

# *Australia over the last decade*

## **Dominant trends:**

- ◆ A certain closing in on itself
- ◆ Abandonment of language or discourse which had previously pointed to renewed attempts at adaptation
  - ◆ Aboriginal reconciliation
  - ◆ Republic
  - ◆ multiculturalism
  - ◆ engagement with Asia
  - ◆ multilateralism

# *Australia over the last decade*

- **Return to language and symbolism of an earlier period**
  - ✦ frequent reference to "Australian values" / "Australian way of life" / "mateship"
  - ✦ identification with great & powerful friend (white / Anglo)
  - ✦ US alliance & rhetoric of power
  - ✦ multiculturalism redefined to make it fit the dominant Anglo culture
  - ✦ preoccupation with threats (external and internal)
  - ✦ use of stereotypes to describe or even demonise the "other"

# *Australia over the last decade*

- ◆ **Relations with outside world = return to familiar territory (comfort zone)**
  - ◆ following lead of US
  - ◆ regional policing
  - ◆ priority of economic over political, cultural and ecological
  - ◆ priority of bilateral over multilateral

# Great Transition?

- **Period of tumultuous change:**
    - End of Cold War / Collapse of USSR
    - Information revolution
    - Economic globalisation (transnationals, WTO, IMF)
    - Global environmental change
    - UN Summits
    - Rise of NGOs / civil society as a “third force”
    - Fundamentalist reactions (e.g. ethnic cleansing, terrorism)
    - Great power counter-reactions (e.g. war on terror)
- = *“Planetary phase of human evolution”*

# *Great Transition?*

- **Recent trends:**
  - **Decline of US hegemony**
  - **Rise of Europe and East Asia**
  - **Ferment in Islam**
  - **Use of terror and WMD (actual and potential) by the weak against the strong**

# Great Transition?

- Key question:

*“how to adapt to this new phase”*

- Key to successful adaptation:

*“reshaping governance to meet the needs  
of*

*a PLURAL WORLD”*

# Great Transition?

## Three pillars of governance

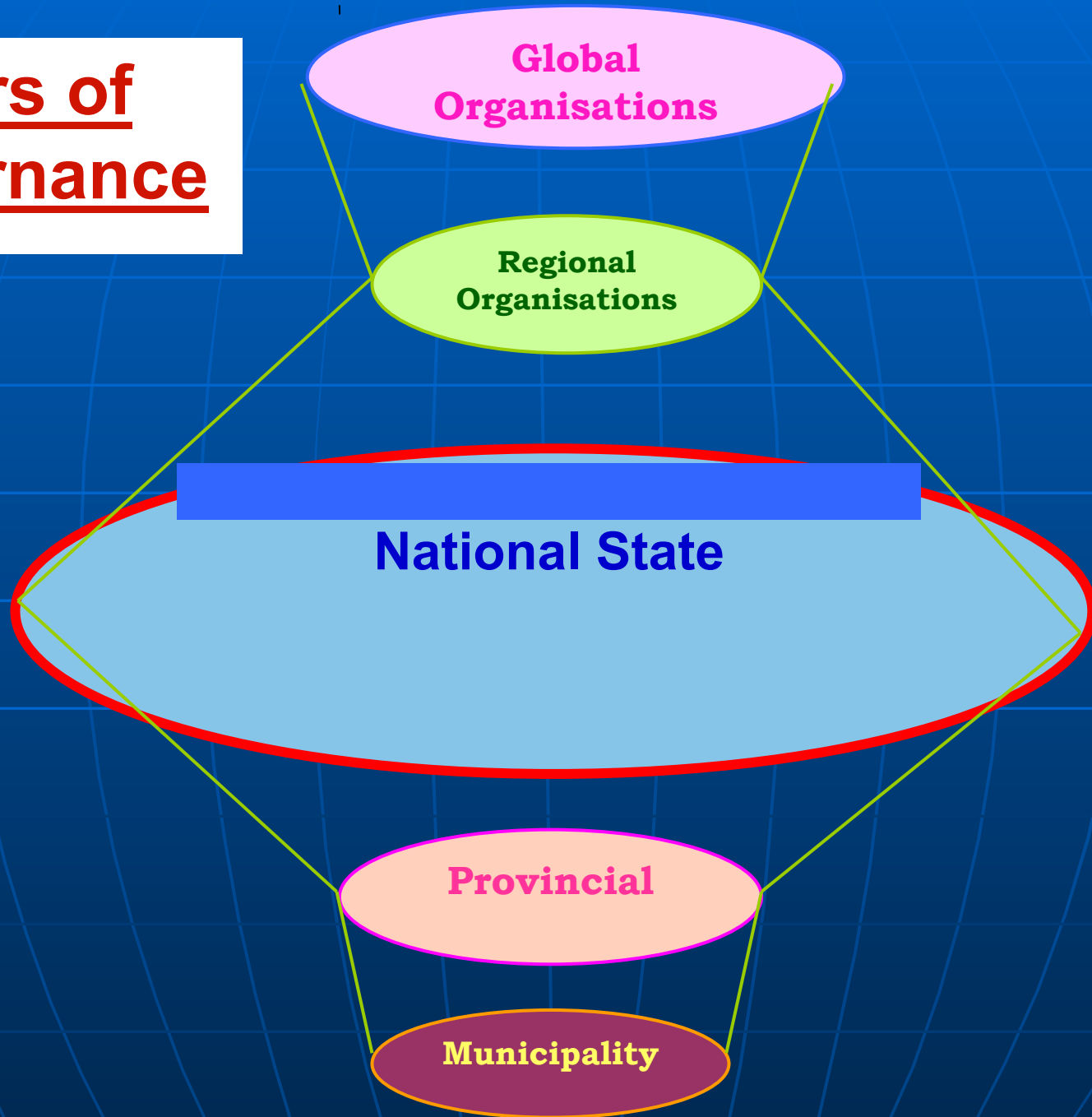
↗ for a *plural world*:

- Human Security
- Civilisation Dialogue
- Democracy

All three pillars have to sustain

a *multi-tiered framework of governance*

# Tiers of Governance



# *Great Transition?*

## **Democratic Renewal:**

☀ **At all tiers of governance:**

- **Local**
- **Provincial**
- **National**
- **Regional**
- **Global**

☀ **Democratisation of the market**

☀ **Strengthening & democratisation of civil society**