party. The people of the region, whose hard work had revived the river, resisted this move, suspecting that government may try and take control of the whole river. In 1999 the stakeholders developed a River Parliament, with two representatives each from 72 villages, it has framed 11 rules with regard to the use of the river waters, relating to all aspects of water management, from the extraction or selling of water from the river, to the revival of traditional methods of water conservation.

A coordination committee comprising members selected by the Parliament handles the operations and ensures compliance with the rules. They are in process of formalizing their legal status, which up until now has had only the moral force of the people's insistence as stakeholders. <http://www.righttowater.info>

2. West Asia North Africa (WANA) Forum: <http://www.wanaforum.org/> (newsletter)

The WANA Forum provides a platform for working together as members of the human community. We all benefit from collective regional action to resolve conflicts, to promote good governance, to raise living standards, to protect the environment, to face challenges that no nation can tackle alone. Assuming custodianship and stewardship of our fragile world is

ultimately the responsibility of every one of us, for our own wellbeing is dependent on the wellbeing of others. –HRH Prince El Hassan bin Talal, WANA Forum Chairman

“Regional cooperation is predicated upon people’s perceptions that they are part of a single region,” Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said in his keynote speech at the second annual meeting of the Forum. “Doing so is not about a map or acronym, but about identity and ensuring that the so-called ‘person on the street’ feels that he or she is a citizen of WANA as well as a citizen of his or her own country.”

West Asia - North Africa (WANA) has entered a period of fundamental change. While few could have predicted the nature and extent of transformation, the underlying driving forces behind the various protests have been present for some time. As hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in protest of political and economic conditions, in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Jordan, Syria and elsewhere, the implications and consequences of change remain unclear. Of fundamental importance to a successful transition is the presence of a shared clear vision and the political will to positively promote and facilitate the realization of such.

WANA Social Charter: We, as individuals from the West Asia - North Africa Region, in affirming our respect for human dignity and embracing social cohesion for the collective good, aspire to:

- Achieve equal opportunity in helping people realize their basic human needs;
- Foster citizenship and good governance;
- Create opportunities for prosperity and sustainable development;
- Promote processes of inclusion that harness our diversity
- Secure peace and build community resilience;
- Respect our human and natural environments as stewards of the Earth;

For full Charter details, see <http://www.slideshare.net/WANAforum/wana-forum-social-charter>

Local to regional commons water preservation, management, and struggles for long term legal protection:

1. Acequias evolved over 10,000 years in the deserts of the Middle East and were introduced into southern Spain by the Moors during their nearly 800-year occupation. Spanish colonizers took acequias to the New World. Acequias in New Mexico include specific governance over water distribution, water scarcity plans, and all other matters pertaining to what is viewed as a communal resource. The *mayordomo*, or watermaster, of the acequia made decisions about water distribution among community members, with the consent and advice of the acequia members. <http://www.lasacequias.org>

2. Shapleigh, Maine, local aquifer protected from corporate water extraction: The town of Shapleigh, Maine, population 2,326, passed an unusual ordinance in 2007. Like nearby towns, Shapleigh sought to protect its aquifers from the Nestle Corporation, which draws heavily on the region for its Poland Spring bottled water. Some Maine towns had acquiesced, others had protested, and one was locked in a protracted legal battle. Search to see language of their local ordinance. <http://stopnestlewaters.org/about>

3. Barnstead, New Hampshire became the very first municipality in the nation to prohibit corporations from privatizing its water in 2006: Through an overwhelming Town Meeting vote, the community adopted an ordinance banning corporations from massive water extraction projects. <http://www.celdf.org/community-organizing-new-england-barnstead>

4. Tar Sands: “It is unacceptable to allow a Canadian oil company to trample on tribal sovereignty and sacred sites. Keep our promises to Native American tribes and stop TransCanada’s Keystone XL tar sands pipeline from violating their sovereignty.” http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/sovereignty_kxl/index_2012.html?id=47608-910794-QmEWUex, Also see **Indigenous Environmental Network:** This includes the Ontario Line 9 Reversal, <http://www.ienearth.org/tarsands.html>

5. Marcellus Gas Drilling in and around the Great Lakes:

Gov. John Kasich issued a recent executive order banning oil and gas drilling in Lake Erie, doubling a protection to Ohio's Great Lake already provided by Congress <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2012/07/12/kasich-prohibits-drilling-in-under-lake-erie.html>

Pittsburgh, PA became the first U.S. City to ban Marcellus gas drilling within the city limits, and this helps to protect the aquifer and three rivers that surround it. The recent addition of Act 13 has angered Pennsylvania residents as it removes their rights as municipalities to limit drilling: <http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/puc-says-pittsburghs-ban-on-natural-gas-extraction-conflicts-with-state-law-652858/>

Mary Beth Steisslinger, MS - Integral Systems Biologist, marybeth.steisslinger@gmail.com
Global Commons Trust, Commons Action for the UN, www.globalcommonstrust.org
School of Commoning, <http://www.schoolofcommoning.com/>

Waste management

Some examples of the commons approach to waste management include:

- Full cycle industrial processes (Cradle to Cradle) where the materials that go to make up all products can be easily separated for direct recycling and reuse as building materials for other products;
- Also, Entrepreneurial Clusters where groups repurpose/upcycle waste into new products (e.g., REculture);
- U.S. artists cooperatives tapping land-fill gas for production energy needs or for materials for they can use for their art;
- Brazilian Recycling Co-ops where marginalized people who sort garbage can be empowered to organize through *Participatory Sustainable Waste Management* models for income opportunities;
- Recycling food wastes for compost for local production.

Mining

Minerals are depletable. When minerals are commons goods, it is a matter of removing them sparingly and restoring the earth where it is damaged. Citizens play direct roles in ownership, management and system success in sustainable mining. (See: "Whole Mine, Whole Community, Whole Planet Strategies" - Ivan Webber)

Communities managing and maximizing natural resources:

- Mining commons use a sustainable systems approach to energy, land, water, jobs including probable futures. Example: Eco Industrial parks. Clusters of collaborating industries located together for superior energy, material and water efficiencies and reducing environmental impact. At mine sites, renewable energy production plant, water by-product recovery plants to recover

metals and salts, green houses and aquaculture to propagate plants appropriate for landscape restoration.

- Chartered Mine Trusts: Communities develop rules for safety, environmental social and economic practices for mine operations.
- Mining communities these determine who will mine and monies go back to restore the land and back into the communities; Mining run as cooperatives with possibly mines rented out for corporate use. Renewable energy production
- Global/National regulation mechanisms for sharing the costs and benefits.
- Alaskan Fund – all Alaskans share in the profits made from oil production by the State.

Housing and Financial Co-operatives

More than one billion people are already members of various types of co-operatives. All of these groups use forms of collaborative decision making, planning and implementation by community members. As well, the benefits from such processes are equitably shared by all members of the community.

In the Netherlands, for example, there are housing co-ops for low-income singles. The residents share common areas and run them as a commons. Other examples include food and cultural co-ops (where artists, for example, share and manage exhibit space jointly).

Some examples of a commons approach to finance:

- Insurance and banking cooperatives;
- Alternative currencies have been used in communities where people do not have regular money. These currencies allow people to exchange goods and services. They can call their currency by any name.
- Local exchange trading systems (LETS), also known as LETSsystems, are locally initiated, democratically organised, not-for-profit community enterprises that provide a community information service and record transactions of members exchanging goods and services by using the currency of locally created LETS Credits. In Utrecht, Netherlands, they use “stars”; in Amsterdam they use “noppes”.
- Time-sharing groups;
- Barter systems;
- The Participatory Budget Process that was initially developed in Porto Alegre;

Stewarding Natural Systems

Much of our land/soil, water, and, of course, all of our air, is interrelated and global in nature. These resources must be managed/stewarded/cared for by humanity as a whole. What is needed are types of global commons where the UN, for example, could oversee these resources. Much of the framework for this type of commons is already in existence as enunciated in such things as the Law of the Sea, the Antarctica Treaty, the Outer Space Treaty, and the Black Sea Alliance.

Links to Commons Resources

Miscellaneous

- *Digital Library of the Commons* – The Digital Library of the Commons (DLC) at Indiana University is a gateway to the international literature on the commons. The DLC provides free and open access to full-text articles, papers, and dissertations. The site contains an author-submission portal, an Image Database, the Comprehensive Bibliography of the Commons, a Keyword Thesaurus, and links to relevant reference sources on the study of the commons – <http://dlc.dlib.indiana.edu/dlc/>
- *On the Commons* is a citizens' network that highlights the importance of the commons in our lives and promotes innovative commons-based solutions to create a brighter future – <http://www.onthecommons.org/>
- *Commons Rising* – Written for the Tomales Bay Institute, this report on the growing commons movement has two purposes: first, to celebrate the seeds that are already emerging, and second, to suggest how, taken together and multiplied, they can grow into something powerful enough to change the world. <http://onthecommons.org/commons-rising>
- *The State of the Commons* is an introduction to the commons and its distinct dynamics. It takes inventory of the assets that belong to us and assesses their value and how well they are being managed.

<http://www.onthecommons.org/state-commons>

- *Shareable* is a nonprofit online magazine that tells the story of sharing. It covers the people, places, and projects that bring a shareable world to life. <http://www.shareable.net/>
- *International Association for the Study of the Commons* is a nonprofit association devoted to understanding and improving institutions for the management of resources that are (or could be) held or used collectively by communities in developing or developed countries – <http://www.iasc-commons.org/>
- *Genes, Bytes and Emissions: To Whom Does the World Belong?* Silke Helfrich, editor (Heinrich Boll Foundation) – <http://www.boell.org/web/148-576.html>
- *Kim Klein and the Commons*, a blog with contributions from commons-oriented sources – <http://kimkleinandthecommons.blogspot.com/>

Community Life

- *City Repair* is an organized group action that educates and inspires communities and individuals to creatively transform the places where they live. <http://cityrepair.org/>
- *Community-Wealth*'s goal is to provide the web's most comprehensive and up-to-date information resource on state-of-the-art strategies for democratic, community-based economic development – <http://www.community-wealth.org/>
- *The E. F. Schumacher Society*, founded in 1980, aims to promote the building of strong local economies that link people, land, and community. To accomplish this, it develops model programs, including local currencies, community land trusts, and micro-lending; hosts lectures and other educational events; publishes papers; and maintains a library to engage scholars and inspire citizen-activists. <http://smallisbeautiful.org/>
- *The Forum Organizing Project* is creating a national Community Forum network that seeks to

revive community entertainment, education and connection. It organizes resources, offers technical support, builds partnerships with speakers and film distributors, and connects Forums with each other – <http://forumorganizing.org/>

- *Ogallala Commons* is a nonprofit community development network offering leadership and education to reinvigorate the commonwealth that forms the basis of all communities, both human and natural. Ogallala Commons country covers about 174,000 square miles across parts of eight Great Plains states in the United States. <http://www.ogallalacommons.org/>
- *Project for Public Spaces (PPS)* is a nonprofit planning, design and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities – <http://www.pps.org/>
- *Rebar* is an interdisciplinary studio based in San Francisco and operating at the intersection of art, design and activism. Its work encompasses visual and conceptual public art, landscape design, urban intervention, temporary performance installation, digital media and print design – <http://rebargroup.org/>
- *West Marin Commons* is dedicated to the practice of community in West Marin, California in order to sustain and enrich the social and natural environment. It seeks to establish, preserve, and enhance both common spaces and the life that occurs in them and to create social infrastructure for resource sharing, conservation, and learning. <http://www.westmarincommons.org/site/>

Economics and Politics

- *In the Public Interest* is a Resource Center on privatization and responsible contracting. It is committed to equipping citizens, public officials and public interest groups with the information, ideas and other resources they need to ensure that public contracts with private entities are transparent, fair, well-managed and effectively monitored, and that those contracts meet the long-term needs of communities – <http://www.inthepublicinterest.org/>
- *The New Economics Institute* is working to make the new economics, one which supports people and planet, mainstream in the United States. It is helping people imagine the kind of economy that is designed to enhance human well-being and ecological health – <http://neweconomicsinstitute.org/>
- *The New Rules Project*, a program of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance (ILSR), proposes a set of new rules that builds community by supporting humanly scaled politics and economics – <http://www.newrules.org/>
- *Privatization Watch*, a joint project of the Center for Study of Responsive Law and Essential Information, was founded in 1982 by Ralph Nader. Essential Information is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization involved in a variety of projects to encourage citizens to become active and engaged in their communities. <http://privatizationwatch.org/>
- *Wealth for the Common Good* is a U.S. network of business leaders, high-income households and partners working together to promote shared prosperity and fair taxation – <http://wealthforcommongood.org/>

Environment and Health

- *The Blue Planet Project* is an international civil society movement begun by The Council of Canadians to protect the world's fresh water from the growing threats of trade and privatization – <http://blueplanetproject.net/>

- *Our Water Commons: Toward a New Freshwater Narrative*, is a Council of Canadians report written by Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council and Senior Advisor on Water Issues to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations. It is part of an effort to address the global water crisis by naming and reclaiming the freshwater commons. <http://www.canadians.org/water/publications/water%20commons/index.html>
- *Cap and Dividend*, a project of On the Commons, is a simple, market-based way to reduce CO₂ emissions without reducing household incomes. It caps fossil fuel supplies, makes polluters pay, and returns the revenue to everyone equally. <http://capanddividend.org/>
- *ETC Group (Action Group on Erosion, Technology and Concentration)* is dedicated to the conservation and sustainable advancement of cultural and ecological diversity and human rights. To this end, ETC Group supports socially responsible developments of technologies useful to the poor and marginalized and it addresses international governance issues and corporate power – <http://www.etcgroup.org/>
- *Food & Water Watch* works to ensure that food, water and fish is safe, accessible and sustainably produced – <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/>
- *The International Center for Technology Assessment (CTA)* is a non-profit, bi-partisan organization committed to providing the public with full assessments and analyses of technological impacts on society – <http://www.icta.org>
- *Our Water Commons* seeks to transform societal decision making for water stewardship towards participatory, democratic, community-centered systems that value equity and sustainability as a strategy – <http://ourwatercommons.org/>
- *The New Mexico Acequia Association*. Acequias are the historic communal irrigation systems that support the culture and livelihood of thousands of families in New Mexico. The Association works to sustain their way of life by protecting water as a community resource and strengthening farming and ranching traditions. <http://www.lasacequias.org/>
- *The Trust for Public Land (TPL)* is a national, nonprofit, land conservation organization that conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, community gardens, historic sites, rural lands, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come – <http://www.tpl.org/>
- *Waterkeeper Alliance* has nearly 200 Waterkeeper Organizations on six continents defending their communities against anyone who threatens their right to clean water—from law-breaking polluters to unresponsive government agencies. <http://waterkeeper.org/>

Information, Creativity and Culture

- *Creative Commons* develops, supports, and stewards legal and technical infrastructure that maximizes digital creativity, sharing, and innovation. <http://creativecommons.org/>
- *iCommons* is a registered U.K. charity that promotes collaboration among proponents of open education, access to knowledge, free software, open access publishing and free culture communities around the world – <http://icommons.org/>
- *The Foundation for P2P Alternatives* functions as a clearinghouse for open/free, participatory/p2p and commons-oriented initiatives. It aims to be a pluralist network to document, research and promote peer to peer alternatives – <http://p2pfoundation.net/>

- *Public Knowledge* is a Washington, D.C.-based public interest group working to defend citizens' rights in the emerging digital culture. Its first priority is to promote innovation and the rights of consumers while working to stop any bad legislation from passing that would slow technology innovation, shrink the public domain, or prevent fair use – <http://www.publicknowledge.org/>

APPENDIX III:

MEASURES TO COUNTER THE DANGERS INHERENT IN A DEBT-BASED ECONOMY

Urgent Need for an Economic Shift

There is a contradiction between sustained growth and the needs of nature. This threatens to undermine its effectiveness and continue to place women at a disadvantage.

This contradiction can be resolved through a shift to a commons-based economy – an economy which would have at its base the well-being of all people and nature.

The threat posed by today’s dominant world economy:

The debt-based financial system that dominates the world economy today fosters unsustainable growth because the lending of central banks is not covered by adequate collateral. As a result, banks must use interest payments received from previous loans to pay off their debts.

Therefore, their funds must constantly be replenished by encouraging people to consume, produce, borrow and make interest payments. This results in overproduction, overconsumption, excessive carbon dioxide emissions and disastrous climate change.

This dilemma also pits people against one another – and nature – as they compete for funds. Here women are often at a disadvantage. The resulting *win/lose* and human-centred *win/win* mentality (which ignores the well being of nature), creates an ever-increasing desire to have power over others and nature.

The debt-based financial system and the resulting win/lose mentality must continue to drive unsustainable growth to avoid collapse. It thus constitutes **one of the most influential root causes of the escalating environmental, economic and social crises our world faces today.**

The present escalation of interlocking crises can be averted once we have placed the well-being of all people, their communities, and nature, at the foundation of a new Sustainable Economy. This shift would be further strengthened where a *commons* approach is used.

A commons approach involves empowering people to care for the fruits of nature and/or society they and their communities need to survive and thrive. A primary focus is on using open, inclusive and participatory forms of decision making where there is gender balance.

The advantages of shifting to a commons-based economy centered on the well-being of all people and nature:

1. The economies of those countries with rich natural resources and/or social systems that serve the

individual development of people and their communities would be valued for their *actual* wealth. Governments at all levels would have a strong incentive to preserve and nurture their natural heritage and the social systems that develop all people's individual potential. They would also discontinue environmentally and socially destructive practices.

1. Encouraging a commons approach would have the additional advantage that people would be strongly motivated to steward their resources with great care both for their own use and that of future generations.
1. By giving people adequate access to those resources needed to both survive and to develop their unique potential, they will be less likely to vainly seek satisfaction in the acquisition of possessions and status symbols that do not deeply satisfy and are another root cause of unsustainable development.
1. The development of actual personal potential is tied to quality education, training, social interaction and cultural pursuits, etc. These aspects of the economy can continue to grow without necessarily having to draw heavily on depletable resources. This fosters social harmony and promotes sustainable economic growth while conserving non-renewable resources.
1. If this shift is undertaken, Governments will be able to build on the groundwork for a sustainable economy already being implemented by those people who have already adopted a commons approach. They are currently building sustainable communities, producing wholesome foods for those in need, cleaning up polluted water sources, managing waste, and revitalizing the stagnant parts of national economies. They are also providing free information, sustainable technologies, alternative energy, cultural resources, educational materials, and much more.
1. These civil society activities are already providing a skeletal structure for a sustainable green economy that is alleviating poverty – a foundation on which Governments can build. This process will increasingly speed up as the Internet-based Commons Abundance Network (CAN) grows and expands. CAN has as its objectives to empower commons to learn from one another; network, think and act together from local to global levels; and by empowering one another to form a strong basis for a commons-based economy at all levels centred on the well being of all people and nature.

This shift makes sense economically because **how people—both women and men--and their communities interact with their natural and social resources lies at the very foundation of every economy.**

Appendix IV. Planetary Boundaries: Boundary values and zone of uncertainty

Will Steffen, Stockholm Resilience Centre and The Australian National University

Boundary	Control Variable(s)	Value (zone of uncertainty)
Climate change	Atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration	350 (350-550) parts per million
	Radiative forcing	+1 (+1-1.5) watts per square metre
Ocean acidification	Carbonate ion concentration: average global surface ocean saturation state with respect to aragonite	Maintain greater than 80% (80-70%) pre-industrial average aragonite saturation state.
Stratospheric ozone concentration	Stratospheric ozone concentration	Less than 5% (5-10%) reduction in stratospheric ozone concentration, measured in Dobson Units
Atmospheric aerosol loading	To be determined	
Biogeochemical flows: interference with P (phosphorus) and N (nitrogen) cycles	P: inflow of P to ocean, compared to natural background weathering rate	P: less than 10 (10-100) times the background weathering rate (note: there are various estimates of the magnitude of the background weathering rate)
	N: amount of N ₂ removed from atmosphere for human use	N: 35 (35-49) megatonnes of nitrogen per year fixed by industrial and agricultural processes
Global freshwater use	Consumptive blue (liquid) water use	Less than 4000 (4000-6000) cubic kilometres of water per year
Land-system change	Percentage of global land cover converted to cropland	Less than 15% (15-20%) of global ice-free land surface converted to cropland
Rate of biodiversity loss	Extinction rate, extinctions per million species per year (E/MSY)	Less than 10 (10-100) E/MSY
Chemical pollution	To be determined	

Source: Rockström, J., Steffen, W., Noone, K., Persson, Å, Chapin, III, F.S., Lambin, E.F., Lenton, T.M., Scheffer, M., Folke, C., Schellnhuber, H.J., Nykvist, B., de Wit, C.A., Hughes, T., van der Leeuw, S., Rodhe, H., Sörlin, S., Snyder, P.K., Costanza, R., Svedin, U., Falkenmark, M., Karlberg, L., Corell, R.W., Fabry, V.J., Hansen, J., Walker, B., Liverman, D., Richardson, K., Crutzen, P. and Foley, J.A. (2009). Planetary Boundaries: Exploring the Safe Operating Space for Humanity. *Ecology and Society* 14 (2): 32. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol14/iss2/art32/>

APPENDIX V: MEASURES TO SHIFT TO A SUSTAINABLE COMMONS-BASED ECONOMY AT ALL LEVELS

It is urgent that we shift immediately from an economy at war with nature to one based on a commons approach. As mentioned in UN documents E/2010/NGO/29 and E/2011/NGO/126, the strength of such an economy would be measured in terms of the well-being of nature, all people and their communities.

For people, community and nature are the very building blocks of every economy.

This is one of several briefs, suggesting measures we can take to bring about this shift.

We call on Governments to create a Panel of Experts (High Level or from the UN Secretariat) to develop a step-by-step plan for the implementation of a commons-based economy. This panel would consult with Governments, relevant IGOs and CSOs, Major Groups and all other stakeholders to ensure the greatest possible support for their work.

Examples where such a commons approach is already being implemented are listed in Appendix One together with what constitutes a commons approach.

A global, commons-based approach to a sustainable economy has the following important advantages:

1. It fosters responsibility for the switch to sustainable-living *from the grassroots up*. All stakeholders are directly involved in decisions regarding the natural and social resources they, themselves, need to survive and prosper.
2. It enables Governments to build on thousands of sustainable-living initiatives which can begin to form the basis for a sustainable green economy that is supported by their peoples.
3. It also would help to forge collaborative working relationships with the rapidly increasing number of demonstrations against corporate greed and social inequity that are occurring around the world.

Measures to Bring About a Shift to a Commons-Based Global Economy

1. Shifting from present economic indicators measuring production and consumption to ones measuring the well-being of people and nature. These indicators could include those mentioned in the UN Human Development Reports from 1990 onward; and, in other UN contexts, those mentioned in Germany's Yearbook, Bhutan's Happiness Index, etc.
2. Extending GA resolution A/HRC/18/L.1 declaring the human right to clean drinking water and sanitation to clean air and other fruits of nature and society that each person needs to be able to survive and thrive (including the Internet).
3. Recognizing in national constitutions that, beside individual people and corporations, Mother Nature has rights. Infringements on these rights should be prosecutable under universal jurisdiction, as is already the case in Bolivia and Ecuador.
4. Recognizing that ecocide is a crime against peace and life, like genocide – except that ecocide relates to harm done to nature, including animal and plant species. Ecocide should be prosecuted under universal jurisdiction. (www.treeshaverightstoo.com)
5. Creating a World Environmental Court.
6. Establishing – where appropriate – common property rights held by local communities over resources on which they depend. This would include forests, grazing lands, bodies of water, groundwater, and fisheries. This can ensure that the people who have a long-term stake in the

preservation of these resources would have control over them, obtain benefits from them, and internalize any externalities caused by individual community members into the decision-making of the community as a whole.

7. Encouraging the creation of Social Charters to affirm the sovereignty of human beings over their means of sustenance and well-being arising through a customary or emerging identification with an ecology, a cultural resource area, a social need, or a form of collective labour. These charters are covenants and institutions negotiated by commons communities for the protection and sustenance of their resources. They use a commoning approach to ensure that community access to — and sovereignty over — their own commons is maintained and that the interests of all stakeholders are represented.
8. Encouraging the creation of commons trusts, legal entities responsible for protecting shared assets, inherited from past generations on behalf of current and future generations.

Community rules can be set up to prevent resource overuse while ensuring fair access and to.

- a. decide on a non-monetized metric to evaluate the sustainability, quality of life and well-being of a commons and its community of users and producers,
 - b. apply this metric to the preservation of the resource by creating a cap on its usage,
 - c. monitor resource creation, usage and restoration according to this cap to determine whether or not the trust may rent a portion of the resource for extraction or production by the private sector or the state,
 - d. stimulate and protect the co-production of a replenishable resource because they use measures other than scarcity-based pricing to value these common goods, and
 - e. allow the private and public sectors to continue to focus on profit, investment and budgetary appropriations, while the commons becomes a primary means of generating social innovation and stabilizing the principal of commons reserves to maintain the diversity and sustainability of the overall economy.
2. Applying the precautionary principle, including with respect to geo-engineering.
 3. Internalization of the full life-cycle and true environmental costs of production and consumption in order to address the causes rather than simply the symptoms of environmental degradation. (See also the Cradle to Cradle certification system: www.c2ccertified.org)
 4. Implementing a global footprint to assess economic performance in all sectors and at all levels, including corporations. (See also: www.footprintnetwork.org)
 5. Elimination of fossil fuel and other subsidies which distort the market.
 6. Recognizing the importance of international agreements such as the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Geneva Conventions, International Covenant on Economic and Social Rights, Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Kyoto Protocol and associated Work plans, Agenda 21, and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. Each of these promote democratic participation in planning sustainable development.
 7. Implementing the all-win principle in all governmental decision-making. This recognizes that, since all people and all of nature are parts of one integrated whole, the well-being of all people and all of nature are essential to us all. (See also www.worldcitizensaction.com)
 8. Instituting open source and General Public Licenses – commons-based alternatives to Intellectual Property Rights. The latter have begun to reduce humanity's capacity to adapt to emerging issues and global challenges. The extension of their applicability is also used now to

hamper progress and further enclose the commons and should not be accepted or permitted. (See also: <http://onthecommons.org/about-commons>; www.opensource.org and www.gnu.org)

9. Establishing a commons-based approach to education at the bottom of the pyramid –i.e., children in all nations – to ensure that commons principles are instituted for future generations. This basic human right of education in the formative years is included in Article 26 of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.
10. Creating a system whereby all people can care for and manage their impact on Earth's Systems. The legal aspects and metrics that might be used are at present being developed (see www.earth-condominium.org.)

APPENDIX VI.

MEASURES TO FINANCE THE SHIFT TO A COMMONS-BASED ECONOMY

Suggestions from Commons Action for the United Nations and the Major Group Commons Cluster at the UN-a network of ECOSOC-accredited CSOs. Both networks are interested in showing the intrinsic relevance of a commons approach to sustainable development

It is urgent that we shift from an economy that is destroying the very means of human survival to a commons-based approach that is capable of ensuring the well-being of all people and nature. For people and nature are the very basis upon which all economies rest.

Here are 4 ways to help restore, protect, and replenish natural resources and fund the shift to a commons-based global economy.

I. Establish an Effective Institutional Framework to Shift to a Commons Based Economy and Manage and Equitably Share in the Use of the Commons

Under a Commons Approach to Sustainable Development all people must have access to those gifts of nature and society that they need to survive and prosper. These would be designated as commons goods. They can then be used to finance the shift to a commons based economy and be managed and equitably shared among all people, as follows:

- A strictly enforced cap could be placed on the use of depletable commons goods and resources;
- Trusts would then be established to oversee the caps and manage the resource. The amount of each cap would be determined and set by the stakeholders of each resource. These trusts could be located either within a nation or be trans-border, depending on the extent of both the resource and the community of interest;
- Permits for the use of what is available once the cap has been put in place can then be auctioned at source enabling the cost to be spread among all subsequent users and avoiding the complex task of pricing each depletable resource;
- Income from these commons resources can then be placed in a Global Fund for Sustainable Development and used to protect and restore the resource; reimburse those negatively affected by the use of these resources with a small percentage going to the government for provision of the public goods; to invest in transitioning to a sustainable future; to a global trust to restore any damage to the global commons (air, water, land); and/or to provide a basic income for all people. Broadly speaking, the assessment of commons rent by trusts around the world would require three significant changes:
 - Governments could shift their primary emphasis away from issuing corporate charters and licensing the private sector and towards approving social charters and open licenses for resource preservation and social and cultural production processes through commons trusts managed by those who cultivate and protect commonly held gifts.
 - Commons trusts would exercise a fiduciary duty to preserve natural, genetic and material commons

and to protect, create or regenerate solar, social, cultural and intellectual commons, yet may also decide to rent a proportion of these resource rights to businesses.

- Businesses can then rent the rights to extract and produce a resource from a commons trust, thus creating profits and positive externalities through innovation, competitive products and services, and adjustment of the market to the actual costs of resources. However consent to the use of a Commons should first have to be granted by those that are protecting and/or whose lives depend upon a Commons resource.

Management of the Commons at the Global Level

Commons management funds could also be generated at the global level. A rental fee to finance multilateral programs and institutions could be placed on the development or use of many transborder commons, including:

- carbon emissions
- international corporate products
- international investment
- foreign exchange transactions
- international trade
- international airline tickets
- maritime freight transport
- ocean fishing
- sea-bed mining
- offshore oil and gas
- international oil trading
- satellite parking spaces
- electromagnetic spectrum use
- internet
- information flows
- military spending and arms exports
- toxic wastes
- energy consumption

II. Global Atmosphere Commons Trust.

This type of a trust could be established based on ideas from the Alaska Permanent Fund for sharing the oil commons with all Alaskans and the thirty-plus years of commons resource management research.

Feasta Sky Trust. A specific proposal has already been developed for establishing a Feasta Sky Trust. See: www.feasta.org One of the largest commons on the planet, our global atmosphere, could serve as the fulcrum to turn our unsustainable and unjust ecological, economic and political situation in a better direction for us all. Emissions permits could be used to provide a right to use of the atmosphere – a resource which would then receive a scarcity value based on the carbon price. Current schemes like the Emissions Trading System (ETS) assume the carbon scarcity rent should go to polluters or governments – but really it should be used to provide for the well-being of all of humanity.

III. Applying a Commons Management Scheme to Regulate and Equitably Share in the Use of the Global Commons

Elinor Ostrom recently won the Nobel Prize for her studies of commons management practices around the world and how they support sustainability and justice. She has developed a set of principles or rules which ought to be included and addressed in managing the commons.

These could be applied to the idea of establishing global and subsidiary commons institutions --with cooperating climate trusts in each nation -- run by the people's trustees and supported by governments for enforcement of the carbon cap and distribution of the shares and are thus described as such below. These principles are applicable to a commons approach to financing the shift to a commons based global economy. They also apply to the implementation of most other Commons Applications as well. Applying these principles thus requires:

- 1. Clearly defined boundaries** (in this case, targeted and precise measurements of upstream carbon units that can be effectively monitored)
- 2. Effective exclusion of external un-entitled parties [or illegitimate use]** ("leaks" in the carbon measurements must be identified and primary producers of fossil fuels brought into compliance)
- 3. Rules regarding the use of common resources are adapted to local conditions** (each national climate commons institution would decide how much to pay out as dividends to citizens, for poverty alleviation for example, and how much to invest in transition projects and infrastructure)
- 4. Collective-choice arrangements allow most resource users to participate in the decision-making process** (a deliberative charter process with engagement by many citizens would set rules and governance for subsidiary in each nation, including collaboration on a global atmosphere institution)
- 5. Effective monitoring by monitors who are part of or accountable to users** (some of the global revenues would go towards monitoring and enforcement of the global cap on emissions)
- 6. There is a scale of graduated sanctions for resource users who violate community rules** (funding would be cut to national level institutions that were not adhering to the by-laws of their charters; for example companies could be fined for emitting GHG's without the needed pollution permits)
- 7. Mechanisms of conflict resolution are cheap and of easy access** (devised in the charter processes for local, national and global scales)
- 8. The self-determination of the community is recognized by higher-level authorities** (Nation States and the UN must uphold the rules set by such a global atmosphere institution and the subsidiaries in each nation... the process could begin with a few progressive countries leading the way)

IV. Placing a User Fee on the Use of and Access to Commons Resources

The commons exist and must be recognized on all scales and levels, the micro to the macro. The macro scale concerns the resources which sustain our broader ecosystem such as water, air and soil. These are interdependent and provide the tripod upon which all of life is sustained. Such resources need to be held in common as the rights of all humans.

Water quality equals quality of life.

Water and air cannot be for sale, but a graduated use fee established by the cultivators of these

commonly held goods could be collected. This fee for equitably sharing in the use of and access to this commons resource should be applied instead of outright "sale" of water and air through cash or "credits". Part of the funds from this can go to ensuring the quantity and quality of the shared resource; with part going to reimburse the stakeholding community and to help provide a basic income for all people. UN General Assembly resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010 *recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights*. It is therefore:

- imperative that water sources, springs, head waters and aquifers be held in common by those cultivating and protecting them and
- we connect water quality to industry, access, and land stewardship to ensure that all water is kept clean and available

We urgently recommend that the same status be accorded to all other commons goods as well, without which people cannot survive and thrive.

The UN, along with government at all levels, must provide the means, mechanisms, funding and implementation needed to fully achieve all UN sustainable development agreements and ensure that our basic human right to essential goods and services is provided **for all people** as well. This will require strong governance, via the adoption and full implementation of specific conventions, programs of action, time bound and enforceable targets, and on-going periodic review processes -- which must be included in the Rio +20 Outcome Documents.

For more information: www.CommonsActionfortheUnitedNations.org or write to Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, CommonsActionUN@gmail.com

APPENDIX VII.

A SELF-FINANCING WORLD MARSHALL PLAN A SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME FOR EACH WOMAN, MAN AND CHILD

Poverty, disintegration of societies and unemployment are challenging us all to take responsibility for our world in new ways. The following self-financing World Marshall Plan would provide every person with a means to regenerate their own lives while helping to build a healthy environmentally-sound world economy in which all people are able to develop in their unique ways. This self-financing Plan is described in several books, including two sponsored by the Dutch Foreign Ministry. Here is a summary of how the plan works and is financed.

The Effects of a Life-Enhancing Supplementary Economy

If every man, woman and child were given \$250 (compounded by 7% p.a.) every year to be spent exclusively on his or her wholesome development, poverty and pollution would fade away. In poor areas, where a person earns \$400 annually, \$250 for each member of the family is a fortune. It could be spent on seeds or instruction on soil regeneration. Villagers could contribute to a water pump or sewage system for their region. Soon poverty and disease could make way for flourishing cottage industries and international markets would expand into poorer areas. In richer countries \$250 could be spent on personal growth or the development of mind or spirit. Attitudes would change as every year again each person would be asked to choose environmentally friendly goods and services for personal development. All, rich and poor, would be encouraged to consider such questions as: "What is health?" "What adds depth and meaning to life?" and "How can an individual develop personally without harming others or the environment?"

The world economy could change without lay-offs. As world markets for life enhancing and environmentally sound goods and services expanded, arms industries, drug, energy and electronic companies and others could gradually redirect research and development to qualify for these new markets. Business would adopt more life enhancing values. Attitudes would change as individuals, industry and governments experienced the benefits of serving the well being of people and Planet and saw poverty, unemployment, social disintegration, and pollution decrease.

The Supplementary Economy Is Similar to a Mail Order Barter System

Every year, a census is taken in every country to establish which wholesome, life enhancing goods and/or services every person wishes to order for the year. In the Technical and Evaluation Division of the U.N. Population Fund, it was suggested that countries could agree to attach a questionnaire to the ongoing census programme of each country. This questionnaire could be tabulated separately. This would be particularly useful while the infrastructure for the Marshall Plan is being put into place.

Each person is given a credit of the equivalent of US\$250. Once a year each person is asked to order goods and services for up to the amount of this supplementary income for her or his

personal development. Nothing harmful to anyone or the Planet may be ordered. The credit of those not wishing to participate is cancelled for that year.

These "orders" are entered on a computer banking system, which links all countries and people. Existing commercial banks are connected to this system both for the benefit of the consumers and of the producers. People who can supply the life enhancing goods and services requested also make this known to development workers and are matched with the demand. Once supply and demand are exactly matched, marketable goods and services have come into being and the exchange can take place.

How is this Supplementary Economy Financed?

In the past, a country's currency was considered "hard" to the degree it was covered by gold reserves. Today, a country's currency is considered "hard" to the degree it is covered by "marketable goods and services". In essence, money can be seen as a point system that is allocated to each product and service to facilitate barter.

In today's world both rich and poor limit currency production for opposing reasons. The rich have the potential to produce the goods and services, but lack the markets. The poor are in need of goods and services, but often lack the ability to produce the necessary goods and services; and so neither is in a position to create hard currency as long as the currency is created on a national or regional basis. As soon as the world is seen as an economic whole, additional currency can be created to meet the WORLD situation of supply and demand. The additional currency can be divided among the world's population and can then be used to facilitate the exchange of goods and services as previously arranged via the computer system.

If the whole world were combined in one market, economists estimated that the world economy would be able to grow by 5%-10%. Let us say conservatively by 7%, if the production capacity would be matched by people's needs. This amount can then be used for several aims, including the building of the infrastructure and the implementation of this Plan. Once these costs have been deducted and the rest is divided equally among the world's population, each person would receive the equivalent of about US \$ 250.

Each year more people will become contributors to this supplementary economy and so growth will continue. Each year by, say 7% and each person's part of the new economy will increase. (Because the whole world is in constant flux, these figures change constantly and these calculations would have to be done to meet the situation. The 7% is therefore just a means to illustrate how the financing would work.

The Supplementary Economy has two characteristics, not shared with any economy elsewhere in the world, made possible by modern computer technology and census taking infrastructures being developed with the support of the U.N. They are:

1. Every woman, man, and child has an account and is connected through this banking system;
2. It would be known from the outset, each year, exactly what is needed and what can be supplied through the U.N. Economy.

This makes it possible to create a hard international currency for this Supplementary Economy and to determine the goods and services that will promote wholesome human development.

How Do People Determine Which Goods and Services May Be Offered through this Supplementary Economy?

Decision making in connection with this Supplementary Economy should involve all people. One way proposed uses the *sociocratic method*, by which people must grant their consent to each decision for it to be taken. If consent is withheld, the decision must be reformulated.

To determine which goods and services are to be made available and which to be withheld, each community is divided into groups of approximately 25 persons who make community decisions regarding goods and services considered harmful and thus not permitted. Each of these small groups sends 2 members with the outcome of their decision making to the next level of decision making, say for the local regions. Here, too, people meet in groups of approximately 25 people. Again consent is sought. And then 2 of each group go to the next level, say the country level, and so the process continues. It was estimated that if all 6 billion people were involved in this form of decision making just 8 or 9 levels of decision making would be involved. This type of decision making is already used by some world organizations. The advantage: that community is formed as such topics are discussed regarding what is wholesome and what harmful to individual or planetary health.

What is Required?

The proposed World Marshall Plan provides a supplementary income for all people in every nation. It will take about 10 years to build the necessary infrastructure.

The infrastructure will consist of:

1. an electronic communication system, such as the Internet, connected to a
2. Bank, which works exclusively with money transfers, rather than actual currency and is built on the model of the Dutch Giro System, run by a branch of a world institution, like the UN; with
3. accounts for every man, woman and child in the world; and
4. two U.N. development experts for every one thousand people, each with access to this fully computerized banking system both for informational and data entry purposes.

It Would Be Impossible To Achieve the Same Through World Taxes.

Organizationally, it would be very complicated and financially impossible to levy any form of world taxes in order to generate income for a worldwide development income for all people to be administered by the U.N. Nobel prize winner, Jan Tinbergen, calculated that the U.S.A. would have to provide 2/3 and the EC one-half of their means if every citizen in the world were to receive a reasonable income. He quite rightly considers this impossible. Rich countries would collapse through a lack of funds, money would become too expensive, and the poor countries would only be helped in an ad hoc fashion. Soon there would be a lack of purchasing power.

Great Advantages for Existing Economies.

Because the Supplementary Economy creates a constant upward pressure on existing economies, there are many advantages. After all, the same producers deliver to both economies.

Because of their extra income from the new economic circuit and the higher demands in terms of quality and environmental friendliness, producers will be able to manufacture better quality products in the original economies. There is, as it were, a wholesome interaction between all private businesses and those activities performed for the Supplementary Economy. This produces profit, spent differently in each economic circuit.

In this way both economic systems can be transformed, enabling the development of body and mind of the individual citizen. The Supplementary Economy constitutes a synthesis between market and planned economic approaches and the resulting balance benefits all people in every aspect of their existence. Every consumer is encouraged to function as both a national and a world citizen through the use of his or her supplementary income. As world citizen, he or she is directly connected to the U.N., if it is chosen as administrating agency (i.e. humanity). No national government or organization can take away these human rights and at the same time the increased individual well-being provides the stability which governments require to carry out their mandate.

We would be able to refer to the Supplementary Income as the much-needed Human Rights Economy, or a psychological and spiritual economy in which the development of body, mind and spirit are in balance. In this way, we can respond for the first time in history to our spiritual and political calling to produce a more loving and more reasonable world community, in which every individual can be a full-fledged partner in all situations.

Additional Characteristics of the Supplementary Economy

Decisions regarding which goods and services may be offered through the Supplementary Economy are made by all people in small community meetings. There are numerous precedents for this. Decisions will be made by consent, that is, people would have to agree on which products and services do not harm other people or the environment. This form of decision making builds community, raises consciousness and fosters responsibility with regard to the quality of life.

It Does Not Affect The Sovereignty Of Any Nation

Instead it enables each person to choose ways of contributing to the regeneration of their own economic and social environment in ways that benefit all people and the nation as a whole.

It Finances Itself And Is of No Cost To Any Nation.

On the contrary every individual, every business and consequently every country benefits.

No Interest Payments or Inflation, No Speculation. Less Likelihood of Fraud.

There is a direct link between production and consumption and there are no interest payments. There is therefore no inflation and can be no speculation. The rules of this Marshall Plan are monitored by the development workers and by all individual people who so wish. There is therefore less likelihood that there would be fraud using U.N dollars, than there is in today's less transparent economies.

Decrease In Pollution, Safeguarding Non-Renewable Resources

Production will be pollution-free and selective, and based on the prior consent of all people. There would be one type of goods and services for those who are physically poor and other types for those who are financially well off and would benefit from mental or spiritual enrichment and the full range between these two extremes. Those receiving material goods are subject to regulation, because pollution and the depletion of natural resources through this Supplementary Economy is not permitted. In the long run these problems would significantly decrease.

Less Unemployment

Unemployment will decrease drastically, as the supplementary economy expands and provides increased opportunities for new producers. As standards of living rise, the focus of the economy will shift from material goods (which often deplete the earth's resources) to services which refine personal and spiritual education, interpersonal and community relationships, and artistic and cultural expression. It will result in a constructive shift in the relationship between people and their planet.

Pieter Kooistra, the author of this plan wrote: *The Ideal Self-Interest* ISBN 907084101;

Also:Lisinka Ulatowska: *The Year 2000*. (overview of Plan and implementation written for and with input from UN).

DVD The Ideal Self-Interest

This summary was written by Dr. Lisinka Ulatowska, UN NGO Rep. AWC and IPS, former Chairperson, UN NGO Taskforce on Financing, compiler *A Listing of Financing Mechanisms*, author *The Year 2000. Crossroads for Mankind: A basic Income for All People and a Marshall Plan for the Earth*. (1996).