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An Overview of Universalization
Governing Our World within The Universe

In the Ancient sanskrit Hindu text, *Mahopanishad*, refers to universalization as '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam',* which translates to '*the world is one family*'.

What is Universalization?

Lorna Jean Edmonds and WE (Ted) Hewitt introduced a definition of universalization as an incipient concept describing the next phase of human development, marking the transition from trans-national to interplanetary relations and much more aggressive exploitation of opportunities that lie beyond the confines of Earth. As both a process and an end state, universalization implies an increasingly pervasive, abiding and singular human focus not only on global issues per se but on social, technological, economic and cultural challenges and opportunities extending into our solar system, our galaxy, and well beyond, where cooperation supersedes conflict negotiation. Its origins are associated with the incipient expansion of social, economic, and political relationships that have emerged in the wake of globalization and that increasingly define the planet and its place within the broader universe.

Universalization is an evolving term and is a change in the historical view the governance of humanity with the lens of 'our world within the universe'. For all to engage in, and benefit from the opportunities that this infinite frontier offers, humanity's approach to governance must evolve to embrace this new reality. It is about our sustainability. Transportation and communication technologies (such as the steamboat and telegraph in the 19th century) increased the ability of people to interact and communicate on a global scale which in turn powered new ideas, trade, culture, and economics. This process of connecting people on earth and working to create opportunities by eliminating barriers to a healthy society (often presented by people, nations, cultures, governments, etc.) is called globalization and continues today.

Universalization embraces the goals of globalization that commit to finding a way to sustain civilization whereby the imperative for governance is through cooperation and the inclusion of diversity 'of all, with all and by all' as we extend our reach into the universe.

National Space Society
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"As I looked back at our Earth from the orbital perspective, I saw a world where natural and man-made boundaries shrunk. I saw a world becoming more and more interconnected and collaborative, a world where the exponential increase in technology was making the impossible possible on a daily basis. Thinking about the next 50 years, I imagined a world where people and organizations set aside their differences and unhealthy competitive inclinations, and work together toward their common goals. After all, each and every one of us is riding through the Universe together on this Spaceship we call Earth, we are all interconnected, we are all in this together and we are all family" – Ron Garan, Social Entrepreneur, Humanitarian, Writer, Artist, Public Speaker http://www.rongaran.com/

21st Century technology and communication capabilities have taken us beyond our globe and into the universe bringing the attention now into how to universalize or how to bring (at present) **7.2 billion** different people from **196 countries** speaking **6909 languages**, following more than **2000 religions** to create mutual acceptance and amicable, thriving communities.

Why Is Universalization Important?

The idea of working and living in space was once a distant concept, now it is a reality. The question of how we are going to behave as a spacefaring civilization and who is going to govern decision making of our 'world within the universe' is the key question of the 21st century.

Jointly working and governing from the lens of outer space is a very different concept than working and governing a mutual area on our planet such as demonstrated in Antarctica. Accessibility and sustainability are not as complicated on this planet as in space. The same earthly trade agreements and resource usage agreements may not apply because the application is for the universe rather than the globe. As space becomes more useful and reachable to humankind, it has the potential to impact every individual. The issues of living and working in space and the implications of their power base, or rather control over Earth are far reaching. They will be so important that it will not be advisable for negotiators to walk away from the table before finding solutions to challenges, as sometimes happens here on Earth, because the outcome could be life or death.

Currently the players in the space business are a small group of people and entities such as investors, entrepreneurs, engineers and science fiction writers and visionaries along with entities such as industry, government and space agencies. Space settlements will involve people from all walks of life, ages, and abilities. They, too, must have a part in the universalization structure. A good governance plan in place will ensure that no group's interest is above or below any all groups are equal and working toward the common good.

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The Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) of the United Nations and the recently approved UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) seeks to provide leadership for addressing major global issues with a universal (cooperative) policy agenda for decision making. These goals and the universal policy agenda adopted are to be considered within the context of universalization (our world within the universe).

The United Nations (UN) Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COUPUS) has always brought to the fore the significance of international cooperation in the uses of outer space, with the primary objective of preserving space for peaceful purposes and avoiding conflict within and with respect to outer space.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/about/dsd

What should be the vision and structure for the governance of our 'world within the universe'? What are the challenges that will be faced in building a universal society? How can we learn from the past to build a sustainable spacefaring society? How do we encourage and enable people to universalize? These are questions that require attention for space policy and good governance and will build the foundation for universalization and the sustainability of humanity.