



Foundation for Global  
Governance and Sustainability

*A new "UN Security Council" for tackling non-military threats to human security*

# GLOBAL RESILIENCE COUNCIL

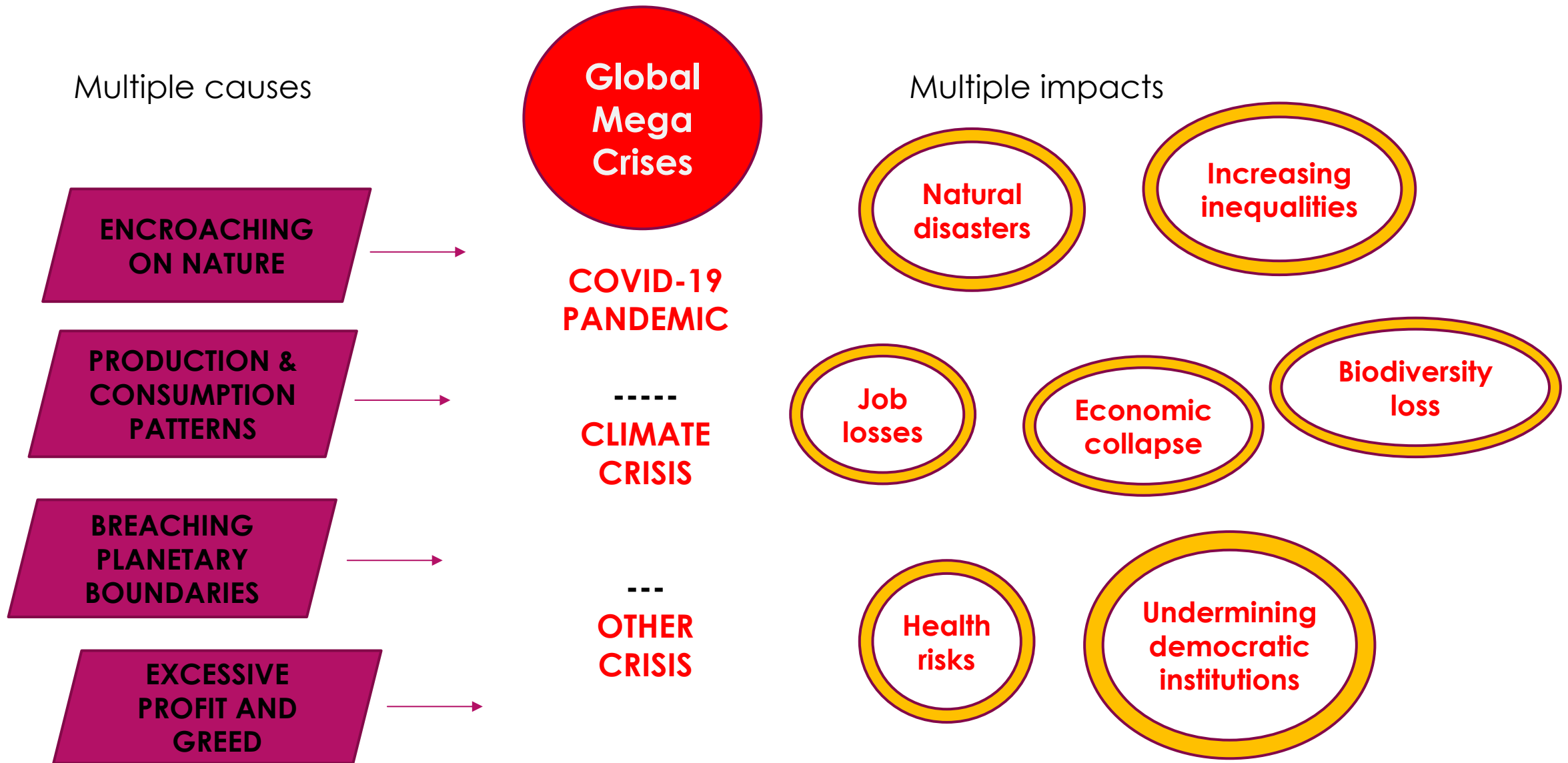
from concept to reality

June 2021

## RATIONALE FOR THE PROPOSAL

- To address today's multidimensional and interconnected challenges – climate change, pandemics, etc. – **the world needs an “all-of-government”, “all-of-multilateralism”, “all-of-globalisation” and “all-of-society” approach.**
- The current multilateral system was established after WWII on the basis of specialized, sectoral agencies, which has led to a **fragmented approach** to the various challenges.
- There is **no effective coordination** mechanism that would make up for the fragmentation of the multilateral system and would allow for comprehensive responses to today's global challenges.
- **There is a need for an analogue to the UN Security Council for non-military threats to human security**, a pro-active and authoritative body that could decide on operational responses with compulsory jurisdiction over all other actors, thus ensuring implementation of those decisions.

# A NEW KIND OF GLOBAL CHALLENGE: MULTIDIMENSIONAL "MEGA CRISES"



# TODAY WE HAVE INHERITED A FRAGMENTED GOVERNANCE REALITY – WORKING IN SILOS

**CLIMATE CHANGE**  
assigned to  
**UNFCCC**

*[with representatives  
from national climate or  
environment ministries]*

**HEALTH**  
assigned to **WHO**

*[with representatives  
from national health  
ministries]*

**INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE ISSUES**  
assigned to **WTO**

*[with representatives  
from national trade  
ministries]*

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
ISSUES**  
assigned to **UNEP**

*[with representatives  
from national  
environment ministries]*

**INTERNATIONAL  
MONETARY ISSUES**  
assigned to **IMF**

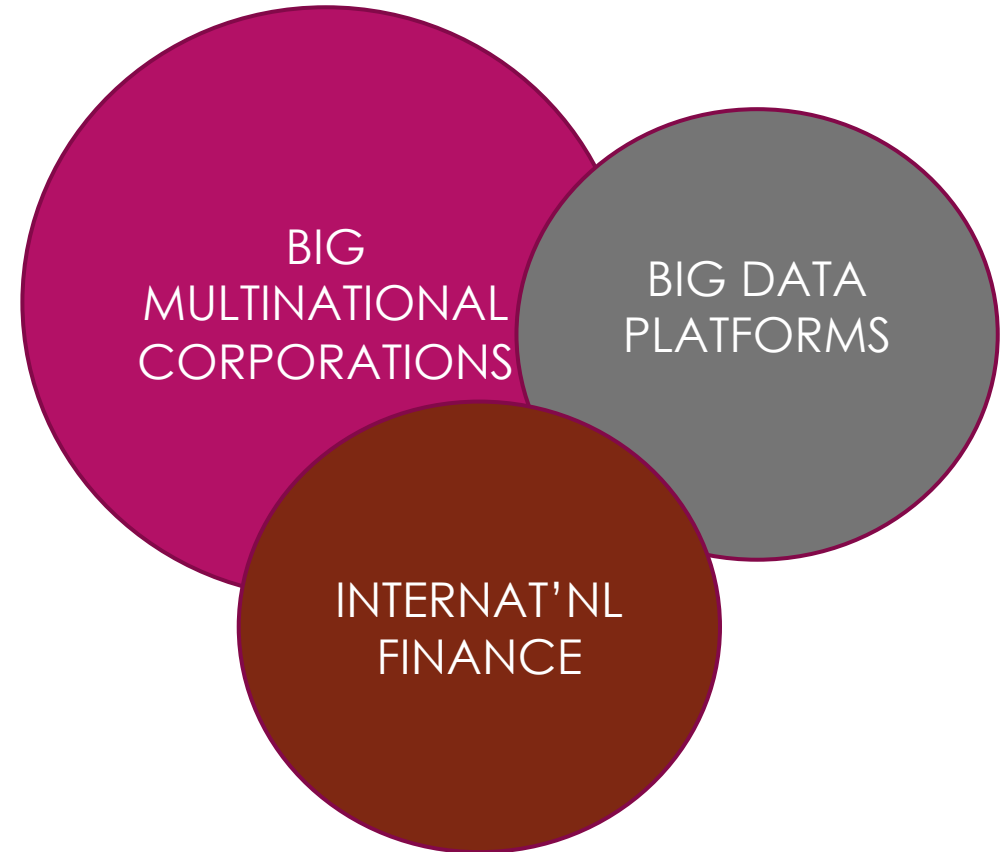
*[with representatives  
from national finance  
ministries]*

**INTERNATIONAL  
MARITIME ISSUES**  
assigned to **IMO**

*[with representatives  
from national transport  
or shipping ministries]*



# THE RISE OF NEW STATE AND NON-STATE ACTORS...



...*SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES?*

## THE CURRENT SYSTEM DOES NOT WORK...

- **Multidimensional challenges cannot be tackled using unidimensional tools**, like the current specialized global governance institutions, e.g. WHO for health issues, UNFCCC for climate issues, etc.
- The **increasingly important non-state actors** are not obliged to undertake compulsory actions to redress their impact but get away with discretionary observance of broad guidelines / voluntary commitments.
- States also increasingly avoid being bound by new obligations and prefer to commit to **broad guidelines and voluntary contributions**.
- **Increasing geopolitical tensions** caused by tectonic shifts in the geography of political and economic power, challenge the existing global order and the multilateral institutions that manage it.

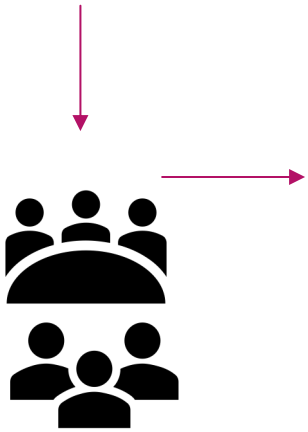
## IN COMES THE GLOBAL RESILIENCE COUNCIL (GRC) – KEY ELEMENTS

A “UN Security Council” for non-military threats / threats to human security should:

- a) have the authority and effective means to change the behaviour of state and non-state actors that cause, are about to cause and/or perpetuate a mega-crisis;
- b) be able to draw on scientific input, like that prepared by the International Panel on Climate Change, to delineate the key interconnected pressures created by the mega-crisis and the knowledge-based actions appropriate to respond to such a crisis;
- c) follow systematically the development of key social, economic, environmental, gender and governance indicators related to the state of major global threats and provide early warning and action, as necessary to prevent such threats from actually turning into mega-crises;
- d) be sufficiently agile to deal with threats ranging from abruptly occurring events to chronic systemic challenges;
- e) have the capacity to prompt an ‘all-of-multilateralism’, ‘all-of-government’, and ‘all-of-globalization’ response to complex mega-crises;
- f) engage multiple constituencies now recognized as powerful actors in global governance while maintaining the centrality of a state-based and accountable multilateral system; and
- g) require governments and the multiple new global actors to envisage a number of new and creative working methods and approaches.

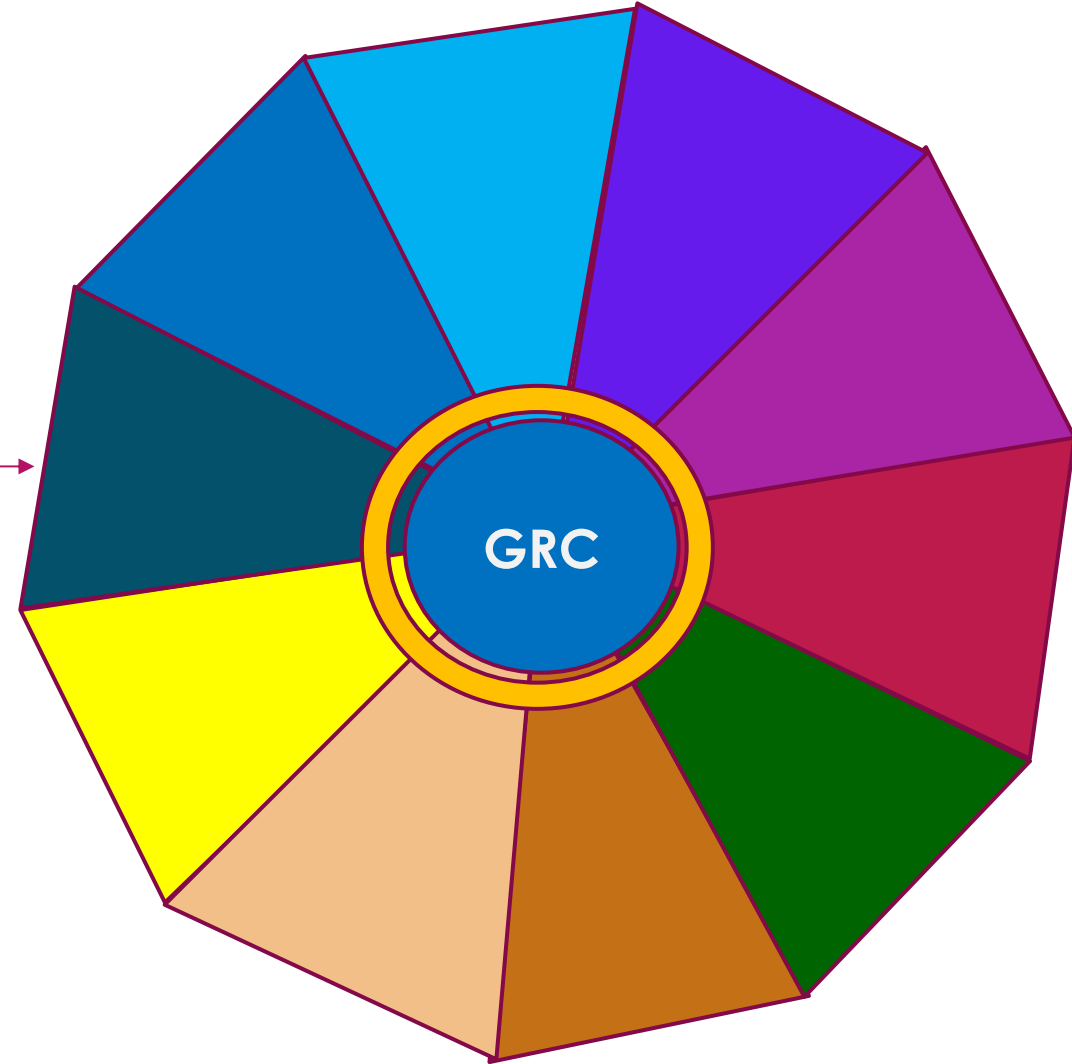
# VERY INITIAL SIMULATION: "ELEVATING" AN ISSUE TO THE GRC

  
Non-military  
threat to human  
security identified



Dealt with by  
designated  
multilateral body

Issue identified  
as requiring an  
"all-of-  
multilateralism" /  
"all-of-society"  
approach and thus  
referred to the GRC



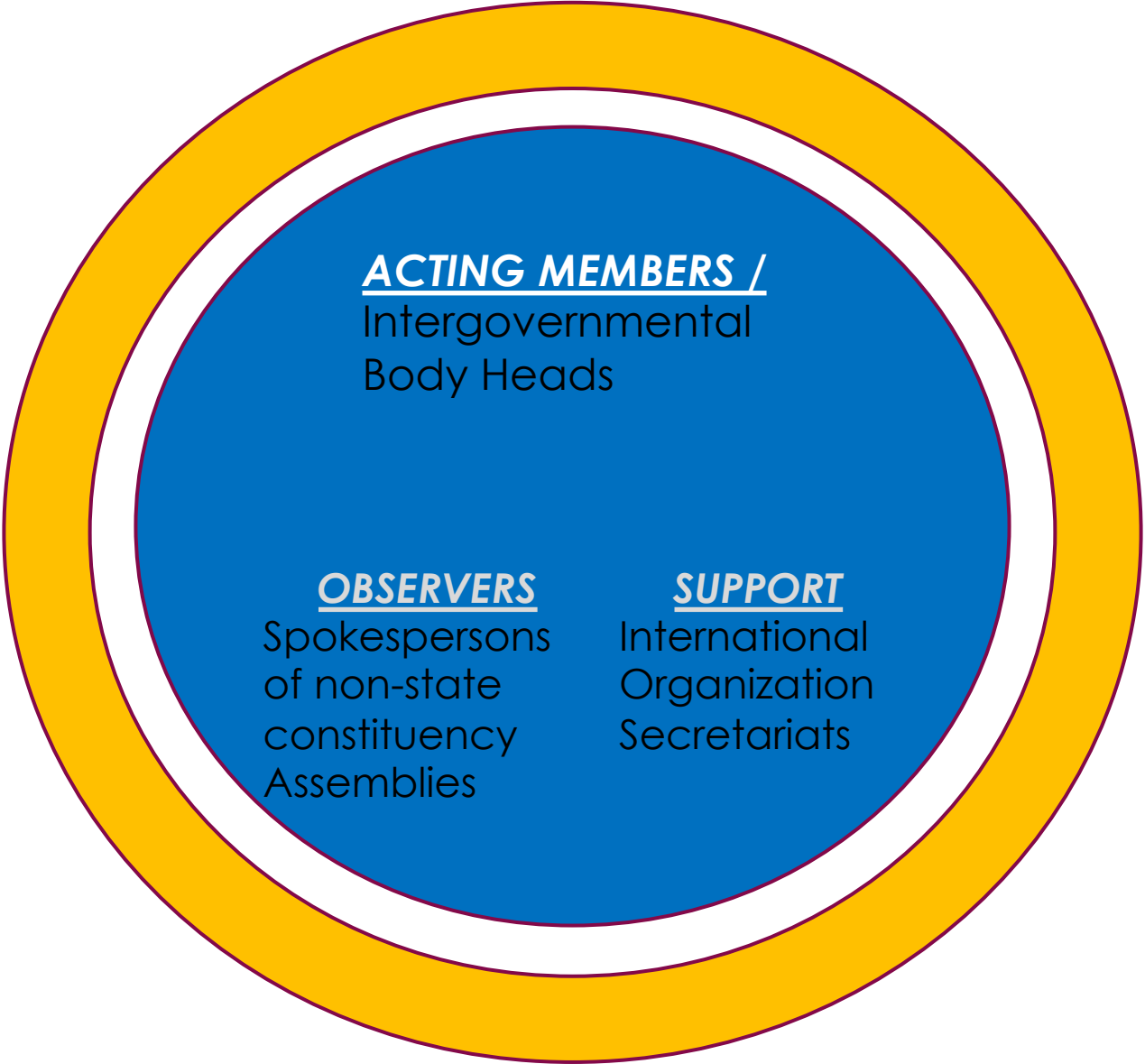
Multiple state and non-state actor constituencies



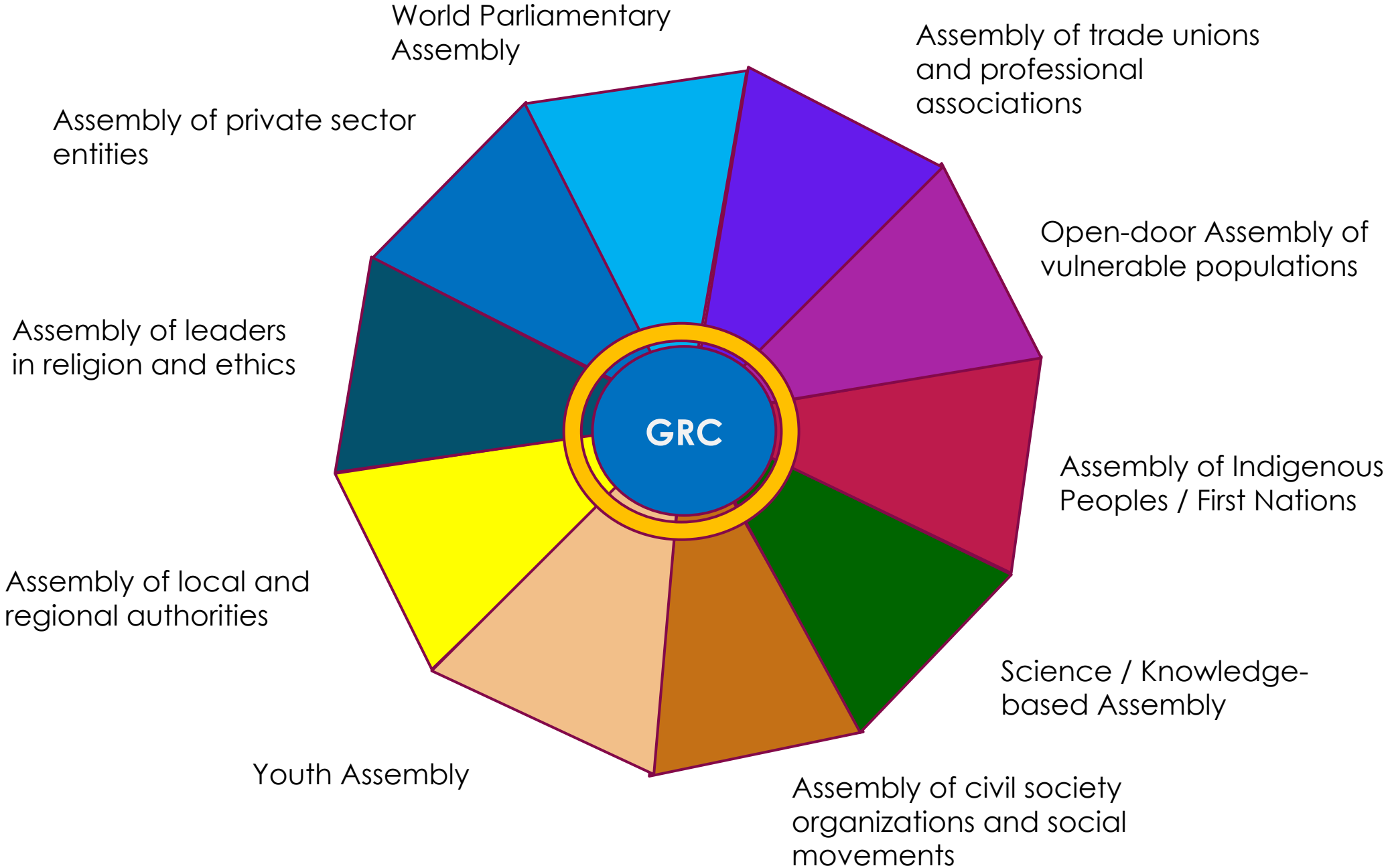
## STARTING (RELATIVELY) SMALL: IGO LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (ILO)

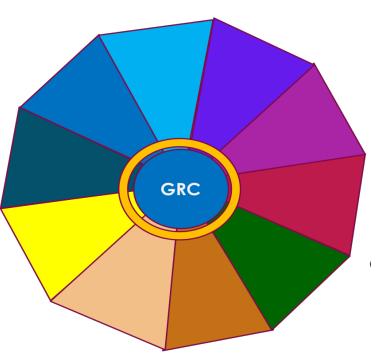
While arguing on the value and negotiating the composition of the proposed new Global Resilience Council, an interim body (Intergovernmental Organizations Leadership Council – ILC) could be set up to perform some of the functions assigned to the GRC. This body, consisting of the heads of intergovernmental bodies from across the UN system and beyond, would have four operational goals:

- To address **global crises that are recognized to go beyond the scope or capacity of any single existing multilateral institution**, thus strengthening the legitimacy and effectiveness of the multilateral system as a whole;
- To correct the **coherence gap between the organizations** at the core UN system and those of the financing, trade, and monetary systems and the regional and sub-regional intergovernmental institutions;
- To allow for the **development of joint operational capacities in implementation** of the common decisions, thus establishing in practice a whole-of-multilateralism response to multi-dimensional mega-crises; and
- To create a context to **experiment with new working methods**, which can move the inter-agency and intergovernmental system forward.



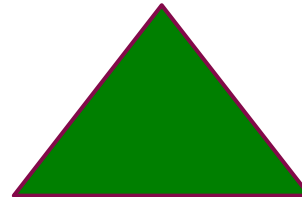
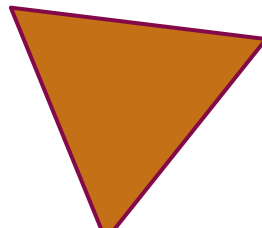
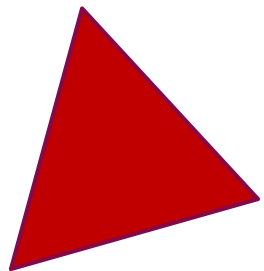
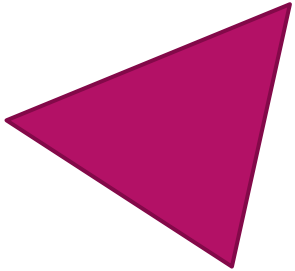
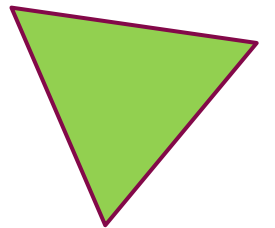
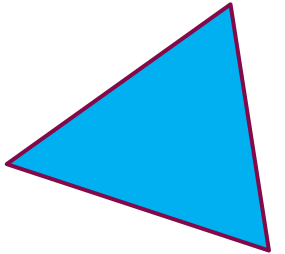
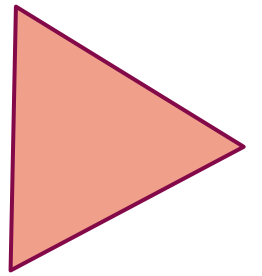
# THE GRC / ILC ADVISORY UNIVERSE





## THE GRC / ILC ADVISORY UNIVERSE UNWRAPPED

- The assembly structure could become an institutional framework for each main community / constituency of non-state actors to:
  - organise themselves, as they determine;
  - choose their spokespersons for all or specific global challenges;
  - address what they should be doing for the challenge in question;
  - address their role and relations vis-à-vis the other constituencies;
  - formulate their collective input into and asks from the ILC;
  - divide up the part of implementation that corresponds to them, once a decision has been made.
- This structure breaks with the traditional pattern of intergovernmental bodies 'receiving' input from individual non-state actors from diverse communities, while it maintains the multilateral condition of being state-centric in its core working methods and decision-making processes.
- It is expected to facilitate transparency and accountability throughout the deliberations, decision-making and implementation phases.



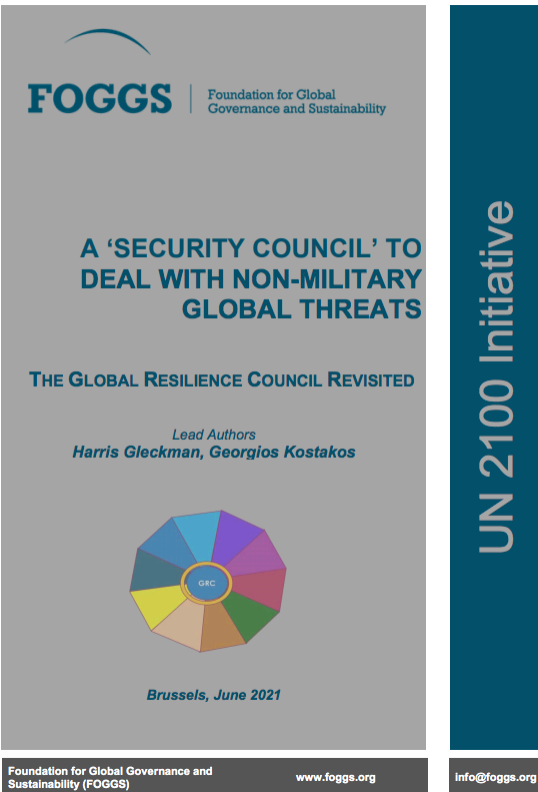
## MANY KEY QUESTIONS STILL TO EXPLORE

- What would be the best **way to establish** the GRC?
- What should be the GRC **optimal membership, working methods, procedures and voting rights?**
- Who and how could **refer an issue** to the GRC?
- What criteria would apply for the **inclusion in the GRC agenda** of a non-military threat to human security?
- How would each of the **assemblies** be established by the respective non-state actors group / constituency or otherwise? And how would these assemblies be brought into a relationship with the GRC?
- How would the GRC get the required **authority** to decide on measures binding on all actors, corresponding to the UN Security Council's "Chapter VII" mandate?
- How exactly would the GRC connect to **the rest of the multilateral system** for inputs and implementation?
- How can the creation of the ILC lead through small steps that might catalyse real change eventually lead to the **establishment of a self-standing GRC?**

# GLOBAL RESILIENCE COUNCIL

from concept to reality

For more details you can consult the "sister" volume to this PowerPoint presentation



UN 2100 Initiative



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