

A Universal Ethical Global Governance:

Reimagining a UN Fit for the 21st Century – Volume 1 Report

Executive Summary-London & Southeastern Region (LaSER) UNA Working Group, August 2026

Motivation

Eighty years after its founding, the United Nations still operates on a 1945 blueprint, inspired by the League of Nations covenant of 1919 and built for a world of a few dominant powers. Today's UN spans 193 member states amid a genuinely multipolar order, yet a handful of veto-wielding permanent Security Council members can still block collective action. Recent paralysis over Gaza, Ukraine, Venezuela and Iran, alongside historical failures in Rwanda and Srebrenica, illustrate a recurring pattern: moral emergencies reduced to procedural deadlock. Compounding this, the UN faces a deepening funding and legitimacy crisis — the UN80 reform programme's deep budget and staff cuts, and the United States' 2026 withdrawal from dozens of UN bodies, signal eroding confidence even among founding members. The Working Group's motivation was simple: incremental patches have not solved this in eighty years, so the problem needs to be reimagined by global citizens from first principles.

Purpose

The Working Group set out to explore, on a blank-page basis, what an agile, inclusive, representative, transparent, accountable, and fair global governance system could look like if designed today — grounded in shared universal ethics rather than political horse-trading. Deliberately, the group did not begin from the existing UN Charter, so as to avoid anchoring fresh thinking to eight decades of institutional compromise, power dynamics and self-interest.

Process

Over ten fortnightly sessions, the group applied the Weighted Factors Analysis (WeFA) creative research methodology — a structured, expert-led technique for eliciting and organising tacit knowledge on complex, high-level problems through polar-opposite "driver" and "inhibitor" influences (goals). This produced a calibrated schema of eleven Driver Goals (e.g., agreeing universal ethical principles, learning from successful governance models, building checks and balances, enabling dynamic global referenda, and establishing an independent ethical enforcement authority, ...) and nine Inhibitor Goals (e.g., the unprecedented pace of change, governance historically serving the few, divergent ethical traditions, the erosion of international law, and the growing power of AI and corporations, ...). Each identified Goal was weighted by expert consensus and linked to accountable duty-holders — from the individual Global Citizen through Local and Regional Representatives to a proposed Collective Authority. The report further grounds this schema in a dual-rooted legal architecture, synthesising Western positive international law (the UN Charter, Vienna Convention, ICC, ICJ) with classical Indian statecraft and ethical traditions (the Arthashastra, dharma-based enforcement, Ashokan edicts), arguing these are complementary rather than competing foundations.

Outcomes

The result is a detailed framework, translating each Driver and Inhibitor into concrete Foundational Requirements, classified as Normative (essential) or Instructive (recommended), assigned to specific duty-holders, and paired with required evidence for verification, accountability, and eventual certification. Together these outline a possible future architecture featuring: direct citizen participation through secure global referenda; an independent, ethically-trained enforcement authority; binding standards curbing corporate and AI concentration of power; safeguards against elite capture; and multi-tiered subsidiarity linking local communities to global decision-making. This is presented as an interim, evolving outcome of

this exploratory effort— an invitation to debate rather than a finished blueprint — with a fuller Issue 1 update expected by Q4 2026.

A Message of Hope

The UN's founders once transformed the ashes of global war into an unprecedented experiment in shared governance. That same spirit of collective imagination is needed again — not to discard what has been built, but to renew and harness it for a more crowded, more connected, and more consequential century. This report is offered in that spirit: as evidence that ordinary citizens, working together in good faith across traditions and borders, can still picture — and begin to build — a fairer, more ethical way for humanity to govern itself.

Access to Volume 1 Report

Copies of this Volume 1 Report can be downloaded from the following Open Access online sources:

<https://vegaglobalsystems.com/resource/6547>

and

[Research Gate](#)

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