

# WHY A GLOBAL QUORUM?

## THEMATIC PROPOSAL

We are witnessing a change of era. A crossroads marked by the threat of overshooting the planet's limits and democratic regression, where wealth is concentrated in fewer and fewer hands and inequality is increasing. At a time like this, it is more necessary than ever to construct and consolidate alternatives that recognize the economic value of things.

This is how Quorum was born: as a dialogue from which to build a new narrative regarding what is possible. An exchange that allows us to connect struggles, join forces and unite legitimate claims for a democratic and citizen-centred response to the eco-social crisis.

### Where are we coming from: struggles and resistance in search of a global change

Although more than two decades of civil struggles have yielded some victories, they have, first and foremost, drawn attention to the existence of major challenges at global level: the planet's limits, the fight against patriarchy, the defence of social and labour rights in the face of growing insecurity, growing inequality and poverty and, more recently, the crisis of political representation

Challenges that affect all areas of the planet: in a globalized world, the North-South divide is not the only explanation. The political geography of poverty has changed: there are "Souths in the North" and "Norths in the South". The dynamics and policies that give rise to exclusion, poverty and inequality occur in all latitudes and their causes are increasingly interconnected. The concentration of wealth in a few hands - the majority alien to the idea of democratic sovereignty - is already a global phenomenon that threatens to break social pacts in places as seemingly buoyant as the Europe of Welfare.

And yet, the official account remains unchanged, heralding capitalism as the only system possible, with unlimited growth

as the only solution and individualism as a social ideal, the foregoing despite the increasingly evident systemic and structural limits of the aforementioned system, due to the planet's natural limits and the political inability to regulate the distribution of wealth on the part of States and international organizations that have also relinquished responsibility for matters as crucial as climate change or migration. States have proven themselves to be unable to stop the advances of the extreme right, totalitarianism, excluding nationalisms and discourses based on "machismo", xenophobia or homophobia.

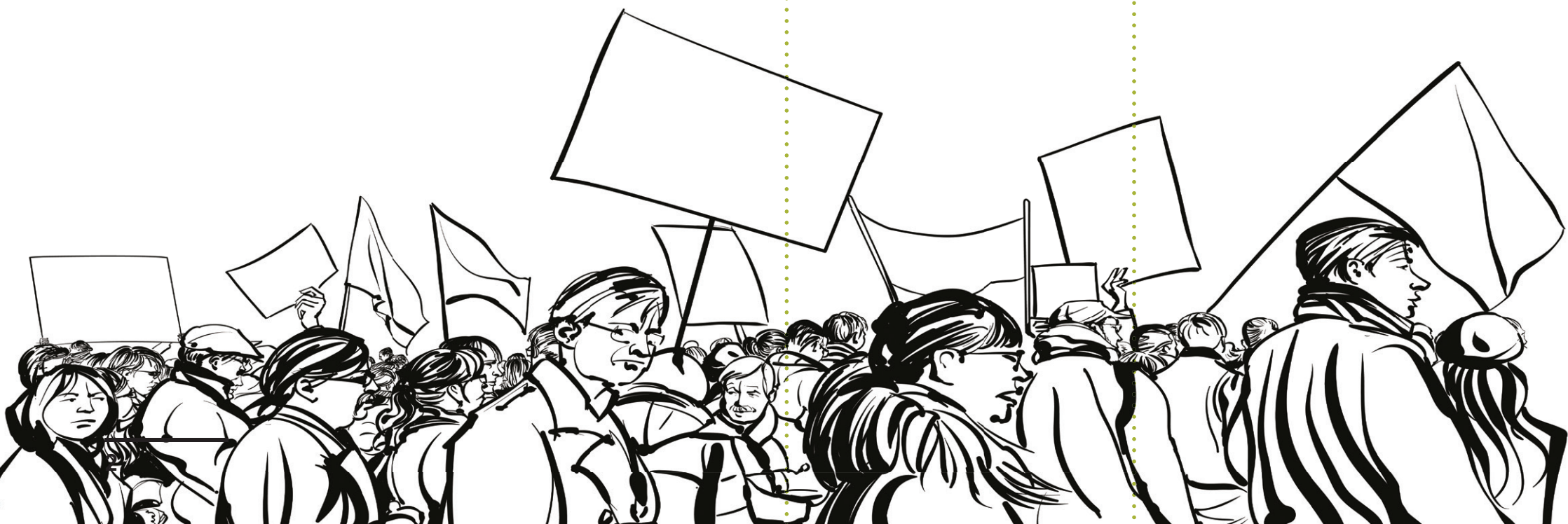
These challenges are also reflected in our country. In recent years, students, trade unions, workers, civil movements, associations and platforms have taken to the streets in protest. They have stopped healthcare privatization, halted the reform of abortion laws, prevented evictions and stood firm before banks in disputes such as those concerning preferential shares or floor clauses, among many others.

Resistance has been stemmed from the undeniable advances of social movements. However, a defensive strategy alone is insufficient if we want to gradually transform the present into something resembling a fairer future, based on the recognition of rights and not on consumption capacity, in which the economy refocuses on human relations, recognizing and respecting the planet's limits through an eminently feminist approach.

### Where do we want to go: new times, new paradigms

These are times of urgency. Times of change. Times of vital challenges with a global dimension but that are expressed in local conflicts and policies. Challenges to which politics has failed to provide a global response.

When faced with this scenario, the processes set in motion by organizations and social movements strive to construct alternatives that do not only recognize the economic value of things but prioritize human rights over consumption capacity and recognize and respect the planet's limits.



# FIVE FUNDAMENTAL APPROACHES

## Repolitization through global citizenship

The “act locally, think globally” mantra needs to be renewed if we are to recover spaces of citizen sovereignty in matters of public interest. Citizen participation and deliberation are the only guarantee that future transformations will advance along the path of inclusion, sustainability and the change of current power relations.

## Respect the limits set by the planet

We must abandon the old paradigm and model of unlimited development to formulate a new one that takes into account environmental limits, linking them with human rights, configuring a new space for life and coexistence where all people have the same access to resources.

## Human rights: the cornerstone underpinning our proposal

To drive global change, human rights must constitute the cornerstone of all other proposals. The right to basic income and decent housing, to a life free of violence and discrimination, the free movement of people and fiscal transparency and justice - both nationally and internationally - are crucial if we are to recover democratic control over our lives.

## Feminist perspectives and gender equality for a new society

The ethics of care are crucial for a people and planet-centred society. To this end, we must relinquish our privileges, acknowledge our interdependence and vulnerability and recognize and redistribute knowledge and care work. Furthermore, the feminist approach, as an analysis based on diversity and critical theory, is crucial for questioning the way in which we organize ourselves and relate with one another.

## People-centred economy

The new economic paradigm must recognize the limitations of a finite planet, in which environmental limits provide the framework for economic activity. It is essential to recover the territorial and local nature of economic activities, democratizing economic power and fostering social cooperation and initiatives based on solidarity. This new economy must also be underpinned by robust, cross-cutting ethics in the provision of care.



New paradigms are constructed not only based on principles but through daily practice. **Knowledge of existing experiences in different areas and common spaces is therefore essential. Practices and spaces that will provide the foundations on which we can work** and that represent Quorum Global's spheres of action:

**Regeneration and greater democracy**, to open and strengthen channels of political participation, especially for groups traditionally excluded from it.

- **Territories and cities as spaces for change.**
- Especially the latter, whose political and socio-economic importance and huge ecological impact requires them to lead this transformation. Likewise, the apparent contradiction between urban and rural areas, particularly with regard to food production, must also be resolved.

- **The construction of new cultural images and narratives** that, in order to counteract the neo-liberal discourse, are sufficiently strong to be heard and evolve into convictions embraced by most of society, serving as a breeding ground for change.



FREEDOM

REVOLUTION

PROTEST

**Constitutional and effective recognition of human rights** in their broadest sense, taking into account political, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights and embracing the fight against inequalities of income and wealth, as well as against patriarchy and all forms of discrimination. A legal framework that reflects the core values that we want to be governed by as a society.

**Constitutional recognition and specific actions to combat ecological collapse**, with a program to reduce energy consumption and the transition to renewable models with almost zero emissions before the middle of the century. The recovery of ecosystems to combat desertification and the loss of biodiversity and a commitment to ways of life adapted to the environment in local and coastal areas.

**Democratization of the socio-economic system**, refocused towards a model in which value is measured not only in terms of economic profit, but also based on environmental impact, respect for human rights, social equity and democratic transparency. Only in this way will it be possible to assess the commitment to the reduction of consumption and renewable energies, the promotion of organic farming, transport, industry or employment policies, care policies or the role of public institutions.

**The reformulation of fiscal policies**, so that both public budgets and private financing

are used to guarantee social rights and changes in the economic and territorial model.

**The promotion of alternative initiatives and forms of coexistence**, particularly ones that seek to reduce consumption levels and that are strongly linked to community relations, local resources and environmental protection.

**The refocusing of scientific and technical knowledge** through a commitment to interdisciplinarity, questioning the primacy of technoscience with respect to other knowledge both in universities and in public science, technology and innovation policies.

**The construction of a more democratic, just and sustainable Europe**, more in tune with the interests of people and more committed to ecological sustainability and social equity, especially with respect to persons forced to migrate as a result of persecution, wars or natural disasters.

**If you want to learn more, consult the full version of the thematic proposal by clicking [this link](#) (ES only).**

