



The art of progress is to preserve order amid change and to preserve change amid order.

Alfred North Whitehead

Mission

Realizing that one of the central challenges of the 21st century is to form a more sustainable world, the Global Contract Foundation was established in January 2002 in Hamburg, Germany. Its 22 founding members are dedicated to strengthening the idea of economical, ecological, social and cultural sustainability in all its necessary dimensions.

The mission of the Global Contract Foundation is to support the scientific analysis and establishment of sustainable global contracts. They should be concluded between relevant political, economical and social actors, thus paving the way towards a Global Governance System.

Strategies

To serve its vision and goal the Global Contract Foundation follows two strategies: It unfolds activities in the scientific area as well as in concrete project work.

The scientific work mainly deals with possible contents of global contract solutions (policy), processes for their attainment (politics) and institutional structures for their implementation (polity). The Global Contract Foundation sees itself not only as a critical observer but also as a supplier of solution-orientated and realizable strategies.

Background

In a globalized world of growing interdependencies the pressure to cope with global challenges has increased enormously. However, using the existing frameworks of mainly national character, real future-orientated solutions are still at a distance. After the Rio Summit in 1992, sustainability was officially proclaimed as a major political goal on the international agenda, but increasingly we are witnessing a mismatch between that goal and reality. Commitment alone is not sufficient. Instead, it is necessary to slowly establish a coherent world-wide system, which guarantees the implementation of sustainable political goals. Within this system, it is necessary to agree on certain economical, ecological and social standards. These standards can be assured through global co-financing mechanisms in favour of the developing world.

The project work serves two goals:

It raises awareness for the necessity of global contracts in global affairs and shows concrete ways for their possible arrangement. It encourages and enables people 'on the ground' to actively work together towards these goals.

Finally, the foundation is establishing a data-base consisting of successful approaches for global contract solutions which will help to make the knowledge of globalization, global governance and sustainable development available.

Vision

The Global Contract Foundation wants to raise awareness for both local and global action to serve these stated needs. This means that the Foundation is interested in finding and working out concrete ways for the development of a contractually based global system. The Foundation wants to identify global, contractual, sustainable solutions and directs its special attention to their economical, ecological, social and cultural aspects. In the long run, the Foundation believes in creating a win-win situation. While establishing such global contracts comparative advantages and disadvantages can be identified and made use of in a beneficial way for all main actors involved.

Proday – A successful example of our project work

The Global Contract Foundation started its project work with Proday (www.proday.org), a global youth network, connecting a few thousand schools on a world-wide scale. Young people were encouraged to take part in discussions and concrete action, shaping their future by learning about globalization, sustainable development and Agenda 21.

During the fourth world-wide project day of solidarity, which followed the topic 'Rio+10 Johannesburg – Young People Are Interfering' ideas and requests from over 50 countries were included. The results were translated into 25 languages and sent to both the heads of government and thousands of delegates actively participating in the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.

The fifth world-wide project day in 2003, 'Young People Bridge the Digital Gap', will focus on the World Summit on the Information Society in December 2003 in Geneva. Young people from the developed world will facilitate internet accesses for their counterparts in developing countries. Schools from the 'Third world' are to commit to the mutual process by launching local ecologically orientated projects. Proday is carried out together with the youth organization YOIS (Youth for Intergenerational Justice and Sustainability e.V.).

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