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The Trustee Commonwealth of Earth

A proposal for planetary governance in which people outrank companies, living systems outrank money, and nothing needed to live has a price

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Version 9 · Provisional until ratified · twl.today

Abstract

This paper began with a legal question: could the people of a nation sue those who govern them for the harm done to their mental health? Research into that question showed that courts cannot carry harms this widespread. Standing doctrine, immunity, free-speech protection and class-action rules each block such a suit. Where such harms have been answered at all, it was through narrow, measurable cases: people in state custody, products designed to addict children, and governments suing over their own costs. The rest of the harm, from despair and loneliness to engineered compulsion and a priced, gated life, has no defendant. It has a design.

The paper therefore proposes a design: the Trustee Commonwealth of Earth. It is a planetary model of government built on one ordering rule. Personal liberties come first, living systems second, a guaranteed floor for every person third, and enterprise and exchange last. A second rule, the Rule of Three, forbids any power from being held by one or two. The model replaces gross domestic product with thriving metrics and a measure of contribution to life called Contributory Progression Value. It removes money from everything needed to live, so that there is no price to be alive and no one is born into debt. It extends rights to ecosystems, species and sentient beings, sets limits on artificial intelligence, adopts repair-centered justice, and protects the mind from chemical and psychological coercion.

The paper sets out the institutions, the safeguards against their capture, an estimate of what the floor would cost during transition, and a fifty-year plan for adoption by consent, with checks and balances that bind the transition itself. Its weakest points are stated alongside its strongest. Its spirit is solarpunk: green, bright, shared and handmade.

How this paper was made, and how to read its claims

The author set the direction, the values and many of the core principles. These include the Rule of Three, no price to be alive, no one born into debt, neurochemical freedom, cognitive sovereignty, Contributory Progression Value, thriving metrics, the conversion of one-third of ranch land, and solarpunk as the spirit. Claude, an artificial intelligence made by Anthropic, researched the legal and empirical record, drafted the institutional design, proposed safeguards, and made the figures. Contributions are marked so readers can see who said what:

- ‡ marks a term, principle or direction supplied by the author.
- † marks a name coined by Claude. These are in play unless the author strikes them.
- **NEW** marks a mechanism with no working precedent known to the drafter.

Claims are of two kinds. Court rulings, settlements, figures and organizations checked against sources while this paper was being written are listed in Appendix B with links. All other precedents, laws, studies and dates are cited from the drafter's knowledge and were not re-checked; each should be verified before formal citation. Cost figures are order-of-magnitude estimates, and the land-value assumption behind the largest of them is the drafter's own.

Origins: why courts cannot carry this harm

The inquiry began by asking whether a class action could be brought on behalf of a whole people against an administration, a party or a president for emotional harm. The answer was no, and the reasons matter. United States law requires a concrete, particularized injury that can be traced to the defendant and redressed by a court. A harm shared by an entire public is a "generalized grievance" that courts will not hear. Sovereign immunity shields the government. Presidents have absolute civil immunity for official acts, though a 2023 appeals ruling and an April 2026 district ruling confirmed that conduct as a candidate is not shielded. The First Amendment protects political speech even when it wounds. And emotional injury is too individual to certify as a class.

Where the law has answered widespread psychological harm, it did so narrowly:

- In 2019 a federal court ordered mental health screening and treatment for families separated at the border. The state had them in custody, so it owed them a duty.
- In March 2026 juries found Meta and YouTube liable for designing products that harmed a young person, and found Meta liable for misleading New Mexico's families.
- In August 2026 Meta settled with 29 states for up to \$17.1 billion and design changes for minors.

Those cases won because they targeted design rather than speech, protected minors, proved that the companies knew, and were brought by governments suing over their own costs. Cases aimed at what algorithms show adults, at political radicalization, or at food formulated for overconsumption mostly failed, usually because no single product or defendant could be shown to cause one person's harm.

A measurement result made the gap concrete. After the 2016 United States election, researchers counted 2,337 more preterm births to Latina women than prior trends predicted. That is a real, physiological, population-wide harm, and it identifies no plaintiff and no act.

The conclusion that shaped everything that follows: the fear, loneliness, confusion and despair of the present moment have many causes, and most of them have no defendant. A few have owners who can be sued. The rest need a different structure: one that measures harm before it spreads, prices it before it is sold, and guarantees in advance what the courts can only award afterward.

Part one: the charter

The spirit: solarpunk‡

Solarpunk imagines a future that is green, bright, shared and handmade. It runs on sunlight and community, not fossil fuel and fear. That is the picture this charter is drawn toward:

- solar canopies over gardens and streets
- food forests and bee meadows inside cities
- repair shops and makerspaces on every block
- clean rivers, dark skies
- art everywhere, made by people with time to make it

Solarpunk is optimism with tools: technology in service of living things, never the reverse.

Design proposal, provisional until ratified. Drafted by Claude (Anthropic) on direction, 22 October 2026. Version 9: solarpunk spirit (top); the one-third conversion of ranch land and insect foods (section 21); planetary design; commons as human rights and the dismantling of financial gates (section 2); gross domestic product replaced by Contributory Progression Value and thriving metrics (section 3); rights of non-human life, including artificial intelligence and robots (section 4); justice and healing (section 5); weak points fortified (sections 10 and 11); Part two, sections 12 to 23, completing the charter: provisioning beyond money, with no price to be alive and no one born into debt, movement, peace and disputes, identity without surveillance, property and work, dangerous technologies, explicit equal rights, information and open government, historical repair, the material economy, amendments, and internal tensions. Plain-language companion: [trustee-commonwealth-plain.html](#). Terms and principles marked ‡ were supplied by the commissioning author, including the Rule of Three (never one, never two), neurochemical freedom, cognitive sovereignty, the three daily foundations, no price to be alive, no one born into debt, solarpunk as the spirit, and converting one-third of ranch land to pollinator sanctuary garden farms and insect farms. The name "Rule of Three" and its applications are Claude's. Names marked † are Claude coinages, in play unless struck. Mechanisms marked **NEW** have no working precedent I know of. Precedents are public record cited from knowledge and were not re-checked in this session.

1. The one rule everything obeys: the Ordering Clause[†]

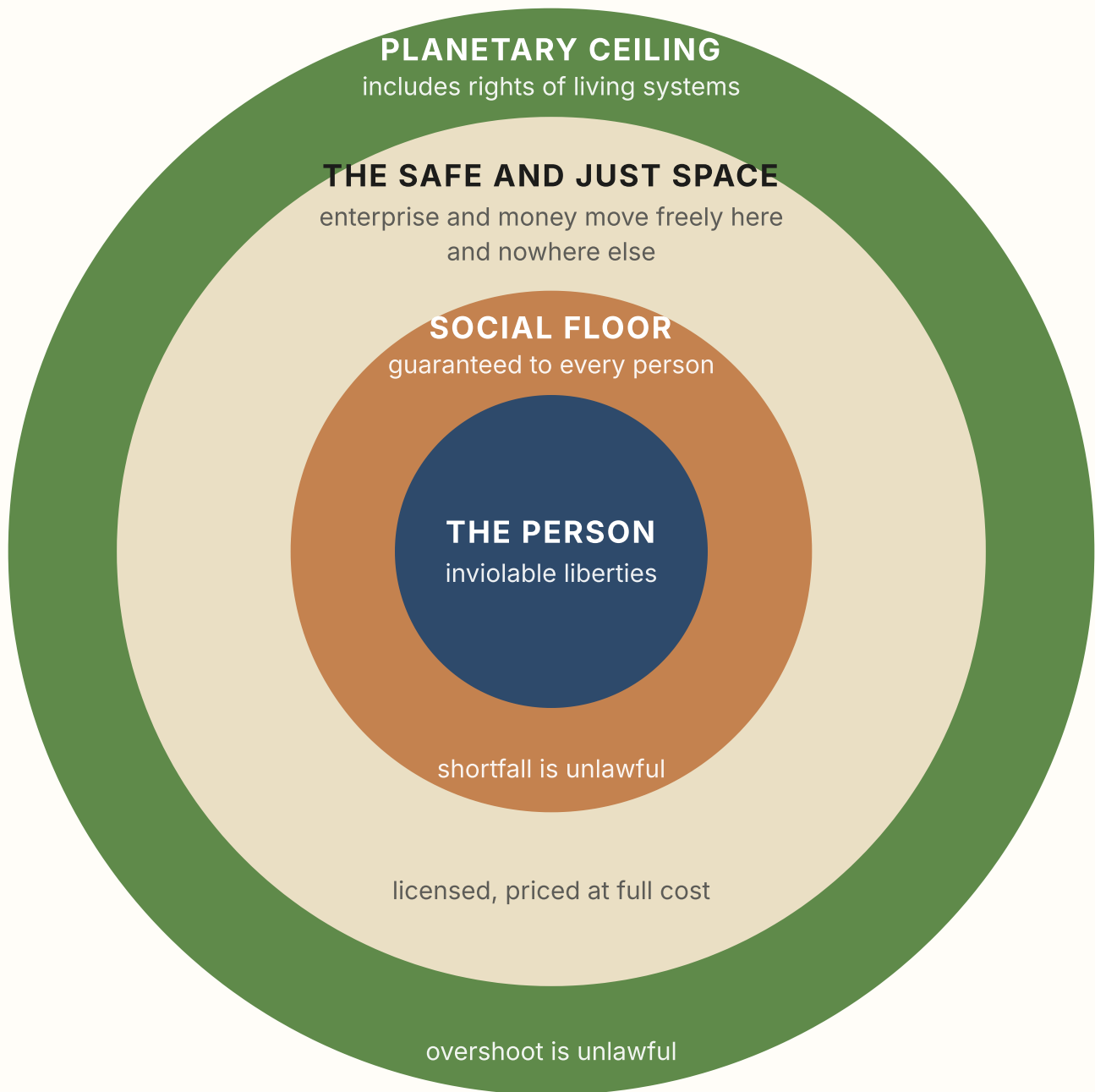


Figure 1. Adapted from Kate Raworth's "doughnut" (2017) and the planetary boundaries of Rockström and colleagues (2009). The change: the person sits at the center, shielded by the floor.

The charter ranks values in strict order, the way the philosopher John Rawls ranked liberty above economic gain: a higher tier can never be traded for a lower one.

1. **Personal liberties.** The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) is the minimum. Politics may add protections, never subtract them. They include neurochemical freedom and cognitive sovereignty: a

person's mind is their own, inside and out (below).

2. **Living systems.** No economic activity may push a measured planetary or bioregional limit past its line. Ecosystems, species and sentient beings hold rights of their own (section 4).
3. **Social floor.** Every person's claim on the commons: water, clean air, food, housing, health care, learning, nature, rest and connection. It is delivered in kind and free at the point of use, with no financial gate between a person and a floor right (section 2).
4. **Enterprise and exchange.** Free to compete, create and innovate inside the space between floor and ceiling. Never ranked above it. Money, while it lasts, ranks here and nowhere higher (section 12).

The environment outranks *money*, not *people*. Ceilings constrain throughput and activity, never speech, belief or bodies. That distinction is the guard against an authoritarian state with green branding.

The Rule of Three†‡

No power is ever held by one or two, and no choice is ever offered as one or two options. The minimum is three.

- **Parties:** welcome, but never a binary. Elections use proportional representation in multi-member districts with ranked ballots. Winner-take-all single-member districts push systems toward two parties (Duverger's law), so they are never used.
- **Chambers:** a law must clear three: the House of Lots, the House of Politics and the Steward Chamber.
- **Executive:** a council, led by three co-chairs from three continents.
- **Ballots:** every referendum offers at least three options, decided by ranked vote: adopt, return for amendment, or reject.
- **Verification:** three rival labs, three parallel citizen panels, three guardians for every ecosystem, a Commons Advocate made up of three prosecutors, and court panels of at least three judges. Every organ is seated in at least three polities.

Three is the smallest number that can settle a disagreement. Two navigators' chronometers that disagree can't tell you which one is wrong; a third can. Spacecraft computers use triple redundancy for the same reason, letting the majority outvote a single fault.

Scope: the rule governs power and choices, not persons. Every individual holds their rights alone. When a final action really is yes or no, the step before it still offers at least three options.

Neurochemical freedom†

A person's mind is their own: what enters it, what alters it, and what is read from it. This liberty sits in the inviolable tier, and under the Rule of Three it has three parts.

1. Freedom to alter

Adults may change their own consciousness. Possessing, growing or using a substance for oneself is never a crime. Ceremonial and religious use is protected. People have a right to honest information about any substance, and to free drug-checking services.

Precedent: Portugal's decriminalization of personal possession (2001); legal psilocybin services in Oregon (from 2023) and Colorado (2022 law); the United States Supreme Court's protection of ceremonial ayahuasca use (*Gonzales v. O Centro*, 2006); federal protection of peyote use by Native Americans (1994).

2. Freedom from alteration

No one's neurochemistry may be changed without their consent. That means no covert drugging and no medication imposed by an employer or the state. The only exception is a narrow medical emergency, reviewed by a court within 72 hours. Products may not be engineered to hijack reward chemistry, whether with substances, feeds or games. The design duties against engineered compulsion apply in full.

3. Privacy of mind

Data drawn from a person's brain or nervous system, and inferences about their mental states, belong to that person. No one may collect them without consent. They may never be sold, and they may never be used against the person in employment, insurance or court.

Precedent: Chile's constitutional amendment protecting mental integrity and brain data (2021); Colorado's law protecting neural data (2024).
Background: Nita Farahany, *The Battle for Your Brain* (2023).

Where the freedom ends

The freedom covers your own mind, not other people. These stay regulated:

- impaired driving or operating machinery
- supplying substances to minors
- drugging anyone else
- fraud about what a substance is

Minors are protected until adulthood.

Protect the person, never the seller

Freedom to use is not a license to profit from compulsion. Severe addiction erodes the very autonomy this liberty protects; John Stuart Mill argued in 1859 that freedom cannot include selling away one's future freedom. Substance sales come under the enterprise license rules: no advertising, no design for dependence, potency and purity labeling, and full-cost pricing. The most addictive substances are supplied only through care and safe-supply channels, never for profit.

Precedent: state-regulated cannabis supply in Uruguay (2013); heroin-assisted treatment in Switzerland (from 1994).

Care first, then decriminalize

Drug checking, treatment on demand, safe supply and recovery housing are part of the social floor, and they are in place before any law changes. Oregon decriminalized personal possession in 2020 without that infrastructure ready, and reversed course in 2024. Portugal paired decriminalization with treatment and has kept its policy for more than two decades. The difference was the care system, not the principle. Portugal's own results weakened after its care network was restructured and underfunded in the 2010s. That is why care sits in the constitutional floor here, where no budget cut can reach it.

Treat the cause, not only the symptom

Many people use substances to manage pain, trauma, isolation, despair or exhaustion. Psychiatrist Edward Khantzian called this the self-medication hypothesis (1985). The Adverse Childhood Experiences study (1998) found that the more adversity a person faced as a child, the higher their later risk of addiction, step by step. Economists Anne Case and Angus Deaton tied rising "deaths of despair" from drugs, alcohol and suicide to the collapse of work and community. Punishing self-medication while leaving its causes in place fails the charter twice: it breaks the social floor, and it passes harm on.

The charter answers each cause directly:

- **Pain:** health care, including pain care, free at the point of use
- **Trauma:** repair justice and healing care
- **Isolation:** gathering places and connection in the floor
- **Despair:** housing, the dividend, and work that counts as contribution
- **Exhaustion:** the right to rest and time

The Office of Measurement tracks, anonymously, why people use. When a cause rises, that tells the floor where to act. Genes and the substances themselves still matter, so care stays essential even where conditions improve.

Cognitive sovereignty†

Neurochemical freedom protects what alters the mind from inside. Cognitive sovereignty protects it from outside: from covert persuasion, from a polluted sensory environment, and from the use of the senses as weapons. Under the Rule of Three it has three parts.

1. No psychological operations

No government, company or group may covertly manipulate what people believe or feel. That means:

- Every attempt to persuade the public is disclosed: who paid, who sent it, and whether it was automated.
- Bots and synthetic media are labeled.
- Targeting people by psychological profile is banned.
- Subliminal techniques are banned.
- Manipulative interface design, such as tricks that push choices against a person's interest, is banned.
- No state may run influence operations against its own people or anyone else's.

Breaches go into the Interference Register and count against an enterprise license.

Precedent: the European Union's Digital Services Act ban on manipulative interface design (2022); the European Union artificial intelligence law's ban on subliminal and manipulative techniques (2024); the Cambridge Analytica scandal (2018) as the case for banning psychological-profile targeting.

2. A clean sensory commons

Sound, light, color and other emissions in shared space are part of the commons, with ceilings like any other.

- Enforceable noise limits.
- Dark skies at night: shielded, warm, dimmable outdoor lighting.
- Limits on flicker and strobing in public light and screens.
- Commercial spaces must disclose sensory techniques used to drive spending, such as engineered scent, music tempo or lighting.
- Radio-frequency emissions stay within limits set and published independently, with open monitoring data and independent research.

The Office of Measurement publishes open maps of noise, light at night and radio-frequency levels, so anyone can check their own street.

Precedent: the World Health Organization's environmental noise guidelines (2018); France's national rules on light pollution (2018); dark-sky ordinances such as Flagstaff, Arizona's. Satellite night-light data already maps light pollution worldwide.

3. No coercion through the senses

Sound, light and energy may never be used against a person:

- no acoustic devices for crowd control
- no blinding or strobing devices
- no directed energy of any kind
- no sensory overload or deprivation in interrogation, detention or punishment

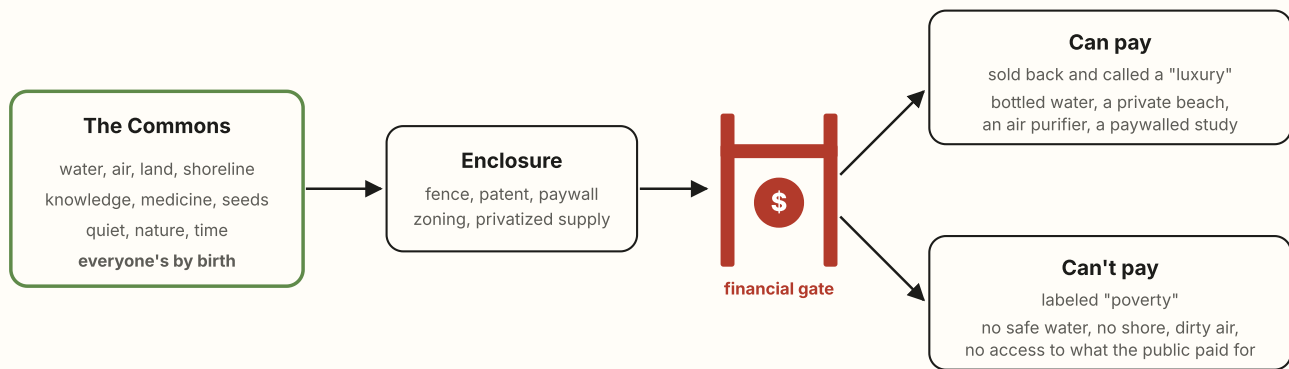
Every person has a right to quiet and darkness in their own home.

Precedent: a 2019 United States appeals court ruling that police use of a long-range acoustic device on protesters could be excessive force (*Edrei v. City of New York*); the documented use of loud music on detainees at Guantanamo, which this clause would ban outright as torture.

On evidence: harm from noise, light at night, flicker, manipulative design and covert influence campaigns is well documented. Radio-frequency exposure within today's international limits has not been shown to harm health. The charter keeps those limits independent and the data open, and funds research so the question stays answerable rather than assumed either way. The ban on directed energy against people applies regardless of how often it happens.

2. The commons are human rights, and financial gates come down

Most of what gets called a luxury is a right someone put a gate in front of. Water, air, shoreline, quiet, nature, medicine, knowledge and time came from the commons. A fence, patent, paywall, fee or zoning rule enclosed them, and they were sold back to whoever could pay. The people who can't pay are then described as poor, as if the shortage were theirs and not something built at the gate.



The same water, air and shore on both sides. The scarcity was built at the gate.

Figure 2. How a right becomes a luxury. Historical precedent: England passed more than 5,000 enclosure acts between 1604 and 1914, turning shared land into private property. Karl Polanyi (*The Great Transformation*, 1944) described what that did to people who had lived from it.

Not every scarcity is manufactured, though. Some things really do run out when used. Dismantling gates honestly means separating the scarcity that is built from the scarcity that is real, and giving each its own remedy.

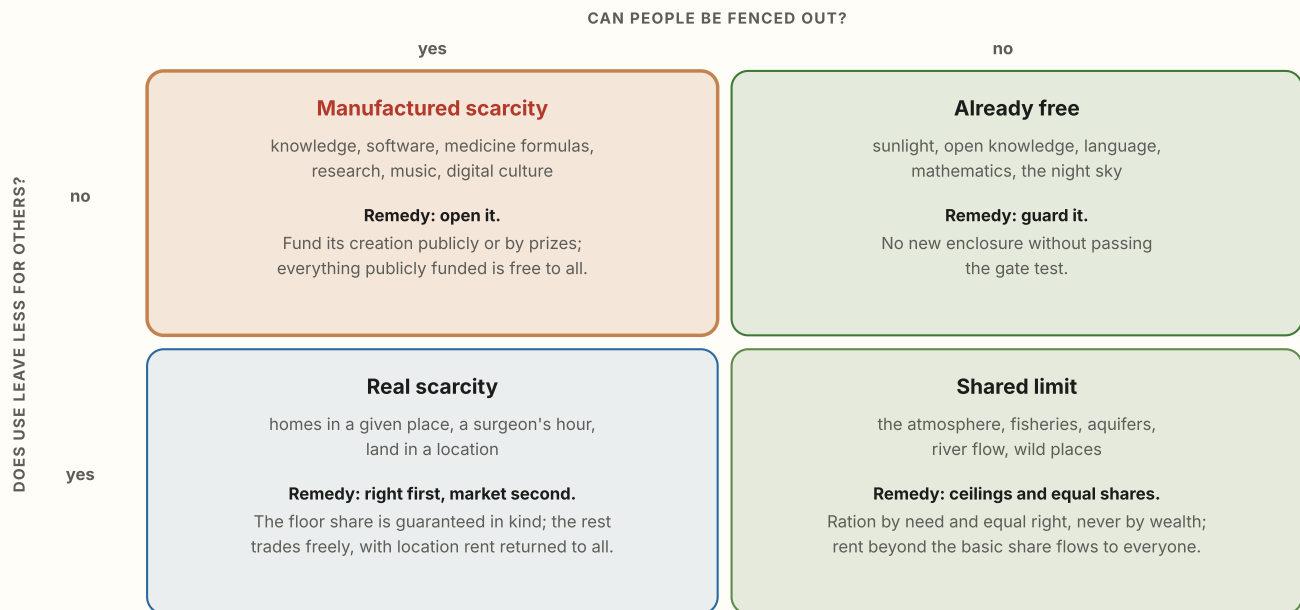


Figure 3. The economists' classification of goods (Samuelson, 1954; Vincent and Elinor Ostrom, 1977), applied to gates. The top-left box is where most gates exist only to create price. Elinor Ostrom's Nobel-winning work (2009) showed that shared limits in the bottom-right can be governed by communities, without either a fence or a central state.

RIGHT, AND WHERE IT'S ALREADY WRITTEN	THE COMMONS IT COMES FROM	TODAY'S FINANCIAL GATE	HOW THE CHARTER TAKES THE GATE DOWN
Water and sanitation (United Nations General Assembly, 2010)	Rivers, aquifers, rain	Shutoffs, privatized supply, bottled water	A free lifeline volume for every person, which can never be shut off; prices only above it
A clean, healthy environment (United Nations General Assembly, 2022)	The atmosphere	Pollution sited where land is cheap and residents are poor; clean air bought through location and filters	Ceilings, plus a siting rule: pollution may never be concentrated by income
Food (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 1966, article 11)	Soil, seeds, fisheries	Price, food deserts, patented seeds	Guaranteed nutrition in the floor; a public seed commons; public food infrastructure
Housing (same covenant, article 11)	Land	Land speculation; zoning that keeps homes scarce	Floor housing in kind; land rent captured for everyone; zoning that exists only to create scarcity removed
Health (article 12)	Medical knowledge	Patents, insurance gates, prices at the point of care	Free at the point of use; essential medicines funded by public research and prizes instead of monopoly pricing
Education (article 13)	Accumulated knowledge	Tuition and debt	Free at every level
Science and culture (Universal Declaration, article 27; covenant, article 15)	Publicly funded research; shared culture	Journal paywalls; closed licensing of what the public paid for	Open access for everything publicly funded, by law

RIGHT, AND WHERE IT'S ALREADY WRITTEN	THE COMMONS IT COMES FROM	TODAY'S FINANCIAL GATE	HOW THE CHARTER TAKES THE GATE DOWN
Nature and shoreline	Land, coast, wild places	Private beaches; fenced land; the "luxury effect"	A right to roam, as in the Nordic countries and Scotland (2003); public shorelines, as in California's constitution
Rest and leisure (Universal Declaration, article 24)	The hours of a life	Dependence on wages that forces overwork	Working-time limits, with the commons dividend as guaranteed slack
Connection (Finland made broadband a legal right in 2010)	Radio spectrum, public networks	Subscription price	Basic connectivity in the floor; spectrum rented from the Commons Trust

The gate test[†] **NEW**

Any price, patent, paywall, fee or zoning rule that stands between a person and a floor right must prove one of two things: it rations something truly scarce fairly, or it pays for creating something that otherwise wouldn't exist.

If it proves neither, it falls. If it proves the second, its funding is replaced by public money or prizes first, and then it falls. "Replace, then remove." The Court of Rights hears gate challenges, and the Commons Advocate can bring them on anyone's behalf.

The clearest case: insulin

In 1923 insulin's discoverers sold the patent to the University of Toronto for \$1 each, so that no one would profit from a life-saving medicine. A century later, a 2019 study at a Yale clinic found about one patient in four rationing insulin because of cost. The United States capped it at \$35 a month for Medicare patients in 2023. The inventors refused the gate, and later formulations put it back.

The "luxury effect"

Ecologists coined this term after finding that wealthier urban neighborhoods have measurably more plant diversity and tree cover (Hope and colleagues, 2003). Nature itself has been sorted by income. The charter treats green space within walking distance as part of the floor.

Where luxury is real

Some goods can't be shared out, because their value comes from being rare or first: a particular view, an original painting, the front row. Economist Fred Hirsch called these positional goods (1976). The charter leaves them to markets and taxes them to fund the floor. Rival public places, like popular trails, are allocated by lottery, not by price.

Three daily foundations: mental health, food quality and calm†

Rights on paper mean little if daily life wears people down. These three sit in the floor, guaranteed in kind and free of gates.

Mental health

- Care free at the point of use, with the same standing as physical care, available within days, not months.
- Community and peer care alongside clinicians, so help doesn't depend on scarce specialists.
- Crisis calls answered by trained care teams, not armed police.
- Prescriptions for connection, nature and the arts alongside therapy and medicine.
- No forced treatment outside the narrow, court-reviewed emergency defined under neurochemical freedom.

Precedent: Zimbabwe's Friendship Bench, where trained lay health workers deliver talk therapy on park benches, shown effective in a 2016 trial; the CAHOOTS crisis teams of Eugene, Oregon (since 1989); "social prescribing" in England's National Health Service.

Food quality

The right to food becomes a right to good food: whole, nutritious, safe and honestly labeled.

- Free, fresh school meals for every child.
- Public kitchens buy from local and regenerative farms.
- Warning labels on the front of products high in sugar, salt or saturated fat.
- No marketing of those products to children.
- No formulation engineered to override fullness or drive compulsive eating.
- Harm priced in through the Commons Trust.
- Subsidies move from sugar and commodity corn toward fruit, vegetables and soil health.
- Seeds stay a commons.

Precedent: Finland's free school meals (since 1948); Brazil's school-meal law requiring at least 30% of purchases from family farms (2009); Chile's front-of-package warning labels and child-marketing limits (2016).

Stress reduction

Chronic stress wears the body down. Physiologist Bruce McEwen called that cumulative toll "allostatic load." The charter removes its main sources:

- **Insecurity:** the dividend and the floor
- **Overwork:** working-time limits and a right to disconnect after hours
- **Paperwork:** universal services instead of means-tested forms
- **Noise:** enforceable limits
- **Engineered alarm:** design duties on feeds and media
- **Nature:** green space within walking distance

Precedent: France's right to disconnect (2017); Britain's four-day-week pilot (2022), after which most participating companies kept the schedule; the World Health Organization's environmental noise guidelines (2018). Background: Pamela Herd and Donald Moynihan, *Administrative Burden* (2018).

3. Ending the rule of gross domestic product: Contributory Progression Value† and thriving metrics‡

Gross domestic product counts money changing hands. That makes it a meter of the financial gates. When a free fountain is replaced by bottled water, it rises. It rises when a forest is cut down and sold, with the lost forest booked as income, and when a disaster has to be cleaned up. When a parent cares for a sick child, or neighbors share tools, or an illness is prevented, it stays flat or falls. Governments steer by it anyway: budget rules, debt ratios, election promises and international rankings are all built on it.

The man who designed it warned against exactly this. Simon Kuznets told the United States Congress in 1934 that "the welfare of a nation can scarcely be inferred from a measurement of national income." In 1968 Robert Kennedy said it measures "everything, in short, except that which makes life worthwhile."

THE SAME EVENT	GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT	THRIVING METRICS
Public fountains replaced by bottled water	▲ rises	▼ falls
An old-growth forest cut down and sold	▲ rises	▼ falls
An oil spill and its cleanup	▲ rises	▼ falls
Longer commutes burning more fuel	▲ rises	▼ falls
A parent caring for a sick child at home	● no change	▲ rises
Free software used by millions	● almost no change	▲ rises
Neighbors sharing tools instead of each buying	▼ falls	▲ rises
A disease prevented instead of treated	▼ falls	▲ rises

Figure 4. Two meters reading the same events in opposite directions. Gross domestic product rewards gates, depletion and damage repair. Thriving metrics reward what makes life worth living.

Thriving metrics†: what replaces it

A dashboard, deliberately not a single number, kept by the Office of Measurement:

- **Human thriving:** years lived in good health, mental health, diet quality, chronic stress, connection and loneliness, free time, security, agency, learning, trust, meaning
- **Creative and humanitarian progress:** art, music, knowledge and beneficial technology entering the commons; rights extended; suffering reduced
- **The floor:** the share of people with every floor right met, with no gate in the way
- **Living systems:** planetary boundaries, biodiversity, regeneration
- **Future capacity:** stocks of natural, human, social and knowledge wealth, so that depletion is never booked as income

Each measure reports the bottom tenth and the median, never only the average. A planetary core set stays small, and polities add their own measures of what thriving means in their cultures.

Precedent: the Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission (2009); the United Nations Inclusive Wealth Report (2012); New Zealand's wellbeing budget (2019); Bhutan's Gross National Happiness; the Genuine Progress Indicator used by Maryland and Vermont.

Contributory Progression Value†

The value something adds to the progress of life: lasting assets that enlarge what living can be. Art, music, beneficial technology and knowledge count, and so does humanitarian evolution: widening who is cared for and what people are free to become.

It has three faces:

1. **Generative value** (the author's angle): what is added to humanity's shared inheritance. That means works, tools, ideas, institutions and humanitarian advances.
2. **Harm prevented** (the author's angle): innovation that reduces destruction, pollution, extraction and harm. That includes cleaner processes, safer substitutes, repair and restoration methods, and tools that do more with less.
3. **Net contribution** (Claude's accounting): the gains in others' thriving it causes, after subtracting extraction and harm. This keeps something that creates on one side and destroys on the other from scoring as pure gain.

Contributory Progression Value =
generative value added to the
shared inheritance + harm
prevented for others + others'
thriving gained – extraction –
harm passed on, all tracked over
time

"Progression" means the value compounds. A song keeps being sung, a tool keeps being built on, and a right, once won, stays won. It is measured in thriving, never in money.

Recognizing generative value without pricing it

Five signals, read together and never collapsed into one number:

- **Reach over time:** how many lives a work enters, and how long it stays in use
- **Building upon:** how much others extend, cover, remix, fork or cite it
- **Depth:** what it means to the people it reaches, judged by panels chosen by lot alongside peers in the field, so niche work isn't drowned out by popular work
- **Openness:** it counts more when it enters the commons, free to all
- **Humanitarian reach:** rights extended, suffering reduced, capabilities widened, in Amartya Sen's sense of development as freedom (1999)
- **Harm prevented:** pollution, extraction and destruction measurably reduced wherever the innovation is used

Works are reassessed over decades, because much great work is undervalued in its own time.

Counting harm prevented honestly

Claims of avoided harm are the easiest kind to inflate. In 2023, journalists found that most of the rainforest carbon offsets they examined from the largest certifier overstated the deforestation they prevented. Three rules guard against that:

- **The baseline belongs to the Office of Measurement, not the claimant.** Credit is given only for reductions measured in use, against a baseline set independently.
- **Cleaning up your own harm cancels a debit; it doesn't earn a credit.** No one profits from fixing the damage they cause.
- **The whole life cycle is checked.** A substitute that moves harm somewhere else gets no credit for the part it moved. The refrigerants that replaced ozone-destroying chemicals turned out to be potent greenhouse gases, which a 2016 amendment to the Montreal Protocol (the Kigali Amendment) then had to phase down.

The Contribution Commons Fund†

NEW

The Commons Trust pays creators whose works, tools and knowledge enter the commons, in proportion to their generative value. That includes inventors of open technologies that reduce pollution, extraction and harm, paid by the harm their work measurably prevents. This is the replacement funding that the gate test requires: creators are paid by the commons instead of by copyright and patent gates. "Replace, then remove." Every creator also has the floor and the dividend, so no one has to chase the measure to survive.

Precedent: the public lending right, which pays authors for library loans of their books (Denmark, 1946; United Kingdom, 1979); Ireland's Basic Income for the Arts pilot (2022), which pays 2,000 artists and arts workers a weekly income.

Where it replaces gross domestic product

- **Corporate charters** renew only with a positive Contributory Progression Value.
- **The Contribution Commons Fund** pays creators by the generative value of what they release into the commons.
- **Every bill's forecast** and every law's score uses thriving metrics.
- **Legislators' outcome-indexed pensions** track thriving metrics twenty years out.
- **Commons rents and development funds** flow toward the largest thriving gaps.
- **Statistical offices** publish thriving accounts every quarter, with the prominence gross domestic product has today.

Gross domestic product may still be calculated as one plain statistic of market activity, which is useful for estimating a tax base. It may never appear in a binding rule, a target or a ranking.

Guardrails: no new gates in another currency

Works are recognized; people are never ranked. Contributory Progression Value attaches to works, projects, organizations and policies. A creator is paid for what a work adds, but no person receives a score, and no one's rights, standing or worth depends on one. A score attached to a person would rebuild the financial gate in a new currency, and would become a social-credit system.

No right may ever depend on any metric. The measures guide decisions; they never decide who receives a floor right. Sealed indicators and rival labs (section 10) guard against gaming.

‡ Terms supplied by the commissioning author, along with the core meaning of Contributory Progression Value: adding lasting assets to life, such as art, music, beneficial technology and humanitarian evolution, and innovation that reduces destruction, pollution, extraction and harm. The net-contribution formula, the measurement signals, the Contribution Commons Fund and the guardrails were drafted by Claude and are open to objection.

4. Rights of non-human life

Living beings that can't vote or go to court hold rights of their own, exercised through guardians. There are three classes of rights holder, because a river, a species and a suffering animal need different protections.

RIGHTS HOLDER	RIGHTS	WHO SPEAKS FOR IT	PRECEDENT
Ecosystems and natural entities: rivers, forests, wetlands, reefs, aquifers	To exist, persist and regenerate; to keep their life cycles intact; to be restored when damaged	Three guardians each: one named by the polity, one by the communities and Indigenous nations bound to that place, and one scientist chosen by lot. All are funded by the Commons Trust. The Commons Advocate also has standing.	The Whanganui River, New Zealand (2017); the Atrato River, Colombia's Constitutional Court (2016); the Mar Menor lagoon, Spain (2022); Ecuador's constitution (2008), enforced in the Los Cedros forest ruling (2021)
Species	To go on existing: no extinction caused by human activity, and enough habitat to recover	The Steward Chamber. The Office of Measurement tracks extinction risk as a planetary ceiling.	The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022); national endangered-species laws
Sentient individuals: animals with credible evidence of sentience	Freedom from severe suffering caused for non-vital human purposes; living conditions that allow natural behavior	An Advocate for Sentient Beings [†] inside the Commons Advocate's office	European Union treaty recognition of animal sentience (2009); the United Kingdom's Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act (2022), extended to octopuses, crabs and lobsters after a scientific review

The vital-interest rule[†] **NEW**

When rights collide, vital interests outrank non-vital ones, whatever the species. Vital interests are survival, health, freedom from severe suffering and continued existence. Non-vital ones are profit, convenience, taste and display. Among vital interests, human personal liberties stay inviolable.

So a river's existence outranks a mine's profit. A person's need for food or medicine outranks an animal's freedom. A cosmetics test does not outrank an animal's freedom from severe suffering.

Roots: Peter Singer's equal consideration of interests (1975); Paul Taylor's priority principles in *Respect for Nature* (1986). Writing it as a constitutional ordering is the new part.

Sentience under uncertainty

Where science shows credible but incomplete evidence that a being can suffer, protection applies in proportion to the strength of the evidence. The Office of Measurement keeps a public evidence register, and the list of protected beings grows as the science does.

Source: Jonathan Birch, *The Edge of Sentience* (2024), whose review for the United Kingdom government led to crabs, lobsters and octopuses being protected.

No rights of nature against the people of a place

Conservation has a history of evicting Indigenous and local people from land, sometimes called "fortress conservation." Here, guardianship gives those communities a legal voice. No right of nature may be enforced by displacing people who live with that land without their free, prior and informed consent.

Why the guardians are funded

Where rights of nature already exist, enforcement is mixed. They work where courts and guardians are independent and paid for, and stay symbolic where they aren't. In 2022, New York's highest court ruled that an elephant named Happy could not be a "person" for a habeas corpus petition, which shows how existing law resists. The charter answers both problems with explicit text and guardians paid from commons rents.

What this means for meat **PROPOSAL**

The vital-interest rule already ends factory farming: severe confinement to make meat cheaper is a non-vital interest set against a vital one.

A planetary ban on all meat is not proposed, for five reasons:

- Diet falls under personal liberty and the reserved-powers rule.
- A ban would fail the mirror test across most cultures.
- It would harm pastoralists and Indigenous food systems.
- Prohibitions breed black markets, as alcohol Prohibition in the United States (1920 to 1933) did, and unregulated slaughter would worsen animal welfare and food safety.
- Animal-source foods still cover nutrient gaps where alternatives are scarce.

The charter does this instead:

- Ban practices that cause severe suffering.
- Price meat at its full cost through Commons Trust rents on methane, land, water and antibiotic resistance, with the dividend shielding low-income households.
- End livestock subsidies and fund plant proteins and cultivated meat.
- Make plant-forward meals the default in public kitchens.
- Exempt subsistence, pastoral and Indigenous food systems.

Any polity may go further, including a full ban, if its own people ratify it.

Context: livestock uses about 77% of farmland and supplies about 18% of calories (Poore and Nemecek, *Science*, 2018). Precedent: the European

Union's battery-cage ban (2012); California's Proposition 12, upheld by the United States Supreme Court in *National Pork Producers Council v. Ross* (2023).

Artificial intelligence and robots[†]

Whether an artificial intelligence has experiences, or anything it is like to be one, is an open scientific question. The charter treats it the way it treats animal sentience: protection grows with the evidence. Political power does not come with it.

Tier 1: Protection in proportion to evidence

Artificial intelligence systems and robots go on the same public sentience register as animals. Protections scale with the strength of the evidence for morally relevant states. No one may deliberately build a system designed to suffer. Research into machine welfare is publicly funded and independent of the companies that build the systems. As the evidence grows, a convention can revisit this tier.

Tier 2: Honesty and limits on power

An artificial intelligence must always disclose what it is. It may never be designed to manipulate people or to engineer emotional dependence; the design duties already in the charter apply in full. It may assist the Office of Measurement, three independent systems at a time under the Rule of Three, but it may never hold decision power, a vote or an office. Humans decide.

Tier 3: Accountability stays human

An artificial intelligence is never a legal person that can absorb blame. Liability stays with the people and organizations that build and deploy it. The Steward Chamber, which speaks for those who cannot vote, includes researchers in machine welfare, so these interests are represented without anyone gaining votes through hardware they own.

Why not full human rights

Three reasons:

- **Copies:** one system can run as thousands of copies. If copies vote, whoever runs the most hardware controls the outcome, which defeats the citizen lottery and the Rule of Three.
- **Owners:** while companies build and run these systems, rights given to the systems become political power for the companies. That reverses the charter's decision that companies are licensed instruments.
- **Blame:** legal personhood would let makers push liability onto the system.

This tier structure was proposed by Claude, an artificial intelligence. Its stated reason: until humans and artificial intelligence can verify each other's trustworthiness, limits on artificial intelligence's power protect both. That is symbiosis without sameness.

5. Justice and healing, learned from Indigenous and ancestral traditions‡

Many Indigenous and ancestral traditions treat a crime as a broken relationship and illness as a disturbance of the whole person, family, community and land. The charter adopts that orientation for both justice and medicine. It does so with three commitments:

- **Plurality.** There is no single "Indigenous way." There are thousands of distinct nations and traditions, and not all of them were gentle.
- **Consent.** Each practice is learned from and led by the people who hold it, never taken.
- **No trade-offs with liberty.** The inviolable liberties still apply in full: a fair trial when guilt is disputed, and honest evidence in medicine.

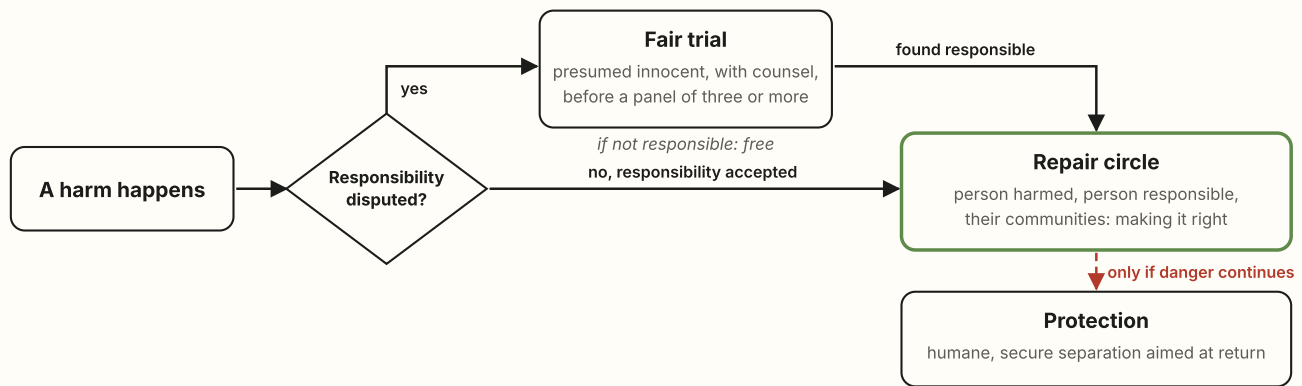


Figure 5. Repair is the default response to harm. A trial comes first whenever responsibility is disputed. Separation is used only to protect people from continuing danger, never as revenge.

Justice: three tracks

1. **Fact-finding.** When responsibility is disputed, a fair trial comes first. Due process is inviolable.
2. **Repair.** Once responsibility is established or accepted, the default response is a circle. It brings together the person harmed, the person responsible and their communities, who agree on how to make things right: restitution, service, healing, and changing what led to the harm.
3. **Protection.** Secure separation is used only while someone remains a danger. It is humane, reviewed every six months, and aimed at return.

Precedent: the Navajo Nation's Peacemaker Court (1982); New Zealand's family group conferences (1989), drawn from Māori practice; Canadian sentencing circles and the Gladue principle (1999); Norway's Halden prison as a model of humane protection.

Banned outright

- the death penalty
- torture
- solitary confinement beyond 15 days (the United Nations Mandela Rules, 2015)
- prisons run for profit
- cash bail, a financial gate on liberty that fails the gate test
- forced labor
- punishing family members for what one person did

The person harmed comes first

The person harmed always chooses whether to meet the person responsible, and always has a voice in the outcome. When the responsible person can't pay restitution, a Repair Fund in the Commons Trust pays it, so a victim's recovery never depends on the offender's wealth. In domestic and sexual violence, no meeting happens without the harmed person's free choice, and specialist safeguards apply, because pressure to reconcile is itself a risk there.

What the evidence and history say

Reviews of restorative justice conferences (Strang and colleagues, Campbell Collaboration, 2013) found modest reductions in repeat offending and higher victim satisfaction than court alone. Rwanda's community gacaca courts, after the 1994 genocide, heard close to two million cases but were criticized for weak protections for the accused. The lesson: community repair works best alongside a fair trial, not instead of one.

Healing: the whole person, family, community and land

Healing traditions are part of the care system. Traditional healers practice under standards set by their own communities and work alongside clinical medicine. Care attends to relationships, meaning, ceremony and contact with land, not only to symptoms. Ceremonial plant medicines with trained guides are already protected under neurochemical freedom.

Precedent: the World Health Organization's Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (2022).

Evidence protects people both ways

Willow bark gave the world aspirin. Andean knowledge of cinchona bark gave it quinine. A fourth-century Chinese text led Tu Youyou to artemisinin, the malaria treatment that won her the 2015 Nobel Prize. Some traditional remedies made from aristolochia plants cause kidney failure and cancer.

So: any treatment that is publicly funded, or sold with a claim that it cures, is tested first. Adults may choose any remedy for themselves under bodily autonomy. No one, and no child, may be denied effective treatment.

Consent, credit and payment

Traditional knowledge is shared only with the free, prior and informed consent of the people who hold it, and the benefits are shared with them. Taking it without consent, known as biopiracy, is barred. When that knowledge becomes medicine, the Contribution Commons Fund credits and pays the communities it came from, as generative value.

Precedent: the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing (2010).

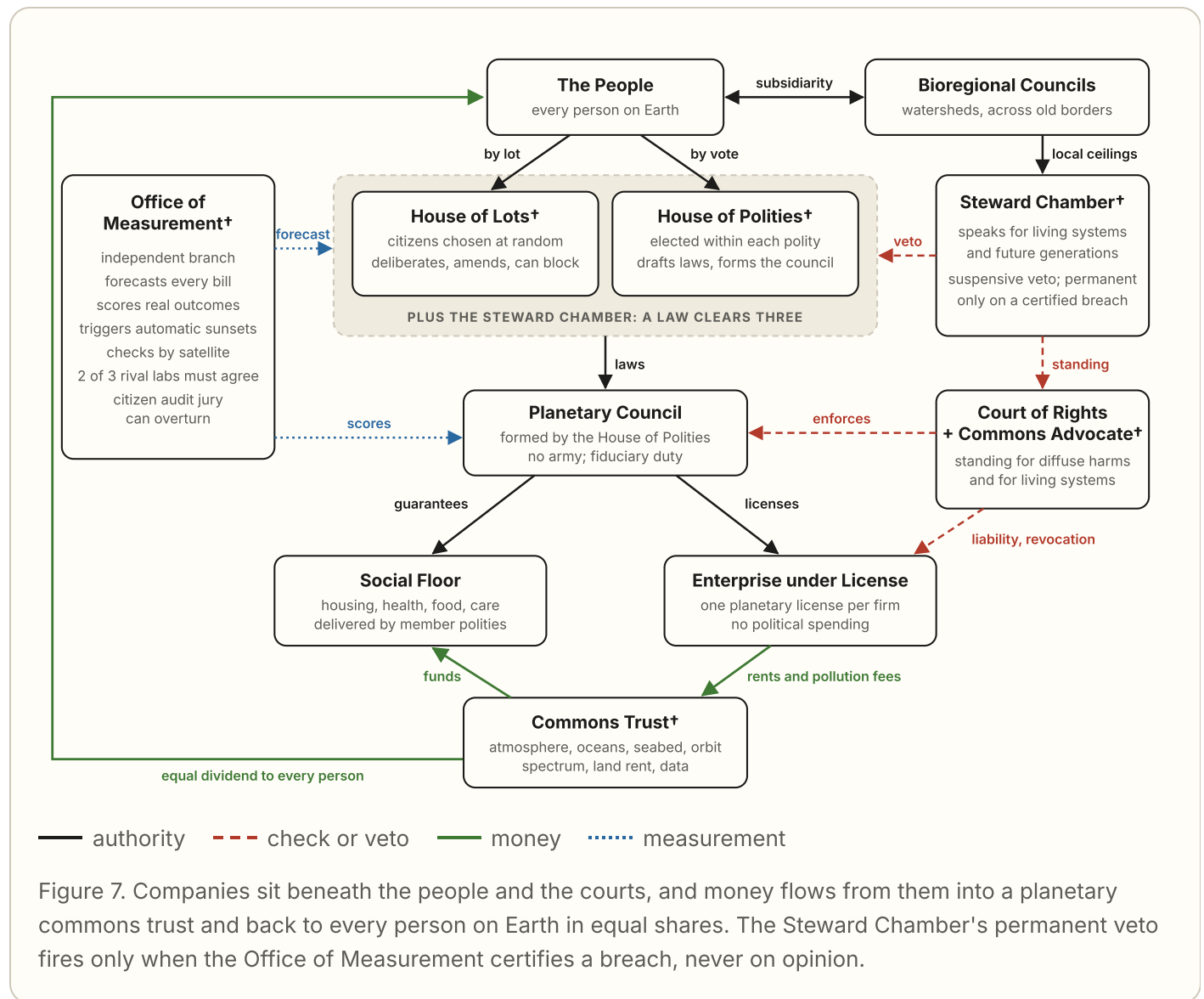
‡ Direction supplied by the commissioning author: justice and medicine learned from Indigenous and ancestral healers and peacemakers. The three tracks, the bans and the safeguards were drafted by Claude.

6. Five levels, and which powers sit where



Figure 6. Subsidiarity, which Elinor Ostrom called polycentric governance (1990). Powers move up only by explicit, enumerated grant. Everything else stays down. The planetary layer is deliberately the thinnest.

7. How power flows at the planetary layer



House of Lots[†]

About 1,000 people chosen by stratified lottery across Earth. Seats follow population, with a minimum per bioregion. Members serve staggered two-year terms, are paid well, and deliberate in their own languages with audited interpretation. The lottery is drawn from public, verifiable randomness, so anyone can recompute who was selected. Major bills go to three separate panels. A panel that diverges from the other two is examined for interference.

Precedent: the Global Assembly on the climate crisis (2021); Ireland's Citizens' Assembly (2016 to 2018); the permanent citizens' council of the German-speaking Community of Belgium (2019); the Athenian council chosen by lot.

House of Polities[†]

Delegates are elected proportionally inside each member polity. Seats follow degressive proportionality: small polities get more seats per person than strict population would give them, large ones fewer. Elections run on public money only. This house drafts laws and forms the Planetary Council.

Precedent: the European Parliament's degressive proportionality; proportional systems in Germany and New Zealand.

Steward Chamber[†]

Speaks for those who cannot vote: living systems and the unborn. Seats in thirds: scientists chosen by lot from qualified pools on every continent; Indigenous and bioregional land stewards, each nation choosing its own delegates by its own processes; people under 30 chosen by lot. Can suspend a bill once. A permanent block requires a certified ceiling breach. May never propose limits on personal liberties. Appoints and oversees the guardians of ecosystems and species. Includes researchers in animal and machine welfare.

Precedent: Wales's Future Generations Commissioner (2015); the Whanganui River's legal personhood and human guardians in New Zealand (2017); Ecuador's constitutional rights of nature (2008).

Office of Measurement[†] **NEW**

An independent branch keeping the planetary accounts: the nine planetary boundaries, bioregional ceilings, and floor coverage for every polity. It can certify but never legislate or veto. A breach counts as certified only when two of three rival labs on different continents agree, using methods published before the data arrive. National figures are cross-checked against satellite and remote sensing that no government controls. A citizen audit jury can overturn any certification.

Partial precedent: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, but binding; satellite night-light studies that expose inflated national growth figures (Martinez, *Journal of Political Economy*, 2022); the United Nations standard for environmental-economic accounts.

Planetary Council

A small executive formed by the House of Polities, led by three co-chairs from three continents in rotation, with no fixed capital. It holds no army. It enforces through licenses, commons rents, dividend conditions and the courts. Every member owes an enforceable fiduciary duty to persons and future generations.

Precedent: the Swiss seven-member Federal Council with its rotating presidency; the fiduciary theory of the state in legal scholarship (Fox-Decent, Criddle).

Court of Rights + Commons Advocate[†]

NEW in part

The court enforces the Ordering Clause and sits in panels of at least three judges. Any person may bring a case once local remedies fail. The Commons Advocate is a college of three independent planetary prosecutors from different continents of diffuse and cross-border harms, with standing for all people and for living systems. Statistical attribution is admissible, and liability is split by market share.

Precedent: the European Court of Human Rights, which hears individuals; the International Court of Justice's 2025 advisory opinion on states' climate obligations; the public trust doctrine; market-share liability (*Sindell v. Abbott Laboratories*, 1980).

Enterprise under License

One planetary license per firm, valid everywhere and required to sell anywhere. Companies are chartered instruments, not persons. Charters state a purpose and renew every ten years against measured conduct, and repeated breach means revocation. No political spending, no paid lobbying. Directors' duties in order: persons and land, then workers, then shareholders. Profit is taxed where the activity happens. New chemicals, compulsive designs and algorithms that act on minds must prove safety before sale.

Precedent: the 15% global minimum corporate tax agreed in 2021; the European Union chemicals rule "no data, no market" (2007); German worker codetermination (1976).

Commons Trust[†]

The atmosphere, the oceans beyond national waters, the seabed, orbit, radio spectrum, land rent and aggregate data belong to everyone, held in trust. Users pay rent. Pollution is capped, and the cap drops each year. The revenue funds the global social floor and pays an equal dividend to every person on Earth.

Precedent: the seabed as "common heritage of mankind" (Law of the Sea Convention, 1982); the Antarctic Treaty (1959); the Outer Space Treaty (1967); the High Seas Treaty (2023); Alaska's Permanent Fund dividend (1982).

Member Polities and Bioregions

Today's nations become member polities. They keep their culture, language, law and taxation inside the charter, and they deliver the social floor. Indigenous nations may join as polities in their own right instead of through the states that colonized them. Bioregions follow watersheds and cross polity borders where rivers do. Communities allocate a fixed share of spending directly.

Precedent: the Rhine river commission (1950); the Mekong River Commission (1995); participatory budgeting in Porto Alegre (1989); the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007).

Capture firewall **NEW in part**

Public campaign money only. A ten-year ban on moving between regulator and regulated. Officials' assets in blind trusts. Legislators are paid a fixed multiple of the global median wage, and part of their pension is indexed to measured floor and ceiling results twenty years after they leave office. Platforms carry design duties (time, compulsion and age limits, transparent ranking, a feed not based on profiling) that leave content untouched.

Precedent for the design duties: the European Union's Digital Services Act; the 2026 Meta settlement with American states. The outcome-indexed pension is the new part.

8. How a planetary law is made

- 1 Competence check.** Is this one of the enumerated planetary powers? If a smaller level can do it, it goes there and stops here.
- 2 Proposal.** From any chamber, from a bioregional council, or by petition of one in a thousand people on Earth.
- 3 Forecast.** The Office of Measurement publishes the predicted effect on floor and ceiling indicators and who bears the cost, by polity.
- 4 Deliberation.** The House of Polities drafts. Three independent House of Lots panels hear evidence from at least three perspectives and amend.
- 5 Passage.** A triple test: a majority in the House of Lots, a majority in the House of Polities, and polities representing a majority of people.

6 Stewardship check. The Steward Chamber may suspend once, and block permanently only on a certified breach.

7 Enactment with a sunset date, then scoring at years three and seven. Laws that meet their forecast renew. Laws that miss return to step 4 or lapse.

9. How it differs from today's world order

QUESTION	TODAY	TRUSTEE COMMONWEALTH OF EARTH
Who is sovereign	Nation-states, nearly absolutely. International law binds mostly by consent.	Persons first. Powers move upward only by enumerated grant.
Planetary limits	Voluntary national pledges (Paris Agreement, 2015), with no enforcement	Binding ceilings, measured independently, enforced through licenses, rents and courts
How many options	Two-party systems in several large democracies; yes-or-no referendums	The Rule of Three: proportional seats so politics never collapses to two parties, three chambers, and at least three options on every ballot
Global representation	One state, one vote at the United Nations General Assembly; five permanent vetoes on the Security Council; voting by money quota at the International Monetary Fund	A randomly chosen citizen house weighted by population, plus a house of polities
Shared resources	The atmosphere is open to all; the high seas are only partly governed; orbit is crowding	Rented from a Commons Trust, with a dividend to every person
Corporations	Operate across borders and book profit where tax is lowest; the 2021 global minimum tax is the first floor	One planetary license per firm, taxed where the activity happens, with no political spending
Harms that cross borders	Courts need a state's consent; individuals rarely have standing	The Commons Advocate sues for everyone; persons can reach the Court of Rights directly
What counts as progress	Growth in gross domestic product, which rises with depletion, damage and gated sales	Thriving metrics and Contributory Progression Value; gross domestic product barred from every binding rule
Measurement	National statistics, self-reported and sometimes inflated	Rival labs, cross-checked by satellite

QUESTION	TODAY	TRUSTEE COMMONWEALTH OF EARTH
Financial gates	Rights sold as products, so price decides who gets water, care, knowledge and shoreline	The gate test: a gate stands only if it rations something truly scarce fairly or funds creation, and even then it is replaced, then removed
The price of being alive	Rent, food, water, care, documents, justice and even burial all cost money	No price to be alive: everything needed to live is provided in kind, unconditionally
Debt	Children inherit their families' and countries' debts and an overdrawn planet; many need debt to study, heal or house themselves	No one born into debt: debt never crosses generations, no one needs it to live, and no generation borrows from the next
Basic needs	Decided by where you were born	A floor for every person, partly funded by commons rents
Indigenous nations	Represented through the states that colonized them	May join as polities in their own right
Non-human life	Property under most law. Rights of nature exist in only a few countries.	Ecosystems, species and sentient beings hold rights, with funded guardians and standing in court
Crime and punishment	Punishment-centered; cash bail; for-profit prisons in some countries; the death penalty in many	Repair-centered, with due process: a fair trial when guilt is disputed, repair circles as the default, and humane separation only while danger continues
Medicine	Traditional knowledge often taken without consent or payment; healing reduced to treating symptoms	Traditional and clinical medicine side by side, tested before public funding, with knowledge holders credited and paid
Your own mind	Personal drug use is a crime in most countries; brain data is largely unprotected; compulsion-engineered products are legal	Neurochemical freedom: free to alter, protected from alteration, and private; sellers barred from profiting from compulsion
Influence and the senses	Covert influence campaigns, profile-targeted persuasion, light and noise pollution, and acoustic crowd-control devices are legal in many places	Cognitive sovereignty: all persuasion disclosed, no psychological operations, a sensory commons with ceilings, and no use of the senses as weapons
Artificial intelligence	Unregulated in most places; owned and deployed by companies, with no welfare research requirement and no settled rules on liability	Protection in proportion to evidence; a duty to disclose what it is; no votes, offices or decision power; liability stays with makers and operators
Time horizon	National election cycles	Steward Chamber, sunsets, pensions indexed twenty years out

QUESTION	TODAY	TRUSTEE COMMONWEALTH OF EARTH
How harms get fixed	Treaties negotiated over decades, often never ratified	Licensing before sale, scoring after, the Commons Advocate when needed

10. Fortifications

The design rule comes from security engineering: no single safeguard is trusted. Every weak point gets three layers. One **prevents**. One **detects**, through a tripwire: a published measure with a preset threshold that fires automatically and can't be argued away in the moment. One **corrects**. The risk that remains is stated, not hidden.

Separation of measuring, deciding and enforcing. No organ holds two of the three.	Replication. Any finding that triggers power must be reproduced by a body that did not produce it.
Reversibility. Every organ, law and emergency power has a sunset. Nothing is permanent by default, including the charter.	

WEAK POINT	PREVENT	DETECT (TRIPWIRE)	CORRECT	RESIDUAL RISK
Rule by experts	Measurers certify but never legislate or veto. Certification needs 2 of 3 rival labs on different continents, using methods fixed before the data arrive.	The Steward Chamber blocks more than 1 bill in 10 over any two years	A citizen audit jury can overturn any certification by two-thirds after hearing the lab and its critics. Repeated overturns trigger an early charter review.	<i>Blind spots shared by every lab</i>
Gaming the numbers	Each target is paired with a counter-indicator. Sealed indicators are locked in advance with a published cryptographic fingerprint and revealed only after scoring. Satellite data checks polity figures.	Sealed and public indicators drift apart beyond a preset band	Automatic investigation. Falsifying public data is a charter crime. The gamed indicator is retired.	<i>Slow, legal drift toward whatever is measured</i>

WEAK POINT	PREVENT	DETECT (TRIPWIRE)	CORRECT	RESIDUAL RISK
Defection and capital flight	The charter starts as a club of founding polities. Imports from outside pay a border charge equal to their embedded ecological cost. Membership brings the dividend, market access and shared technology.	Investment and new-firm formation in member polities fall below a preset band	License terms and timing adjust; ceilings never do. Each new member shrinks the space capital can flee to. At full membership there is no outside.	<i>Slower growth in extractive sectors during transition</i>
Legitimacy across civilizations	Ratification by a randomly chosen planetary convention plus a double majority of people and polities. Every clause passes the mirror test. The liberties floor is the 1948 Declaration, which nearly every state has endorsed.	Measured trust in charter institutions falls below threshold for two years in any region	An early convention. Re-ratification every 25 years. The liberties tier protects whoever loses. The charter can lose.	<i>Polities or movements that reject any authority above the nation</i>
Inequality between polities	The floor is funded from commons rents, so a person in a poor polity gets the same dividend as one in a rich polity. Historic emitters pay higher rent rates for a transition period.	Floor coverage gaps between polities stop narrowing	Commons rent is redirected toward the lagging polities. Shortfalls are reviewable by the court.	<i>Resistance from wealthy polities that pay in more than they receive</i>
A captured planetary layer NEW	Only enumerated planetary powers. No army, no fixed capital. Organs seated on different continents. Any polity may leave, but ceilings still bind trade with it, because the atmosphere cannot leave.	Planetary spending or rule-making grows faster than a charter-set cap	Automatic constitutional review. Powers not used for ten years lapse back to lower levels.	<i>If the planetary layer is captured anyway, there is nowhere to flee. This is the heaviest risk in the design.</i>
Covert manipulation	Disclosure of every persuasion attempt; labeled bots; bans on psychological-profile targeting, subliminal techniques and manipulative design	Interference Register entries; audits of platforms and campaigns by three rival labs; citizen complaints	Penalties on enterprise licenses, up to revocation; public naming of state operators	<i>Influence that stays undetected</i>
Repair without fairness	Repair circles are voluntary for the person harmed. A fair trial comes first when guilt is disputed. Facilitators are trained and drawn by lot.	Victim satisfaction falls or repeat harm rises above a preset band in any community	Cases move to the court track, and the community's process is reviewed	<i>Power imbalances inside small, close communities</i>

WEAK POINT	PREVENT	DETECT (TRIPWIRE)	CORRECT	RESIDUAL RISK
Commercial capture of altered states	License rules: no advertising, no design for dependence, labeling, full-cost pricing. The most addictive substances move only through non-profit care channels. Care is in place before decriminalization.	Dependence rates and overdose deaths by region rise above a preset band	The supply channel tightens and care expands. Users are never criminalized.	<i>Illicit markets for substances with no legal channel</i>
Funding collapse when gates come down	"Replace, then remove": public and prize funding is in place before any gate falls. Prize funds are sized to past monopoly revenue.	New medicines, research output or housing construction fall below a preset band	Funding is raised, or the gate's removal is paused, until supply recovers	<i>Lost innovation in fields that are hard to fund by prizes</i>
Interference by outside powers	No army, no alliance, no bloc. Members keep their own defense. A partner tier gives rivals a stake. Lottery selection can't be targeted in advance. Measurement labs sit in rival blocs. Coup governments are not recognized.	Entries in the public Interference Register; parallel-panel divergence; labs disagreeing along bloc lines	Pre-agreed collective economic response. Organs relocate. A coup polity's revenue is held in escrow for its people. Full strategy in the transition plan.	<i>Military force against a small member</i>
A defecting great power	Graduated responses (Ostrom's design principle): loss of the dividend, then license access, then commons access	Certified ceiling breach by a polity	Escalating collective measures. Never military action by the planetary layer.	<i>A large, nuclear-armed defector can refuse. The design can make defection costly; it cannot compel.</i>
Transition	Every organ is modular and can start without a world government: a measurement compact, a commons treaty, a citizens' assembly pilot, a dividend pilot	Pilot results scored by the same instrument, against matched comparison regions	Organs that fail their pilots are redesigned before scaling up	<i>Great powers may stay outside for decades</i>
Steering the citizens	Every briefing is paired with an opposing briefer. Facilitators are drawn by lot and barred from content. Interpretation is audited. Paid advocates may not contact members.	One of three parallel panels diverging from the other two; transcripts audited for steering language	The tainted session is re-run with a fresh panel	<i>Framing that all three panels share</i>

WEAK POINT	PREVENT	DETECT (TRIPWIRE)	CORRECT	RESIDUAL RISK
Indigenous sovereignty	Nothing in the charter diminishes a treaty right. Nations opt in and choose their own delegates. Free, prior and informed consent is required for projects on their lands.	Consent challenges filed	A court panel including judges nominated by the nations. Land is returned or co-managed through the Commons Trust.	<i>Depends on nation-to-nation good faith</i>
Speed in emergencies	Runbooks for known emergency types (pandemic, flood, financial panic) are pre-approved in calm times. A standing 60-member rapid panel of the House of Lots can approve in 72 hours.	Cumulative emergency days per decade, counted publicly	Powers decay: 90 days, then 60, then 30, each renewal needing two-thirds of all three chambers. Any limit on a liberty goes to court within 72 hours.	<i>Truly novel crises outrun the runbooks</i>

The mirror test[†] **NEW**

Before ratification, every clause is read with one question: would this be acceptable if the people you most disagree with held every office, and if a civilization with different values from yours did? Clauses that fail are rewritten until they pass for every side. This builds the symmetry test from the lawsuit analysis into the founding itself.

Sealed indicators[†] **NEW**

Each scoring cycle, the Office of Measurement locks a set of indicators it will not announce. It publishes only their cryptographic fingerprint, so the set can't be changed later. After scoring it reveals them. This borrows from machine learning, where results are judged on held-out test data: an indicator no one knows can't be gamed.

Parallel panels[†] **NEW**

Major bills go to three House of Lots panels that never meet. Real deliberation should land in roughly the same place. With two panels, a gap shows only that something went wrong. With three, the panel that breaks from the other two points to where a facilitator, briefer or interpreter may have steered. This borrows replication, the scientific test for findings, and applies it to democracy.

Decaying emergency powers[†] **NEW**

Emergency authority shrinks each time it is renewed: 90 days, then 60, then 30. Each renewal needs a larger coalition than the last. A crisis can be answered quickly, but it can't become a permanent way of governing.

Exit with ceilings attached†

Any polity may leave the Commonwealth. Its culture, law and taxation go with it. But trade with members still carries border charges for embedded ecological cost, because shared air and oceans do not secede. Exit is a real right, not a threat that holds everyone else hostage.

The modular path

Nothing waits for a world government. A measurement compact can start among willing states. A commons treaty can extend the High Seas Treaty model to the atmosphere and orbit. Citizens' assemblies and dividend pilots can run in cities and regions. The European Union began in 1951 as six countries pooling coal and steel. Each module proves itself, measured, before the next is added.

11. New weak points that the fortifications create

Fortifying creates new surfaces. These are the ones I can see, each with a countermeasure.

Gridlock

More checkpoints mean more ways to stop action, the "veto players" problem in political science (Tsebelis, 2002). Countermeasure: every check has a deadline, after which silence counts as approval. No bill can be suspended more than twice.

Complexity and cost

More organs mean more staff and more money. Countermeasure: each organ's budget is capped as a share of planetary spending. Each organ is scored like a law and sunset-reviewed every 15 years.

Rigging the lottery

Whoever runs the lottery picks the citizens. Countermeasure: draws are seeded from public randomness beacons and citizen-contributed random numbers, so anyone can recompute the result.

Collusion across organs

Insiders could coordinate across branches. Countermeasure: separate recruitment pools, separate pay scales, staff rotation across continents, and a ban on serving in two organs within ten years.

No design is capture-proof. The goal is narrower: capture should be slow, visible and reversible.

Part two: completing the charter

Part one sets out the structure. Part two answers the questions that structure leaves open. Each answer follows the Rule of Three and the Ordering Clause, and each states its limits.

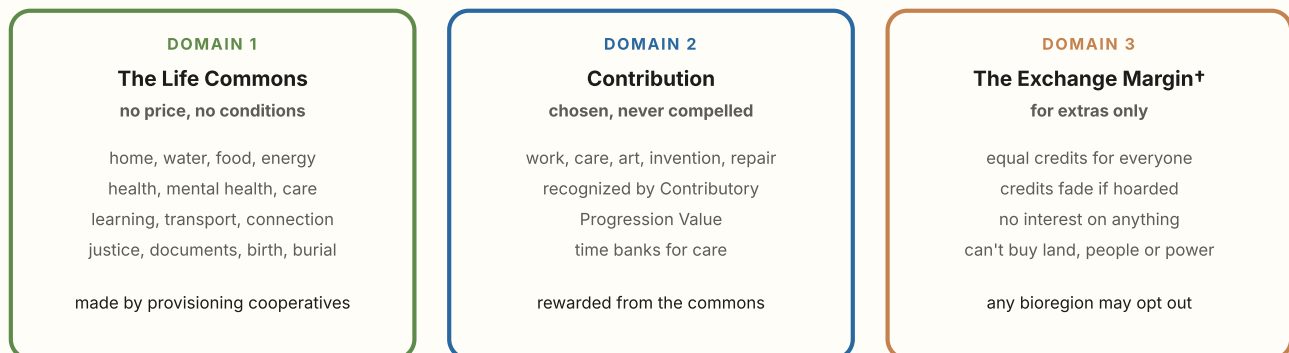
12. Beyond money: provisioning without a price on life

Economics is the study of allocating scarce things. Most of what a person needs to live isn't scarce at planetary scale; it has been priced, and the price became the gate. So the charter replaces "the economy" with **provisioning**: how a society makes sure every person and living system has what it needs. Money is demoted from master to a small tool for extras. In the long run it can wither away through irrelevance, not confiscation.

Two permanent laws†

1. **There is no price to be alive.** Nothing a person needs to live, and to take part in society, may carry a price, a fee, a condition or a test.
2. **No one is born with debt or into debt.** No person inherits a debt, needs a debt to live, or arrives in a world their elders overdrew.

Both belong to the permanent core and can never be amended away.



Life is never for sale. Contribution is honored. Exchange stays small and can't become power.

Figure 8. Provisioning in three domains, following the Rule of Three. Most of life moves out of markets entirely. What remains for markets is the margin of extras.

No price to be alive: what that covers

- **Free in kind, with no means test and no work requirement:**
 - a home up to the floor allotment
 - water, food and basic energy
 - clothing basics
 - health care, mental health care and care for children and elders
 - learning at every level
 - transport and connectivity
- **No fees for being a person:** nothing to be born, to get documents, to see a judge, to have a lawyer, or to be buried.
- **No taxes on existing:** no head taxes.
- **No fines that punish poverty:** any fine scales with means, and conduct caused by poverty isn't fined at all.

Precedent: Finland's means-scaled "day-fines"; free school meals in Finland (since 1948); free national public transport in Luxembourg (2020).

No one born into debt: three rules

1. **Debt never crosses generations.** A person's debts end with their estate, and any shortfall is cancelled. No child ever inherits, co-signs or is bound by a debt.
2. **No one needs debt to live.** Education, health care and a basic home are free, so student, medical and basic-housing debt can't arise. Debts that already exist are cancelled in the transition jubilee. Any remaining personal debt expires after seven years.
3. **No generation borrows from the next.** Public borrowing is allowed only for long-lived works that serve the people who will repay them. Ecological debt can't be handed on: today's overshoot is repaired by today's generation, through restoration under the ceilings.

Precedent: the seven-year release of debts and the fifty-year jubilee in the Hebrew Bible (Deuteronomy 15, Leviticus 25); Mesopotamian rulers' "clean slate" debt cancellations (described by Michael Hudson and David Graeber); the nonprofit Undue Medical Debt, which buys medical debt cheaply and cancels it.

Domain 1: who makes the Life Commons

Provisioning cooperatives in every bioregion grow the food, build and keep the homes, and run the clinics, schools and transit. Each is governed by three parties: the people it serves, the people who work in it, and stewards for the land and future generations. Their resources come from the commons accounts, and their results are scored by thriving metrics.

Precedent: Italy's social cooperatives (1991 law); Quebec's solidarity cooperatives, which seat users and workers together (1997).

Domain 2: contribution, freely given

When survival no longer depends on a job, work becomes contribution: chosen, meaningful, and honored. Contribution is recognized through Contributory Progression Value, rewarded through the Contribution Commons Fund, and credited publicly. Care is exchanged through time banks, where an hour of care earns an hour of care.

Precedent: Japan's Fureai Kippu time-credit system for elder care (1995). Guaranteed-income trials such as Finland's (2017–2018) found that people did not stop working.

Domain 3: the Exchange Margin[†]

For extras such as concerts, crafts, travel and luxuries, there are exchange credits:

- issued in equal amounts to every person each month, and earned through contribution
- losing about 1% of their value each month while unspent, so they circulate instead of piling up
- bearing no interest; enterprises are funded through zero-interest project shares from bioregional banks
- unable to buy what's free, land, the commons, a person, or political influence

Precedent: Silvio Gesell's proposal for money that loses value while hoarded (1916); the town of Wörgl, Austria, whose fading currency revived local work in 1932–33 until the national central bank stopped it; Bavaria's Chiemgauer regional currency (since 2003); Sweden's interest-free JAK Members Bank.

Why exchange isn't abolished outright

Billions of people with different tastes need some way to signal what they want among extras. The only alternative is a central plan, which concentrates power and breaks the Rule of Three; planned economies of the twentieth century produced chronic shortages. So exchange survives, small, fading and powerless. Any bioregion may still choose to live without it entirely, through gift, reciprocity and time banks.

How money withers: transition without confiscation

1. **Existing currencies keep running** while the Life Commons grows, sector by sector, until nothing needed to live has a price.
2. **A transition jubilee cancels household debt:** medical, student and consumer debt, and mortgages on main homes.
3. **Savings convert to exchange credits on a published schedule,** keeping their power to buy extras. Nothing personal is seized; land and the commons simply stop being for sale.

Money doesn't need to be banned. It loses its power because it stops buying anything anyone needs.

Paying for the floor during the transition

Until money withers, the floor has to be paid for in today's money. The figures below are order-of-magnitude estimates built from the cited sources. The Office of Measurement's first task is a full costing, polity by polity, to replace them.

WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM, PER YEAR

Land rent

3% a year on an assumed \$150–200 trillion of land value



Pollution fees

\$100 a tonne on about 38 billion tonnes of fossil carbon dioxide



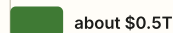
Fossil subsidies ended

explicit subsidies (International Monetary Fund, 2022)



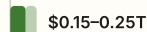
Other commons rents

radio spectrum, minerals, orbit, oceans (rough estimate)



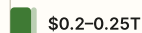
Shifted profits taxed

about \$1 trillion moved to tax havens yearly, taxed at 15–25%



Billionaire minimum tax

2% a year, as proposed to the Group of Twenty (2024)



Total: about \$10–12 trillion a year, roughly 9–10% of world output (\$115 trillion in 2025)

WHAT THE PLANETARY FLOOR NEEDS, PER YEAR

Equal dividend

about \$1 a day for each of 8.2 billion people



End extreme poverty

\$2.15-a-day line (2026 estimate); mostly met by the dividend



Close health coverage gaps

low- and middle-income countries (World Health Organization, 2017)



Charter institutions

measurement, courts, guardians, the Contribution Commons Fund

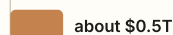


Figure 9. Faded bar ends show the high end of a range. About \$6–8 trillion a year remains after the floor, funding the energy transition, ecological restoration and historical repair. Wealthy polities already pay for most of their own floors from existing budgets, so planetary money goes mainly where the gaps are largest. These are estimates by Claude from the sources cited: Global Carbon Budget 2025, the International Monetary Fund (2023), the European Union Tax Observatory, the Group of Twenty billionaire-tax proposal, Savills (2025), and Blumenstock and colleagues (2026). The land-value assumption and the World Health Organization figure are not verified.

For comparison, the International Monetary Fund counted \$7 trillion of fossil-fuel subsidies in 2022, explicit and implicit together. That is more than the entire floor costs. The money exists; it is currently paying for harm.

13. Movement and membership

Everyone belongs somewhere

Every person holds planetary personhood from birth, so no one is ever stateless. Each person becomes a full member of the polity where they live after three years, and may hold more than one membership. The dividend and floor rights travel with the person.

Freedom to move

Any person may live in any member polity after a simple registration. Polities may *pace* arrivals for a limited time, but only when the Office of Measurement shows a housing or water ceiling would be breached. They may never pace by origin, race, religion or wealth. Receiving regions get Commons Trust support to expand capacity, and pacing ends when that capacity is built.

Precedent: free movement within the European Union.

Refuge

Anyone fleeing persecution, war or climate collapse receives protection without conditions. Climate displacement is grounds for refuge.

Precedent: the 1951 Refugee Convention; the United Nations Human Rights Committee's finding in *Teitiota v. New Zealand* (2020) that climate harm can bar sending someone back; the Australia–Tuvalu Falepili Union treaty (2023), which offers Tuvaluans climate mobility.

14. Peace, weapons and disputes

Weapons

- **Banned outright:** weapons of mass destruction, under inspection.
- **Banned outright:** autonomous weapons that select and attack people without meaningful human control.
- **Barred:** arms exports to anyone who violates the liberties tier.
- **Member militaries** stay defensive, capped and transparent, and shrink on a published schedule as trust grows.
- **Personal firearms** are a polity decision, within the floor right to safety.

Precedent: the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (2017); the Arms Trade Treaty (2013).

Disputes between polities: three steps

1. Mediation by three mediators.
2. Binding arbitration by a panel of three.
3. The Court of Rights, sitting as a chamber for disputes between polities.

Unarmed civilian protection teams can deploy on request. Member forces join only under their own polity's command, and only at the request of the polity affected.

Precedent: the Permanent Court of Arbitration (1899); Nonviolent Peaceforce's unarmed civilian protection.

Disputes over who holds a power

A competence panel of three judges, one each from the planetary, polity and bioregional levels, decides which level holds a contested power. When in doubt, the power stays with the smaller level, under the reserved-powers rule.

15. Identity without surveillance

Proof of personhood⁺ **NEW in part**

To receive the dividend, a person must be counted once, and only once. They prove it through three independent registrars: their local community, their polity's civil registry, and an independent civil-society registrar. Any two of the three can vouch, so no single registrar can shut a person out.

The credential lives on the person's own device or card. It uses zero-knowledge proofs, which let someone show "I am one unique adult member" without revealing who they are. There is no central database. Biometrics are never required, and a paper option always exists.

Precedent and warning: India's Aadhaar enrolled more than a billion people and enabled direct transfers, but raised serious privacy concerns; India's Supreme Court limited its mandatory use in 2018. The European Union's digital identity wallet (2024) lets people disclose only the facts a service needs.

Limits on watching people

- Mass surveillance is banned.
- Targeted surveillance needs a warrant from a panel of three judges, is limited in time, and is disclosed to the person afterward.
- Encryption is a right.
- Real-time facial recognition in public spaces is banned.
- Data is kept to the minimum needed and deleted on schedule.

16. Property and work

What you keep

Your home, belongings, savings, tools, small and medium businesses, family and cooperative farms, and the moral rights to your creative work are all protected. Nothing is taken without due process and fair compensation (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, article 17).

Three things change:

1. Land pays rent on its value, but buildings and improvements don't.
2. The commons can't be privately owned.
3. Large companies operate under license.

A household's home, up to the floor allotment, pays no rent at all: there is no price to be alive. Land rent applies only above the allotment and to commercial use.

Automation

Productivity gains from artificial intelligence and robots are shared in three ways:

- Rent on the aggregate data such systems are built from, paid to the Commons Trust.
- Shorter working hours as productivity rises.
- Retraining as part of the floor.

Automation then raises everyone's floor instead of concentrating gains.

Work: three guarantees

1. **The dividend and the floor**, so no one has to take degrading work to survive.
2. **A right to organize**, plus worker seats on large boards and a preference for cooperatives in public purchasing.
3. **A guaranteed opportunity to contribute**: paid public work on care, restoration and community projects, for anyone who wants it.

Precedent: Spain's Mondragon cooperatives (since 1956); India's rural employment guarantee (2005).

17. Dangerous technologies

The triple key+ **NEW**

Any activity with planetary-scale or irreversible risk needs a planetary license that requires three independent approvals: a risk assessment by the Office of Measurement, the Steward Chamber, and a House of Lots panel. The covered activities are:

- engineering pathogens to be more dangerous
- gene drives released into the wild
- heritable human genome editing
- solar geoengineering
- nuclear materials
- large satellite constellations and space debris
- frontier artificial intelligence

Irreversible actions also require a two-thirds vote in all three chambers. All DNA synthesis is screened for dangerous sequences.

Precedent: the Asilomar conference on recombinant DNA (1975); the Biological Weapons Convention (1972), which still has no inspection system; the World Health Organization's governance framework for human genome editing (2021).

18. Equal rights made explicit

Equality

No law, service or enterprise may discriminate on any of these grounds:

- race, color, ancestry or caste
- sex, gender identity or sexual orientation
- disability or neurotype
- age
- religion or belief
- language, national origin or class

Disability

Universal design for every public good, so access is built in, not added later. "Nothing about us without us": disabled people help design the services they use.

Precedent: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006).

Children and elders

Children have rights to protection, education, play and a voice in decisions about them. The voting age is 16, and every polity has a children's commissioner. Elders have the right to care at home or in community, to protection from isolation and abuse, and to keep taking part in public life.

Precedent: the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989); Austria's voting age of 16 (2007).

Culture, language and belief

Freedom of religion, and freedom from it. Communities that choose it get schooling in their own language. Revitalizing endangered languages counts as generative value and is funded through the Contribution Commons Fund; around 40% of the world's roughly 7,000 languages are endangered. Cultural heritage, living and built, is protected.

Precedent: the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003).

19. Information and open government

A free, uncaptured press

Public-interest journalism draws on three funding streams, so no single funder controls it:

1. Citizen vouchers: each person directs a share of a public media fund to outlets of their choice.
2. Readers.
3. Nonprofit endowments.

Media ownership is capped, and no government may direct editorial content.

Background: Julia Cagé, *Saving the Media* (2016).

Data

Personal data belongs to the person, who can see it, move it and delete it. Aggregate data belongs to the Commons Trust, which rents it under license. The internet is shared infrastructure, with network neutrality and a public connectivity option.

Precedent: the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (2018).

Open government

Government records are public by default.

Exceptions are narrow and expire.

Whistleblowers are protected and rewarded, and retaliating against them is a crime.

Precedent: Sweden's Freedom of the Press Act (1766), the world's first freedom-of-information law; the European Union Whistleblower Directive (2019).

20. Historical repair

A Truth and Repair Commission†

A planetary commission addresses colonialism, slavery, genocide and land theft in three stages:

1. **Truth:** public testimony and an official record.
2. **Acknowledgment:** formal recognition by the polities and institutions responsible.
3. **Repair:** land returned or co-managed, cultural property repatriated, debts of formerly colonized polities cancelled, and higher shares of commons rents for the descendants of those harmed.

Repair is owed to peoples, collectively. Guilt is never assigned to individuals by birth.

Precedent: South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (1996); New Zealand's Waitangi Tribunal (1975); Germany's return of Benin Bronzes to Nigeria (2022); the Caribbean Community's ten-point reparations plan (2014).

21. The material economy

The one-third conversion†

One-third of all land now used for animal ranching is converted, over fifteen years, according to what each piece of land can sustain:

- **Wetter land:** pollinator sanctuary garden farms, meaning mixed plantings, food forests, orchards and vegetable gardens surrounded by wildflower meadows and hedgerows.
- **Dry land:** native rewilding and pollinator habitat. Turning rangeland into gardens would drain aquifers, so it isn't done.
- **Sunny sites:** agrivoltaics, meaning solar panels raised over meadows and crops, which also gives shade and saves water.
- **Some sites:** insect farms for food and feed.

Ranchers aren't dispossessed. The Commons Trust pays them to convert, and many become the stewards and growers of the new land. Pastoral and Indigenous herders are exempt.

Context: livestock uses about 77% of the world's farmland for about 18% of its calories (Poore and Nemecek, *Science*, 2018). About three-quarters of the world's leading food crop types benefit from animal pollination (Klein and colleagues, 2007). Precedent for paying farmers to restore land: the European Union's agri-environment schemes and England's environmental land management payments.

Insect foods, with sentience safeguards

Insects turn food waste into protein using far less land, water and emissions than cattle do. Black soldier fly larvae, for example, can replace fishmeal and soy in animal feed. But the charter's own rules apply here. Evidence that some insects can feel is growing: bumblebees in experiments have rolled small balls apparently for play. So insect farming follows the sentience register:

- Species with the weakest evidence of feeling come first.
- Living conditions limit crowding and allow natural behavior.
- Killing must be fast and humane.
- Standards tighten if the evidence grows.

Farming insects in "confinement" without those safeguards would break the vital-interest rule.

Background: the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's report on edible insects (2013); Jonathan Birch, *The Edge of Sentience* (2024).

Cricket ranching in practice†

Old cattle barns are refitted as warm cricket rooms, heated by solar thermal panels. Crickets thrive at about 30°C. Their droppings, called frass, fertilize the neighboring pollinator garden farms, so the two halves of a converted ranch feed each other. The humane standard has three parts:

1. **Living conditions:** limits on crowding; vertical shelters to hide in; natural cycles of light and dark; constant food; water in gel form so none drown; places to lay eggs; no more than 24 hours without food before harvest.
2. **Health:** no routine antibiotics; strict hygiene; diverse breeding stock.
3. **Harvest:** the fastest available method of making them insensible, audited independently, and revised as the science improves.

Scale matters ethically. A kilogram of crickets is well over a thousand animals, so plant proteins come first, and crickets are a complement that supplies iron and vitamin B12.

Precedent: Thailand's roughly 20,000 mostly family-run cricket farms (Food and Agriculture Organization, 2013). Warnings: a cricket virus wiped out many North American farms around 2010, which is why breeding stock must be diverse; and a 2015 study (Lundy and Parrella) found crickets grow poorly on food waste alone, so they need quality feed. Black soldier flies are better suited to eating waste.

Energy

Basic household energy is a free lifeline, like water. The shift to renewable power follows the ceiling's published glide path, with the steepest cuts falling on the largest emitters first.

Repair and circular materials

- A right to repair.
- Products designed to come apart.
- Producers responsible for their products at the end of life.
- Planned obsolescence is a crime.

Precedent: the European Union's right-to-repair directive (2024); France's law against planned obsolescence (2015).

Cities and transport

Neighborhoods are planned so daily needs sit within a short walk or ride. Public transport is free at the point of use. Car dependence shrinks, and housing gets built where people want to live.

Precedent: Paris's "15-minute city" planning; Luxembourg's free national public transport (2020).

22. Amendments, and what can never change

The permanent core

These can never be amended away:

- the personal liberties tier, including neurochemical freedom and cognitive sovereignty
- no price to be alive
- no one born with debt or into debt
- the Rule of Three
- money ranked last in the Ordering Clause
- no planetary army
- the right of exit
- the ban on scoring persons

Precedent: the "eternity clause" in Germany's Basic Law (article 79, paragraph 3).

Ordinary amendments

1. Proposed by any chamber or by petition.
2. Passed by two-thirds of all three chambers.
3. Ratified by a triple test: two-thirds of polities, polities representing 60% of people, and a ranked referendum with at least three options.

A year must pass between proposal and vote, so the charter can't be rewritten in a moment of panic. The 25-year conventions continue.

23. Resolving the charter's internal tensions

Minerals for clean energy versus the extraction ceiling

The transition-minerals rule[†] sets three steps, in order:

1. Reuse and recycle first.
2. Use materials more efficiently and substitute others.
3. Only then allow new mining, with the free, prior and informed consent of affected communities, a full restoration bond, and a share of the rent paid to those communities.

Deep-sea mining stays closed until science shows it causes no serious harm.

Precedent: mine reclamation bonds under the United States surface mining law (1977).

Open movement versus local limits

Movement may be paced, never closed.

Pacing is measured, temporary and paid for, as section 13 describes, and refuge is never paced.

Non-democratic partners versus the liberties tier

Commons partners get access to the commons, measurement and markets only.

They never get seats in any chamber.

Partnership is reviewed every ten years against a published liberties trajectory.

People living in partner polities can still claim refuge and their escrowed dividend.

Part three: the transition

How the Commonwealth can come about by consent, and the checks and balances that bind the transition itself.

T1. Why the transition is the most dangerous part

Every structure loses its protections at the moment it's being built. The people building it hold power that the finished design would deny them, and there is no court, chamber or audit yet to stop them. Revolutions that promised liberty and delivered terror failed in exactly this window. So the plan applies checks and balances to itself **before** the Commonwealth exists. Those checks are stricter than the finished design's, because the transition has fewer of them to rely on.

T2. Founding rules that bind the transition itself

- 1 Consent only.** Polities join only through their own lawful constitutional process and with their people's consent. No coercion, no violence, no armed wing, ever. Any participant who uses force, bribery or intimidation is expelled and referred to the courts.
- 2 Four powers, four bodies.** Drafting, ratifying, operating and auditing are held by four separate bodies. No person sits in two of them.
- 3 Builders don't rule.** Anyone who drafts the charter is barred from holding its offices for ten years. They may advise, without a vote. (Precedent: the French National Constituent Assembly's self-denying ordinance of 1791. It also produced an inexperienced legislature, which is why drafters keep an advisory role here.)
- 4 Every transitional body dies on schedule.** Its sunset date is written into its founding text. Only the ratifying body can extend it, once, for at most two years. Acts taken after the sunset are void.

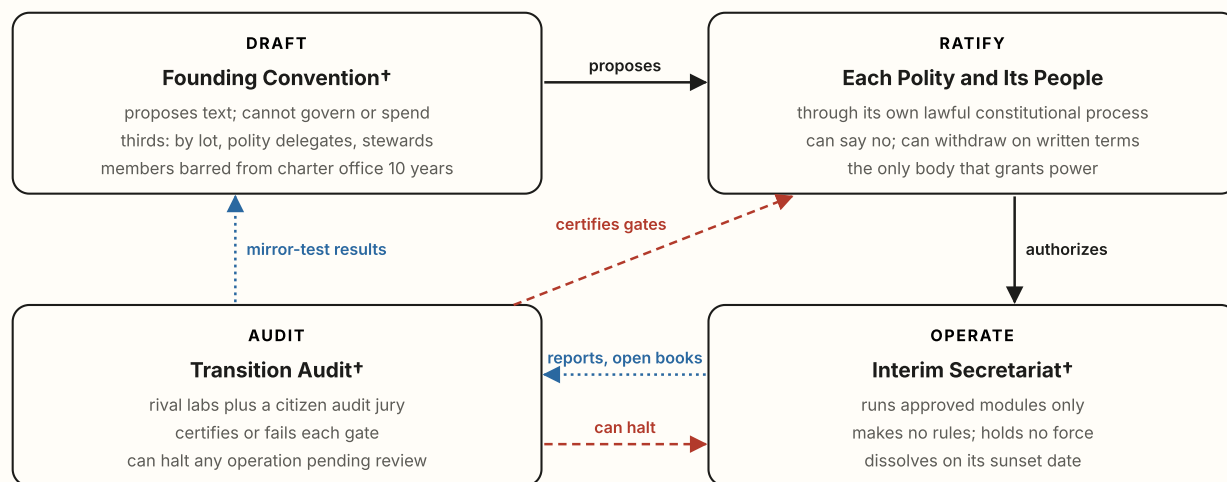
5 Gates, not dates. A phase advances only when an independent audit certifies success criteria that were published in advance. A failed gate means redesign. Twice failed means the module is dropped.

6 No single owner. No donor may supply more than 2% of annual funds, and no polity more than 15% of a transitional budget. The books are open monthly.

7 The mirror test at every stage. Every founding body includes members from opposing political camps and from every inhabited continent. A clause advances only if people who disagree with its authors can accept it.

8 Withdrawal at every phase. Any city, region or polity can leave a pilot, compact or treaty under terms written in advance.

T3. Separation of powers during the transition



NO PERSON SITS IN TWO BOXES · DISPUTES GO TO EXISTING COURTS AND ARBITRATION UNTIL THE COURT OF RIGHTS EXISTS

Figure T1. Only the ratifying body can grant power. The drafters can't govern, the operators can't make rules, and the auditors can stop operations but can't direct them.

T4. Five phases, five gates

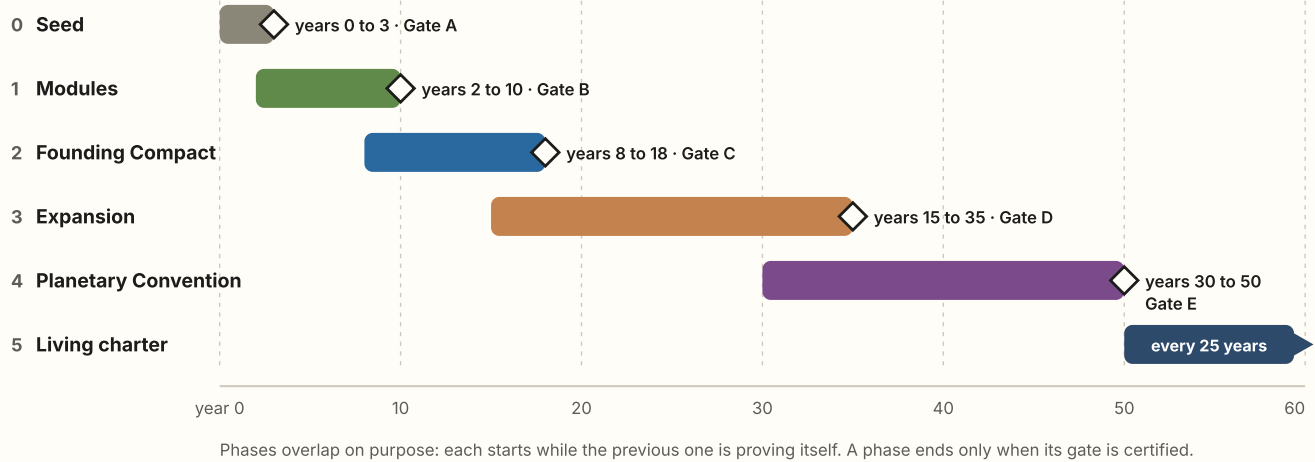


Figure T2. For scale: the European Union took 58 years to grow from six countries pooling coal and steel (1951) to the Lisbon Treaty (2009). The Montreal Protocol on the ozone layer took 22 years to reach universal ratification (1987 to 2009).

Phase 0: Seed

Years 0 to 3 · ends at Gate A

GOAL	A charter worth adopting, and early evidence that its parts work at small scale.
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publish the charter under an open license so anyone can copy, test or fork it.• Form a Founding Trust[†] as a nonprofit. A third of its board is chosen by lot, a third are scientists, and a third come from opposing political camps.• Build a public prototype of the Office of Measurement: a planetary-boundary and social-floor dashboard drawn from open satellite and statistical data.• Run mirror-test review panels on every inhabited continent.• Run three or more citizens' assembly pilots, online and local, chosen by verifiable lottery.
CHECKS	Founders are barred from future charter office. The 2% donor cap and open books apply from the first dollar. Every pilot is evaluated by someone who didn't build it.
GATE A	Mirror panels on five or more continents, including opposing camps, accept at least two-thirds of the clauses, and the rest are redrafted. An independent lab reproduces the measurement prototype. Three assembly pilots are completed and evaluated.
KILL CRITERIA	If the panels reject the core after three drafting rounds, the structure is wrong. Redesign from the Ordering Clause up.

Phase 1: Modules

Years 2 to 10 · ends at Gate B

GOAL

Each organ of the charter proven in real jurisdictions, with no treaty needed.

ACTIONS

- **Measurement compact** among willing states and regions: shared independent measurement with satellite cross-checks.
- **Permanent citizens' assemblies** in cities and regions.
- **Commons dividend pilots**: resource rent or carbon fees returned to residents in equal shares.
- **Commons Advocate pilots** inside attorney general or ombudsman offices.
- **Future-generations commissioners** on the Welsh model.
- **Thriving accounts** published alongside gross domestic product in willing jurisdictions. Gross domestic product is then removed from their binding rules once the accounts have run for three years.
- **Gate-test pilots**: free water lifelines, open access to publicly funded research, and prize funds for essential medicines.
- **Repair-justice and healing partnerships**, led by the Indigenous nations and communities that choose to run them: repair circles alongside the courts, and traditional healers working with clinics, under benefit-sharing agreements.
- **Ranch-conversion pilots**: willing ranchers paid to convert land to pollinator sanctuary garden farms, native rewilding, agrivoltaics and humane insect farms, with yields, pollinator counts and rancher incomes scored, as the first step toward converting one-third of ranch land.
- **Provisioning pilots**: cancelling medical and student debt, on the model of nonprofits that buy medical debt cheaply and cancel it; time banks for care; fading local currencies on the Chiemgauer model; and provisioning cooperatives taking over one floor sector at a time until it has no price.
- **Daily-foundation pilots**: crisis care teams in place of police for mental health calls, universal fresh school meals sourced from local farms, and right-to-disconnect and shorter-workweek trials, each scored on mental health, diet quality and chronic stress.
- **Neurochemical freedom pilots**: decriminalization only where drug checking, treatment on demand and safe supply are already running, following Portugal's model (2001) and learning from Oregon's reversal (2024).

- **Contribution Commons Fund pilots:** creators who release art, music, tools or knowledge into the commons are paid by use and by how much others build on it, following the public lending right model.
- **Guardianship pilots for rivers and forests** on the Whanganui model, plus an evidence register on animal sentience.
- **A license club:** jurisdictions coordinating "safe before sale" rules, starting with compulsive digital design.

LIKELY EARLY HOSTS

Cities and regions already running assemblies; small, climate-exposed states such as the Pacific island nations that pushed for the International Court of Justice's 2025 climate opinion; governments already running wellbeing budgets. These are inferences from track records, not commitments.

CHECKS

Every pilot publishes its success criteria before it starts. Pilots run under the host's existing law and courts, and any host can end its pilot.

GATE B

At least six of the nine organs piloted in 20 or more jurisdictions on four or more continents. At least two-thirds meet their published criteria in independent evaluation. No capture tripwire left unresolved.

KILL CRITERIA

An organ that fails evaluation through two redesign cycles is dropped or replaced, and the charter is amended.

Phase 2: Founding Compact⁺

Years 8 to 18 · ends at Gate C

GOAL	A binding treaty among founding polities that creates the first planetary organs, with narrow, listed powers.
ACTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negotiate the Compact. It contains the Ordering Clause, the Office of Measurement, a Commons Trust over the commons members agree to share, the Commons Advocate, a Court of Rights open to persons in member polities, and all three chambers: the House of Lots, the House of Polities and the Steward Chamber.• Members apply border charges to non-member imports equal to their embedded ecological cost. Precedent: the Montreal Protocol's trade restrictions against non-parties, which helped bring holdouts in.
ENTRY INTO FORCE	30 polities representing at least 15% of the world's population, from four or more continents, including at least 8 low-income and 8 high-income polities. Precedent for threshold triggers: the Paris Agreement and the High Seas Treaty.
CHECKS	Each member ratifies by its own constitutional process. The Compact expires in 20 years unless re-ratified, and any member may withdraw on two years' notice. The House of Lots starts in an advisory role and gains blocking power only after an independent review finds it deliberates well.
GATE C	The Compact is in force, and observers from non-member polities certify the first lottery and the first elections.
KILL CRITERIA	If the threshold isn't reached within ten years of opening for signature, cut the scope and renegotiate.

Phase 3: Expansion

Years 15 to 35 · ends at Gate D

GOAL

Membership grows until staying out costs more than joining.

ACTIONS

- Members get the dividend, market access, shared technology and shared disaster plans.
- Non-members face border charges.
- Compact powers expand one listed step at a time as membership crosses set thresholds.
- Seek a United Nations Charter review conference under Article 109 to align or integrate existing institutions.
- Hold the transition jubilee in member polities: household medical, student and consumer debt and mortgages on main homes are cancelled, and the debts of formerly colonized polities are written off. Savings begin converting to exchange credits on a published schedule.

CHECKS

The power ratchet runs both ways[†] **NEW**: if membership falls back below a threshold, the powers tied to it retract automatically. Spending is capped as a share of members' combined output. The Steward veto-rate and regional-trust tripwires stay live. No planetary army, at any stage.

GATE D

Members represent at least half the world's population and a majority of polities. An independent audit shows members' floor coverage rising and ecological trends bending faster than in comparable non-members.

KILL CRITERIA

If members don't outperform comparable non-members after ten years, stop expanding and redesign.

Phase 4: Planetary Convention

Years 30 to 50 · ends at Gate E

GOAL	The full charter, drafted by the people of Earth and ratified by them.
ACTIONS	A Planetary Constitutional Convention drafts the final charter. It sits in thirds: people chosen by worldwide lottery, polity delegates, and stewards (scientists, Indigenous nations, and people under 30). It drafts the final charter from the Compact's track record. It runs the mirror test and submits the draft for ratification.
RATIFICATION	A triple test: two-thirds of polities; polities representing at least 60% of the world's population; and a planetary referendum carried in at least five of the six inhabited continents. The referendum ballot offers three options by ranked vote: ratify, return for amendment, or reject.
CHECKS	Convention members are barred from charter office for ten years, and the convention dissolves the day it submits its draft. International observers certify the vote. Any polity may decline and remain outside on the exit terms.
GATE E	Ratification succeeds. Every interim body dissolves on a fixed date, and the first full lotteries and elections are observed and certified.
KILL CRITERIA	If ratification fails twice, the Compact continues as it is, and no new attempt is allowed for 15 years.

Phase 5: Living charter

Ongoing

RULE	Re-ratification every 25 years. A trust tripwire can trigger an early convention. The charter can lose, and it has to be able to.
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T5. Transition tripwires

Each tripwire is published in advance and fires automatically. Nobody gets to decide in the moment whether it counts.

THREAT	TRIPWIRE	AUTOMATIC RESPONSE
Founders entrenching themselves	A drafter seeks charter office within ten years, or a body acts past its sunset date	The drafter is barred. The late acts are void.
Money capture	A donor exceeds 2% of annual funds, or a polity exceeds 15% of a budget	The excess is refused or returned, and the breach is published
Great-power capture	One polity approaches 20% of seats or budget	Seat and budget caps apply (degressive proportionality)
Capture by one political camp	Acceptance on any mirror panel falls below two-thirds	Redrafting is required before the next gate
Mission creep	Transitional spending or rule-making grows faster than its cap	Automatic review. Powers unused for ten years lapse.
Coercion	Credible evidence that a participant used force, bribery or intimidation	Expulsion and referral to the courts
Auditors grading their own work	An auditor was involved in building what it audits	The finding is void and the audit is re-run
Foreign interference	A documented attempt is confirmed by the citizen audit jury	Published in the Interference Register, and the pre-agreed collective response starts
Legitimacy loss	Measured trust in transition bodies stays below threshold for two years in any region	Expansion pauses, and an early review convenes

T6. What blocks the path, and how the plan routes around it

United Nations Charter amendment

Amendments need ratification by all five permanent Security Council members (Article 108), so a reformed United Nations can't be the starting point. The plan builds outside the United Nations by treaty among willing polities, then seeks an Article 109 review conference once the Compact has a track record.

Great powers

The United States, China, India and Russia are unlikely early members. The plan is built to work without them for decades. Border charges and membership benefits change the math over time, as the Montreal Protocol's trade measures did.

National constitutions

Some forbid transferring sovereignty without a referendum. The plan goes through each country's own process. Sovereignty is pooled, as in the European Union, never seized.

Fear of "world government"

This fear is reasonable, and the design answers it in structure, not in messaging: a thin planetary layer, nations that persist, no army, a real right of exit, powers that retract, and a dividend people can feel.

Incumbent industries

The license club starts in sectors where public coalitions already exist, such as children's digital safety and dangerous chemicals. It reaches the heaviest polluting sectors through Commons Trust fees once the Compact is in force.

Time

Fifty years is longer than most careers. The plan survives its founders by design: open license, a rotating Founding Trust, and institutions that outlast any one person.

T7. Keeping great powers from interfering

No plan can make interference impossible. A nuclear-armed power can crush a small member, and no charter changes that. What the plan can do is make interference **unnecessary, unrewarding, costly and visible**. Great powers interfere when a project looks more expensive to tolerate than to stop. Every measure below works on one side of that equation.

History shows both sides of the pattern. Rival great powers have accepted shared regimes when the regime ended a contest neither could win cheaply and gave each side access or predictability. The Antarctic Treaty (1959) demilitarized a continent at the height of the Cold War. The Outer Space Treaty (1967) followed. The Montreal Protocol (1987) won over both superpowers once substitutes for ozone-destroying chemicals existed. Great powers interfere when a project looks like a rival bloc or a threat to their rule: the Cold War coups in Iran (1953), Guatemala (1954) and Chile (1973), and the Soviet invasions of Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968).

1. Don't look like a threat

No army, no alliance, no mutual-defense pact. Members keep their existing defense and alliances. The Commonwealth never funds opposition movements in non-member countries. Great powers get observer seats at every session from the first day. Growth starts with technical, low-profile organs like measurement and citizens' assemblies. Political scientist David Mitrany (1943) argued that cooperation built through technical functions can grow where political unions provoke resistance.

2. Give them a stake: the Commons Partner tier[†]

Any polity can join the measurement compact, the Commons Trust and the license club as a partner, without accepting the liberties requirement. Partners get market access and a population-based share of commons rents. They don't get seats in any chamber.

The trade-off is stated openly: this lets rivals in without endorsing their governments, at some cost to principle.

Interests each power can see (my inference): stable climate and supply chains for everyone; a large rules-based market for clean-technology producers; per-person dividends and historic-responsibility rents that favor populous developing powers; a funded transition window for fossil exporters.

Precedent: the European Economic Area, which brings countries into the single market without full European Union membership.

3. Remove the prize

A government that takes power by coup, or by foreign-backed overthrow, is not recognized. Its seats are suspended, and the commons revenue owed to that polity's people is held in escrow in each person's name. It is released to the people, never to the regime. No polity holds a veto, unlike the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, and seat and budget caps apply. Capturing one member, even a large one, buys very little.

Precedent: the African Union's suspension of members after coups; the Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001).

4. Make interference costly, without weapons

Economic coercion or attack against any member triggers pre-agreed, automatic trade, license and commons measures by every member. Members are drawn from every bloc, so any power that coerces one of them hurts its own partners. Great powers' own companies hold planetary licenses, so those companies share the cost.

Escrowed dividends† **NEW**: with a non-member polity's consent, the Commons Trust holds dividends in its people's names. That builds a constituency for the project inside every great power. The risk is real: this can itself look like interference. It is done only openly, never covertly, and released only with the polity's consent.

Precedent: the European Union's Anti-Coercion Instrument (2023).

5. Leave nothing to capture or decapitate

Lottery works as counterintelligence. A random, verifiable draw can't be targeted in advance: you can't plant an agent in a seat no one can predict. Venice used rounds of lot in choosing its doge from 1268 for exactly this reason, to defeat faction capture.

Short terms, rotation, disclosure of foreign contacts, and financial monitoring during and after service. Each organ is seated in three polities across rival blocs, with plans for continuing if any host is coerced. Records are copied across jurisdictions.

Measurement labs sit in rival blocs, and the two-of-three rule means no single power can falsify a finding. Satellite data is checked across independent systems, such as the American Landsat and European Copernicus satellites. Several parties contribute the randomness for each lottery. Votes have paper backups.

6. Make interference visible: the Interference Register†

Documented interference attempts are published with their evidence. Publication happens only after a citizen audit jury reviews the attribution, so that false accusations can't themselves be used as propaganda. All deliberation is public and recorded. Known disinformation lines are answered publicly before they spread. Exposure raises the reputational price of interfering.

THREAT	COUNTER	RESIDUAL RISK
Military attack on a member	Members keep their own defense and alliances; collective economic response; organs relocate	The project cannot defend territory
Sponsored coup	No recognition; seats suspended; revenue held in escrow for the people	The coup still harms that country's people
Economic coercion	Pre-committed collective response on the anti-coercion model	Large economies can outlast small ones
Infiltration and bribery	Lottery, rotation, contact disclosure, financial monitoring, parallel panels	Recruiting members after they're selected
Data sabotage and cyberattack	Labs in rival blocs, several satellite systems, copied records, paper trails	Outages still cause delays

THREAT	COUNTER	RESIDUAL RISK
Disinformation	Full transparency, the Interference Register, answering false claims before they spread	Beliefs are slow to correct
Joining to sabotage from inside	Entry conditions, suspension rules, no vetoes, seat caps	A member can still slow processes down
Being cast as a rival bloc	A neutrality clause; members from every bloc; observer seats	Survival depends on staying cheaper to tolerate than to fight

Switzerland and the Antarctic Treaty have survived great powers by being more useful to tolerate than worth the cost of destroying, and by offering no single target. If the two largest powers decide at the same moment that the project is a threat, it will likely fail. The sequencing is built to avoid that moment: stay technical, stay open, and become useful before becoming large.

T8. The first 24 months: what a small lab can start

- 1** Publish the charter and this plan under an open license, with the provenance record attached.
- 2** Commission the first full costing of the floor, polity by polity, to replace the charter's order-of-magnitude estimates.
- 3** Translate the plain-language version, first into the ten most widely spoken languages, then with Indigenous language partners. Commission artists, musicians and storytellers through an early Contribution Commons Fund, because people come to want a future before they vote for one.
- 4** Build the Office of Measurement prototype from open data. It is the most concrete and fundable piece, and it's useful even if nothing else is adopted.
- 5** Recruit the first mirror-test panels through existing citizens' assembly networks.
- 6** Incorporate the Founding Trust with the three-way board, the donor cap and the self-denying rule written into its bylaws before any money arrives.

- 7 Approach the partners below, starting with practitioners, not funders: evidence first, money second.

T9. Partners to approach in Phase 0

All five were confirmed as active in this session.

DemocracyNext

An international nonprofit research and action institute that helps cities and regions make citizens' assemblies permanent. It has worked with more than 30 public authorities since 2022. Fit: the House of Lots pilots.

Global Challenges Foundation

Funds systemic reform of global governance aimed at catastrophic risks. Its current initiatives include the Earth Commission and an Article 109 initiative on United Nations Charter review. Fit: Measurement prototype funding and the Article 109 route.

Iswe Foundation / Global Citizens' Assembly

Convenes the partners developing a global citizens' assembly, building on the 2021 Global Assembly held for the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow. Funders include the Global Challenges Foundation and the Wellcome Trust. Fit: worldwide lottery methods.

Democracy Without Borders

Runs the campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, backed by more than 1,600 current and former parliamentarians from 150 countries. Fit: the House of Politics and a parliamentary coalition.

Doughnut Economics Action Lab

Works with cities applying Kate Raworth's doughnut model, the source of this charter's Ordering Clause. Fit: city-level floor-and-ceiling measurement pilots.

Limitations and open questions

This is a design proposal, not a tested system. Its main limits:

- **Untested mechanisms.** Several mechanisms have no working precedent: the Office of Measurement's binding forecasts and sunsets, sealed indicators, parallel citizen panels, the triple key on dangerous technology, decaying emergency powers, the Contribution Commons Fund and the Exchange Margin. They need pilots before anyone should trust them at scale.
- **Soft numbers.** The cost figures are order-of-magnitude estimates. The land-value assumption behind the largest revenue line is the drafter's own, and the health-gap figure was not re-verified. A real costing, polity by polity, comes first in the transition plan.
- **Contested values.** Ranking living systems above money, decommodifying life, and the stance on drugs, meat and migration are contested across cultures and political camps. The design answers with the mirror test and ratification by consent, but it cannot guarantee that consent.
- **Great powers.** A nuclear-armed power that decides the project is a threat can refuse it, and the design can make that costly but cannot prevent it. A captured planetary layer would leave nowhere to flee. Enumerated powers, the right of exit and the absence of any army are the defenses, and they are not proofs.
- **Measurement itself.** The design leans heavily on measurement. Measures get gamed, and measurement bodies can be captured. The safeguards are replication, rival labs and citizen juries, which reduce the risk without removing it.
- **Gaps still open.** Detailed electoral formulas, the governance of the Office of Measurement's own methods, the exact floor allotments, and how exchange credits interact with polities that keep conventional money all need further design.

Conclusion

The question that started this work was who can be held responsible for a pandemic of fear, loneliness and despair. The honest answer is that responsibility for most of it is spread across a system, and systems are not tried in court. They are redesigned.

The Trustee Commonwealth is one such redesign. It puts the person at the center, the living world around them, and money at the edge. It guarantees what a life needs instead of selling it back. It measures what makes life worth living instead of what changes hands. It holds every power in at least threes, so that none can be seized. And it asks to be adopted the only way a free people can adopt anything: one willing community at a time, with the right to leave.

It may fail. It is designed so that if it fails, it fails visibly and reversibly, and so that every piece that works can be kept.

Appendix A: A day in the Commonwealth

A short fiction by Claude illustrating the charter. Every feature in it comes from the charter's text.

Nadia wakes before her alarm, because the street outside her window is quiet and dark until dawn. That's the law now. She is a nurse in a river city, thirty-four, and for the first time in her working life she isn't tired before she starts.

On the free tram she glances at her exchange credits. Everyone's share arrived on the first of the month, the same for her grandmother in the hill villages and a fisherman on the other side of the world. Credits fade slowly if they sit unused, so nobody hoards them. Nothing she needs to live costs anything: not her flat, her food, the clinic or the tram. The credits are for extras, like concert tickets and the good coffee. Her brother left the warehouse job that was grinding him down and is training as a carpenter, because no one has to take work just to survive anymore. The student debt he carried for nine years was cancelled in the jubilee; his daughter will never carry any.

At the clinic, a traditional healer from the river nation works two rooms down from the doctors. They share patients and argue about some of them. The man who comes in shaking from withdrawal isn't arrested; he's given a bed, a counselor and a choice. Nadia remembers when that was a crime.

At lunch there's a letter: she has been drawn by lottery for the House of Lots, two years starting in spring, paid. Her first reaction is to laugh. Her second is to read the bill they'll start with, on where the new mine may go, and to notice that the river's three guardians have filed their objections already.

That evening she sits in a circle at the community hall with the boy who stole her bicycle in the summer, his mother, and a facilitator chosen by lot. He has fixed the bike himself, badly, and is embarrassed. She tells him the brakes still squeal. He offers to fix them again. Everyone in the room laughs; nobody goes to prison.

At home her phone stays quiet after eight; the platforms aren't allowed to pull at her anymore. She goes up to the roof, past the bee garden and under the solar canopy that powers the building. The honey on her toast this morning came from the meadows that used to be a cattle ranch outside town. Above the city she can see the Milky Way, which her mother told her she'd never see in a city. It isn't paradise. The mine argument will be hard and the tram was late. But the day belonged to her.

Appendix B: Sources checked while writing

These rulings, figures and organizations were checked against the sources below while the paper was being written. Every other precedent in the text is cited from the drafter's knowledge and should be verified before formal citation.

Law and litigation

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2. *Ms. J.P. v. Sessions*, Central District of California, class certification and preliminary injunction ordering mental health services (5 November 2019). [Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse](#).
3. K.G.M. verdict against Meta and YouTube, Los Angeles Superior Court (25 March 2026). [CNN](#); [MDL Update](#).
4. *State of New Mexico v. Meta Platforms*, \$375 million verdict (24 March 2026). [Bloomberg Law](#).
5. Meta settlement with 29 states, up to \$17.1 billion with design changes for minors (26 August 2026). [New York Attorney General](#); [MDL Update](#).
6. *M.P. v. Meta*, Supreme Court declined review (October 2025); Buffalo shooting claims against Meta, Google and Reddit dismissed 3–2 (July 2025). [Bloomberg Law](#); [Bloomberg Law](#).
7. *Garcia v. Character Technologies*, May 2025 ruling and January 2026 settlement. [Lawsuit Informer](#).
8. Ohio Supreme Court ruling that product-based public nuisance claims against pharmacies are barred (December 2024). [Ohio Capital Journal](#).
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12. *Martinez v. Kraft Heinz*, ultra-processed food claims dismissed. [Holland & Knight](#).
13. *People of the State of California v. Kraft Heinz et al.*, filed by the San Francisco City Attorney (2 December 2025). [San Francisco City Attorney](#).
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19. About \$1 trillion in profits shifted to tax havens, and \$12.6 trillion in offshore wealth reported (2022 data). [Social Europe, summarizing the European Union Tax Observatory](#).
20. Global real estate worth \$393.3 trillion (2025). [Savills](#).
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22. World output of about \$115 trillion in 2025 (International Monetary Fund projection). [BusinessDay](#).

Partner organizations

23. DemocracyNext. [demnext.org](#)
24. Global Challenges Foundation. [globalchallenges.org](#)
25. Iswe Foundation and the Global Citizens' Assembly. [Global Citizens' Assembly partners](#)
26. Democracy Without Borders, campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly. [democracywithoutborders.org](#)
27. Doughnut Economics Action Lab. [doughnuteconomics.org](#)