**A manifesto for Universal Basic Assets**

If we were to declare the human right to Universal Basic Assets, we could start with eight categories of assets that could create a more equitable world:

**Natural resources**
- People need access to the basic life-sustaining resources of the natural environment—air, water, sunlight, and the ecosystems of animals and plants. Human life cannot survive apart from these resources, and every human being has a constitutional right to access to them, whether as public, private, or common resources. Furthermore, the human predisposition to organize these resources to satisfy their needs is a natural right we inherent.
- We declare that humans should have access to universal basic assets that help to sustain their life-sustaining ecosystem.

**Infrastructure**
- People need the tools and infrastructure on which human civilization is built, from roads and transportation systems to computer networks and digital infrastructure. Without these assets, people can’t access critical services and information that enable them to participate and be heard.
- We declare that humans should have access to the tools that enable them to participate in society.

**Human capital**
- People need the skills and knowledge to make their way in life and to completely manage the complex systems in which they participate. They need to understand the natural, human, computing, and social systems that regulate these systems. In short, they need education.
- We declare that humans should have access to universal basic assets that help them to develop their skills and knowledge.

**Community**
- People need community. They need opportunities to develop social and political identities with shared values, identities, ideologies, and life goals. They need to reconsider what we mean by “community” and how we organize communities that touch their lives. They also need to expand the concept of “community” to include other forms of connectivity.
- We declare that humans should have access to universal basic assets that support these principles.

**Power**
- People need standing—power to have voice, the ability to speak, and to influence the systems in which these assets are gathered. Without power, they are not able to influence their rights in the political, economic, social, and legal systems that shape their lives. They need opportunities to increase their standing and do not have a voice in the systems that govern them. Regardless of their standing, they need a voice to speak truth to power.
- We declare that humans should have access to universal basic assets that help them to gain power.

**Money**
- People need fungible currencies that can be traded for material, digital, and financial knowledge to participate fully in a global economy and society.
- We declare that humans should have access to universal basic assets that allow them to participate in a complex, global society.

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The numbers are striking. In 2010, 288 of the richest people in the world collectively owned as much as the poorest 3.5 billion. Less than a decade later, just eight people owned as much wealth as the bottom half of the world’s population. How did we get there? And what can we do about it? If we declared the human right to Universal Basic Assets, we could start with three design directions that can create a more equitable world.

**Public assets**
- Public assets include resources that are collectively owned and held for the benefit of all citizens or the state and governments or non-governmental organizations. They can include everything from public schools, health care, and transportation infrastructure to national parks, forests, and waterways. Public assets are a key to ensuring that one’s social mobility opportunities are those with the highest levels of access to public assets. We need everywhere struggling to mobilize private and public assets, and we need to set up systems and policies that make it easier for people to access public assets.

**Private assets**
- Private assets are resources that we own individually, family, and financial institutions, and state and government. We can declare a new right to this class of resources to help everyone participate and make a living in the world.

**Open assets**
- Open assets are resources that are open to everyone, generally in digital form, such as code for software, data for open science, or ideas for creative works. They enable individuals to build new systems that work on a local or global scale. We declare that there should be sufficient access to a diversity of currencies and financial knowledge to participate fully in a sustainable economy.
A Manifesto for Universal Basic Assets

If we envision the human right to Universal Basic Assets, we could start with the following categories of assets that could create a more equitable world:

1. **Universal Education**
   - Free access to quality education from early childhood through college
   - Guarantee that every child learns to read and write
   - Provide accessible, high-quality early childhood care and education for all

2. **Universal Health Care**
   - Universal access to primary care
   - Free access to essential medicines and vaccines
   - Provide mental health services and support

3. **Universal Basic Income**
   - Provide a guaranteed income to all adults
   - Allow individuals to choose how they want to use the income
   - Reduce poverty and inequality

4. **Universal Basic Technology**
   - Provide equal access to computers, internet, and other technologies
   - Ensure that every person has access to digital inclusion
   - Enable people to participate in the digital economy

5. **Universal Basic Housing**
   - Guarantee access to safe, affordable housing for all
   - Provide resources to help people build or purchase homes
   - Support the preservation and affordability of existing housing

6. **Universal Basic Food**
   - Provide access to healthy, affordable food
   - Support small-scale farmers and local food systems
   - Reduce hunger and food insecurity

7. **Universal Basic Energy**
   - Ensure access to clean, affordable energy for all
   - Support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects
   - Reduce greenhouse gas emissions

8. **Universal Basic Recreation**
   - Provide access to parks, recreation centers, and other outdoor spaces
   - Support community gardens and environmental stewardship
   - Promote healthy and active lifestyles

9. **Universal Basic Civic Engagement**
   - Guarantee the right to vote and participate in democratic processes
   - Support community-based organizations and social movements
   - Promote civic education and engagement

10. **Universal Basic Safety**
    - Ensure access to safe, secure, and healthy environments
    - Support public safety and emergency services
    - Promote community safety and security

11. **Universal Basic Cultural Expression**
    - Guarantee access to arts, culture, and creative expression
    - Support local and international artists and cultural organizations
    - Promote cultural diversity and expression

12. **Universal Basic Retirement Income**
    - Provide a guaranteed income for retirement
    - Support pensions and other retirement savings programs
    - Reduce poverty among the elderly

This map is a guide to designing this new economic model.

A framework for equity: three design directions

Private assets are resources that we own individually. Housing, land, personal wealth, educational vouchers, smart tablets, and art are examples of private assets. They can have both positive and negative impacts, with some individuals benefiting more than others.

Public assets are resources that are collectively owned and held in trust. They can include everything from public schools, health care, and transportation infrastructure to natural resources and public parks. They can help reduce inequality and create a more equitable society.

As we consider the role of private and public assets in our societies, we must also consider the role of equity and inclusion. How can we design public and private assets to promote equity, inclusion, and social justice?

How can we create the conditions for open assets to flourish and create a more equitable and sustainable future for all?
A manifesto for Universal Basic Assets

If we want to declare the human right to Universal Basic Assets, we could start with eight categories of assets that could create a more equitable world:

1. **Universal capital:** Includes the human capital of skills, knowledge, and financial resources; natural capital such as clean air, water, and nutrients; and infrastructural capital such as roads, schools, and markets.

2. **Universal environmental assets:** Include wetlands, forests, and ocean habitats.

3. **Universal access to digital information systems:** Includes access to up-to-date knowledge and training, as well as tools for creating new knowledge, including open data and open source.

4. **Universal public assets:** Include resources that are collectively owned and held, such as public parks, libraries, and public schools.

5. **Universal open assets:** Include resources that are open to everyone, including open data, open source, and open code.

6. **Universal private assets:** Include resources that are privately owned, such as homes, cars, and businesses.

7. **Universal cultural assets:** Include cultural productions, such as art, music, and literature.

8. **Universal health assets:** Include health care, including mental health care.

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In this moment of massive wealth inequity, we urgently need to develop a new model for society to deliver both social and economic equity. The answer may be Universal Basic Assets (UBAs) — a fundamental set of resources that we should strive to give everyone access to.

This map is a guide to designing this new economic model.
People need access to the basic life-supporting resources of the natural environment – air, water, sunlight, and the ecosystems of animal and plant life. Humans can’t survive apart from these natural resources. We declare that humans should have access to these natural resources.

People need access to tools for work and play. We declare that humans should have access to tools, instruments, and infrastructure, they need the tools, instruments, and institutions for tracking these trades, for securing their capital resources, and for individually and collectively amassing and mobilizing the resources they need to achieve both personal and societal goals. They equally need the means to have access to the systems that work on a local and global scale. We declare that humans should have access to a diversity of currencies and financial markets to participate fully in a sustainable economy.

We declare that humans should have access to the institutions that enable responsible participation in a global economy and society.

We declare that humans should have access to the natural environment – air, water, sunlight, and the ecosystems of animal and plant life. Humans can’t survive apart from these natural resources. We declare that humans should have access to these natural resources.

People need access to knowledge and training to produce value in daily life. We declare that humans should have access to up-to-date knowledge and training to understand and prosper in the systems in which they participate.

We declare that humans should have access to basic technological and social systems that touch their lives. They also need to reclaim the control and decision-making that is tied to them.

We declare that humans should have access to the information about themselves and their communities. The numbers are striking. In 2010, 288 of the richest people in the world collectively owned as much as the bottom half of the world’s population. In this moment of massive wealth inequality, we urgently need to develop a new model for society to deliver both social and economic equity. The answer may be Universal Basic Assets, (UBA) a fundamental set of resources that we should strive to give everyone access to.

This is a guide to designing this new economic model.

In this moment of massive wealth inequality, we urgently need to develop a new framework that delivers greater social and economic equity. As Thomas Piketty and others have argued, we urgently need a new framework that delivers greater social and economic equity. A framework for equity: three design directions.

Private assets are resources that we own individually. Housing, land, personal wealth, educational vouchers, smart tablets, and health care are examples of private assets. The market sets the price for these assets, and the government collects taxes to fund programs such as social security and health care.

Public assets include resources that are collectively owned and held for the common good. They include government or not-for-profit organizations. They can include everything from public schools, health care, transportation infrastructure, to many other resources. We declare that we need a new framework that delivers greater social and economic equity. A framework for equity: three design directions.

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