



# Global Assembly

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

05 October 2021

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## **LAUNCH OF FIRST GLOBAL CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOR COP26**

### **NEW OPERATING SYSTEM FOR GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

**You are invited to the launch of the world's first global citizens' assembly.**

On the 5th October, a new operating system for global governance will be launched: the Global Assembly. Broadcasting at 0800 UTC and 1600 UTC, the event will feature speakers from the Global Assembly delivery team, together with President of COP 26, Alok Sharma, former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Bob Watson and Scotland's cabinet secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Michael Matheson. Register for the event at [https://bit.ly/global\\_assembly\\_launch](https://bit.ly/global_assembly_launch).

*"Last month, I launched Our Common Agenda, a roadmap to begin rebuilding our world and mending trust. The Global Citizens' Assembly for COP26 is a practical way of showing how we can accelerate action through solidarity and people power. You are helping to send the message loud and clear: people everywhere want bold, ambitious climate action, and now is the moment for national leaders to stand and deliver."*

**António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations**

A citizens' assembly is a demographically representative group of people from different walks of life, selected by lottery, who come together to learn about a certain topic, to discuss possible action and make recommendations to governments and leaders.

The 2021 Global Assembly is a global citizens' assembly on the climate & ecological crisis, consisting of a 100-person Core Assembly (chosen by lottery and representing a snapshot of the population of the planet) and Community Assemblies that anyone can run anywhere using the Global Assembly's step-by-step toolkit.

Around the time of the UN Climate Conference COP26, which will take place in Glasgow (UK) in November 2021, the Core and Community Assemblies will learn about and discuss the climate and ecological crisis. The Core Assembly will present their key messages at COP26, and the feedback from

both Core and Community Assemblies will form a report that will be delivered to world leaders in March 2022.

Launching on 5th of October, the Global Assembly aims to provide a practical way for everyone on the planet to participate in global governance.

The Global Assembly is a bottom-up initiative driven by more than 100 organisations from around the world.

The Global Assembly is supported by the UNFCCC, UK Government COP26 hosts, as well as many other institutions and governments.

Global Assembly members will present to policy makers at the COP26 Climate Conference, taking place in Glasgow in November.

For the first time, citizens have a seat at the global governance table, marking a significant development in the way the world makes decisions.

Informed by several successful national citizens' assemblies, such as those in France and the UK, the Global Assembly has developed the most rigorous global sortition process ever achieved. It is also the first time that everyday citizens, anywhere in the world can participate through Community Assemblies.

*“The Global Assembly is a fantastic initiative and was selected for representation in the green zone [COP26 presentation hall] because we recognise just how important its work is and also because we are committed to bringing the voice of global citizens into the heart of COP26... It creates that vital link between local conversation and a global conference.”*

**Alok Sharma, President of COP 26**

*“Funding is being made available to support the Global Climate Assembly, an initiative which will bring together 100 participants from the global north and south to learn from each other, and to make recommendations which will feed into COP26 discussions.”*

**Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister of Scotland and Leader of the Scottish National Party**

*“The Global Citizens’ Assembly for COP26 will be the biggest ever process of its kind — building new relationships between people across the world, but also between citizens and leaders.”*

**Nigel Topping, UN High Level Climate Action Champion for COP26**

*“The Global Assembly is important because it has inclusion and human values-based deliberation at its core.”*

**Sanskriti Manon, India, Global Assembly Community Coordinator**

*“The world faces global challenges today which aren’t limited to a particular group, race or class of people. The Global Assembly gives us an opportunity to, despite our personal bias and differences, empathically work together to find solutions that serve the greater good. And for me, this is magic.”*

## ***Grace Oluchi, Nigeria, Global Assembly Community Organiser***

### **A new operating system for global governance**

The Global Assembly consists of digital infrastructure to both ensure that it is an accurate reflection of the demographic profile of the global population and allows anyone, anywhere to participate. It does this in two key ways:

#### **1. Global lottery for the selection of Core Assembly members:**

Members of the Global Assembly are being chosen by a multi-phased lottery process. Location points have been selected by an algorithm based on population density and geographical distribution. In these locations, pools of potential participants have been recruited, from which, through sortition, the Core Assembly member is selected.

This selection process ensures that the Core Assembly reflects the demographic profile of the global population as closely as possible: 60% of participants will come from Asia and 17% from Africa; half will be women and 70% will earn \$10 a day or less.

Members of the Core Assembly are being supported by an international team of leading scientists and indigenous wisdom keepers to understand the issue in question. Community support organizations will provide full translation and technical support, and each participant will receive a stipend to ensure that everyone can take part.

#### **2. Anyone Can Participate Through Community Assemblies:**

Anyone, anywhere, can run their own Community Assembly, which means that thousands of citizens across the world can go through the same learning journey as the Core Assembly members and have their voice heard by world leaders.

### **Everyday citizens have a seat at the global governance table**

The Core Assembly will deliberate on the question: “How can humanity address the climate and ecological crisis in a fair and effective way?”

To guide world leaders, Core Assembly members will present key messages to policy makers at COP26, and outcomes from the Core and Community Assemblies will form a final report in March 2022.

Global Assembly co-organiser Claire Mellier said “Our existing governance system was built for an earlier age and doesn’t have the capacity to deal with the climate and ecological crisis that the world is facing”.

“The global citizens’ assembly is not a campaign or NGO, it's a new operating system for global governance,” she said.

Please join us for an online launch at the times outlined below on the 5th of October, 2021 to watch a live presentation and then take part in a live question and answer session with a panel of Global Assembly organizers and facilitators.

Notes to Editors:

#### Media Launch Details

1. Event times: 0800 UTC and 1600 UTC
2. There will be a media Q&A during both events
3. Pre-event registration: [https://bit.ly/global\\_assembly\\_launch](https://bit.ly/global_assembly_launch)
4. Event URL: <https://www.everywhereplus.com/globalassembly/> (URL live on 05 October 2021)
5. Global Assembly website: <https://globalassembly.org>
6. Community Assembly toolkit and learning resources (available from 05 October)  
[globalassembly.org/resources](https://globalassembly.org/resources)
7. Media contact: Jeff Waters, [media@globalassembly.org](mailto:media@globalassembly.org) / +61 498 111 261 (or Jamie on +44 7949 429468)
8. [Global Assembly logos](#)

Speakers include:

Alok Sharma, President for COP26 and Minister of State at the Cabinet Office (recorded message)

Global Assembly core delivery team:

Susan Nakyung Lee

Sanskriti Menon

Richard Wilson

Eva Sow Ebion

Claire Mellier

### **Further Information on Global Assembly**

#### **A. The Global Assembly is governed by two committees:**

##### A.1. Knowledge and Wisdom Committee

Chair: Professor Bob Watson, is the former chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and former Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Dr Nafeez Ahmed, System Shift Lab, UK

Dr Stuart Capstick, Centre for Climate Change and Social Transformation, Cardiff University, Wales

Professor Purnamita Dasgupta, Institute of Economic Growth, Delhi

Professor Saleemul Huq, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Bangladesh

Professor Michael N. Oti, Petroleum Geology, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Jyoti Ma (USA) & Mindahi Bastida Munoz (Mexico), The Fountain, Sacred Economics, Indigenous Wisdom Keepers

Professor Julia Steinberger, Ecological Economics, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

## A.2. Global Governance and Participation Committee

Chair: Nicole Curato is a Professor at the Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance at the University of Canberra.

Professor Bonny Ibhawoh, Human Rights History and African History McMaster University, Canada

Poonam Joshi, Director, Funders Initiative for Civil Society, UK

Professor Helene Landemore, Yale University, USA

Dr Tiago Peixoto, Senior Public Sector Specialist, World Bank

Vijayendra (Biju) Rao, Lead Economist in the Development Research Group, World Bank

Natalie Samarasinghe, United Nations Association

## B. A Truly Global Team

B.1. The Global Assembly team is made up of 100+ organisations from around the world including:

Innovation for Policy Foundation (pan-African)

Deliberativa (Spain)

OSCA (UK)

Sortition Foundation (European)

Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance, University of Canberra (Australia)

Centre for Environment Education (India)

China Biodiversity, Conservation and Green Development Foundation (China)

Community Organisers (UK)

Danish Board of Technology (Denmark)

Delibera (Brazil)

G1000 (Netherlands)

iDeemos (Colombia)

MSU-Iligan Institute of Technology (Philippines)

School of Collective Intelligence (Morocco)

Shimmer SDG Hub (China)

UDaan (Pakistan)

B.2. The Global Assembly has a team of spokespeople, each chosen according to the news platform, audience, country and language, including:

Susan Nakyung Lee, South Korea (English and Korean)

Fatima Zamba, Morocco (English and Arabic)

Sanskriti Menon, India (English and Hindi)

Takunda Chingonzo, Zimbabwe (English and Shona and Ndebele)

Flynn Devine, England (English)

Richard Wilson, England (English)

Eva Sowebion, Senegal (English, French, Wolof)

Grace Oluchi, Nigeria (English, French and West African Pidgin)

Please contact Jeff Waters, [media@globalassembly.org](mailto:media@globalassembly.org)

**C. Community Assembly Toolkit**

A guide for groups wanting to contribute to the process through Community Assemblies is available in our Community Assembly Toolkit, which you can find here: <https://globalassembly.org>  
<https://globalassembly.org/resources>

**D. Global Assembly Funders**

Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG)

One Project

Scottish Government

European Climate Foundation (ECF)

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch

**E. 2021 a Year of Prototyping**

This is the first time many of these methodologies have been used, especially at a global scale, therefore 2021 is a year of testing and prototyping. The goal is to use 2021 to provide proof of concept, with clear deliverables, allowing us to use this year's learnings to scale up in the future to a bigger and better Global Assembly.