

# Summary of Massembly

## Results: 13th October 2024

**Here are the results from Sunday 13 October online Massembly.**

We discussed the question: "How can we take meaningful steps to Upgrade Democracy?"

447 participants voted, 43,153 votes were cast, 96.54 votes per participant on average, 137 commented, 453 comments submitted.

### **1. Citizens' Assemblies and Participatory Democracy**

- Citizens' Assemblies offer inclusive platforms for deliberation on important issues, involving diverse voices and opinions.
- Citizens' Assemblies should be used at local, regional, and national levels, with legally binding decisions and integration into parliamentary processes.
- These assemblies are tools for rebuilding trust in democracy by involving ordinary citizens in decision-making.

### **2. Education for Democratic Participation**

- Civic and political education should begin early to develop responsible, engaged citizens who understand democracy and governance.
- Schools and educational institutions should implement assemblies and participatory budgeting to foster democratic practices.
- Media literacy and experiential learning are key to preparing future generations to resist misinformation and participate effectively.

### **3. Reducing Corporate and Private Influence**

- Corporate lobbyists, political donors, and mainstream media often wield disproportionate power, distorting democracy.
- Regulations are needed to limit donations, increase transparency in lobbying, and prevent private interests from influencing public policy.
- Fair media regulation, including accountability and fact-checking mechanisms, is crucial to protect the integrity of democracy.

### **4. Long-term Thinking and Future Generations**

- Decision-making should prioritise long-term impacts, taking into account the well-being of future generations and environmental sustainability.

- Legal frameworks should recognize the rights of nature, criminalise ecocide, and integrate environmental protection into democratic processes.
- A Future Generations Commission or Commissioner should assess policies for their impact on the unborn and natural ecosystems.

## **5. Transparency and Accountability in Governance**

- Transparent decision-making processes and public accountability are essential for restoring trust in politics.
- Governments should publicly record expert advice and decisions, ensuring that citizens understand the reasoning behind policies.
- Transparency in political funding and lobbying is necessary to reduce undue influence and promote fair, evidence-based decisions.

## **6. Inclusivity and Diversity in Decision-Making**

- Democracy should be inclusive, promoting representation of marginalised groups and fostering gender equality and diverse community participation.
- Grassroots initiatives, such as participatory budgeting and local assemblies, help empower underrepresented voices in the political process.
- Special provisions should be made to include non-voters (e.g., children and future generations) in decision-making.

## **7. Reforming Democratic Structures**

- The structure of political institutions, such as the House of Lords and electoral processes, needs reform to better represent citizens.
  - Deliberative and participatory processes, such as Citizens' Assemblies, should replace outdated and hierarchical systems.
  - Introducing non-oppositional, collaborative decision-making spaces could enhance democratic functionality and reduce polarisation.
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