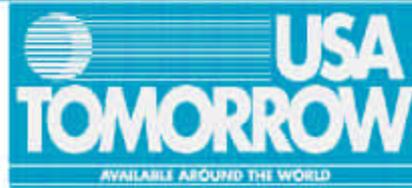


Saturday, 12 July, 2008



Opening session of an innovative World Parliament

Representatives from regional communities and social and professional groups from all over the world become spokespeople for a new style of governance, one more suited to meeting the challenges of the 21st century.

By Harry Point
USATOMORROW

The way in which the crisis sparked off by the events of 11 September 2001 was managed showed the weakness of a model of world governance incapable of controlling terrorism and which bowed to the power of one single country, allowing it to take justice into its own hands. The majority began to feel that international order was neither legitimate nor adapted to managing growing relations between different communities and between humanity and the environment. A new architecture was needed, one based on a different vision of the world and the way it should be governed, and which could not be limited to relations between sovereign States: what was required was the establishment of a world government democratically elected by universal suffrage.

Over a seven-year period, the ethical and constitutional bases for legitimate governance were gradually established: a truly international community was formed; the common bases were agreed for managing different types of resources; rules were drawn up to govern exchanges and development; relations between levels of governance were fixed; and a review of systems for debate, decision-taking, control and

management was carried out.

All communities need founding acts. Yesterday, World Population Day, the World Parliament was formally constituted in a solemn act attended by representatives from all regional communities and social and professional groups, establishing a new form of governance according to the principle of active subsidiarity. The new model affects all levels: capacity to adopt systems of representation, rules and regulations, procedures, and social bodies to regulate the new Parliament and ensure peaceful management of its independent branches.

One of the first initiatives of the new Parliament will be to separate “power of proposal”, the prerogative of the UN Secretary General, according to the European Commission model, from “decision-making power”, which will be placed in the hands of an assembly of world regions in which each regional community —reflecting the organisation of the European Union— will be fairly represented. A further initiative is that of helping to organise the world public arena and promoting civic debate through democratic use of Internet.

Organised civil society, then, takes up its place as the necessary counterbalance to control governments and act as a permanent watchdog on multilateral institutions.

News item 23 inspired by the Proposals Booklet: ***Re-modelling global governance to meet the challenges of the 21st century***, coordinated by Pierre Calame

Collection of Desirable News (1) inspired by 25 Proposals Booklets of the Alliance for a Responsible, Plural and United World, www.alliance21.org