

**EXPLANATION:** written input for the [preparation of the Zero Draft](#) of the Pact for the Future in view of the [UN Summit of the Future](#)

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The logo for Democratic Odyssey, featuring the word "Democratic" in black and "Odyssey" in blue with a wavy line underneath.

(Add organization's name here) **Democratic Odyssey Constituent Network**

(Add organization's Website here): <https://democraticodyssey.eui.eu/constituent-network>

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## Chapter V. Transforming global governance

*(Add your organization's concise, concrete, and action-oriented recommendations for Chapter 5)*

We propose the introduction of *Permanent People's Assemblies throughout the world* as fora of direct democratic engagement at all levels of governance. The Assemblies should be convened throughout the process of decision-making of any public institution with decisional functions.

The People's Assemblies would be local, national and transnational citizens' congregations marked by two features. First, participants are randomly selected for each iteration of the Assembly. Second, the process of decision-making is deliberative. Deliberations in citizens' assemblies involve participants coming together to articulate, listen to, and debate different views.

Beyond these two core features, the People's Assemblies may take diverse formats adapted to the context in which they take place.

Their composition may vary between being uniquely composed of randomly selected citizens and combining these citizens with other representative groups of civil society. The random selection itself can follow many different procedures and appeal in different ways to the social imaginaries where they take place.

During the Assemblies' sessions, formats and facilitation methods can vary too, to ease productive discussions, decision-making, and participant engagement, depending on the assemblies' goals and topic complexity. Assemblies vary in size and composition, affecting

participant representativeness. Flexibility in choosing formats is important to accommodate a geographically dispersed audience.

Topics can vary widely too. Initiating an assembly can mean creating it to address specific issues of a political system or democratic process, starting a discussion on a topic of policymaking, or setting an agenda for the future. Thus, assemblies have various types of functions *inter alia*, a consultative function, the assemblies provide input into decision-making, thereby ensuring that the scope and content of the policy agenda aligns with common people's concerns; or an *accountability function* -- holding decisional elites accountable for the responsible execution of their decisions.

People's Assemblies require comprehensive procedural rules to ensure fair and effective operation. These rules encompass fair selection and composition of assembly members, transparent agenda-setting, deliberation, and decision-making processes, public engagement mechanisms, impartial facilitation and moderation guidelines, transparent resource allocation procedures, and clear protocols for reporting, recommendations, follow-up, and evaluation. Customized to the assembly's specific mandate and operating context, these rules are essential for promoting inclusivity, transparency, accountability, legitimacy, and the impact of recommendations on policymaking.

Assemblies can also be convened in more difficult situations to act as spaces for conflict resolution and most ambitiously inter-ethnic reconciliation as has been witnessed for instance in Bosnia. Such a role remains to be fine-tuned.

The Democratic Odyssey is a project located in Europe which tries to both conceptualise and implement such a vision, as explained on its website [here](#). Our beacon is to eventually approximate a fourth branch of governance in the EU while being inspired by and hoping to inspire similar initiatives around the world. The Democratic Odyssey is co-ordinated by a broad consortium of actors, with the European University Institute acting as a hub. The list of partners as well as the function of our constituent network can be found on the project's website. We recognise the pioneer work done by the global assembly on climate in 2022 as well as experiments throughout the world, as documented *inter alia* by the OECD. Our hope is that **the UN Summit of the Future** will embrace this vision and help spread the ideal and the practice opened up by this and other democratic innovations.