SIMPOL

Information Pack

How we solve global problems

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Our world is beset with challenges...

What keeps our leaders from solving global challenges? What would make global problem-solving in every nation's immediate self-interest? How can citizens reclaim democracy to tackle these challenges? Simpol offers a powerful way forward.

The main barrier to solving global problems is that no government can move first or act alone because doing so would make its national economy uncompetitive, risking unemployment, capital flight and economic decline. Solving global problems usually means that taxes and regulations – especially on businesses – need to increase. But this goes against every government's need to keep its economy internationally competitive and attractive to corporations and investors. Governments are therefore caught in a "Prisoner's Dilemma", a kind of race to the bottom, rather like an arms race. Since they cannot be sure that their peers will implement the same measures on issues like carbon reductions or corporation tax, they are systemically stuck. Small steps are possible. But not the large strides required.

Since governments are stuck, citizens must be the ones to liberate them. The International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO) is a global citizens' institution designed to incentivise politicians and governments first to support, and then implement, Simpol – the Simultaneous Policy. Simpol is a series of multi-issue policy packages with each to be implemented by all or sufficient nations simultaneously, on precisely the same date. If nations act simultaneously, global coverage is achieved, everyone wins, and the Prisoner's Dilemma is resolved.

Why a Simultaneous Policy?

An international agreement to implement a policy is a faster route to global cooperation than global democracy or a world parliament. Implementing it simultaneously means no risk of uncompetitiveness: no nation (or corporation) loses out to its peers. And because each policy package covers several issues, what a nation loses on one issue it can gain on another, as explained more fully in the section "A Simpol Solution" below.

Simpol operates in two stages:

1. Politicians and governments are invited to support Simpol only in principle by signing a Pledge to implement it simultaneously, subject to all or sufficient nations participating, and subject to the policies eventually being agreed.

2. Once more or less all democratic countries, together with the major non-democracies, have signed, an international negotiation to define and agree detailed policies can proceed, followed by implementation by all or sufficient nations.

Campaign

Citizens are central to Simpol. Their votes incentivise politicians and governments to sign the Pledge, they help decide which global issues come first, and they keep politicians accountable for the policies eventually agreed.

By joining the campaign, citizens become a powerful voting bloc. They declare that they "will give strong voting preference at national/EU elections to politicians or parties that have signed the Pledge". Politicians who sign increase their chances of gaining the votes of Simpol's supporters. Those who don't, risk losing those votes, and potentially their seats, to politicians who signed instead. This is the tool Simpol uses to achieve global cooperation, and it is one that politicians cannot ignore.

This electoral incentive also gives citizens a strong, if indirect, influence over Simpol's policy content. The detailed policies are developed by experts and NGOs, but they must ultimately be acceptable to the politicians who assent to them, and those politicians depend on the votes of Simpol's supporters.

Should Simpol gain the support of democratic governments, non-democratic nations would be invited to participate. If global support becomes widespread and a global negotiation is successful, the first Simultaneous Policy can be implemented. Subsequent Simultaneous Policies can then follow.

In summary, Simpol is "Agreement by nations, driven by citizens".

Definitions and abbreviations

How many nations are "sufficient"?

The number of nations sufficient for Simpol's policy packages to be implemented will depend on their policy content. For an agreement banning nuclear weapons, for example, only those nations possessing, or suspected of possessing, such weapons may be required. For an agreement on levels of corporation tax, it may require virtually all nations. "Sufficient", then, is whatever number of nations is required for participating nations to feel they can safely implement the agreement without fear of it being undermined by free-riders. In the negotiation process described in the section "How we develop policies", the parties themselves can agree what number is sufficient.

In our description we use the following abbreviations:

DGC	=	Destructive Global Competition
ISPO	=	International Simultaneous Policy Organisation
MB	=	Management Board
MP	=	Member of Parliament/Congress
NDC	=	Non-democratic country
NGO	=	Non-governmental organisation
NSPO	=	National Simultaneous Policy Organisation
PC	=	Policy Committee
SNF	=	Single Negotiating Framework
TB	=	Trustee Board
UN	=	United Nations

"Simpol" is used variously to describe the model as a whole, the campaign, the institution, or the policies it will contain.

The problem we're here to solve

Simpol is designed in response to the "Prisoner's Dilemma" that today prevents nations from cooperating globally. Once this is identified, the institution and methods needed to solve global challenges become clear.

What keeps our leaders from solving global challenges?

To give the Prisoner's Dilemma a more precise name, we call it "Destructive Global Competition" (DGC). Like an arms race, DGC is a vicious circle. No individual nation, nor individual group of nations, can move first to solve global problems like climate change or wealth inequality because they fear that the necessary higher taxes and tighter regulations would only make that nation's (or group's) economy uncompetitive, resulting in investment and jobs moving elsewhere. Global markets, likewise, would disfavour any nation that significantly increased business costs. The on-going need of all governments to maintain or enhance their "international competitiveness" thus confines them to small, incremental steps just when really large strides are needed.

Whether unilateral action to cut emissions (or other action to protect the environment) would actually harm a country's economic competitiveness remains hotly debated. Whatever the reality, the problem is that politicians *perceive* there is a risk. Constantly reminded by business leaders of the consequences of "uncompetitiveness", and fearful of losing jobs and votes, this is not a risk they are willing to take. As former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair reminded us years ago: "The blunt truth about the politics of climate change is that no country will want to sacrifice its economy in order to meet this challenge" (*The Guardian*, 2 November 2005). The same applies to a wide variety of other global issues.

DGC has two main manifestations:

1. "Regulatory chill", where the fear of losing competitiveness 'chills' governments, restricting regulation to inadequate, incremental steps. Regulation may be moving in the right direction, but far too slowly. As one newspaper noted, "Governments remain reluctant to address the [climate change] threat because any country acting alone to curb its greenhouse gas emissions, without similar commitments by other governments, risks damaging the competitiveness of its industries." (*Financial Times, 6 December 2006*)

2. "Race-to-the-bottom", where each nation's pursuit of its "international competitiveness" results in a tit-for-tat dismantling of taxes and regulations. A good example is diminishing levels of corporation tax: "Governments vying to attract inward investment are weighing the advantages of cutting business costs . . . [Corporate] Tax rates have been falling across the world over the past quarter of a century . . . This trend is forcing some experts to the conclusion that governments have embarked on a race to the bottom." (*Financial Times, 19 January 2007*) Deprived of adequate tax revenue, governments struggle to provide decent public services while the gap between the globally-mobile rich and the nationally-rooted poor inevitably continues to widen.

Apart from issues that directly affect national economic competitiveness, there are many others which require global coordination and cooperation. These include regulating the internet, banning weapons of mass destruction, combatting international crime and terrorism, combatting pandemics and anti-microbial resistance, making frontier artificial intelligence safe, and addressing the job losses AI may cause. In our increasingly interconnected world, these and other emerging global challenges will require a coordinated, global-and-simultaneous response.

Beyond the obstacle that DGC represents, there is a serious flaw in the way the world presently approaches global problems. Typically, the UN structures international negotiations around only one single issue, such as carbon emissions. However, on any single issue there will nearly always be some nations that win and others that lose. On carbon emissions, high-emitting countries such as the United States face some of the largest cuts and highest costs, and therefore have the most to lose. Little wonder, then, that the United States has twice withdrawn from the Paris Agreement, most recently with effect from 27 January 2026. The problem is that there is no other issue on the table which might permit losers to be compensated.

A Simpol Solution

Our solution is a pragmatic one. Instead of appealing to the moral duty of governments to solve global problems, Simpol's approach is to remove the barriers which prevent cooperation. The idea is to design its institutions and processes in such a way that cooperating becomes in each nation's immediate *self*-interest.

A model for global problem-solving based on self-interest requires the inclusion of three key attributes:

1. Simultaneous implementation

Simultaneous implementation by all or sufficient nations is a direct response to the vicious circle of DGC. By implementing detailed global problem-solving policies at the same time, global coverage is achieved while the fears and risks of moving first are eliminated: every nation moves together; everyone wins.

2. Multi-issue policy framework

To vastly increase the chances of substantive cooperation, Simpol incorporates multi-issue policy packages, so that what a nation may lose on one issue, it can win on another. In this way, we gain the opportunity of making global cooperation in every nation's immediate self-interest. And if the agreement is in their interests, so will be the inclusion of appropriate verification and enforcement measures. Finding such packages among many nations with very different interests is complex, which is why Simpol works with Smartsettle, whose negotiation platform is designed for exactly this task (see "How we develop policies" below).

What might a multi-issue policy package look like?

The following is an example of how two global policies could be combined to form a single policy package:

Currency Transactions (Tobin) tax: This would be a small tax applied whenever currencies are exchanged by financial institutions and would serve to deter damaging currency speculation and volatility (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tobin_tax). If applied globally and simultaneously, it would be risk-free for any nation and could raise very substantial sums from financial markets.

These funds could then be used to compensate any nations that might lose out on:

A carbon emissions reduction agreement: This would entail deep cuts in global greenhouse gas emissions, consistent with reaching net zero around mid-century, especially by the most polluting nations, such as the USA and China. Nations suffering disproportionate costs in reducing their emissions could thus be compensated, under an agreed formula, from revenues raised by the Currency Transactions Tax.

3. A new way for citizens to incentivise politicians and governments towards cooperation

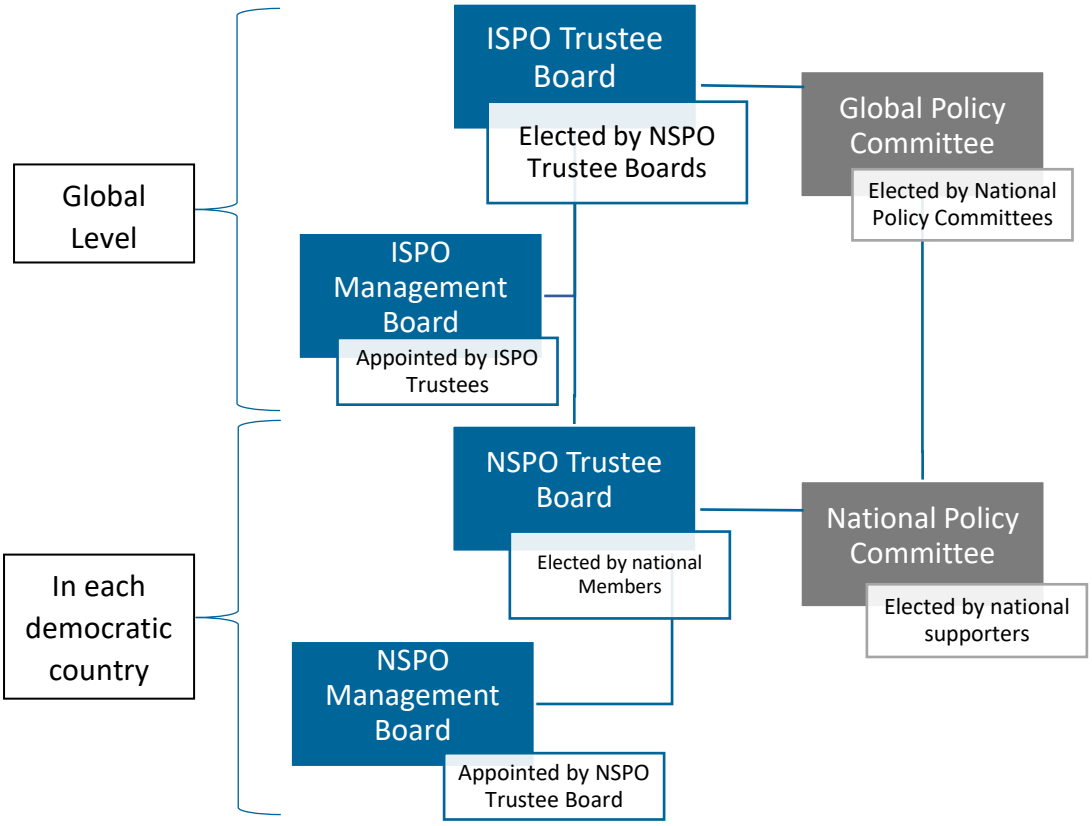
Some politicians and governments will see the common sense of such an approach. But many will not. Our task, therefore, is not simply to design an appropriate governance model but to include an active campaign that engages civil society in a way that strongly incentivises national governments towards global cooperation.

We believe that, in combination, these attributes offer the swiftest route to a form of binding global governance that is effective and acceptable to all.

How we're organised

Globally, Simpol is headed by the **International Simultaneous Policy Organisation (ISPO)**. In each democratic country, a **National Simultaneous Policy Organisation (NSPO)** is established. When the governments of non-democratic countries (NDCs) join the process, they take part in negotiations in their own right, in a role comparable to that of a democracy's joint national delegation.

This is the structure Simpol is building. ISPO and a number of national organisations are already active; other parts, such as the elected Policy Committees, will be set up as the campaign grows.



Trustee Boards: uphold Founding Declaration and supervise Management Board and Policy Committee.

Management Boards: run the campaign.

Policy Committees: manage development of Simpol's policy packages.

Supporters: citizens who have signed on to the campaign.

Members: supporters who additionally pay an annual membership fee.

Trustee Boards

Global level: The ISPO Trustee Board (ISPO-TB) is responsible for overseeing the entire Simpol organisation. It is guided by the regulations and principles in its Founding Declaration. The ISPO-TB is responsible for setting the overall objectives for the ISPO Management Board (ISPO-MB) and ISPO Policy Committee (ISPO-PC), and for upholding and enforcing the ISPO Founding Declaration. Members of the ISPO-TB are elected periodically by the various NSPO-TBs.

National level: NSPO-TBs have the same responsibilities as the ISPO-TB but only within their own country. NSPO-TBs are elected periodically by national Members. Citizens in the country who support the campaign ("supporters") can decide to become Members by paying an annual fee. Each NSPO has its own Founding Declaration but each must be consistent with the ISPO Founding Declaration and be approved by the ISPO-TB. NSPO-TBs are responsible for complying with any regulations set by ISPO.

ISPO's aim is to ensure global uniformity where it is needed while allowing each NSPO sufficient flexibility to organise its activities according to its own national political, legal and cultural circumstances.

Management Boards

Global level: The ISPO-MB is responsible for the day-to-day running of the global campaign to get politicians, parties and governments to sign the Pledge. It liaises with and coordinates the various NSPO-MBs. Its members are appointed by the ISPO-TB. The ISPO-MB is headed by a Global Coordinator.

National level: NSPO-MBs are responsible for running the campaign in their own country. Each NSPO-MB is led by a National Coordinator. NSPO-MBs are appointed by the NSPO-TB. Apart from getting politicians and political parties to sign the Pledge, NSPO-MBs are responsible in their country for media relations, event organising, fundraising, etc. They would also seek the support of other NGOs who could encourage their millions of supporters to join the Simpol campaign.

Local level: Supporters may organise at a local level as Local Simpol Groups, each with a Local Coordinator and covering a geographical area conforming approximately to the boundaries of their local parliamentary constituency/area. Their task is to campaign locally to persuade their MP(s) to sign the Pledge.

Policy Committees

Global level: The ISPO-PC is responsible for overseeing the development of Simpol's policy packages and their subsequent negotiation. It is elected periodically by the NSPO-PCs, with each qualifying NSPO-PC having one equal vote, consistent with the principle of all nations acting together as equals. To qualify, an NSPO must be properly constituted and approved by the ISPO-TB, have a minimum number of supporters, and have held its own Policy Committee

election. Members of the ISPO-PC are expected to act for Simpol as a whole rather than as delegates of their own country. Rather than writing policies itself, the ISPO-PC commissions and draws together proposals from independent experts, universities, think-tanks and NGOs. Working with Smartsettle, it builds these into a draft Single Negotiating Framework, commissions independent assessment of their likely impact, and convenes the negotiations on the Smartsettle Infinity platform. Supporters in countries without a qualifying NSPO are consulted through Simpol's priority polls until one is established. Until the first NSPO-PC elections have been held, the ISPO-TB appoints an interim ISPO-PC.

National level: NSPO-PCs are elected periodically by national supporters. They identify experts and NGOs in their country who can contribute to Simpol's policy work, liaise with pledged politicians on their country's priorities and concerns, organise periodic polls in which national supporters indicate which global issues they most want addressed, take part in electing the ISPO-PC and, once negotiations begin, join their government in a joint national delegation (see How we develop policies).

To maintain political independence, Simpol accepts no funding from for-profit organisations, and no officer of Simpol can be a member of a political party.

How our campaign works

The initial aim is to get politicians, political parties and governments to sign the Pledge to implement Simpol.

The Simpol campaign develops first in democratic countries. The governments of NDCs can join at any time but would be invited to join especially once support in democratic countries was already well developed.

In democratic countries:

NSPO-MBs encourage citizens to join the campaign, which they can do online at any time, free of charge. Citizens who join "give strong voting preference at national elections to politicians or parties that have signed the Pledge". As they join, their MP(s) are informed accordingly and, in the run-up to an election, the NSPO sends a message on the supporter's behalf to all the candidates standing in their constituency (as electoral areas are known in the UK). As numbers grow, supporters in each country become a powerful voting bloc.

For politicians and parties, Simpol is a win–win. Signing the Pledge represents support for Simpol only in principle, so it carries no risk, and it attracts the votes of Simpol's voting bloc. A politician who fails to sign, by contrast, risks losing those votes, and potentially their seat, to competitors who have signed. The larger the bloc becomes, the less politicians and parties will be able to resist. An entire party can sign by formally adopting a Party Resolution, which makes Simpol part of its official policy and automatically requires all its candidates to sign the Pledge.

A politician's signature remains valid for life unless it is cancelled in writing. Politicians do not need to sign again each time they stand for election, so support for the campaign builds from one election to the next rather than starting from zero. Cancelling is in any case not in a politician's interests. Until all or sufficient nations are on board, there is nothing to go back on, and if a politician or party did cancel, the NSPO concerned would publish the fact, so that Simpol supporters would be unlikely ever to vote for them again. Similarly, a pledged party that forms a government would be expected to legislate its commitment-in-principle into law, and failing to do so would jeopardise its future electoral chances. And when the date for implementation finally arrived, political support for Simpol would likely be so strong, and global problems so dire, that no politician would hesitate.

For citizens, supporting Simpol is rather like having two votes: one that operates at the global level and the other at the national. Joining the campaign, accompanied by the email that each supporter's NSPO sends to all the relevant candidates or to their sitting MP(s), represents the supporter's global vote. Then, on election day, supporters also get their national vote, just like everyone else.

Note: Simpol supporters do not give up their autonomy as voters. Their commitment is only to give *strong preference* to politicians or parties that have signed the Pledge. Each supporter thus still retains the ultimate right to vote as they please.

In Non-democratic countries (NDCs):

NDCs can sign the Pledge at any time and pass it into law. Since no electoral pressure can be applied in such countries, what is their incentive for signing?

- Many NDCs are lower-income countries and would have much to gain from the kind of policies likely to be included in Simpol. Apart from solving problems like climate change, these would likely raise considerable revenues, a portion of which could be distributed to lower-income nations on a debt-free basis.

- Many NDCs are frustrated at the international community's present lack of action and their own lack of influence. Many would want to sign the Pledge to set an example to the richer, more powerful countries.

- Ultimately, all nations need solutions to global problems. Even if they may not see the need for it today, the increasing intensity and frequency of global crises in coming years means their attitude is likely to change towards one that recognises that cooperation is in their own survival interest: the only option.

- As the campaign develops and its public profile grows, Simpol could come to be accepted as the world's most likely means of solving global problems. As NDCs witness how democratic governments are being driven by citizens to sign the Pledge, they will not want to be left out of the process.

The campaign's progress so far

Launched in the UK in 2000 and despite being small, having little funding, and being run only by volunteers, Simpol has steadily gathered significant political support.

The domino effect

The combination of a no-risk Pledge and the risk of losing if they don't sign can create a "domino effect" among politicians. Once one major candidate in a constituency signs, the others have little choice but to follow.

Before the 2014 European Parliament elections, Catherine Stihler, one of the Labour candidates for Scotland, was first to sign the Pledge on 1 May 2014. A few days later, perhaps seeing that she had signed, one of her competitors, Alyn Smith of the Scottish Nationalists (SNP), followed suit. Finally, another Labour candidate, David Martin, signed too. All three became Members of the European Parliament, joining other pledged MEPs in committing to implement Simpol simultaneously with other nations.

In the 2017 UK general election, in some closely contested constituencies, the domino effect was also evident. In the Vale of Clwyd in Wales, for example, the Liberal Democrat candidate signed the Pledge on 14 May. Soon after, the Labour candidate signed on 19 May. A day later, seeing that both of his main competitors had signed, the Conservative candidate (the sitting

MP), also signed. With all three main candidates signed, the result for Simpol was clear even before polling day: whoever won the seat, Simpol was certain to gain another pledged MP.

By polling day on 8 June, over 650 candidates from all the main parties had signed the Pledge. Of those, 64 became MPs. That's about 10% of all UK MPs. At the 2019 UK general election, the number of pledged MPs rose to over 100.

The Simpol campaign doesn't only work at elections. In each country, as each new supporter joins the campaign, the NSPO usually informs the supporter's MP(s), even if no election is imminent. Occasionally, just one supporter is sufficient for the sitting MP to sign the Pledge. On 18 August 2015, for example, Jonathan Edwards, the MP for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, signed after a single supporter in his constituency had joined the campaign.

Simpol's approach works also in proportional representation (PR) electoral systems. In the Irish general election in 2016, for example, fifty-three candidates from most main parties signed the Pledge as polling day approached. Of those, fourteen were elected to the Dáil (Irish Parliament). At the 2021 Federal election in Germany, 40 candidates who were elected to the Bundestag had signed the Pledge. Since all electoral systems are based on competition between parties, Simpol should prove effective.

Simpol has gained support from across the party-political spectrum and from citizens in over 100 countries. While the campaign is most developed in the UK, campaigns are already developing elsewhere. The UK, however, could be regarded as providing a taste of the enormous impact that might be possible if large numbers of citizens joined the campaign. With many parliamentary seats and even entire elections around the world often hanging on a relatively small number of votes, it need not take as many people as we might think to implement an "agreement by nations, driven by citizens".

Liberating politicians from DGC

Having stressed Simpol's electoral potential, one should not underestimate its common-sense appeal. Being aware of how competitiveness concerns frustrate their desire to take substantive action, politicians often require little persuasion to sign the Pledge. They feel liberated because Simpol's condition of simultaneous implementation at last allows them to support a process for global problem-solving that avoids any risk of uncompetitiveness. As one candidate standing in the 2015 UK general election commented, "The way in which the process neatly side-steps the issue of countries fearing to act unilaterally is quite excellent. I have signed the pledge and thank you for inviting me to do so."

How we develop policies

Simpol's policies will be developed by experts and NGOs, refined with the help of Smartsettle, and assented to by pledged politicians and governments. Citizens drive the whole process through their votes. They help decide which issues come first, and because the politicians who give their assent depend on those votes, citizens retain a strong influence over what is finally agreed.

This reflects clause 5 of the Simpol Pledge itself: "If there is sufficient worldwide support for the process in principle, citizens in democratic countries will be invited to participate, if they wish, in the formulation of any policies to be taken up by their government in negotiations. Their agreement to the framework within which negotiations take place will be sought, by referendum or by other means suited to their country's constitution." (See the "Preparatory and Formal Negotiations" section below).

The full process of policy development will be launched by ISPO only once support for the Pledge among politicians, parties and governments around the world has become widespread. Seeking a high level of in-principle support first is deliberate. It builds the necessary global trust, and it ensures that the packages are fully appropriate for the world conditions prevailing at the time.

Long before that point, however, an obvious question arises: could so many nations, with such different interests, ever agree on a detailed multi-issue package? Many people sympathetic to Simpol suspect that "the devil will be in the detail". That's why Simpol works with Smartsettle, whose computerised negotiation platform, Smartsettle Infinity, is designed for exactly this kind of complex negotiation among many parties and many issues.

Smartsettle Infinity: a negotiation platform built for the task

Developed by Dr Ernest Thiessen, Smartsettle Infinity sets out the whole negotiation in a Single Negotiating Framework (SNF): the issues to be decided, the range of options on each, and the constraints and interdependencies between them. Each party then enters its preferences privately: how much it values each issue relative to the others, and how satisfied it would be with each possible outcome. These preferences are held at a secure, neutral site, and no party ever sees another party's preferences (https://smartsettle.com).

Using this information, the system knows how each party becomes satisfied, without revealing that to anyone else. The parties first reach a Baseline agreement through a process called multi-variate Visual Blind Bidding. They can exchange proposals and concessions, but most often they reach the Baseline by mutually accepting a suggestion that the system generates. The Baseline establishes a reference point that every party has accepted as fair. From it, the system searches for improvements that make every party better off still. Its core fairness rule, "Maximize the Minimum Gain", distributes the newly found value so that the party gaining least gains as much as possible, rather than allowing the most powerful to take the lion's share. And because all the issues are considered together, it can find trades that issue-by-issue haggling misses: a nation can concede something it values less in exchange for

something it values more. This is precisely the logic of Simpol's multi-issue packages, now given a practical method.

Two further features matter for Simpol. Because preferences are entered confidentially, nations can be honest about what they really need without signalling weakness to their rivals. And no single party can hold the others to ransom. If one party holds out, the system can show whether the others can still reach a workable agreement without it. If they can, they may decide to proceed, and the hold-out has no influence over the outcome. That gives every party good reason to stay at the table.

Testing the approach now

Climate change: Simpol and Smartsettle are already putting the approach to the test. In a simulated global climate negotiation, published by the Toda Peace Institute in March 2026 and co-authored by Ernest Thiessen, Simpol's John Bunzl and Leland Beaumont, AI agents played six groups of nations, from the G7 to the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, under preferences the authors derived from public positions. The groups reached an optimised agreement that left every group better off than the status quo (Toda Peace Institute, Policy Brief No. 287, https://toda.org). The simulation also found that a global climate fund was essential to securing the participation of the Global South: exactly the kind of cross-issue compensation that Simpol's packages are designed to provide.

Frontier AI regulation: A second demonstration, on the global governance of frontier AI, is now under way. Its first run models five governments as the parties: the United States, China, the European Union, the United Kingdom and a coalition of countries hosting no frontier AI development. The frontier AI laboratories and the cloud and chip providers are modelled as interests, so that their preferences shape the framework without giving any company a seat alongside governments. A second run would add them as parties in their own right. Preferences are modelled from public positions and labelled as such, and the results will be published whatever they show, including a finding that no package works for some parties (see: "If You're Wondering What Can Be Done About AI, Start Here"). Simulations of this kind cannot predict the politics of a real negotiation and no method can guarantee that a mutually beneficial agreement exists. What they can show is whether a fair and detailed agreement among very unequal parties can be found, and what it would take. They also allow the framework and the method to be refined well before the real negotiations begin.

What the method can and cannot do: Smartsettle is designed not to leave value on the table and to share that value fairly, but it cannot create benefits out of thin air. It helps the parties reach an agreement in which no party could gain further without another losing, and no party is worse off than under the status quo. Research and experience suggest that in complex two-party negotiations each party can expect 10 to 20 per cent more than by traditional means. With many parties the gain for each is probably smaller, but the greater benefit may be reaching an agreement at all.

Who develops the policies

Detailed global policy is specialist work, and much of it already exists. NGOs, think-tanks, universities and international bodies have spent decades developing proposals on climate, tax, finance, AI and many other global issues. What they lack is a way to get those proposals implemented. Simpol's task is not to reinvent this expertise but to give it a route to implementation. Once ISPO launches the policy development process, each NSPO-PC invites organisations in its own country to submit proposals on the issues its supporters and pledged politicians see as most pressing, while the ISPO-PC invites international bodies to contribute and draws the national submissions together. NGOs that cooperate with Simpol can also encourage their own supporters to join the campaign.

Citizens help set the agenda. Once ISPO launches the process, supporters in each country elect their NSPO-PC, which in turn takes part in electing the ISPO-PC. Through periodic polls organised by each NSPO, supporters indicate which global issues they most want addressed, and the ISPO-PC takes these priorities into account in deciding which issues to include in each package. Pledged politicians are also consulted on their country's priorities and concerns, so that the proposals reflect what is politically achievable as well as technically sound.

The ISPO-PC keeps contributors informed of which issues are emerging as the most widely supported, encouraging proposals to converge. Independent impact modelling, measured against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or other globally recognised criteria, helps ensure that proposals are likely to be fair and beneficial to humanity as a whole.

Building the Single Negotiating Framework

The ISPO-PC, working with Smartsettle, then draws the proposals together into a Single Negotiating Framework for the first policy package, Simpol-1. The framework defines the issues on the table, the range of options for each, and the links between them: for example, how much a currency transactions tax would raise at different rates, and how that revenue could compensate nations that bear the heaviest costs of an emissions agreement.

Drafts of the framework would be published for comment by experts, NGOs, pledged politicians and the public, and revised until it fairly represents the choices to be made. Every measure proposed for inclusion must also pass the Subsidiarity Test (see box below), so that national sovereignty is safeguarded.

National sovereignty: the Subsidiarity Test

An important ongoing function of the ISPO-PC and everyone contributing to Simpol's policy work is to ensure that only policies that do not encroach upon national sovereignty are included in the Single Negotiating Framework. To achieve this, they subject each proposed measure to the following question. We call it "the Subsidiarity Test":

Would the unilateral implementation of the measure by a single nation (or by a restricted group of nations) be likely to cause it a significant competitive disadvantage?

If the answer is:

- *No*: the measure does not qualify for inclusion in Simpol because it could be implemented by any nation (or restricted group of nations) alone.
- *Yes*: the measure qualifies for inclusion in Simpol.

In this way, all policy proposals are effectively sorted into one of two categories: unilateral policies or simultaneous policies. Unilateral policies are excluded because they don't pass the test. The principle of national sovereignty is thereby safeguarded. Meanwhile, for simultaneous policies which nations would like to implement but cannot because of DGC, nations' freedom of action is actually enhanced because Simpol now makes their implementation possible.

Preparatory and Formal Negotiations

Negotiations would be launched once a draft Single Negotiating Framework had been widely reviewed and more or less all democratic countries, together with the major non-democracies, had signed the Pledge. They would take place in two rounds, both using Smartsettle Infinity: the first would settle the framework, and the second would reach the agreement.

1. Preparatory negotiations: the framework

ISPO would invite each participating democracy to form a joint national delegation, made up of its government and its NSPO-PC or their representatives, which together act as one party to the negotiation. Pledged NDC governments take part in their own right. In this first round, the delegations would refine the draft framework into its final form: the issues to be decided, the options on each, and the limits within which any figures must fall. The framework would cover the detailed policies, the terms as they apply to each country, verification and enforcement measures, and safeguards to ensure that non-participating nations cannot undermine the agreement. Once it is final, each country's legislature, or in a non-democratic country its government, would approve it, committing in advance to confirm any agreement that falls within it. In each democratic country, the agreement of citizens to the framework would also be sought, by referendum or by other means suited to its constitution, for example a general election in which approving the framework is a clear and explicit issue.

A key question is how many nations are "sufficient" for implementation to proceed. This, too, can be one of the issues in the framework, so that the parties themselves agree the coalition required before simultaneous implementation can safely begin. Issues that cannot yet be framed in a way all the delegations accept can be held over for subsequent packages (Simpol-2, 3, 4, etc.).

Why joint national delegations?

In each democracy, the government brings the authority to commit the country, while the NSPO-PC brings the expert and NGO proposals developed for Simpol and the priorities of national supporters. Together they give the framework and the agreement both governmental backing and democratic legitimacy, in keeping with clause 5 of the Pledge, which invites citizens to take part in formulating the policies their government takes into negotiations. And since governments would by then have signed the Pledge and depend on the support of the Simpol voting bloc, their positions and those of their NSPO-PCs are likely to be closely aligned.

Once the framework has been approved, ISPO would convene the second round.

2. Formal negotiations: the agreement

With the framework approved, the same delegations would negotiate Simpol-1 itself. Advised by independent experts, each delegation would enter its country's preferences confidentially. The parties would first reach a Baseline agreement that all accept as fair, and the system would then search for improvements that make every party better off still, until they reach an optimised consensus: a complete package with a decision on every issue in the framework. Crucially, they would also agree a date for its simultaneous implementation.

A formal, globally binding agreement to tackle our greatest challenges would be a day for celebration worldwide. ISPO would hope to mark it with public events in many countries at around the same time: a celebration of our unity in diversity and our capacity for global cooperation, which would also add public pressure on governments to complete the process.

Policy Implementation

Having reached Simpol-1 and a date for its implementation, each country would pass the measures and the implementation date into law. Because each legislature, and in democratic countries their citizens, would already have approved the framework, this step would chiefly confirm that the agreement lies within it.

When the agreed date for implementation arrives, Simpol-1 would be implemented globally and simultaneously. All governments, as well as ISPO, would monitor the effects and any problems can be raised in subsequent negotiations of future policy packages (Simpol-2, 3, 4, etc.).

Important Note:

The process described above is a tentative outline, not a fixed blueprint. It remains open to revision as Simpol develops and evolves, and as experience, including that of the Smartsettle demonstrations, shows what works. The arrangements for electing the ISPO-PC are one example: at this early stage of global governance, each qualifying NSPO-PC has an equal vote, but once Simpol's policies are being implemented, an evolution towards a more weighted system may become appropriate. We also recognise that parts of the process could in time be taken over by the United Nations or other existing international institutions, and that Smartsettle's method could equally serve negotiations convened by them. At all times, however, citizens in democratic countries, through the power of their votes as expressed through Simpol, would retain a strong influence over the policies adopted.

What you can do

Simpol has come a long way with very few resources. How far it goes next depends on how many citizens join. Here is how you can help:

Sign up: Join the campaign, free of charge, at https://simpol.org/sign-up/sign-up-page. Your MP(s) will be told that you have joined, and you become part of the voting bloc that makes signing the Pledge in every politician's interest.

Spread the word: Encourage friends, family and colleagues to sign up too, and share Simpol on social media. Every new supporter adds to the pressure on politicians.

Ask your representatives to sign: Write to your MP(s), or to the candidates at the next election, inviting them to sign the Pledge. They can sign on the same page.

Volunteer: Help as a Local Coordinator or, in a country where Simpol does not yet have one, as National Coordinator. Write to us at info@simpol.org

If you work for an NGO: Invite your supporters to join the campaign, and talk to us about contributing your organisation's policy expertise.

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For more information, visit www.simpol.org or contact info@simpol.org.