DELIBERATIVE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

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Deliberative Global Governance

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Abstract: Global institutions are afflicted by severe democratic deficits, while many of the major problems facing the world remain intractable. Against this backdrop, we explore the prospects for a deliberative approach that puts effective, inclusive, and transformative communication at the heart of global governance. This approach can advance both democratic legitimacy and effective problem-solving. Existing institutions such as multilateral negotiations, international organizations, regimes, governance networks, and scientific assessments can be rendered more deliberative and democratic. Such reforms can pave the way for more thoroughgoing transformations in the global order that could involve citizens’ assemblies, nested forums stretching from the local to the global, transnational citizens’ juries and other mini-publics, crowdsourcing, and a global dissent channel. Equally important, though less easily designed, is the deliberative role of global civil society. We show how different institutional and civil society elements can be linked to good effect in a global deliberative system. The capacity of deliberative institutions to revise their own structures and processes means that deliberative global governance is not just a framework but also a reconstructive learning process. We pay special attention to climate change, peacebuilding, and global poverty.

Keywords: deliberative democracy, global governance, deliberative governance, international organizations, international regimes, global civil society, mini-publics

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Contents

1 Introduction: In Search of Global Democracy 1
2 Why Deliberative Global Governance? 5
3 Making Existing Institutions and Practices More Deliberative 14
4 Establishing New Institutions 27
5 Cultivating Deliberative Civil Society 41
6 Putting It All Together: A Global Deliberative System 47
7 Reflexivity and Reconstruction 51
8 Confronting Challenges 55
9 Conclusion 67

References 69