



OUR VISION: We envision a future in which countries work together to abolish war, protect universal human rights and freedoms, and solve related problems facing humanity that no country can solve alone. This vision requires the involvement of informed world citizens to create and maintain effective democratic global institutions that will supplant the law of force with the rule of law while respecting the diversity and autonomy of national and local communities.

OUR MISSION: We are a membership organization working to build political will and devise initiatives to promote our vision. We do this by organizing educational events, by communicating global concerns to public officials, by disseminating proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations and other international institutions and to create new agencies when necessary, and by collaborating with other globally engaged organizations.

OUR INTERACTIVE, TOP-DOWN / BOTTOM-UP, “FEELING-OUR-WAY” EXPERIMENT

Gail Hughes, Chapter President

While many other state Chapters of Global Solutions have been declining in membership and in activities, our Minnesota Chapter has seen an increase in active participation. Indeed, there has been an upsurge of energy, involvement, and enthusiasm, especially among Board members. For that reason, I was invited to speak at the June 2014 Global Solutions national conference about the strategic planning process we used last year, since that was a factor in our success. The conference was attended by representatives of state and local chapters around the country. A short summary follows:

Our planning exercise stemmed from an ‘identity crisis’ regarding the extent to which we want to maintain the focus of our founding organization, the World Federalists, versus following our national organization’s recent shift to a focus on general global problems and issues. A preliminary step was to review what we had done in recent years. Topics of our Third Thursday Forums and other events clearly showed that we had given substantial attention to both global governance *and* global problems.

The study did not eliminate our feeling of ambiguity, however. Our future direction remained unclear. Our discomfort led to three phases of organizational reflection and planning.

Phase I: “Identity Crisis” Discussions (The Need for Strategic Planning)

At the first two Board meetings during the fall of 2013, we informally discussed what we saw as an ‘identity crisis’ in the national organization that carried over to our own chapter. We realized that resolving this dilemma would require greater in-depth discussion than Board

meeting times would permit and decided upon a formal strategic planning process and a six-member Strategic Planning Committee.

Phase II: Formal Strategic Planning Committee Meetings (Drafted a Broad Strategic Plan comprised of Chapter Name, Vision, Mission, and Goal Priorities)

The Strategic Planning Committee held two three-hour meetings. Wide-ranging ideas at its first meeting led to a rough draft plan. At its second meeting, the Committee prepared a broad Strategic Plan Proposal for Board approval. We then reviewed and revised our Vision Statement and Mission Statement and identified a set of priority goals. Our organization’s name was reviewed to ensure that it clearly reflects our mission. We made sure that these components were clearly inter-related, since they must work together for organizational effectiveness. Further, the Committee brainstormed examples of objectives and activities related to the four goals. But it left these to be finalized by goal-related subcommittees in the next planning phase.

Phase III: Subcommittee Meetings: Organizational Stability, Global Governance, Youth Initiative, and Educational Events & Participatory Projects

After the Strategic Planning Committee identified two organizational and two programmatic priority goals, as identified above, subcommittees were formed to promote their attainment. Board members serve as subcommittee Chairs. Each Chair organizes his / her own committee meetings, and brings reports and proposals to the full Board. The first task for each subcommittee was to identify key *objectives* to be met to enable our Chapter to achieve its assigned goals. A second round of meetings generated ideas for *activities* addressing those objectives. With the completion of the Strategic Plan, the Strategic Planning Committee became superfluous. It will shortly be replaced by a Progress Assessment Committee. In the meantime, the goal-related subcommittees have become on-going bodies.

Resolution of Identity Crisis

Two of the goals generated through the strategic planning process pertain to organizational development: to achieve organizational stability and to strengthen the youth component of the organization. Of the two programmatic goals, one is World Federalist-oriented, namely “to promote democratic global governance.” The other, “to foster a sense of world citizenship,” points to educational events and participatory projects involving

global problems and issues. Thus, our chapter will continue to address both competing components of our identity, while striving to clarify connections between them.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan

This year will begin a two-year implementation phase during which activities identified in our now-complete strategic plan will be organized and carried out. Each goal-related committee will continue to meet, this time to organize activities designed to achieve its designated goal. The Board will coordinate committee work and assess progress in achieving our Chapter’s goal priorities.

You Are Invited!

Committee membership is not confined to Board members. Please contact me for more information if you are willing to serve on one of our committees:
a) Organizational Stability, b) Global Governance, c) Youth Initiative, and d) Educational Events & Participatory Projects.

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NEWS ABOUT TRANSFORMING THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

Joe Schwartzberg’s book, *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World*, has now been distributed to all 193 UN missions: one, two or three copies per mission, depending on the importance of the mission, and letters of thanks are being regularly received, thus far from countries as large as Indonesia, as prominent as the United Kingdom and as small as Jamaica. Copies have also gone to the US State Department (no reply as yet) and to the UN Secretariat and one has reached UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. I quote here several passages from a two-page letter from Under Secretary-General Vijay Nambiar:

The Secretary-General has received your book with pleasure and has asked me to thank you for your very gracious gesture. He will try to get through as much of it as he is able to but has asked me to write to thank you for your strong commitment to the work the UN is doing and to the meticulous and detailed way in which you have applied yourself to analysing the many areas of its possible reform. Your perspective is so totally different and despite its rigour and effort to remain scrupulously objective will be a huge challenge to sell to the member states... Your arguments both for the restructuring of the Security Council and for reconsideration of the veto are forceful but may yet fail to remove the scepticism among the more jaded observers of the system Indeed even the proposal for a standing voluntary peacekeeping and peacebuilding force which has strong support from professionals for many-years now, is still to find acceptance within the system . . .

That said, the fact that you have gone far beyond merely striving for better representation of states but also looked at the important role being played by civil society in the world body has also impressed the Secretary-General deeply. This is a subject that he has always been acutely sensitive to. He was specially intrigued by your complex diagram describing the formal and informal lines of communication and contact between the ad-hoc and more formal NGO bodies and civil society organizations. . . and their linkages through the HRC [Human Rights Council] to other organs of the UN.

Apart from distribution within the UN system, Joe’s book has also been sent to the US State Department, many members of both Houses of Congress, leading media personalities and selected think tanks and NGOs. Negotiations with the Brookings Institution for an e-edition and for a Spanish translation are underway.

In recent months Joe has been in high demand as a speaker on transforming the UN and was also interviewed for a half-hour on KFAI on August 21. He is confident that many of his proposals —as they become better known – will generate serious momentum for change. Here are three ways that you can become better informed:

a) Buy the book. You can get it via the Amazon or Barnes and Noble websites or get an inscribed copy from Joe himself (and at a 25% discount) at one of our Third Thursday Global Issues Forums (see below).

b) Join our chapter's free book club discussions from 7 to 9 PM on the last Monday of September, October and November at the Minneapolis home of Board member Maryam Yusufzai, 4817 Fremont Ave. S., Minneapolis. For further information, call Maryam at 612-916-8989.

c) Enroll in the University of Minnesota's College of Continuing Education Learning Life seminar, CS 0113, "Transforming the United Nations," from 9 to 11 AM, Saturday, October 25 on the St. Paul campus. For details, e-mail cceinfo@umn.edu or call 612-624-4000.

THIRD THURSDAY GLOBAL ISSUES FORUM

Free and open to the public.

Plymouth Congregational Church (Jackman Room, lower level), 1900 Nicollet Avenue S., Minneapolis
Abundant free parking in lot on Franklin Ave. adjacent to church; enter building from lot on La Salle Ave. side.

Thursday, Sept. 18, 7:00-9:00 p.m. AMERICA'S CONFUSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The United States has been having a difficult time arriving at an effective Middle East policy. Support for one group often alienates others. A prime example has been U.S. support of opposition forces to Syrian President Assad. These forces then morphed into the extremist ISIS/ISIL movement, now calling itself the "Islamic State," which threatens the stability of Iraq. Containment of this movement requires reversing course--attacking the people it supported in Syria and possibly making common cause with Iran--long seen as an American enemy. The conflict between Israel and Hamas presents another dilemma, pitting humanitarian concern against traditional U.S. support of Israel. This talk will explore these and other confusing situations in the Middle East and possibly suggest some solutions for the future.

Speaker: William O. Beeman. Chair of the Anthropology Department at the University of Minnesota, Professor Beeman is President of the Middle East Section of the American Anthropological Association and Former Director of Middle East Studies at Brown University. He has authored more than 100 scholarly articles and 600 opinion pieces; served as a consultant to the U.S. State Department, the Department of Defense, the United Nations and the European Union, and testified before the U.S. Congress. His books include, *Language, Status and Power in Iran*, and *The "Great Satan" vs. the "Mad Mullahs": How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other* (University of Chicago Press, 2008). His latest book is *Iranian Performance Traditions*.

Thursday, October 16, 7:00-9:00 p.m. HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Trafficking in humans has existed as long as there have been boundaries between peoples and nations. Porous borders, the Internet and other aspects of globalization, however, have greatly facilitated the practice. But effective anti-trafficking technology and national policies have also evolved, largely in conformity with international anti-trafficking obligations; and economic empowerment of local populations has also curtailed irregular migration and cut down on human trafficking in some countries. But, overall, the practice is increasing, mainly targeting vulnerable groups such as immigrants, LGBTs, teenagers and children. The presentations will examine trafficking from both a global and local perspective.

Speakers: Vanessa Fusco Nogueira Simoes and Shiran Gooneratne. Both speakers are Humphrey Human Rights and Law Fellows at the University of Minnesota. Ms. **Simoes** is a prosecutor in the Attorney General's office in the Brazilian state of Minas Gerais, with a particular interest in cyber crime trafficking in humans, with a focus on child sex trafficking. She earned her doctorate in law from the Universidad de Barcelona, Spain and has represented Brazil at many international conferences on human trafficking. Mr. **Gooneratne** is a judge in the High Court of Colombo, Sri Lanka and is dedicated to creating a court system focused on the well-being and protection of victims, especially of trafficking offences in line with international and local standards. He has master's degrees in law from the University of London and in international relations from the University of Colombo

Join CITIZENS FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, MINNESOTA

If you believe in our goals (see statement below masthead) please consider becoming a member by making an annual donation. This is your opportunity to invest in strengthening a Minnesota organization that is truly international in impact, bringing effective solutions to problems that affect every one of us. **Suggested donations:** \$10 for students, \$30 for individuals, \$40 for couples. But contributions in any amount will be welcome: more if you can, less if you are short of funds.

Name _____ Donation enclosed (\$10, \$30, \$40, or other): _____

Address _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

YES! I am interested in serving on one of the Committees – please contact me with further information (circle):

Organizational Stability Global Governance Youth Initiative Educational Events/Participatory Projects

*Please make checks payable to “Citizens for Global Solutions” and mail to
Dennis Dillon, 210 W. Grant St., #414, Minneapolis, MN 55403*

Citizens for Global Solutions, Minnesota

(formerly the World Federalist Association)

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One's destination is never a place, but a new way of looking at things. Henry Miller