

SCENARIO 3

Towards A Just and Peaceful Planet

A Concept Paper for the Civil Society Conference

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David Brown, Hauser Centre for Non Profit Organizations, Harvard University

Budd Hall, Centre for Global Studies, University of Victoria

Rajesh Tandon, Society for Participatory Research, New Delhi, India

“As for the global challenge of terrorism, we have reason to expect, from the leaders of the world working against it, rather greater clarity”

Amartya Sen, Identity and Violence p 79

“The increasing political engagement by certain NGOs stems largely from the fact that development keeps increasing the gap between the rich and the poor”

Goren Hyden Civil Society: What Next? *Development Dialogue* June 2006
p 187

Summary

Global civil society occupies a key position in international policy circles. There is every reason to think that this position will remain strong or even grow in importance over time. What are the values, the ideas, the hopes, and the dreams that will underpin a next stage in strengthening the voice of global civil society? The authors of this scenario believe that the mechanisms of collaboration are already present within existing global civil society structures. Eurodad is one example of such an advocacy alliance but there are many others. The challenge is not so much one of designing the new car, but of knowing where we want to go and how we wish to travel together. It is an opportunity for deepening shared values, building relations of trust and creating a permanent process of alliance building. We suggest that the two fundamental desires of global peace (peace in households, communities and nations) combined with the urgency of dealing with the gap between the rich and the poor (Make Poverty History campaign for example) may well be the gathering themes for global civil society. These gathering themes must acknowledge the leadership and vision of women and understand that a just and peaceful planet must deal with all living systems.

Global civil society in its diverse and complex forms offers three important and distinct capacities in the search for a more just and peaceful planet. First GCS has a proven track record for its power to convene. The WSF and other similar networks and regional events have been the largest international gatherings of human beings in history. Second, GCS has a vast repertoire of skills, communications networks, campaigning experience and successes in building global consensus. Third, GCS has privileged access to grass roots knowledge, values, culture and perspectives.

Global civil society needs to continue to move as is often said, from protest to proposal, from reaction to action, from consumers of UN and Global political structures agendas to the fostering of a vision of the world we want. The scenario elaborated briefly in this paper is designed to stimulate our collective imaginations. It is a contribution to a new utopic vision, not utopia as in an unrealistic dream, but utopia as a necessary vision in building a more just and peaceful world. The scenario hopefully also lends some credibility to the notion that even complex challenges are possible to achieve. Finally it is dedicated to the idea that we have no choice but to work towards a new global diplomacy. This is offered in openness, humility and the desire to be helpful.

2016

It is the year 2016. A set of global protocols, institutional arrangements and processes for drawing on the capacities of civil society organizations is working well. This set of arrangements and understandings are multi-centred with research, advocacy and communicative capacities distributed throughout existing organizations and networks

How did it happen?

The years 2005-2008 were difficult ones for the poorest peoples of the world. Governmental resources had been redirected on a global scale towards security issues and military approaches to conflict resolution. A narrow understanding of security had replaced development, poverty elimination, health (including HIV/AIDS) or education-for-all as the dominant focus for global expenditure. The use of or threat of the use of military force had become for the global super power of the day, a key tool for global political intervention. Policies in the military super power of the day such as the legitimacy of the “pre-emptive” military strike overcame generations of preference for the primacy of international law. Opposition to the use of military tools and violence by many sides in the global struggles of the day was often denounced as naïve, siding with terrorism or even treason. Many innocent persons were jailed, disappeared or killed in a global climate where violence had become both the object of fear and the tool to achieve better security.

Shared Concerns

Global civil society organizations of the day had diverse histories; goals, strategies and ways of viewing the world of 2006, but they found themselves in agreement that a world system built on:

What is the Basis for Legitimacy of Civil Society Organisations?

An important discussion was begun in Waterloo to better understand the underlying base for GCS legitimacy and influence in global decision-making? Participants were cautious about assuming that democratic representation is the sole or most important base, since that puts GCS in direct competition with arguably democratic national governments. It was suggested that a focus on representing regional constituencies (e.g., indigenous peoples) or populations with special interests at issue (e.g., affected by dams) or bringing special technical knowledge or cap

Mandela, Graca Machal, Desmond Tutu, Amartya Sen, Joseph Stiglitz, Wangari Mathai, Kofi Annan (ex UN S-G by then), Bill Clinton, Stephen Lewis.

5. Agreement to work together on the next G-8 conference in Germany
6. Identification of who is missing that is critical to moving the venue process forward

January 2007

Making use of already existing GCS spaces

Each of the organizations present in Waterloo will take back the ideas from Waterloo to their constituencies for further clarification and creativity. Which aspects of a new “venue” or of the on-going process of alliance building could any of the GCS take on? Are there sectoral themes (environment, poverty, human security, education, health, HIV/AIDS) that can be taken up?

World Social Forum

1. Many of the participants at the Waterloo even are also leading networks involved in the Nairobi WSF process.
2. The WSF was seen a space for further consultation and identification of additional persons, resources and ideas.
3. The structure of the WSF and principles were examined for possible lessons for a GCS venue.
4. Further consultation on appropriate eminent persons to act as conveners was carried out (a prominent Muslim personality, a Latin American, a person of Aboriginal heritage, a business leader all considered)

Preparing for the G-8 gathering in Germany

A GCS working group on how best to present a united front in the G-8 lead-up, how to influence the agenda (not merely respond), building structures of advocacy and communications.

Knowledge Exchange Structures: Gates Foundation discussions

It was brought to the attention of those participating the GCS Process that the Gates Foundation needed to spend \$3 Billion per year to meet it legal obligations. Conversations began with the Gates Foundation to created the informational infrastructural platform for global civil society that could assure lower cost effective communications amongst key players in every part of the world.

There were many issues to be resolved including agreements for multiple platforms and open source collaboration on the development of tools, but this led to an agreement in

2012 Global Summit of Civil Society
 An enhanced World Social Forum event?

- This would be a large gathering of 10-15,000 persons who come together to agree to:
- a. A Charter on a vision of the “World We Want” – a just and peaceful planet and the role of global civil society
 - b. Identification of action agenda for collective GCS work together
 - c. Development of country and sector action plans
 - d. A moving symbolic event –builds on the universal need for hope

2012-2015 “Venue” is in place

2006	Waterloo Agreement	Next Steps	Working Groups	Communications Means established
2007	World Social Forum Gates Foundation Consultations within GCS networks on the way forward Working groups G-8 in Germany	Consultation Initial talks Follow-up to Waterloo conversations Piggy-back working groups on existing events Developing GCS agenda	Eminent persons identified Communications, G-8 Preparation Sectoral campaigns	Funding identified
2008	Regional Preparatory meetings Developing Action Plans	Mapping Division of labour	Development of papers	
2009	Global Gathering of GCS Leaders-“The World We Want” Agreement on “venue”-process of continual alliance building	Agreement to hold global gathering of CS in 2012		
2010	Review of UN MDGs	Full involvement of GCS networks	Revision of targets	
2011	Preparation for GCS Summit			
2012	Global Civil Society Summit (10,000+)	Involvement of market and government partners	Agreements to create “Venue” for Global Civil Society	