



It's Simpol !

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Protecting the Right to Water

One of the key measures proposed for global agreement within the Simultaneous Policy development process

Franklin Frederick writes on water as a global commons, and gives examples of international action to reduce the harmful impact of neoliberal privatisation practices.

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SP enters the European, UK and Australian Parliaments



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UK MP and Australian Senator sign pledge to implement SP. Page 6

plus all the latest news on the Simultaneous Policy campaign

It's Simpol !



The Simultaneous Policy

International Simultaneous Policy Organisation

The International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO) brings together national Simultaneous Policy Organisations to promote the Simultaneous Policy (SP).

It is free to join the SP campaign by registering as an SP Adopter. SP Adopters can take part in developing, and ultimately approving, the Simultaneous Policy. SP Adopters are welcome to participate in their local SP Adopters' Group.

SP Adopters are additionally invited to apply for membership of their national Simultaneous Policy Organisation. There is an annual fee for membership. Membership is conditional on accepting the Founding Declaration, which is sent to all successful applicants (and can also be found on the ISPO website). Extract from the Founding Declaration:

"We at ISPO believe that the greatest barrier to bringing about the necessary changes is destructive competition between nations to attract capital and jobs. The resultant divisiveness not only drives us apart, setting person against person and nation against nation, it also permits each to justify the continuance of such behaviour. Co-operation, by contrast, can bring us together to solve our problems in the knowledge that all of us are jointly responsible for our predicament. But we also recognise that co-operation to solve humanity's problems will not come about by chance. A practical method of achieving it is required and the gravity of our current situation necessitates speed. The changes must therefore take place within our existing framework of world politics and international relations."

How do you want the world to be?

Editorial

Welcome to a differently styled newsletter, newly available in both printed and electronic form, occasioned by the 'coming of age' reported in the last issue: The first pledges of support by politicians standing for the European elections. And the felt need to respect the global outreach implicit in all that happens within ISPO as a whole, wherever the action happens to be that enhances SP's impact on a waiting world.

An innovation in this issue is what is planned to be a series of articles focused on SP Measures in Process. On this occasion the topic is *Water as a Global Commons* because of its relevance to Simpol-UK's participation in the seminar on 'Water: power politics and public services' during the European Social Forum gathering in London in October 2004.

For the future, readers are invited to suggest other topics, and name specialists who they believe should be approached to share their expertise, with a view to building up an ongoing 'reference-bank' of fact, opinion and feedback through the pages of this newsletter.

And there's welcome news in Campaigning Updates: Simpol-UK announces the first pledge of support by a British MP and ISPO's Australia's Coordinator reports the first pledge from a Senator.

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INTERNATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS POLICY
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by Simpol-UK (www.simpol.org.uk)

Edited by Brian Wills (brian.wills@wanadoo.fr)

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Water as a Global Commons

Franklin Frederick writes to raise awareness of this issue, and gives examples of international action to reduce the harmful impact of neoliberal privatisation practices.

He is the coordinator of the International Free Water Academy project in Brazil which is a platform for dialogue between social movements, religious traditions and scientific research. And, with the community group Citizens for Water, he participated in legal action against the extraction of natural mineral water in western Brazil by the Nestlé Corporation. This led to a court ruling that its operations at Sao Lourenço should cease in October 2004. (Contact: franklinf@painet.com.br)

For all of us now living on this planet, water has become a major issue, and a problem. This is both a challenge and a wonderful opportunity!

Decreasing access to safe water

Water is a multidimensional entity because it has historical, cultural and spiritual dimensions, to name some of its most important attributes. It has to do with human beings and with the whole of life on Earth. By its own nature water can bring about human cooperation on a global level as no other issue can. In fact, now that millions of people – mainly in Southern countries – are already facing lack of water, and their number is increasing every day, this is clearly the only possible way of finding concrete solutions for an international problem of this magnitude.

So how will we be able to develop global policies to provide safe water in due amounts for every human being?

The 'conventional economics' solution

The answer, in current neoliberal thinking, is privatisation, this being regarded as the solely effective solution. By giving a price to water, the argument runs, users will be more conscious of its value and take better care of it. Private companies will thus acquire the funds to provide good water to those who can afford it. And, to strengthen the argument, in the long term those who can pay will help to pay for those who can't.

This solution is the one supported by many of the world's most influential institutions, such as the World Bank, the WTO and the IMF and, of course, by transnational corporations. Thus the issue of water has become focused on economics, specifically to avoid worldwide debate on the wider issues and divert attention from the creation of a policy that could bring real, creative alternatives to the challenge of shortages. Expanding the market for water will only build more competition and conflict, and increase the number of those who do not have the means to afford enough safe water for their requirements – as is already happening.

Thus, as a planetary society, it is time to develop policies

that keep water as a fundamental human right and a public good. For, contrary to neoliberal thinking, whatever has a price is, in fact, devalued. There are things that remain inexpressible in terms of the market and of price because they are priceless, vital, or – as all religions have put it – sacred.

So, as a concrete step towards achieving a worldwide policy concerning water, it is necessary for parliamentarians and citizens from as many different countries as possible to work together to implement planetary legislation based on the human right to water, and prevent it from becoming one more item in the global market.

Alternative solutions

Fortunately there are several initiatives able to offer guidance on appropriate policy measures. In the UK the Freshwater Action Network is an excellent example of existing NGOs that are building networks to exchange information and share campaign strategies. But it is in Latin America where notable examples are to be found of self-organised movements fighting to preserve water as a public good.

In Bolivia, for instance, after the government privatised water supplies, peasants in the Cochabamba region organized their own protests. There were even armed conflicts in which some people were killed. But the privatisation process has been reversed.

In Brazil, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (CNBB) this year started a campaign on water, to bring this issue closer to the remotest communities in my country. Civil society is not as well organised as transnational corporations in terms of coordinated action and the promotion of global policies. So one of our most important tools through which to defend our right to water is to make this issue known to as many people as possible. For whenever citizens are aware of a threatening situation they are able to organize themselves in whatever way is needed, developing better coordination and creating common alternatives and effective proposals.

As a response to the need for help in these activities and strategies, the International Free Water Academy (Academia Livre Internacional das Águas: ALIAS) has been set up. Its aims are:

- to reevaluate the multidimensionality of water; and
- to build a permanent platform of dialogue among social movements, religious traditions and scientific thinking.

The need for global action

Only by bringing together the combined efforts of independent scientists, religious institutions and social movements will global society be able to play an influential and effective role in the creation of a global policy which respects both the planet and its living creatures.

We need all our capabilities, at all possible levels, to cope with the already too powerful pursuit of privatisation. For whatever happens to water will directly affect the future of our planet and our societies.

ISPO's Director, John Bunzl, analyses the European election result

As Britain's main parties find themselves upstaged by the UK Independence Party (UKIP) in the 2004 European Elections, supporters of UKIP should beware the claim of its star candidate, TV presenter Robert Kilroy-Silk, that "UKIP were the only party that didn't lie" during the election campaign. Given that support for UKIP mainly represents a protest vote against New Labour and the Conservatives and is likely to fade by the next General Election, it may well be that the only person who truly believes that claim is Kilroy-Silk himself. After all, the public well knows that all parties bend the truth to suit their political purposes and UKIP is surely no exception.

UKIP wants greater independence for the UK and to withdraw from the European Union (EU). Meanwhile, New Labour and the Liberal Democrats remain the EU's ardent supporters with the Conservatives split and the general public, frankly, utterly confused.

So what is the truth about Europe? Do all our problems really stem from Brussels? Or are they rooted elsewhere? Many people are apt to blame the EU for intruding on British life and for being responsible for British autonomy leeching inexorably away. In some ways, they are right. But what is driving this process? Is it EU bureaucrats lust for increased power aided by over-compliant politicians at Westminster? Or are other forces at work?

To find answers, we should first recognise that the world does not end at Europe's outer borders; that Europe, important though it is, is far from being a self-contained economic unit and remains merely a part of the wider world and thus subject to global market forces.

The truth is that the driving force behind Europe's seemingly unstoppable integration is rooted in the fear of its component nations to remain economically competitive with the economic blocks represented by the USA, China and the other far-eastern economies. To be strong - to be competitive - Europe's nations must therefore club together. And clubbing together inevitably means each nation relinquishing some of its sovereignty. As global economic competition increases with more and more jobs and investment being lost to the economies of the Far East, so the integrative "clubbing force" amongst Europe's component nations inevitably increases.

Equally, however, as these forces of global economic competition become stronger, paradoxically they also have an opposite, unravelling effect on the EU. Instead of being the bastion of social-market economics and boasting the high labour and environmental standards that so attracted New Labour and the Lib-Dems to the European project in the first place, the transfer of investment and jobs to lower-cost parts of the world is instead forcing continental EU nations to progressively dismantle their social markets.

That's why the economies of German, France and Italy are in such trouble as they now face a painful adjustment whereas the UK economy, having already become

structurally more competitive during Thatcher's reign, is doing relatively well, albeit at the cost of labour, the environment and public services.

But the EU is also unravelling in another sense: its increasing size and relative wealth compared to the rest of the world, is driving an economic migration of global proportions. For although jobs are moving to poorer countries, it's not their citizens who are the principal beneficiaries. Instead it is the transnational corporations who pocket the vast wage differential and use it to boost already bloated executive salaries and to increase 'shareholder value'. As more and more migrants enter the EU to seek a better life, the welfare states of Europe, and social cohesion itself, is coming under increasing stress.

To redress these problems, governments are already taxing their citizens to the hilt in an attempt to fund better public services and maintain social stability. But they cannot raise all the tax they need and yet they cannot look to major businesses for help since any threat to increase corporate taxes would only result in even more jobs moving elsewhere. So they are in a box with no way out.

Neither, for that matter, can they implement policies to protect society or the environment since the higher cost of those policies would only cause global investors and corporations to move capital and investment to more profitable climes. As such, the will of the people has become almost entirely subordinate to the profit-making needs of the markets as the parameters of permissible policy open to any party in government are squeezed to a pathetically narrow span.

Democracy has consequently degraded into pseudo-democracy; a hollowed-out parody of democracy in which all political parties, regardless of colour, are forced to conform to a very narrow market and business-friendly stance for fear of the nation becoming "uncompetitive". Little wonder ordinary citizens, whether of a right- or left-wing persuasion, feel increasingly disenfranchised and disempowered and little wonder we have rampant voter apathy.

So the result is a veritable 'matrix' consisting of two opposing global forces, one integrative, the other divisive, with each paradoxically feeding off the other. With voter apathy and a widespread feeling of disempowerment, UKIP and other right-wing populist fringe parties thus emerge as the obvious beneficiaries of disenfranchised voters on the right while the anti-globalisation movement offers solace to the disenfranchised of the left.

But while UKIP's claim that our problems stem solely from Europe may not be an outright lie, it is nevertheless ultimately false. The problem, as with global warming, economic migration, monopolist corporate power, terrorism and global poverty, actually stems from the far wider context of globalisation: from the fact that today's ungoverned global market keeps the world's nations locked in ever more destructive economic competition with one another, impoverishing not just the global environment and fuelling ethnic and religious conflict, but also impoverishing the citizens of individual nations themselves, North and South.

As such, an international "clubbing together" merely at

the European level along the lines of the EU cannot hope to solve it. Neither would a withdrawal by Britain or any other country from the EU. For a fully independent Britain would still be subject to global market competition and thus to the self-same forces that are presently fuelling dissatisfaction and unrest.

So if there is a truth to be told it is that, in a global market, only global co-operation amongst the world's nations that makes the global economy work in the interests of the environment and of ordinary people everywhere can offer any plausible way out. And with politicians having already become the puppets of global markets, it is the people themselves who will have to lead the way.

Indeed, quite unnoticed in all the post-election anguish was the fact that a number of European Parliament candidates and one winning MEP have put aside their party differences to pledge to implement the Simultaneous Policy alongside other nations. As readers of this newsletter will know, SP is a package of global problem-solving policies designed by people around the world and it is to be implemented by all, or sufficient, nations simultaneously to avoid any nation, corporation or citizen suffering a competitive disadvantage.

These citizens have "adopted" SP and thus pledge to vote in future elections, not for a specific politician or party, but for any party or candidate - within reason - who pledges to implement it. With more and more parliamentary seats and even entire elections being won or lost on ever finer margins and with apathetic and protest voters finding that SP offers them a new and powerful outlet for their votes, politicians who fail to pledge for SP will increasingly risk losing their seats to those that do.

Time, of course, will tell. But as humanity and the planet become increasingly threatened by the global market's destructive forces it is not unlikely that another truth may once again come to be told, only this time at the global level: that when the people lead, the leaders will follow.

Simpol-UK AGM 16 October 2004

Since Simpol-UK was incorporated on 22nd March 2004, the campaign has initiated a network of local groups, gained national media attention and received the first pledges to implement SP from politicians in the UK and European parliaments. Members and Adopters are welcome to attend to hear reports on these exciting developments and join in the planning to take SP forward!

09:30	Doors open
10:00	Welcome and introductory remarks by John Bunzl
10:30	Results of election for trustees
10:45	Overview of the strategic plan
11:15	Tea/coffee break
11:35	Policy development proposals
12:00	Forming a local group and campaigns support (Presentation of campaign pack and introduction of training video/DVD)
12:30	Close

National and local group events

Simpol-UK

14-17 October: European Social Forum, London. Simpol-UK will have a stall and is a partner in the seminar *Water: Power-politics and Privatisation* (where Franklin Fredrick, author of our cover article, will be speaking) and John Bunzl will speak at the workshop *Boycott Nestlé: Holding Corporations Accountable*.

16 October: Simpol-UK members' Annual General Meeting at Room 12, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1, 10.00 - 12.30.

23 October: Josie Sawers will speak on SP at a public meeting *Boycott Nestlé: Holding Corporations Accountable* and run a workshop on SP. Edinburgh University, 13.00 - 17.30 (see www.simpol.org.uk for final details).

Cambridge Simultaneous Policy Adopters' Group

Meeting the first Wednesday of each month from 7.30 pm, top office, 23 St. Andrew's Street, Cambridge. Contact CAMSPAG Coordinator, Mike Brady on 07986 736179. Mike and Franklin Fredrick (author of our cover article) will speak at the Cambridge Forum, CB1 Café, 32 Mill Road, 19.30, 19 October.

Simpol-Reading

There will be a planning meeting on 12 October at 19.00 at Nepal House, 97A, Swansea Road, Reading, RG1 8HA to organise a stall and leafleting at the Reading International Festival on 23 October. For details of this and other Simpol-Reading events, contact Coordinator Mo Adshead on 0118 950 2281 or email mo@nkf-mt.org.uk

Simpol-Penzance

Coordinator Barnaby Flynn is organising twice-weekly stalls in the pedestrian precinct (see news briefs). Anyone wanting to know more about Simpol-Penzance events please call Barnaby on 07951 905 396 or email barnawasp@hotmail.com

Northampton

A public meeting explaining more about SP and how Simpol-UK can assist SP Adopters in campaigning locally will be held at the Blackcurrent Centre, 24 St. Michael's Avenue, Northampton, NN1 4JQ, 7.30 pm on 11 October. Call Mike Brady on 07986736179 for further details.

If you are interested in campaigning locally, download the briefing paper 'Setting up an SP Adopters' Group' via the Simpol-UK website. For advice and materials contact the Simpol-UK Local Group Network Coordinator Mike Brady on 07986 736179 or groups@simpol.org.uk

Cambridge MP pledges support for SP



Anne Campbell, Labour MP for Cambridge since 1997, signed a pledge of support in principle for the Simultaneous Policy in August at the invitation of Cambridge SP Adopters' Group (CAMSPAG). She said: *"There are a number of pressing social and environmental issues on which we can only make progress if there is international cooperation."*

In-principle support explained ...

"Often a government", she continued, "will not agree to implement a policy which would benefit the planet, such as a tax on aviation fuel, because that country would then be disadvantaged economically. If all politicians agreed to implement such policies if everyone else does, then this would enable many desirable outcomes and would benefit us all. I am signing up to the Simultaneous Policy pledge because I think it is a good idea in principle. If policies are adopted by the group in future with which I do not agree, then I would have to withdraw my support." (For a report in *Cambridge Evening News* on 04/09/04 see <http://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/search/dispstory.asp?id=60955&db=1>.)

Earlier in June, during the European Parliament election, Rosalind Gill, a LibDem candidate in the Eastern region, also signed the SP pledge along with Green party candidates in other regions, among whom was Caroline Lucas, MEP, re-elected.

... and why Cambridge figured prominently in these pledges is revealed

It was there that a group of SP Adopters were the first to begin active local campaigning. But the range and impact of their public awareness activities, within the short period of a year, has successfully shown through these pledges that the SP strategy achieves results.

Their experience - which is of course repeatable in similar constituency situations anywhere - began with an inaugural meeting of the Cambridge SP Adopters' Group (CAMSPAG) on 6 Aug 2003 convened by its coordinator Mike Brady. This was publicised by email, announcements on local BBC iCan and Indymedia websites, and posters in local shops, cafés and churches. Though that first meeting turnout was just four people, it led to a programme for future meetings. In October, there was a talk on the SP policy development process and, in November, the first policy forum on the topic *Making all trade Fair Trade* was held. An expert from the campaign to make Cambridge a Fair Trade city explained the criteria, and the CAMSPAG coordinator made the link to SP.

The aim of this and subsequent policy fora (so far on *Achieving Sustainable Energy Use* and *Food Security for All*) has been to provide ideas for immediate action (such as buying goods with the Fairtrade mark), supporting existing campaigns (such as the Fair Trade city campaign, which has now been achieved), and encouraging people to become SP Adopters. Politicians were invited to attend the policy fora. Press releases to the local media resulted in listings in the events pages of local papers and interviews on local radio. Contacts made through the CAMSPAG meetings led to an invitation to speak about SP to the Cambridge Forum monthly café meetings on global justice issues, and participation in a question-time type panel alongside one of the region's MEPs.

Then, before the European Elections in June 2004 door-to-door distribution of a few thousand leaflets brought in new Adopters and put SP on the radar screens of the political parties. Letters and emails were sent to all candidates by the CAMSPAG coordinator and local Adopters. And a stall was held at Strawberry Fair on Midsomer Common in the centre of town.

How politicians responded

Rosalind Gill presented her candidate's pledge at a policy forum. And Anne Campbell MP sent her form by post two months after being briefed on SP by the CAMSPAG coordinator at her constituency surgery. While that briefing was clearly important, it is unlikely that SP would have had the credibility required to convince an experienced politician to give it her support without the foundation built by local campaigning.

So campaigning goes on, in the expectation that, with each new pledge from an MP, the gap between government policy and SP diminishes. To this end CAMSPAG is planning regular street stalls to encourage as many people as possible to become involved in the policy development process and, with the general election looming, to encourage other parties to give SP their support.

And another pledge comes from Australia

As reported in *It's Simpol!* (Summer 2004), Simpol-Australia is contacting candidates for the federal election, now scheduled for 9 October.



Arrangements were being made for mailings to an estimated 1500 candidates when nominations closed on 17 September. The campaign was given an early boost by Queensland's Senator John Cherry (Australian Democrats) whose written pledge of support for SP was received on 16 September.

Key issues in the Australian election will be the economy (taxation, health and education) which has made for a highly polarised race between the major contenders,

Labor and the incumbent Liberal-National Coalition. Discontent with the two-party system has spawned a plethora of minor parties and independents campaigning on such issues as human rights, environment, fair trade, the Iraq war, etc. Current polling suggests that the Greens have now become the premier 'third' party and should gain several Senate seats, some at the expense of the Australian Democrats. The high-profile anti-globalist candidate Pauline Hanson, who was recently imprisoned (and then acquitted) on odd political grounds, is seeking a Senate seat as an independent.

For several months this year, we saw a fierce campaign waged against the Australia-US Free Trade Agreement. This came to an end when, in early August, the Labor Party agreed to support the treaty, with minor amendments. The debate generated valuable discussion of the nature of corporate power, and a number of SP adopters were prominent in opposing the FTA.

Simpol-Australia is asking all candidates to sign on in support of SP -- and also to back the introduction of citizen-initiated referenda for constitutional change. The latter has already been endorsed by New South Wales candidate Klaas Woldring (Progressive Labour Party). "More progress reports will follow", writes National Coordinator Brian Jenkins, "because we expect to get a few more pledges from candidates" as the election campaign develops.

Stop press: Four more candidates from the Greens and One Nation parties have pledged support. A post-election analysis of SP's emergence on the Australian political scene will appear in the Winter issue.

SP at the WOMAD Festival, Reading, UK, 23-25 July (World Organisation of Music and Dance)



Three volunteers from the audience represent the UK, Nigeria and China in the game show *Who gets the money?*

A Simpol-theatre event, coordinated with the Simpol-Reading group, introduced the concept of SP to members of the audience who were called up to hold the flags of three different countries, to represent participants in the game show *Who gets the money?* The presenter, F.A. T. Cat, has a cheque for £300 million to invest in a factory for sports utility vehicles. Countries compete to attract the investment by making offers in four rounds: access to markets, taxes, labour conditions and environmental protection.

The early rounds show how countries compete in a race to the bottom. The audience, in true game show style, cheer on the winning countries, until the show's assistant points out how conditions for citizens are deteriorating as one country is played off against the other and asks the audience instead to boo when countries undercut each other. By the last round, much to the presenter's disgust, the countries are encouraged by the audience reaction to agree to sign up to the Kyoto protocol on climate change if everyone else does and to call for an international body to regulate transnational corporations. The presenter hurriedly awards the cheque to China - "Where I was going to build my factory all along" - while the assistant encourages them to go back and renegotiate on the other rounds.

John Bunzl then gave a talk explaining how the real world functions in much the same way as the game show, and how SP will enable governments to move from destructive competition to constructive cooperation.

News Briefs

Further interest in Monetary Reform : *Making it Happen!* (by James Robertson & John M Bunzl, 2003, London: ISPO, 80 pp; ISBN 0-9546727-0-4). Schumacher UK has distributed copies to its members in lieu of a Schumacher Briefing, and has published supportive articles in its Newsletter no.31 Jul-Dec 2004. On p.7 James Robertson explains how the booklet "takes forward the case for monetary reform in the Briefings on The Ecology of Money and Gaian Democracies". And on p.13 Mary Finnigan writes about ISPO as an organisation "*now catching the imagination of movers and shakers and ordinary people all over the world*" under the title 'It could be so Simpol'. (Contact: Yolanda Pot at admin@schumacher.org.uk and link to www.schumacher.org.uk.)

The search for co-funding the Cross-frontier opinion poll continues. Readers will recall that the aim of this project is to test public opinion in the UK and India on the extent to which voters are willing to support politicians who cooperate across frontiers with others who promote the adoption of SP measures. It is taking longer to gain support from selected donors than anticipated, despite the ground-breaking nature of the intended poll. But Adopters who pledged contributions to cover half the professional costs will like to know that interaction with donors continues, following advice kindly offered by One World Action in London. (Contact: brian.wills@wanadoo.fr)

Mini-campaigning: Barnaby Flynn explains how it's done ... I have been setting up an experimental display stall at the bottom of the pedestrian precinct in Penzance through which to introduce SP to passers-by. There have been successful results because some of them sign the Adoption form on the spot. So I aim to man the stall twice a week for an hour each time and am looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested in helping please call 07951 905 396 or email me at barnawasp@hotmail.com.

Other events: For other events see the box on page 5. Remember to send notice of events and feedback on how it has gone to the Local Group Network Coordinator at groups@simpol.org.uk

Imagine a world

Where values matter - Where leaders listen
Where the strongest superpower is *we the people*



The Simultaneous Policy

How can *we the people* get our leaders to listen to us and not just to the rich and powerful? How can we make our values their values, values like:

- fair trade and decent livelihoods
- respect for life, health and environmental sustainability
- true democracy - not "corporatocracy"
- freedom, security and equal opportunity for all
- zero tolerance for terror of all kinds - state terror and domestic tyranny included
- unity in diversity among peoples, nations and cultures
- an end to weapons of mass destruction and to war itself as an obsolete means of conflict resolution

If we the people had a say, would we vote for "money talks" and "might makes right" or for the rule of just laws and the rights of individuals and communities? Would we vote to share and conserve the planet's resources, or to hoard and squander them?

Why aren't governments taking action?

Today, global markets and corporations so comprehensively overpower individual nations that no politician or political party dares make the first move to solve global problems for fear of putting their own nation at a significant economic competitive disadvantage. Though legislators know that serious world problems such as global warming, monopolistic corporate power, poverty and environmental destruction all demand decisive action, they are loath to implement the policies needed to solve them. They legitimately fear that in today's liberalized global economy, investors, corporations and jobs would simply pick up and leave for more congenial destinations. However good their intentions, governments feel bound to conform to a straitjacket of market- and business-friendly

policies. That's why, whoever we vote for in the present system, little, if anything, changes.

The Simultaneous Policy

The Simultaneous Policy (SP) is our "people's globalization policy": a work-in-progress that all citizens who "adopt" SP are designing with the help of independent expert policy-makers. SP is to be implemented when all or sufficient nations are ready to do likewise - simultaneously. Simultaneous implementation means no nation loses out and all the excuses for inaction evaporate.

Here's how the SP strategy works

By adopting SP, we join with Adopters in our own and other countries who undertake to vote in future elections for ANY political party or candidate, within reason, that signs a pledge in principle to implement SP alongside other governments. Alternatively, if we still have a preference for a particular party, our adoption signifies our desire for our party to support SP.

For a politician, signing the pledge to implement SP does not require a change of policies until it is time to implement SP, and so carries no risk. But by moving the world a step nearer to implementation, the politician hastens the day when global politics shifts from competition to co-operation and global problems, about which many care deeply, can be addressed effectively. On the other hand, failure to sign the pledge could cost the politician their seat and hand it to someone who will support SP. With many seats decided by small majorities, the SP voting bloc could make all the difference.

SP is already gaining public and political support. It is not an alternative to other campaigns, but a parallel strategy, enabling us to look beyond fighting to change existing systems to joining with people around the world and collectively answering the question:

How do you want the world to be?

It's free to Adopt!

- I provisionally Adopt SP, and undertake to vote at elections (if I am eligible to vote) for any candidate, within reason, who pledges to implement SP alongside other governments when all, or sufficient, other governments have also pledged to do so. Alternatively, I will encourage politicians in my preferred party to make the pledge.
- I apply for membership of SimpPol-UK and enclose my first annual payment of £25 (£10 unwaged/low-waged). Please send me a membership pack and SimpPol-UK's Founding Declaration (UK residents or people registered to vote in the UK only - otherwise see the website for details of your National SP Organisation).
- Please send me the representative's/candidate's pledge form (politicians may also tick the other boxes).
- Please send me _____ copies of the leaflet *How do you want the world to be?*
- Please send me _____ copies of John Bunzl's book: *The Simultaneous Policy* at £12.50 each, including postage and packing (UK delivery - contact ISPO for prices outside the UK).
- Please send me _____ large/medium white/pale blue cotton round neck t-shirts with the message: *SP: How do you want the world to be?* at £12.95 including postage and packing (UK delivery - contact ISPO for prices outside the UK).



Mr/Mrs/Ms: _____ Address: _____ Postcode: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____ Signature: _____

Return form to: ISPO, PO Box 26547, London, SE3 7YT.

Alternatively sign-up on-line.

The Simultaneous Policy

www.simpol.org