To the Great Transition Network
Date: 2 October 2014
From Morton Deutsch

I have read Paul Raskin's recent statement with great interest. I think that he and other members of GTI might be interested in the findings of a recent research study we at the Global Community Forum recently conducted. This study, "Imagine a Global Human Community," surveyed a sample of 600 American adults. We presented in a brief statement the essence of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and FDR's Four Freedoms (www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/DeutschImagineaGlobalHumanCommunity.pdf) and asked them whether they would be willing to be a member of such a Global Community. If they indicated 'yes', we then asked whether were willing to make a commitment to take action to help develop such a community.

About 2/3 of our sample, were willing to be active members of the global community we described and were willing to make a commitment to take action to promote the rights and responsibilities involved in such a global community. There were significant demographic differences between those willing and those unwilling to make such a commitment. Those willing to make the commitment were more likely to be younger, better educated, better off financially, more liberal, more Democratic in political orientation, and more optimistic about the future.

When we analyzed the kind of actions people proposed to take, we found that 87% proposed to take "personal actions" (such as "think before acting when getting upset with someone", "be a better neighbor"), 11% indicated they would do something in their local community, an less than 2% indicated that they would direct their actions at national or global issues. Our preliminary conclusion is that most people do not know how to act, what actions are possible for them, and they need help by providing them with specific suggestions for action as has been done recently with "Climate Change Action" after the recent march on climate change (see 5 Climate Change Actions to Go Beyond the Summit).

Perhaps organizations such as GTI might want to consider developing suggestions for actions that might be taken by people interested in developing a Global Community.

~Morton Deutsch~