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The following statement is based upon a paper presented to the Planetary Congress, convened by the Planetary Initiative for the World We Choose at Toronto, Canada in June 1983. It was later published in the 1983 Annual Report of the Federalist Caucus:

THE WORLD WE CHOOSE

The system we humans have engineered for ourselves on this planet is characterized by relationships between theoretically independent peoples and nations. However --- instead of mutuality and justice --- the political, social, and economic domination of our world by certain individuals, groups, and nations is the reality.

The predominant centralization of political power in over-sized nation states and the economic power wielded by giant corporations threaten the self-determination of individuals and groups everywhere. Political power is exercised by relatively few people in all nations. This is true in the so-called democracies as it is in the fascist and socialist states. Transnational corporations (TNC's) --- controlled by tiny elites --- effectively dominate world trade, and most of the planet's natural resources. For example, in the United States, 95% of the privately owned land is held by merely 3% of the population!*

Monopoly over Land, the most vital element of our existence, exists globally. This guarantees that most of the world's people live in poverty and remain powerless, while a relatively small number of people enjoy enormous power and privilege. If the indispensable resources of the Earth belong to anybody they 'belong' to the whole of humanity as a trust for future generations and the other creatures that inhabit the planet. As such, our appropriate relationship to the planet is 'stewardship' rather than absolute ownership.

The world we choose would secure greater social and economic justice for all people by requiring that those who hold irreplaceable land and natural resources pay society for the privilege. Relying on land-value taxation as the primary source of public revenues would reduce land speculation and spur economic productivity. Land would be cheap and readily available to those who wanted to put it to good use. If a gap were to exist between rich and poor it would result from choice and capacity rather than from unfair advantage.

Energy and natural resource use, freed from monopoly control, would reflect an appropriate mix of renewable sources. Basis food and energy needs would be met locally wherever feasible. Sustainable economic growth would be ensured.

Greater economic decentralization and well-being would be a firm foundation for true political democracy.

The economic surpluses from vibrant regional economies would fuel the engine of a dynamic, sustainable, and benign world trade. The global interdependence resulting from networks of mutually worthwhile trade --- within and between nations --- might provide a secure framework for real peace and a harmonious, non-coercive world order.