

Geographical and Socioprofessional Distribution Sought for World Citizens' Assembly Participants

The identification and choice of the participants is a collective process, with a twofold requirement. The first is the need to achieve a real balance among regions of the world, socioprofessional contexts, topics, genders, and ages, all of which should include messengers from the Local Groups, Societies, and Topical Workshops. The second is the need to identify the participants as early as possible so as to begin preliminary work with them as well as giving appropriate importance to the position of the messengers for Alliance initiatives that are taking place in the first three quarters of 2001. The selection criteria for participants are set out in the scenario for the Lille Assembly. The table and commentary attached to the scenario offer an overall view of the geographical and professional distribution of participants.

1. Number of participants per region of the world

The Lille World Assembly must reflect the threefold diversity of today's world: geocultural diversity, social and professional diversity, and the diversity of the challenges. How can geocultural diversity be expressed? This is a difficult question. In the present world regulations such as those of the UN General Assembly, the rule for representation is "one state, one voice." This gives such a poor reflection of the demographic and economic reality of the world that the General Assembly is virtually void of meaning; other working forms are used while the General Assembly is reduced to acting as a registration chamber or a tribune.

There is great variety in the mechanisms that have actually been set up. First, there are those that take their inspiration from company management. Each voice weighs proportionally to the share of capital owned. This is the case for the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Then there are those that feature representation of the most powerful along with representation of all the rest. This is the case for the Security Council. There are increasingly more organizations that include only the most powerful, such as the OECD and even more so, the G-8. There are informal groups for negotiation among the most influential players, whether economic or political. This is typically the case for the Davos forum. Still yet, there are attempts at forms of democracy through the constitution of regional entities and the organization of dialogue among them. An example of this is the European Union countries' effort to speak as a single voice in international negotiations.

If there were a world parliamentary democracy, representation would be of a very different nature and, ideally, proportional to the population regardless of per capita income. In such a system, which is a long shot away, India and China together would, alone, hold nearly 40% of the voices.

How could we design for the Lille World Assembly a form of distribution that would not go that far but would nevertheless reflect the respective demographic importance of the different regions of the world? We proceeded in two stages: by forming groups of countries to constitute **twenty world regions each having more than 100 million inhabitants**, then by

assigning to each of these regions a number of representatives for the Lille Assembly, **proportional not to the population of the region but to the square root of the population.** This amounts to pondering the number of participants according to the population, but not in a way that is strictly direct proportional representation.

This procedure introduces two arbitrary, inter-related elements: a very empirical partition into world regions and a form of calculation privileging sparsely populated regions of the world. Despite this arbitrary factor, this form of calculation helps us realize **the huge challenges of a true representation of the societies of the world.** It serves as a basis for the invitation of participants to the Lille Assembly, even though we shall not achieve this balance precisely.

2. Number of participants per Society (socioprofessional group)

The objective aimed at here is not to achieve a statistical representation where each Society would be represented according to its numerical importance in the world, but to make sure that there is meaningful representation of every Society so that the Lille Assembly is a true opportunity for dialogue among them. The challenge here is considerable because society is increasingly partitioned. It has become easier to maintain dialogue among persons of the same socioprofessional group who are thousands of miles away from each other, than among persons of different socioprofessional groups within the same district.

Many Alliance Societies were set up to reflect this diversity. Although they have developed to variable degrees, they serve as a basis to express this diversity. The identification of social and professional groups actually covers several types of criteria: age criteria (Society of Young People, or Youth Workshop), gender criteria (Society of Women), criteria of social standing (persons in precarious situations, inhabitants of urban working class districts), professional criteria (business leaders, scientists), institutional criteria (international NGOs, unions, etc.). It is therefore not easy to propose an incontestable typology. We therefore preferred to start out from the four main Workgroups (1. Representations; 2. Economy and Society; 3. Governance; 4. Humankind and Biosphere). Of course, the Humankind and Biosphere Workgroup does not have a corresponding socioprofessional group: it involves every socioprofessional group. We therefore distributed the different Societies into three big regional Workgroups and searched empirically for a balance of representation among these different socioprofessional groups, with the following results.

List of the Regional Subsets and Countries

Africa - Middle East

Western Africa:

Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.

African Horn:

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan.

Eastern Africa:

Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania.

Central Africa:

Angola, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Chad.

Southern Africa:

South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland

Maghreb and Middle East:

Maghreb (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia), Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Irak; Israel, Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Oman, Syria, Yemen, Bahrain, Qatar.

Americas:

Northern America:

USA, Canada.

Central America

Belize, Caribbean, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Salvador, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Panama

Andean America

Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru

Region of the Plata

Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Asia - Oceania:

Afghanistan, Central Asia (Turkmenistan, Ouzbekistan, Kirghizistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan), Azerbaijan, Iran, Turkey.

Indian subcontinent

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka.

Southeast Asia

Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam.

Japan, North Korea, South Korea.

China, Mongolie, Hong Kong, Taiwan.

Pacific region

Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific

Europe - Russia:

Latin Europe:

France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Switzerland

Northern Europe:

Great-Britain, Germany, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, Baltic States, , Luxemburg, Belgium

Central and Eastern Europe:

Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Macedonia, Poland, Republic, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Slavoquia

New Independent States: Armenia, Russia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldavia, Ukraine.

WORLD CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY – LILLE – DECEMBER 2001
PROPOSITION OF DISTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPANTS

	Western Africa	CoAfrican Horn	Eastern Africa	Central Africa	Southern Africa	Northern Africa/middle East	Northern America	Central America	Andean America	Region of the Plata	Turkey - Central Asia	Indian Subcontinent	Japon - Corees	China-Taiwan - Hong-Kong	Southeast Asia	Pacific region	Latin Europe	Northern Europe	Central and Eastern Europe	New Independent States	Number achieved	Expected number		
1	Artists																						20	
	Publishers																							5
	Teachers and Academics																							25
	Inter-religious																							20
	Journalists																							20
	Philosophers																							5
	Scientists																							35
2	Stakeholders																							5
	International Associations and NGOs																							20
	Business leaders and Executive Women																							18
	Financers																							22
	Engineers																							10
	Youth																							10
	Inhabitants Organisations																							20
	Workers/ Unions																							25
	Farmers																							20
	Fishworkers																							20
	Health and social workers																							10
																								5
	3	Local authorities																						
Civil servants																								15
Public international institutions																								15
Legal Counselor																								10
Military																								10
Political leaders																								15
Achieved Number																								
Expected Number	19	13	14	12	14	20	21	18	13	19	17	46	18	46	22	20	17	18	14	19		400		

1. Representations Workgroup- 2. Economy and societies Workgroup – 3. Governance Workgroup