

# Converting the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development Into a Global Wealth Redistribution Fund

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## *A fishing rod instead of a bucket of fish*

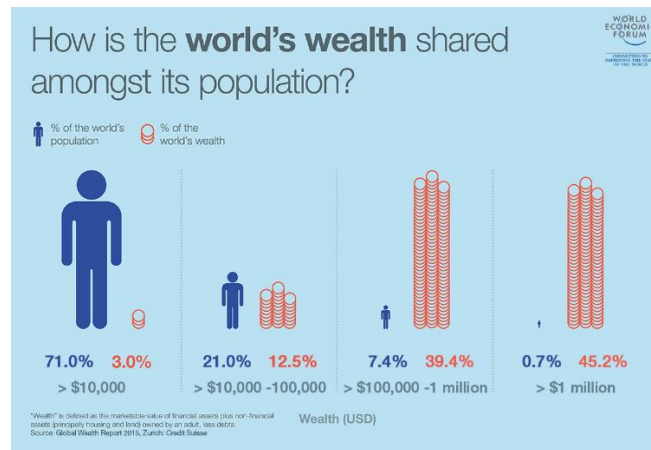
We have been witnessing extraordinary changes in the world politics during 2022. This is the best example of change happening now at an almost exponential pace. One of the very positive signs is that despite the war in Ukraine, the world may 'come to its senses' and start acting as a planetary civilisation. Just two weeks ago, a significant step was made in this direction when 44 European countries set up a new organization European Political Community (EPC). Depending on how the situation develops further, it could be either a major re-enforcement of the United Nations or the beginning of the European Federation (EF), within which the EU would be a driving force. The world desperately needs the World Government, but unfortunately such an organization is unlikely to be created in time to mitigate many man-made existential risks.

The urgency of such a task is not seen because most governments, politicians, and even scientists behave like the pace of change had been linear, whereas the world has been changing at a nearly exponential pace for some time. What once took a decade, takes just a year now, not only in Artificial Intelligence, but also in other areas such as medicine, communications, or culture. Such pace of change may on its own become an existential threat for our civilisation, especially if it is combined with other risks such as global pandemic, nuclear wars, or global warming. This is evident right now how a combination of individual risks, such as the war in Ukraine, potentially escalating to using nuclear weapons, the post-Covid weakening of the global economy, and severe perturbations in global trade, especially with China and Russia, may indeed lead to a civilizational catastrophe. At the same time, there is a marked acceleration of the global warming, particularly noticeable in Europe. But it is in African countries, such as Somalia, where the global warming is rapidly leading to drought and famine. That in turn can start a massive movement of people far exceeding the 2015 in migration and extending beyond Africa to Asia and Central and South America.

A global economic sustainability and world peace will be impossible without a significant change in the way we live together as citizens of the same planet. We really need a massive transfer of wealth largely from a Northern to a Southern hemisphere. The odds are heavily against such an optimistic view presented here. But should we be incapable of resolving most of these issues by around 2030 then the world may face a bigger crisis than for example the WWII. We cannot create islands of sustainability. We cannot enjoy a sustainable life in an unsustainable world.

The only way, we can sensibly redistribute wealth is to have two strings attached to the help given to those countries. The first one is to ensure that almost all capital distributed to such countries must be invested in the required production facilities, infrastructure, education, and health sectors, so that they can themselves increase their income and indirectly their overall wellness. Any residual funds might be used as a stimulus for individual people to set up small workshops or enhance their skills. The other string that must be attached is the adherence to common set of values and democratic principles to achieve a more cohesive planetary civilization.

So, what is the scale of the problem? According to Global Wealth Report 2015, **less than 1% of the world's population owns nearly half of the global wealth** (financial and non-financial assets), whereas 75% of the world's population owns only 3% of global wealth.



What are we then doing to resolve such a wide gap in the world's wealth distribution? Well, we have not even started in earnest. The problem is not lack of initiatives. The problem is the lack of money flowing from potential donors. The second problem is an effective allocation of funds. On 25 September 2015, the United Nations passed the resolution on Post 2015 Development Agenda, officially known as "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It is a broad intergovernmental agreement that acts as the successor to the Millennium Development Goals involving 193 Member States. It contains 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets.

UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals	
Goal 1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere
Goal 2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10	Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
Goal 13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*
Goal 14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

I believe that the SDG provide an excellent opportunity for the world to use this framework for much wider objectives, which would actually subsume the SDG. These are:

- **Create the wealth redistribution programme**, so that donor countries (mainly the Northern hemisphere) transfer over decades some of their wealth to those countries that need it most
- **Control mass economic migration in such a way that there will be no need to migrate**. That may require not only solving the poverty problem (mainly economic) but also environmental (scarcity of water) and political (civil and ethnic wars).

However, to achieve that, we need much more than the UN's SDG agenda. We need a systemic global shift of wealth from richer to poorer countries. Such a fund could be part of the UN Development Program (UNDP). It might coexist with outstanding success of private funds such as Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, whose vision is: "by giving people the tools to lead healthy, productive lives, we can help them lift themselves out of poverty".

The new programme should learn from the UNDP to accelerate help and improve its effectiveness. For most of its existence, the UN funds were giving the poorer countries the proverbial fish, whereas private foundations gave them a fishing rod. Since 2000 that situation has improved at the UNDP, but other crucial differences remain. These are efficiency, effectiveness of the projects and less corruptive distribution of funds. We will see if the UNDP adapts significantly, so that it could become the driver of such a wealth distribution. However, that should not stop organizations like the EU or OECD to reinvigorate the UNDP programme by vastly extending its scope, breadth and delivery times. The only realistic long-term solution for maintaining global peace and preparing Humanity for the new period of a planetary civilisation is to significantly increase the scale of the current UNDP programme. Such a Global Wealth Redistribution Programme should be driven by two major objectives two objectives:

- To stop economic and climate-originated global migration
- To become a powerful and pragmatic mechanism for political change and instilling of the Universal Values of Humanity to all parts of the world.

### ***Stop economic and climate change-originated migration***

Stopping massive migration by building a 7m high wall between Mexico and the United States that Donald Trump initiated will not resolve the long-term problem. We need much more than just sending these economic migrants back home. They, and their countries need help on site, both in building their own economy but also in education, health, infrastructure projects, and in building more just and equal societies there.

But some of today's richest countries, such as Britain, France, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, or Belgium are also the former colonial powers. I know that from today's morality point of view, it would be very easy to judge harshly the people who inflicted such injustice and pain, like massive slavery and the robbery of resources. We can never excuse that although we can understand how these God-fearing people could at the same time treat their slaves as herds of animals. Another example: how was it possible that the death penalty in Britain was only abolished in 1965? Morality changes and that is why we cannot judge our ancestors using today's morality, as the future generations should not do that to us. In any case, we cannot fully compensate the victims in these countries in any other way than providing material assistance. They deserve in principle to be helped to achieve by the mid of this century, the same lifestyle as we have now. The only way we can achieve that is through a programme such as the **Global Wealth Redistribution Fund (GWRF)**.

One can imagine two types of migration. The first type is the migration, which originates from natural catastrophes like a draught, or man-made disasters, such as wars. The second one is an economic migration. Let's consider the first type of migration. In the future, we may have natural disasters on epic scale – i.e., volcanoes or earthquakes, or several years of draught in Africa that would make large swathes of migrants fleeing to safe havens e.g., in Europe or the USA, from countries such as Africa, South America or South East Asia, which might become utterly uninhabitable. This will force tens or potentially hundreds of millions of people trying to escape their own homeland into the countries that have not been affected by natural disasters or simply less affected, and which would still have some resources untouched. It would be very difficult to propose a different solution for these people other than simply share with them whatever we have until the situation stabilizes and enables them a safe return home.

The second kind of migration is economic. Here we can help a lot. We have two broad options. The first one is to let them in with their families and make workplaces and homes in the host countries. We tried to do that in 2015. Initially, countries like Greece were flooded with migrants. They were supposed, under the EU Treaty, to offer them housing and any support they needed in Greece, since it was the first country that could offer migrants a safe haven. But very soon Greece ran out of resources. It was overwhelmed by the number and determination of the people, who had nothing to lose, perhaps escaping utter famine or civil wars in Syria or Iraq. Then Greece opened the borders to other EU member states, creating a chain reaction, as we all remember what happened in 2015 within the European Union. Over 1 million people entered the EU in just a few months. However, up to 60% of those migrants, as reported by "Independent" in January 2016, were considered economic migrants who took the opportunity and entered the EU with the wave of asylum seekers.

The problem created by that massive, mainly economic migration in a very short space of time, primarily to Germany, is with us till today. That was the key justification for various reforms postulated by populist movements, and which led to Brexit in Britain, right of centre governments in Austria, Poland, Hungary, and to effectively lost general election in Germany by Angela Merkel.

Now let's try to extrapolate that small wave of economic migration from the southern to northern hemisphere on a much larger scale involving tens of millions of people. How could it trigger wars and what could cause local wars to become global? As the EU example has shown, opening borders to the neighbouring countries would create a chain of events. Very quickly those events would trigger off local wars, which through combinatorial factors could trigger off existential risks, such as natural pandemics (lack of basic hygiene, spread of viruses such as Ebola etc.). Probably the only reason why the EU states 'invaded' by migrants in 2015 did not go to war with their neighbours was that they were members of the same European Union. It could have been an entirely different outcome, had the migrants tried to cross, for example, the Russian border.

People say, 'Democracy only works where there is a broad consensus about the distribution of wealth and power.' According to a number of surveys, only a proportion of the migrants flowing into Europe have fled from the immediate consequences of violence. Most of them came from places where there was no war. They just wanted better lives.

There are dozens of regions on our planet that are potentially a source of such massive migration. First of all, Africa comes to mind, where at the moment most people are driven out of their countries towards Europe in search of a better life. Then there is the entire Middle East, which may enter a new phase of war after the collapse of ISIS, namely the proxy wars between Iran and Saudi Arabia in Yemen, or Lebanon, Syria and Iraq, not to mention Israel. And how about the Kurds spread over Iraq, Syria, Turkey and Iran, who have declared their independence on 27th September 2017? Will they allow their aspirations for their state to be quashed for much longer? It is obvious that the old state borders of most Middle East countries are almost non-existent, and therefore these regions will fragment into stateless areas ruled initially by a local warlord. So, expect continuous bad or even very bad news from that area.

The current attitude of major powers and regional organizations such as EU or ASEAN is only making this risk even more credible. Mass economic migration (not to mention war-related wave of asylum seekers) now poses the most serious threat to Europe's stability since the end of the Cold War, and probably since the end of the Second World War. What can we do about it?

And this is the second option. The EU seems to be finally doing something that may be the beginning of a new policy in this area. In November 2017, French president Emmanuel Macron announced that the European Union and the African Union would launch "concrete military and policing action" to rescue African migrants enslaved in Libya and arrest human traffickers. That was the result of the EU-pledged 'Marshall Plan' for Africa of €44 billion at a summit in Paris. So far, tens of thousands of people were flown out of Libya to their native countries. It is a step in the right direction but far inadequate to the scale of effort needed to stop massive economic migration at bay. That could only be done by creating Global Wealth Redistribution Fund.

## ***Instilling Universal Values of Humanity world-wide***

I could easily imagine people reading this title and making a connection with the Spanish Armada's mission to spread Christianity in Americas. I could also see the associations with President Kennedy's Peace Corp programme, and perhaps some others, such as the EU Cohesion Programme, in which countries will get the EU help if they stick to the EU values. Well, I can only confirm that I would indeed wholeheartedly support the Global Wealth Redistribution Fund to be used in an effective way to exert some pressure to eliminate corruption, set up the rule of law and democratic principles based on the Universal Values of Humanity. This is nothing of the kind 'I know better what you need' in this requirement. We must all live in the world of peace, simply to survive as a species. We must all stick to the same principle of co-operation and mutual respect and understanding of what a human life is about.

We now need more than a global co-operation. After all, co-operation and social solidarity is one of the 12 Universal Values of Humanity. We need a Human Federation to minimize existential threats, which may wipe out all of us within decades. If we want to minimize those risks we must get together as a planetary civilization, we must co-operate. Those who think otherwise may sometime be lucky and by acting in their own interest only, achieve a better outcome, usually in the short-term only. However, as soon as you sum up individual choices, where competitiveness is the name of the game, altogether those people will be worse off, had they co-operated with each other. Evolution has proven it over millions of years that for a species' survival the best approach is co-operation rather than competitiveness. We are in such a situation right now.

What does it mean in practice? There are richer countries within the EU that want to stop a transition to a federated EU (European Federation), because they feel they will have to share their wealth with poorer members. However,

over the last 15 years the poorer EU countries have already proven that thanks to the EU's Cohesion Fund, their growth has been much faster, enabling the richer countries to increase their exports there. At the same time the EU as a whole has become a much more significant political bloc in the world, increasing the safety of all members. Safety is in numbers.

Now, expanding this example world-wide, it is also about the same Universal Values of Humanity, which in this case means sharing the wealth, so that those who are poorer will be able to sustain themselves, become more educated, more responsible and more resilient to various illnesses. For the richer, it would mean that they may avoid various threats and dangers that may come, for example, from mass migration from scorched lands of Africa. People deprived of basic food and water, may have no other choice than trying to cross the borders into richer countries, like into Europe, even if many of them may die on the way. Such far larger migration waves like that of 2015, may happen a few times within this decade, destabilizing the world, should they combine with other threats, like wars and pandemics. That may lead to triggering existential risks and the extinction of all of us.

However, sharing wealth by giving money to those that need it most does not mean that those who give should not be concerned with how their money is spent. Therefore, we need to ensure that all money transferred in various projects will have a maximum positive effect and reach those who really need it. That is also part of fairness and mutual respect covered extensively in the Universal Human Values. Only then will a comprehensive decades-long programme of significant financial assistance in the form of the proposed Global Wealth Redistribution Fund (GWRF) make a real lasting change in making the world more peaceful and materially equal.

### ***Setting up Global Wealth Redistribution Fund (GWRF)***

The name - Global Wealth Redistribution Fund (GWRF) may suggest that such a fund should exist to simply increase the GDP per head. But as mentioned earlier, what is proposed here is just the opposite – to give those countries a metaphorical gigantic fishing rod rather than a bucket of fish.

GWRF should ideally be managed by the UN Development Programme (UNDP). But its current scale (about \$3bn per annum) and capabilities are miniscule against the needs. Reforming UNDP to the proposed scale and principles might take a very long time, and the need is there right now. OECD might be another option if the organisations wanted to take up such a role. It distributes about \$180bn annually so much more than UNDP. However, it is the European Union, which is most experienced in this type of help, and it is assumed that this organisation might take a de facto global role in delivering such a programme.

For the world to achieve long-term prosperity and peace, wealth distribution is the most obvious and urgent task. The fastest way to do it is to emulate the current European Union Cohesion Fund, which is in fact a wealth distribution system to which each country donates 1.2% of its GDP. You may be surprised that something like this exists. But that is exactly the grand idea behind the European Project, especially successful, at least in economic terms, for the 10 countries that joined the EU on 1 May 2004. All these countries had much faster GDP growth since then, even in the recent financial crisis period. All of them also have a national debt level far below the “old EU” countries. Similar projects led earlier to significant economic boost in countries like Ireland, Spain, Portugal, and also in Greece.

But if the GWRF programme is to work, then its scale should exceed any help or fund distribution the world has ever seen. It should be set up from the beginning as a decades-long continuous effort. **The most natural way would be for the EU to take up this role with co-ordination with UNDP.** The programme itself would be the magnet for countries to join the EU as associate members. Looking at the current EU association agreements it is obvious that the EU is already aiming in this direction, as each such agreement includes the development of political, trade, social, cultural and security links. Currently, there are over 30 such association agreements plus over 50 trade agreements (altogether about 100 countries could be almost seamlessly embedded into the GWRF programme, spearheaded by the EU.

This ambitious programme would be administered and mainly funded by the European Union and other non-EU donor countries such as Norway or Switzerland. Currently, most significant material help is provided by the Official Development Assistance (ODA) managed by OECD. It distributes annually around \$170bn of financial help from about 30 OECD and about 20 non-OECD countries, based on UN-proposed 0.7% GDP contribution. The scale of that aid, although making some positive difference, e.g., in health, is far inadequate to the needs.

I would suggest setting up of a fund such as the GWRF as soon as possible, say by 2025, which could be in the first instance used as an emergency fund to control any large-scale migration wave or other unexpected events.

The 0.7% of GDP, currently donated through the ODA by the contributing countries would be moved to the GWRF fund. **Additionally, 0.3% of GDP would be added towards 'green economy' in the developing countries.** Thus, the starting contribution of every GWRF member would be 1% of GDP. It could be considered a kind of an insurance policy, as well as an ethical commitment to compensate at least partially for incredible suffering the colonial powers have inflicted on many, mainly African and Asian countries. As it happens, all those colonial powers are members of the EU (apart from Britain which has just left the club).

One of the requirements of the EU Cohesion Fund is that each recipient state also pays the same contribution to the programme as the donor countries. Additionally, once the projects have been approved by the EU, the recipient country will have to contribute from 10% to 40% of its own capital to a particular project. However, because of the specificity of some recipient countries, which may be among the poorest in the world, the GWRF should work on a different basis than the EU cohesion programme.

To summarise, the new **Global Wealth Redistribution Fund (GWRF)** might be set up on principles similar to the EU's Cohesion Fund:

- The fund would combine 0.7% contributions from ODA and towards the conversion to greener economy
- Both donor and recipient countries would contribute 1% of their GDP, increasing by 0.2% p.a.
- The recipient countries would additionally make a flat 15% contribution to each project in their country
- Project needs and their implementation would be assessed independently
- The Fund would start operating latest in 2025
- GWRF should ideally be managed by the European Union, which is most experienced in this type of help
- All GWRF members would have to adhere to democratic principles, such as those in the EU Lisbon Treaty, as a condition for benefiting from the fund's assistance

None of the international organizations such as IMF, OECD or World Bank provide that type of long-term continuous support. Should such fund be set up by 2025, then the 2030 contributions would total 2% of GWRF members' GDP, estimated at about \$1 trillion, i.e., about 6 times the current value of annual ODA contributions. The exact amount depends on the number of GWRF members in 2030. The donor countries' GDP growth would also increase because they would provide most of the material, technological and professional assistance.

All projects would be closely monitored, drastically reducing corruption, ensuring the project complete on time and on budget. It would also boost the world economy, especially in infrastructure projects, transferring not only the capital needed but also a wide range of skills to developing countries. The overall objective should be to raise the GDP per capita in poorer countries much faster than the world's average. For comparison, in 2016 the world's average GDP per capita was about \$10,000. In Africa, the poorest continent, it was \$1,809, i.e., 5.5 times lower than the global average. The projected growth for 2030 for the world's average GDP per capita is about \$14,000, i.e., 40% growth. For the transfer of wealth from the rich countries to poor countries to be meaningful, the GDP growth per capita in the poor countries, should be at least twice that fast (due to external help) as the world's average. Should that happen, then in 2030 the poorest countries' GDP per capita would significantly increase. The difference between their average GDPs per capita will be about 3.5 times lower than the global average rather than 5.5 times lower as it is today.

Such transfer of wealth should also minimize the risk of mass economic migration, although the effect will really be felt only from around 2030. However, this decade may be quite dangerous for the world in many domains, including socio-economic area. One of the most difficult problems will be the Technological Unemployment. This is a type of unemployment will permanently eliminate not just jobs, but job types, including neurosurgeons, drivers, accountants, lawyers. Altogether over 100 job types may be eliminated by the end of this decade with a similar number of new job types introduced. However, the number of new jobs will be far fewer than the jobs gone.

The Technological Unemployment will start in earnest in the next few years. Many people that have been staying at home for several months because of the COVID 19 pandemic, while being paid by governments, have now gone back to their workplace but the job type may soon be gone for ever. Employers, who have suffered enormous losses have in that short time, re-invented the way products and services are delivered (e.g., retailers). This mostly means a significant investment in new technologies, such as robots, drones, self-checkouts in supermarkets etc. Since demand for such new technologies has now reached a critical mass, manufacturers will rapidly increase the production of robots and other technological solutions, which will reduce the unit price of these robots. This in

turn will create additional demand, leading to a very fast reduction in job types. That's what Technological Unemployment will be about.

However, Technological Unemployment will affect the poorer countries significantly less than the more affluent ones. The poorer countries could even play a role of lessening the negative effect of Technological Unemployment, if the funds like GWRF become significantly large. Potentially unemployed people in the richer countries could find work in the developing countries both on large infrastructure projects, and in education and apprenticeship programmes helping to upskill millions of people.

The donor countries' governments will have a formidable task to convince their taxpayers to pay higher taxes to finance such an ambitious programme. To make it easier, the financial commitment from the governments must be more visible, like it was with climate change 15 years ago. At that time, in many countries the public was informed once or twice a year, using the traffic lights information system on the progress of environmental clean-up and green energy uptake. Similarly, it should be done for the investment in the GWRF fund both for the donor and the recipient countries.

Particularly important could be the information on the effectiveness of the investment in the recipient countries. Although the money invested in any given country would come from many sources, it would still be of interest to general public to know what is happening with their money and how effectively it is being used. With some countries lagging significantly behind in delivery and effectiveness of the projects, public pressure to improve the situation might be quite helpful. In any case, transparency on such a large-scale programme will be a key factor motivating taxpayers to continue paying the country's contribution.

During elections, political parties should very clearly explain, avoiding political correctness, why such significant amount of money is being paid to poorer countries. The arguments mentioned earlier, such as controlling mass migration by creating decent and safer living conditions in the recipient countries, or just long overdue moral obligation for the former colonial powers to help those countries, should be clearly articulated in party manifestos and the government's annual budgetary statements. Overall, supporting such a transfer of wealth is probably the most effective way of combating quite a few risks linked to Global Social Disorder. It is simply the best insurance policy.

We need to federate the world to survive existential threats, which may wipe out all of us within decades. If we want to minimize that risk we must get together as a planetary civilization, we must co-operate. Those who think otherwise may sometime be lucky and by acting in their own interest only, achieve a better outcome. However, as soon as you sum up millions of such individual choices, where competitiveness is the name of the game, all those millions together will be worse off, had they co-operated with each other. Evolution has proven it over millions of years that for a species' survival the best approach is co-operation rather than competitiveness. We are in such a situation right now.

What does it mean in practice? Let me start with the current situation in the EU first. There are richer countries within the EU that want to stop a transition to the European Federation, because they feel they will have to share their wealth with poorer members. However, over the last 15 years the poorer EU countries have already proven that thanks to the EU cohesion programme, their growth has been much faster, enabling the richer countries to increase their exports there. At the same time the EU as a whole has become a much more significant political bloc in the world, increasing the safety of all members. Safety is in numbers.

Now, expanding this example world-wide, it is also about sharing the wealth, so those who are poorer will be able to sustain themselves, become more educated, more responsible and more resilient to various illnesses. For the richer, it would mean that they may avoid various threats and dangers that may come, for example, from mass migration from scorched lands of Africa. People deprived of basic food and water, may have no other choice than trying to cross the borders into richer countries, like into Europe, even if many of them may die on the way. Such far larger migration waves like that of 2015, may happen a few times within this decade, destabilizing the world, should they combine with other threats, like wars and pandemics. That may lead to triggering existential risks and the extinction of all of us. To avoid that scenario, it is paramount that the proposed GWRF is implemented as soon as possible.

### ***A Mini Welfare State for Developing Countries***

If the world gets through this decade which may be the most perilous in the history of the humankind, then a period of transition to a Global Welfare State may begin. This would of course also include the developing

countries. However, these countries may need an urgent direct help to enable them simply to survive before we arrive at the world of plenty. So, what could we do in the meantime?

Most developed economies already have welfare states, which cover many sectors. The most common is of course the health service, such as free of charge the British National Health Service, free education and extensive social services helping people in need. Welfare state varies across the world in its funding and generosity, but the principle is always the same: people going through periods of ill health or unemployment receive direct support. That support is usually in-kind and additionally in cash, e.g., child support allowance or winter fuel allowance. The assumption is that to address social ills, the government has to help the people in need, and that costs money. The picture is very different for international aid, both development aid to economically underdeveloped countries, and emergency assistance after disasters or wars. Donor organisations and countries rarely hand out cash, generally doing so only in emergency situations. Most humanitarian aid comes from a huge and complex network of organisations delivering many types of aid.

Depending on your view on international help, some people would see it as a very positive humanitarian assistance delivered by strongly motivated people, quite often volunteers, to deliver expertise and well-targeted interventions to people who need it. Other people on the opposite political spectrum may instead talk about high salaries for international staff, incoherent investment programmes and long and expensive supply chains for delivering goods that could be supplied locally.

Without going too much into detail, I would like to sketch out how some percentage of the money delivered to the recipient countries could be best spent helping directly individual people. You can call it a wish list combined with some ideas on how to minimize the suffering of the people who are at the absolute rock bottom of the world's personal income table, like those with GDP per capita of less than \$1,500 per annum (in International dollars).

#### **Poorest countries in the world in 2016 (2)**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>2016 International Dollars</b>
1	Central African Republic	656
2	Democratic Republic of the Congo	784
3	Burundi	818
4	Liberia	882
5	Niger	1113
6	Malawi	1139
7	Mozambique	1228
8	Guinea	1271
9	Eritrea	1321
10	Madagascar	1504

Below is my wish list of measures that could be applied for the poorest countries financially supported by a fraction of the GWRF. My assumption is that it would fully work from the late 2020', although if the GWRF fund is created earlier, some elements of the programme proposed here could be introduced on a pilot basis in some countries. Each recipient country would have to be a member of GWRF.

The cap for this kind of help for qualifying countries would be an annual GDP per capita equal to about \$1,500 in 2016, as in the table, although by say, 2030, the countries and the amounts, including the cap, may change significantly. All numbers are of course examples only. The programme would have to be properly costed before it is introduced on a full scale. Some countries might have already implemented some of these suggestions, such as a minimum living wage, in which case, the money due would be invested in the country's projects. Here is my wish list:

1. Introduce unconditional Universal Basic Income (UBI) for all adult citizens or Negative Income Tax. That income would equal 20% of the average wage but no more than \$500 per annum (valued at 2030 level). It would be funded by GWRF - 70% and the recipient country - 30%. There was already a similar programme ran in Namibia from January 2008-December 2009 by the Basic Income Grant (BIG) pilot project. All residents below the age of 60 received a Basic Income Grant of N\$100 (about US \$9) per person per month (about US \$40 per average household, i.e., about \$500 p.a. per household), without any conditions being attached. It produced some interesting evidence on the impact of UBI in developing countries as the final



Report from that pilot project concludes: “The village school reported higher attendance rates. Children were better fed and more attentive. Police statistics showed a 36.5% drop in crime since the introduction of the grants. Poverty rates declined from 86% to 68% (97% to 43% when controlled for migration). Unemployment dropped as well, from 60% to 45%, and there was a 29% increase in average earned income, excluding the basic income grant. These results indicate that basic income grants can not only alleviate poverty in purely economic terms but may also take the poor out of the poverty cycle, helping them find work, start their own businesses, and attend school” (3).

2. Introduce Conditional Universal Supplementary Benefit for those in employment for at least 16 hours a week. It would amount to 20% of country’s average wage. with a cap of \$500 p.a.
3. Introduce a minimum living wage, which would be at 60% of the average wage. Unconditional and conditional Income would count towards the living wage
4. In countries with very high unemployment introduce job sharing, where for every job shared, GWRF would pay extra 30% of the original wage of a full-time job
5. Introduce state pension financed from contributions (employee 30%, employer 30%, the state 40%)

This mini-Welfare State might play an important role in reducing the tensions in the poorest countries and show them that a new way of life is opening for them right now.