



World Federalist Congress promotes global governance measures to meet challenges of today and tomorrow

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Effective, cohesive, and inclusive global governance is needed more than ever to address today's turbulent times and tomorrow's challenges, according to members of the World Federalist Movement (WFM) meeting at their biennial Congress on November 1 and 2, 2025.

Federalism offers solutions to the world's problems that cannot be resolved by nation states alone - and indeed are often caused by unrestrained power conflicts between nation states. In this, the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, the Congress included discussion of ways to support, strengthen and reform the UN, guided by the vision of a democratic world federation where the current **law of power** would be replaced by the **power of law** to ensure peace and justice for all.

Congress participants discussed implementation of existing programs on international law and global governance, and adopted new policies to support and strengthen current global governance mechanisms including the United Nations, International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court, and to promote adoption of additional global governance mechanisms to safeguard the human rights of current and future generations, prevent corruption, build sustainable peace, protect the environment and manage Artificial Intelligence.

The World Federalist Movement, a global coalition of 48 member organizations plus many individual members, was a co-founder of the [Coalition for an International Criminal Court](#) and its convenor for two decades, as well as a cofounder of the Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect which has built the legal norm to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, and the 1 for 7 billion campaign which has generated transparency and accountability in the process of selecting the UN Secretary General.

More recently, WFM has co-founded and led on a number of other global governance initiatives including [Legal Alternatives to War](#) (LAW not War), [Mobilizing an Earth Governance Alliance](#), [Common Security and Nuclear Disarmament](#), [Interfaith principles and Earth Governance](#) and the *ImpACT Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions*.

“Through these programs and other activities, WFM has played a vital role over the past two years in multilateral processes, many of which have had successful outcomes - such as the UN Summit of the Future, ICJ case on climate change, UN announcement on a Special Envoy for Future Generations – and others which are gaining traction,” says **Alyn Ware**, WFM Program Director.

The Congress included discussion of how to strengthen and most effectively implement these flagship programs. Delegates also reflected on the prospects of UN Charter Reform and the work of WFM in the [Article 109 Coalition](#), an initiative [formally launched](#) in September 2025 with the objective to achieve a UN conference on Charter reform as envisaged in Article 109 of the UN Charter.

The Article 109 campaign is galvanizing support for such a conference, but takes no position on which Charter reform proposals should be included therein. The campaign is complemented by WFM's engagement in the [Coalition for the UN We Need](#) - a global coalition and collection of IMPACT Coalitions advocating for a better UN - and through the [Second UN Charter](#) initiative through which WFM, the Global Governance Forum, and others are promoting a renewed UN Charter to make the UN more fit-for-purpose. The draft Second UN Charter illustrates concrete provisions to ensure the UN is better able to effectively address global issues of today and tomorrow, including in management of the Earth System (the **geosphere** - lands, **hydrosphere** - waters, **atmosphere** and **biosphere**), collective security & disarmament, and economic & social development.

In 1945 Einstein said: *“With all my heart I believe that the world’s present system of sovereign nations can only lead to barbarism, war, and inhumanity.”*

“And so it is proving,” says **John Vlasto**, Chair of the WFM Board. *“As the evidence mounts that the current system of global governance, anchored in national sovereignty, is unfit for twenty first century global challenges, the door to reform is finally being pushed open. In a surprisingly hopeful 2025 Congress WFM heard from the Article 109 Coalition of a remarkable new openness at the UN to discussing Charter reform.”*

Among the reform proposals is the creation of a [UN Parliamentary Assembly](#). This proposal received specific support from Congress. Such an assembly would provide for the inclusion of citizen-elected representatives in the UN.

“Change is needed at the UN to make it fit for purpose in face of today’s mounting global challenges. Strengthening the UN and increasing its legitimacy are two sides of the same coin. Setting up a UN Parliamentary Assembly is an essential part of the latter as world federalists have long known”, comments **Andreas Bummel**, Executive Director of Democracy Without Borders, which is co-convenor of the [We The Peoples](#) campaign for public participation at the UN.

New policies adopted at the WFM Congress focused primarily on critical issues of global governance and initiatives that have emerged since WFM's 2023 Congress. Amongst these are the attacks on the ICC – most prominently, US sanctions; non-cooperation by Member States; and threats of withdrawal from the Rome Statute, all of which are of very high concern to WFM. The Congress calls on all States to stand strong against intimidation and these unjustified punitive actions on the Court, its officials, and civil society allies. The Congress also supported the proposed amendments to the ICC to remove jurisdictional gaps regarding the crime of aggression and to add the crimes of ecocide, the slave trade, and slavery to the jurisdiction of the ICC.

*“WFM’s leadership was indispensable to the ICC’s foundation,” reports **Rebecca Shoot**, co-convenor of the ImPACT Coalition on Strengthening International Judicial Institutions and Chair of the Washington Working Group on the ICC. “Today, its sustained support is critically needed to ensure that the promise of an end to impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to humanity is not illusory. Moreover, WFM can play an essential role in the next generation of initiatives to uphold the rule of law, from universality of the World Court to establishment of new institutions and modes of accountability.”*

Corruption around the world gives rise to significant financial losses and severe social and political consequences like reduced public services, lower living standards and environmental standards, and weakened democracy.

WFM is already engaging in the global campaign for establishing an [International Anti-Corruption Court](#). However, corruption must also be tackled at national and regional levels. At Congress, WFM adopted policy welcoming the establishment of the Mercosur Agency for Combating Transnational Organized Crime as a significant advance in regional governance and security cooperation, supporting the establishment of the [Latin American Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime](#) (COPLA), and calling on other regional organizations worldwide to study and replicate the Mercosur and COPLA initiatives as models of regional governance capable of addressing global challenges.

*“The agreement reached by Mercosur to create an Agency for the Fight against Transnational Organized Crime is a historic milestone in strengthening justice and accountability in the region,” says **Melina Fernández**, representative of [Democracia Global](#), WFM Board Member and parliamentary advisor in the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina. “It is also a step forward in the creation of the Latin American Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA), a campaign that the WFM has supported for years.”*

With regard to protecting the rights and wellbeing of future generations, Congress adopted policy supporting the [Maastricht Principles for Human Rights of Future Generations](#), the Declaration on Future Generations adopted at the [UN Summit of the Future](#), and the [UN Special Envoy for Future Generations](#).

*“Through our MEGA program, WFM has promoted the establishment not only of the UN Special Envoy for Future Generations, but also representatives of future generations at all levels of governance,” reports **Alyn Ware**. “These positions not only provide protection for future generations; they also enact the federalist principle of subsidiarity – the appropriate connection and cooperation between governance mechanisms at local, national, regional, and global levels.”*

The development of Artificial Intelligence provides immense opportunities in almost all aspects of life and economy. At the same time, it poses significant risks to the rights and freedoms of individuals and groups as well as existential threats to humanity.

Congress adopted policy to work with governments and other stakeholders, primarily through the new [Global AI Governance Alliance](#) (GAIGANow) co-founded by WFM, to realize the goal of global

trustworthy governance of AI in accordance with principles of ethics, equity and safety. This includes support for a multilateral inclusive process for a global legally binding convention, in conjunction with adoption and implementation of incremental, bilateral, and regional mechanisms, including the [Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence](#) and a possible agreement between China and the United States.

*“Artificial Intelligence is already having a major impact around the world, both positive and negative. But it remains remarkably uncontrolled”, says **Robert Whitfield**, Chair of WFM’s [Transnational Working Group on AI and other Disruptive Technologies](#) and Convenor of GAIGANow. “AI Governance is needed at the global level as a matter of urgency. Hence the addition of **Now to GAIGA** – to address the immediate risks posed by AI, and those just over the horizon - particularly the risks of advanced AI.”*

Transnational corporations and the world’s richest people (3000 billionaires) continue amassing wealth while the UN struggles to survive, and nearly half of the world’s population live in poverty (with over 700 million in extreme poverty). Congressional delegates also addressed funding for the UN and more equitable global incomes (to eliminate poverty), adopting a policy to establish a global taxation system that is democratic and equitable and would replace the current system of voluntary national contributions to the UN.

Congress also considered the interaction between global governance and regional governance, with a focus on the European Union as a particularly strong regional body. In this context, Congress supported the establishment of a common EU seat on the Security Council, and an extension of the principle of regional seats on the UN as other regions build similarly strong regional governance bodies.

Additionally, Congress adopted its Strategic Plan for the next four years and elected the organization’s officials, including the Co-Presidents and members of the Board and key committees.

WFM is pleased to announce that **Tadashi Inuzuka**, Executive Director of the [3+3 Coalition for a North-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone](#) and former Senator from Nagasaki was re-elected as one of the Co-Presidents, and that **Kehkashan Basu**, Founder-President of the [Green Hope Foundation](#), UN Human Rights Champion and member of the [Forbes 30 Under 30 list](#), was elected as an incoming Co-President.

*“Atomic bombs killed 70,000 civilians in Nagasaki 80 years ago, and the same number have now been killed in Gaza —both acts are what international law condemns as “genocide.”, says **Mr Inuzuka**. “One occurred 80 years ago, and its memories are fading; the other is unfolding before our eyes today. The common course of these genocides is the use of—or the threat of use of—nuclear weapons, which we must condemn in the strongest possible terms. This turbulent moment demands—and enables—the WFM to pivot from advocacy to architecture, forging a federated world where security is collective, not zero-sum. As crises intensify, the movement’s bet on shared sovereignty grows ever more prescient.”*

*“The world does not belong to any one nation, but to all of humanity,” says **Ms Basu**. “Our future lies in unity, cooperation, and shared responsibility. WFM has long been at the forefront of this vision, working tirelessly to ensure that global governance serves all people, not just the powerful few. A just and peaceful world can only be built through our collective efforts, and together, we can make that future a reality.”*

*“On the 23rd of August in the year of 1947, WFM held its first conference in Switzerland and here we are celebrating the conclusion of the 30th Congress, 78 years later, continuing our collective and important work,” reported **Dr. Dorothea Christiana**, Congress Chair WFM.*

*“Over the last 2 Congresses, we have had 18 new organizations join WFM. This year, due to an increase in people wanting to get involved with WFM, we are introducing a new method for individuals to contribute to our collective work. We are celebrating the World Federalist Movement growing, and are delighted and honored to be doing so with ever greater diversity,” concluded **Dr Christiana**.*

ENDS



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