



# Global Movement Landscape: A Survey

Jonathan Cohn and Paul Raskin  
Tellus Institute  
November 28, 2023 Update

## Context

We stand at a pivotal historical moment. A transition is underway from the modern epoch of autonomous nation-states, endless economic growth, and domination of nature to a radically different epoch of interdependence and limits. Amid this long transition, we are beset by multiplying economic, ecological, climate, epidemiological, and social crises.

We are on a catastrophic path, yet a catastrophic future is not inevitable. Contrasting [global scenarios](#) can emerge from the crossroads of the present, depending on what we choose to be and how we choose to act. We cannot predict the future—only confront the painful reality of now, and work for a scenario rooted in solidarity, ecology, and a decent life for all—what we call a [Great Transition](#).

What change agent can drive such a shift? Hidebound institutions of the old order—profit-seeking corporations, blinkered governments, reformist NGOs—will not lead the way. Decades ago, the [Great Transition Initiative](#) foresaw the need for a “global citizens movement” (GCM), a vast and diverse popular rising beneath a broad canopy of shared vision and purpose. This GCM would press on all issues and all levels as a polycentric ecology of movements, organizations, and associations. Our challenge is to bring this latent social force to life.

## Purpose of This Survey

The deepening polycrisis has triggered resistance on countless fronts, but taken in aggregate, these efforts remain piecemeal and defensive. Occasional victories are overwhelmed by systemic deterioration. We desperately need new initiatives for enlarging our collective ambition and

power through greater unity of vision and strategy. This study surveys the civil society landscape in order to identify key organizations and movements for building a new meta-alliance devoted to catalyzing a GCM.

### **Non-reformist Focus**

There are literally hundreds of thousands of entities actively working to steer societies toward a sustainable, just, and peaceful world. But since root-and-branch transformation requires more than incremental change to the status quo, we focus here on the non-reformist subset that situate their work within the larger project of a holistic shift, whatever specific issue or scale they choose to focus on. In terms of our scenario nomenclature, this means we only consider organizations that recognize the need to transcend a [Conventional Worlds](#) paradigm.

### **Categorization of Actors**

The constellation of non-reformist movements and organizations is, by necessity, highly diverse. To illuminate those most relevant for shaping a GCM, we categorize them using the following criteria:

- **Global:** *Does their work address issues at a global scale, or do they focus on subglobal scales (local, national, or regional)?*

A global citizens movement, by definition, must seek to change values, policies, and institutions at the global level. Hope for a “Great Transition in one country” will prove illusory in our interconnected world of shared risks and challenges. We note, however, that effective global organizing often arises out of linking work conducted at grassroots, national, or regional levels.

- **Systemic:** *Do they work to effect holistic social-ecological transformation, or instead concentrate on an issue or sector?*

Solutions to our global crises are inextricably linked. A Great Transition future cannot exist against a backdrop of an inequitable economic system, degraded planet, destabilized climate, fragmented global governance, or polarized society. Some organizations strive for deep change on multiple fronts, i.e., “systemic change,” while others focus on a particular dimension.

- **Network:** *Does their work bring autonomous groups together in a shared process, or do they conduct stand-alone programs?*

Social movements are never made by one individual or organization working alone. They require convening, mobilizing, and organizing myriad actors in service of a collective vision. Efforts at network-building are thus particularly notable for landscaping actors relevant to building a transformational movement.

## Results

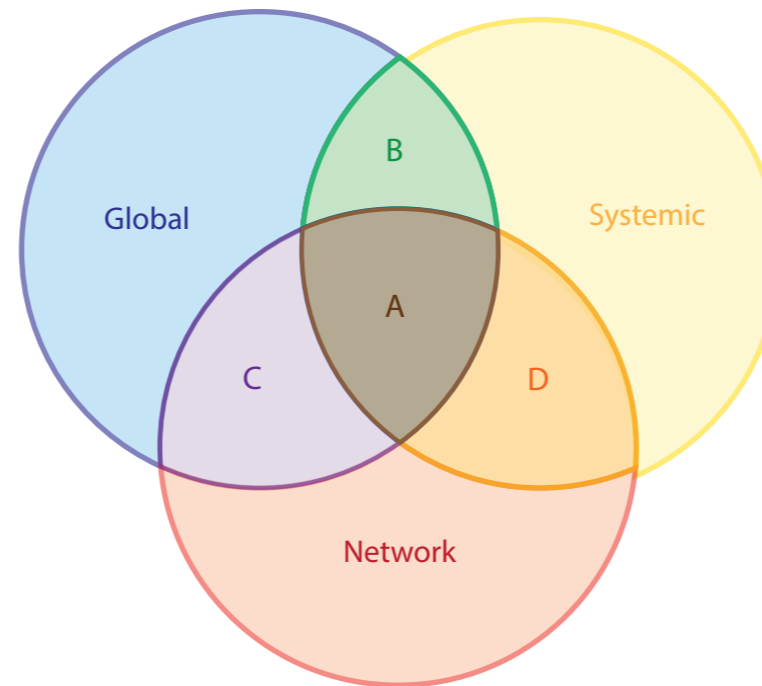
Ultimately, the full flowering of a GCM will depend on organizations and movements that meet all three criteria. The following chart highlights organizations that meet at least two of the criteria above.

The chart includes:

- **24 organizations** that are *global, systemic networks*
- **21 organizations** that are *global and systemic* (but not networks)
- **16 organizations** that are *global networks* (but not systemic)
- **14 organizations** that are *systemic networks* (but not global)

These findings will be updated from time-to-time as additional organizations come to our attention and existing organizations become inactive or adjust their mandates. The landscape will be a living resource for campaigns to build synergy in the quest to strengthen the global movement.

## Movement Actors by Program Scope



### A Global, Systemic, and Network

Convivialist International  
 Deep Transformation Network  
 Earth Charter International  
 Ecovercities Alliance  
 Fight Inequality Alliance  
 Global Dialogue for Systemic Change  
 Global Ecosocialist Network  
 Global Ecovillage Network  
 Global Greens  
 Global Platform for the Right to the City  
 Global Tapestry of Alternatives  
 Global Working Group Beyond Development  
 Great Transition Initiative  
 Habitat International  
 International Degrowth Network  
 La Via Campesina  
 May First Movement Technology  
 Progressive International  
 Radical Ecological Democracy  
 Transformative Cities  
 Transition Network  
 Wellbeing Economy Alliance (WEAll)  
 WECAN  
 World Assembly of Struggles and Resistance of the WSF

### B Global and Systemic (not Network)

The Alternatives Project  
 Atlas  
 Club of Rome  
 Earth Law Center  
 Focus on the Global South  
 Friends of the Earth International  
 Greenpeace International  
 Heinrich Böll Foundation  
 INESC  
 Institute for EcoCiv  
 Institute for Social Ecology  
 Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere  
 Postcarbon Institute  
 Potsdam Institute  
 Rosa Luxemburg Foundation  
 Simpol  
 Stockholm Resilience Centre  
 Systemic Alternatives  
 Third World Network  
 Transnational Institute  
 War on Want  
 WILPF

### C Global and Network (not Systemic)

ATTAC  
 Civicus  
 Climate Action Network (CAN)  
 Democracy without Borders  
 Economy of the Common Good  
 Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature  
 Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies  
 ICCA Consortium  
 International Alliance for Localization  
 International Rivers  
 Postgrowth Institute  
 RIPESS  
 SCORAI  
 Stop Ecocide International  
 World Federalist Movement  
 YES to Life No to Mining Network

### D Systemic and Network (not Global)

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
 CASA Latina  
 Climate Justice Alliance  
 Crianza Mutua Colombia  
 Crianza Mutua México  
 DiEM25  
 ECOLISE  
 Grassroots Global Justice  
 Landless Workers' Movement  
 MINGANet  
 Symbiosis  
 Transform! Europe  
 Transnational Institute of Social Ecology  
 Vikalp Sangam  
 WoMin

---

## About the Publication

Published by the [Great Transition Initiative](#).

Under our Creative Commons BY-NC-ND copyright, you may freely republish our content, without alteration, for non-commercial purposes as long as you include an explicit attribution to the Great Transition Initiative and a link to the GTI homepage.



Cite as Jonathan Cohn and Paul Raskin, “Global Movement Landscape: A Survey,” *Great Transition Initiative* (November 28, 2023 update). For latest update, see <https://greattransition.org/global-movement-landscape>.

---

## About the Great Transition Initiative

The [Great Transition Initiative](#), a project of the Tellus Institute, is an international collaboration for charting pathways to a planetary civilization rooted in solidarity, sustainability, and human well-being.