

Reflections on how Christians might contribute to advancing Global Governance.

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*“You see only what you hope.
You see in the measure of your hope.”*

Christian Bobin

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What contribution can the Catholics offer for a New Global Governance?
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Foreword

I will present to you today a few points of reflection which came from personal experience of 28 years of life on the side of the poor of this world.

They are victims of ineffective global governance which is not focused of fundamental human needs.

My analysis is not the one of an expert, a professor or a politician. It is just the analysis of a person who has the experience to listen to those who normally are never listened to.

A globalised world needs global governance.

Globalisation is the new name of the social question.

Global public goods are now a true responsibility of the whole human race.

These realities should not be a surprise.

Already in 1972 Aurelio Peccei¹ and his group of scholars at the Club of Rome had sound the alarm, warning that development and human rights without common rules on the use of the resources of the Planet were not possible.

Today I will present to you ten points of reflection.

1. GLOBAL ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE and its collateral damage
2. VALUES OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
3. CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE
4. POSSIBLE CONCRETE STEPS
5. ESSENTIAL HUMAN (CHRISTIAN) TOOLS
6. URGENT PARADIGM SHIFTS
7. INSPIRATIONS TOWARDS PERSONAL COMMITMENT
8. MAKE HOPE NOT A DESTINATION: IT IS A JOURNEY
9. VIRTUES AND VICIES OF GLOBAL GOVERNANCE
10. SOME PRINCIPLES OF ETHICS IN GOVERNANCE

¹ Aurelio Peccei, 1972 The Limits to Growth

What is Global Governance?

As a result of huge scientific and technological advances, distances have disappeared and they no longer represent a barrier for the exchange of capitals, goods and information.

The free circulation of these three fundamental resources has increased enormously, along with the expectations and demands for greater free movement of what can not circulate freely: people and illicit goods in particular.

“There is an urgent need of a public authority with universal competence”

Pope John XXIII, 1963

1. Global Economic Interdependence

- Foreign direct investments are close to 1000 billion.
 - It creates opportunities but also enormous risks
 - Small screw in Thailand
 - Corn in Mexico or Colombia.
- One fifth of the human race lives below 1 US\$.
- Growth vs equality.
- 20 richest countries are 40 times richer than the poorest 20.
- Lack of access —————> Lack of freedom
- Access to market.
- ODA in decline
- Africa receives 1.2% of global financial flows.

2. What are the values of Global Governance?²

- Respect of human dignity
- Responsibility

² According to a report of the European Bishop Conference September 2001.

- Solidarity
 - Subsidiarity
 - Coherence
 - Transparency
 - Accountability
- } Credibility

Core Values of Global Governance

1) Human dignity

Human rights

Equality

2) Responsibility_ for the Global Common Good

3) Solidarity is not only generosity. Justice is participation.

4)Subsidiarity between institutions, public authorities, civil society, single citizen.

5) Coherence

Global rules should not contradict each other

6) Transparency

Global citizenship needs to know and to understand the rules to preserve global public goods.

7) Accountability

National and international authorities, private sector and civil society should report their successes and failures in achieving agreed goals.

8) Credibility of leaderships at all levels should be enhanced.

3.Challenges, opportunities: Risks and Threats

1. Radicalism of being or radicalism of living?
2. Super power of money
3. Super power of media
4. New UN System
- 5.New Trade System
6. New Labour System

4. Concrete steps towards better Global Governance

- Better networks of civil societies and NGO's also through modern Information Technology.
- Global Compact for private sector:

Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

- Regional governance and priority settings by Regional organisations to become champions of local reforms and of efforts towards peace.

5. Essential tools towards Global Governance

Justice

As Augustine once said, a State which is not governed according to justice would be just a bunch of thieves: “Remota itaque iustitia quid sunt regna nisi magna latrocinia?”

Integrity

Whenever men or women heed the call of truth, their conscience then guides their actions reliably towards good. Precisely because of the witness which he bore, even at the price of his life, to the primacy of truth over power. Saint Thomas More is venerated as an imperishable example of moral integrity. And even outside the Church, particularly among those with responsibility for the destinies of peoples, he is acknowledged as a source of inspiration for a political system which has as its supreme goal the service of the human person.

Hope

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin S.J.

6. Urgent Paradigm Shift

1) Equality

-Do we believe in it?

-Do we feel it?

-Do we experience it?

2) Responsibility to protect

3) Politic must be of all

4) Governance of migrations

5) Governance of energy and water issues

7. Inspirations for personal reflections towards commitment on change managements

1) Change happens

Do not act as Lot's wife.

2) Change is faster than you

Do not procrastinate.

3) Distance has disappeared

Globalisation has killed distance.

4) Change should be about better results, better quality of life.

Christian integrity and ethics should not change

5) Christian people should...

Apply Christian virtues and fight vices in every day life and policymaking.

8. How to be a witness of hope in the challenges of Global Governance

1) Be/become well prepared to face conflicts of cultures.

2) Avoid limiting Christian life in the domain of social services.

3) Do not use politic to protect the Church instead of protecting the people.

4) See, understand, be fully immersed in your local without losing vision of its global character.

5) Keep in mind the seven fundamental errors of social action according to Mahatma Gandhi:

Wealth without Work

Pleasure without Conscience

Science without Humanity

Knowledge without Character

Politics without Principles

Commerce without Morality

Worship without Sacrifice.

And use them to monitor the quality of your own performance.

9. Virtues and vices are in built in human threats and opportunities

Virtues	Meaning	Vices	Meaning
Prudence	Proper judgment of reasons for action with regard to appropriateness in a context (cardinal)	Pride or vanity	An excessive love of the self (holding the self outside of its proper position regarding God or fellows).
Justice	Proper judgment regarding individual human interests, rights and deserts (cardinal)	Avarice	A desire to possess more than one has need or use for.
Restraint or Temperance	Practicing self-control, abstention and moderation (cardinal)	Lust	Excessive sexual desire.
Courage or Fortitude	Forbearance, endurance and ability to confront fear and uncertainty or intimidation (cardinal)	Wrath or Anger	Feelings of hatred, revenge or denial, as well as punitive desires outside of justice.
		Gluttony	Overindulgence in food, drink or intoxicants, or misplaced desire of food as a pleasure for its sensuality
Faith	Steadfastness in belief (theological)	Envy or jealousy	Resentment of others for their possessions.
Hope	Expectation of good (theological)		
Love or Charity	Selfless, unconditional and voluntary loving-kindness (theological)	Sloth	Idleness and wastefulness of time

10. Principles of Ethics³

Principles of Personal Ethics

Personal ethics might also be called morality, since it reflects general expectations of any person in any society, acting in any capacity. These are the principles we try to instil in our children, and expect of one another without needing to articulate the expectation or formalize it in any way.

Principles of Personal Ethics include:

- Concern for the well-being of others
- Respect for the autonomy of others
- Trustworthiness and honesty

³ Larry Colero, A Framework For Universal Principles of Ethics
<http://www.ethics.ubc.ca/papers/invited/colero.html>

- Willing compliance with the law (with the exception of civil disobedience)
- Basic justice; being fair
- Refusing to take unfair advantage
- Benevolence: doing good
- Preventing harm

Principles of Professional Ethics

Individuals acting in a professional capacity take on an additional burden of ethical responsibility. For example, professional associations have codes of ethics that prescribe required behaviour within the context of a professional practice such as medicine, law, accounting or engineering. These written codes provide rules of conduct and standards of behaviour based on the principles of Professional Ethics, which include:

- Impartiality; objectivity
- Openness; full disclosure
- Confidentiality
- Due diligence/duty of care
- Fidelity to professional responsibilities
- Avoiding potential or apparent conflict of interest

Even when not written into a code, principles of professional ethics are usually expected of people in business, employees, volunteers, elected representatives and so on.

Principles of Global Ethics

Global ethics are the most controversial of three categories, and the least understood. Open to wide interpretation as how or whether they should be applied, these principles can sometimes generate emotional response and heated debate.

Principles of Global Ethics include:

- Global justice (as reflected in international laws)
- Society before self/social responsibility
- Environmental stewardship
- Interdependence and responsibility for the “whole”
- Reverence for place