



How we solve global problems

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# Our world is beset with challenges...

What keeps our leaders from solving global challenges? What would make global problem-solving in every nation's immediate self-interest? How can citizens reclaim democracy to tackle these challenges? Simpol has the answers.

The barrier to solving global problems is that no government can move first or act alone because doing so would make its national economy uncompetitive, risking unemployment, capital flight and economic decline. Solving global problems usually means that taxes and regulations – especially on businesses – need to increase. But this goes against every government's need to keep its economy internationally competitive and attractive to corporations and investors. Governments are therefore caught in a "Prisoner's Dilemma". Since they cannot be sure that their peers will implement the same measures on issues like carbon reductions or corporation tax, they are systemically stuck. Small steps are possible. But not the large strides required.

Since governments are stuck, citizens must be the ones to liberate them. The International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO) is a global citizens' institution designed to drive politicians and governments first to support, and then implement, Simpol - the Simultaneous Policy. Simpol is a series of multi-issue policy packages with each to be implemented by all or sufficient nations simultaneously, on precisely the same date. If nations act simultaneously, global coverage is achieved, everyone wins, and the Prisoner's Dilemma is resolved.

## Why a Simultaneous Policy?

An international agreement to implement a policy is a faster route to global cooperation than global democracy or a world parliament. Implementing it simultaneously means no risk of uncompetitiveness: no nation (or corporation) loses out to its peers. Each policy package would cover multiple issues so that what a nation loses on one issue, it can gain on another. The losers on a climate agreement, for example, could be compensated by revenues from a currency transactions tax, so potentially making immediate action in every nation's self-interest. And if the agreement is in their interests, so will be the inclusion of verification and enforcement measures. National sovereignty remains protected, because only policies requiring simultaneous implementation are included.

Simpol operates in two stages:

- 1.** Politicians and governments are invited to support Simpol only in principle by signing a Pledge to implement it simultaneously, subject to all or sufficient nations participating, and subject to the policies eventually being agreed.

2. Once sufficient nations have signed, an international negotiation to define and agree detailed policies can proceed, followed by implementation.

## Campaign

Citizens are central to Simpol. They not only drive politicians and governments to sign the Pledge, they gain significant influence over the policies, while supporting the new institutions designed to deliver them.

By joining the campaign, citizens become a powerful voting bloc. They declare that they “will give strong voting preference at national elections to politicians or parties that have signed the Pledge, to the probable exclusion of those who haven’t”. Politicians who sign increase their chances of gaining the votes of Simpol’s supporters. Those who don’t, risk losing those votes, and potentially their seats, to politicians who signed instead. This is the tool Simpol uses to achieve global cooperation, and it is one that politicians cannot ignore.

This political power gives citizens strong influence over the policy content of Simpol. To remain electorally attractive to Simpol’s supporters, politicians and parties will have little choice but to adopt the global policies that Simpol and its supporters select.

Should Simpol gain the support of democratic governments, non-democratic nations would be invited to participate. If global support becomes sufficient and a global negotiation is successful, the first Simultaneous Policy can be implemented. Subsequent Simultaneous Policies can then follow.

In summary, Simpol is “Agreement by nations, driven by citizens”.

# Definitions and Abbreviations

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## *How many nations are "sufficient"?*

The number of nations sufficient for Simpol's policy packages to be implemented will depend on their policy content. For an agreement banning nuclear weapons, for example, only those nations possessing, or suspected of possessing, such weapons may be required. For an agreement on levels of corporation tax, it may require virtually all nations. "Sufficient", then, is whatever number of nations is required for participating nations to feel they can safely implement the agreement without fear of it being undermined by free-riders.

*In our description we use the following abbreviations:*

DGC	=	Destructive Global Competition
ISPO	=	International Simultaneous Policy Organization
MB	=	Management Board
MP	=	Member of Parliament/Congress
NDC	=	Non-democratic country
NGO	=	Non-governmental organization
NSPO	=	National Simultaneous Policy Organization
PC	=	Policy Committee
TB	=	Trustee Board
UN	=	United Nations

"Simpol" is used variously to describe the model as a whole, the campaign, the institution, or the policies it will contain.

# The problem we're here to solve

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Simpol is designed in response to the 'Prisoner's Dilemma' that today prevents nations from cooperating globally. Once this is identified, the institution and methods needed to solve global challenges become clear.

## *What keeps our leaders from solving global challenges?*

To give the Prisoner's Dilemma a more precise name, we call it "Destructive Global Competition" (DGC). DGC is a vicious circle. No individual nation, nor individual group of nations, can move first to solve global problems like climate change or wealth inequality because they fear that the necessary higher taxes and tighter regulations would only make that nation's (or group's) economy uncompetitive, resulting in investment and jobs moving elsewhere. Global markets, likewise, would disfavour any nation that significantly increased business costs. The on-going need of all governments to maintain or enhance their "international competitiveness" thus confines them to small, incremental steps just when really large strides are needed.

Whether unilateral action to cut emissions (or other action to protect the environment) would actually harm a country's economic competitiveness remains hotly debated. Whatever the reality, the problem is that politicians *perceive* there is a risk. Constantly reminded by business leaders of the consequences of "uncompetitiveness", and fearful of losing jobs and votes, this is not a risk they are willing to take. As former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair reminded us years ago: "The blunt truth about the politics of climate change is that no country will want to sacrifice its economy in order to meet this challenge" (*The Guardian*, 3.11.05). The same applies to a wide variety of other global issues.

DGC has two main manifestations:

**1.** "Regulatory chill", where the fear of losing competitiveness 'chills' governments, restricting regulation to inadequate, incremental steps. Regulation may be moving in the right direction, but far too slowly. As one newspaper noted, "Governments remain reluctant to address the [climate change] threat because any country acting alone to curb its greenhouse gas emissions, without similar commitments by other governments, risks damaging the competitiveness of its industries." (*Financial Times*, 6.12.06)

**2.** "Race-to-the-bottom", where each nation's pursuit of its "international competitiveness" results in a tit-for-tat dismantling of taxes and regulations. A good example is diminishing levels of corporation tax: "Governments vying to attract inward investment are weighing the advantages of cutting business costs . . . [Corporate] Tax rates have been falling across the world over the past quarter of a century . . . This trend is forcing some experts to the conclusion that governments have embarked on a race to the bottom." (*Financial Times*, 19.1.07) Deprived of adequate tax revenue, governments struggle to provide decent public services while the gap between the globally-mobile rich and the nationally-rooted poor inevitably continues to widen.

Apart from issues that directly affect national economic competitiveness, there are many others which require global coordination and cooperation. These include regulating the internet, banning weapons of mass destruction, combatting international crime and terrorism, combatting antibiotic-resistant epidemics, addressing the mass unemployment likely to be created by Artificial Intelligence. In our increasingly interconnected world, these and other emerging global challenges will require a coordinated, global-and-simultaneous response.

Beyond the obstacle that DGC represents, there is a serious flaw in the way the world presently approaches global problems. Typically, the UN structures international negotiations around only one single issue, such as carbon emissions. However, on any single issue there will nearly always be some nations that win and others that lose. On carbon emissions, countries such as the USA have the biggest cuts to make, the highest costs, and therefore the most to lose. So it has no incentive to cooperate. In 2017, it withdrew from the Paris Climate Agreement effectively for that reason. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_withdrawal\\_from\\_the\\_Paris\\_Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_withdrawal_from_the_Paris_Agreement).) The problem is that there is no other issue on the table which might permit losers to be compensated.

## A Simpol Solution

Our solution is a pragmatic one. Instead of appealing to the moral duty of governments to solve global problems, Simpol's approach is to remove the barriers which prevent cooperation. The idea is to design its institutions and processes in such a way that cooperating becomes in each nation's self-interest.

A model for global problem-solving based on self-interest requires the inclusion of three key attributes:

### ***1. Simultaneous implementation***

Simultaneous implementation by all or sufficient nations is a direct response to the vicious circle of DGC. By implementing detailed global problem-solving policies at the same time, global coverage is achieved while the fears and risks of moving first are eliminated: every nation moves together; everyone wins.

### ***2. Multi-issue policy framework***

To vastly increase the chances of substantive cooperation Simpol incorporates multi-issue policy packages, so that what a nation may lose on one issue, it can win on another. In this way, we gain the opportunity of making global cooperation in every nation's immediate self-interest. And if the agreement is in their interests, so will be the inclusion of appropriate verification and enforcement measures.

### What might a multi-issue policy package look like?

The following is an example of how two global policies could be combined to form a single policy package:

*Currency Transactions (Tobin) tax:* This would be a small tax applied whenever currencies are exchanged by financial institutions and would serve to deter damaging currency speculation and volatility ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobin\\_tax](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobin_tax)). If applied globally and simultaneously, it would be risk-free for any nation and could raise very substantial sums from financial markets.

These funds could then be used to compensate any nations that might lose out on:

*A carbon emissions reduction agreement:* This would entail reductions in CO2 emissions globally of 70-80%, especially by the most polluting nations, such as the USA and China. Nations suffering disproportionate costs in reducing their emissions could thus be compensated, under an agreed formula, from revenues raised by the Currency Transactions Tax.

### 3. A new way for citizens to compel politicians and governments towards cooperation

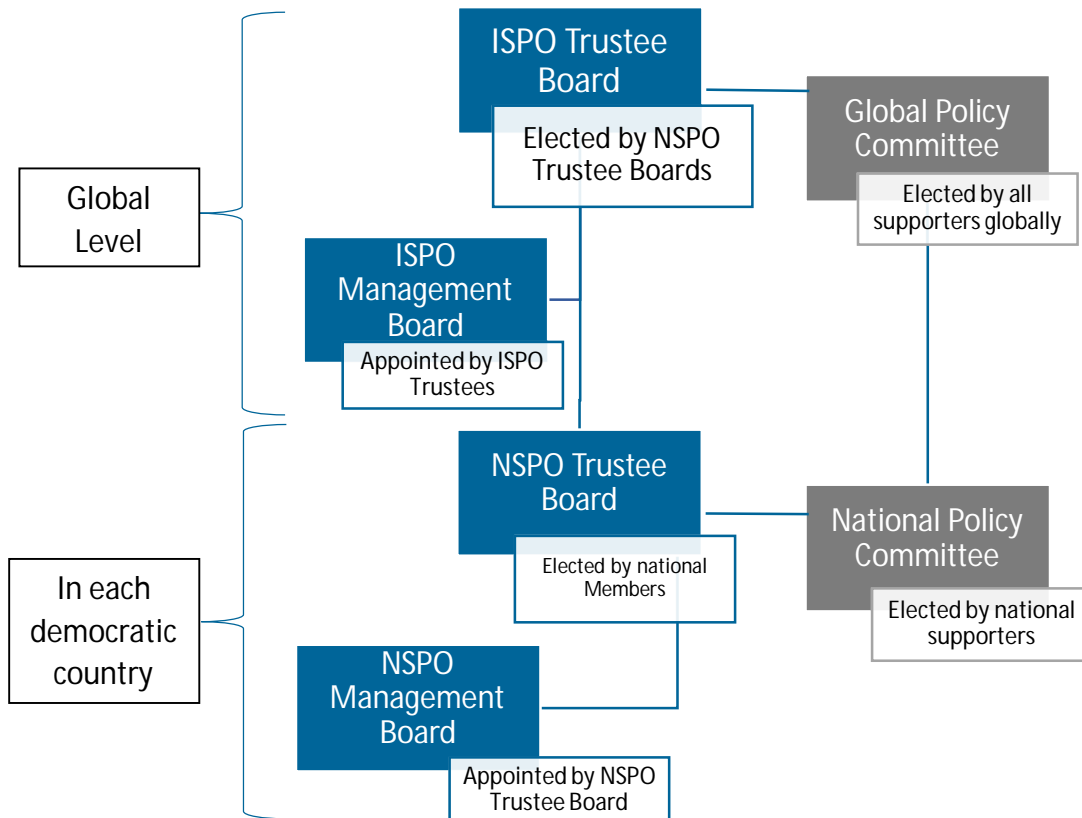
Some politicians and governments will see the common sense of such an approach. But many will not. Our task, therefore, is not simply to design an appropriate governance model but to include an active campaign that engages civil society in a way that compels national governments towards global cooperation.

We believe that, in combination, these attributes offer the swiftest route to a form of binding global governance that is effective and acceptable to all.



# How we're organised

Globally, Simpol is headed by the **International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO)**. In each democratic country, a **National Simultaneous Policy Organisation (NSPO)** is established. When the governments of NDCs join the process, their functions are similar to an NSPO.



**Trustee Boards:** uphold Founding Declaration and supervise Management Board and Policy Committee.

**Management Boards:** run the campaign.

**Policy Committees:** manage development of Simpol's policy packages.

**Supporters:** citizens who have signed on to the campaign.

**Members:** supporters who additionally pay an annual membership fee.

ISPO and NSPOs share three distinct yet complementary functions which are reflected in their organisational structure:

- *Trustee Boards*: provide oversight
- *Management Boards*: manage campaigning
- *Policy Committees*: manage policy development

### **Trustee Boards**

*Global level*: The ISPO Trustee Board (ISPO-TB) is responsible for overseeing the entire Simpol organisation. It is guided by the regulations and principles in its Founding Declaration.[6] The ISPO-TB is responsible for setting the overall objectives for the ISPO Management Board (ISPO-MB) and ISPO Policy Committee (ISPO-PC), and for upholding and enforcing the ISPO Founding Declaration. Members of the ISPO-TB are elected periodically by the various NSPO-TBs.

*National level*: NSPO-TBs have the same responsibilities as the ISPO-TB but only within their own country. NSPO-TBs are elected periodically by national Members. Citizens in the country who support the campaign (“supporters”) can decide to become Members by paying an annual fee. Each NSPO has its own Founding Declaration but each must be consistent with the ISPO Founding Declaration and be approved by the ISPO-TB. NSPO-TBs are responsible for complying with any regulations set by ISPO.

ISPO’s aim is to ensure global uniformity where it is needed while allowing each NSPO sufficient flexibility to organise its activities according to its own national political, legal and cultural circumstances.

### **Management Boards**

*Global level*: The ISPO-MB is responsible for the day-to-day running of the global campaign to get politicians, parties and governments to sign the Pledge. It liaises with and coordinates the various NSPO-MBs. Its members are appointed by the ISPO-TB. The ISPO-MB is headed by a Global Coordinator.

*National level*: NSPO-MBs are responsible for running the campaign in their own country. Each NSPO-MB is led by a National Coordinator. NSPO-MBs are appointed by the NSPO-TB. Apart from getting politicians and political parties to sign the Pledge, NSPO-MBs are responsible in their country for media relations, event organising, fundraising, etc. They would also seek the support of other NGOs who could encourage their millions of supporters to join the Simpol campaign.

*Local level*: Supporters may organise at a local level as Local Simpol Groups, each with a Local Coordinator and covering a geographical area conforming approximately to the boundaries of their local parliamentary constituency/area. Their task is to campaign locally to persuade their MP(s) to sign the Pledge.

## ***Policy Committees***

*Global level:* The ISPO-PC is responsible for overseeing the development of Simpol's policy packages and their subsequent negotiation. It is elected periodically by all supporters of Simpol of whatever country based on an equitable formula that ensures that no nation's citizens predominate. Policy priorities will inevitably vary from country to country and it is the task of the ISPO-PC to build coherence and consensus between them. Using advanced computer modelling, it assesses the likely impact of any policy packages proposed by NSPO-PCs or pledged NDCs and feeds back the results.

*National level:* NSPO-PCs are responsible for determining policy priorities based on the views of supporters in their country and for commissioning independent experts, think-tanks, NGOs or others to develop appropriate policy packages. Based on feedback from the ISPO-PC, each NSPO-PC is responsible for amending and refining its proposals in consultation with supporters in preparation for international negotiations. Committee members are elected periodically by national supporters.

To maintain political independence, Simpol accepts no funding from for-profit organisations, and no officer of Simpol can be a member of a political party.

# How our campaign works

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The initial aim is to get politicians, political parties and governments to sign the Pledge to implement Simpol.

The Simpol campaign develops first in democratic countries. The governments of NDCs can join at any time but would be invited to join especially once support in democratic countries was already well developed.

## *In democratic countries:*

NSPO-MBs encourage citizens to join the campaign. Citizens who join “give strong voting preference at all future national elections to politicians or political parties who have signed the Pledge, to the probable exclusion of those who don’t”. As citizens join, their relevant MP(s) or political parties are informed accordingly. As numbers grow, supporters in each country become a powerful voting bloc.

For politicians or parties, signing means potentially gaining the additional votes of Simpol’s voting bloc. But failing to sign means potentially losing out to competitors who signed instead. The larger the bloc becomes, the less politicians and parties will be able to resist. When an entire political party wishes to sign it formally adopts a Party Resolution, so making Simpol an official part of its policy.

If a pledged party becomes the government, it is required to legislate that commitment-in-principle into law. Should it not do so, it runs a risk: the Simpol voting bloc would be unlikely ever to trust it again, so potentially jeopardizing its future electoral chances. Thus, for any politician or party, cancelling its commitment or not fulfilling it is simply not in their interests.

## *In Non-democratic countries (NDCs):*

NDCs can sign the Pledge at any time and pass it into law. Since no electoral pressure can be applied in such countries, what is their incentive for signing?

- NDCs, many of which are relatively poor, would have much to gain from the kind of policies likely to be included in Simpol. Apart from solving problems like climate change, these would likely raise considerable revenues, a portion of which could be distributed to NDCs on a debt-free basis.

- Many NDCs are frustrated at the international community’s present lack of action and their own lack of influence. Many would want to sign the Pledge to set an example to the richer, more powerful countries.

- As the campaign develops and its public profile grows, Simpol would increasingly be accepted as the world's most likely means of solving global problems. As NDCs witness how democratic governments are being driven by citizens to sign the Pledge, they will not want to be left out of the process.

### *The campaign's progress so far*

Launched in the UK in 2000 and despite being small, having little funds, and being run only by volunteers, Simpol has steadily gathered significant political support. Campaigning proceeds as follows:

Citizens can join the Simpol campaign online at any time free of charge. If this occurs in the run-up to an election, the NSPO sends a message on the supporter's behalf to all the candidates standing in his/her constituency (as electoral areas are known in the UK). Candidates are informed that the supporter will be giving "strong voting preference to candidates or parties that sign the Pledge, to the probable exclusion of those who don't".

For politicians and political parties Simpol is a win-win. Signing the pledge at this stage represents their support for Simpol only in principle and is thus no-risk. It also attracts the Simpol voting bloc. A politician who fails to sign, by contrast, risks losing those votes to political competitors who have signed, and that could spell disaster.

Once signed, cancelling the Pledge is simply not in politicians' interests. Politicians could of course cancel, but there would be little point since Simpol's implementation cannot take place until all or sufficient nations are on board. So, until implementation occurs, there is nothing for a politician or party to go back on. If, despite this, a politician or party did cancel, the NSPO concerned would publish this news so that no Simpol supporter would ever be likely to vote for that politician/party again. And when the date for implementation finally arrived, political support for Simpol would be so strong, and global problems so dire, that no politician would hesitate.

For citizens, supporting Simpol is rather like having two votes: one that operates at the global level and the other at the national. Joining the campaign, accompanied by the email that each supporter's NSPO sends to all the relevant candidates or to their sitting MP(s), represents the supporter's global vote. Then, on election day, supporters also get their national vote, just like everyone else.

Note: Simpol supporters do not give up their autonomy as voters. Their commitment is only to give strong preference to candidates who have signed the pledge to the probable exclusion of those who don't. Each supporter thus still retains the ultimate right to vote as they please.

### *The domino effect*

The combination of a no-risk Pledge and the risk of losing if they don't sign can create a "domino effect" among politicians. Once one major candidate in a constituency signs, the others have little choice but to follow.

Prior to the last European elections, Catherine Stihler, one of the Labour candidates for Scotland, was first to sign the Pledge on 1st May 2014. A few days later, perhaps seeing that she had signed, one of her competitors, Alyn Smith of the Scottish Nationalists (SNP), followed suit. Finally, another Labour candidate, David Martin, signed too. All three are now Members of the European Parliament and pledged, alongside some others, to implement Simpol alongside other governments.

In the 2017 UK general election, in some closely contested constituencies, the domino effect was also evident. In the Vale of Clwyd in Wales, for example, the Liberal Democrat candidate signed the Pledge on 14th May. Soon after, the Labour candidate signed on 19th May. A day later, seeing that both of his main competitors had signed, the Conservative candidate (the sitting MP), also signed. With all three main candidates signed, the result for Simpol was clear even before polling day: whoever won the seat, Simpol was certain to gain another pledged MP.

By polling day on 8th June, over 650 candidates from all the main parties had signed the Pledge. Of those, 64 became MPs. That's about 10% of all UK MPs.

The Simpol campaign doesn't only work at elections. In each country, as each new supporter joins the campaign, the NSPO immediately informs the supporter's MP(s), even if no election is imminent. Occasionally, just one supporter is sufficient for the sitting MP to sign the Pledge. On 18 August 2015, for example, Jonathan Edwards, the MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, signed after a single supporter in his constituency had joined the campaign. In fact, while Simpol presents politicians with a powerful incentive to sign, this is far from always necessary. Even MPs in safe seats have signed simply because they see Simpol as "common sense" and worth supporting.

Simpol's approach works also in proportional representation (PR) electoral systems. In the Irish general election in 2016, for example, fifty-three candidates from most main parties signed the Pledge as polling day approached. Of those, fourteen were elected to the Dáil (Irish Parliament). Since all electoral systems are based on competition between parties, Simpol should prove effective.

Simpol has gained support from across the party-political spectrum and from citizens in over 100 countries. While the campaign is most developed in the UK, campaigns are already developing elsewhere. The UK, however, could be regarded as providing a taste of the enormous impact that might be possible if large numbers of citizens joined the campaign. With many parliamentary seats and even entire elections around the world often hanging on a relatively small number of votes, it need not take as many people as we might think to implement an "agreement by nations, driven by citizens".

### *Liberating politicians from DGC*

Having stressed Simpol's electoral potential, one should not underestimate its common-sense appeal. Being aware of how competitiveness concerns frustrate their desire to take substantive action, politicians often require little persuasion to sign the Pledge. They feel liberated because Simpol's condition of simultaneous implementation at last allows them to support a process for global problem-solving that avoids any risk of uncompetitiveness. As one candidate standing in the 2015 UK general election commented, "The way in which the process neatly side-steps the issue of countries fearing to act unilaterally is quite excellent. I have signed the pledge and thank you for inviting me to do so."

When a politician signs the Pledge, their commitment remains valid for life, unless they cancel it in writing. They do not need to sign again each time they stand for election. Support for the campaign therefore builds from election to election and does not need to start from zero each time.

If a political party officially signs the Party Resolution, Simpol becomes part of that party's official policy, so automatically requiring all its candidates to sign the Pledge.

# How we develop policies

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The process of policy development will only be launched by ISPO once a sufficient number of politicians, parties and governments around the world have signed the Pledge. Seeking a high level of in-principle support for Simpol before developing any policies is deliberate. It builds the necessary global trust. Delaying policy development also ensures that the packages are fully appropriate for then-prevailing world conditions. Below is an outline of how the policy development process is designed to work.

In democratic countries, NSPO-PCs will manage the development of their own nation's global policy priorities and policy packages. Initially, they would do this independently of other NSPOs and purely from their own national perspective. The purpose is to ensure that each nation's unique global priorities and perspective are properly taken into account. When NDCs sign the Pledge, their task is similar. They would develop their own global policy priorities and proposals.

## ***Election of NSPO-PCs***

Once the ISPO-PC has launched the policy development process, the first task of each NSPO-TB is to invite its supporters to elect their NSPO-PC. Since Simpol's global profile would by this time be significant, it is to be hoped that many eminent policy experts in each country will wish to stand for election. In NDCs, the government concerned makes its own arrangements.

## ***Determination of Priority Global Issues***

Once formed, the first task of each NSPO-PC is to determine its country's most urgent global priorities (eg. climate change, poverty, etc.). In NDCs, the government concerned would do so. Here, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could provide the guiding criteria. NSPO-PCs/NDCs may consult a wide variety of bodies, nationally and internationally. In democratic countries, NSPO-PCs may arrange periodic polls among national supporters to take into account their views and preferences.

Throughout this process, the ISPO-PC keeps all NSPO-PCs/NDCs informed of which issues are emerging as the most widely supported in order to encourage harmonization. Although there is no obligation on NSPO-PCs/NDCs to harmonize with their peers, each will know that if they do not, the chances of their preferred issue being supported by others is small.

## ***Development of policy packages***

Once each country's priorities are clear and the ISPO-PC deems that a sufficient degree of harmonization exists, each NSPO-PC/NDC can start the process of developing its detailed policy proposals. For this, each may commission independent experts, universities, specialist non-governmental organizations, think-tanks, or others.



## ***Assessment of policy proposals***

To ensure all policy proposals are likely to be fair and beneficial to all humanity, each NSPO-PC/NDC is required to submit them to the ISPO-PC for assessment. Using computer modelling, the ISPO-PC assesses the likely impact of all proposals, both on the world as a whole and on each nation, and feeds this information back to NSPO-PCs and to pledged NDCs together with its recommendations for modifications. They then amend and refine them accordingly. The criteria used by the ISPO-PC to make this assessment would be the SDGs (or some other appropriate and globally recognized criteria).

Again, there is no obligation on an NSPO-PC or NDC to amend its proposals. However, each NSPO-PC/NDC will know that if they do not, the chances of them being agreed by all other NSPO-PCs/NDCs would be extremely small.

### **National sovereignty: the Subsidiarity Test**

An important on-going function of the ISPO-PC, NSPO-PCs and participating NDCs is to ensure that only policies that do not encroach upon national sovereignty are included. To achieve this, they subject each policy package to the following question or test. We call it "the Subsidiarity Test":

*Would the unilateral implementation of the package by a single nation (or by a restricted group of nations) be likely to cause it a significant competitive disadvantage?*

If the answer is:

- *No*: the package does not qualify for inclusion in Simpol because it could be implemented by any nation (or restricted group of nations) alone.
- *Yes*: the package qualifies for inclusion in Simpol.

In this way, all policy proposals are effectively sorted into one of two categories: unilateral policies or simultaneous policies. Unilateral policies are excluded because they don't pass the test. The principle of national sovereignty is thereby safeguarded. Meanwhile, for simultaneous policies which nations would like to implement but cannot because of DGC, nations' freedom of action is actually enhanced because Simpol now makes their implementation possible.

## *Informal and Formal Negotiations*

International negotiations between the various NSPO-PCs and their counterpart NDCs would only be launched once the process of harmonizing global priorities and the assessment of national policy proposals was well advanced and when international political support for Simpol was sufficient to make a meaningful agreement likely. International negotiations take place in two stages:

### *1. Informal Negotiations*

All NSPO-PCs and all pledged NDCs would be invited by ISPO to participate. Based on the policy priorities and policy proposals already prepared by each country, the aim would be to agree the detailed policies to be included in the first Simpol policy package (Simpol-1) and to agree the terms as they would apply to each country, as well as appropriate verification and enforcement measures. Measures might also be agreed to ensure that any non-participating nations could not undermine the agreement. Policies not selected at this stage could be earmarked for negotiation at a later date, so preparing for subsequent policy packages (Simpol-2, 3, 4, etc.).

#### **Why an informal negotiation?**

The actors responsible for policy development in each country are not exclusively governmental. In NDCs governments are responsible, but in democratic nations NSPO-PCs are responsible. This means that any negotiation between them concerning a global agreement can only have informal status. Note, however, that when formal negotiations subsequently take place only between governments, the governments of democratic countries will have little scope to deviate from the informal agreement reached earlier. Knowing that the agreement had already been accepted by all pledged NDCs, and knowing that their own electoral fortunes depend on the continuing support of the Simpol voting bloc, they will have little choice.

If an informal agreement on Simpol-1 is reached, ISPO would call upon all pledged governments to agree it formally.

### *2. Formal negotiations*

All pledged governments, whether democratic or not, would be invited by ISPO to formally agree Simpol-1 on the terms reached in the informal negotiation. Governments could, if necessary, agree any remaining minor points. Crucially, they would agree a date for its simultaneous implementation.

The achievement of a formal, globally-binding agreement to tackle our greatest challenges is central to Simpol's highest aims and would be a day for celebration worldwide. One may imagine that, during these negotiations, ISPO would arrange a series of public celebrations to take place in many countries around the world, more or less simultaneously. This could be a truly global event with 24-hour media coverage seen by millions of people. Apart from applying additional pressure on governments, this would be each nation's opportunity to celebrate and showcase its unique culture, music, and contribution to humanity and the planet: a celebration of the human spirit, of our unity-in-diversity, and our capacity for global co-operation.

### ***Policy Implementation***

Having formally agreed Simpol-1 and a date for its implementation, both the measures and implementation date can be passed into law in each country. Prior to this, referenda could optionally be held in those countries where it is felt that the approval of citizens is required.

When the agreed date for implementation arrives Simpol-1 is implemented globally and simultaneously. All governments, as well as ISPO, would monitor the effects and any problems can be raised in subsequent negotiations of future policy packages (Simpol-2, 3, 4, etc.).

For more information, visit [www.simpol.org](http://www.simpol.org) or contact [info@simpol.org](mailto:info@simpol.org).