

Jessie Henshaw, Natural Systems Design Science

Questionnaire

1. Please share your experience in exercising, or seeking to exercise, your right to participate in public affairs in one or several of the following global governance groupings/spaces: G7, G20, G77/G24, NAM, BRICS, WEF and BG in terms of:
 - a. Access;
 - b. Inclusivity; and
 - c. Influencing the decision-making process.

1. I'm a research scientist who studies how natural systems grow and transform, and because it's science I find global institutions very ignorant and closed to scientific observations on how our world is growing and changing.

My three perhaps most important discoveries years ago, are that 1) it takes organization to move energy, 2) it takes growth to develop organization, and 3) EVERY organizational growth process ends up disrupting the organization it is built on, sometimes to stabilize and sometimes to destabilize.

It would be so important for global institutions to recognize that our world economic growth process in a natural phenomenon, on that is in the process of triggering its own end. It will either a) produce a new stable system or 2) destabilize. I could teach people so much were it not for how fixated people in authority are on their own self-interested visions.

2. What were the main structural and/or practical obstacles you or your colleagues encountered when participating, or seeking to participate, prior to, during and after decision-making (for instance in terms of shaping the agenda of decision-making processes, participation at an early stage when all options are still open, accreditation, physical and/or online access to forums, issuance of visas, availability of funds, access to information relevant to decision-making processes, etc.)?

2. Barriers to participation are a problem, but they are also essential. Without them any high level discussion would be disrupted. Most institutions also do make an effort to be open to participation from others. What they are unable to remove are the closed mindsets that institutions are developed around. For example, financial organizations are organized around fostering the growth of the economy, when growing the economy is the main source of all our multiplying disruptive impacts on the earth.

As a result, discussing that subject is prohibited, culturally, making whatever words you use to raise it being interpreted as foolish or a threat. So, though no one would want to bankrupt the world economy, because the balance of its positive and negative effects changed, bankrupting the earth is indeed exactly what we are very energetically devoting our energies to.

3. Which improvements do you see as key to secure genuine and meaningful participation in decision-making processes of the aforementioned groupings/spaces, including by the underrepresented parts of society as mentioned above, victims of discrimination and marginalization because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as social movements?

3. I'm not sure what would help the institutions escape from the traps their own thought processes and designs create. Perhaps they could be encouraged to "look around" and notice that "there must

be something wrong with our approach". We see rapidly worsening global conditions that we've been long dedicated to preventing. So what we're doing isn't the solution.

4. What has been your experience exercising, or seeking to exercise, your rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association in the holding of meetings of one or several of the aforementioned groupings/spaces and in the margins thereof?

4. My experience with freedom of expression has been fine, though I'm still not getting invited to speak. That would certainly help. The main problem is that I'm raising new issues, that are threatening, to people with vested interests in see the world in the language of their cultural silo, so I have a very hard time getting heard.

5. Have you or your colleagues been the subject of reprisal because of your participation, or attempt to participate, in a meeting or activity of one or several of the aforementioned groupings/spaces? If so, please provide information on the type of reprisal, the perpetrator(s), whether you reported the case to the organizers and the relevant authorities, and which action they took to address the situation and prevent reoccurrences (if any).

5. I've faced reprisals within civil society organizations, but none from major institutions. Mostly institutional people are sincere. When I make progress in communicating with one or another individual in one of these major organizations they seem both unable to communicate it second hand and frightened to try. I get hints of it being dangerous to them professionally, to raise questions about why our problems are getting so much worse. The ideas themselves are treated as taboo, so it might well hurt them professionally.

6. In your view, what is the overall impact of the economic and financial policies of the aforementioned groupings/spaces on a democratic and equitable international order?

6. The financial world order is very successful in perpetuating the illusion that making money is all that matters. They see many of the problems and implications. What they don't seem to recognize is that our growth system will necessarily transform into a non-growing system, as certain as that water is wet, and the only question is how. We need to honor our deep values and our place in nature, while making the future economy enduringly creative and profitable. That view is not on the horizon of the world agenda, though.

7. More broadly, in what way(s) do you see a lack of genuine and meaningful participation and lack of influencing of decision-making process by the public in global governance grouping/spaces in general hampering the realization of a democratic and equitable international order?

7. I think I already answered that. It's blocking our successful transformation from a free but helplessly growth driven and ever more threatened world culture to a free stable and secure world culture at peace with the earth.

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