**Model Global Parliament,**

**Convened at the House of Representatives**

**in Old Parliament House, ACT,**

**Saturday 27 July 2013**

**Communiqué**

The third session of the Model Global Parliament was convened in the House of Representatives of Old Parliament House on Saturday 27 July, 2013. It was co-sponsored by the Crawford School of Public Policy, ANU, the Museum of Australian Democracy and the World Citizens’ Association (Australia).

University students from the Australian National University, Canberra University and Monash University, coming from over 30 countries around the world, participated in two training sessions held at the Crawford School, ANU and then engaged each other in debate at the Model Global Parliament on the three agenda items that the students had chosen to give priority to when they registered to participate: Education, Environment, Human Rights.

Wonderful people contributed to the students’ training program: David Miles Connolly on how to use parliamentary procedures for decision-making; Peter Wilkins on how to perform as a parliamentarian; Dr Dominique De Stoop on cross-cultural negotiating skills on human rights issues; Professor Bob Carter on environmental issues; Mr Steve Killelea on the Global Peace Index.

At the opening of the Model Global Parliament Ms Nighat Kurshid, President of the Crawford Student Society Association introduced Ms Daryl Karp, Director of the Museum of Australian Democracy who spoke about the historic significance of the House of Representatives.

Ms Kurshid then introduced Prof Tom Kompas, Director of the Crawford School who spoke about his research interests and then read out a message from the Chancellor of the ANU, The Hon Gareth Evans which said:

The world’s political system is manifestly not coping very well with the speed of change, the complexity of interconnections between events, and the ever-growing need for effective collective action.

The inspiration to set up a Model Global Parliament to enable university students to define, debate and reach conclusions about the action needed on global issues is timely and has my full support.   I have read the digest of reasons students participating in this event have given for why they believe there is a need for a Model Global Parliament.  I am impressed by your visions and values and intrigued in particular at the thought of such Parliament framing a code of global ethics.

I am delighted to congratulate all of you who are participating in this Model Global Parliament.  I encourage you to generate evidence-based data, develop rigorous analytical skills, be prepared to tackle complex problems from multiple angles, and try to produce constructive solutions that have some realistic chance of being implemented. Enjoy a lively debate, and I look forward to receiving your communiqué.

Prof Kompas introduced The Hon Bob Brown who spoke about environmental issues and Professor Bruce Chapman who called attention to the ethical implications of students receiving their education in developing countries, who then took their skills and experience to developed countries. Then Mr Steve Killelea spoke about the Global Peace Index.

Following the formal opening of the Model Global Parliament by the speaker, Mr Ifti Rashid , Ms Gaby McFarlane Smith reported on the outcomes of the second session at the Legislative Assembly in the Victorian Parliament, Melbourne on 23 May. This session called for the MGP to set up a Sub Committee to consider the Global Peace Index and she hoped that this could be done in Canberra.

A debate then took place on the need for a Model Global Parliament, which was addressed by Prof Chris Hamer, author of the book “A Global Parliament”. The delegates debated and adopted the following motion:

* The Model Global Parliament will consider motions that focus on specific country situations.

The Model Global Parliament (MGP) then concentrated on the following three thematic agenda items.

**Agenda 1: Environment**

The Hon Bob Brown introduced this item, giving an overview of his concerns about the deterioration of global environmental resources and the need for urgent remedial action.

The MGP adopted motions on:

Global emissions trading scheme and environmental preservation

* Called for a feasibility study to be done on how a global emissions trading scheme could be implemented;
* Aimed to create comprehensive, long term and effective legislative and fiscal frameworks in collaboration with business and civil society to make markets work in the direction of environmental preservation;
* Proposed that the MGP make every effort for sustainable exploitation and responsible use of natural resources, *especially conserving the Amazon rainforest.*

**Agenda 2: Human Rights**

Professor Charles Samford introduced this time, and presented an inspiring account of how the evolution of democratic forms of government during the course of human history had led to advances in the understanding and protection of human rights.

The MGP adopted motions on:

Land rights

* Supported a dialogue initiative, on the basis of an equal opportunity in life, between nation-states, regional powers, corporations and international organisations in creating positive incentives for indigenous people, poor landowners and women affected by the increasing commercialisation of land.

Human Trafficking

* Recognised that human trafficking is defined under ‘The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children’ in the ‘Convention against Transnational Organised Crime’ and that it is a growing concern that needs to be addressed through the cooperation of governments around the world,

Urges the MGP to consider the following measures in dealing with the matter:

- The development of a regional cooperation framework for law enforcement agencies

- The implementation of preventative measures and awareness campaigns

- Examine possible changes to the legal definition with focus on human rights abuses

* Establish an International Anti-Trafficking organisation for the rescuing and rehabilitation of victims, who have been forced into trafficking, with offices located in the major trafficking destinations within every region.

Gendercide

* Noted that according to the United Nations, the biologically normal gender ratio at birth ranges from 102 to 106 males per 100 females. However, ratios higher than normal – sometimes as high as 130 – have been observed. This is now causing increasing concern in some South Asian, East Asian, and Central Asian countries. Such disparities almost always reflect a preference for boys as a result of deeply embedded social, cultural, political and economic factors.   
  It was therefore strongly recommend that the MGP formulate a special (country specific) Commission to control Gendercide in these regions which would:
  + - Comprise members from all over the world with extensive experience in Human Rights field
    - Teams to be sent on special tasks in target countries must include target country people to make locals aware of the issue and educate them appropriately
    - Strict checks and balances to be carried out on weekly basis to monitor progress, including observations of the prevalence of sex based abortions.

Global Citizens’ responsibilities to transcend “rights” of minorities

* “Rights breed rebellion” but “responsibility focuses attention on the needy.” So the MGP should seek every opportunity to highlight and promote human responsibilities as a means to address the concerns of human rights in our global village. Through this, there should be an acknowledgment of the idea of ‘global citizens’ going beyond race, linguistics, sovereignty, gender, north-south divide, and any other differences.

Global refugees

* Call for the MGP to appoint a sub-committee to launch a global awareness campaign on the existing rules and regulations on refugees as well as consequences of attempted illegal migration.

Uyghurs in China

* Call for the formulation of a special monitoring commission for human rights and humanitarian affairs, which should consult official authorities in China, consisting of civilian researchers who have the following key aims:

- to monitor, investigate and report on the current situation of Uyghurs in China as well as other global issues;

- to conduct a critical and reasonable analysis on minority policies implemented by the Central Government of the People’s Republic of China against Uyghurs;

- to publish evaluation reports involving policy advice and recommendations to the Central Government of the People’s Republic of China to end harsh and repressive minority policies and prevent inter-racial tensions between Uyghurs and Han Chinese;

- to investigate and report on the actual impact of successive nuclear tests on both local Uyghurs or Han Chinese in the test sites as well as their actual medical condition;

Occupation Health and Safety

* Call for a protocol that all nations should ensure minimum standard of occupational health through reducing workers’ exposure to workplace hazards and pollution risks. Occupational health measures including encapsulation, automation, and substitution of hazardous materials can improve the environmental performance of the enterprises. This will also address the 16th target of the 8th goal of MDG.

**Agenda 3: Education**

Professor Glenn Withers gave an inspiring talk about the future of higher education being a catalyst for positive forms of globalization….he talked about the need changing the discussion about the ‘brain drain’ from developing to developed countries to the ‘brain exchange’.

The MGP adopted motions on:

The call for the MGP to advocate for free and compulsory education to the most vulnerable and disadvantage children from early childhood care to tertiary education. This includes girls, children in difficult circumstances and belonging to ethnic communities.