Simulation Lesson on a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly

Aims: This simulation lesson gives students the opportunity for active engagement with dialogues on more participatory international institutional development. It should deepen student understanding of existing international organizations and lead them to think more critically about accountability issues in global governance.

Course Applicability: this lesson is well suited for tutorials/quiz sections in large undergraduate lecture courses, or for standard sessions in upper-division courses. It can be used in or adapted for a wide range of courses in International Relations, political theory, political sociology, political economy, human geography, and other fields. Versions of it have been conducted in IR and political theory courses, with very positive student engagement and feedback.

Simulation Design:

a) Students will come into the class session having done the assigned reading on the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (suggested readings are at the end of this document)

b) Students are divided into two groups. Each group represents a team of national lawmakers in a debate on whether the country should support the development of a United Nations parliamentary assembly (Overseas students can be encouraged to take part as national lawmakers, while also being encouraged to share any insights from their own state context).

c) One team takes the Yes position, the other the No position (*Proposed instructions to students are offered on p. 2*). After the delegates debate the issues, all of the students independently vote on which option they would themselves choose, and votes are tallied and discussed.

d) At the end of the session, students can be invited in class to go online and sign the actual UN Parliamentary Assembly petition, if they choose to do so. They can then discuss why they did or did not do so. This helps to 'bring home' the topic for each student and has stimulated thoughtful dialogue in trials of the exercise.

Instructors are welcome to use the materials as presented, or to adapt them.

Details on a separate Model UN Parliament program are at this link:
http://ifair.eu/impact-groups-en/un-parliament/model-un-parliament/

MODEL STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS AND SUGGESTED READINGS APPEAR ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES:

Should We Support a UN Parliamentary Assembly?
A Simulation Exercise

Introduction: Should the country support the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly? You are part of a team of national lawmakers taking part in a debate to decide. At the end of the exercise, you'll cast your votes. You will also have the opportunity to go online and sign the actual petition of support for a UNPA, should you choose to do so. You will draw on the assigned readings on the UNPA, and democracy beyond the state more generally, to participate in this exercise.

Instructions

1) Your class has been divided into 'Pro' and 'Con' sides on the UN Parliamentary Assembly question.

2) Each side should select one overall Chair and three Sub-Committee Chairs. The remaining members should then divide themselves equally among the three sub-committees. Each sub-committee works under the coordination of its Chair to prepare one Pro point, in favor of the UNPA; or one Con point, against it, to raise in the debate. Teams should draw from the assigned readings to develop their points. The overall team Chair helps coordinate the efforts of the three sub-committees and leads the debate for her/his side.

3) The full Pro and Con sides then come together, and Sub-committee Chairs take turns raising their points. After each point is raised, the other side is given a chance to respond. Then debate is open, and anyone can offer a comment on the point that was raised until the instructor calls time. The next point is raised by a Sub-Committee Chair, and the process is repeated until all six points have been raised and debated.

4) At the end of the debate, all students cast votes by show of hands to determine whether the country will support the creation of a UNPA. This is an open 'conscience' vote, meaning that you can vote whichever way seems best to you, regardless of whether you were on the Pro or Con side.

5) After the vote has been tallied, you will be asked to go online to the actual UNPA Campaign site, read it and determine whether you yourself will add your name to the UNPA support petition there. You can then discuss your decision on the vote and on the petition in a closing, full-class dialogue.

The UNPA Campaign site is at:
http://en.unpacampaign.org

SUGGESTED COURSE READINGS

'PRO' READINGS:

Very brief statement of the UNPA proposal from the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly:
http://en.unpacampaign.org/proposal/

Article-length discussion of reasons in favor of a UN Parliamentary Assembly:
Luis Cabrera, "Strengthening Security, Justice, and Democracy Globally: The Case for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly," forthcoming in in William Durch, Joris Larik, and Richard Ponzio (eds.), *Just Security in an Undergoverned World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press). (10,000 words) Available at:
https://www.stimson.org/sites/default/files/Commission_BP_Cabrera.pdf
(Link can be copied and pasted into browser if it does not open immediately)

Other 'pro' readings:
Andreas Bummel, 'Toward Global Political Integration: Time for a World Parliamentary Assembly'. *Great Transition Initiative*, August 2016. (ca. 2000 words)
http://greattransition.org/publication/toward-global-political-integration.

Further publications ('PRO'): http://en.unpacampaign.org/publications/

Richard Falk, What Comes After Westphalia: The Democratic Challenge, 13 Widener Law Review 243 (2007). (PRO)

In addition, the FAQ on the UNPA campaign's website may be a good starting point for students: http://en.unpacampaign.org/proposal/faq/.

'CON' READINGS:

Article arguing against claims that there is a significan democratic deficit in global politics (and thus no need for democracy beyond the state)
Andrew Moravcsik, "Is there a Democratic Deficit in World Politics? A Framework for Analysis," *Government & Opposition*, 30 (2004).

Other 'con' readings:
Robert Dahl, 'Can International Organizations be Democratic? A Skeptic's View', in Ian Shapiro and Casiano Hacker-Cordon (eds), *Democracy's Edges* (New York: Cambridge University Press, New York, 1999).

Philip Pettit, "Democracy National and International," *The Monist*, 89 (2006).

ADDITIONAL READINGS ON TRANS-STATE / GLOBAL DEMOCRACY
Daniele Archibugi and David Held, "Cosmopolitan Democracy: Paths and Agents,"

Ethics & International Affairs 25, no. 4(2011): 433-61.

Daniele Archibugi. 2008. *The Global Commonwealth of Citizens: Toward Cosmopolitan Democracy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Daniele Archibugi, Mathias Koenig-Archibugi and Raffaele Marchetti, eds., *Global Democracy: Normative and Empirical Perspectives.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Carol Gould (2004) *Globalizing Democracy and Human Rights*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Carol Gould (2014) *Interactive Democracy: The Social Roots of Global Justice*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

David Held. 1995. *Democracy and the Global Order: From the Modern State to Cosmopolitan Governance*. Cambridge: Polity Press.

David Held. 2004. *Global Covenant: The Social Democratic Alternative to the Washington Consensus.* Cambridge: Polity Press.

Mathias Koenig-Archibugi (2011) 'Is Global Democracy Possible?' *European Journal of International Relations,* 17 (3), 519-42.

Christian List and Mathias Koenig-Archibugi, "Can there be a Global Demos? An Agency-Based Approach," *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 38, no. 1 (2010):76-110.

Raffaele Marchetti (2008) *Global Democracy, For and Against: Ethical Theory, Institutional Design, and Social Struggles.* London: Routledge 2008.

Joseph E. Schwartzberg. 2013. *Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World* (United Nations University Press).

Andrew Strauss, On the First Branch of Global Governance, 13 Widener Law Review 345 (2007). (PRO)

VIDEO: Widener Law 2006 Symposium Envisioning a More Democratic Global System: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJsvFYMmMxY