

Paper for the International Conference
Ethical Framework for a Sustainable World Earth Charter + 10
Ahmedabad, November 2010
Workshop “Global Challenges and Global Governance”

Miroslav Polzer

International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges IAAI
Centre for Social Innovation Vienna - Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana
www.glocha.info/iaai & www.aso.zsi.at, polzer@zsi.at, Dunajska 104, SI-1000 Ljubljana/Slovenia

Global Citizenship Ethics for Effective Global Governance – From Ideas to Action



1 Objectives of the paper

In line with the workshop outline (http://www.earthcharterplus10.org/workshopthemes_Global_Challenges.html)

“One of the main goals of the Earth Charter Initiative is to achieve recognition of the Earth Charter by the United Nations General Assembly and to demonstrate the relevance of the Earth Charter’s values and principles to global governance. The next best opportunity to achieve this recognition appears to be during RIO+20, which will occur in 2012. “

the paper aims to provide the Earth Charter initiative with some very concrete suggestions and pathways towards integration of Earth Charter ethical principles in global governance with a focus on United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio 2012 – as milestone event.

2 Background of the author

Miroslav Polzer is head of **Austrian Science and Research Liaison office (ASO) Ljubljana** www.aso.zsi.at which is a department of **Centre for Social Innovation in Vienna** www.zsi.at and works on behalf of Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research in the field of promotion of **international scientific cooperation** with Southeast European non-EU member countries (so called “Western Balkan countries”); for an overview of **activities of ASO Ljubljana related to the United Nations system and Climate Change** see <http://www.aso.zsi.at/aktuelles/3542.html>.

In addition to this main job Miroslav Polzer is on a honorary basis **secretary general of “International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges (IAAI)”** www.glocha.info/iaai a not-for-profit association of scientists, policy makers, future studies experts and educational experts who aim at developing innovative approaches (“**Global Challenges World Cup**”) to mobilize in an unprecedented dimension **resources (both intellectual as well as financial) of global civil society towards support of effective global governance** and effective climate change mitigation and adaptation and in support of the work and goals of United Nations system. You can find a video of Mr. Polzer introducing himself and his ideas on **YouTube** at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vau_k2RryQE.

In the framework of above mentioned two institutions there have been organized several scientific events (like e.g. the international conference “**Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge based Response to Climate Change**” Portorož/Slovenia June 1-3 2008 <http://www.glocha.info/conferenceindex.html>) and developed very concrete **concepts for possible global actions with high social/societal innovation potential** (like e.g. a “350 Climate Protection Song World Cup” <http://www.glocha.info/glocha350/>) that have been i.a. communicated to “UN Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF)” through the Governmental Office for Climate Change of the Republic of Slovenia.

The most important background of this paper in terms of a rationale for participation of Mr. Polzer at Earth Charter + 10 conference in Ahmedabad is, that Austrian Science and Research Liaison Office (ASO) Ljubljana – Centre for Social Innovation Vienna www.zsi.at in cooperation with Slovenian Association, Croatian Association and European Support Centre of the Club of Rome www.clubofrome.at/ and UNESCO Ethics in Science and Technology division <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/ethics-of-science-and-technology/science-and-technology/climate-change/> is planning an **international workshop on “Worst case Climate Change Scenarios and their Ethical Implications” in March 2011 in Ljubljana/Slovenia.**¹ By participating in the Earth Charter conference 2010 in Ahmedabad **mutually beneficial links shall be established between both events.**

In addition to this the author of the present paper has established **very good cooperation with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations** www.unaoc.org by e.g. facilitating a workshop on “**Climate Change, Global Citizenship Ethics and the Role of Intercultural Dialogue**” at 1st UN AoC Summer School in Aveiro/Portugal in August 2010 (see <http://www.glocha.info/iaai/index.php/component/content/article/71-unaocsummerschool> for details) and by contributing with the project “**GloBalkCan Youth Global Challenges Song World Cup**” (i.e. a “Global Challenges Song World Cup” in Education for Sustainable Development in UNESCO schools in Southeast Europe which shall promote Global Citizenship and Global Social Responsibility among youth in SEE and harness their creative potentials for the good of global community) **UN Alliance of Civilizations SEE Regional Action Plan.** This is being stated here as additional background information as appears to the author of the present paper that a strong link of Earth Charter and UN AoC would be very instrumental for both organizations to achieve their objectives.

3 Ethics for a sustainable world as our common interest
Some key questions we would like to address in our Ljubljana workshop

- **Systems approach:** Ethics as a key element of the failure of the global socio-economic system(s) with regard to Climate Change?
- critical reflection of the role of ethics or religions (social teaching, moral values, etc.) respectively as some kind of „operating system“ of global society/societies (in analogy to operating systems (i.e. system software) of computers) and the **need for an update of the ethics operating system of global society in light of climate change**
- what is the **role of ethics/religion in climate change mitigation and adaptation of each individual “global citizen”** (e.g. promotion of “low carbon life styles”) and as guidance for the behaviour of negotiators of the global climate change framework of action in United Nations fora like e.g. UNFCCC (e.g. the “**climate justice**” and “**global citizenship ethics**” approach as articulated by Earth Charter)?
- What kind of **new dimensions of societal responsibility in term of uncertainty emerge from worst case climate change deliberations?**
- can there be **developed in an innovative, consensual and negotiation based way a global common ethical basis** for coherent and effective global climate change action **based on scientific findings** regarding socio-ecological necessities which would be **compatible with various mainstream religious values and norms?**
- What role for **civil society, religious communities, business sector?** How can they participate in a coordinated and coherent way in global climate change action (e.g. in campaigning for “climate justice” or for standard setting on “human duties in the context of global challenges”)?
- Has **Article 29, paragraph 1 of Universal Declaration on Human Rights “Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.”** the potential to serve as a consensual point of departure and orientation for innovative approaches of global community to building the ethical basis of global climate change action?
- What is the role of **intercultural dialogue** (e.g. UN Alliance of Civilizations)?
- **What role can science play** in building the ethical basis for global climate change action? How do science and religion interact on these issues? What is the state of the art in (comparative) sociological studies and humanities with regard to ethics/religion and climate change? How can be developed scientific capacities in this field (e.g. in South East Europe, European Union etc.)?

¹ A preparatory meeting has been held September 7th in Olomouc/Czech Republic as side event to the international conference of Club of Rome “Learning from the Futures” <http://www.clubofrome.at/2010/futures/programme.html>

- What are the items of a (potential) **global research agenda on this issue**? Who is funding research in this area and who could get involved in future studies in this area with a global outreach? How can research in this area be coordinated globally?

Above listed questions shed light into my background and my specific professional interest in the Ahmedabad conference but in the chapters below and with my interventions at the workshop I would like to focus on concrete suggestions and pathways towards integration of Earth Charter ethical principles in global governance as many of the above mentioned initiatives and questions have as an implicit goal international and intergenerational justice, solidarity, global social responsibility and governance of socio-economic systems in a way that safeguards the common good as enshrined in Earth Charter.

4 Suggestions for actions towards integration of Earth Charter ethical principles in global governance


Following the structure of the chapter “**Promoting Innovative Responses to Global Challenges – from Ideas to Action**”² of Final document of above mentioned conference “**Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change**” <http://www.glocha.info/Final%20Document%20-%20Portoroz%20Conference.pdf> the steps from ideas to action are grouped/conceptualised in following types of activity:


- I. CMP - **Challenge the Mainstream Perception** of a given situation
- II. INT - **Inspire New Thinking**
- III. IAS - **Influence Agenda Setting**
- IV. MC - **Mobilise Coalitions**
- V. IEI - **Ideas Embedded in Institutions**
- VI. NLAP - **New Lines of Action/Programmes**

The **matrix** below shows horizontal lines with some **global governance stakeholders** the author of the present paper regards as crucial for the integration of Earth Charter ethical principles in global governance. To some of them Mr. Polzer has developed cooperation links already via IAAI or/and ASO Ljubljana and in some cases to a certain extent a shared understanding of the conceptual framework for cooperation exists. The columns show different **global governance functions** which are on the one hand important in terms of “momentum for change” for stronger anchoring of Earth Charter principles in global governance and which are on the other hand receiving momentum from Earth Charter initiatives.

First rough **Assessment of potentials** with regard to the process of **integration of Earth Charter principles in global governance** (with a baseline scenario and a worst case scenario (ecological disasters and collapse of existing socio-economic systems) is indicated by colours of the fields of the matrix.

² inspired by the “**United Nations Intellectual History**” project www.unhistory.org of the Academic Council on the United Nations System www.acuns.org

 generally high relevance

 High in worst case scenario

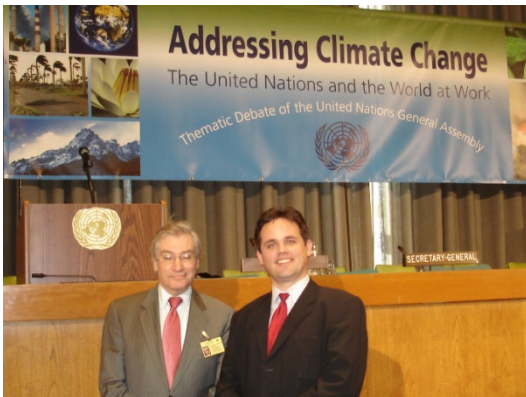
	Global Citizenship Ethics & Trust & intercultural dialogue	Institutional adaptation to a changing world / Momentum for change	Fund raising for global governance	Education for sustainable development and global citizenship	Collaborative Knowledge management and open innovation & civic participation in global governance
Earth Charter	CMP, INT, IAS (Rio 2012), MC Potentially MC	IAS, MC, IEI ?	?	CMP, INT, IAS (Rio 2012), MC, IEI, NLAP (Ahmedabad outcomes?)	?
UNESCO	CMP, INT, IAS, MC, potential IEI (Article 29 UDHR in terms of "human duties in the context of global challenges")				
UN Secretariat/ UNCSD preparatory Bureau	IEI, NLAP	Strong			
UN General Assembly	IAS, IEI, NLAP				i.e. Laying the ground for a UN Parliamentary Assembly
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA		Strong	Humanitarian aid		
Philanthropists/ foundations	CMP, INT, IAS, MC, IEI, NLAP (see final document of Portorož conference) Potentially: social innovation focus	Strong (funding of philanthropy sector as some kind of "social venture capital")			
Alliance of Civilizations					
Civil Society Organisations	Potentials of CSOs in WC scenario are great	Potentially high	Potentially high	Potentially high	Potentially high

As regards **UN General Assembly** the "Ideas embedded in Institutions" seems to be of greatest importance for EC. In this respect the fact that the present president Joseph Deiss <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/> comes from Switzerland may be a very positive coincidence as Switzerland is aware of the importance of this issue e.g. also due to the work of Swiss-German theologian Hans Küng, President of the Global Ethic Foundation who has presented a "New Global Economic Ethic Manifesto" titled "[Global Economic Ethic – Consequences for Global Businesses](#)" at a business ethics symposium at UN Headquarters in November 2009. The symposium has been hosted by the UN Global Compact, the Swiss Mission to the United Nations, the Global Ethic Foundation, and the Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development.

Suggestion 1: joint **event** with 65th president of the **UN General Assembly** – Mr. Joseph Deiss from Switzerland

Earth Charter Initiative could approach UNGA president Mr. Deiss proposing a joint initiative – e.g. a "**UN GA Thematic Debate on Ethics in Global Governance**".

Below you can find a photo from a UN GA Thematic debate on Climate Change of February 2008 <http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/ThematicDebates/themclimatechange.shtml> which Mr. Polzer attended (on the photo with Mr. Jerome C. Glenn, director Millennium Project and president of IAAI (left side of the photo)).



Suggestion 2: Linking EC with UN normative framework via standard setting work related to **Article 29 of Universal Declaration on Human Rights** (towards Global Citizenship Ethics and “Human duties in the context of global challenges”)

In terms of “Ideas embedded in (legal) institutions” aspect of the way from ideas to action EC could partner with **UNESCO MOST (Management of Social Transformation)** <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/social-transformations/most-programme/about-most/> programme and the **Social Forum on Human Rights of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/poverty/sforum.htm> regarding **Standard setting** related to **Article 29, paragraph 1 of Universal Declaration on Human Rights** “*Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.*”

A **global civil society shared vision building process** should lead to a consensus that everyone has – as Global citizen – duties towards global community. Earth Charter ethical principles could serve as a central guidance in this endeavour.

This activity would have also implication for the aspect of **financial contribution of global civil society** to effective global governance: If the global citizen has sufficient financial resources, **philanthropic giving for global action addressing effectively such issues** should be regarded and promoted (also by religious communities and entertainment industry) as a moral obligation, or **duty towards global community** respectively. (see “Suggestion 4 – Global Philanthropy Initiative” below for more details).

Suggestion 3: “Global Civil Society Compact” event at Rio +20 conference

(in analogy to UN Global Compact for the business sector)

Possible content: self regulation and verifiability based quality standards of civil society organizations regarding financial transparency; modest, merit based remuneration; operationalisation of ethical principles of global civil society activism – establishing **civil society activism quality labels**

A key challenge in organizing a system aiming at global civil society reform is the question of “**coherence**” (the term “coherence” means “logical and orderly and consistent relation of parts”). How can we make sure – with a minimum of administration - that individual elements of a complex global system of stakeholders will contribute with their actions to the common objectives in an orderly and consistent relation as it is needed to achieve the desired effect of collaborative action. How to provide them with the knowledge that might be necessary and how to intervene in case an element of the system does not follow the agreed path?

Source: Miroslav Polzer, **Blueprint for a Knowledge and Philanthropy Driven Global Civil Society reform**, World Civic Forum 2009, Seoul, page 8, http://www.wcf2009.org/program/down/029_S2-105-2_Miroslav_F_Polzer.pdf

Suggestion 4: “Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative” with Indian billionaires as first phase promoters

Global civil society has enormous financial and intellectual resources which could be harnessed to address the global climate change challenge effectively. In order to have financial and intellectual resources available in a dimension that meets the scope of the challenges, **UN system should promote and guide a “Knowledge and Philanthropy/Ethics driven Global Civil Society Reform”** which includes support of **entertainment industries, religious communities** and other civil society stakeholders for global challenges oriented global action and which is **anchored** strategically in **education for sustainable development** (like e.g. the UNESCO Associated Schools Project network).

As regards **philanthropic giving by individual global citizens** the suggestions presented here are based on the IAAI presumption that it would be possible to raise in a well functioning, global ethics mainstreaming based, financially transparent global challenges related fund raising system that would be run in cooperation with UN system (like e.g. the GloCha system as drafted in the paper “Blueprint for a Knowledge and Philanthropy Driven Global Civil Society reform” presented at World Civic Forum 2009 in Seoul http://www.wcf2009.org/program/down/029_S2-105-2_Miroslav_F_Polzer.pdf) a **continuous stream of 10-100 Million US\$ per year for capacity building** (like e.g. programs for formal and informal Education for Sustainable Development and for global challenges related international research cooperation) and a fund raising potential of **1 Billion US\$ in case of severe humanitarian crisis**

There are many **global governance innovations** related to mobilization of global civil society in support of global governance but their development **would need seed funding from civil society /philanthropic sources** with the prospect that these activities would lead to financial institutional changes (innovations (e.g. global tax system) which would be a sustainable financial foundation for these activities in the long run. Such initiatives would be e.g.:

- Setting up a “**Global Forum on Philanthropy and Research and Education Funding**”
- Implementing the idea of a **UN commission on Climate Change and Philanthropy** (a proposal for such an commission has been elaborated based on the conference “Global Philanthropists: Partners for a Knowledge Based Response to Climate Change” in Portorož/Slovenia in June 2008 <http://www.glocha.info/conferenceindex.html> which would complement the work of the »**UN Secretary General’s Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing**« <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/climatechange/pages/financeadvisorygroup> by looking specifically into the mobilization of financial and intellectual resources of global civil society with regard to climate change adaptation, capacity building and humanitarian aid
- **UN summit on Philanthropy and Climate Change**
- Establishing a “**Global Challenges Knowledge center**” in Ljubljana/Slovenia (with another headquarter at **TERI** in New Delhi if Mr. Pachauri would be interested to partner with our initiative)
- Supporting **Standard setting Activities** (mainly workshops, conferences and consultation meetings) in cooperation with UNESCO in order to promote a culture of philanthropic giving towards global causes based on **Article 29 of Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says “Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.”**
- Organizing a major event in the context of **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio 2012** <http://www.uncsd2012.org/> for the promotion of some kind of “**Global Civil Society Compact**” for the development of a global culture of philanthropic engagement related to global challenges like e.g. climate change that would set accountability standards and standards for (financial) transparency etc. for NGOs and promote some kind of Global Citizenship ethics which again would **promote a paradigm shift towards a strong global culture of philanthropic giving**
- Support for the “**Global Challenges Song World Cup**” initiative for the **promotion of “Global Citizenship and future orientation”** in the context of “**Education for Sustainable Development**” in cooperation with **UNESCO Associated Schools project network** (see a description of the pilot case for Southeast Europe which has recently been accepted to be part of SEE regional Action Plan of **UN Alliance of Civilizations**)

- Using **music as a means for global community building and global empathy/solidarity generation in the context of Education for Sustainable Development**³
- Supporting **youth activism** in support of global citizenship promotion (see e.g. the outline of a Pakistan Flood Aid Youth World Cup concept which has been developed by Mr. Polzer as a potential UN AoC Summer School follow-up)
- Support to the establishment of a **United Nations Parliamentary Assembly** <http://en.unpacampaign.org/index.php> as a global governance innovation
- Several Earth Charter initiatives

To launch these initiatives – to lay the foundation for a cultural shift based on Earth Charter ethical principles – a bold financial investment of civil society/philanthropy sector – there is a need for a **Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative!**

As there goes the saying that it is sometimes easier to raise a huge amount of money than a small one. Therefore the fund raising target for such **Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative is 100 Mio €**

As there are – according to Forbes - **6 Indians** http://www.forbes.com/lists/2010/10/billionaires-2010_The-Worlds-Billionaires_Rank.html among the **50 wealthiest people on earth**, it is herewith proposed to **approach Indian billionaires** with the idea to launch an “**Indian Global Philanthropy Initiative**” for the Promotion of a “**Global Giving Pledge**” which would go beyond the recent US focused “**Giving pledge**” of **US billionaires** lead by Bill Gates and Warren Buffet (putting the search string ‘ “global knowledge” site: <http://givingpledge.org/>’ in Google there were no matches, the search term “global” appears only 13 times on the homepage).

India could substantially strengthen its role as global player by means of such a “Global Philanthropy initiative”. E.g. **US State department** has a **global partnerships initiative** that goes in a related direction <http://www.state.gov/s/partnerships/index.htm> and of course US billionaires’ initiative “The Giving Pledge” <http://givingpledge.org/> is something **India could take on a national challenge** which the Global Citizenship Philanthropy Initiative could help to surpass.

³ IAAI has developed a project initiative called “**GloBalkCan Youth Global Challenges Song World Cup** “ (i.e. a “Global Challenges Song World Cup” in Education for Sustainable Development in UNESCO schools in Southeast Europe which shall promote Global Citizenship and Global Social Responsibility among youth in SEE and harness their creative potentials for the good fo global community. The project has been accepted by SEE countries to be part of **UN Alliance of Civilizations SEE Regional Action Plan** on Intercultural Dialogue and Understanding. Efforts are under way to integrate “Global Challenges Song World Cup” in the **Workplan for the UNECE Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Strategy Phase III**.

Annex 1 Outline of a "Pakistan Aid Youth World Cup"

As can be seen in the above presented matrix, a **worst case scenario** (ecological disasters and collapse of existing socio-economic systems) can be regarded as having **strong momentum for change**. The extreme weather events in Pakistan, Russia, Niger et al in summer 2010 are an indicator that worst case climate change scenarios could become reality quite soon. **Earth Charter should therefore have prepared also an Action Plan for worst case scenarios!!**

Below can be found some ideas which Mr. Polzer has developed for the **Youth programme of Alliance of Civilizations** in the context of UN AoC Summer School 2010 related to **Youth mobilisation** related to global Pakistan Flood relief efforts.

De: Miroslav Polzer [<mailto:polzer@zsi.at>]

Enviada: segunda-feira, 23 de Agosto de 2010 15:13

Para: 'Helena Barroco'

Cc: isabelle@unops.org; kkasim@mcit.gov.eg; juliecauliergrice@hotmail.com; 'Gorazd Weiss, ASO Ljubljana'

Assunto: AW: FW: Eticket_Miroslav Polzer & suggestion for follow-up to 1st AoC summer school : "Pakistan Aid Youth World Cup"

Dear Helena,

thank you for your kind email. Yes, I had a pleasant flight back home and everything is fine on my end. Thank you very much for your tremendous effort in organizing the AoC summer school; it was a great success and AoC's work is of really global relevance. In my view this is the emergence of something new that has the potential to become something really big. I am very happy that I have had the opportunity to be part of this joint endeavour. Thank you for this.

As requested by you I have thought about what kind of **follow-up activities** could keep the momentum going from AoC summer school and I came to set of possible activities which I can explain in more details in a later email if you would be interested:

- **"Pakistan Aid Youth Song World Cup"** (similar to the "350 Climate Protection Song World Cup" that we (IAAI) have organized last year in cooperation with global climate protection campaign 350.org; see <http://www.glocha.info/glocha350/> for details), (music as a means of intercultural dialogue, informal learning channel and instrument in support of Youth social activism, see also my attached AoC Summer school presentation WS1 August 16th)
- **"Pakistan Aid Youth Fund Raising World Cup"**: Youth organizations around the world **competing in who can raise more funds for Pakistan** flood disaster relief efforts; raised funds to be **channeled to UN AoC Youth Solidarity Fund** (in cooperation with Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), contact: Hansjoerg Strohmeyer, Chief of the Policy Development and Studies Branch, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs); I have quite good contacts to several **foundations worldwide** (based on the conference **"Global Philanthropists: Partners for Knowledge based Response to Climate Change"** <http://www.glocha.info/conferenceindex.html> which we have organized in June 2008 in Slovenia; they could help us with initial funding of the initiative if needed; fundraising could also be linked with **"The Giving Pledge"** initiative of **US billionaires** (lead by Warren Buffet and Bill Gates) who pledged to give away half of their wealth to the common good during their lifetime <http://givingpledge.org/>
- **"Pakistan Aid Social Innovation World Cup"** in cooperation with **Social Innovation Exchange & Dialogue Cafes** (collecting ideas on how to engage with relief efforts and on how to entering in a dialogue with communities from Pakistan living abroad to understand the situation in Pakistan better and to find appropriate avenues for engagement of global civil society on local, regional, national and international level, idea: identifying the best ideas/social innovations, evaluating them and putting them together into some kind of "Actionpedia", see e.g. my paper "Blueprint for a Knowledge and Philanthropy driven global civil society reform" http://www.wcf2009.org/program/down/029_S2-105-2_Miroslav_F_Polzer.pdf), format: facebook-groups, etc.

Basic rationale:

- Pakistan floods are the **biggest and most acute humanitarian challenge the world is facing these days** (and thus the biggest challenge in the time of "International Year of Youth"!)
- The floods in Pakistan and the **slow starting of humanitarian aid are a humanitarian tragedy** and a **great challenge for intercultural dialogue** and for **UN Alliance of Civilizations**
- **Youth** (and especially AoC youth with the momentum generated in Aveiro) can demonstrate that it can play a **positive and world changing role** -> combining "hope" with "action"!!!
- **Youth advancing objectives of AoC**

Additional arguments in terms of "**Global citizenship ethics**" etc. can be found in my attached ppt-presentation of the workshop "Climate Change, Global Citizenship ethics and the role of intercultural dialogue" of AoC summer school Workshop 4 on Thursday August 19th 2010 and in my paper.

The prayer read at the Aveiro special moment by the girl from Pakistan and the video of the summer school participants singing "One love" could be well integrated into such a potential campaign. (fyi: I have given the two video tapes with the videos of the special moment and the meeting with president Sampaio to Isabelle).

So in case you would like the suggestions presented above, I would be delighted to stay in contact to discuss next steps for further development and potential implementation of the initiatives with AoC.

I wish you all the best

Cordially

miro