

**Model Global Parliament  
Convened in the Legislative Assembly  
in the Parliament of NSW, Sydney, Australia  
Monday 12 September 2016**



*Members of the Model Global Parliament on the steps of Parliament House*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Model Global Parliament in Sydney took place in the Legislative Assembly chamber of the New South Wales Parliament. Proceedings began with a short talk by Daryl Le Cornu, President of the World Citizens Association, who welcomed participants to the Parliament, gave a little background as to why we need a global parliament, and mentioned some current projects such as the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

He was followed by Pera Wells, the founder and director of the Model Global Parliament program, who pointed out that people are increasingly identifying themselves as global citizens. We are living through an unprecedented period of human history, sometimes described as the Anthropocene Era, because human actions have been making profound changes to the environment of the planet. She mentioned that the first Global Parliament of Mayors had been convened in The Hague from 9 – 11 September and looked forward to learning of the outcomes.

She was followed by Talia Hagerty, a Research Associate at the Institute of Peace, who told the Parliament about the Global Peace Index. This Australian invention by Steve Killelea, is a way of measuring the level of peace in countries all over the world. The 2016 Global Peace Index shows that the world became less peaceful in the last year, reinforcing the underlying trend of declining peace over the last decade. Results also show a growing global inequality in peace, with the most peaceful countries continuing to improve while the least peaceful are falling into greater violence and conflict. See [www.visionofhumanity.org](http://www.visionofhumanity.org)

A group photo was taken on the steps of Parliament House.

Steven Freeland, Professor of International Law at Western Sydney University, gave a talk about the need for stronger international law to preserve the environment during war. The International Criminal Court was a great step forward in prosecuting crimes against humanity and genocide during war. Now we need to be able to prosecute crimes against the environment during war, such as a wholesale 'scorched earth' catastrophe that took place in Norway during World War II, or the use of weapons of mass destruction that could make large areas of earth uninhabitable for centuries.



*A vote takes place in the Legislative Assembly chamber*

After morning tea, the Parliament got down to business, debating the motions before the House. The very first motion to be presented and debated was on the right to universal education.....

Here is the text that was adopted after a debate and presentation of various amendments.

*The Model Global Parliament*

*Recognizing* the significant role education plays in societal development;

Calls for the implementation of compulsory education for all individuals worldwide, regardless of sex, gender, race, religious beliefs, or levels of income and political status including citizenship or states of persecution, up to the age of 18

*Recommends* the implementation of a standardized international curriculum focusing on the UN's nine core international human rights treaties, multiculturalism, technological innovations and business development in the early stages of learning, with a commitment by developed nations to contribute funds and resources towards non-governmental organisations to achieve this goal.

Twelve motions were presented and debated on a variety of issues, including universal education, human trafficking, reform of the UN Security Council, the global refugee crisis, threat of nuclear weapons, anthropogenic climate change and deforestation, and the potential of solar energy to replace fossil fuels.

The Madam Speaker, Kelly Wu, said that "I believe it has been a fantastic way for people who think of themselves as global citizens to engage each other in debates on issues that matter to them. The student participants, from many countries around the world, enjoyed giving voice to their values while learning how to perform as parliamentarians".

John Hegarty, representing senior citizens, said "This global parliament has been an unique opportunity to sow ideas in an historic place that can have enormous possibilities toward world cooperation, based on democratic global governance and binding international law".

Chris Hamer led the concluding session of the Model Global Parliament, beginning with a note of thanks to all, the presentation of certificates of participation, followed by everyone standing to affirm their commitment to the ideals of world citizenship and a global community in the following words:

*"I recognize the humanity I share with all people, and I declare myself to be a citizen of the world.*

*I will uphold the universal rights of others, regardless of nationality, race, religion, age or gender, and*

*I will endeavour to work with my fellow citizens to create a better world."*

The Model Global Parliament concluded with the decision of participants to support the Fourth Global Week of Action for a World Parliament, 20-30 October 2016.

See <http://worldparliamentnow.org>

**Let the people decide. We need democracy without borders. We need to build global democracy. We need a world parliament!**

Two students offered these reflections after the event.

'It was a real extensive insight into the procedures and possibility of a World Parliament, in which global representation and interdependence is of top priority.'

Serwan Roman

'Today was one of the best days of my life. The experience which I gained from today's model parliament is incomparable. It made me realise how interconnected our world is. Perhaps there are differences due to race, colour, religion and ethnicity however the global issues outweigh those differences and bring us humans much more closer into solving them and making this world a better and peaceful place . Truly we are one.'

Akshay Kumar.

For information on the motions adopted at the Model Global Parliament please see the website for World Citizens Association – [www.worldcitizens.org.au](http://www.worldcitizens.org.au)