



Handbook

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Campaign for a UN Parliament

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The Campaign for a UN Parliament proposes to establish a parliamentary assembly (UNPA) as an additional organ within the UN system. The UNPA could be a pragmatic step toward a directly elected global parliament as the centerpiece of a democratic world order under the rule of law.

This handbook gives you an idea of what our campaign is about and outlines what you can do to contribute to the cause.

Please contact us in case of any questions or comments:
contact@unpacampaign.org

Enjoy the read and let's make our dream come true!

Learn



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- GET KEY INFO ON OUR CAMPAIGN AND OUR PROPOSAL
- DOWNLOAD MATERIAL TO EDUCATE OTHERS
- FOLLOW LINKS FOR FURTHER INFO

Our idea: the UNPA as a step toward a world parliament

Proposal

- Establish a parliament as an additional organ within the UN system – next to the General Assembly and other organs such as the Security Council
- Ultimately composed of directly elected representatives, accounting for different national population sizes and equipped with legislative powers

Examples

- European Parliament where groups are based on political orientation rather than nationality
- Other already existing supranational parliaments (e.g., Pan-African Parliament)

Rationale

- Institutionalize the idea that all humans are equal
- Provide a democratic basis for global solutions to worldwide problems such as extreme poverty and climate change
- Pragmatic step toward a directly elected global parliament as the centerpiece of a democratic world order under the rule of law

Implementation

- Establish the UNPA through a majority vote in the General Assembly under UN Charter Article 22 (no veto by Security Council possible); or
- Establish the UNPA through an international treaty like in the cases of the IMF, WTO, and ICC



Prominent individuals and institutions have supported our cause



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Historical supporters

- **Albert Einstein:** “The moral authority of the UN would be considerably enhanced if the delegates were elected directly by the people.”
- **Boutros Boutros-Ghali:** "The establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations has become an indispensable step to achieve democratic control of globalization. Complementary to international democracy among states, which no less has to be developed, it would foster global democracy beyond states, giving the citizens a genuine voice in world affairs.”

Contemporary supporters

- **European Parliament**
- **Federica Mogherini** (current EU Foreign Minister)
- Around 400 **NGOs** worldwide
- More than 1,400 current/former **Members of Parliament**
- Various **Nobel laureates**, e.g., H.H. The Dalai Lama
- **Numerous academics and professors**, e.g. Richard Dawkins or Steven Pinker, as well as others from Harvard, Princeton, and Yale.

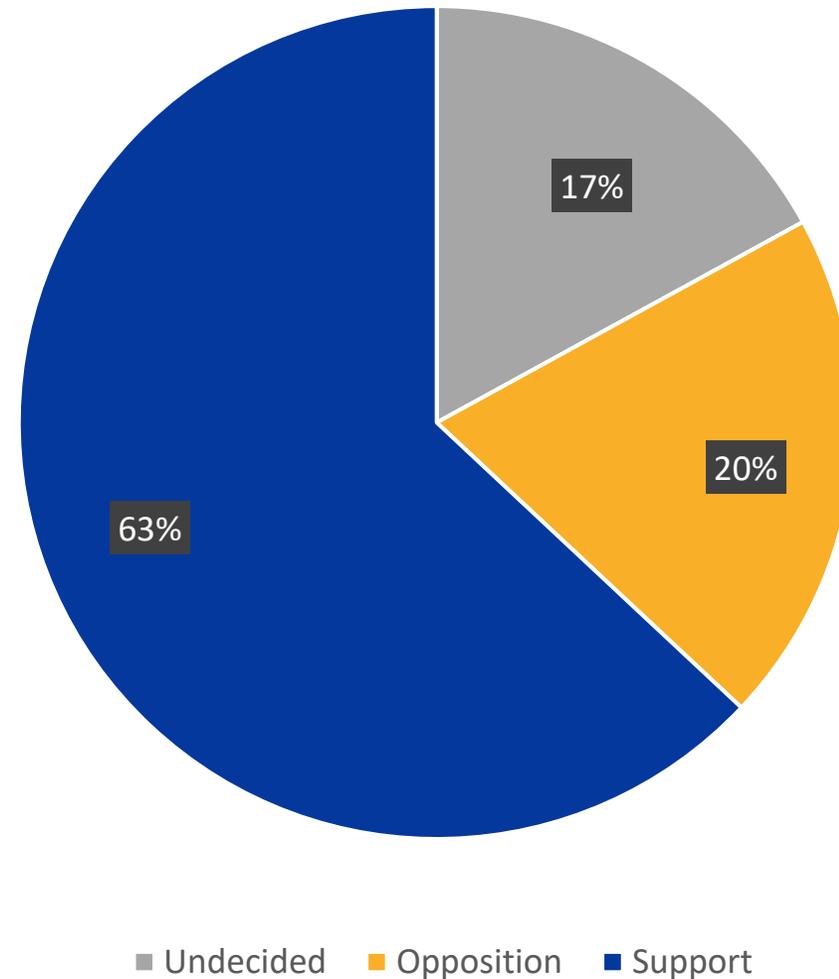
BBC survey finds: Overwhelming international majority supports a UN Parliament

- **Nationally representative** surveys of more than 18,000 people in various **countries from around the world**

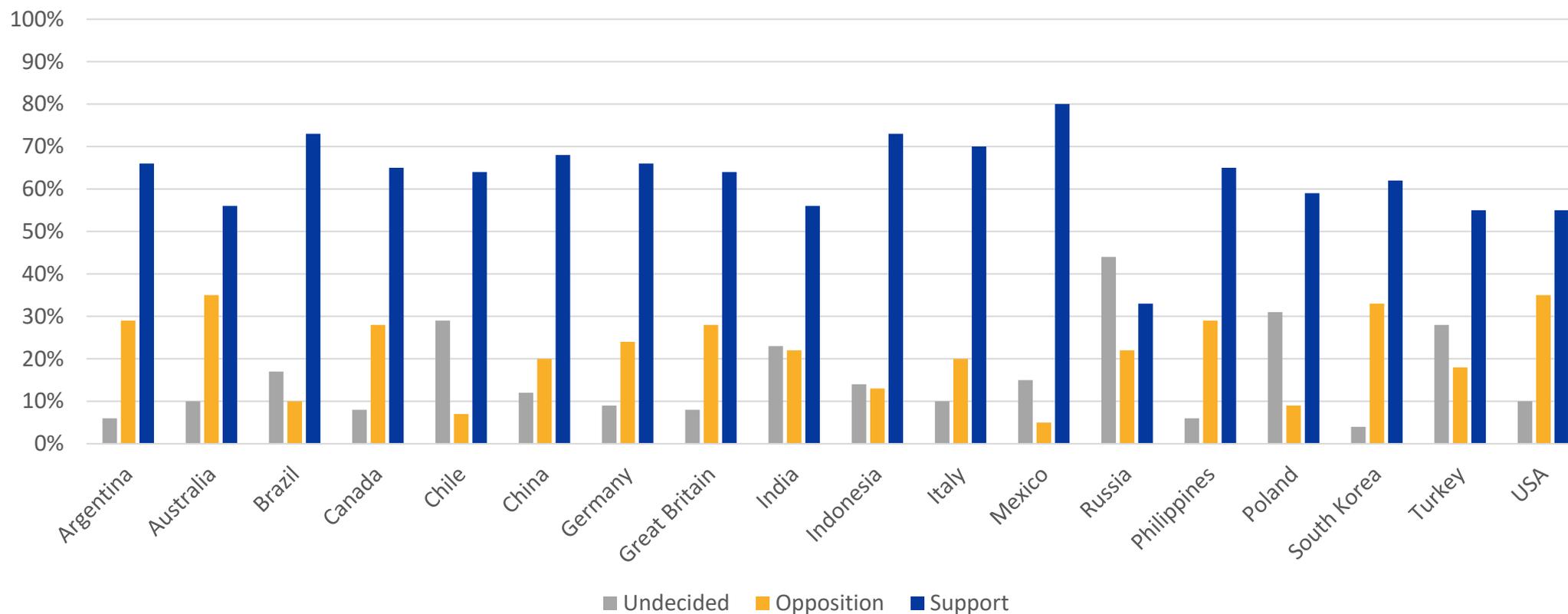
- **Survey question:**

“The **United Nations** is currently exploring **possible reforms**. Please tell me if you favor or oppose each of the following proposals. [...]”

Creating a **new UN Parliament**, made up of **representatives directly elected by citizens**, having **powers equal to the current UN General Assembly** that is controlled by national governments.”



Majorities in all nations surveyed on BBC's behalf support a UN Parliament



How it could happen

UN CHARTER ARTICLE 22

- **“Subsidiary organ”** of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)
- Historical **examples:**
 - 1946: UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
 - 1965: UN Development Program (UNDP)
 - 1972: UN Environmental Program (UNEP)
- **Advantages:**
 - Could be founded by a majority in the UNGA (i.e., currently 97 countries)
 - Veto powers in UN Security Council (UNSC) could not block establishment of a UNPA
 - Institutionally embedded within the UN

INTERNATIONAL TREATY

- **Treaty** between national governments
- Historical **examples:**
 - 1945: Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank / IMF)
 - 1995: World Trade Organization (WTO)
 - 2002: International Criminal Court (ICC)
- **Advantages:**
 - Highly democratic institution likely, since only the most willing countries would initiate it
 - No predetermined restrictions: relationship to other global governance institutions up to negotiations
 - No structural limitations on development into world parliament with legislative and oversight functions

Frequently asked questions (FAQ)

SAMPLE FAQ

Why should a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN be established?

What is the difference between the United Nations General Assembly and the proposed Parliamentary Assembly?

What are the powers a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN could be vested with?

How can a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations be established?

What is the difference between the proposed Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Parliamentary Union?

How could a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN be financed?

How many delegates would a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN comprise?

How would the seats in the proposed Parliamentary Assembly be distributed?

What is the next important milestone in the process of establishing a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN?

... and many more!

DOWNLOAD THE FAQ IN YOUR LANGUAGE

The questions on the left and many more are answered in our FAQ. Download them now in your language:

[Deutsch](#)

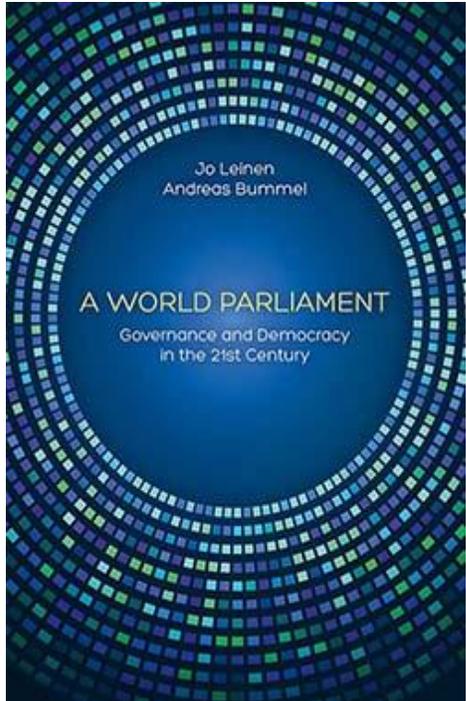
[English](#)

[Español](#)

[Français](#)

Want the FAQ in your language?
Work with us as and [translate](#) them!

Learn even more



[“A World Parliament: Governance and Democracy in the 21st Century” by Andreas Bummel and Jo Leinen \(2018\)](#)

[“Creating a World Parliamentary Assembly: An Evolutionary Journey” by Joseph E. Schwartzberg \(2012\)](#)

[“A Global Parliament: Essays and Articles” by Richard Falk and Andrew Strauss \(2011\)](#)

[“The Legal and Political Status of International Parliamentary Institutions” by Claudia Kissling \(2011\)](#)

[“Developing International Democracy: For a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations” by Andreas Bummel \(2010\)](#)

[“The Case for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly” by Dieter Heinrich \(2010\)](#)

[“The Composition of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations” by Andreas Bummel \(2010\)](#)

Get even more information and publications on
www.unpacampaign.org
and
www.democracywithoutborders.org!

Act

- FOLLOW 4 SIMPLE STEPS TO ACTIVELY SUPPORT OUR CAMPAIGN
- GET INVOLVED – ONLINE AND OFFLINE
- HELP US CONVINCING POLITICAL DECISION MAKERS

Step 1: Sign the Appeal for the establishment of a Parliamentary Assembly at the UN

Humanity faces the task of ensuring the survival and well being of future generations as well as the preservation of the natural foundations of life on Earth. We are convinced that in order to cope with major challenges such as social disparity, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the threat of terrorism or the endangerment of global ecosystems, all human beings must engage in collaborative efforts.

To ensure international cooperation, secure the acceptance and to enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations and strengthen its capacity to act, people must be more effectively and directly included into the activities of the United Nations and its international organizations. They must be allowed to participate better in the UN's activities. We therefore recommend a gradual implementation of democratic participation and representation on the global level.

We conceive the establishment of a consultative Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations as an indispensable step. Without making a change of the UN Charter necessary in the first step, a crucial link between the UN, the organizations of the UN system, the governments, national parliaments and civil society can be achieved through such an assembly.

Such an assembly would not simply be a new institution; as the voice of citizens, the assembly would be the manifestation and vehicle of a changed consciousness and understanding of international politics. The assembly could become a political catalyst for further development of the international system and of international law. It could also substantially contribute to the United Nation's capacity to realize its high objectives and to shape globalization positively.

A Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations could initially be composed of national parliamentarians. Step by step, it should be provided with genuine rights of information, participation and control vis-à-vis the UN and the organizations of the UN system. In a later stage, the assembly could be directly elected.

We appeal to the United Nations and the governments of its member states to establish a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations. We call for all organizations, decision-makers and citizens engaged with the international common interest to support this appeal.

The appeal is our most important document.
[Sign our appeal](#) and become part of the UNPA Campaign!

Our appeal in your language

[ykseĉ](#)

[Dansk](#)

[Deutsch](#)

[Eesti](#)

[English](#)

[Esperanto](#)

[Español](#)

[Français](#)

[Italiano](#)

[Magyar](#)

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[中文](#)

[日本語](#)

[한국어](#)

Want the appeal in your language? Work with us and [translate](#) it!

Step 2: Spread the word



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You're fascinated by the UNPA idea and what to help making it happen? A crucial step is to convince more and more people to join us – online and offline.

On the internet

- Follow us on [Twitter](#)
 - Find us: @unpacampaign
 - Use the hashtag: #UNParliament
- Like us on [Facebook](#)
- [E-mail](#) your friends about us

In real life

- Talk to your friends/family about the UNPA idea
- Wherever you are – in school, in university, at work, or at a party – discuss the idea of a world parliament and the UNPA proposal convincing people to support our cause

Here are some ideas on what you could post on Twitter and Facebook

SAMPLE TWEETS

People will work together when they get the chance, they just need a means to do so; we need a #worldparliament @UN #UNParliament

Our world is in chaos. We need a #worldparliament. A parliament @UN could be a first step. Join me in supporting the @unpacampaign #UNParliament

Let's not just try to heal the symptoms; let's also fix the root causes! We need a #worldparliament. Join the @unpacampaign #UNParliament

You have ideas for other tweets and Facebook posts? Get creative, post them, and get the debate going!

SAMPLE FACEBOOK POSTS

The [UNPA Campaign](#) proposes pragmatic and realistic steps toward the goal of a world parliament. Join me in supporting the cause by signing the [appeal](#)!

Climate change, refugee crises, financial collapse, extreme poverty – we need global solutions to global problems! Support the establishment of a world parliament. Support the [UNPA Campaign](#).

You think we are all equal? Why don't we have an equal voice then? We need a world parliament to realize this dream. That's why I support the [UNPA Campaign](#).

Want these tweets and posts in your language? Work with us as and [translate](#) them!

Step 3: Get organized: Write articles, give presentations, and start group activities

You want to take your engagement for the UNPA Campaign a step further than convincing your friends, family, and others? Then get organized with articles, presentations, and group activities!

Articles

- Write to your school's magazine about the UNPA proposal using the information in this handbook and on our website
- Write an article/commentary to your local/regional/national newspaper connecting the UNPA idea to a story you read
- Let us know about your article, so we can publish it on the blog of our website

Presentations

- Give a presentation in class about the UNPA proposal, e.g., when you're discussing international politics or UN reforms
- Think of some interesting topics that you could present on, e.g.,
 - Introducing the proposal of a UN Parliament and its supporters
 - The different paths toward a world parliament

Group activities

- Start a weekly/monthly/annual discussion group on the UNPA idea
- Think of some interesting discussion questions, e.g.,
 - What purposes should a UNPA and the eventual world parliament serve?
 - How should seats in a UNPA / world parliament be distributed?
- Organize joint actions, e.g., at the [Global Action Week for a World Parliament](#)



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Step 4: Contact your representatives

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Mrs./Mr. [your representative's name],

The Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) proposes to establish a parliament as an additional organ within the UN system – next to the General Assembly and other organs such as the Security Council. In contrast to institutions like the Inter-Parliamentary Union, an international parliamentary coordination platform, the UNPA is intended as a genuine parliament – composed of directly elected democratic representatives and accounting for different national population sizes.

Existing supranational parliaments illustrate this idea. For instance, in the European Parliament (EP) representatives are grouped not according to their nationality, but based on their political orientation. Similar to the EP on the European level, one of the core ideas of the UNPA proposal is to provide a democratic basis for finding global solutions to worldwide problems such as global poverty and climate change. The establishment of a UNPA could be a pragmatic step toward a directly elected world parliament as the centerpiece of a democratic world order under the rule of law.

As a concerned global citizen I support the UNPA Campaign's proposal and urge you – as my representative – to do so as well. Please sign the UNPA Campaign's appeal online and advocate the UNPA proposal among your colleagues.

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

[Your name]

POSSIBLE CONTACTS

Local level: communal representatives, mayors, etc.

Regional level: state representatives, senators, etc.

National level: parliamentarians (e.g., in the House of Representatives), government (e.g., the President), etc.

International level: parliamentarians (e.g., in the European Parliament), international organizations (e.g., the European Union, the United Nations), etc.

Write to your representatives, call them, and send along our [appeal](#) for them to sign.

Work

- DISCOVER DIFFERENT WAYS TO WORK WITH US
- USE YOUR PARTICULAR SKILLSET TO FURTHER OUR CAUSE
- RECRUIT OTHERS TO WORK WITH US

Internship in New York

You want the full experience? You want to be in the middle of the action at the United Nations? Apply for our internships in New York!

What you get

- Work in a young, dynamic, international office allowing you to thrive
- UN Pass: get access to the UN, incl. the General Assembly and Security Council
- Get insights into partner campaigns, e.g., Coalition for the ICC and 1 for 7 Billion
- Work at the forefront of the global democracy movement and change the world

What we want

- Full-time opportunities year-round; part-time offered mainly during semesters
- Be informed about the UNPA Campaign and global governance before applying
- Proficiency in English is required; all other languages are welcome and useful
- Skills that help us, e.g., web design, translation, fundraising, or advocacy

What you could do

- Support our work in various ways, e.g.:
 - Written / online / in-person advocacy (e.g., letters, Facebook, UN diplomats)
 - Research for advocacy, publications, etc. (e.g., on politics of UN members)
- You could help us in other ways through graphics design, filmmaking, etc.? – Be creative! We're open for your suggestions.



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How to apply

- Send your application to internship-in-nyc@unpacampaign.org:
 - Motivational statement (maximum: 1 page)
 - Curriculum Vitae / Résumé (maximum: 2 pages)
- Phone/Skype interview
- Deadlines: rolling, year-round

Remote internship / volunteering



How to apply

- Send your application to work@unpacampaign.org:
 - Motivational statement (maximum: 1 page)
 - Curriculum Vitae / Résumé (maximum: 2 pages)
- Phone/Skype interview
- Deadlines: rolling, year-round

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You don't have the time and/or money to come to New York, but want to help anyway? You prefer to work from your desk or out in the field? Apply for our remote internship / volunteering opportunities!

What you get

- Work in a young, dynamic, international environment allowing you to thrive
- Regular and comprehensive feedback via e-mail / Skype to improve your skills
- Work at the forefront of the global democracy movement and change the world

What we want

- Remote internships / volunteering is usually part-time; but full-time is welcome
- Be informed about the UNPA Campaign and global governance before applying
- Proficiency in English is required; all other languages are welcome and useful
- Skills that help us, e.g., filmmaking, graphics design, fundraising, or advocacy

What you could do

- Support our work in various ways, e.g.:
 - Written / online / in-person advocacy (e.g., letters, Facebook, parliaments)
 - Research for advocacy, publications, etc. (e.g., for UNPA policy papers)
- You could help us in other ways through translating, web design, etc.? – Be creative! We're open for your suggestions.

In-house / pro-bono work

You work in an organization that could help our campaign? You run your own business and could help us with your services and products? Contact us with your proposal for working in-house / pro-bono with us!

What you get

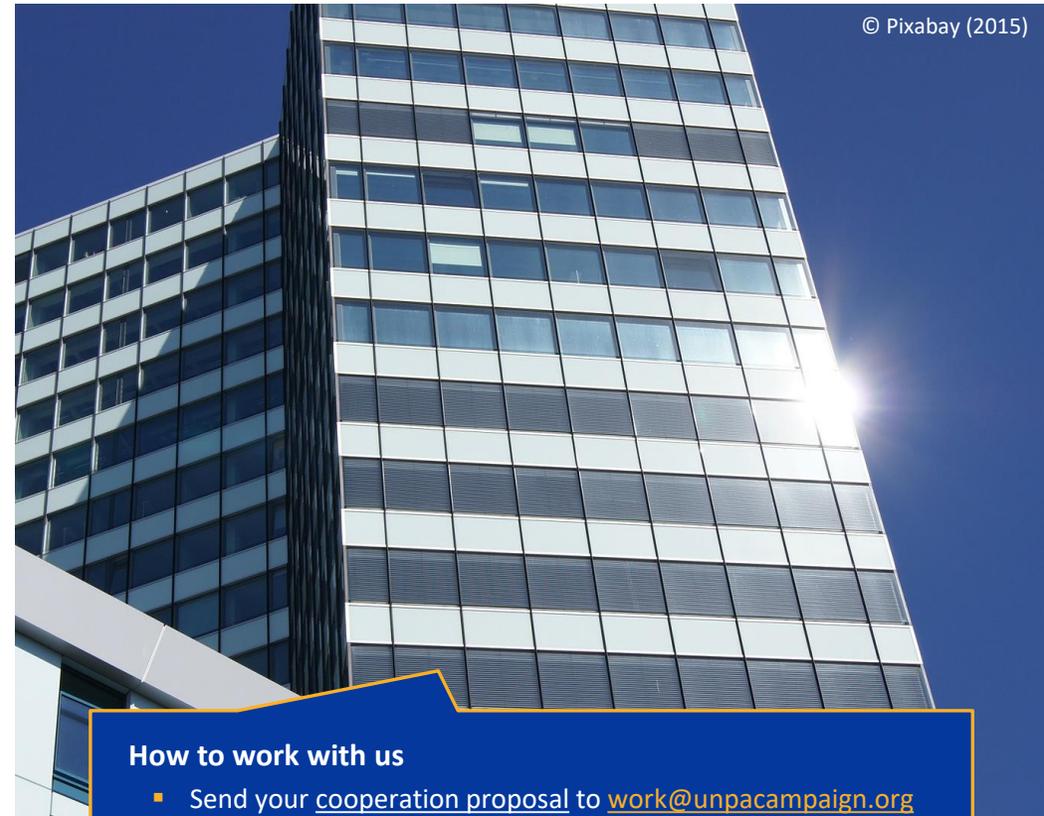
- Exposure to the workings of a globally operating non-profit / advocacy group
- Work at the forefront of the global democracy movement and change the world

What we want

- Be informed about the UNPA Campaign
- Services and products that help us, e.g.,
 - Printing (booklets, posters, business cards, branded merchandise, etc.)
 - Web / graphics design and/or illustrations
 - Filmmaking
 - Translations
 - Fundraising
 - Advocacy

What you could do

- Work on your normal job and schedule
- Use your spare time and resources to contribute to our campaign



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How to work with us

- Send your cooperation proposal to work@unpacampaign.org
- Phone/Skype conversation about our potential cooperation

Other Roles

Volunteer Web Designer: You have experience in designing and maintaining websites? You could work on updating/expanding our website and social media presence.

Volunteer Designer/Illustrator/Cartoonist: You excel at graphics design, illustrations, and/or cartoons? You could work on (re-)designing our web/print graphics and/or illustrations

Volunteer filmmaker: You enjoy filmmaking? You like creating videos, documentaries, and/or movies? You could work on filming videos and/or documentaries/movies to promote the UNPA proposal

Volunteer fundraiser: You have experience in fundraising? You know people that would donate? You could be communicating with (potential) donors – in writing, on the phone, or in person

Recruiter: Alright, this is not really a job. But we need your help in finding good people to work with us! If you know anyone who might be interested in working with the UNPA Campaign, tell them about our various opportunities and motivate them to apply!

What we want

- Most filmmaker positions are part-time by nature, but full-time is welcome
- Be informed about the UNPA Campaign before applying
- Proficiency in English or German is required; all other languages are welcome and useful



How to work with us

- Send your application to work@unpacampaign.org
 - Curriculum Vitae / Résumé (maximum: 2 pages)
 - If available, references for your fundraising experience
- Phone/Skype conversation about our potential cooperation
- Deadlines: rolling, year-round

Support

- PLEASE DONATE – WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT
- CONVINCING OTHERS TO DONATE FOR OUR CAUSE AS WELL

Donate

The UNPA Campaign needs support to:

- maintain an international office with full-time staff
- send representatives to conferences and meetings around the world
- create, translate, and print leaflets and brochures
- conduct research and write papers to deepen our understanding of global democracy
- maintain and improve our website
- organize press conferences, panel discussions, and campaign meetings
- assist activists around the world in their advocacy work
- ... and much more!

You could make a one-time donation or even donate daily/weekly/monthly/annually.



[Donate using PayPal,](#)
[a credit card, by wire](#)
[transfer, or by check!](#)

Find donors



If you can't donate much yourself, but know people who might be able to, speak to them!

Use the materials in this handbook to convince them of the UNPA Campaign's cause.

Point them to our [donation link](#) or ask them to get in touch with us directly:

contact@unpacampaign.org



UNPAC CAMPAIGN

Ideas, questions, comments?

E-mail us: contact@unpacampaign.org



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Thank you – and let's make our dream come true!