



NAMBARYN ENKHBAYAR

Former President of Mongolia

Ladies and gentlemen,

I will try to draw the current picture of global governance and to define what it means. It is an ever-changing complex of institutions and mechanisms, working to sort out the global problems facing humanity today and in the near future.

We have to ask why it is ever changing.

The problems themselves are constantly changing, so the appropriate mechanism of global governance should be flexible enough to adapt itself to the changing problems of humanity.

Why is it complex?

The issues we are trying to solve are very complicated, and the players involved in global governance are increasing in number. Therefore, we need more complex mechanisms and institutions in coordinated efforts to solve these problems.

Why do we need institutions and mechanisms?

It is very naive to think that there might be a single, effective world government. I studied literature in Russia, and one of my favourite poets was Velimir Khlebnikov, who lived at the beginning of the 20th century. He used to declare that he was the Chairman of the World government. To declare yourself to be a Chairman of the World government you must be a poet, however in reality there is no chance of creating the real one. This is why we need institutions and mechanisms to take its place.

Why will we need them in future?

Global governance should not focus solely on trying to solve the problems of today, because even if they are solved, new ones will inevitably arise. Therefore, global governance should be effective enough to solve today's problems and be flexible enough to predict and solve the problems of tomorrow.

Who are the players in global governance?

We have been discussing this issue for many years, and it is clear that national governments are very important players.

However, at the same time, NGOs are becoming more important, because they know that issues are not being solved yet, inequalities still remain, and that we are losing time and opportunity. We have to engage NGOs in global governance structures so that it can function much more effectively.

Regional and international organisations are very important, along with the private sector.

International organisations such as the UN, World Bank and IMF are very important.

Individuals who have developed a good reputation for all they have achieved in their lives are also key players. Therefore, we have to see global governance not as a single body but as a structure consisting of many players.

Why do we need global governance?

We have problems which cannot be solved by a single national government, or even by a number of governments making up a group, like G8 or G20. Climate change, economic and social development issues, terrorism, conflicts and epidemics are all problems that we have to fight together. It is noteworthy that these global problems are overwhelmingly man-made, and that is why we have to work together to overcome them.

When we talk about global governance, we try to define it in a way that places limits on its activities. We pay most attention to the regulatory aspects, because we think that it is about regulation. That is true, but it is only one aspect.

Global governance should also be about procedures, about how to interpret and administer the rules we have put forward.

It should also be about programmes, about what should be reflected in the agreements and documents that we produce together. Therefore, global governance is not only about regulation but about vision for the future.

This year we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. This was about ending the divisions between the two worlds. Global governance is also about ending divisions, and bringing everyone together to be players in building a better future. We have to think about the criteria that would indicate whether global governance is functioning effectively or not.

And I think that there should be performance criteria based on the quality of life we are trying to reach together.



The 20th century was the century of achieving big numbers. We were fascinated by the sizes, records. The *Guinness Book of Records* is a good record of humanity's attempts to reach big sizes and numbers.

However the 21st century should be the century of achieving quality, whether it would be the quality of water we drink or the quality of life we live. The performance indicators should therefore be based on qualitative criteria. The goal of global governance is to find the right qualitative criteria in order to improve our lives.

Thank you for your attention.