

BEYOND GLOBAL JUSTICE

Toward a Life-Coherent Architecture of Universal Provisioning

Universal Life Necessities, Non-Sacrifice,
Regenerative Provisioning, and the
Enlargement of Living Capacities



A constructive engagement with the *Global Justice Report* (2026)

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Beyond Global Justice

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Publication Note

This white paper offers a constructive engagement with the *Global Justice Report: A Plan for Equality & Prosperity Within Planetary Boundaries* published by the World Inequality Lab in 2026. It accepts the report's central achievement: global equality, high well-being, sufficiency and planetary habitability can be analysed as dimensions of a single political-economic transformation rather than as separate policy fields. It then asks what deeper normative and institutional criterion should govern such a transformation.

The argument is developed through four linked principles: universal life necessities, non-sacrifice, regenerative provisioning and the enlargement of living capacities. These are not presented as replacements for income redistribution, decarbonization, public ownership or international monetary reform. They are proposed as the constitutional grammar through which those instruments can remain answerable to the persons, communities and ecosystems they affect.

Abstract

The 2026 *Global Justice Report* offers one of the most ambitious quantified programmes yet developed for reconciling global equality, material sufficiency and planetary habitability. It integrates income convergence, wealth compression, shorter working time, expanded public services, rapid decarbonization, global taxation, shared ownership and international monetary reform. This paper accepts that achievement while arguing that distributive equality and aggregate ecological compatibility remain necessary but insufficient conditions of justice.

A life-coherent extension is developed around four principles. **Universal life necessities** establish the conditions that every person must be able to access securely, shifting the objective from income convergence toward effective life-capacity convergence. **Non-sacrifice** rejects the systematic deprivation of less powerful populations, future generations or ecosystems for aggregate economic, geopolitical or environmental benefit. **Regenerative provisioning** reconceives the economy as the organized reproduction of bodily, social, institutional and ecological life rather than as an autonomous system for generating monetary value. **The enlargement of living capacities** defines prosperity through health, knowledge, care, relationship, participation, creative contribution, temporal autonomy, ecological integrity and adaptive agency.

These principles are translated into an institutional architecture comprising a universal civil-commons floor, ecological and power ceilings, life-capacity dividends, non-sacrifice review, regenerative public finance, shared stewardship of productive assets, multidimensional accounting and nested democratic governance. The *Global Justice Report's* Global Justice Fund, World Sovereign Fund and proposed monetary institutions are reconstructed as organs of a life-coherent commonwealth. The paper concludes that global justice cannot be completed by distributing income, wealth and environmental burdens more equitably within an unchanged economic grammar. Justice requires institutions recursively answerable to their living consequences: securing universal necessities, preventing displaced harm, repairing damaged relations and enlarging present and future possibilities without treating any people or place as disposable.

Keywords: global justice; life-coherence; universal provisioning; civil commons; non-sacrifice; regenerative economy; capabilities; planetary boundaries; global taxation; democratic governance

Scope and Method

This is a conceptual and synthetic paper rather than an original empirical study. The *Global Justice Report* and its technical working papers are treated as the primary objects of analysis. Their quantitative claims are represented as modelled scenarios, not forecasts. The report is then placed in conversation with the capabilities and human-needs traditions, ecological economics, Earth-system justice, commons governance, peace research and life-value theory.

Four kinds of claims are distinguished throughout. **Empirical and modelled claims** describe reported data, estimates and scenarios. **Interpretive claims** explain the significance of the report's architecture. **Normative claims** state the principles by which institutions should be judged. **Constructive institutional proposals** outline possible mechanisms that require further empirical testing and democratic development. The distinction is essential: a compelling normative direction does not validate every proposed administrative form. The report is then placed in conversation with the capabilities and human-needs traditions (Doyal & Gough, 1991; Gough, 2020; Nussbaum, 2011; Sen, 1999), ecological economics and sufficiency scholarship (Jackson, 2017; Kallis, 2019; O'Neill et al., 2018; Raworth, 2017; Schlesier et al., 2024; Wiedmann et al., 2020), living-systems and commons thought (Maturana & Varela, 1980, 1987; Ostrom, 1990; Polanyi, 2001), peace research (Galtung, 1969) and life-value theory (McMurtry, 2013).

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Part I — The Global Justice Opening

1. The Convergence Now Occurring

1.1 From separate crises to a crisis of provisioning

Climate disruption, biodiversity loss, widening inequality, fragile public services, political distrust and recurrent financial instability are often described as distinct crises. Their interactions suggest a deeper problem. Modern economies are failing in their most basic function: the reliable and legitimate provisioning of the conditions of life.

The conventional separation of economic, social and ecological policy obscures this common structure. Economic policy is organized around output, employment, prices and financial stability. Social policy is asked to correct the deprivation or insecurity that remains. Environmental policy is required to limit the biophysical consequences of the resulting production and consumption. The arrangement permits each domain to treat the others as external constraints. Growth is pursued first, distribution is negotiated later and ecological repair is postponed until harm becomes unavoidable.

Recent scholarship increasingly rejects this sequence. Research on provisioning systems shows that well-being depends not only on income or technology but on the institutions that transform energy and materials into access to necessities (Fanning et al., 2020; Vogel et al., 2021). The safe-and-just Earth-system literature similarly argues that ecological boundaries must be joined to minimum access, distributional justice and procedural fairness (Rockström et al., 2023). The United Nations' emerging beyond-GDP framework reflects a parallel recognition that national output cannot stand as a sufficient compass for human and ecological progress (United Nations Secretary-General's Independent High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP, 2026).

These literatures converge upon a single question: how can societies meet universal human needs while preserving the living systems that make future provision possible?

1.2 Ecological convergence: from climate targets to a safe and just corridor

Climate mitigation remains indispensable, but carbon is not the entire ecological problem. Water, soils, biodiversity, nutrient cycles, pollution, land conversion and material extraction interact with climate and with one another. UNEP's *Global Resources Outlook 2024* reports that extraction has tripled over five decades and could rise substantially again without structural change (United Nations Environment Programme & International Resource Panel, 2024). A low-carbon system that intensifies water depletion, toxic exposure or biodiversity loss cannot be considered ecologically coherent.

Earth-system justice therefore requires both ceilings and floors. Ceilings limit human pressure on critical systems. Floors protect minimum access to water, food, energy, infrastructure and other conditions of dignified life. The space between them is not merely a technical operating range. It is a political corridor whose distribution depends upon power, historical responsibility and the organization of provision (Rockström et al., 2023).

1.3 Social convergence: from growth-mediated welfare to economic security

A second convergence concerns social policy. The assumption that growth will eventually generate adequate security has weakened under the pressure of persistent inequality, precarious work, unaffordable housing and declining trust. The *World Social Report 2025* calls for a new policy consensus centred on equity, economic security and solidarity rather than relying on aggregate expansion to deliver social progress indirectly (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs & United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research, 2025).

This shift directs attention from average income to the reliability of provisioning systems. People require not only purchasing power but secure access to healthcare, education, housing, food, water, care, transport and communication. Where these are commodified completely, income becomes the price of permission to live. Where civil commons guarantee them, money remains important but ceases to carry the whole burden of social survival.

1.4 Distributive convergence: from income inequality to power inequality

Extreme inequality is not only a difference in consumption. It is a difference in command. Wealth influences investment, employment, land, media, law, technology and politics. At high concentrations it becomes a form of private government. The case for limiting extreme wealth is therefore constitutional as well as distributive (Robeyns, 2024).

International inequality also operates through monetary and trade structures. Unequal exchange research shows that commodity chains may transfer large quantities of labour and resources from lower-income to higher-income regions while monetary accounts present exchange as formally reciprocal (Hickel et al., 2024). Reserve-currency privilege, foreign-debt dependence and unequal rates of return further shape which societies can finance public purposes without external constraint.

1.5 Developmental convergence: universal growth gives way to asymmetric sufficiency

A globally just ecological transition cannot demand the same material contraction from populations with radically different starting conditions. Many societies require more housing, water infrastructure, health services, energy and transport. Others use materials and energy at levels far beyond their contribution to well-being.

The emerging principle is asymmetric sufficiency: expansion where universal necessities remain unmet, contraction where throughput is excessive, and transformation everywhere in the systems through which needs are met. Research on decent living standards indicates that high human development may be compatible with far lower energy use than current affluent patterns when provisioning institutions are efficient and equitable (Millward-Hopkins et al., 2020; Vogel et al., 2021).

1.6 Institutional convergence: from aid to global public authority

The final convergence is institutional. Climate, tax avoidance, capital mobility, oceans and international liquidity cannot be governed through isolated national policy. Yet existing global institutions allocate voice and financial capacity unequally. Aid remains discretionary and small relative to the scale of the transition required. The result is a mismatch between global interdependence and fragmented public authority.

The *Global Justice Report* enters precisely at this point. It does not merely call for solidarity. It asks what fiscal, ownership and monetary institutions could make equality and planetary habitability jointly achievable. Its significance lies in converting an ethical horizon into a quantified and institutionally specified transition pathway.

2. The Achievement of the *Global Justice Report*

2.1 An integrated feasibility construction

The *Global Justice Report* is not a forecast. It is a feasibility construction extending from 2026 to 2100. It asks what combination of convergence, redistribution, sufficiency, decarbonization, public investment and institutional reform could produce high well-being for all while keeping warming below 2°C (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 5–16).

This reverse construction is valuable because it distinguishes physical limits from inherited institutions. Atmospheric stability, land, water and material supply impose real constraints. Extreme wealth concentration, inadequate public services, unequal voting power and foreign-currency dependence are political arrangements. Treating them as fixed would make the model realistic only by reproducing the conditions that created the problem.

The report joins four dimensions frequently analysed separately: global redistribution, international financial reform, energy transformation and changes in consumption and production. Inequality and sufficiency become causal components of ecological transition rather than social outcomes to be addressed afterwards.

2.2 Convergence between and within countries

The benchmark pathway proposes convergence toward approximately €60,000 in annual per-capita income, expressed in 2025 purchasing-power terms, by 2100. Poorer regions grow rapidly while already affluent regions approach very low per-capita growth. The target rejects both permanent global hierarchy and universal convergence toward an indefinitely expanding rich-country frontier (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 9–12, 31–32).

Between-country convergence is combined with sharp compression within countries. The report envisages far narrower income and wealth scales, a dramatic reduction of top wealth shares and a large rise in the shares held by the bottom half. These changes are not only distributive. They reduce luxury demand, expand fiscal space and constrain the translation of private fortunes into political command.

The proposed wealth-tax schedule begins only at very high multiples of average world wealth and rises steeply at the extreme top. Large liabilities could be paid through securities, allowing the World Sovereign Fund to acquire productive assets directly. Taxation thereby becomes a mechanism of ownership transformation rather than redistribution after the ownership structure has operated (Bothe et al., 2026; Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 64–78).

2.3 Sufficiency, time and gender

The report gives sufficiency an institutional rather than moralistic meaning. It combines reduced material demand, changed food and land-use systems, lower-carbon energy, a shift toward health and education and a large decline in paid working time. Average annual employment falls from roughly 2,100 to 1,000 hours by 2100 (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 9–10, 33–34).

Time is thus recognized as a distributive good. Productivity can be converted into leisure, care, learning and participation rather than only additional output. The report also connects shorter work with gender equality by seeking convergence in paid employment, pay and unpaid domestic labour. This is crucial because a reduction in formal work that simply transfers more labour into households would reproduce gendered sacrifice.

2.4 Sufficiency and decarbonization as complements

The report's scenario comparison provides one of its clearest insights. Persistent inequality or productivist convergence with slow decarbonization yields warming near 4.8–4.9°C. Sufficiency without rapid energy transition lowers the estimate to approximately 3.3°C. Only their combination reaches approximately 1.8°C. Sufficiency and technological transformation contribute broadly comparable shares of the reduction (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 43–49).

The implication is that demand transformation and clean technology are complements. Technological substitution cannot preserve every existing pattern of mobility, housing, diet, work and luxury consumption. Social contraction alone cannot replace the need for massive investment in clean energy, grids, efficiency, public transport and industrial transformation. Some sectors must contract while others expand rapidly.

2.5 The Global Justice Fund and country dividends

The Global Justice Fund is the report's fiscal centre. Global taxes finance climate investment, education and health; country dividends distribute resources on a per-capita basis; and the World Sovereign Fund accumulates shared assets. Average expenditure is projected at roughly 8–10% of world GDP during the central decades of transition, reaching about 10.3% over 2026–2060 in the underlying platform analysis. This is orders of magnitude larger than current aid and multilateral budgets (Bothe et al., 2026; Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 54–71).

The move from aid to standing fiscal capacity is conceptually decisive. Aid presupposes donors and recipients. A universal dividend expresses equal membership in a global order, even though the same amount represents a larger share of output in poorer countries.

The report links disbursement to climate, health, education and inequality performance. This recognizes that fiscal scale requires accountability, but it also creates a risk of renewed conditionality. The legitimacy of such conditions

depends on who sets them, whether local knowledge can revise them, and whether accountability applies equally to affluent states, corporations and global institutions.

2.6 Shared ownership and monetary democratization

The World Sovereign Fund would reach approximately 60% of world GDP, or around one-tenth of global capital, and would increasingly finance the Global Justice Fund through investment income (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 64–68). This socializes part of the productive asset base and creates public influence over investment and corporate governance.

The report also proposes an International Clearing Union, a United Nations Central Bank and an international currency. These institutions would reduce reserve-currency hierarchy, impose more symmetric adjustment on surplus and deficit countries and address the ‘exorbitant privilege’ through which rich countries earn higher returns on foreign assets than they pay on liabilities. The report estimates the associated net transfer from poorer to richer regions at roughly 0.6–0.8% of world GDP annually in recent decades (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 93–99).

This is an important expansion of justice beyond taxation. Monetary arrangements determine which countries can obtain essential imports, borrow in their own currencies, maintain public services during crisis and resist creditor-imposed austerity.

2.7 Democratic and reparatory ambitions

The proposed double-majority voting rule requires support from a majority of countries representing a majority of the world’s population, rejecting GDP-weighted governance. It balances state equality and population while weakening the entrenched voting privilege of wealthy countries (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 106–108).

The report further places universal justice alongside reparatory responsibility. Its order-of-magnitude calculations for slavery, colonial extraction and climate damage reach approximately 240% of 2025 world GDP. The authors are explicit that these estimates are preliminary and that the benchmark platform transfers less than full reparation might require (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 118–120).

2.8 Why the report is a platform rather than a blueprint

The report’s quantitative transparency is itself a contribution. It makes assumptions about growth, inequality, work, material demand, energy, taxation and public expenditure contestable. It also acknowledges substantial limits: incomplete treatment of several planetary boundaries, simplified projections of future production techniques and insufficient representation of local institutions and knowledge (Chancel et al., 2026, pp. 124–130).

Its proper status is therefore neither prophecy nor utopia. It is a macro-institutional platform showing that a different global political economy can be imagined coherently. The remaining question is what deeper criterion should govern its flows of money, materials and authority.

3. The Unresolved Normative Problem

3.1 Equality and habitability are necessary, not sufficient

An equal world that destabilizes climate, water and ecosystems is not viable. A habitable world built through domination and deprivation is not just. The *Global Justice Report* rightly treats equality and planetary compatibility as inseparable.

Yet neither is sufficient. A society may distribute income narrowly while providing coercive work, degrading care or little political agency. A low-carbon transition may remain within a temperature target while creating mining sacrifice zones, exhausting freshwater or displacing communities. Public ownership may redistribute returns while preserving a requirement that every activity generate financial yield. Interstate democracy may give countries equal voice while marginal populations remain unheard inside them.

The normative gap concerns the difference between the distribution of measurable goods, the achievement of aggregate ecological outcomes and the actual condition of living beings and systems.

3.2 Equality of what?

Income is a proxy, an instrument and a form of power. It correlates with access, purchases goods and influences the ability to refuse, relocate, litigate and participate. It must therefore remain central to justice. But the same income produces different possibilities depending on public services, disability, care responsibilities, geography, discrimination and ecological conditions.

The capabilities tradition provides a crucial distinction between resources and real freedoms (Sen, 1999; Nussbaum, 2011). A bicycle does not produce mobility where roads are unsafe or the person cannot use it. A health entitlement does not produce care where facilities, transport or staff are absent. Equal resources can coexist with unequal capabilities.

A life-coherent framework extends the capabilities insight from individuals to the social and ecological systems that produce capability. The objective becomes **life-capacity convergence**: comparable effective abilities to maintain health, learn, care, participate, create and adapt, realized through diverse cultural and institutional forms.

3.3 Aggregation and sacrifice

Macroeconomic and environmental models must aggregate. Without totals, averages and scenarios, large-scale coordination would be impossible. Aggregation becomes dangerous when concentrated harm disappears inside an improving average.

National income may rise while one region loses land. Emissions may fall while pollution increases in a minority community. A global pathway may meet a temperature target while a small island society loses territory and cultural continuity. Aggregate benefit can coexist with systematic disposability.

A life-coherent framework therefore requires a distributional veto against declaring success where protected life conditions are being destroyed. Every aggregate indicator must be accompanied by the questions: who improved, who deteriorated, where are harms concentrated, which losses are irreversible, and whose voice was absent?

3.4 Expenditure, ownership and democracy as incomplete proxies

Public expenditure is necessary but not equivalent to care. A costly health system may remain fragmented and inaccessible. Education spending may rise while teachers are exhausted and learning becomes alienating.

Public ownership is necessary in many essential systems but does not automatically create public purpose. State enterprises and sovereign funds may become bureaucratic, financially conservative or ecologically destructive. Ownership must be governed as stewardship.

Democratic voting is similarly incomplete when citizens lack time, information, organization or effective influence. States are not identical with peoples, and future generations and more-than-human life cannot vote through ordinary electoral mechanisms.

3.5 A sufficient normative criterion

A life-coherent institution protects, restores and enlarges the capacities of persons, communities and ecosystems while avoiding the displacement of systematic harm onto less powerful populations, other species or future generations.

This criterion contains six tests: protection against avoidable loss; restoration of damaged capacities; enlargement of real options; non-displacement of harm; regeneration of underlying systems; and accountability to those affected.

It can be compressed into four propositions that organize the remainder of the paper:

*Universal life necessities define the floor.
Non-sacrifice defines the legitimate boundary.
Regenerative provisioning defines the means.
The enlargement of living capacities defines the purpose.*

Part II — Four Principles of Life-Coherent Justice

4. Universal Life Necessities and Life-Capacity Convergence

4.1 From monetary claims to effective access

Money matters because it provides claims on goods, services and labour. Where survival is commodified, insufficient income becomes direct exclusion. Yet justice cannot stop at equalizing purchasing power within the same commodified architecture.

A person can possess nominal income for healthcare but face no nearby facility, unaffordable transport or discriminatory treatment. A household may be connected to a water network whose supply is unsafe or intermittent. A child may be enrolled in school while hunger, overcrowding or language exclusion prevent learning.

Effective access should therefore be assessed through entitlement, availability, accessibility, affordability, adequacy, continuity, agency and ecological viability. Universal healthcare exists when people can reliably obtain appropriate care without financial, geographic or social exclusion. Universal water exists when supply is safe, sufficient, affordable, reliable and ecologically sustained.

4.2 A civil-commons floor

Universal necessities become secure when collectively organized institutions guarantee them independently of individual market power. These institutions form the **civil commons**: shared systems through which society protects and enlarges life according to need and public right rather than purchasing power alone (McMurtry, 2013).

The civil-commons floor includes bodily necessities, developmental supports, relational conditions, civic agency, time and ecological integrity. Its purpose is not minimal biological survival but dignified participation.

Table 1. Universal life necessities and corresponding capacities.

Domain	Universal necessity	Capacity enabled
Bodily life	Nutritious food, safe water, sanitation, shelter, healthcare, clean air and safety	Health, function and bodily integrity
Development	Education, childhood care, knowledge and communication	Learning, judgment, creativity and adaptation
Relationship	Care, belonging, recognition and freedom from degrading treatment	Attachment, cooperation and social participation
Civic life	Information, legal standing, association, voice and remedy	Collective agency and non-domination
Time	Rest, care time, participation and discretionary control	Health, relationship, citizenship and creativity
Ecology	Stable climate, healthy soils, water, biodiversity and low pollution	Long-term human and ecological viability

Civil commons need not be administered only by central states. They may be public, municipal, cooperative, communal, Indigenous or nonprofit. Their defining characteristics are universal purpose, access independent of ability to pay, participatory accountability, worker sustainability and ecological continuity.

4.3 Universal does not mean uniform

Human beings share biological and relational dependencies, but the forms through which they are met differ. Food security may be realized through household cultivation, cooperatives, public distribution and markets. Housing security may involve public housing, community land trusts, cooperative ownership, customary tenure or regulated tenancy.

Life-coherent universalism combines universal entitlement, contextual realization and ecological fit. It avoids both market universalism, which assumes money and exchange are sufficient, and administrative uniformity, which imposes one design everywhere.

4.4 Decommodification and freedom

Decommodification does not require the abolition of markets. It reduces the extent to which access to essential life conditions depends upon market success.

A worker who will lose healthcare by refusing dangerous employment is not fully free in the labour market. A community that must accept destructive extraction because no alternative source of revenue exists does not give meaningful consent. Universal provision enlarges freedom by reducing coercive dependence.

Markets may remain useful for discretionary goods, innovation and personal variation. The governing question is which institutional form most reliably secures universal access, agency, ecological integrity and protection against domination.

4.5 Life-capacity dividends

The report's equal-per-capita country dividends provide a strong universal foundation. A life-coherent extension would retain the equal base while adding adjustments for life-floor deficits, ecological vulnerability, geographic cost, historical repair and institutional capacity.

The objective is not identical monetary transfers. It is equalization of real provisioning capacity. A remote island, drought-affected region or society emerging from conflict may require more resources to secure comparable access. The formula should express equal personhood without ignoring unequal starting conditions.

4.6 The priority rule

The civil-commons floor implies a constitutional ordering: resources should not be directed toward avoidable luxury expansion, speculative accumulation or ecological destruction while universal necessities remain unmet and remediable.

This is not a prohibition on every discretionary good. It is a challenge to the institutional priority given to purchasing power over need. Life necessities receive first claim upon shared productive capacity.

5. The Principle of Non-Sacrifice

5.1 The structure of a sacrifice zone

A sacrifice zone is not merely a place where harm occurs. It is a relation in which concentrated burdens, unequal power, institutional normalization and restricted remedy combine. Pollution, dangerous work, displacement, care exhaustion or fiscal austerity are imposed on a population whose lower power makes the burden politically convenient.

Sacrifice can be geographic, occupational, fiscal, temporal, generational or ecological. In every case, one part of the living system becomes absorbent capacity for another's security or accumulation.

The principle of non-sacrifice states:

No population, community, generation, species or ecosystem may be systematically deprived of indispensable or non-substitutable conditions of life so that others may secure economic expansion, geopolitical advantage, technological transition or ecological improvement.

The principle does not prohibit every burden. It rejects disposability as a normal mode of institutional design.

5.2 Thresholds before trade-offs

Cost-benefit analysis is useful for comparing alternatives but becomes dangerous when severe losses to a few are offset by minor gains to many. A life-coherent decision process therefore begins with admissibility.

Would the action push anyone below a protected life floor? Would it destroy a non-substitutable condition such as an ancestral place, unique ecosystem, language or freshwater source? If so, the action faces a strong presumption against authorization. Only among admissible alternatives should ordinary optimization proceed.

5.3 Reversibility and non-substitutability

Some burdens are temporary and reversible. Some losses can be meaningfully repaired or compensated. Others cannot. Extinction, permanent contamination, forced severance from ancestral land and destruction of unique ecological or cultural relationships cannot be replaced by cash or an abstract equivalent.

The less reversible the intervention and the greater the uncertainty, the stronger the burden of justification. Option preservation is a form of intergenerational justice because it protects the capacity of future people to choose differently.

5.4 The green-sacrifice problem

Decarbonization is necessary, but no technology is materially disembodied. Renewable energy, electrification and digital systems require land, minerals, water, infrastructure, labour and waste management. If these demands are organized through existing relations of unequal exchange, affluent societies may lower territorial emissions while importing ecological and labour sacrifice.

The relevant test is whether transition eliminates harm, reduces it or merely relocates it. Full-chain assessment must include extraction, processing, manufacture, transport, use, decommissioning and recovery. Energy required for universal necessities must be distinguished from luxury and structural waste.

5.5 Meaningful consent and the right to refuse

Formal consent is weak where one party lacks secure alternatives. A community facing debt and unemployment may accept destructive extraction because no other developmental pathway is funded. A worker may accept danger because refusal means homelessness.

Meaningful consent requires information, independent expertise, time, representative legitimacy, realistic alternatives and continuing rights of review. In cases involving displacement, severe health risk or non-substitutable loss, affected communities should possess stronger rights of refusal. These rights remain reciprocal: local autonomy cannot justify severe transboundary harm.

5.6 Repair beyond compensation

Money may be necessary after harm, but compensation is not the whole of repair. A complete remedial sequence includes cessation, restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, public acknowledgment and guarantees of non-repetition.

Reparations become transformative when they alter the relation that produced injury: returning land, cancelling illegitimate debt, sharing technology, restoring ecosystems, rebuilding institutions and increasing the autonomous capacity of harmed populations.

5.7 A non-sacrifice review

Major projects, budgets, trade rules and public investments should be assessed through a common sequence: purpose, necessity, alternatives, distribution, thresholds, agency, repair and recursive monitoring. The burden of proof should fall more heavily on those proposing interventions that threaten severe or irreversible harm.

Universal provision and non-sacrifice reinforce one another. Secure necessities enlarge people's ability to refuse harmful employment or extraction. Non-sacrifice ensures that one population's life floor is not constructed by pushing another below it.

6. The Economy as Regenerative Provisioning

6.1 The economy within life

Every economy is a provisioning system before it is a market or a growth mechanism. It organizes access to food, water, shelter, care, energy, knowledge and protection from risk. Production depends upon prior conditions it did not create: ecosystems, cared-for bodies, accumulated knowledge, public infrastructure and social trust.

Economic accounts can record rising output while these foundations are being liquidated. Agriculture may increase yields while soil fertility falls. A hospital may increase throughput while exhausting staff. A government may reduce expenditure while infrastructure decays. A firm may report profit while leaving toxic liabilities to the public.

A genuine surplus exists only where present provision does not diminish the capacity for future provision.

6.2 Regeneration beyond sustainability

Sustainability often means maintaining activity or reducing the rate of damage. Regeneration is stronger. It actively renews the capacities upon which the system depends.

In agriculture, regeneration restores soil, water, biodiversity and farmer competence. In healthcare, it strengthens prevention, primary care, workforce capacity and the social conditions of health. In education, it renews judgment, curiosity, cultural memory and teaching capacity. In energy, it builds sufficient, durable and democratically governed systems compatible with ecological limits.

Regeneration is simultaneously ecological, social, institutional and relational. A forest-restoration programme that exhausts workers or displaces custodial communities is not fully regenerative.

6.3 From linear throughput to sufficient cycles

The dominant industrial sequence is extraction, production, consumption and disposal. Circular design seeks maintenance, repair, reuse, remanufacture and recovery. But circularity alone is insufficient. Recycling requires energy, materials degrade and a circular economy can still expand beyond ecological limits.

Regenerative provisioning combines circular design with sufficiency. It seeks minimal necessary throughput for maximal life-capacity. Products should be durable, repairable and open to local maintenance. Material use should be prioritized toward necessities and capacity-enlarging functions rather than planned obsolescence and status competition.

6.4 Necessary, discretionary and life-disabling production

National accounts treat monetized production as positive regardless of purpose. A life-coherent economy distinguishes necessary provision, capacity-enlarging provision, legitimate discretionary goods, wasteful production and life-disabling activity.

The categories are contextual rather than centrally fixed. A vehicle may be necessary in a remote region and wasteful where excellent public transport exists. Digital technology may enlarge knowledge while also creating surveillance and dependency. The purpose of the distinction is not moral micromanagement but visibility: all production does not contribute equally to prosperity.

6.5 Regenerative sectors

Food, water, housing, energy, healthcare, education and care illustrate the framework.

Food security requires soil, water, crop diversity, secure tenure, fair labour and regional resilience, not only commodity output. Water provision requires watershed protection, maintenance, sanitation, demand management and recharge, not only network connections. Housing should be governed by habitation rather than speculative value and should prioritize repair, retrofit, secure tenure and community continuity. Energy policy should guarantee sufficient clean access, redesign infrastructure to reduce avoidable demand and constrain luxury throughput.

Healthcare should reproduce the conditions of health rather than process increasing disease. Education should regenerate knowledge and democratic competence rather than prepare people only as labour inputs. Care should enlarge the capacity of recipients without exhausting caregivers.

6.6 Finance as servant of provision

Finance coordinates claims upon future production. When return becomes the governing purpose, housing, healthcare, water and knowledge are reorganized around revenue rather than life. A life-coherent sequence begins with public purpose, assesses real resources and ecological constraints, designs the institution and only then selects the financing mechanism.

The deepest constraints are labour, materials, technology, ecological space, productive bottlenecks and inflation. Money cannot create nurses, water or soil by declaration, but lack of financial claims should not prevent available resources from serving necessary purposes.

6.7 The regenerative balance sheet

A regenerative balance sheet records not only financial assets and liabilities but the condition of the systems on which financial value depends. Assets include healthy populations, care capacity, infrastructure, knowledge, trust, ecological integrity and reserves. Liabilities include pollution, deferred maintenance, health burdens, exhausted caregivers, depleted soils and unresolved obligations of repair.

This accounting changes the meaning of efficiency. Spare hospital capacity, distributed energy, food reserves and redundant water systems may appear costly in normal periods while preserving life during disturbance. Viable systems require margin.

7. The Enlargement of Living Capacities

7.1 Prosperity beyond income and consumption

Income, wealth, infrastructure and technology are means. Their value lies in what they enable. A hospital matters because it supports health; transport because it enables access; a home because it provides safety, privacy and belonging.

The institutional error occurs when the means become the objective. Health systems pursue revenue rather than health, housing systems asset appreciation rather than habitation, and economies output rather than the conditions of a good life.

The substantive purpose of a life-coherent economy is the protection, restoration and enlargement of living capacities.

7.2 Human capacities

Living capacities include bodily health; cognitive and epistemic competence; care and relationship; political agency; control over time; productive and creative contribution; cultural continuity; and the ability to adapt under disturbance.

These capacities are relationally produced. Mobility depends on accessible design and transport. Literacy depends on teachers, language and institutions. Political agency depends on information, organization and responsive

authority. A person cannot be made capable through an individual resource while the surrounding relation remains disabling.

7.3 Community and ecological capacities

Communities are not merely collections of individual welfare. They carry trust, memory, culture, practical knowledge, institutional competence and the ability to act collectively. Development can raise income while diminishing these capacities through displacement or dependency.

Ecological systems also possess capacities in a functional sense: regenerating soil, regulating water, maintaining food webs and adapting to disturbance. They should not be treated only as stocks of services for humans. Human capacity can persist only where the generative powers of the biosphere remain intact.

7.4 Time, care and meaningful contribution

Time is the medium of every other capacity. Care, learning, participation, creativity, rest and relationship require it. Long paid work, commuting, fragmented services and unpaid domestic labour produce time poverty even where income is adequate.

Shorter working time should therefore be understood as a capacity institution. It distributes productivity gains as freedom and creates space for care and citizenship. It must be combined with universal services and gender equality so that formal reductions do not intensify unpaid sacrifice.

Work itself can be a source of meaning, competence and recognition. The objective is not a society without contribution but one in which survival does not depend on accepting degrading or harmful work and where care, repair, art and ecological stewardship receive social support.

7.5 Adaptive capacity and the preservation of options

Prosperity includes the ability to respond to uncertainty. Households, hospitals, ecosystems and supply systems require reserves, diversity, redundancy and spare capacity. An optimized system operating without margin may be efficient in stable conditions and fragile under disturbance.

Resilience is not sufficient if it preserves an unjust system by shifting burdens onto vulnerable groups. Life-coherent adaptability includes the capacity to transform the structures generating repeated harm and to restore the conditions of future life.

7.6 A life-capacity ledger

A life-capacity ledger supplements monetary and material accounts without collapsing every value into one score.

Table 2. A preliminary life-capacity ledger.

Domain	Core question
Bodily capacity	Can people maintain health, function and bodily integrity?
Necessity security	Are food, water, shelter, energy and care reliably accessible?
Cognitive capacity	Can people learn, understand and evaluate their circumstances?
Relational capacity	Can people sustain care, trust, belonging and cooperation?
Political capacity	Can people influence and contest the institutions governing them?
Temporal capacity	Do people possess sufficient control over time?
Productive and creative capacity	Can people contribute, make, repair and create meaningfully?
Ecological capacity	Are the living systems supporting provision being restored?

Domain	Core question
Adaptive capacity	Do people and institutions possess margins and options under disturbance?
Cultural capacity	Can communities sustain memory, meaning and plural ways of life?

Measurement must combine objective indicators, subjective experience, distributional evidence and ecological observation. No improving average should conceal systematic deterioration among those with the least security and voice.

7.7 Abundance without excess

Ecological politics is often heard as a demand for less life. A life-coherent framework distinguishes material excess from lived abundance. Secure necessities, health, knowledge, time, public beauty, trustworthy relationships and ecological vitality can expand without proportional increases in throughput.

The transition is not from abundance to scarcity. It is from private excess amid public deprivation toward public, relational and temporal abundance.

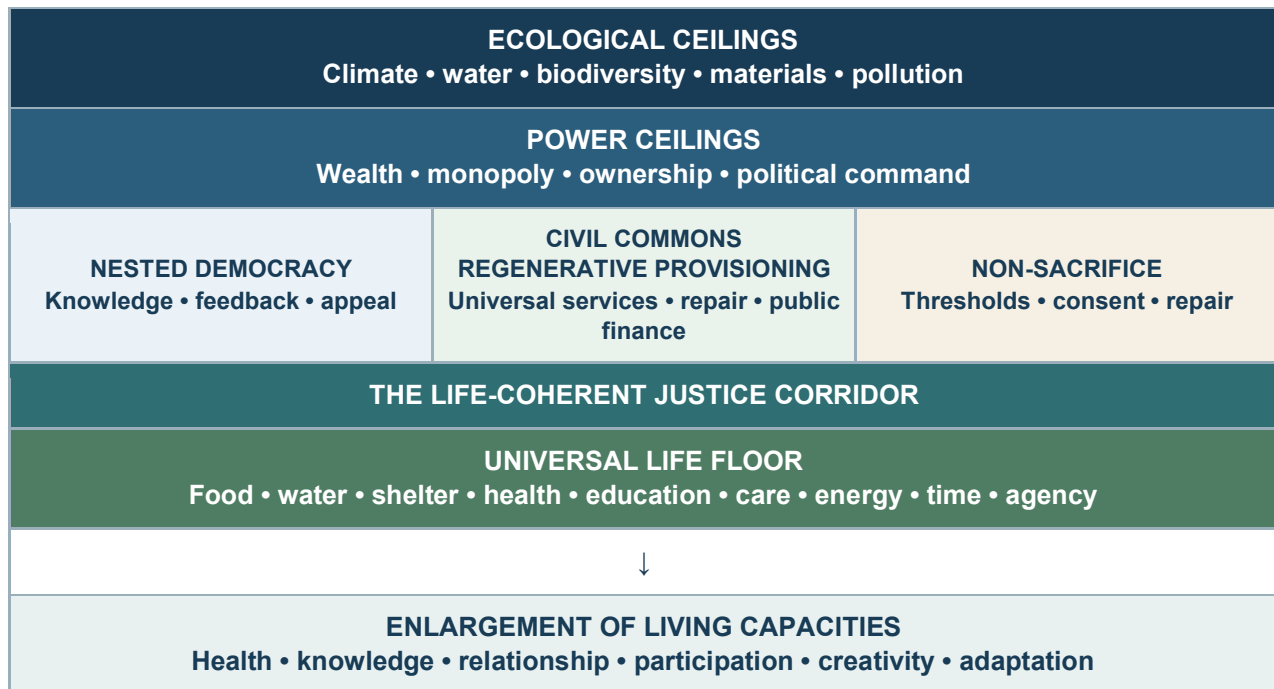
Part III — Institutional Reconstruction and Critical Testing

8. A Life-Coherent Institutional Architecture

8.1 A constitutional corridor

Principles become consequential only when embodied in enforceable rights, fiscal systems, ownership rules, knowledge institutions and democratic authority. A life-coherent architecture is organized around a universal life floor, ecological ceilings, power ceilings, civil commons, stewardship institutions and nested governance.

Figure 1. The Life-Coherent Justice Corridor.



The floor protects the necessities and capabilities below which no person should fall. Ecological ceilings limit pressure on the living systems that generate future provision. Power ceilings constrain concentrations of wealth and organizational control that become unaccountable command. Civil commons provide necessities collectively. Stewardship institutions direct property and finance toward regenerative purpose. Nested democracy connects local knowledge with national guarantees and global responsibility.

8.2 Ordering social claims

Every political economy contains a hierarchy of claims. Contemporary systems often protect property and debt more strongly than food, health or housing. A life-coherent ordering reverses that priority:

1. Bodily life and universal necessities
2. Ecological systems required for present and future life
3. Agency, participation and protection from domination
4. Repair of accumulated social and ecological harm
5. Preservation of shared productive capacity
6. Ordinary contractual and property claims
7. Discretionary accumulation and luxury consumption

Contracts and property remain legitimate, but only within prior obligations to life. Debt service cannot automatically require closure of essential services. A patent cannot possess greater authority than access to a life-saving medicine where no adequate alternative exists.

8.3 The universal life-floor guarantee

The life floor should be recognized through constitutions, international covenants, statutes and sectoral guarantees. Rights must identify responsible providers and remedies. Some core obligations — protection against hunger, unsafe water, homelessness, preventable death and severe toxic exposure — require immediate action. Other capacities may be progressively expanded, but progressive realization must include plans, timelines and transparent use of available resources.

A Global Civil Commons Guarantee would supplement unequal national capacities. It would provide a universal per-capita base, adjustments for deprivation and vulnerability, reparatory components and direct support for training, maintenance and institutional development.

8.4 Ecological and power ceilings

Ecological ceilings should be translated into binding carbon, water, nutrient, pollution, land and material budgets at appropriate global and subglobal scales. Their allocation must reflect universal needs, current consumption, historical responsibility, vulnerability and transition capacity.

Power ceilings should limit the ability of wealth and organizational concentration to govern others without reciprocity. Instruments include progressive wealth and inheritance taxes, antimonopoly policy, limits on corporate voting concentration, worker codetermination, public-interest duties, land limits, media rules and democratic control of essential infrastructure.

The corridor between floor and ceilings is a plural field of legitimate prosperity. It is neither unlimited consumer sovereignty nor comprehensive state prescription.

8.5 Plural ownership and stewardship

No single ownership form fits every function. Natural monopolies and essential networks often require public or municipal ownership. Care, health and education may combine public, cooperative and nonprofit forms under universal guarantees. Local and discretionary production may use markets and small enterprise. Knowledge, forests, fisheries and land may be governed through commons and Indigenous institutions.

The decisive question is whether ownership functions as accountable stewardship. Land, corporations and financial assets are embedded in relationships with workers, communities, ecosystems and future generations. Ownership therefore carries duties of maintenance, disclosure, fair contribution, ecological protection and non-harm.

8.6 Regenerative public finance and credit

Public finance begins with the life-capacity objective, identifies real-resource requirements, assesses ecological and inflationary constraints and selects the appropriate tax, credit, grant, equity or monetary instrument. Necessary low-yield investments should not disappear because they fail conventional bankability tests.

Public banks and development institutions should prioritize water, health, housing, care, clean energy, public transport, food-system resilience, ecological restoration and open knowledge. Credit restrictions should apply to projects violating ecological ceilings, creating sacrifice zones or deepening monopoly and planned obsolescence.

8.7 Non-sacrifice review and repair

An independent Non-Sacrifice Review Authority could integrate environmental, health, social and human-rights assessment around the question of disposability. Its jurisdiction would include major infrastructure, extraction, climate projects, trade rules, debt programmes and public-fund investments.

Affected communities and workers should possess standing, access to independent expertise and rights of appeal. Depending on severity, the authority could require redesign, impose restoration obligations, suspend disbursement or refer matters to courts. It must remain institutionally separate from project promoters and funders.

8.8 Life-capacity accounting and social sensing

A Life-Capacity Accounting Authority would integrate monetary accounts, material flows, ecological conditions, access, time, care, agency and resilience. It would combine administrative data with worker knowledge, community testimony and local or Indigenous ecological observation.

The objective is not a larger technocratic dashboard. It is a distributed sensing system through which evidence of living harm can change the institution. Data must be publicly intelligible, disaggregated and linked to remedy.

8.9 Nested democracy

Authority should be located at the lowest level capable of governing the relevant consequences, while higher levels guarantee rights, redistribute capacity and address cross-border harm. Households, communities, municipalities, bioregions, states, regions and global institutions each govern different relations.

Subsidiarity without solidarity abandons poor localities. Solidarity without subsidiarity becomes central domination. Life-coherent governance combines both.

At the global level, interstate representation should be supplemented by councils representing civil-commons institutions, workers and affected communities, Indigenous peoples, future generations, ecological systems and plural knowledge. No single body should control agenda, information, implementation and review simultaneously.

8.10 Institutional learning and anti-capture design

Institutions should define intended life outcomes, monitor consequences, identify sacrifice and revise rules. Procedural coherence must never be protected against contrary evidence.

Anti-capture safeguards include transparent appointments, conflict-of-interest rules, term limits, disclosure, independent audit, whistle-blower protection, public appeal and distributed decision-making. Administrative requirements should be proportional to risk so that the architecture does not consume the time and capacity it is meant to protect.

8.11 Institutional matrix

Table 3. Core institutions in a life-coherent architecture.

Institution	Primary function	Life-coherent safeguard
Universal life floor	Guarantee necessities and participation	Effective access, rights and local adaptation
Ecological ceilings	Protect regenerative capacity	Binding budgets, precaution and differentiated responsibility
Power ceilings	Prevent domination	Progressive taxation, codetermination and antimonopoly rules
Civil commons	Provide essential services	Universality, worker protection, participation and regeneration
Global Life Commons	Equalize provisioning and transition capacity	Rights-based allocation and reciprocal accountability
World Life Stewardship Trust	Hold shared productive assets	Life mandate above portfolio return
Public credit institutions	Finance necessary regenerative production	Real-resource discipline and non-sacrifice review
Non-Sacrifice Review Authority	Detect displaced and irreversible harm	Independent standing and powers of remedy
Life-Capacity Accounting Authority	Make living consequences visible	Disaggregation, plural knowledge and public intelligibility
Nested democratic bodies	Align authority with consequence	Subsidiarity with solidarity

Institution	Primary function	Life-coherent safeguard
Future and ecological trustees	Protect absent and nonhuman interests	Option preservation and ecological standing
Transition councils	Support workers and regions through change	Alternatives before closure and guaranteed security

9. Reconstructing the Global Justice Platform

9.1 From a fund to a global life commons

The report's institutions amount to the beginnings of a global public order. The life-coherent reconstruction preserves their scale while clarifying their constitutional purpose.

The Global Justice Fund becomes a **Global Life Commons** with six mandates: universal life-floor provision, regenerative transition, equalization of institutional capability, reparatory repair, crisis solidarity and knowledge and technology commons.

It would finance not only projects but the capacity to continue provisioning after projects end. Every major investment should leave behind trained people, maintainable systems, shared knowledge, local supply capacity and authority to adapt.

9.2 Capability compacts and reciprocal accountability

Conventional conditionality makes funding dependent on centrally prescribed targets and can deepen deprivation when institutions fail. A capability compact begins with a jointly defined life-capacity outcome, maps resource and institutional gaps, includes affected communities and focuses corrective action on rebuilding capacity.

Accountability must be reciprocal. Recipient states report on access, distribution and ecological effects. Affluent states report on imported emissions, tax avoidance, technology restrictions and fulfilment of financing obligations. Corporations report on labour, land, pollution and supply chains. The Global Life Commons reports on delay, administrative burden, investment contradictions and errors.

Responsibility follows causal power, benefit and capacity, not territorial jurisdiction alone.

9.3 From sovereign fund to stewardship trust

The World Sovereign Fund becomes a **World Life Stewardship Trust** holding productive assets on behalf of present populations, future generations, civil commons and ecological systems. Its investment hierarchy places universal necessities, prevention of severe harm, restoration, resilient infrastructure and dignified work above portfolio return.

Financial returns remain relevant to preserving public value, but essential services cannot become contingent on market performance. Taxation and public monetary capacity must remain part of the fiscal base. Otherwise, public provision could become dependent on the profitability of the extractive economy it seeks to transform.

The trust should use ownership rights to democratize firms through worker representation, ecological duties, transparent supply chains, limits on executive remuneration and pathways toward cooperative, municipal or public ownership where appropriate.

9.4 Global taxation as contribution, limitation and repair

Global wealth and income taxes finance common provision, limit domination and transfer ownership. A life-coherent tax constitution adds repair. Activities generating large ecological and health liabilities must fund restoration, while some harms require prohibition rather than a price.

Evidence concerning offshore wealth and international tax evasion further supports the need for coordinated enforcement, asset transparency and beneficial-ownership registries (Alstadsæter et al., 2023).

Tax design should distinguish necessary consumption from luxury emissions and monopoly rents. Costs should not be shifted indiscriminately onto low-income consumers. Direct regulation and public alternatives may be more appropriate where demand is inelastic or essential.

9.5 A monetary commons

The proposed United Nations Central Bank and international currency can be reconstructed as a democratic monetary commons. International money is a coordination system for claims on real resources. Its issuance should support universal provision, crisis liquidity, regenerative investment and balanced adjustment while remaining disciplined by productive capacity, ecological limits and inflation.

The International Clearing Union should protect essential imports and impose reciprocal obligations on persistent surplus and deficit countries. Deficits caused by medicines, food, energy or machinery differ from luxury consumption. Surpluses created through wage suppression or underdeveloped domestic provision differ from socially beneficial efficiency.

No country should be required to dismantle its life floor merely to obtain foreign currency.

9.6 Nested global democracy

The report's double-majority rule remains the foundation for an Assembly of Peoples and States. It should be supplemented by representation from civil-commons institutions, workers, communities, Indigenous peoples, future generations, ecological trustees and plural knowledge systems.

The purpose is not to create maximal complexity. It is to prevent executive governments and financial experts from monopolizing global public authority. High-risk, irreversible decisions require agreement across more than one representative form; low-risk, reversible and locally supported actions should face lighter procedures.

9.7 Trade, debt and reparatory relations

Trade should serve mutual provisioning rather than competitive access to low wages and weak ecological standards. Consumption-based accounting should accompany territorial indicators. No country should gain advantage by disabling the capacities of its people or ecosystems.

Debt is a conditional social claim, not an absolute command over future life. Repayment terms should be assessed against universal necessities, public capacity, historical responsibility and ecological counterclaims. Illegitimate debt, colonial extraction and climate damage may generate obligations in the opposite direction.

Reparations should therefore include restitution, debt relief, technology sharing, ecosystem restoration, health repair, institutional reconstruction and guarantees of non-repetition, not only cash transfers.

9.8 Public abundance and political legitimacy

Ecological transition cannot be sustained as austerity for ordinary people. Its benefits must become visible through secure housing, health, water, transport, clean energy, care, education, public beauty and shorter work.

This public abundance differs from luxury abundance. It enlarges value through shared access rather than exclusion. The political promise is that the poor will not be required to remain poor, workers will not carry transition costs while extreme wealth is protected, and ecological restoration will enlarge security and time in the present.

9.9 From global justice to a life-coherent commonwealth

The reconstructed platform can be summarized as follows:

Table 4. Reconstruction of the Global Justice Platform.

Original platform	Life-coherent reconstruction
Global Justice Fund	Global Life Commons securing necessities and regeneration
Equal country dividends	Life-capacity dividends adjusted for need, vulnerability and repair
World Sovereign Fund	World Life Stewardship Trust holding productive wealth in trust
Global taxes	Contributions that finance commons, limit domination and redistribute ownership
Health and education expenditure	Effective capability guarantees measured through access, quality and agency
Climate investment	Multi-boundary regeneration subject to non-sacrifice
Performance conditions	Reciprocal capability compacts
UN central bank	Democratic monetary commons
International Clearing Union	Reciprocal adjustment protecting essential provision
Double-majority voting	Nested representation of states, peoples, workers and future life
Monitoring	Distributed social sensing and a life-coherent ledger
Reparatory transfers	Restitution, repair and institutional transformation
Shorter working time	A global time dividend supporting care, participation and sufficiency

The commonwealth is not a centralized world state. It is a pattern of reciprocal governance in which global authority is limited to genuinely global relations, local agency remains protected, and universal rights bind every level.

10. Objections, Tensions and Falsification Tests

10.1 The danger of conceptual overreach

Life is the broadest possible object of concern. The concept gains integrative power but risks becoming an empty moral label. If every preferred outcome is called life-coherent and every disliked outcome life-incoherent, the framework explains nothing.

Claims of life-coherence must therefore be tied to observable relations: effective access, capacity, burden distribution, ecological renewal, participation and correction. Public ownership, sustainability language or location in a valued sector cannot establish coherence by themselves.

10.2 Essentialism and paternalism

Universal necessities may be criticized for imposing one model of the good life. The framework responds by distinguishing species-level dependencies, universal protections against domination and contextually interpreted institutional forms. The entitlement is universal; its realization remains plural.

Paternalism remains a real risk. Provision must be governed with people, not merely delivered to them. Recipients need information, choice, representation, appeal and the power to reshape services. Expertise is necessary but must remain accountable to lived consequence.

10.3 Local domination and global centralization

Local authority may protect culture and knowledge but can also preserve exclusion or export harm. Global authority is necessary for climate, tax and monetary relations but can become distant and technocratic. Subsidiarity

must therefore remain bounded by universal rights and non-sacrifice; global jurisdiction must remain limited, transparent and contestable.

The architecture fails if either level becomes immune from those affected.

10.4 Bureaucracy and metric capture

The proposed institutions could generate reporting burdens, delay and professionalized compliance. Procedures should be graduated according to harm, scale and reversibility. Small local projects should not face the same scrutiny as transnational extraction.

Metrics also create incentives to optimize the number rather than the underlying capacity. Quantitative data must be triangulated with qualitative evidence, worker knowledge and ecological observation. Any indicator should be revised when improvement in the measure accompanies deterioration in the reality it was meant to represent.

10.5 Freedom, innovation and incentives

Ecological and power ceilings constrain some choices. The framework distinguishes legitimate freedom from power over others. Universal provision enlarges freedom from necessity; limits on domination enlarge freedom to refuse; ecological ceilings preserve future freedom.

Innovation does not require unlimited private accumulation, but public and cooperative systems must demonstrate that they can sustain experimentation, risk and reward. Universal provision may reduce labour supplied under coercion; this is desirable unless essential systems cannot attract sufficient skilled work. The empirical task is to design meaningful, secure and fairly rewarded contribution without recreating deprivation as an incentive.

10.6 Growth, material feasibility and inflation

The framework is neither pro-growth nor anti-growth in the abstract. Necessary sectors may expand; harmful and wasteful sectors must contract. The aggregate result is an empirical outcome. Post-growth stability requires redesign of employment, debt, pensions, taxation and finance rather than assuming that low growth is automatically benign.

Normative ambition must pass real-resource analysis. Housing, clean energy, health and restoration require labour, minerals, land, energy and skills. Large financial transfers may generate inflation where supply cannot expand. Sequencing, training, public production, strategic reserves, taxation and reduction of luxury demand are therefore part of the architecture.

10.7 Political and enforcement feasibility

The programme threatens concentrated wealth, corporate control and monetary privilege. Coherent design does not create the coalition capable of implementing it. Political feasibility depends on early gains in security, services, time and accountability, and on alliances among workers, care providers, public institutions, municipalities, ecological movements, Indigenous peoples and states seeking monetary autonomy.

Global enforcement is equally difficult. Corrective trade and financial measures must target responsible institutions as precisely as possible. Indiscriminate punishment or military coercion would contradict non-sacrifice.

10.8 Institutional self-preservation and rhetorical capture

Institutions tend to protect their own models and mandates. Life-coherent bodies therefore require independent audit, sunset or review provisions, whistle-blower protection, competing knowledge sources and explicit evidence that would trigger revision.

The language itself may be captured. A corporation or government should not self-certify as regenerative or life-coherent. Claims require public evidence, disaggregated impacts and rights of challenge.

10.9 Falsification matrix

Table 5. Provisional falsification matrix.

Core claim	Evidence supporting it	Evidence requiring revision
Universal provision enlarges freedom	Greater access, lower insecurity, improved agency and reduced household burden	Bureaucratic exclusion, lower quality, coercive dependency or unsustainable depletion
Non-sacrifice improves justice	Fewer concentrated harms, stronger consent, better alternatives and real repair	Paralysis, protection of privilege, greater irreversible harm or elite capture
Regenerative provisioning renews capacity	Ecological recovery, maintained infrastructure, healthy workers and stronger local competence	Hidden depletion, deferred maintenance, imported sacrifice or growing dependency
Capacity is a better compass than output alone	Improved health, time, agency, ecology and resilience	Indicator complexity without better outcomes or suppression of pluralism
Power ceilings strengthen democracy	Broader ownership, less capture, worker voice and public capacity	State oligarchy, productive collapse, evasion or new unaccountable concentration
Global public institutions equalize capability	Reduced North-South asymmetry, better provision and reciprocal accountability	Central domination, corruption or reproduction of monetary hierarchy
Nested governance improves responsiveness	Better local fit, participation and ecological stewardship	Fragmentation, local exclusion or inability to manage cross-border harms

10.10 Holding the life-ground firmly and the model provisionally

Some commitments define the moral identity of the framework: avoidable deprivation is unacceptable; no population should be treated as disposable; ecological systems required for life must be protected; concentrated power requires limitation; affected people deserve voice and remedy; and institutions must respond to evidence of harm.

Specific taxes, funds, councils, indicators and voting systems remain institutional hypotheses. Their legitimacy depends upon performance. The framework must be capable of discovering that a favoured policy is harmful or that a rival design works better.

The central discipline is simple:

Never fall in love with coherence more than reality.

11. Conclusion: The Democratic Enablement of Life

The *Global Justice Report* refuses the proposition that equality must be sacrificed to ecological stability. It rejects a future in which poorer societies remain permanently poor because affluent societies have already occupied disproportionate ecological space. It also rejects the institutional modesty through which climate disruption and extreme inequality are declared urgent while global public finance remains marginal.

Its achievement is to join convergence, redistribution, shorter work, public services, decarbonization, taxation, shared ownership and international monetary reform in one quantified programme. It shows that another global political economy can be imagined.

This paper has argued that the architecture requires a deeper constitutional grounding. Equality in monetary claims does not guarantee access to life conditions. Public expenditure does not guarantee care. Public ownership does not guarantee public purpose. Low-carbon transition does not guarantee the absence of sacrifice. Interstate democracy does not guarantee agency among peoples and communities.

A life-coherent political economy therefore rests on four principles.

Universal life necessities identify the conditions no person should be denied. Non-sacrifice prevents aggregate progress from resting on disposability. Regenerative provisioning reorganizes the economy around renewal of the systems through which provision becomes possible. The enlargement of living capacities defines prosperity through health, knowledge, care, relationship, participation, time, creativity, ecological integrity and adaptive agency.

These principles transform the meaning of global institutions. The Global Justice Fund becomes a commons securing universal provision and repair. The sovereign fund becomes a stewardship trust. Monetary reform becomes shared capacity to coordinate real resources rather than preserve creditor hierarchy. International democracy becomes nested authority linking states, communities, workers, knowledge and future life.

The transformation is not a movement away from economic analysis. It is an insistence that economic variables retain their status as means. Money, property, markets and states are human institutions whose legitimacy derives from the life they enable.

Peace follows the same logic. It is not merely the absence of armed conflict but the organized enablement of life: food, water, health, housing, ecological security, fair monetary relations and institutions capable of hearing grievances before they become violence.

The final proposition can be stated directly:

The purpose of economic and political institutions is not the endless reproduction of money, markets, states or organizations. It is the democratic protection, restoration and enlargement of the conditions and capacities of life.

A just world is not one in which every person merely receives a fairer share of an unchanged system. It is one in which no one is denied the necessities of dignified life; no community is rendered disposable; no society secures abundance by exporting deprivation; no institution protects its procedural coherence against evidence of harm; and no generation purchases prosperity by destroying the possibility of those who follow.

Universal necessities define the floor. Ecological and power ceilings define the limits. Non-sacrifice defines the boundary of legitimate action. Regenerative provisioning defines the means. Living capacities define the purpose. Democratic governance supplies the method through which these commitments remain open to knowledge, plurality, correction and collective authorship.

The *Global Justice Report* has shown that equality and planetary habitability can be thought together. The life-coherent task is to ensure that the world constructed through that synthesis remains answerable, at every level, to the life it is intended to serve.

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This paper was developed through an extended, author-directed dialogue with OpenAI's ChatGPT. Generative artificial intelligence assisted with comparative synthesis, conceptual organization, exploratory drafting, structural editing, linguistic refinement and the creation of the cover artwork. The author determined the questions, normative orientation, conceptual framework, source selection, visual direction and substantive conclusions, and retains responsibility for verification and final publication. The AI system is not credited as an author because it cannot assume scholarly responsibility, approve the final manuscript or respond to criticism.

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