

Barcelona Consensus: Global Issues

We consider that the five key topics - the five global issues - can generate systemic ideas around a new global organization.

Our discussions will focus on:

1. **The world we want (values system)**
2. **The finite world we have (ecologic system)**
3. **Inquire on how we would like to organize this world (political system)**
4. **How we economically finance it (economic system)**
5. **How we would like to communicate (communicative system).**

Analysis which derives from a single focus, or from a multitude of problems, often leads to a loss of the global view necessary to precipitate a global shift at the level of the opportunity which has been created by the current global crisis.

The process cannot be limited to discussing proposals to fight the financial crisis, nor can it discuss all of the problems raised by our social organization, or the impact of the global crisis. Its aim is to focus on the values and objectives, as well as the rules of the game of the ecologic, political, economic and communicative systems, particularly with a global perspective.

The questions related to each key topic are meant to offer some support on how to focus the proposals, and are not meant to be answered one by one.

Values and objectives

These questions are for guidance only. Please send in your own proposals or the ideas of others that you find suitable for discussion.

1. What kind of world do we want? Proposals for new global values and objectives.

- * What do you believe we mean by the phrase, "Think Global, Act Local"? In your opinion, what would a global thought represent?
- * What traditional values must be recovered as global values?
- * What is the world vision that you believe can be shared by all?
- * What are the human values that can serve the common good of men and women all over the world?
- * What are humanity's major shared objectives today?

Ecology and population

These questions are for guidance only. Please send in your own proposals or the ideas of others that you find suitable for discussion.

2. What world do we have? Proposals for how to live sustainably in a finite world.

- * How to avoid the unlimited and unsustainable growth of a limited planet?
- * What population density and carbon footprint are sustainable?
- * What needs to change in order that 20% of the world population no longer monopolise and use up 80% of the planet's resources, while 80% of the population live in penury on just 20% of the planet's resources?

* If you believe we are at a global crisis point; produce, climate change, energy and natural resources, finance, economy...

What can we do to go from a point of crisis to one of opportunity? What can we do as workers, consumers, savers, voters?

* What must we demand from our governments, and how? What must we demand from the multinational corporations?

* What must we demand from businesses, and how?

Politics and security

These questions are for guidance only. Please send in your own proposals or the ideas of others that you find suitable for discussion.

3. How are we to decide? Proposals for a global political structure.

* Is the representative democracy the "least worst" of the political systems? What kind of system is needed to manage the complexities of our current globalized societies, made up of billions of people?

* How can we empower citizens, so that we are able to contribute in communal decision-making?

* How do we structure a political system able to rise to the challenges that we face, particularly given the broad scope; at a local, regional, national and international level? Will it be the same system of participation, or will each one be different?

* What should be done about the international institutions started in the aftermath of the Second World War? How are we to transform them or replace them?

* How can we fight the powers and corruption that undermine the interests of the majority?

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Economics and finance

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4. How should the world economy be managed? Proposals for a global financial and economic structure.

* What is the function of an economy: do we want a good structure which subsidizes the needs of a sustainable and responsible world for all within the constraints of a finite planet, or do we seek to maximise the economic benefits of the actions of multinational corporations?

* How are we to structure a good economic administration in its different ambits: local, regional, national, international?

* What functions in an economy should be undertaken by:

- government bodies?
- social and aid organizations?
- families?
- multinational corporations?

* How do we avoid the power of money being stronger than the power of the citizen?

* What limitations must we put on our financial systems in order to not harm the "real economy"?

* How are we to make compatible and complementary the public, private and social economies?

Information, communication and knowledge

These questions are for guidance only. Please send in your own proposals or the ideas of others that you find suitable for discussion.

5. Information, communication and knowledge: How do we want to organize the knowledge society? Proposals on the right to information and the cultural industries.

- * How can we avoid the scenario of seven companies controlling 70% of the world's information and communication systems?
- * How can we balance the right to freedom of speech, public regulation and the interests of cultural industries, which have become an influential, non-elected, political actor?
- * How can the right to truthful information be guaranteed? How do we avoid the manipulation of information?
- * How do we turn the media into one which is for the common good; a system that - instead of pushing communities apart - will make us conscious of the problems we face, and help us find and share solutions?
- * How can we stop advertising as a "propaganda" that incites unsustainable consumerism and conditions, through its financing, media contents and programs?