

# **For the Common Good!**

## **Manifesto for the Transition into the Age of Common Good and Plenitude by Michael George in July 2012**

This appeal is directed to all people who are unhappy with the present conditions on this planet and wish for fundamental change. This manifesto shall contribute to encourage, support and foster all those endeavours that are led by a common goal – namely to be conducive in lastingly improve the living conditions of the majority of the inhabitants of this Earth and to offer them help for self-improvement so they may lead an existence fir for human beings.

Today around seven milliards people live on this planet. Of those seven milliards around five milliards are living under conditions that are marked by poverty, hunger and disease. Most governments of this world support economic and social systems that advance the deprivation of the many and support and strengthen the superabundance of the few. Whether democracy, dictatorship or despotism – all forms of state have in common that they guarantee the spread of deficiency for the many and the concentration of wealth with the few.

If this world should not plunge into an abyss of misery, it will be necessary to set such a course that realigns the way of humanity afresh.

***We deal here basically with nothing less than the transition from the age of deficiency to an age of abundance. This is the transition from the epoch of egotism and greed to an age of Common Good.***

## I. Energy Supply for all Human Beings

The larger part of humanity does not have access to any electricity supply that would replace candles and oil lamps with light bulbs and the open fire by a electric hotplate. In the areas of Africa near the deserts or threatened by desertification this deprivation leads to the people through need burning the last surviving trees that would stop the advancement of the deserts. This finally leads to the total loss of their livelihood. The cultivation of cereals, fruits or vegetables is simply not possible on dry desert sand.

This terrible state of deprivation shall be ended by a concerted worldwide action. *We strive to set up a large fund for donations from which a basic supply of electric energy for the needy of this world be financed.* As a first step our regulating associations of the *Operation Common Good!* will set up accounts whose collected donations will later be transferred to a foundation.

The main goals in this area of basic electricity services are:

- **Basic electricity services for all human beings**
- **Advancement of cost-effective environment-neutral techniques next to the already known alternatives like solar and wind energy**

This basic supply of energy shall be available to all humans on all continents without exception. It may therefore not be supplied by energy monopolies. The energy supply must rather be fashioned in such a way that the energy needed for lighting, heating and other electricity consuming devices is generated directly in the house or in a network of neighbours.

Both solar and wind power plants are dependent on weather. The world needs additional energy transforming devices that work independent of weather conditions, are stationed in every house and above all are cheap to build and to buy.

Such technical alternatives exist: These are mechanical self-runners for stationary use as well as magnet motors and related solutions that next to the stationary use are also suited for all types of transportation. Vehicles equipped in this way need no fuel, do not burden the environment and have an unlimited cruising range.

These energy generators – whether for housing, manufactures, for vehicles, ships or airplanes – solve several problems to a large extent. Firstly they make every user independent of the monopolistic net providers. Secondly they do not consume any fuel, which will bring the need for oil, gas, coal or nuclear power within a few years towards zero. Thirdly the burden on the environment will be greatly reduced. And lastly do these generators after a short period of amortisation provide energy without cost.

This call also targets all those inventors, tinkerers and gadgeteers who work in their garages and workshops towards solutions that industry over the last decades not only ignored, but actively sabotaged. Workable solutions may be registered on our website.

## II. Drastic Improvement of Food Supply

When five years ago the poor of this world in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America had to spend about half of their meagre income to feed their families, they are forced now – in the years 2012 – to spend 80 to 90 percent just for staple foods like rice. This development will continue. For it is the cold-hearted greed of speculators at the worldwide food exchanges that has created this situation and will exacerbate it when these goings-on are not curtailed.

This is compounded that at this time a multitude of groups of speculators all over the world buy up immense areas of arable land – at the detriment of the local population who by this find it no longer possible to grow grain.

In the sector of food production certain multinational concerns extend their influence on all continents. Typical is here the appropriation of monopolies with patented grain types. A few decades ago a small portion of the grain harvest was used as seed for next season, with the new and patented hybrid varieties this is no longer possible. The farmers are dependent on these monopolistic providers and are forced every year to buy their seeds. And the prices thereof constantly rise.

From this stem these main targets:

- **Sufficient nourishment for all people**
- **Boosting research for more effective food production**
- **Reclamation of arable land at the edges of deserts**
- **Cooperative cultivation of arable land for regional requirements**
- **Prohibition of any speculation with staple foods**
- **Ban on any acquisition of arable land for profit maximisation**
- **Ban of production of hybrid monocultures held by monopolistic concerns**

### III. A Way Out of Profit Economy

In our time industrialisation reached level never before known. Industrialisation itself, however, was driven by an economic system that puts profit for the private owners or shareholders above the common good. Multinational concerns dominate the international markets. Competition is the principle of choice, not cooperation. Growth is the mark of a booming economy, not the principle of sustainability and of recurrent production. On closer inspection the growth myth emerges as a mask for a permanently advancing process of monopolisation. Ever fewer multinational concerns command ever growing areas of human life.

From this stem these main targets:

- **Decartelisation of the multinational concerns – conversing them to associations**
- **Promotion of regional and production through cooperatives near the points of sale**

The growth of multinational concerns at the cost of humanity is helped by a capital market that today is largely disconnected from what generally is known as Real Economy. Immense phantom values are daily running around the globe, representing a multiple of the achieved goods on offer. These phantom values are based on interest profits and other finance deals not stemming from any productive endeavour and support one single goal: to secure profit for a small group of banks, hedge funds and private-equity companies that enable a still small group of immensely rich persons a life in luxury and a commanding market-dominating role worldwide at the cost of the overwhelming majority of people on this world.

A tiny class of multinationally active capital jugglers are moving levers with the help of which wealth is systematically moved from below to above. At the same time have the globally acting stock exchanges, where originally only shares were dealt with, degenerated to veritable casinos and betting shops. The major speculators dominating the international financial markets show in today's Euro crisis that they do not shirk from driving whole states into bankruptcy in order to pocket copious profits. Today's capital market has reached a degree of hostility towards the requirements of the world at large that decisive action towards the common good is unquestionably required.

From this stem these clear demands:

- **Ban on all activities of the financial industry that surpass the supply of credits**
- **Promotion of all endeavours to install cooperatively organised banks on a local, regional and branch levels**
- **Annulment of the interest charging system as main cause of devaluation**

For the production of a range of goods that cover the needs of the consumers all those cooperatively organised small- medium-sized companies coming up everywhere may be the role models. These cooperatives issue a participation certificate for every member of the company making that person a co-owner. Unlike shares these participation certificates may not be sold unless the owner of the certificate leaves the business. In that case the company buys the participation certificate back.

In these companies the difference in salaries of the managers and those of the producing personnel shall be small. The founder of the business shall see himself as a responsible servant for the good of his collaborators as well as the clients. The hierarchy in such a cooperative business shall be flat, and the company motto shall be:

***The Team is Boss, and the Team Serves the Common Good!***

Michael George, Austria • E-Mail: [michael.george605@gmail.com](mailto:michael.george605@gmail.com)

There shall be no competitiveness between the cooperative companies of any sector, but cooperation based on the consensus of advancement of the Common Good on a local, regional, national, continental and global level.

***Act Local and Regional – Think Global!***

From this stem the following central demands:

- **Advancement of small- and medium-sized businesses with a cooperative structure**
- **Introduction of company-internal participation certificates – ban of stock exchange trading**

## IV. Guiding Principles for Education

A large part of humanity can neither read nor write nor count. In this way, these people are cut off from elementary cultural assets. This deficit may only be lifted through a strong international movement that provides means as well as the qualification to convey reading and writing and the four basic modes of calculation operation to people on this earth living in underprivileged areas with low education.

What is lacking in areas of low education in this world is in advanced areas a cultural obligation. And still we experience here in the schools a pressure to succeed that an increasing number of pupils are unable to cope with. Where erstwhile colleges and universities flourished as free places of research and learning, today we encounter a hitherto unknown level of school regimentation.

At schools of general education as well as colleges and universities a spirit shall return that gives independent thinking, sagacity, the aptitude to solve problem as well as the work in project groups precedence to crammed knowledge. The most important rank, however, belongs to ethical education. For the future of this humanity depends on the fact that an ethical disposition and the orientation on the Common Good disarms those powers that now are in the course of throwing this planet into ruin.

In this way the following guiding principles apply to education:

- **Reading, writing and arithmetic – the Three R's – for all people on this Earth**
- **Priority for ethical education and orientation towards the Common Good**
- **Advancement of independent thinking, of strength of judgement, of problem solving and project work**

## V. Guiding Principles for the Health Sector

The modern health systems in the relatively prosperous countries are about to be completely taken over by profit-oriented concerns. Both the hi-tech medicine and the pharmaceutical industry dominate patient care. Hospitals are increasingly managed as profit oriented economic companies that see the bed-ridden residents less as patients than as clients. Since most patients are not really healed, they must perpetually resort to those mostly overpriced medications that the pharmaceutical industry offers them to maintain a phantom state of health.

In the poor countries, however, treatment of the sick covering demand is mostly impossible. Thanks to charitable NGOs the sick there are at least sporadically provided for.

The rich and the poor countries of this Earth both need a health system that is organised as a co-operation. In this way only, profiteering may be banned from the health system and patient-centred care seen as a natural service to the sick and those in need of help.

In all health centres that subscribe to the Common Good, a multitude of alternative energetic applications shall be practised that heal and do away with the ingestion of chemical products. The human body has much more self-healing potential than the disease industry suggests. There is a plethora of purely herbal preparations in which it is the natural combination of active substances that prevents any of the dreaded side effects.

And finally it is one of the foremost tasks of any sustainable health provision to advocate the advantages of a mainly vegetarian alimentation that maintains the acid-base equilibrium. Once this is assured, most illnesses like high blood pressure, obesity, heart attacks, strokes or diabetes will be things of the past.

In this way, we get the following guiding principles:

- **Health centres – no infirmaries**
- **Co-operative organisation of health prevention and health care**
- **Energetic healing methods – furtherance of the body's own healing powers - herbal preparations – vegetarian alimentation**

## VI. Public Affairs

A mature culture is marked by the fact that its citizens create their community autonomously. This is well nigh impossible in despotically dominated countries. Yet even such “advanced” cultures like Canada, Scandinavia, Australia and Western and Central Europe are showing a serious basic contradiction. This basic contradiction is evident in that the political landscape is dominated on the one side there by a profit economy, on the other by a party system that understands democracy – meaning rule by the people – as the delegation of power to a caste of professional politicians. In this way democracy becomes the magic cap for a system that incessantly supports an economic order that fundamentally undermines the interests of the Common Good.

A mature and responsible culture must therefore adopt a system of autonomy that is totally committed to the Common Good. The more the citizens of a culture are actively participating in this common task, the more the parties that more often than not represent the private interests of pecunious groups become superannuated.

From this we get the following target values:

- **A mature culture is based on autonomy**
- **Autonomy aims to protect and increase the Common Good**
- **The basis of an autonomy geared to the Common Good are people who adopt personal responsibility and feel committed to the Common Good and the underlying Ethical Codex**



## VII. The Relation Between Women and Men

All over the world patriarchy – the dominance of men – is harking back to auf traditional roots stemming from the religions as well as from clan traditions. This patriarchy has sufficiently proved its inability to gain cultural maturity. All nations in which patriarchy and lordliness remain unbowed show mass poverty, lack of education and social blight.

In those countries that are believed to be relatively advanced more and more women conquer even the highest leader positions. Yet these women see themselves in a cultural environment in which the contradiction between the capitalist economic system and the democratic demand persists.

And so it is up to the women of this world to further develop the inherent inclination towards welfare to reach the active role as pioneers towards a culture that sees the Common Good and autonomy as the self-evident basis of social togetherness.

The men of this world retain the task to dismount from the high horse of patriarchal lordliness and encounter the women of this world at eye level and with the appropriate respect.

This leads to the following aims:

- **Unconditional equality between women and men**
- **Determined overcoming of patriarchy and lordliness**

## VIII. Man shall be the Guardian of Earth

In their handling of Nature the patriarchy has all over the world left a trail of destruction. Mesopotamia once was a prospering landscape. Today this historically distinct area has been largely desertified. About 12'000 years ago – at the beginning of the youngest geologic age – North Africa was a blooming garden. Today this former Nature paradise carries the name of a famous desert: Sahara

Everywhere on this planet deserts are expanding, and the cause is always the same: destructive exploitation and thus an irresponsible treatment of Nature.

We see similar occurrences in the great rain forests of Earth. Multinational concerns clear ever-increasing areas of tropical rain forest in order to use the “freed” land for the cultivation of inferior monocultures. Day by day the Green Lung of our planet is dwindling.

The same applies in the exploitation of raw materials. First and foremost it is the multinational oil conglomerates that pump the petrol reserves from the ground without considering the consequences in the least. Who had looked at the Niger delta saw a poisoned, desolate stream landscape showing all the markings of an end time scenario. And the long-term damages caused by the oil multi BP in the Gulf of Mexico cannot yet be fathomed.

And when we balance benefits and liabilities of the more than 430 nuclear power stations worldwide, the result shows that the detriment largely exceeds their use as electric utilities. The great nuclear catastrophes in Chernobyl (1986) and Fukushima (2011) demonstrate with tragic clarity what damage to life and environment, what havoc is wreaked by an out-of-control reactor.

And even more: The total mass of the provisionally stored radioactive waste so far already exceeds 300'000 tons. The half-life of the highly radioactive decay products is known to be many billion years.

There is no safe storage for these dangerous products anywhere on this world that would protect man and Nature against the radiation. It is simply unacceptable that the legacy of a fundamentally dangerous technology is imposed on the future generations.

This unscrupulous exploitation and contamination of our planet must be curtailed. In this area especially all people beholden to the Common Good are called upon to get active. People must understand themselves as guardians of Earth who protects flora and fauna rather than destroy them by overexploitation and environmental devastation.

- **Man shall be the guardian of Earth**
- **Ban on logging operations and clearances by international concerns**
- **Every felled tree must be replaced by replanting**
- **Quickest possible deactivation of all nuclear power stations**
- **Forced introduction of electric drives – drastic reduction of the demand for nuclear power, oil, gas and coal**

## **IX. The Ethical Codex – Compass of the Constitution**

Humanity on this Earth needs an Ethical Codex, on which all cultures together can rely and which all people may evoke. Presently a mighty minority claims the freedom to do everything that leads to an increase of their wealth at the cost of general public. But this leads, as global conditions show, to the deprivation of the many. Freedom must therefore reach its limit where the freedom of others is impaired. Therefore we present here the Ethical Codex whose content exactly represents what we generally describe as consciousness.

These are the words of the Ethical Codex:

- 1. Love and respect your neighbour as yourself!**
- 2. Be ready to offer help at any time!**
- 3. No officer or functionary is place above his or her neighbour!**

These three ethical imperatives not only find in most people an “inherent” resonance in their conscience, they also obligate to accept personal responsibility for the Common Good. Autocratic lordliness must make way for a co-operative togetherness. And this social consensus is supported by personal qualities that we may describe with these virtues:

- **Autonomy**
- **Upright gait**
- **Contact at eye level**
- **Personal commitment to the Common Good**

In the long term the Ethical Codex shall be anchored not only in the constitutions of all nations, but above all in a future World Constitution. This necessarily demands a restructuring of the organs of the United Nations organisation: Transformation of the General Assembly to a World Parliament based on “One Country, One Vote” that in turn will form a World Council from among their ranks. The members of the World Parliament as well as of the World Council shall be highly respected personalities who previously have amply shown their commitment to serving the Common Good.

- The Ethical Codex – the Basic Concept for Future Constitutions
- A World Constitution as Model for National Constitutions
- Formation of a World Parliament and a World Council

## **IX. A Call to All Men of Good Will!**

We call upon people of good will to express their active accord to a worldwide supremacy of the Common Good before self-interests by signing the supporters list on our website.

We are grateful for all donations that will enable the Associations in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to intensify their endeavours. And finally we ask wealthy sponsors to place sizeable sums into these accounts that will enable needy people in Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America to buy and use efficient energy converters as described above in Section I. Later this fund shall also contribute to the formation of teaching staff who in the context of large international networks shall become active in all areas of this Earth deficient in education.

We also call on all people of good will to found in their countries Associations committed to the *Operation Common Good!*

We extend our hands for a fruitful collaboration to all existing organisations committed to the common good, the protection of the environment and the care for the hungry and the sick of this world.

This is the internet address for *Operation Common Good!* (in German):  
[www.aktiongemeinwohl.info](http://www.aktiongemeinwohl.info)

Michael George, Austria

Juni 2012

E-Mail: [michael.george605@gmail.com](mailto:michael.george605@gmail.com)