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# “PERSPECTIVES FOR FEDERALISM AT GLOBAL LEVEL: CHALLENGES, ALTERNATIVES, OPPORTUNITIES”

How to implement supranational democratic solutions to global issues  
(some thoughts)

Milan, March 11,  
Susanna Cafaro

# Why??? Three disruptive novelties

- ▶ The climate imperative as a metaphor of our global interconnectedness
- ▶ The migration waves as a test for our respect of fundamental rights
- ▶ The new technologies as a realistic tool to solve our global problems

Is democracy in the picture?

# Problems:

- ▶ International organizations are inherently undemocratic
- ▶ Can an intergovernmental organization be democratic?
- ▶ How do we assess its democratic standards?
- ▶ What does it mean democratic outside the state model?

The background features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes in various shades, creating a modern and dynamic feel. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, some semi-transparent, layered against a white background.

We need a model,  
or a map...

**Possibly not carrying burdens from the past!**

SUPRANATIONAL  
DEMOCRACY

LEGITIMACY

ACCOUNTABILITY

INCLUSIVENESS

STATE

REGIONS

CITIES

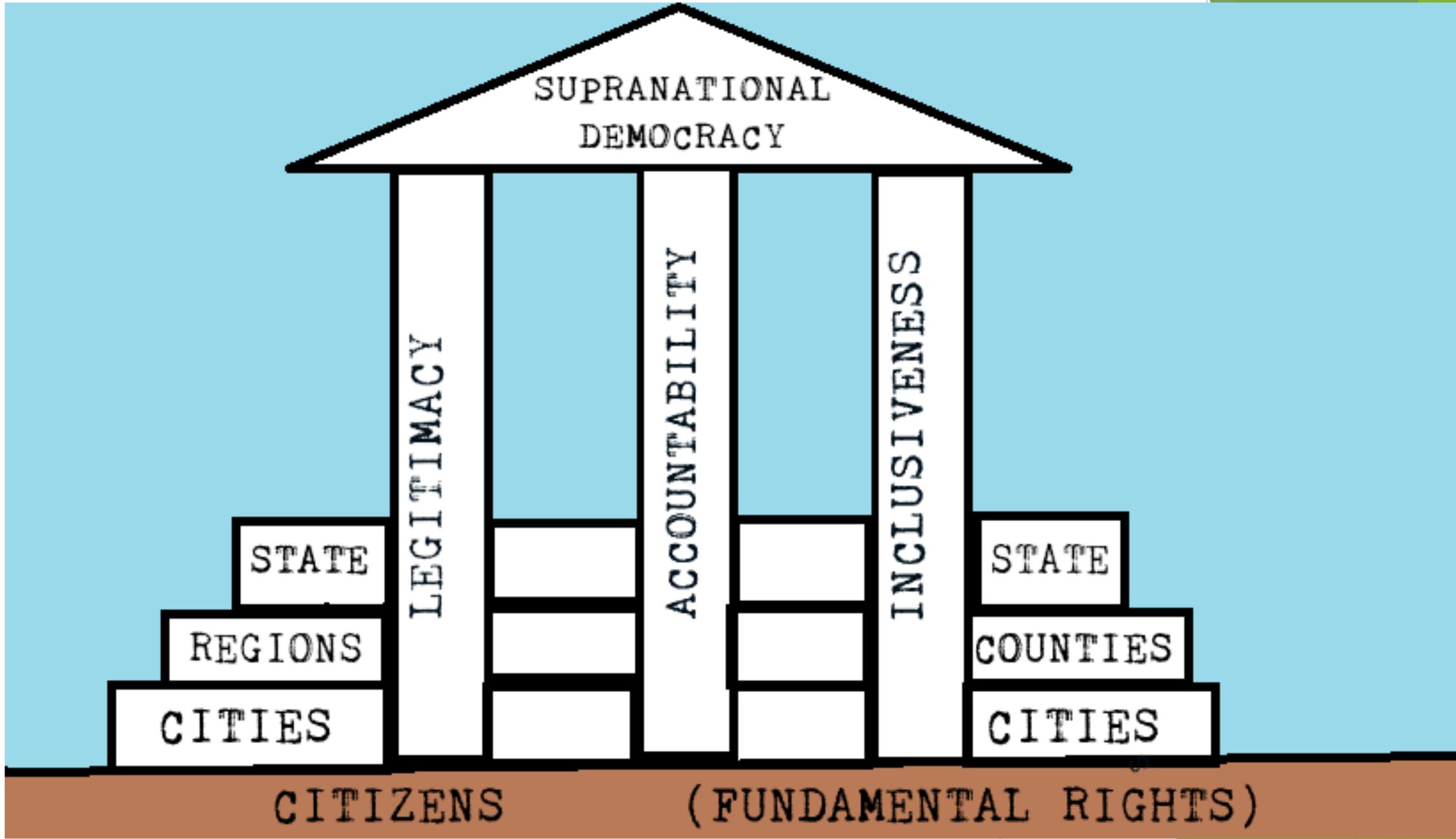
STATE

COUNTIES

CITIES

CITIZENS

(FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS)



# Legitimacy

- ▶ Rule of law
- ▶ Respect of shared values (charter)
- ▶ Participatory democracy (dialogues with civil society, on- line consultations)
- ▶ Representative democracy (parliaments/ elections)
- ▶ ???

# Accountability

- ▶ Political accountability:
  - ▶ motivated decisions
  - ▶ checks and balances
  - ▶ renewal of the decision makers
- ▶ Legal accountability
  - ▶ access to justice
  - ▶ claiming procedures
  - ▶ Ombudspersons
- ▶ Internal and external audit
- ▶ ???

# Inclusion

- ▶ Transparency
- ▶ Easy access to information
- ▶ Non-technical language
- ▶ Translations
- ▶ information campaigns
- ▶ Focal points on the ground
- ▶ ????

How do we move from  
international to  
supranational..

**And what this exactly means?**

# Three stories

- ▶ The freezing of assets of Mr Kadi and the ECJ case law ([C-402/05 P and C-415/05](#)) and the creation of the UN Ombudsperson
- ▶ The evolution of the relations between civil society and IMF and World Bank
- ▶ The Talanoa Process

**Individuals as game-changers**

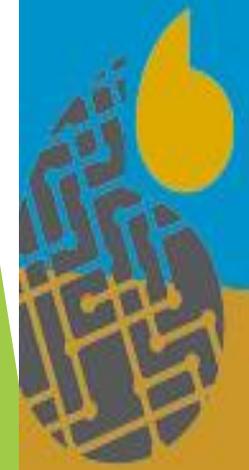
More than a model, a  
map... for travelling  
uncharted territories

Joining forces with other explorers...

<http://supranationaldemocracy.unisalento.it>

# Supranational Democracy Dialogue

April 26-27 2018, Lecce (Italy)



## To read more

Democracy in International Organizations. Arguments in Support of a Supranational Approach, *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Global Studies* ,issue 12, 2017.

# Thank you!

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<http://supranationaldemocracy.net>