

Dear Mr. Sewanyana,

It is with great pleasure to respond to your call and answer your questions about my participation in global governance.

I write to you as a member of a group that is so under-represented and indeed transparent that it is not even mentioned in the call for submissions: humanity itself. In democratic federations the citizens vote for the local and the federal levels of government, and both levels of check and balance each other. But as an Israeli citizen I am represented in international institutions only by the sovereign Israeli government, and I have no vote and therefore no real say in any higher institution. The United Nations organization, despite its name, is an organization of governments and not of the populations that those governments rule over - all too often without the free consent of the governed.

The call mentions many minority groups as potentially under-represented, but to my best understanding the greatest deficit of democracy in global governance is that the majority group itself – humanity – has no means of being represented.

I am a very lucky person: As a straight middle-class Jewish man living in Israel I enjoy countless national, class and gender privileges. But my most basic rights are entirely dependent on the protection I get from my national government. The mere fact that I am a human on Earth does not endow me with any 'human right', as there is no federal government at the global level that could extend protection and human rights to all humans.

This is why in Israel I run a small NGO of Jews and Arabs who believe that we all share the same piece of land, Earth, and that just as we share a global economy we need to share a political system that will allow all of us to take decisions together. Above all we need global taxation and global redistribution of wealth and power that will allow all humans to live safely and peacefully on our homeland planet.

I invite you to watch a short lecture I gave last year at the university of Salento, Italy, about [the forgotten history of the idea of global democracy](#), and I hope you will find the courage and inspiration to incorporate these ideas into your report.

With best wishes,

Oded