



## What is "Simpol"?

"Simpol" is short for the Simultaneous Policy. Simpol is an international campaign to solve global problems using your national vote – but in a new, clever, and highly effective way.

## The Problem

The key barrier to solving many of today's global problems is destructive international competition. No nation wants to move first on issues such as climate change, financial market regulation, regulation of transnational corporations, social and environmental protection, etc, because any country doing so would only make its businesses un-competitive compared to those elsewhere. Any nation moving first would only see business, investment and jobs go elsewhere. So it's a vicious circle: No nation wants to move first, and nothing changes except our global problems only get worse.

Governments in each country thus find themselves caught in a dilemma. Since regulating substantively in favour of greater social or environmental protections would only raise business costs, they risk businesses simply moving their operations elsewhere. Moreover, any such government would be viewed by global investors as an unattractive place to do business. Thousands of jobs would be lost and the country's economy would suffer. As a result, all political parties, once in power, have no choice but to follow much the same agenda; a business- and market-friendly agenda. For voters, this makes one party seem much like another. It's little wonder fewer and fewer of us bother to



vote! Destructive international competition thus reduces democracy to mere pseudo-democracy.

Commercial banks, global investors and trans-national corporations are the big winners from this situation. But it's important to realise that if a bank or corporation *failed* to take advantage of the lowest internationally available taxes or regulations, it would only lose out to its competitors that do. An old argument, maybe - but sadly one that, in a globalised world, is true. So it's not just governments that are caught in the vicious circle of destructive international competition; it's corporations too. The problem we all face, then, is *systemic*; it's the direct result of having a *global* economy but only *national* governance.

What's needed is a global, binding, democratic framework for international cooperation that allows substantive global regulations to be implemented to solve the many global problems that threaten us. The United Nations, sadly, can't provide this. But Simpol, if you and others play your part, can!

## The Solution

Competitive disadvantages for each nation in fulfilling their obligations to solve global problems can only be avoided if the necessary regulations and taxes are implemented *simultaneously* by all (or sufficient) nations. With a Simultaneous Policy, no nation need lose out to any other – all nations would win and all corporations would be subject to a global level playing field of regulations. Moreover, Simpol offers the opportunity of combining two or more complementary global

policies together, so that nations that may lose out on one policy, can gain on another. For example, if a currency transactions (Tobin) tax were implemented alongside a climate change agreement, high CO<sup>2</sup> emitters, such as the USA or China, could be compensated from the vast proceeds from the Tobin tax. In that way, Simpol offers a far greater chance of success than present UN-sponsored international negotiations which, because they deal only with *one* issue, are almost bound to fail.

## We don't ask – we *compel*!



Driving nations to implement Simpol occurs through existing elections – and that's where *you* come in. **By signing on as a Simpol supporter (which is free), you pledge to vote in all future national elections for ANY politician or party – within reason – that has signed a pledge to implement Simpol's policy measures simultaneously alongside other governments. Or, if you have a party preference, you want your party to sign the Pledge.** In that way, you still retain the ultimate right to vote as you please. But you're making it very clear to all politicians that you'll be giving strong preference to those who've signed the Pledge, to the probable exclusion of those who haven't.

This presents politicians with a powerful "carrot and stick" proposition. Politicians who sign the Pledge risk nothing, because Simpol only gets implemented when all or sufficient nations have signed on. So there's no risk and nothing to go back on until all nations are on board. But with many seats in the Dail, and even entire elections, often hanging on a small number of votes,

politicians who *fail* to sign the pledge risk losing their seats to those who do! Failing to sign the pledge could spell the end of their electoral chances. Perhaps that's why, at the 2010 UK General Election, 200 candidates from all the main UK political parties signed the Pledge and 24 became Members of Parliament.

Parallel Simpol campaigns are already running in a number of democratic countries and Simpol has supporters in over 70 countries. As support for Simpol grows, more and more politicians and governments will be driven to sign the Pledge. As more do, non-democratic nations can eventually be invited to join in, so building to a point where sufficient nations are on board and implementation can proceed. Moreover, as global problems worsen, as they surely will, more and more citizens, politicians and nations are going to see the simple common sense in cooperation; the common sense in Simpol.

So, as a Simpol supporter, you gain the opportunity to:

- ④ contribute, if you wish, to the formulation of Simpol's specific policy content; and to
- ④ join with others to use your vote in a new and effective way to drive politicians and governments to implement those policies.

**By supporting Simpol, you make yourself part of the global political solution!**

Sign on today at: <http://ei.simpol.org>



### What people are saying about Simpol



**Ken Wilber.** Founder of Integral Theory

*"The central idea of Simpol is very powerful. That is, how to link votes in one country with votes in another; how to link political action in one country with action in another. International competition is built-in to the nation- state system at its current level of development, and so the issue is not environmental concerns, but how to get humans to **agree** on environmental concerns. This is really fascinating and very hopeful. In my opinion this is the crucial issue for the 21st Century".*



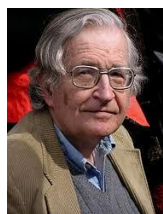
**Hazel Henderson.** Author of 'Beyond Globalization: Shaping a Sustainable Global Economy'

*"The Simultaneous Policy is a creative proposal to accelerate progress toward a sustainable global economy. Many movements and grass-roots globalists can coalesce around such innovative initiatives".*



**José Ramos-Horta.** Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

*"I am pleased to confirm to you my interest in endorsing the Simultaneous Policy campaign and to be as active in its support as I can".*



**Noam Chomsky**

*"It's ambitious and provocative. Can it work? Certainly worth a serious try".*

How YOU can join citizens around the world to use YOUR vote in a new, powerful, transnational way that drives politicians and governments to solve global problems.



Using our votes to take back the world