

NOTE

World Government Needed Bharat Dogra writes :

It is becoming increasingly clear that the present-day world is very different from all previous history in a very critical context - life on earth is now threatened by factors that did not exist earlier. The most obvious threats are WMDs and climate change. These issues are extremely urgent and solutions that work and are based on justice have to be found as fast as possible.

But the entire experience of recent years has been that neither the dominating countries on their own nor the United Nations system have been able to come anywhere near finding just, adequate and workable solutions. In some contexts these life-threatening problems are actually worsening.

Given the present complex context the idea of a world government becomes extremely relevant. The most important function of such a government will be to quickly find justice based on adequate solutions for the most critical, life threatening problems of WMDs and climate change. However once such a government comes into existence, it can also be gradually given some other functions of critical importance - currency and trade reform, restoring the health of oceans, peacekeeping operations in the most troubled areas etc. However these should not distract from the critical issues of WMDs and climate change.

Since the solution to these problems cannot be delayed for too long - in fact it is already too late - it has become extremely important to create a new international system with adequate authority to deal (initially) exclusively with these survival issues. This can take the form of an elected world government (each adult person in the world contributing one vote) which will be truly representative of world people and hence can acquire (certainly) the moral and (possibly) the effective authority to enact and implement world level laws on at least two or three of the most important survival issues to start with.

Electoral constituencies can be carved out for electing world parliament, ignoring national boundaries, roughly on the basis of one constituency for 20 million people. In this way about 320 persons will be elected to world parliament. They can incorporate about 25 to 50 additional members on the basis of their special understanding of these survival issues. In addition, of course, they can engage the world's most knowledgeable persons on these issues as advisers to the world government.

The election campaign will of course be limited to those survival issues which fall in the domain of the world government. This will provide a good opportunity to take these issues to ordinary people all over the world.

The world parliament will elect ministers for each of the survival issues and sub-issues. In addition it'll also elect a world prime minister. This world parliament will enact laws on these issues which will be binding on all nations.

All nation states except perhaps the poorest ones will contribute a fixed percentage of their GNP for the creation and functioning of the world government. This will be the initial arrangement and later the world government can raise resources in other ways.

If the world government achieves good breakthroughs in solving the most important survival issues gradually other important issues affecting the present and future welfare of humankind as well as other forms of life on earth can also be handed to the world government. □□□