

Proposed model for ECONOMIC UNION

(This document to be further developed and upgraded by Global Citizens and founders of the Earth Union.)

Core proposition: Economic integration is already global, but human needs are still met through fragmented national, charitable and institutional channels — and the traditional channel is now shrinking, with official development assistance falling to USD 174.3 billion in 2025. The proposed Economic Union would connect and scale existing public-purpose efforts, mobilize private enterprise where useful, and progressively establish a minimum global floor of human dignity — without imposing one economic ideology or handing discretionary control to political rulers.

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* The OECD defines blended finance as the strategic use of development finance for the mobilisation of additional finance towards sustainable development in developing countries. Its Private Finance Mobilisation Report 2026 found that more than USD 600 billion of private finance was mobilised between 2012 and 2024 through official development-finance interventions, with a single-year peak of about USD 77 billion in 2024. Gavi and the Global Fund show that governments, foundations, private actors and civil society can pool resources across borders for public-purpose outcomes — and their 2025–26 replenishments also show the limits of that model when donor budgets contract.
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1. Executive Summary

The Economic Union should begin as a **voluntary global development common**—a transparent platform where citizens, foundations, nonprofits, open-source communities, responsible businesses and investors can work together to improve basic living standards across borders.

- **Global Human Development Floor:** Establish a measurable minimum standard for nutrition, safe water, sanitation, primary healthcare, basic education and human dignity, supported by electricity, digital connectivity and livelihood opportunities.
- **Need-based priorities:** Projects should be selected according to human need, not geopolitical importance or partisan considerations.
- **Limited government role:** Governments would remain necessary for land, permits, regulation, taxation, customs and asset transfers, but their role should be narrow, rules-based and transparent. Project selection, financing, procurement, verification and audit should remain insulated from day-to-day political control.
- **Responsible private participation:** Commercial companies should be encouraged where they can deliver essential infrastructure efficiently through transparent BOT/BOOT/BTO models, earn reasonable returns and transfer assets or capabilities as agreed.
- **Coordination, not replacement:** The Economic Union would complement—not replace—organizations such as MOSIP, OpenG2P, Gavi, the Global Fund and major foundations. Its role would be to create **common standards, transparent project pipelines, interoperable data and shared financing mechanisms** so that existing efforts reinforce one another.
- **Built for long-term continuity:** The system should not depend on any single government, donor or foundation. Its value lies in creating a durable framework that can continue even as individual funders change priorities or withdraw.

***The central design principle:** move from nation-centered charity and fragmented development toward a transparent, need-based system of global economic cooperation—without requiring a Political Union first.*

Existing evidence that the model is feasible

Building block	Examples	Lesson for Economic Union
Open digital public goods	MOSIP, OpenG2P, DPGA, DHIS2	Countries can reuse technology rather than repeatedly purchasing proprietary systems.
Global pooled health finance	Gavi, Global Fund, Unitaid	Resources can be pooled internationally and allocated according to need and measurable burden.
Philanthropic global public purpose	Gates, Rockefeller, Ford, Wellcome	Private wealth can be directed across borders toward health, opportunity and public goods.
Blended/private development finance	DFIs, impact investors, PPP/BOT structures	Risk-sharing can mobilize commercial capital where grants are insufficient.
Cross-border humanitarian delivery	ICRC, MSF, CARE, WaterAid, BRAC	Services can be delivered according to human need rather than nationality.

2. Why this is urgent now: the 2025–26 contraction of development finance

The case for a citizens-led development commons no longer rests only on principle. The traditional channel for financing human development is contracting sharply, and the gap it leaves is precisely the gap this model is designed to address.

- Official development assistance fell to about USD 174.3 billion in 2025, equivalent to 0.26% of donors' combined gross national income — the steepest decline the OECD has recorded. Bilateral aid to developing countries fell by roughly 26%, and United States assistance fell by about 57%.
- Humanitarian financing has fallen further still. The United Nations appealed for about USD 33 billion for 2026, and by late June 2026 only around 30% of that appeal had been funded.
- Pooled global health funds are also under-subscribed. Gavi's 6.0 replenishment raised more than USD 9 billion against a USD 11.9 billion target, and the Global Fund's Eighth Replenishment closed at USD 12.64 billion against an USD 18 billion ask.
- The Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Sevilla from 30 June to 3 July 2025, adopted the Sevilla Commitment, which frames an annual financing gap of roughly USD 4 trillion for the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries.

Two conclusions follow. First, the Economic Union should not be designed on the assumption that government aid budgets or a handful of large foundations will fund it; it must be able to mobilise citizens, enterprise, open technology and outcome-linked capital. Second, the model must be unusually efficient and unusually transparent, because it will be competing for scarce resources against established institutions with long track records.

Design implication: treat donor contraction as a permanent planning assumption rather than a temporary shock. Every project template should be viable with a smaller grant component than development projects assumed a decade ago.

3. Foundational Objective: A Global Human Development Floor

The Economic Union should define success first in human terms, not in GDP, trade volume or capital flows. Its initial social contract would be a commitment that extreme deprivation anywhere is a legitimate concern for humanity everywhere.

Human-development domain	Practical meaning
Nutrition	Freedom from extreme hunger and preventable severe malnutrition; reliable access to adequate food.
Safe water	Affordable access to safe drinking water within a reasonable distance or through household/community connection.
Sanitation & hygiene	Basic safely managed sanitation and hygiene infrastructure.
Primary healthcare	Access to essential primary care, maternal/child care, essential medicines, vaccination and emergency referral.
Basic education	Universal foundational literacy, numeracy and access to basic schooling or equivalent learning.
Human dignity	Non-discriminatory access to essential services, basic legal identity, protection from degrading conditions and a meaningful opportunity to improve one's life.
Enabling infrastructure	Reliable electricity, digital connectivity, basic financial access and transport where necessary to sustain the six core standards.

The floor should be:

- a. Progressive rather than instantaneous: targets rise as capacity and technology improve;
- b. Measured at community and household level, not hidden behind national averages;
- c. Adapted to local culture and geography while preserving common minimum outcomes;
- d. Financed through the least-cost mix of grants, public-good technology, concessional capital and commercial investment;
- e. Verified independently before incentives or outcome payments are released.

4. Non-negotiable design principles

- a) **Need before nationality:** Project priority depends primarily on measurable deprivation, expected impact and feasibility—not diplomatic importance.
- b) **Economic pluralism:** Capitalist, mixed, cooperative, social-market and other national systems may coexist; TEU sets outcome and integrity standards, not one ideology.
- c) **Voluntary participation first:** Early phases rely on willing citizens, institutions, companies and host jurisdictions. Binding fiscal obligations come only much later with democratic Political Union.
- d) **Profit permitted, extraction constrained:** Commercial returns are legitimate when competitively earned, transparent, proportionate to risk and paired with affordability, local capability-building and transfer obligations.
- e) **Open by default:** Open-source technology, public standards, interoperable systems and reusable project designs should be preferred where practicable.
- f) **Subsidiarity and local ownership:** Solutions are implemented as close as possible to affected communities; the Economic Union coordinates only what benefits from cross-border scale.
- g) **Radical transparency:** Contracts, beneficial owners, milestones, payments, audits, conflicts of interest and performance data are published except where privacy or security requires protection.
- h) **Intergenerational responsibility:** Projects must account for maintenance, debt, ecological impact and long-term resilience rather than maximize short-term output.

5. Global Citizens-led governance architecture (governments are enablers only)

The initial Economic Union should be constituted as an independent international public-benefit network rather than an intergovernmental ministry. Its legitimacy would come from transparent rules, broad participation, published results and voluntary adherence—not from the authority of incumbent political leaders.

Institution	Core role
Global Citizens Council	Individuals chosen from verified Global Citizen participants; protects the human-family purpose and approves high-level standards.
Human Development & Evidence Commission	Independent economists, public-health experts, engineers, statisticians and social scientists; maintains the needs map and project-scoring methodology.
Economic Cooperation Council	Foundations, nonprofits, open-source/DPI institutions, impact investors, business leaders, labor/community representatives and technical organizations; coordinates capital, technology and implementation capacity.
Global Project Exchange	Public digital marketplace where communities, NGOs, social enterprises and qualified companies submit projects against standardized templates; accepted projects, costs, ownership and milestones are visible.
Development Finance Facility	Pools grants, guarantees, first-loss capital, concessional finance, outcome funding and commercial co-investment; held by independent fiduciaries, not politicians.
Integrity, Audit & Procurement Authority	Runs open procurement standards, conflict-of-interest controls, beneficial-ownership checks, audit, debarment and whistleblower channels.

Community Voice & Ombudsman	Provides affected communities with consent, grievance, appeal and service-quality mechanisms; can trigger independent investigation.
Small Professional Secretariat	Maintains technology, contracts, verification and coordination; intentionally limited to prevent a large self-perpetuating bureaucracy.

Defined Roles: The government's legitimate but limited role

A host government or local authority remains necessary where law requires permits, land rights, utility regulation, tax treatment, customs relief, sovereign guarantees, tariff approval or eventual transfer of BOT assets. However, serving political officeholders should not control TEU project ranking, procurement, contractor selection, milestone certification or release of TEU funds.

- All government concessions, guarantees, tax benefits and in-kind contributions must be published.
- Project awards use pre-declared criteria and open competitive processes whenever competition is feasible.
- No payment may be released solely on certification by a minister or political appointee.
- Serving political officeholders should be ineligible for TEU fiduciary, audit or procurement bodies; a cooling-off period should apply after leaving office.
- If bribery, political diversion or intimidation is credibly detected, funding is paused, investigated and—where lawful—rerouted through alternate implementers or terminated.

6. Blended financing model: match the capital to the problem

Instrument	Best suited for	Economic Union logic
Pure grants / philanthropy	Nutrition, basic health, emergency water, humanitarian relief, research, open-source tools	No revenue expected; financed by citizens, foundations and pro-bono donors.
Public-good technology	Digital identity, registries, health information, educational content, mapping	Open-source reuse dramatically lowers replication cost.
Outcome-based grants	Water reliability, maternal health, school connectivity, essential-service delivery	Payment occurs only after independently verified outputs/outcomes.
Blended finance	Mini-grids, clinics, logistics, housing, agriculture, climate resilience	Grant or first-loss capital lowers risk and mobilizes commercial investment.
BOT / BOOT / BTO	Water treatment, energy, transport, cold chains, hospitals, telecom	Private party builds/finances/operates for a fixed period and transfers or hands over as contracted.
Commercial investment with development conditions	Manufacturing, local supply chains, Agri-processing, medicines, digital services	Normal profit is permitted if jobs, local capability, affordability and development outputs are protected.
Pooled procurement / advance commitments	Vaccines, medicines, diagnostics, essential equipment	Aggregating demand creates purchasing power and reduces unit costs.

7. A TEU Global Development Incentive – the PLI principle recast for human need

India's Production Linked Incentive schemes illustrate a useful principle: do not merely subsidize inputs; reward measurable output. As reported by the Government of India on 21 July 2026, the schemes covered 14 sectors and, as on 31 March 2026, had drawn about ₹2.40 lakh crore of realized investment, supported about 14.15 lakh jobs and been associated with about ₹15.2 lakh crore of exports. The relevant lesson is

the mechanism, not the industrial-policy objective. The Economic Union could adapt this logic internationally without copying the national-policy objective.

National PLI logic	Proposed TEU Global Development Incentive
Reward additional production in strategic sectors.	Reward additional verified human-development output in high-need locations.
Government determines eligible sectors and pays incentives.	Independent needs/evidence commission defines eligible outcomes; pooled fund pays according to a published formula.
Objective is national manufacturing competitiveness.	Objective is affordable delivery of essential services and local economic capability.
Incentive may be linked to incremental sales or production.	Incentive could be linked to verified water connections, reliable electricity, affordable clinic capacity, local essential-medicine output or similar outcomes.
Benefits mainly accrue within one country.	Any qualified project in an eligible high-need community can compete under the same transparent rules.

The incentive should never reward mere spending. Payment occurs only after independent verification, affordability tests and service-quality thresholds. Where a project generates normal commercial revenue, the incentive should be only the minimum needed to make a high-impact project bankable.

8. A detailed BOT/BOOT/BTO Development Compact

For infrastructure, the preferred commercial template should be an open, development-conditioned BOT/BOOT/BTO compact. The World Bank's Public-Private Partnership Legal Resource Center describes concessions, build-operate-transfer and design-build-operate arrangements as structures in which a private party develops and operates an asset for a defined period before transferring it to the public authority; BOOT and BTO are common commercial variants of the same logic. For TEU purposes, transfer should mean more than physical ownership: it should include operating know-how, trained local staff, maintenance systems, spare-parts supply and data.

- a) **Competitive award:** Open bidding or transparent challenge process; beneficial owners and financing disclosed.
- b) **Affordability:** Tariffs or availability payments designed so essential services remain affordable; subsidies, if needed, are explicit rather than hidden.
- c) **Return discipline:** Returns are market-tested and proportionate to risk; monopoly rents and unexplained related-party costs are prohibited.
- d) **Milestone finance:** Capital released in stages after third-party verification of construction and service milestones.
- e) **Local capability:** Minimum local employment, supplier development, training and management-transfer obligations.
- f) **Maintenance reserve:** Lifecycle maintenance is funded contractually so the asset is not transferred in degraded condition.
- g) **Public data:** Key contract terms, performance indicators, payments, service reliability and audit findings are published.
- h) **Transfer test:** Final handover depends on asset condition, documentation, spare parts, staff capability and independent acceptance.

9. Ten-stage project lifecycle: from human need to durable local ownership

Stage	Control objective
1. Need identified	Community, NGO, city, technical organization or Global Citizen proposes a verified problem.
2. Need independently validated	Evidence Commission confirms baseline deprivation, affected population and likely development impact.
3. Solution opened to the world	Project is posted on the Global Project Exchange; nonprofits, DPG communities and companies can propose solutions.
4. Capital stack assembled	Grant, guarantee, concessional finance, BOT equity/debt, outcome incentives and local contributions are combined as needed.
5. Open selection	Proposals are scored on cost, impact, integrity, local participation, sustainability and transferability.
6. Escrow & milestone implementation	Funds remain ring-fenced; payments follow verified construction/service milestones.
7. Independent outcome verification	Auditors plus community feedback confirm that service exists, works and is affordable.
8. Operate, learn and publish	Performance data and lessons are public so other countries can reuse the model.
9. Transfer / localize	Physical asset, software, operating knowledge or ownership migrates to local institutions according to contract.
10. Replicate	Successful templates become standard modules that can be financed quickly in similar high-need locations.

10. Anti-corruption and anti-capture architecture

The Economic Union should assume that corruption, lobbying, patronage and corporate capture are permanent risks. Its integrity system should therefore make diversion difficult before it occurs, rather than rely mainly on prosecution afterwards. The Open Contracting Data Standard — currently at version 1.1.5, with version 1.2 in development — already provides an international model for publishing procurement data across the whole contracting lifecycle.

Safeguard	How it protects the Economic Union
Open contracting by default	Use a common data standard for planning, tender, award, implementation, variation orders and completion.
Beneficial-ownership disclosure	Every contractor, subcontractor and significant project investor identifies its ultimate owners.
No cash and no opaque intermediaries	Payments move through traceable banking/escrow channels tied to invoices and milestones.
Independent verification	The party receiving payment cannot certify its own performance; field evidence is independently checked.
Community verification	Users can report non-delivery, overcharging or unsafe service through protected channels.
Conflict-of-interest registry	Council members, technical evaluators, auditors and vendors disclose financial and family interests.

Rotation and cooling-off	Procurement/evaluation roles rotate; political officeholders and senior project decision-makers face cooling-off rules.
Random forensic audit	High-risk projects are selected unpredictably for deep audit, not only routine annual review.
Public contract changes	Cost increases, scope changes and extensions require publication and justification before approval.
Debarment and clawback	Fraud, bribery, collusion or falsified performance triggers repayment, exclusion and referral to competent authorities.
Donor concentration limits	No single government, billionaire, corporation or foundation should be able to dominate governance through funding.
Algorithmic transparency	If automated scoring helps rank projects, criteria and model logic are published and subject to human appeal.

11. Objective project prioritization

A transparent Needs and Impact Score should replace diplomatic bargaining. The score need not be mathematically rigid, but every project should be judged against the same published factors:

- severity and number of people affected;
- gap from the Global Human Development Floor;
- cost per person and expected measurable impact;
- whether the project creates durable local capability rather than dependency;
- risk of corruption, conflict or elite capture;
- environmental and intergenerational sustainability;
- potential for replication using open standards or reusable designs;
- extent of local community consent and co-ownership.

A politically powerful country should not move ahead of a poorer community merely because it has more diplomatic influence. Equally, high-need status should not justify funding a project that is unworkable, corruptly structured or impossible to maintain.

12. Safeguards for digital public infrastructure, legal identity and personal data

Open digital public infrastructure is central to this model, and it carries its own risks. Digital identity and payment systems can exclude the very people they are meant to serve, and they create concentrated stores of sensitive personal data. A development common that promotes such systems must accept binding safeguards rather than treat them as an afterthought.

- Adopt the Universal DPI Safeguards Framework developed by UNDP with the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (2024), which sets out 18 principles across five implementation pathways, as the minimum standard for any TEU-financed identity, payment or registry system.
- Apply the World Bank's Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development, including inclusion by design, non-discrimination, proportionality of data collection and the availability of alternative routes to service for anyone unable to enroll.
- Require a modern data-protection standard — Council of Europe Convention 108+ is the only binding international instrument available — as a condition of TEU financing, including purpose limitation, data minimization, breach notification and an independent supervisory authority.
- Prohibit function creep contractually: identity or benefit data generated by a TEU project may not be repurposed for law enforcement, immigration enforcement, political targeting or commercial profiling.
- Publish an exclusion audit for every enrolment-based project: who was not enrolled, why, and what non-digital fallback exists. No project should be certified as successful on enrolment numbers alone.

Rule: no person should ever be denied food, water, healthcare or schooling because a digital system financed by the Earth Union failed to recognize them. Manual override must be a designed feature, not an exception.

13. Environmental, social and safeguarding standards: the duty to do no harm

Development projects can displace people, damage ecosystems, worsen local inequality or expose beneficiaries to abuse by the staff sent to help them. The Economic Union should not invent its own standards where credible ones already exist; it should adopt them and enforce them through contract.

- Environmental and social performance: apply the eight IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability to all infrastructure and commercial projects. The 2012 version remains in force while IFC updates its Sustainability Framework, with public consultation running from October 2026, so TEU should track that revision.
- Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse: require compliance with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Minimum Operating Standards on PSEA (revised 2024), including survivor-centred reporting channels independent of the implementing organization.
- Quality and accountability to affected people: require adherence to the Core Humanitarian Standard (2024 edition) for any service delivered directly to households.
- Land and resettlement: no TEU project should proceed on land acquired through involuntary displacement without documented free, prior and informed consent, independently verified compensation and a published grievance record.
- Climate and ecological screening: every asset must be assessed against projected climate risk over its design life, and maintenance reserves must reflect that risk.

14. Financial-crime, sanctions and de-risking compliance

A transparent global fund moving money into fragile jurisdictions will be exposed both to abuse and to the opposite danger — banks refusing to serve it at all. Both risks must be managed deliberately.

- Build anti-money-laundering, counter-terrorist-financing, know-your-donor and sanctions screening into the Development Finance Facility from the outset, with independent compliance reporting to the Integrity, Audit and Procurement Authority.
- Guard against over-compliance. The Financial Action Task Force has itself documented the unintended consequences of its standards, including financial exclusion, bank de-risking and the suppression of legitimate non-profit activity. TEU procedures should be risk-based and proportionate, not blanket.
- Maintain pre-agreed banking channels and, where lawful, humanitarian carve-outs so that essential services can continue in sanctioned or high-risk environments.
- Publish an annual compliance transparency report: number of transactions screened, cases referred, funds frozen or recovered, and projects declined on integrity grounds.

15. Debt sustainability, currency risk and long-run affordability

BOT and blended structures create long-dated obligations. A project that is affordable at signature can become unaffordable after a currency devaluation or a change in interest rates, and the burden usually falls on the host government or the poorest users. The model must therefore price these risks explicitly.

- Assess every sovereign-linked obligation against the joint IMF–World Bank Debt Sustainability Framework for Low-Income Countries, and publish the assessment before financial close.
- Disclose contingent liabilities. Availability payments, minimum-revenue guarantees and take-or-pay clauses are debt in substance and should be recorded and published as such.
- Prefer local-currency financing, or hedge foreign-currency exposure through instruments such as those offered by dedicated currency-risk funds, so that devaluation does not translate directly into higher tariffs for households.
- Cap real tariff escalation and require an affordability re-test at defined intervals, with a pre-agreed remedy if households in the lowest income quintile would be priced out.
- Plan for concessionaire failure: every compact need step-in rights, an operating-continuity reserve and a defined insolvency path so that service does not stop when a company does.

16. Independent evaluation and evidence standards

Outcome-linked payment is only as credible as the measurement behind it. The Economic Union should separate verification (did the contracted output occur?) from evaluation (did it actually improve people's lives, compared with what would otherwise have happened?).

- Pre-register evaluation designs, baselines and primary outcome measures before implementation begins, following recognized principles for independent impact evaluation.
- Commission evaluators who are contractually independent of both the implementer and the funder, and pay them regardless of the result.
- Publish negative and null results with the same prominence as successes. A development common that only reports what worked will mislead everyone who reuses its templates.
- Use the existing outcome-finance evidence base rather than starting from zero. The Educate Girls Development Impact Bond in India exceeded both its learning and enrolment targets; the Utkrisht Impact Bond financed maternal-health quality improvement in Rajasthan with a dedicated independent evaluation budget; and the Advance Market Commitment for pneumococcal vaccines committed USD 1.5 billion to accelerate supply and was formally evaluated in 2015.

17. Operating in conflict-affected and fragile settings

Much of the world's remaining extreme deprivation is concentrated in places affected by armed conflict, where need is highest and delivery is hardest. A need-based model cannot avoid these places without abandoning its founding principle, but it must operate there under different rules.

- Adopt the OECD Development Assistance Committee Recommendation on the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus as the operating framework for fragile contexts.
- Use shorter contract cycles, lower asset intensity, portable technology and local implementers where large fixed infrastructure cannot be protected.
- Apply a strict do-no-harm test: no project may strengthen an armed actor's control over a civilian population or become a resource to be captured.
- Accept that some projects will fail for reasons outside anyone's control, and design a published write-off procedure so that failure is recorded honestly rather than concealed.
- Protect staff and community verifiers, including anonymity for anyone reporting diversion in a coercive environment.

18. Legal form, fiduciary domicile and cost discipline

A citizens-led global institution needs a lawful vehicle before it can hold money. This is a practical question, not a constitutional one, and answering it early prevents improvisation later.

- Establish a small number of clearly defined legal entities: a public-benefit foundation or association to hold the mission and standards; a separate fiduciary vehicle to hold and disburse funds; and, where required, local affiliates for country operations.
- Choose jurisdictions for the fiduciary vehicle on the basis of charity-law robustness, audit requirements, donor tax-deductibility and political neutrality — not tax minimization. Publish the reasoning.
- Separate governance from custody: those who rank and approve projects must not control the accounts from which payments are made.
- Publish a hard cap on administrative expenditure as a share of funds deployed, together with full compensation disclosure for every officer and council member.
- Adopt an intellectual-property policy by default: anything TEU pays to create — designs, software, standards, training material, needs data — is published under an open license unless privacy or safety requires otherwise.

19. Integration with the 80 existing organizations, foundations, NGOs, digital public goods communities and international institutions

The Annexure identifies 80 major initiatives spanning digital public infrastructure, philanthropy, global health, humanitarian relief, financial inclusion, climate, peace and multilateral development. Collectively they already perform many Economic-Union-like functions: sharing technology, pooling resources, financing development, purchasing medicines, delivering services according to need and establishing cross-border standards. The Economic Union should therefore be built as connective tissue between them rather than as a competitor to them.

Existing organizations: Continue their missions and retain autonomy.

Economic Union: Provides common needs data, interoperable standards, shared project pipeline, integrity rules and financing mechanisms.

Best-in-class organizations: Can become technical stewards for particular domains rather than being absorbed into a TEU bureaucracy.

Companies: Compete to deliver projects commercially or contribute pro-bono technology, skills and intellectual property.

Global Citizens: Provide legitimacy, ideas, donations, oversight, expertise and demand for cross-border solidarity.

20. A 50+ year multi-generation roadmap: parallel evolution of Spiritual, Economic and Political Union

The three unions should not wait for one another, but neither should they be treated as unrelated projects. Each solves a different part of the same cooperation problem.

Period	Spiritual Union	Economic Union	Political Union
0-5 years: movement & proof	Build the language of ONE Human Family, freedom of conscience and shared moral responsibility.	Create needs map, project exchange, integrity rules; pilot citizen/philanthropy/DPG projects.	Advocate subsidiarity, rule of law and voluntary global cooperation; no transfer of sovereignty.
5-15 years: networked cooperation	Interfaith and secular dialogue normalizes cross-border moral concern.	Scale Development Incentive, pooled funds, open technology and first BOT compacts.	Willing jurisdictions sign transparent cooperation agreements and recognize common audit/arbitration rules.
15-30 years: development solidarity	Human-family identity becomes more socially rooted across generations.	Common Human Development Floor targets; pooled procurement; cross-border infrastructure and capital facilities.	Coalition of willing states accepts limited binding rules for agreed transnational matters.
30-50 years: partial economic union	Shared ethics support wider acceptance of obligations to people outside one's nation.	Regular contribution formulas, portable standards, stronger labor/technology cooperation and global public goods.	Dual democratic institutions and courts mature; limited common revenue may become legitimate.
50+ years: mature Earth Union	Unity coexists with religious and cultural diversity.	Need-based fiscal solidarity and interoperable economic rules operate at global scale; national systems remain diverse.	Political Union provides constitutional authority, enforcement and democratic accountability only in enumerated global domains.

21. Risk register: how this model could fail

A proposal that describes only its intended outcomes is an advertisement. The following are the most plausible failure modes of this model, stated plainly, together with the mitigation already built into the design. Each should be reviewed annually and published.

Failure mode	Mitigation built into the design
Nobody funds it	Start with low-capital, high-visibility projects that prove verified delivery; rely on open-source reuse and outcome finance rather than large grant budgets; never assume a single donor is permanent.
It becomes another NGO among thousands	Compete on function, not identity: the needs map, the project exchange, the integrity rules and the reusable contract templates are the product. If an existing organization, does it better, adopt theirs.
Capture by a small number of large funders	Hard donor-concentration limits; funding influence structurally separated from project ranking; published conflict-of-interest registry; no purchase of voting or procurement power.
Capture by host-government politics	No payment on political certification alone; independent milestone verification; escrow; power to reroute through alternate implementers or suspend.
Corruption in delivery	Open contracting, beneficial-ownership disclosure, traceable payments, random forensic audit, debarment and clawback, protected community reporting.
Verification theatre — outputs certified that do not exist	Payment recipients may never certify their own performance; independent field verification plus community confirmation; pre-registered evaluation separate from verification; published null results.
Assets transferred and then allowed to decay	Contractual lifecycle maintenance reserves; transfer conditional on asset condition, documentation, spare parts and trained staff; post-transfer service reporting at five and ten years.
Digital systems exclude the people they were built for	Mandatory DPI safeguards, published exclusion audits, non-digital fallback routes and a standing rule that no one is denied a service because a system failed to recognise them.
Unaffordable long-term obligations	Debt-sustainability assessment before financial close; contingent liabilities disclosed as debt; local-currency preference or hedging; affordability re-tests with pre-agreed remedies.
A large self-perpetuating bureaucracy	Deliberately small secretariat; published administrative-cost cap; full compensation disclosure; domain stewardship delegated to best-in-class existing organizations.
Mission drift into politics	Enumerated purpose limited to the Human Development Floor; no partisan advocacy; no role in the Political Union's constitutional questions until those institutions exist independently.
Perceived as a Western, Indian or single-bloc project	Geographically balanced councils and evaluators; multilingual publication; projects sited by measured need; open competition for delivery from any country.

22. First 1,000 days: what should actually be built first

The roadmap above spans generations. The credibility of the whole project, however, depends on what is delivered in the first three years, with modest resources and no formal authority. The following sequence requires no treaty, no government permission and no global fundraising campaign.

- Months 1–6: publish the standards. The Human Development Floor definitions, the project-scoring methodology, the integrity rules and the model BOT and outcome-payment contracts should be published openly and invited for public criticism before any money is raised.
- Months 4–12: build the needs map from existing open data — national household surveys, the WHO/UNICEF water and sanitation estimates, education and electrification data — rather than commissioning new surveys.
- Months 6–18: launch the Global Project Exchange as a simple public register of proposed projects, with standardized templates and open comment. Its value is transparency, not technology.
- Months 9–24: deliver three to five small pilot projects in different regions, each under a published outcome contract with independent verification. Choose projects that can be completed, measured and audited within the period — water reliability, school connectivity, clinic supply continuity — rather than large infrastructure.
- Months 12–30: sign standing memoranda with a small number of existing organizations from the Annexure to act as domain stewards, so that TEU is visibly building on their work.
- Months 18–36: publish the first independent evaluation, including any failures, and the first full audited accounts with administrative costs and officer compensation disclosed.

The test of the first 1,000 days is not how much money was raised. It is whether an independent observer can verify, from published records alone, exactly what was promised, what was spent, what was delivered and what did not work.

23. Responses to critical questions about the Economic Union model

a) **Is this simply charity on a larger scale?**

No. Charity remains essential for non-revenue needs, but the model adds investment, open technology, standardized projects, outcome incentives, reusable contracts and commercial delivery where appropriate.

b) **Why would profit-seeking companies build in extremely poor countries?**

Because risk can be reduced through pooled demand, transparent concessions, first-loss capital, guarantees and verified output incentives. The aim is to make development-serving investment commercially rational without allowing monopoly extraction.

c) **Does this bypass national sovereignty?**

No. Projects must comply with host-country law and require lawful permissions. What is deliberately reduced is discretionary political control over who gets TEU money and which contractor is favored.

d) **What if a host government is corrupt?**

The Economic Union should not pay bribes or hide diversion. It can use independent escrow, civil-society implementers and community verification where lawful; otherwise, it should suspend or decline the project.

e) **Who decides what poor people need?**

Objective deprivation data establishes the problem; affected communities validate priorities; technical teams test feasibility; funding follows published criteria.

f) **Could wealthy donors or corporations capture the system?**

Yes, unless governance limits concentration. Funding influence should be separated from project ranking, conflict disclosures should be mandatory, and no contributor should buy voting or procurement power.

g) **Will there eventually be a world currency?**

Not as an early objective. Economic solidarity, open trade, development standards and service portability can progress without a single currency.

h) **How is this different from the UN or World Bank?**

It is conceived initially as a Global Citizens-led public-benefit network with mixed philanthropic, open-source and commercial execution, a radically transparent project marketplace and no permanent-state veto over individual project allocation. It should complement rather than duplicate existing institutions.

i) **What happens when aid budgets collapse, as they did in 2025?**

This model is a partial answer to that question rather than a victim of it. Because it relies on citizens, open-source technology, outcome-linked capital and commercial delivery rather than on appropriations from a small number of treasuries, it is less exposed to a single donor's political cycle. It is not immune: pooled health funds missed their 2025–26 replenishment targets, and TEU would face the same competition for scarce money. The response is efficiency and verifiability, not scale.

24. Measurable success indicators

- a) People lifted above each Global Human Development Floor threshold;
- b) Cost per verified beneficiary and lifetime cost of service;
- c) Share of funds reaching projects versus administration;
- d) Private and philanthropic capital mobilized per dollar of catalytic funding;
- e) Percentage of projects using open standards or reusable public-good technology;
- f) Local jobs, suppliers and managers created;
- g) Service reliability and affordability after five and ten years;
- h) Number of assets/capabilities successfully transferred to local ownership;
- i) Corruption losses, procurement complaints and audit recoveries;
- j) Replication of proven project templates across borders.

25. Definition of the Economic Union

The Economic Union of The Earth Union is a progressively integrated, need-based system of global economic cooperation through which Global Citizens, communities, nonprofit institutions, foundations, open-source networks and responsible businesses combine capital, technology and expertise to secure a minimum standard of human dignity for every person.

It does not abolish national economic systems, prohibit legitimate profit or begin with compulsory global taxation. It begins voluntarily, channels resources according to transparent human need, rewards verified results, builds local capability and uses strong anti-corruption safeguards. Over generations, as Spiritual Union expands the moral circle of responsibility and Political Union develops legitimate common law, this voluntary development network can mature into a true Economic Union serving ONE Human Family.

26. Selected evidence and institutional precedents

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18. World Bank – Principles on Identification for Sustainable Development — <https://id4d.worldbank.org/guide/1-principles>
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20. IFC – Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Sustainability and the ongoing Sustainability Framework update — <https://www.ifc.org/en/what-we-do/sector-expertise/sustainability/policies-and-standards>
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