

UN Special

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Interview de S.E. M. François
Rivasseau, Ambassadeur
de France - p. 14

UNITED NATIONS / NATIONS UNIES

Meet your new regional
Ombudsman in Geneva - p. 20

WHO / OMS

Tips on getting settled
as a WHO intern - p. 34

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EDITOR'S NOTE / ÉDITORIAL**FEATURED / À LA UNE**

100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva.

Legacies, knowledge, future

Le Multilatéralisme. Et eux?

100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva.

What is happening in 2020

Why teach multilateralism and

governance?

Le système multilatéral de demain

dépendra des décisions qui sont prises

aujourd'hui

Les enfants terribles du

multilatéralisme

UNITED NATIONS / NATIONS UNIES

Meet your new regional

Ombudsman in Geneva

Protecting the environment

during conflict

University for peace.

Educating global talents for peace

The evolution of gender equality

inside the UN family

World Negotiation Day

The evolution of gender equality

inside the UN family

The benefits and challenges

of endurance sports

UN Agencies compete at

the International Tennis Club

Express and De-stress

WHO/ OMS

Life in Geneva: Tips on Getting

Settled as a WHO Intern

GLOBAL AFFAIRS / AFFAIRES GLOBALES

Un coup de fourchette au coeur de la

diversité

ART & CULTURE

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte

des 26 cantons. Valais: Ausserberg

CAP-VERT 2^e partie.

Au rythme de la morna

À vos agendas. Save the date

3 Multilateralism is a rather new concept when it comes to war and peace. But if you think that we are already celebrating its first century, you have to remember that for millennia this old planet of ours has suffered through war and conflict. It is only when diplomacy – also a rather new discipline for humanity – realized that bilateral relations are indeed affected by multilateral events, that world leaders started to think of the need for institutions that would bring to fruition multilateral dialogue and negotiation. And it took a world war, no less, to arrive at that novel idea. So here it is, a *UN Special* edition dedicated to the first century of this life-saving discipline. We at the Palais des Nations are at the center of it all: what a privilege.

20 In the rest of this edition, we are pleased to offer you perspectives on a wide range of topics, including an introduction to our new regional Ombudsman in Geneva, a piece on environment protection during conflict, a contribution on the evolution of gender equality within the UN, and some tips and insights on living and working in Geneva as a WHO intern. We are also pleased to have a contribution from the Rector of the University for Peace, who tells us more about the work of his university. You will also read about the role of science in peace-building from a Science Communicator at CERN.

34 Finally, we hope you will enjoy reading about a walk in the Canton of Valais, another excellent travel piece by Claude Maillard on Cape Verde, and some suggestions of cultural events in Geneva. We wish you a happy reading. ■

Le multilatéralisme est un concept plutôt nouveau lorsqu'il s'agit de guerre et de paix. Mais si nous célébrons déjà son premier centenaire, n'oublions pas que pendant des millénaires, notre vieille planète a souffert de guerres et de conflits. Lorsque la diplomatie, s'est rendue compte que les relations bilatérales sont en fait affectées par les événements multilatéraux, les dirigeants du monde ont pensé à la nécessité de se doter d'institutions capables d'instaurer des négociations et un dialogue multilatéraux. Et il a fallu pas moins qu'une guerre mondiale pour arriver à cette idée nouvelle. Voici donc une édition spéciale du *UN Special* consacrée au premier centenaire de cette discipline qui sauve des vies. Et c'est un privilège pour nous d'être au Palais des Nations, au cœur de cet engagement.

Dans la suite de ce numéro, nous avons le plaisir de vous offrir des lectures sur un large éventail de sujets: une présentation de notre nouvel Ombudsman régional à Genève, un article sur la protection de l'environnement durant les conflits, une contribution sur l'évolution de l'égalité des sexes à l'ONU et quelques conseils pour vivre et travailler à Genève comme stagiaire à l'OMS. Nous sommes également ravis d'avoir une contribution du Recteur de l'Université pour la paix qui nous parle de son université. Une chargée de communication scientifique du CERN nous parle également du rôle de la science dans la construction de la paix.

Enfin, nous espérons que vous apprécierez la découverte d'une promenade dans le canton du Valais et, comme d'habitude, un récit de voyage de Claude Maillard sur le Cap-Vert, ainsi que quelques suggestions d'événements culturels à Genève. Nous vous souhaitons une agréable lecture! ■

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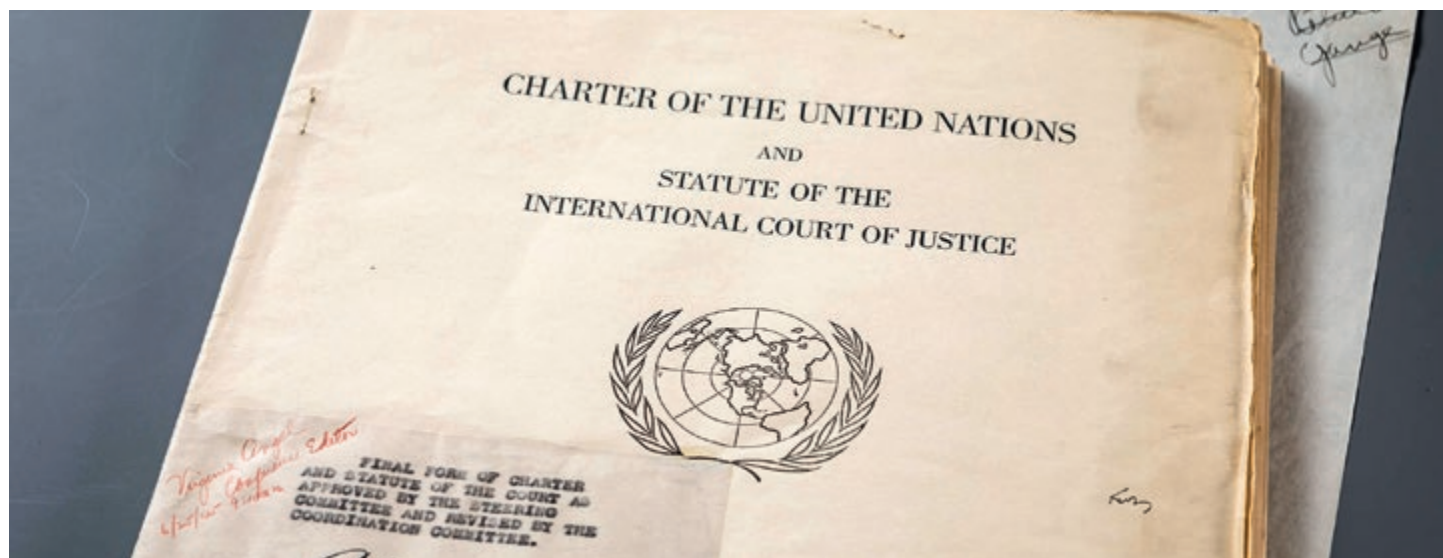
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United Nations Charter draft used at San Francisco Conference. On display at UN Museum Geneva.

100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva

Legacies, knowledge, future

100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva – a time to remember our shared history, strengthen support for multilateralism, and think about the next 100 years.

STEFAN VUKOTIC, UNOG

In the last issue of *UN Special*, we talked about what 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva is – a two-year celebration of the evolution of multilateralism, from the establishment of the first global multilateral organization, the League of Nations, until the present day and the United Nations' Global Agenda for Sustainable Development. We also looked at what the celebrations entail – a series of events, products, and other activities – as well as how the staff, the international civil service, have a central role in this celebration.

In this edition, we will look at why this celebration is important, how it contributes to the UN global efforts, and what is in store for next year. The participation of staff in the activities to mark the Centenary of multilateralism is crucial for its success, as it is the international civil service that makes

multilateralism possible. Consequently, the achievements of multilateral organizations are the achievements of their staff members.

So why the Centenary celebration? We are celebrating one full century of the same guiding ideas and principles for global cooperation – equality of states to take part in international decision-making as the basis of the international legal order, conviction that lasting peace requires development cooperation as much as, if not more than, political cooperation, respecting different cultural and political systems in formulating the rules of multilateralism, basic and fundamental rights of individuals as the basis of the international order, including the belief that genders should be allowed to contribute equally to global diplomacy. Although the League ultimately ceased to exist due to its perceived incapability to



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An Art Deco decoration from the Palais des Nations main corridor, representing “League of Nations” and “Société des Nations”.



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Details from UN Office Geneva and UN Archives Geneva collection.

prevent the outbreak of World War Two, the guiding principles behind its work are the same principles that guide the UN today. The changed circumstances are that since 1945 all states accept these ground rules and none was willing to risk total war to challenge and subvert them. Equally important, the UN learned from the mistakes of the League and set its foundations in such a way as to avoid the same pitfalls. This is why we are looking at a strong Organization on the eve of its 75th anniversary. Therefore, we are celebrating the lessons of the past that have set us on the right track with the knowledge of what worked in the past and can be continued and improved upon, and what did not work and should be avoided or done differently.

How does the Centenary contribute to the global efforts of the Organization? The General Assembly voted 24 April 2019 the first International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace. The Secretary-General is heading a campaign to strengthen multilateralism and reiterate its crucial role at a time when it is evolving and changing and when some are challenging it. Many states around the world are championing the principles of multilateralism and are rallying behind

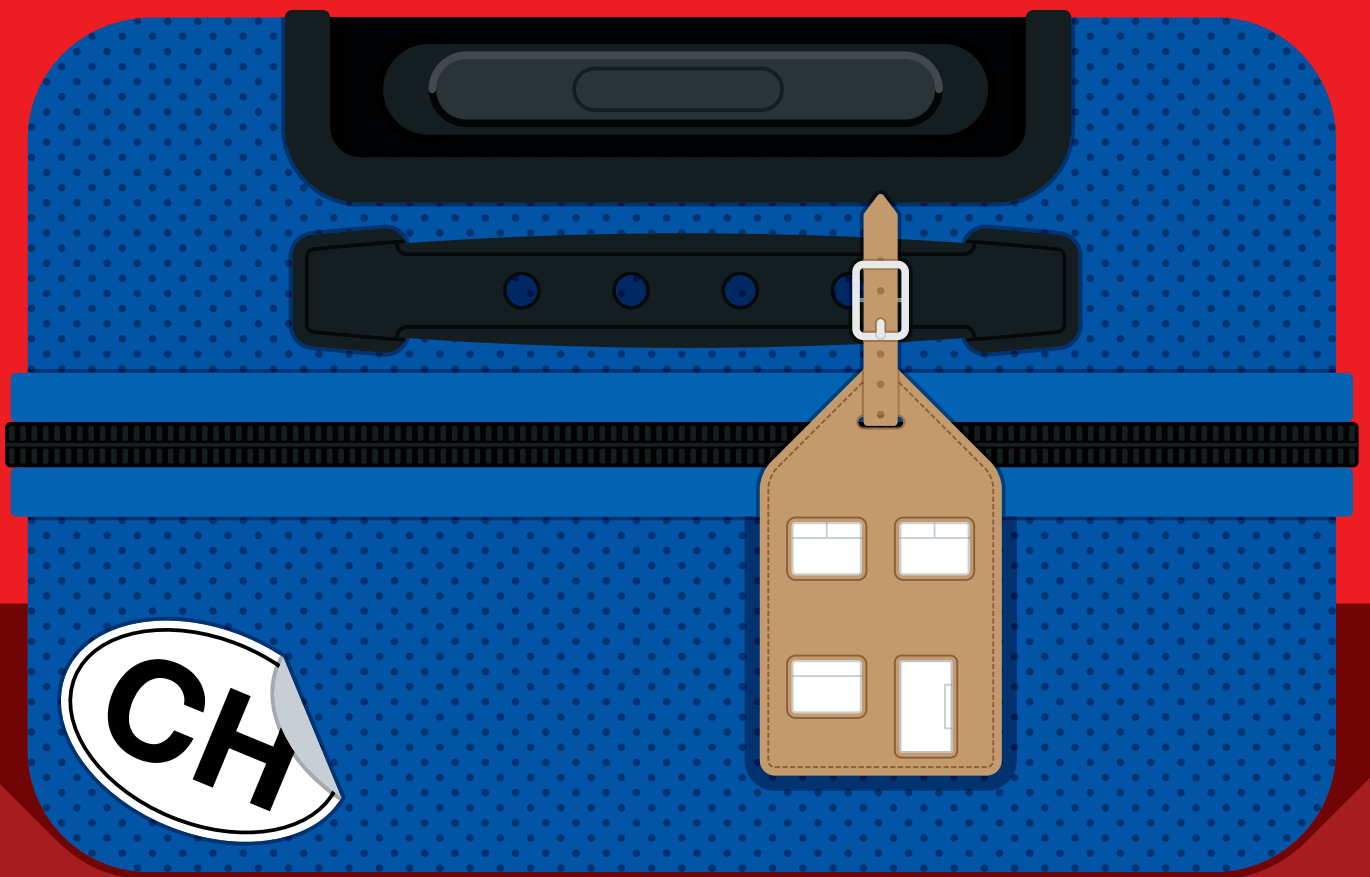
the UN in the promotion of its values and its importance for solving the evolving challenges of today’s world. The UN is celebrating its 75th anniversary next year. The role of the 100 Years of Multilateralism is to underpin these efforts with a focus on history and the legacies the UN builds on. The Centenary draws on the rich historical knowledge and the institutional memory of the UN, which goes back all the way to the League of Nations. As was noted in the last edition, the international civil service as we know it today was essentially formed by the League of Nations, many functions of the League were taken over by the UN including the basis for several specialized agencies, and the principles guiding the global order are virtually the same. Centenary activities are highlighting this historical context and helping inform the decision-making processes of today with the often forgotten or misunderstood legacies and knowledge of the past. We are celebrating the foundations the League has given us which allowed the founding fathers of the UN to establish a strong and resilient global Organization able to evolve and adjust to the evolving global challenges. Therefore, the 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva activities focus

on the historical origins and early successes and lessons in various areas covered by the Sustainable Development Goals today. They underscore the evolution of multilateral efforts in these areas and, where possible, look at continuities in global problem-solving over the past 100 years. All this is intended to support the United Nations efforts in strengthening the multilateralism of today and defining the multilateralism of tomorrow.

So what does all this mean? What to expect of the Centenary next year? In the previous edition we gave a hint of what is coming and noted that we will celebrate the central role of Geneva together with the local authorities, we will look at how history as a discipline can help the policy-making of the future, and we will celebrate the evolution and growth of multilateralism under the UN on its 75th anniversary. The help of staff will be crucial for this and everyone is encouraged to participate. Please see the other article in this edition that discusses in more detail the plans for 2020 and the planned highlights of the year when it comes to 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva celebrations. ■

Mr. Stefan Vukotic is Secretary of the Centenary Coordination Committee and Chief at the Archives Management Unit of the Institutional Memory Section, UN Library Geneva, UNOG

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Le multilatéralisme. Et eux?

Il est difficile à ce stade de remettre en cause l'importance du multilatéralisme: le multilatéralisme, c'est l'essence même de l'Organisation.



Une interprète de l'ONU à l'œuvre le jour de l'ouverture du débat général de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies à New York.

MARIE DIUR, DIRECTRICE, SERVICE INTERPRÉTATION, ONUG

Le multilatéralisme, ce sont les 193 États membres. Le multilatéralisme, c'est nous, tout simplement. Mais qu'est-ce que le multilatéralisme pour un interprète? Peut-on utiliser les langues et la connaissance des langues pour tenter d'expliquer l'importance du multilatéralisme pour les générations à venir? Comment faire en sorte que le multilatéralisme soit réel dans tous les recoins de l'Organisation y compris dans les cabines de l'ONU?

Prenons un exemple: demandons à un jeune vivant dans un pays en développement quel métier il veut faire plus tard. Question, vous l'admettez aisément, qui peut être considérée comme banale sous certains cieux mais pas sous tous. Admettons maintenant que,

ce jeune, grâce aux réseaux sociaux et à internet, vous réponde: «je suis pour le multilatéralisme et mon rêve est de travailler à l'ONU comme interprète». Quelle est la probabilité pour ce jeune d'y arriver? Malheureusement très mince, voire nulle.

Ce jeune, une fois son diplôme d'interprète en poche, saura-t-il à qui s'adresser pour accomplir son rêve? Là encore, j'ai bien peur que l'on ne puisse répondre que par la négative. Ce jeune aura beau chercher sur internet et éplucher les différents sites de l'ONU, nulle part, il ne trouvera à qui s'adresser pour passer un test d'accréditation (première étape indispensable). Il aura beau chercher et essayer de s'informer, il n'aura aucun moyen de savoir quels sont les critères

de sélection (Son diplôme sera-t-il reconnu? A-t-il seulement besoin d'un diplôme? Une formation sur le tas suffirait -elle? etc.). Il n'y aura personne non plus pour lui dire quel site consulter pour savoir à quelles dates des tests d'accréditation seront organisés. Ces informations ne figurent nulle part et ce jeune n'a absolument aucun moyen de se les procurer. Si ce même jeune a eu la chance de pouvoir se former dans une des 23 écoles disposant d'un mémorandum d'accord avec l'ONU, il en saura probablement un peu plus que les autres bien qu'il ne trouvera toujours pas de réponses aux questions ci-dessus.

Mais ce ne sont pas aux jeunes fréquentant ces 23 écoles auxquels je m'adresse, c'est aux autres. Je m'adresse aux

jeunes rêveurs de Bangui, Lima, Djakarta, Ouagadougou, etc. Je m'adresse aux jeunes qui n'ont pas eu la chance d'intégrer une de ces écoles, aux jeunes qui ont appris les langues tout en travaillant pour payer leurs études, aux jeunes qui ont réussi à se former sur le tas, aux jeunes qui ont entendu parler de l'ONU, qui écoutent les interprètes de l'Organisation travailler, aux jeunes qui rêvent, aux jeunes qui continuent d'y croire malgré les coupures d'électricité, le manque d'eau potable et les problèmes que tout cela entraîne, aux jeunes qui n'ont pas la chance de voyager par manque de visas, aux jeunes qui se demandent si tenter la voie de la Méditerranée ne serait pas préférable, aux jeunes qui une fois partis se retrouvent sans papier pendant des années, aux jeunes qui sont



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expulsés de leur logement car ne pouvant plus payer leurs loyers. C'est à ces jeunes que je m'adresse. A ceux qui n'ont rien mais continue de rêver. A ceux qui n'ont rien mais continue d'y croire. A ceux qui n'ont rien et continue de croire que grâce au multilatéralisme, grâce à l'ONU, ils vont pouvoir y arriver.

Si l'on veut que le multilatéralisme continue d'exister, si l'on veut que le multilatéralisme soit une réalité jusque dans les cabines d'interprètes de l'ONU, alors nous nous devons d'aider ces jeunes. Et les aider est beaucoup plus simple qu'on ne le pense. Les aider signifie: arrêter de penser uniquement à nous qui y sommes arrivés, arrêter de créer des obstacles inutiles pour éviter que les autres y arrivent aussi, arrêter de résister à tout changement proposé, arrêter de penser premier monde uniquement, en ne

tenant pas compte des conditions existant dans le monde en développement. Les aider signifie: apporter des réponses aux questions que se pose le jeune qui, lui aussi, croit au multilatéralisme, au jeune qui, lui aussi, a le droit de rêver, au jeune qui, lui aussi, a le droit de devenir interprète à l'ONU.

Il faut mettre en place un système de test d'accréditation transparent. Il faut que tout jeune où qu'il soit dans le monde sache quand les épreuves ont lieu, quels sont les critères de sélection, quels sont les critères de notation. Il faut que les critères soient appliqués par tous les lieux d'affectation de la même façon, quelle que soit la langue. Pourquoi continuer à dire, par exemple, que seul un niveau professionnel (qui est notre niveau à tous au bout de 20 ans) est acceptable pour un test d'accréditation, que soit dit en passant la

majorité des interprètes travaillant maintenant à l'ONU n'ont jamais passé. Pour que le jeune puisse y arriver, il faut que ce test d'accréditation soit au niveau débutant, et que ce jeune, une fois accrédité, bénéficie d'un système de tutorat. Nous devons nous aussi, à l'instar de la communauté européenne mettre en place un site, un centre de connaissance pour l'interprétation. Pour bien faire, il faudrait que ce site soit interactif et nous permette de répondre aux questions qui nous arrivent de Lomé, Bogota, Djakarta ou Katmandou. Nous devons être au service de ces jeunes, de cette jeune génération qui attend de nous que nous l'aidions à réaliser ses rêves.

Ce n'est que de cette façon que l'on pourra parler de véritable multilatéralisme. Oublions les résistances, oublions les erreurs et rancœurs du passé

et attelons-nous à la tâche! Le travail ne fait que commencer. Et surtout n'oublions pas que nous nous adressons ici à ce jeune qui n'a pas eu la chance que nous avons tous eu, ce jeune qui continue de rêver malgré les difficultés, ce jeune qui lui aussi croit au multilatéralisme. Pouvons-nous l'aider à réaliser ces rêves? et surtout, voulons-nous l'aider à réaliser ses rêves? C'est la question que je pose. ■



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UN Library staff celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Library. © UN Geneva

What is happening in 2020

100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva is wrapping up the first year of celebrations. What can we expect in 2020? What are the key activities? How can staff participate?

STEFAN VUKOTIC, UNOG

The Centenary was officially launched (even though a few events preceded the official kick-off) by an event to mark the first International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace on 24 April 2019, when we screened a documentary about the League of Nations and held a seminar with academia about the evolution of multilateralism from the League of Nations to the United Nations. We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the UN Library Geneva, which was established as the League of Nations Library in 1919. We launched a number of products, such as books and publications (e.g. War and Peace book-catalogue, MemoFuture magazine) and organized a number of events, talks, discussions, and exhibitions (such as on disarmament and the evolution of the civil service).

A particularly important exhibition is the new exhibition at the UN Museum Geneva, entitled “100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva”, which encompasses everything we want to do with the Centenary celebrations in 2019 and 2020. It showcases the evolution of multilateralism in various areas from the initial steps of the League all the way to the work of the United Nations today. It highlights some rare gems, such as the Locarno Agreements, the preparatory materials from Dumbarton Oaks and San Francisco and an early version of the UN Charter, rare books, hand-written notes by luminaries such as Marie Curie and Thomas Mann, and several Nobel Peace Prizes, including the certificate and medal of late Secretary-General Kofi Annan. It will be on display until spring, so make sure to check it out.

Whereas in 2019 we focused more on history, to help understand how the heritage of the League and the UN shapes what the UN does today, in 2020 our focus will be more on the future and how history can help us shape it.

We will celebrate, together with the local authorities, the central role of Geneva as a hub of multilateralism for the next 100 years, we will underline the role of youth in shaping the multilateralism of tomorrow, we will look at how history as a discipline can help the policy-making of the future, and we will celebrate the evolution and growth of multilateralism under the UN on its 75th anniversary. The UN75 campaign has already been launched and it is going to be the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want. The

help of staff will be crucial for this and everyone is encouraged to participate.¹

We will kick the year off by a book launch (*Cent ans de multilatéralisme à Genève*, éditions Suzanne Hurter) and several seminars and talks about multilateralism and its evolution, such as on the role of translation and interpretation for the successful conduct of multilateral negotiations. The year’s schedule is still open, and staff are encouraged to propose events and activities that they believe can contribute to a better understanding of various aspects of multilateralism.

The discussions will be about the future of multilateralism, where the highlight will be on the need for an inclusive multilateralism, which draws on knowledge and contribution from everyone, from ordinary citizens to top decision-makers and from civil society and the private sector to national authorities and multilateral organizations.



Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General of UNOG delivering her speech.

We will launch a crowd-sourcing platform where we will invite the staff members and the citizens of Geneva and the neighbouring area to share their family history by lending their family archives, photographs, and sharing personal stories and oral histories about their family members who worked at the League of Nations and

the early United Nations. We will engage youth through a series of educational and public debate opportunities to help them better understand the history of multilateralism and to leverage their inputs for shaping the multilateralism of tomorrow.

We will partner with various civil society and private

sector organizations to highlight the aspects of multilateralism that influence and are affected by the developments in these spheres of public life. For instance, we will join the celebrations of the centenary of Geneva Airport, which has served as the indispensable tool serving multilateralism of the past century, allowing individuals from all over the world to attend multilateral deliberations in Geneva.

And this is just a preview of some of the key activities we have in store for next year. Staff are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to reach out to the Centenary Coordination Committee to contribute to the organization of activities and to propose new ones they believe would be important. Multilateralism rests on the international civil servants, who are the key stakeholders that make it happen. And the

inclusive multilateralism that the UN champions requires and welcomes the participation of all.

To keep track of what is planned, get involved, and learn more about multilateralism, check out the dedicated website multilateralism100.unog.ch. There, you will also find contact details for the coordination team and we highly encourage all staff to get involved and propose activities. 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva celebrates first and foremost the first century of the international civil service, which keeps the multilateral machine running. Thank you for helping us shape multilateralism for the next 100 years! ■

1 Join this conversation together with us at www.un.org/un75.

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Why teach multilateralism and governance?

Director of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG Programme) at the University of Geneva, Prof. Christine Kaddous states the importance of studying governance processes to tackle the challenges multilateralism is facing today.



Professor Christine Kaddous.

BRIGITTE PERRIN, UNIGE

As the centenary of multilateralism in Geneva has just been celebrated (see October issue of *UN Special*), media and public opinion are more and more focusing on the unprecedented crisis of multilateralism. The rise of nationalisms, the difficulties to address major issues, such as migration in Europe or climate change are often seen as failures of international cooperation.

“Many people think that multilateralism is in crisis and attacked, recalled Tatiana Valovaya during the celebration conference at the University in Geneva. I think it is rather in a period of important transition to a new type of global governance. This new multilateralism will certainly be more network-oriented and multidimensional, with a greater participation of new actors, a close cooperation between international and regional organizations, including development banks. This new multilateralism should be more inclusive, notably by creating partnerships with business, civil society, parliaments, academia, philanthropic organizations and of course, youth.”

Transitioning to a new type of governance

This transition to a new type of global governance is the focus of the Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG), led by Christine Kaddous at the University of Geneva: “We are considering governance at multiple levels. There are less actors at the regional than at the global level. There is also a bigger cultural homogeneity at the regional level that makes it easier to implement new processes of governance. In the MEIG Programme, we study how multilateralism evolves at the regional level like in a laboratory and we imagine if and how it may inspire global multilateralism”, says the Professor.

Since 2017, more than 80 participants of this executive education programme have had the opportunity to interact with University professors, practitioners from the EU, UN, NGOs and diplomatic Missions in Geneva. These interactions have allowed them to understand the existing governance processes and to identify the various actors, levels and phases of governance.

“In order to tackle issues like migration, climate change or digital transformation, we ask our participants to combine public and private expertise into an analysis of the limits of the different systems, explains Christine Kaddous. In an increasingly interdependent world, international cooperation is ever more necessary. Multilateral responses are the only ones that can address the global challenges our societies are facing.”

Pursuing the values of multilateralism

Seventy years ago, the multilateral system was created to maintain peace and security and manage decolonization. It did a pretty good job. During this period, the mandate of the multilateral system grew organically to incorporate all aspects of development. “However”, states Christine Kaddous, “decision-making structures, notably at the UNSC, rely upon consensus, and unfortunately there has never been a consensus among the world’s major powers on this mandate extension. For me, the key to success is not a transfer of values, but rather a better understanding of other actors. Sustainable

solutions can only be found if we consider the values and interests of the various stakeholders. An efficient multilateral system must be based on a compromise between diverging interests and values.”

As the global community of international actors witnesses a growing fragmentation, learning how to break out of the silos and have a more global perspective becomes crucial. “We cannot solve major problems alone. We need a multidisciplinary approach and observe how problems are solved in other fields and take inspiration from each other”, adds the director.

Can we learn and teach multilateralism?

In order to build tomorrow’s multilateralism, a knowledge transfer between different domains has to be undertaken: “Let’s take climate change for example. If the different actors don’t know each other’s governance processes, everyone is lacking major information. What is the impact of climate change on agriculture, on islands, on peace or migration? Are there similar processes at work in each of these domains? What if youth is taking over

with its own rules and processes? If we know who is there and how people work, then we can start building potential solutions together and avoid replicating mistakes. It is important to learn, discuss, negotiate, and understand what is at stake for all the actors.”

For Christine Kaddous, the historical node is that some global powers are now explicitly denying any mandate at all for the multilateral system to preserve the bases of life on Earth, whilst an emerging global public opinion increasingly demands that governmental and international bodies act decisively on these issues. “What we do not know is which trend shall prevail. Will a global public opinion movement manage to strengthen the system’s extended mandate, or will the multilateral system be limited to its initial mandate on peace and security?”, says the Professor.

Towards a holistic approach

At the European level, transfer of rights to the European Union has taken place and sovereignty rights are exercised in common. At the international level though this is not the case. The UN and all other international organizations have an inter-governmental character. Public opinion may ask to extend the mandate of international organizations at global level once it has become clear that many of the main challenges cannot be solved at national level. However, the problem-solving capacity is different from country to country. “Finding compromises can then become quite difficult. While bigger and more powerful countries start understanding that they cannot solve today’s problems alone, smaller and less powerful countries need to learn to make compromises. This is also true for Switzerland”, notices the MEIG Director.



4th Edition of the MEIG Programme – academic year 2019-2020, Study visit to EU institutions in Brussels.

Most of today’s challenges are identified in Agenda 2030. For professor Kaddous, the time has come to concentrate more systematically on governance processes in order to implement solutions. “The question is no longer really what to do, but rather how to do it. The crisis of multilateralism is not only a crisis of international, but also of national governance. Governance at all levels must be improved. It is wrong to address the different levels separately. More than ever, we need a holistic approach. This

is the main conclusion I draw after some years of our Master Programme on European and International Governance.”

In ten years from now, the MEIG Director hopes that “there will be fewer obstacles to compromises, and hopefully contributing to the SDGs will have trained the actors to consider and enforce this new kind of multilateralism”. ■

The Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance (MEIG Programme) – www.meig.ch

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INTERVIEW

Le système multilatéral de demain dépendra des décisions qui sont prises aujourd'hui

*Interview de S.E.
M. François Rivasseau,
Ambassadeur,
Représentant permanent
de la France auprès des
Nations Unies à Genève.*



S.E. M. François Rivasseau (à gauche) avec M. Michael Møller, ancien Directeur Général des Nations Unies à Genève.

SARAH BENCHERIF, ONUG

Dans le cadre du Centenaire du multilatéralisme, nous avons interviewé S.E. M. François Rivasseau Ambassadeur, Représentant permanent de la France auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève afin de comprendre la nécessité du multilatéralisme et le rôle important joué par la France dans la promotion du travail multilatéral respectant le droit international.

Cette année marque le centenaire du multilatéralisme moderne, avec la création de la Société des Nations. La France a été l'un des membres fondateurs de l'ONU à sa création en 1945. Quel a été le rôle de la France dans le développement du système multilatéral tel que nous le connaissons aujourd'hui ?

La France a en effet apporté un soutien constant à l'ONU depuis sa création en 1945. Elle est encore aujourd'hui le 5^{ème} contributeur au budget régulier de l'ONU et le deuxième pourvoyeur de troupes pour les opérations de maintien de la paix. L'ONU est certes une pièce maîtresse du

système multilatéral, mais d'autres organisations en font également partie. Au-delà de son rôle historique au sein de l'ONU, la France est un membre fondateur de l'Union européenne, mais aussi de l'OTAN et du G7, qui sont trois organisations incontournables dans le paysage international. Le soutien au multilatéralisme est un fil rouge de la politique étrangère française depuis de nombreuses années: c'est une solution de bon sens puisque le multilatéralisme n'est rien d'autre que l'objectif de chercher des solutions communes et de promouvoir le dialogue entre les nations.

Le soutien historique de la France à l'ONU passe par la volonté de garantir que l'ONU maintienne son rôle central dans le système multilatéral actuel et futur. L'ONU a près de 75 ans, et c'est aussi pourquoi nous soutenons le processus de réforme de l'ONU actuellement porté par Antonio Guterres: l'ONU doit évoluer pour répondre aux besoins des populations et aux enjeux actuels, sans quoi elle risquerait de perdre sa légitimité. Nous plaidons notamment pour l'élargissement du Conseil de sécurité

à de nouveaux membres et pour l'encadrement de l'usage du droit de veto par les membres permanents du Conseil de sécurité en cas d'atrocité de masse.

Le Président de la République française, Emmanuel Macron, a déclaré «notre vision du monde est celle du multilatéralisme».

Lors de sa venue à Genève en 2019, il a réaffirmé le soutien constant de la France au multilatéralisme. Quelles sont les principales priorités de la Mission permanente de la France, ici à Genève?

À Genève, la mission permanente de la France porte cette vision d'un multilatéralisme fort, rénové et efficace. Nous sommes engagés dans de nombreux domaines:

– Tout d'abord, les droits humains: la France est membre observateur du Conseil des droits de l'Homme et candidate à un mandat pour 2021-2023. La France soutient également les organes de traités, les commissions et procédures spéciales en lien avec les droits humains. La France, contrairement à d'autres pays ici à Genève, «joue le jeu» du système des droits humains. Nous ne quittons pas une organisation si elle présente quelques faiblesses mais nous cherchons à améliorer sa gouvernance; nous accueillons les experts du Haut-Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme et les rapporteurs spéciaux sur notre territoire, nous n'ignorons pas leurs observations et recommandations mais nous nous engageons dans un dialogue constructif. Il faut espérer que certains pays suivent ce même chemin à l'avenir.

– Sur le plan humanitaire aussi, nous sommes particulièrement actifs: la France a lancé en avril dernier un «Appel à l'action humanitaire», aux côtés de l'Allemagne, afin d'appeler l'ensemble des Etats à respecter le droit international humanitaire. La France a également soutenu l'adoption des deux Pactes mondiaux sur les réfugiés et sur les migrations. Nous venons d'ailleurs d'augmenter nos contributions aux agences humanitaires.

La France est très fortement engagée pour la santé mondiale. Elle a accueilli le mois dernier à Lyon la conférence de reconstitution du Fonds mondial de lutte contre le sida, la tuberculose et le paludisme, où 14 milliards de dollars ont pu être mobilisés pour mettre fin à ces pandémies. La France a joué un rôle historique pour la santé mondiale, en soutenant la création du Fonds mondial, mais aussi d'Unitaid

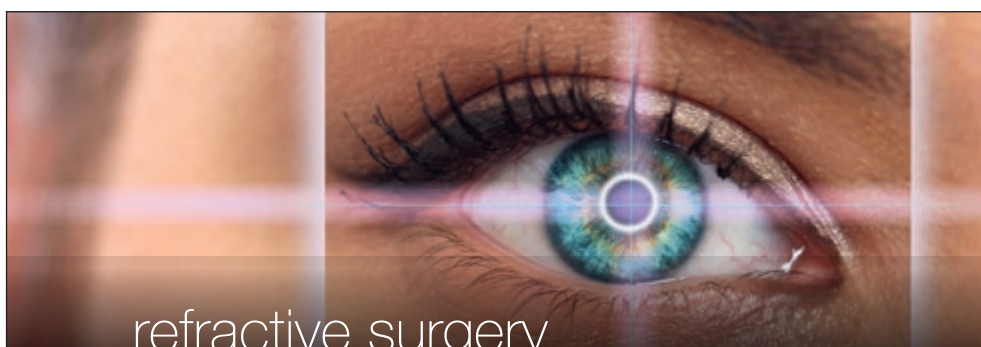
avec un mode de financement innovant basé sur une taxe sur les billets d'avion.

Enfin, l'Organisation mondiale du commerce traverse actuellement une crise, avec notamment un blocage de l'Organe d'appel. Nous avons constamment rappelé notre soutien au système multilatéral commercial. Les tensions commerciales actuelles sont un jeu à somme nulle, voire à somme négative. La France soutient la réforme de l'OMC, et a même accueilli à Paris l'année dernière une conférence autour de cette thématique.

Dans un monde de plus en plus divisé, où le multilatéralisme est remis en

cause, comment voyez-vous l'avenir de la gouvernance mondiale?

Le système multilatéral de demain dépendra des décisions qui sont prises aujourd'hui. C'est pourquoi nous sommes engagés pour un multilatéralisme rénové afin d'éviter qu'il connaisse une remise en cause permanente. Nous entendons bien sûr les critiques contre le système multilatéral actuel et certaines critiques sont légitimes: le système pensé il y a près de 75 ans n'a peut-être pas évolué suffisamment vite. D'autres critiques ne sont, par contre, que le résultat de la montée des populismes, et d'une certaine forme de démagogie: il est facile de rejeter la faute sur les organisations internationales, quand



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Première Session du Conseil de la Société des Nations, présidée par M. Léon Bourgeois (France). Paris, 16 janvier 1920.



Le Président de la République française, Emmanuel Macron (à gauche), en compagnie du Secrétaire général de l'ONU, Antonio Guterres, lors d'une réunion de haut niveau sur le thème «Financer l'avenir: Education 2030». New York, 20 septembre 2017.

dans le même temps, certains gouvernements causent leur paralysie... Ce n'est pas seulement l'idée du multilatéralisme qui est remise en cause, mais les valeurs qui le sous-tendent, notamment la solidarité humaine. Le ministre de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères, M. Jean-Yves Le Drian, a déclaré il y a peu que «le multilatéralisme, c'est un humanisme»: c'est une belle manière de rappeler que le multilatéralisme s'appuie avant tout sur des valeurs.

Face à cette crise, la France réaffirme bien sûr son attachement aux valeurs de solidarité et de respect entre les peuples. Mais elle cherche également des solutions concrètes, pour ne pas rester dans un simple débat idéologique, entre d'une part, ceux qui ont choisi le repli nationaliste, et d'autre part, ceux qui appellent à la solidarité internationale. C'est pourquoi les ministres des Affaires étrangères français et allemand ont lancé une «Alliance pour le multilatéralisme» en avril 2019, pour avancer, avec pragmatisme. Je crois que

cette alliance est le reflet de notre vision du multilatéralisme de demain: elle fonctionne comme un incubateur, un agrégateur des bonnes volontés; celle des Etats mais aussi celle des acteurs de la société civile et des entreprises.

Face aux multiples défis actuels, tels que les crises humanitaires, les changements climatiques et les conflits armés, que peut faire le système multilatéral?

Il suffit de s'arrêter sur les chiffres à propos de l'action de l'ONU pour prendre la mesure de l'immense travail accompli par l'ONU pour répondre aux défis actuels: les Nations Unies apportent de la nourriture et une aide humanitaire à plus de 91 millions de personnes dans 83 pays, elles couvrent les besoins en vaccins de 45% des enfants dans le monde, elles protègent 71 millions de personnes fuyant la guerre, la famine ou la persécution, elles garantissent la paix avec plus de 100 000 membres du personnel déployés dans des opérations de maintien de la paix à

travers le monde... L'ONU fait donc déjà énormément, mais elle peut – et doit – faire plus, tout comme les Etats membres de l'ONU. Les objectifs de développement durable sont ambitieux et montrent le chemin qu'il reste encore à parcourir d'ici 2030.

L'«Alliance pour le multilatéralisme», lancée par l'Allemagne et la France que j'ai déjà évoquée, est orientée vers l'action et permettra de répondre à certains des enjeux. L'alliance vise à maximiser les soutiens à des initiatives concrètes dans certains domaines: l'Appel à l'action humanitaire; l'Appel de Paris pour la sécurité et la confiance dans le cyberspace; le Partenariat pour l'information et la démocratie; l'Initiative «priorité à l'égalité» ou encore l'initiative «climat et sécurité». De nombreuses initiatives ont été lancées en 2019: c'est la preuve que le multilatéralisme est la réponse efficace pour répondre aux enjeux actuels et protéger les biens publics mondiaux. ■



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Les enfants terribles du multilatéralisme

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, ANCIENNE FONCTIONNAIRE, ONUG

Le 14 octobre 2019, quatorze journalistes venus de différents pays africains, hommes et femmes à parité, certains à peine trentenaires, vêtus pour les uns d'élégants tailleurs, pour les autres de fabuleux pagens en wax ou encore de simples pantalons-de-toile-polos déambulaient joyeusement dans les couloirs du Palais des Nations à Genève.

Nous sommes loin de l'image figée, exclusivement masculine, des sexa/septuagénaires aux peaux blanches et costumes noirs qui en 1919 posaient les bases de la Société des Nations.

Si l'évolution des mœurs a – fort heureusement – permis une plus grande ouverture à la diversité, il convient de rendre grâce à des institutions telles que la SDN d'avoir permis aux échanges internationaux de se développer dans un même souci commun, celui d'assurer la paix.

Et il est difficile aujourd'hui de parler de paix sans penser... changement climatique et écologie.

Montée des océans, sécheresse, manque d'eau potable figurent parmi les plus grands facteurs de risques de conflits dans notre monde. Que valent les frontières nationales dans un contexte où nous savons que chacun de nos actes peut avoir un impact non seulement sur nos voisins directs mais sur la planète entière?

L'Association Africa 21, accompagnée de ses partenaires (organisations internationales, acteurs du secteur économique, ville de Genève, Confédération helvétique, notamment), l'a bien compris en choisissant d'organiser les premières «Journées des médias et du journalisme en Afrique»¹ sur le thème du changement climatique.

Climatologues, représentants du GIEC, de la CNUCED ou de l'OMM, universitaires, politiciens, journalistes représentants de la société civile, etc. se sont succédé à la tribune et ont échangé avec ces représentants des médias en Afrique.



Les journalistes invités en compagnie de membres d'Africa 21 et des contributeurs

Les quatorze journalistes (sélectionnés en fonction de leur engagement sur les questions environnementales et climatiques) se sont nourris de ces apports précieux. A leur tour, ils ont partagé des informations sur la situation dans leur pays. Diminution de la surface du lac Tchad, salinisation des sols sur les côtes du Sénégal, histoire glaçante d'une famille entière décimée pour avoir aspergé la nourriture de pesticides afin d'éviter que des animaux ne s'y attaquent, sans se rendre compte des effets mortels sur leur propre organisme. Un drame qui démontre à quel point les populations manquent d'informations pour ce qui concerne les risques liés à l'utilisation de produits chimiques.

L'objectif de ces journées était double. D'une part, il s'agissait de renforcer la compréhension des journalistes sur les changements climatiques et de les aider à en saisir les implications physiques, sociales et économiques. D'autre part, un point crucial était la mise en relation des acteurs de la Genève internationale avec ces représentants des médias en divers points du continent africain afin de faciliter le partage d'informations et les travaux en commun.

Julien Chambolle, Secrétaire Général et Pierre Sob, Président d'Africa 21 peuvent se féliciter. La mission qu'ils s'étaient fixée a remporté un succès dépassant toute attente. D'ailleurs, une plateforme sera lancée prochainement afin de regrouper, à un niveau continental, les journalistes intéressés par les questions du changement climatique et de l'environnement.

“Quand on a terminé sa toilette du matin, il faut faire soigneusement la toilette de la planète”

— Saint Exupéry, *Le petit Prince*

Et surtout, à l'issue de ces journées, un frisson d'espoir flottait dans l'air. Ces jeunes journalistes étaient déterminés à participer à l'éveil des consciences et, par là même, devenir des artisans précieux de la préservation de notre planète! Leurs messages allaient faciliter le passage entre un ancien monde (celui qui croyait en un accès illimité à des ressources supposées infinies) et de nouvelles manières d'agir plus raisonnées, au plan individuel et collectif, et visant au bien-être de l'humanité toute entière.

Moment de rêve où nous passerions d'un monde vu comme une «figure à plusieurs côtés» (définition du mot «multilatéral» en géométrie) à une Terre à la rotondité douce, dans lequel le Petit Prince et les poètes seraient heureux de célébrer la paix. ■

1 <http://www.africa21.org/journees-des-medias-et-du-journalisme-en-afrique-special-changement-climatique-un-evenement-exceptionnel-organise-par-africa-21-a-geneve-du-14-au-16-octobre-2019/>



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Nicholas Theotocatos, Regional Ombudsman in Geneva for the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services.

as: evaluation of your options; providing upward feedback (with the express consent of the visitor) to Management and Administration; information/referral; conflict coaching; shuttle diplomacy and, if all parties are willing, mediation.

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NICHOLAS THEOTOCATOS

There is a Chinese saying that describes crossing a river by feeling for stones. I am often asked how I became an Ombudsman and feel that the path that led me here, through many twists and turns was made across the stones of deliberation, improvisation and good fortune.

Having studied law, my first job after graduating was with a law firm in Alaska. From there I took the next step on my path and entered the Intergovernmental world working for the UN Compensation Commission in Geneva and then the IOM's German Forced Labour Compensation Programme. While I was at IOM, a turning point occurred when I took my first

course on mediation and found that conflict resolution suited my temperament and my ability much better than the adversarial process of litigation. As a result, my next step occurred where I applied for and was selected as IOM's third Ombudsman in 2007.

People often ask me what an Ombudsman is and does. The exact role of an Ombudsman can vary from institution to institution, but in the context of the United Nations, an Ombudsman is a designated, independent neutral who provides confidential, off the record and impartial assistance for the informal resolution of issues and conflicts that are related to workplace concerns.

Concretely, an Ombudsman can assist you in looking at the issues you are facing from all perspectives, helping you to identify options and to assess them with a view to determining the best option for you. An Ombudsman acts with strict confidentiality and impartiality, and does not serve as an advocate for any individual in a dispute, nor for the organization; rather, the Ombudsman advocates for due process and procedural fairness and works to facilitate a solution that is acceptable to all parties.

So basically, an Ombudsman is a safe and confidential person that you can approach with your workplace concerns to talk through your issues. This could take a number of forms, such

Working as an Ombudsman has been a remarkably gratifying and enriching path for me. Not only do I have the satisfaction of working at the service of my colleagues and contributing to more harmonious working environments, but I also have the opportunity to learn from these encounters on a daily basis. The most surprising aspect of this journey from lawyer to mediator involved a realization of the strong link between conflict and suffering. Suffering – to my surprise – wasn't limited only to people in lower positions of power. Suffering as the result of conflict was a universal experience. All parties of a conflict – regardless of their role, position or grade – suffer. I once had a mediator colleague tell me that during an

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intervention in a UN office in Cambodia that a staff member had told him that the situation in the office was more distressing than the reeducation camp he had lived through earlier in his life.

This recognition of how important a harmonious working environment can be to both our individual and institutional well-being has been an ongoing source of motivation for me.

In 2009, my Ombuds path continued when I was selected as the first Regional Ombudsman in Nairobi as part of the creation of regional offices for the UN Ombudsman and Mediation Services (UNOMS), where I served for almost ten years before transferring this past August to the Regional Office in Geneva. As part of the UNOMS team, I gained the opportunity to work with over 20 dedicated conflict resolution professionals

in various Regional Offices around the world. The interactions with these colleagues and the conversations that we have about the intricacies of conflict resolution deepened and enhanced my practice.

This experience at UNOMS has also shaped how I help visitors to our office. A decade of working with UNOMS through my interactions with both colleagues and visitors has helped me develop my ability to listen. One thing that I often share with visitors is that listening to understand requires a different set of skills than other types of listening. Often times, for example, especially when we are in conflict, we listen to refute at the expense of understanding. Listening to understand often requires that we turn down the volume on our own internal dialogue and focus more on understanding the mental state of the speaker.

Listening to understand is a form of imaginative mental activity that helps us perceive and interpret human behavior in terms of the person's needs, desires, feelings, beliefs, goals, purposes and reasons. Listening to understand is a powerful tool of communication and something that I try to cultivate in myself and in the visitors to our office.

What I have found the most satisfying part of my practice as a Regional Ombudsman are those interactions with visitors where in a relatively short time frame I help develop a strategy for approaching a difficult conversation that enhances their working relationship with a colleague or manager.

I have found, and continue to find, the work of Ombudsing to be meaningful and rewarding, and very much look forward to the opportunity to

continue this work here with the United Nations community in Geneva. ■

How to contact the Ombudsman?

The Regional Office in Geneva is a bilingual office providing services in English and French to United Nations Secretariat personnel, including former employees and retirees. You can contact your Regional Ombudsman, Mr. Nicholas Theotocatos, at:

Villa les Feuillantines, Room 13,
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41-22-917-3760 or 26-73,760
Email: nicholas.theotocatos@un.org

For more general information about the Office of the Ombudsman and Mediation Services, you can contact unoms@un.org, or visit their website: <https://www.un.org/en/Ombudsman/>



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La science est un moteur de paix

*Rencontre avec
Barbora Bruant Gulejová,
Ambassadrice de la science.*



Barbora Bruant Gulejová, Ambassadrice de la science, CERN.

**MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN,
ANCIENNE FONCTIONNAIRE, ONUG**

Passer un moment avec Barbora, c'est pénétrer dans une autre dimension, ouvrir la porte à un «univers» extraordinaire, à l'image du CERN dont elle parle avec passion et où elle travaille comme *Science Communicator*.

Barbora explique que l'imagerie par résonance magnétique et le PET, ainsi que thérapie des protons, techniques si utiles pour les traitements médicaux, ont été développées à partir de recherches effectuées par le CERN.

Elle ajoute que, lorsque le World Wide Web a été inventé par deux chercheurs du CERN, «ceux-ci voulaient simplement trouver un système fiable pour le partage et la diffusion des connaissances. Ce désir de partage des connaissances constitue l'un des objectifs les plus nobles du CERN et qui va bien au-delà.

«En effet, **lorsqu'on réunit des individus autour d'un sujet technique ou scientifique, ils en oublient les griefs nationaux pour réfléchir de manière plus planétaire et globale.**

«Dans les équipes multiculturelles, les problèmes ethniques ou les dissensions religieuses sont bien rares. **La science, dans ce sens, est un moteur de paix.**»

Barbora s'anime davantage encore dès qu'elle parle de la recherche fondamentale – qu'elle décrit comme une «pure curiosité de l'esprit pour la découverte» (et elle prononce le mot «pure» avec une délectation toute particulière).

Elle établit des liens entre découvertes anciennes et technologies de pointe, dont certains semblent évidents, comme la recherche sur les ondes électromagnétiques en 1865 et la mise en place récente du Wifi. En revanche, quand il s'agit de «connecter» le GPS avec la théorie de la relativité d'Albert Einstein, elle fournit volontiers quelques explications «étant donné que le temps circule légèrement plus vite sur les satellites de *Global Positioning System* que sur le sol, il convient donc d'appliquer la théorie de la relativité d'Einstein pour déterminer avec précision où se trouve quelqu'un sur la planète Terre».

Son sourire lumineux, les mouvements de ses mains dans

l'espace, la simplicité de ses commentaires seraient susceptible de provoquer, même chez les plus réfractaires d'entre nous, le désir d'entamer des études de physique.

«Chaque innovation est un produit de la recherche fondamentale, même si cela se produit parfois des décennies plus tard. «Malheureusement, la recherche fondamentale se heurte à deux obstacles majeurs: des budgets limités et un manque d'intérêt de la part des jeunes en général – et des filles en particulier», poursuit Barbora.

Puis elle ajoute, dans un soupir: «Il est à noter que la science n'est pas un sujet très populaire. Même dans les Objectifs de développement durable de l'ONU, le mot science n'est pas mentionné une seule fois.

«Il est donc essentiel que les parents encouragent leurs enfants à découvrir la science! «Ils peuvent les amener au CERN où des visites ciblées sont organisées.¹

Ils peuvent aussi agir, en qualité de parents d'élèves, en encourageant les enseignants de leurs enfants à développer des activités liées à la science. Le CERN peut, là aussi, proposer des pistes pédagogiques.

D'une manière plus générale, chacun peut devenir «Ambassadeur pour la Science»² ou encourager les filles à s'intéresser à la physique³, deux programmes très motivants pour les jeunes générations ou les décideurs de demain.

C'est entre humour et gravité que notre jeune physicienne apporte sa conclusion:

«Quand des gens veulent changer le monde, ils se mettent à étudier la philosophie ou l'économie. Dommage qu'ils ne choisissent pas la science...

«Avec la science, la réflexion a de bonnes chances d'aboutir à des recherches qui contribueront ensuite au bien-être de la société. Cela a souvent été le cas et c'est là que réside notre avenir.

La recherche fondamentale, c'est ce qui peut sauver le monde.» ■

¹ Toutes les informations sont disponibles sur le site: <https://visit.cern/>.

² <http://ippog.org/cass>

³ <http://ippog.org/girlsdphysics>



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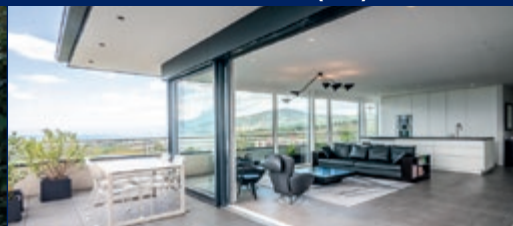
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100 YEARS OF Multilateralism in GENEVA 1919-2019



Transfer of the League of Nations to the United Nations and dissolution of the League of Nations

Did you know?

Multilateralism is a significant feature of international relations in the 20th century. The establishment of the League of Nations in 1919 marked a turning point for its institutionalization. It was the first international organization created to maintain peace and promote cooperation among States.



It provided a permanent multilateral framework where representatives of all Member States had the opportunity to meet periodically and discuss all major international issues on an equal footing. Its constitutive document, the Covenant of the League of Nations, established the rights and obligations of the League's members and contained the principles on which the international order must be based.

Although the League failed to prevent the outbreak of the Second World War, its "Great Experience" was not lost. In 1945, the United Nations was established taking into consideration the lessons of the past. Multilateralism is part of the UN's DNA and it is an essential instrument for coordinating international action to achieve



the goals set by the UN Charter. By contributing to build an inclusive international system based on shared values and common norms, multilateralism helps to create the conditions for maintaining and consolidating peace. It also gives the possibility to find common solutions to global challenges. International cooperation within the multilateral framework of the United Nations allowed us to achieve tangible results in the fields ranging from health to trade and economic development and humanitarian assistance to control of armaments and environmental protection. It saves lives every day. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is designed as an integrated and universal framework. Multilateral cooperation is essential to achieve the 17 SDGs by 2030.



Signature of the United Nations Charter

1945 1946

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare (Geneva Protocol)

1925

League of Nations adopts the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child

2019

100 years of Multilateralism



Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations Assembly



1948



First mission of the "Blue Helmets"

1956



Creation of the United Nations Development Programme

1966

Signature of the League of Nations Covenant

1919



First Assembly of the League of Nations

1920



First-ever World Conference on Women in Mexico City on 19 June 1975

1975



1922



Creation of the Permanent Court of International Justice

1924



UNHCR received the Nobel Peace Prize twice in 1954 and 1981

1981



United Nations and Secretary-General Kofi Annan received Nobel Peace Prize

2001

Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the United Nations Assembly



2015



Caught in the Crossfire

Protecting the environment during conflict

How can we incorporate the ideas of environmental sustainability into the way we think about war and peace?

MIGUEL VAN DER VELDEN, UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

In 2014, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called the environment the 'silent casualty of war and armed conflict'. This was 20 years after Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo became the first UNESCO world heritage site listed as endangered due to conflict, 23 years since retreating forces torched hundreds of oil wells in Kuwait at the end of the Gulf War and nearly 70 years since Bikini Atoll in the South Pacific was evacuated for nuclear testing with relation to the Cold War, making the islands uninhabitable.

Environmental destruction has been an integral part of human conflict ever since we started waging war. The environment is affected not just by direct attack during war, but also by its indirect effects. Destroying human infrastructure ruins the

barriers we build between sewage and streets; refineries and rivers; pipelines and the plants we harvest for food. There is no remedy for this type of destruction, especially after conservationists have fled the fighting.

Besides direct destruction, the environment can also be victimized in times of war and armed conflict through the uncontrolled, destructive exploitation of natural resources. The maintenance of standing armies and rebel groups exerts enormous strain on environmental resources. In Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, critical biodiversity hotspots have offered cover and refuge for rebel groups for many years. This has opened these habitats up to illegal logging, unregulated mining and massive poaching. Finally, with no infrastructure left to support them, even refugees turn to the environment in order to fulfil their basic needs.

However, it is all too easy to ascribe the role of 'silent victim' to the environment and forget that it can also form a part of the solution. Environmental stability is a prerequisite for sustainable peace – the economy and society are constrained by environmental limits, and so economic and social sustainability (which includes a near-total end to war, corruption and crime) cannot be reached without a healthy environment.

In the case of war and armed conflict specifically, the environment could play a more proactive role through 'environmental peacemaking'. Environmental peacemaking is a way of resolving injustice and transforming the structural conditions that lead to conflict by envisioning environmental cooperation as one of the places where hostile parties can sustain a dialogue. The literature on environmental peacemaking claims that environmental cooperation can facilitate more peaceful relations within states as well as symbolic reconciliation within and between states for more coordinated exploitation of natural resources. Studies have identified institutions

that tackle environmental challenges as especially conducive to peace and security.¹

Environmental peacemaking is not just researcher jargon.

River basin management is a type of environmental management that requires coordination and has been used to promote peace and security. The Danube Commission, for example, established in Europe in 1948 to coordinate the maintenance of the Danube River, was one of the earliest attempts after the Second World War to coordinate the police powers of sovereign states for a common cause and has greatly contributed to reducing pollution of the river. Similar initiatives have been introduced across the world ever since. Today, initiatives like these are internationally supported and promoted by organizations such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which contributes to coordinated environmental resources management.

With the climate changing at an unprecedented rate, initiatives like these must be amplified and increased in number. Researchers agree that a changing climate will have a



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© UNEP Flickr

Mountain gorillas are particularly threatened by war and unrest.



© Airman Magazine, Flickr

Oil wells set ablaze by retreating forces burn in the Kuwaiti desert following the Gulf War.

significant negative impact on environmental security.² Even if current climate change mitigation targets are met, tens of millions of more people will be impoverished due to climate change in the coming decades. Many will have to choose between starvation and migration, leading to more climate refugees. Inequalities are likely to increase, with those unable to migrate or finance adaptation strategies becoming increasingly vulnerable to overheating, hunger and conflict. All these factors combined are likely to only increase tension and conflict, which in turn leads to more environmental destruction, leading again to a further increase in tension and conflict – an endless, toxic cycle.

Reducing conflict risk and preparing for a changing climate can be a win-win approach. Climate change adaptation strategies can increase food security and diversify economic opportunities, thereby reducing

the risk of climatic hazards instigating or exacerbating violent conflicts.³ Meanwhile, peacekeeping operations can incorporate the climate into their risk reduction strategies by looking at ways to prevent such climatic hazards. For these initiatives to be successful, however, projects need to include local populations and be explicit in their intent to lead to peaceful international relations; as in other cases, the UN can play a mediating role.

November 6 is the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. Moving forward, countries can take success stories from across the world as incentives and lessons to learn from. These include the establishment of a conservation area in the Cordillera del Cóndor, which supported Ecuador and Peru in resolving their long-standing conflict in 1998, and the case of Central America, where

environmental cooperation in the Trifinio region was instrumental to the termination of the rivalry between El Salvador and Honduras in the early 1990s.

If we give the environment a place at the peacemaking and peacekeeping tables, there will be no need for that same environment to be a ‘silent victim of war’ in the future. Instead, the environment could play an enterprising role that will not only protect the biodiversity of our planet and reduce fossil fuel emissions, but also protect us, our infrastructures and our livelihoods. It is up to us to put down our weapons and ask the environment for help. ■

- 1 Ide, T. (2019, September). The Impact of Environmental Cooperation on Peacemaking: Definitions, Mechanisms, and Empirical Evidence. *International Studies Review*, 21(3), 327–346.
- 2 Adger, W.N., J.M. Pulhin, J. Barnett, G.D. Dabelko, G.K. Hovelsrud, M. Levy, Ú. Oswald Spring, and C.H. Vogel, 2014: Human security. In: *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, pp. 755–791.
- 3 Ryan, D. (2019, June 12). *Stanford-led study investigates how much climate change affects the risk of armed conflict*. Retrieved from Stanford News: <https://news.stanford.edu/2019/06/12/climate-change-cause-armed-conflict/>

Chemicals and Waste during Conflict

The destruction of waste infrastructure during armed conflict can have a detrimental effect on human health and the environment, especially when it leads to the inadvertent release of hazardous chemicals.

Beyond situations of conflict, hazardous chemicals and other pollutants continue to be released in large quantities. According to the UN Environment Programme’s Global Chemicals Outlook II, more ambitious worldwide action by all stakeholders is urgently required to minimize adverse impacts of chemicals and waste.

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University for Peace

Educating global talents for Peace in an uncertain world

**DR. FRANCISCO ROJAS ARAVENA,
RECTOR, UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE**

UPEACE is a global entity. We are an international organization established pursuant to UN General Assembly *Resolution 35/55* of 5 December 1980. We are present and develop activities in Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia, Latin America and China. The University's headquarters are located in Costa Rica. We hold permanent observer status before the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna. UPEACE's global orientation is provided by its governing Council, whose Honorary President is the UN Secretary-General, who in turn names 10 of the Council's 17 members to represent all continents. In 2018, the UN General Assembly highlighted the work carried out by UPEACE in its resolution A/RES/73/90.

Conflicts become more acute and generate situations that inhibit development and produce instability within each of the sub-regions where they occur. Problems in governance increase and the ability of international institutions to mitigate them are limited. The University for Peace, (www.upeace.org) is working on: a) Promoting development and Peace through education; b) Educating and training global talents for positive action within the local and global systems; c) Developing and promoting equality for all humankind through education; d) Encouraging the development of new ideas for harmony and the edification of a peaceful society within the international scope.

Humanity is in grave debt to the fundamental principles of the *2030 Agenda*. Humanity is not adequately caring about people, much less the planet. The actions of humanity inhibit global progress. The single most significant thing is that humanity is endangering peace. Humans, with their actions, is generating unprecedented dangers for the survival of living beings on the planet, beyond threatening their own existence, despite the alerts emanating from the United Nations.

We see the convergence of the increasing impact of human activity on the environment and biodiversity. Ancient trees such as the Baobab are dying out because of these changes. The confluence of these situations is generating massive migrations on different continents. Millions of people internally displaced because of armed confrontations or severe droughts or floods. Recent reports indicate that, in 2018, there were 28 million new internally-displaced persons, with almost two thirds of them consisting of "environmental refugees" and one third refugees from violent conflicts, particularly from Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. In all these cases, the violations of human rights increase exponentially.

Conflicts re-emerge in different regions of the world. Tensions between the superpowers are on the rise due to direct discrepancies or conflicts they support and are involved in around the world. Issues related to nuclear conflict have

once again taken a significant place on the international agenda. The denuclearization processes have retroceded. At present, old asymmetric conflicts have taken on a new form with much more serious consequences for the civilian population, particularly the most vulnerable sectors (children, women, the elderly). These are the so-called *hybrid wars*, that is, traditional wars in which the actions of irregular forces, organized crime, and even terrorist forces are superimposed. These wars, expressed as civil wars, are the ones that result in the greatest number of victims, displaced persons and human rights violations. In some regions of the world, where civil war has not yet exploded, societies are blocked within confrontations that polarize the whole of society. These crises translate in to a serious violation of human rights, also produce massive migrations and affecting the governance of entire geographical areas.

New threats and great dangers require new policies and actions. Political will is weak, the capacity to build global governance is limited, and multilateral diplomacy is very weak. Urgent actions are imperative in order to face post-conflict situations and avoid the reappearance of conflict, violence and war. Peace is much more than the end of armed conflict. Education is the most ennobling means to achieve peace. Education facilitates dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Education creates new opportunities for



Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena.

civic, harmonious coexistence and the edification of peaceful societies, though cooperation.

It is necessary to educate for prevention. Education for Peace and Non-violence must be improved at all levels and on a permanent basis. It is urgent to reinforce multilateralism. We are a century from the birth of the League of Nations. Over the past 100 years, multilateralism has played a central role in inter-state relations. The League of Nations emerged with the objective of achieving peace and security through the institutionalization of multilateralism. There are many lessons learned that have enabled the United Nations to carry out much more effective work. It has managed to establish more than seven decades of global peace, with more than 200 nations taking an active role in the organization. The United Nations emerged to preserve peace and security, foster development, and protect human rights and human dignity. The UN has managed to avoid



© University for Peace

Class of 2019.

global wars between the main world powers and managed to limit regional conflicts. Stability, security, and peace, as well as the protection of human rights, remain permanent tasks.

Educating and strengthening Diplomacy for Peace is a task promoted by the University for Peace daily. In a context like the one we have described – and to which we must add the reconfiguration of the geo-strategic framework of global relations – the task of training for conflict prevention and conflict resolution and transformation is crucial, which is why the University for Peace and the work it carries out is more relevant and necessary than ever. This mission is carried out, in large part, through the nine Master's

degree programmes offered across five academic departments – Department of Peace and Conflict Studies (*M.A. International Peace Studies; M.A. Media and Peace; M.A. Peace Education; M.A. Gender and Peacebuilding*); Department of International Law (*M.A. International Law and Human Rights; M.A. International Law and the Settlement of Disputes*); Department of Environment and Development (*M.A. Environment, Development and Peace; M.A. Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development*); Department of Regional Studies (*M.A. Resolución de Conflictos, Paz y Desarrollo*); Distance Education (*M.A. Sustainable Peace in the Contemporary World*). UPEACE also has a

Doctoral Degree programme in Peace and Conflict Studies. Our programmes are open to all – indiscriminate of race, national origin, religion, gender and disability – who meet the minimum requirements through our website¹.

We are convinced that, only through education, will it be possible to establish an essential consensus around shared visions about the great challenges, new risks and threats to Peace. All of this demands renewed knowledge, new paradigms, new analyses. The publications of our faculty members constitute a special contribution on matters related to the global vision. The upcoming publication of the book titled *The Difficult Task of Peace:*

Crisis, Fragility and Conflict in an Uncertain World (Palgrave, 2019), constitutes a truly collective effort of UPEACE scholars to provide a global vision of the current state of the International System.

The University for Peace will celebrate 40 years of existence in 2020, reaffirming the fundamental value of the university. Those of us who work at the university reaffirm, through our daily work, that training in Education for Peace and Nonviolence, prevention, and mediation constitutes the basic element for harmony at a local level, from which you can build peace in an interdependent world.

Each and every member of UPEACE works determinedly to uphold the legacy of its founder, President Rodrigo Carazo, under a common theme: If we want Peace, we must work for Peace. ■

¹ <https://www.upeace.org/pages/apply-admission>

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The evolution of gender equality inside the UN family

The perception of gender equality has significantly evolved since the UN was created, let's travel back through time.



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt (left), Representative of the United States on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights with Mrs. Rosa Markmann Reijer de Gonzalez Videla, First Lady of Chile in one of the United Nations Radio studios. 1952

ANALUCÍA JÁCOME QUELAL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ECUADOR

At the international level, there has been recognition that gender equality encompasses all areas of peace, development, and human rights. However, there are still significant challenges ahead, encompassing a wide spectrum of causes and consequences, by involving different stakeholders.

Irrespective of victims' origin, belief, condition, age, or status, as well as other external factors that can deepen vulnerabilities, gender discrimination with different nuances has been present throughout the years. This reality represents legal, social, and economic barriers while disregarding the achievement of full human potential. Sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities.¹

The situation inside the United Nations family is not exempted of this reality, even more so because of its responsibility to lead by example as the international scenario for dialogue and conciliation

among nations. Therefore, it is important to take stock of some core developments since its establishment.

The UN System is grounded on the principle of equality and non-discrimination, as reflected in the language of the UN Charter (1945). In particular, it is worth noting the use of “everyone” throughout its text for referring to individuals in general, as well as its specific preambular mention that reaffirms the faith of the peoples of the Organization in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the “human person”, in the equal rights of men and women.

Likewise, the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (1948) states in its preambular part the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family and emphasizes in its first article that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. In its drafting, the Commission on the Status of Women, established in 1946 under the supervision of ECOSOC, played a role by promoting equality between women and men.

In the fifties, gender per se was not explicitly part of the international arena

In the fifties, *gender* per se –commonly referring to expected roles of women and men from social constructions– was not explicitly part of the international arena. However, the above-mentioned language of these two UN core instruments denotes equal rights for all individuals, regardless of any biological differences between males and females, generally referred as “sex”.

Over time, the social dynamics and common struggle of women have paved the way for the gradual development of International Law on issues related to gender under the Human Rights perspective as a crosscutting pillar in the UN System. In this endeavour, not only delegates from States have contributed, due to their primary responsibility to protect those who are under their respective jurisdictions, but also various actors, including the staff members of the United Nations, civil society organizations, and all the members of society.

Certainly, there are some landmark precedents of the use of the word gender in the framework of the UN discussions since the early 1990s. It has set the stage to its gradual inclusion in nonbinding international documents, mainly on the topic of women, as well as in different instruments, mechanisms, and initiatives. Moreover, it has been positive for achieving one binding definition on gender, adapted for the purposes of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998.

In 1985, the General Assembly sets goals for increased women's representation in the Secretariat, an important precedent

Inside the UN, these winds of change went head-to-head with ongoing discussions, commitments, developments, and expectations that have been witnessed by generations. One important precedent is the decision made by the General Assembly in 1985 to set goals for increased women's representation in the Secretariat. The first goal was set to increase the presence of women in the Secretariat to 20% by 1990, which was



Tatiana Valovaya (left), Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), speaks with Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, during the 3rd Part of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

ultimately met in 1991. By 1995 the goal was 35%, with 25% at the higher management levels. Nonetheless, at the end of 1993, the number of women in senior management reached only 13%.²

Currently, the overall balance, regarding the percentage of women among the UN professional staff at all levels has increased, from 29.5% in 1993, to 40% in 2019. Similarly, the average of women's representation at higher management levels (D1 to USG) has reached 40%. Nonetheless, the election of women to higher political posts is still limited. For example, H.E Maria Fernanda Espinosa was the fourth women appointed as President of the General Assembly; H.E Michelle Bachelet is only the fourth women appointed to be High Commissioner for Human Rights; and H.E Tatiana Valovaya is

the first women appointed as Director-General of the UNOG.

It is important to notice that gender parity goes far beyond the workplace

Because it also includes the recognition of the rights of persons with different sexual preferences. In the 90s several articles were published by this very same *UN Special Magazine*. Articles advocating for the protection of birth rights, but only if the child was born from heterosexual parents and it was necessary to know who the biological father was. Likewise, some advertisements on fitness for women were published, promoting beauty stereotypes and sexism.

Nowadays, these messages could be perceived as inconsistent in their attempt to promote gender respect through the avoidance of violence and discrimination. In this regard, and faced with

the persistent struggle and efforts made at local, national, regional and international level, the United Nations has led strategies for strengthening capacity building for mainstreaming gender through a set of specific, strategic approaches, as well as technical and institutional processes adopted to tackle discrimination from its roots.

On the one hand, since 2010, UN Women has promoted and designed a number of in-house policies, strategies and tools aimed at advancing gender equality in the System. These efforts include the creation of a network of focal points to champion gender-related issues and identify positive and negative trends that emerge from 32 UN entities. The last report prepared by the Secretary General on the improvement of the status of women in the UN system (UN Doc. A/74/220, 2019) considered the need to update and streamline the terms of reference for general focal points, achieve adequate levels of seniority, and responsibility, as well as access to data and appropriate allocation of time, financial resources and training.

Achieving gender equality requires organizational culture to change and improve at all levels

In this regard, the UN has developed a set of tools aimed at helping its staff to communicate in a gender-inclusive manner

in the six official languages of the Organization, as part of the "System-wide Strategy on Gender Parity", a management reform led by the Secretary General entitled since 2017. These Guidelines represent a strategy to eradicate discrimination based in particular on sex, social gender or gender identity, and perpetuation of gender stereotypes. It also provides the opportunity for staff members to complete related training.

In addition, the UN itself persists in its endeavor through the Human Rights Up-Front Plan of Action, which integrates human rights into the lifeblood of the system, so that all staff understand their own and the Organization's human rights obligations. This is in line with SDG 5 for achieving "gender equality and empowering all women and girls", and SDG 16 on the promotion of "peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development", representing an opportunity for change to achieve the systematic mainstreaming of gender in the implementation of coherent strategies of action by UN entities and staff, not only at headquarters, but also on the ground. ■

1 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

2 <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/worldswomen/documents/ww1995.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/gender/content/un-secretariat-gender-parity-dashboard>



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25 September 2019

World Negotiation Day

Partnership with the private sector brings to light global practices and expertise in Multilateral Negotiations.

FARAH TABCHE, TAYLOR SULLIVAN, UNOG

Last September, the first edition of World Negotiation Day, brought together more than 200 diplomats, negotiators, and other experts in the field to share and discuss the place negotiation has in economic, diplomatic and climatic spheres.

The event featured a panel discussion on the journey from conflict to peace, bringing critical negotiations, conflict de-escalation, human rights, grassroots and local peace movements, and climate change to the forefront. Chaired by Rabih el-Haddad, Director of UNITAR'S Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, the panel included four other experts in negotiation from both the private and public international spheres including Marwan Mery and Laurent Combalbert, co-founders of ADN Group, Jerome Bellion-Jourdan, Senior Fellow in Residence at the Graduate Institute's Global Governance Centre, and Maria Butler, Director of Global Programmes at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

In his opening remarks, Rabih el-Haddad highlighted the significance of the World Negotiation Day as a crucial opportunity to encourage and reward negotiators who are instrumental in overcoming negotiation deadlocks and building consensus. In a world where negotiation is increasingly competitive, negotiators need to be empowered and supported in their push for cooperative attitudes. He also emphasized the importance of calling upon experts from outside of the United Nations, such as the ADN Group, to leverage their expertise within the diplomatic field.

Negotiation as a tool in crisis management

Marwan Mery, the co-founder of ADN Group and an expert in resolving complex situations and lie detection, commenced the deliberation; discussing negotiation as a tool in crisis management, he provided participants with useful knowledge on de-escalating hostage negotiations, while also adding personal anecdotes to support his techniques. Mery identified three tools critical to conflict de-escalation: understanding



Panelists join one of the prize winners for the Negotiator of the Year Award, H.E. Mr. Salim Baddoura.

© ADN Group

the rationality of the demand, focusing on what is at stake in a negotiation, and fostering trust among the negotiating parties. His fellow co-founder, Laurent Combalbert, joined him on this topic. As an expert in crisis management, he discussed navigating from a competitive to a cooperative negotiation style. He emphasized that although cooperative negotiations usually do not arise naturally, with roughly only 8-10% of all negotiations beginning in a stage of cooperation, these negotiations must be held as a necessity.

UN human rights negotiations and their impact

As the Senior Fellow in Residence at the Graduate Institute's Global Governance Centre, and a former European Union negotiator for over eight years, Jerome Bellion-Jourdan was able to draw from his professional experience to highlight the nexus of human rights and negotiation. He discussed the implementation of human rights norms and standards via United Nations negotiations, and the increasing need to connect the realms of negotiation. He also advocated for increased

collaboration between the UN, civil society, and business in multilateral negotiations, as we progress from a state-centric model to a more inclusive and multi-faceted approach to international relations.

Peace negotiations and inclusiveness

Maria Butler, Director of Global Programmes at the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, focused on the importance of inclusivity in peace negotiations. With the use of real-world examples of successful negotiations including female and local community involvement, she emphasized the necessity of including these groups in negotiations. Her discussion was underpinned by the need for a fundamental reform of the UN system that would eliminate the structural discrimination against women in negotiation institutions, and include communities at all steps of peace negotiation, as she believes they are the stewards of enduring peace.

Climate change negotiations are crucial for our future

In the final keynote on climate change negotiations,



© ADN Group

More than 150 participants from private and public sectors attend the World Negotiation Day.

Rabih el-Haddad, Director of the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy, touched on the future of multilateral negotiations in the face of climate change. Unlike many traditional forms of negotiation, he indicated that climate change negotiations rest upon the differentiation of power between

industrialized and developing countries. These negotiations are centred on consensus and partnership in achieving their common interests.

Participants then engaged in a roundtable discussion with the panelists on the role of the United Nations, and the

significance of private-public partnerships in negotiation. They also elaborated on the key elements of a successful negotiation, the perception of United Nations negotiations from the perspective of civil society, particularly on climate change, and the future of AI and other technologies in multilateral negotiations.

Wael Abou el-Magd of Egypt, were this year's recipients of the award. Ambassador Baddoura chaired the committee that adopted the ILO Centenary Declaration for the Future of Work and presided at the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board in 2018. Ambassador El Magd was the chair of the Group of 77 and China and one of the most active negotiators at the Bangkok Climate Change Conference, playing a key role in reaching a deal that worked for all parties while maintaining a unified position for the Group of 77 and China until the end of the negotiations.

The event concluded with a cocktail reception in the Bar Serpent, which allowed participants to network and discuss their feedback with the panelists.

Increasing public-private partnerships in negotiation is essential for the evolution of bilateral and multilateral negotiations. With the success of World Negotiation Day, UNITAR is determined to facilitate more discussions in collaboration with the private sector in the future. This event has been organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the International Negotiation Agency (AND Group). ■



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The World Negotiation Day was accompanied by the first ever Negotiator of the Year Award. This award celebrates negotiators who were instrumental in unblocking negotiation deadlocks and facilitating consensus building during negotiations. Selected by a jury of international experts, Ambassador Salim Baddoura of Lebanon, and Ambassador

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Life in Geneva: Tips on Getting Settled as a WHO Intern

Tips and insights on living and working in Geneva from the perspective of the WHO Internship Program.



WHO Intern Board (June 2019). Pictured from left to right: Alisha Kapur (Welfare Coordinator), Alina Lack (Fair Internship Initiative Co-Coordinator), Jun Kyung Lee (President), Ahmad Hoseen (Communications Coordinator), Alyssa Palmquist (Vice President), Azhar Rahman (Sports Coordinator), Farah Jawitz (Secretary). Not pictured: Shannon Han (Fair Internship Initiative Co-Coordinator), Saara Thakur (Social Coordinator).

© Alyssa Palmquist

JUN KYUNG LEE, ALYSSA PALMQUIST, WHO

Each year, thousands of young professionals move to Geneva for internships, with the World Health Organization (WHO) headquarters in Geneva hosting approximately 500-600 interns per year. While each United Nations organization has its own process for advising interns on getting settled in Geneva, here we provide some tips and resources from the perspective of the WHO Internship Program¹ covering housing, transportation and daily life.

Brief Overview: WHO Internship Program

The WHO Internship Program provides a pre-arrival guide to all incoming interns which includes general advice and key onboarding tasks. All interns, regardless of nationality, must check if they need an entry visa to work in Switzerland. Once in Geneva, interns are given a daily lunch voucher worth CHF15 for the duration of their internship and a comprehensive health insurance in line with the Thirteenth General Program of Work (GPW13). They are also entitled to 2.5 days of time off per month and, since May 2019, given free access to WHO fitness facilities.

WHO interns are represented by an elected Intern Board which meets regularly with the Human Resources Department (HRD) and hosts various weekly activities including an intern lunch and intern network meetings. In addition, they help host a monthly induction day for new interns where senior leadership present WHO's organizational history, governance and strategic priorities. Over the last several years WHO has taken several steps to reform the internship program including a central application and recruitment system as well as exit surveys and recommendation letters.

Every six months, WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus meets with all interns to discuss their engagement and welfare. The Intern Board also meets with Dr. Tedros every two months to discuss improvements to the internship program. Beginning in January 2020, WHO will provide monthly living stipends to all interns up to CHF1650² as approved by Member States during the 71st World Health Assembly³ in support of the goal, by 2022, of 50% representation from low and middle-income countries (LMICs). Other initiatives include staff bike donations, a

mentorship program and conference calls with interns at WHO Regional and Country offices. The Intern Board is also working with HRD and the Department of Information Management and Technology to develop an alumni network to help foster ongoing connections with the work of WHO and its partners. WHO interns maintain Facebook (WHO HQ Interns) and Instagram (@who_hq_interns) accounts with regular updates on life as an intern in Geneva. Below is a summary of information collected from the WHO intern network in an effort to share common resources with future young professionals relocating to Switzerland.

Geneva Snapshot: Daily Life and Getting Around

Home to the United Nations and a host of multinational organizations, Geneva has a rich history of diversity and culture. New arrivals can go on a free Geneva walking tour⁴ which leaves from the city center each Sunday at 11 a.m. and, if you really want to get a sense of local culture, CHF40 buys a Museum Pass⁵ with access to more than a dozen locations throughout the city. We recommend visiting the International Red



© Chris Black

Interns with WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Human Resources Department colleagues in charge of the programme.

Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) museum which includes permanent exhibitions on defending human dignity, restoring family links and reducing natural risks around the world. In addition to a regular WHO lunch-time seminar series, the Geneva Institute⁶ also offers a wide range of panels and discussions, most of which are free to attend.

The official language of Geneva is French, but English and German are also spoken. Interns wishing to practice their French skills can join a language group via www.globals.com. One of the first tasks upon arrival is to get a local SIM card. Of the main providers, Lycamobile and Lebara are best for short-term stays (less than three months) whereas Salt and Sunrise tend to offer long-term contracts. You can also buy a monthly TPG (Geneva Public Transport) pass from the city transport office at Gare Cornavin. To purchase, you will need your passport and a passport-sized photo. Prices vary, but for adults under 25 the monthly rate for Geneva (Zone 10) is CHF45 and CHF70 for those over 25. Uber is accessible within Geneva and traveling from Switzerland to France (but not the other way around). If you live in France, make sure to account for the extra transportation zone(s) and carry your passport with you when crossing the border. Finally, note that dining out in Geneva can be very expensive so try and budget accordingly. Interns tend to spend between CHF50–100 per week for groceries depending on where and how often they shop, with a total monthly budget of CHF1200–1800.

Accommodation

Unfortunately, affordable housing is difficult to find in Geneva. Nevertheless, many resources are available for interns. These range from public Facebook groups (Geneva Interns Association, IHEID Homeless in Geneva, UN Housing and Geneva a Louer) to online platforms like www.globals.com where classifieds are posted on a regular basis. Based on past experience, the WHO Intern Board estimates that the average price for a furnished bedroom with shared bathroom and kitchen ranges from CHF550-750, with a studio ranging from CHF850-1200 per month. These rates increase for flats in Geneva city center from a low of CHF600 to a high of CHF1500.

Airbnb also offers various options, but these tend to be limited and more expensive. However, many interns do book an Airbnb for their first few days so they can visit flats in person. WHO strongly advises against transferring any funds before seeing a flat as scams have been reported in the past. That being said, the earlier you start looking the better as demand is very high and places do go fast. Most landlords should be comfortable with a written agreement and may ask for a copy of your passport to secure the listing – this is not abnormal and is often required for tax reasons. Finally, many interns have found foyers (dormitories) to be a good option as these are specifically designed for low-income, temporary tenants. The Geneva Interns Association⁷ has compiled

a list of housing resources at <http://internsassociation.org/useful-information/housing-tips/>. Many interns also choose to live across the border in France, but you must double-check your visa requirements to make sure this is an option.

Departing Geneva

At the conclusion of their internship, WHO interns complete an exit survey where they can provide feedback on how the program can continue to evolve and improve. With the addition of stipends, WHO is proud to contribute to the efforts across the UN to ensure fair equitable and accessible internship opportunities for all. The Intern Board wishes to thank the WHO Staff Association for the opportunity to reflect on our experience and support future interns and young professionals. ■

- 1 <https://www.who.int/careers/internships/en/>
- 2 Adjusted depending on external funding
- 3 Agenda item 17.1: Reform of the Global Internship Programme
- 4 <http://www.geneva.info/free-tour/>
- 5 <https://museesdegeneve.ch/musees/>
- 6 <https://graduateinstitute.ch/Homepage>
- 7 <http://internsassociation.org/>

Un coup de fourchette au cœur de la diversité

Vincent Lagueux, travaille chez Eldora SA, le spécialiste de la restauration de collectivité. Il est le directeur d'exploitation des restaurants de l'ONU et se confie autour d'un café.



© Sarah Bencherif

Vincent Lagueux, directeur d'exploitation des restaurants d'Eldora à l'ONU.

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY, CNUCED

Il annonce des nouveaux plats, l'introduction de verres sérigraphiés, des changements stratégiques liés aux travaux entrepris dans le Palais des Nations et la distribution gratuite du buffet salade en fin de service au bénéfice des stagiaires.

Je n'ai même pas le temps de finir mon expresso et j'ai déjà son portrait dans la tête. Vincent Lagueux est dynamique, soucieux de l'environnement et du bien-être de ceux qu'il appelle d'un ton chaleureux «les convives». Originaire de l'ouest de la France, Vincent a fait des études de restauration à La Rochelle, a passé un Bac technologique hôtelier, et s'est ensuite spécialisé dans la cuisine. Avant de devenir le directeur d'exploitation des restaurants de l'ONU, il a travaillé au Ritz à Paris, en service et en sommellerie... Il adore cuisiner la blanquette de veau!

Quelle est la particularité de la gestion de la restauration au cœur du Palais des Nations?

C'est comme dans les grands palaces. On accueille des personnalités du monde entier, on est au cœur du monde politique

lié aux droits humains. L'ONU travaille pour conquérir la paix dans le monde. Nous, nous essayons de veiller à la fois aux aspects nutritionnel et relationnel en offrant des prestations diverses, pour tous les goûts.

A la cafétéria, nous proposons 11 prestations différentes chaque jour, dont un menu express pour les plus pressés, et un menu *Natura* qui permet de travailler les produits locaux. Nous essayons de favoriser les agriculteurs genevois. Nous servons 1600 couverts par jour en moyenne entre la cafétéria, le *Restaurant des Délégués* et les cafétérias extérieures (Maison de l'environnement, Palais Wilson et Motta). Lors de grandes réunions, nous pouvons servir jusqu'à 2100 personnes.

Comment arrivez-vous à favoriser des produits locaux avec une demande aussi importante? Prenons comme exemple la tomate. Quels sont vos fournisseurs?

La tomate provient de nos fournisseurs référencés du maraîchage genevois. Nous essayons d'avoir des circuits courts garantissant un service de qualité et favorisant

les agriculteurs de la région. Mais le volume d'activité nous oblige parfois de nous approvisionner également dans les pays limitrophes.

Pourriez-vous être plus précis?

France, Espagne, Allemagne et Italie en particulier. Il peut arriver qu'une partie des produits le soit, car de nos jours nos convives veulent manger de tout, toute l'année.

Quel est le pourcentage de surgelés?

Le pourcentage est relativement faible par rapport aux légumes frais. Sur les grosses périodes on a 750 kilos de fruits et légumes frais par jour et plus d'une tonne de pommes de terre par mois. De toute façon la région genevoise ne pourrait pas fournir l'ensemble de la restauration à plus de 17%. Donc nous nous approvisionnons aussi en Canton de Vaud et dans toute la Suisse.

Le pourcentage de produits bio utilisés est-il élevé?

La demande est en croissance, mais les pourcentages sont fluctuants. Dans ce domaine il est plus intéressant de travailler avec l'économie locale, notamment avec le label GRITA

(Genève terroir), plutôt qu'avec des produits étrangers dont la qualité n'est pas toujours avérée.

Que faites-vous de la nourriture qui reste chaque jour?

A partir du moment où les produits utilisés ne sont pas présentés à la vente, c'est-à-dire qu'ils n'ont pas été assaisonnés, et qu'ils sont ainsi restés dans les enceintes réfrigérées, ils peuvent être utilisés le lendemain. Notre chef de cuisine planifie l'étalage des produits par rapport au volume d'activité et à l'historique. Le buffet de salades peut générer des restes. Il y a quelques années, un partenariat avait été signé avec une association, Celle-ci venait récupérer les plats qui restaient. Mais comme ils ne se déplaçaient pas pour des petites quantités, ils ont arrêté de venir.

Quelle est la solution trouvée?

Légalement nous avons l'obligation de les éliminer. Après un service de deux heures nous ne pouvons pas les réutiliser. Ainsi, malheureusement, tout part à la poubelle. Depuis 2010, Eldora est partenaire de Global Impact. Ce qui signifie que tous les déchets organiques sont



Restaurant des délégués, 1955.

retraités sur place. En 2015 un déshydrateur a été installé au Palais ce qui permet transformer les déchets en énergie.

Avez-vous des conseils à donner au personnel onusien pour éviter le gaspillage?

De manger de façon raisonnée et de ne prendre dans son assiette que les quantités nécessaires à une bonne alimentation.

Pensez-vous mettre en place d'autres initiatives pour protéger l'environnement?

Nous appliquons la politique de *zéro plastique*. Les barquettes pour le buffet sont confectionnées à partir d'une matière constituée à base de canne à sucre, bambou ou betterave. Celles pour les menus chauds à emporter sont fabriquées à

base d'amidon de maïs. Nous évitons également d'imprimer les tickets de caisse. Nous pensons aussi mettre en place des verres sérigraphiés ONU que le personnel pourra obtenir avec une caution dans tous les points de vente. Ça sera le même principe que pour le Rebox.

Avez-vous des exemples de plats originaux servis à la cafétéria?

A la fin du mois de septembre nous avons eu une animation en collaboration avec le restaurant péruvien, *Pachacamac*, installé à Genève. La semaine de la langue espagnole a été marquée par des plats originaires de pays hispanophones, en partenariat avec les interprètes à l'OMC.

Les stagiaires ne sont pas rémunérés aux Nations Unies.



Cafétéria du Palais des Nations à l'heure du déjeuner.

Avez-vous pris une mesure pour faire face à cette réalité?

Depuis 2013 nous proposons des tarifs préférentiels à 8 et 9 francs pour les stagiaires, notamment pour le menu *Natura, Express*, et pour la pizza *Marguerita*. Depuis le mois de septembre, à la fin du service, vers 14h30, les stagiaires peuvent se servir dans leur Rebox au buffet salade, passer par la caisse et ce sera gratuit. Cela nous permettra d'éviter le gaspillage et de participer aux efforts faits par l'UNOG pour trouver des solutions créatives afin d'aider les stagiaires.

La cafétéria va-t-elle être affectée par les travaux entrepris dans le cadre du plan de rénovation du Palais des Nations?

La cafétéria ne va pas changer de place mais elle sera

totale fermée pendant les travaux. Des alternatives seront mises en place. Le *Restaurant des Délégués* sera fermé aussi en 2020 et possiblement transféré au niveau du *Pasta corner*.

Pensez-vous que ces changements temporaires vont changer les habitudes des fidèles?

Je ne pense pas que cela découragera les fidèles. Mais il est tout à fait normal de vouloir quitter son lieu de travail à l'heure du déjeuner, de s'évader un moment et d'avoir envie de découvrir ce qui existe ailleurs. ■

Education / enseignement

The benefits and challenges of endurance sports

At first, people will ask you why, and then they ask you how.

RABIH EL-HADDAD, UNITAR

What prompted you to embark on this journey of endurance sports?

Similar to many international civil servants with busy work and travel schedules, I disregarded my health for many years and focused on doing my job and doing it right. I navigated life without listening to my body or its physical pains. From 2012 to 2015, I had severe neck and back pains that pushed me to regularly consume a lot of pain killers and spend my time in never-ending physio sessions. In 2015, I was diagnosed with a back hernia and I had the choice between an operation or reinforcing my abs and back with Pilates, swimming, and other sports. I chose the latter path but still needed a sports challenge that would mobilise my energies while motivating me to look forward. A colleague of mine, Jerome (seen in the picture) who had done many Ironman competitions, explained this challenge to me. An Ironman competition is a grueling triathlon, consisting of a 3.8 km swim, a 180 km bike and a 42 km run. Jerome introduced me to the world of triathlon sports; this was a life saver.

Did this sport make your life better?

Definitely! I started training in January 2016 when I first bought my bike and since

then have completed five Ironman competitions; each year decreasing my finish time significantly.

This sport impacted my life positively in three ways:

- The physical pain is gone! Not only do I sleep better at night, but also my migraines and neck pains disappeared. I am only left with the pain of sore muscles because of frequent over training, which is much more favorable.
- I am fit and I don't deprive myself of any type of food. I no longer need to calculate my caloric intake and I experience new cuisines without any guilt associated to it.
- I am discovering myself. Endurance sports are about self-discovery, testing your limits, overcoming them, exploring new territories, and embarking on an inner journey of listening. What makes things even more nourishing spiritually is training in a country like Switzerland with its fantastic nature and a more than adequate infrastructure for these kinds of sports.

What type of organization does it require?

Embarking on endurance sports requires a total change of mindset and also to the way you organize your personal and professional lives. When heading on mission, my priority is to choose the hotel with the best gym or the one located next to a park where I can run. Depending on the challenge, one has to get accustomed to waking up very early for a morning training session prior to heading to work and this entails sleeping early as well, which

is a challenge in the diplomatic life. That said, I truly believe that with the right dedication, anything is possible, even if you occupy a senior position in your establishment and have a lot on your plate. I am also blessed to lead a fantastic team that is one of the most efficient, autonomous and harmonious that one can find in international organizations. My team members are endowed with a significant sense of initiative, innovation and positivity that gives me the energy to be able to balance my personal and professional lives. Without their trust and support I wouldn't be able to consolidate my sports achievements.

What future challenges did you set for yourself? What type of support do you need to go further?

My goal for next year is to break the 10-hour benchmark on the Ironman Race. Since 2016, I have been gradually enhancing my time from 14 hours to 10 hours and 47 minutes; however, going further requires more effort and professional support from triathlon coaches and professionals in this field. I also hope that the UN will start encouraging other colleagues who are committed to sports by providing them with the training facilities, coaching, and other types of sponsorship that would enable them to shine and act as valuable role models for international civil servants and also the member states.

Do you train alone and do you know of any other UN colleagues who are also into endurance sports?

Time permitting, I do train sometimes with other colleagues and I know of many



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UN colleagues who are into ultra-marathons and other long-distance events. Actually, the best endurance sports-woman at the UN happens to be DSG Amina Mohammed, whom I met on numerous occasions and who is a great source of inspiration. She had to walk 76 km from Kaduna to Zaria in Nigeria to raise the money for her university studies abroad. It is no surprise that she was instrumental in empowering the member states towards adopting the SDGs. We have an endurance leader in the right place. ■

Rabih El-Haddad directs the Division for Multilateral Diplomacy at the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and supports diplomats and the UN Governing Bodies secretariats in their consensus building efforts during multilateral negotiations. He was recently interviewed, following his fifth consecutive Ironman competition in Barcelona this October 2019, to understand his motivation, the link between work and health, and why he believes that more individuals need to invest in their health.

UN Agencies compete at the International Tennis Club

The staff of United Nations agencies in Geneva come together to participate in a tennis tournament at the International Tennis Club.



We are the Champions of the World.

LEROY M. BROWN, ITU (RETIRED)

On 21 September 2019, more than 80 tennis players competed in the 7th annual Geneva Inter-Organizations Games (GIOG) tennis challenge hosted by the International Tennis Club¹ and sponsored by the Inter-Organizational Sports Commission (IOSC). Founded in 1937, the International Tennis Club, now located at Pregny-Chambésy, has been playing its part in bringing together, both on and off the court, members of the Geneva international community and fostering relations between it and the local community. The IOSC was created in 1971 to promote the UN Inter-Agency Games² and sports activities for international civil servants in Geneva.

On a beautiful sunny day seven teams from the international organizations in Geneva participated in the tennis tournament: ILO, UNOG, WIPO, WTO, CERN, UN Missions team, and the International Tennis Club team. Each team consisted of two men's doubles, two mixed doubles, and one ladies doubles. The UN Missions team players were from the diplomatic

missions of Afghanistan, Canada, Italy, Turkey, and the USA. There were also players from IOM, ITU, UNCTAD, UNHCHR, UNICEF, and UNDP. The competition was of a high standard because many of the players are tournament-level players in Switzerland. In addition, playing alongside a fellow colleague gives extra motivation to win. There were many close and competitive matches throughout the tournament. There was much excitement and a great atmosphere as team members and supporters cheered and encouraged their colleagues and team members from the sidelines.

After a hard-fought day of tennis competitions with 60 matches played, the winner was the defending champion, UNOG. The President of the IOSC, Arnaud Devilliers, presented the trophy and medals at the closing ceremony. The runner-up this year was the ILO and third place went to the International Tennis Club team.

Finally, that evening the players and guests dined together on *daurade grillée and suprême*

de volaille sauce aux morilles; while a slide presentation of the tournament played on the big screen in the background. The IOSC thanked Roslyn Jackson, President of the International Tennis Club, for her support and contributions. The IOSC also gave thanks to the team captains for their contributions on the Organizing Committee with Leroy Brown (vice-President IOSC) as chairperson of the Organizing Committee. We would like to give special congratulations to all of the participants for their great sportsmanship, patience, and cooperation to help make this tournament a tremendous success! ■

A few Quotes

"The purpose of the United Nations Inter-Agency Games (IAG) shall be to enable current and retired members of the agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and other eligible organizations to get to know each other through sports and other recreational activities and thereby to improve mutual understanding and work relations."

– UN Inter-Agency Games
General Rules

"If I had not played tennis and table tennis for the last five to eight years I'm sure by now I would be in a wheelchair. Sports are very important for a lifestyle of well-being, health, and happiness"

– Brendan M., a Parkinson's sufferer

"This was the best day ever (for me) at the International Tennis Club!"

– Spectator

"We enjoyed big fun on tennis last Saturday and the flag of WTO stood till the end of the tournament. I thank all of you for your participation and commitment, especially those volunteer-organizers... I am proud of our team spirit and hope that we can join the competition again next year. Go team WTO!"

– Xiaozhun Y.

"Thanks to everyone for coming out; it was a lot of fun!... Next year we'll dethrone the defending champion UNOG!"

– Pablo J. ■

1 <https://www.tennis-cit.ch/>

2 <https://www.interagencygames.org/newsite/>



Solange's and Sarah's workshops.

© UN Library Geneva

Express and De-stress

Ex Tempore, the United Nations Society of Writers, celebrated its 30 years of existence with a well-attended fast-paced lunchtime event at the Knowledge and Learning Commons on Friday 29 September.

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR, UNOG

Speeches

Ex Tempore President Marko Stanovic welcomed a very mixed public, including long-standing members of the Society and contributors to its annual publication, diplomats, staff members, retirees and interns to the Library Events Room and kicked off the proceedings.

Alfred de Zayas then took the floor and explained how he, an American of Spanish/French origin, the late Sergio Chaves from Argentina and Leonor Sampaio from Brazil founded the United Nations Society of Writers on August 14 1989. Alfred recalled how over a

cappuccino (renversé) at the Press Bar, he suggested naming the proposed journal “Ex Tempore”, since staff contributions should be crisp, uncomplicated, impromptu, and as far away as possible from the stale UN jargon of resolutions and reports. “We wanted to prove that we could write literature – not just bureaucratic pseudo-intellectual stuff”, he said, adding that the 30th anniversary issue is currently in preparation and open for contributions until 31 October. New members and donors are also welcome.

Keynote address

Natalie Alexander, Coordinator at the Knowledge and Learning Commons, then introduced Ms Muriel Scibilia, keynote speaker

at this event. Muriel, former Chief of Communications at UNCTAD, is co-founder of the United Nations health and well-being club and a United Nations-accredited (ACANU) journalist. These experiences amongst many others on her personal and professional life path have given Muriel unique insight into the theme under discussion – how writing can relieve stress.

For years, during her studies, Muriel wrote under dictates. Then, when she became a journalist she had to unlearn these dictates and adapt to others. But all her writing experiences up to this point in her life had in common the need to think of the reader (much as I am thinking of you dear *UN Special* readers as I write this!) Then one day, further to difficult moments in her life, such as we can all encounter, Muriel discovered Expressive Writing. The writer that she is was liberated from the constraint of thinking of an audience and the censorship this imposes. She became the destined reader of her own writing. But the process rather than the production

is the feel-good factor. Publication is not the goal, nor even an option. It's a type of writing fed by emotions in which there are no rules – forget style, spelling or punctuation. The writing process can be physically uncomfortable at the outset – the tension in your hand as you grip the pen, tearing the paper with the nib, screwing up and discarding your production... but progressively this diminishes – as does your pain and suffering – both physical and mental. It's important to fix an appointment with yourself and to write regularly. You don't need any special equipment other than a writing implement and a stock of paper. Anything can be used to trigger the flow – you can write about whoever or whatever you like. Clinical trials have proven the effectiveness of this method in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, but it can help anyone to exteriorise the stresses and strains of modern existence.

Four mini workshops

After listening to Muriel's wise and non-threatening words, the last hour of the event showcased four different writing



© Marko Stanovic

Muriel Scibilia's keynote address.



© Sarah Jordan

Marko Stanovic welcomes the public to the event.



© Sarah Jordan

Muriel Scibilia delivers her keynote address on Expressive Writing.

styles. Participants moved from one 15-minute session to the next and were able, if not to actually produce texts, to think about doing so.

Alfred de Zayas, Mr. Ex Tempore himself, directed a poetry do's and don'ts session with analysis of poems in English, French, German and Russian, illustrating meter, rhyme, free verse, alliteration, hyperbole and metaphor, with appropriate quotes from Wilfred Owen, Joachim du Bellay, Rainer Maria Rilke, Hermann Hesse and Alexander Pushkin.

Solange Behoteguy, a published author of novels and plays in her native Bolivia, shared her own experience of a theatre director who with just one word for inspiration commissioned five monologues which were later performed in Orbe, in the Canton of Vaud, Geneva and Santiago de Chile. And the word was "hair". Participants brainstormed associated words and linked them in a short text.

Eric Carlson, an American who has spent most of his life in Latin America, Asia and Europe and published works connected by a concern for justice, the struggle between good and evil and the consequences of violence, facilitated a session

on drawing inspiration from objects.

And myself, Sarah Jordan, British, an English writing skills teacher, editor and contributor to *UN Special*, shared some tips on blogging and writing articles for professional or personal purposes.

The event concluded with a celebratory toast and further animated discussion amongst word lovers. ■

Further information on Ex Tempore: www.ExTempore.ch and on writing courses offered by the United Nations Centre for Learning and Multilingualism (CLM): <https://learning.unog.ch/>

Knowledge & Learning Commons

CATALOGUE STREAMS 2019

7 November “**Expo Santé**” organized by the UN Medical Service Geneva, at the Library Events Room (B.135).

13 November “**UNIGE and UNOG – Sharing of Sustainability Best Practices**”, from 12.30 to 2 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

19 November “**Cooperative Excellence Cycle 4th session**”, with the Human Resources Management Service from 12.30 to 2 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

21 November “**Implementing the UN Mental Health Strategy**”, with the Staff Counsellors Office, from 12.30 to 1.30 p.m. at the Library Events Room (B.135).

3 December “**The impact of artificial intelligence on strategic stability and nuclear risk**”, with the Office of Disarmament Affairs and SIPRI from 12.30 to 2 p.m.

4 December “**Leading Change in International Organizations**”, from 12.30 to 2 p.m. at the Library events Room (B.135).

10 December “**Workshop on Facing the Fear of Flying**”, with the OCHA Staff Welfare Unit at the Library events Room (B.135).

Ongoing - Join the Tandem Language Exchange.

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© Carla Edelembos

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte des 26 cantons

Valais: Ausserberg

Une série de 26 impressions des lieux plutôt inconnus – loin du tourisme.

CARLA EDELEMBOS, ANCIENNE FONCTIONNAIRE, ONUG

Trouver un lieu non-touristique en Valais est presque une mission impossible. Ausserberg me semble être le plus populaire des cantons parmi les touristes. Été comme hiver, on y croise des gens de toutes nationalités qui viennent admirer ses cimes en effectuant des randonnées pédestres, du ski alpin ou de l'escalade.

Le village fait donc un peu exception. Sa situation en moyenne altitude sur une pente sud au-dessus de Viège rend la pratique de sports d'hiver impossible et le peu de touristes qui y passent durant cette saison empruntent surtout le chemin de randonnée qui suit le chemin de fer du Lötschberg.

Ausserberg possède une gare. Elle existait avant même que le village ne soit relié à la vallée par une route! Selon l'histoire,

la majorité des habitants était contre la construction du bâtiment. Pour commencer, ils considéraient ne pas avoir besoin d'étrangers qui allaient nuire à leur tranquillité. De plus, la parcelle où l'édifice devrait être construit était une terre très fertile que personne ne voulait sacrifier. Un vote fut donc organisé. Le curé qui présidait l'assemblée du village, compta les voix. Il inversa les résultats et proclama une majorité en faveur de l'établissement d'une gare. Personne n'osa contester l'annonce. Ainsi la gare fut construite et mise en service dès 1913. La construction de la première route ne débuta qu'en 1963.

Le village a su garder son caractère authentique. Avec sa silhouette fine, l'église domine la vue. L'édifice blanc contraste avec les couleurs foncées des anciens chalets et mazots. Le bâtiment actuel date de 1860.

Une chapelle d'alpage occupait déjà le lieu au Moyen-Age. L'autel est d'ailleurs une copie de l'original conservé à Zürich. Selon la petite histoire, il semblerait qu'à une époque les paroissiens ne trouvent plus ce meuble à leur goût. Il fut donc placé à l'extérieur de l'église, exposé aux intempéries. Découvert par hasard dans les années 20 par le directeur du musée national de passage dans la région. L'autel abandonné fut acheté, restauré et exposé par la suite. Ce n'est qu'à la fin du 20^e siècle que la paroisse décida d'installer un autel à l'identique.

De nos jours, l'église joue toujours un rôle central dans le village. Chaque semaine après la messe, l'huissier de la commune, élu par la population, s'installe sur une petite plateforme et annonce les décisions prises par le conseil communal. Tout cela est possible car



© Carla Edelenbos



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Ausserberg ne compte que 641 habitants.

Malheureusement la plupart des commerces ont fermé. Un magasin d'alimentation qui fait aussi office de café, vend de la bière produite par la brasserie locale avec l'eau descendant des glaciers et qualifiée de *sainte*. Au total 40 kilomètres de bisses, installations d'aménages d'eau, alimentent les habitations. Datant du moyen âge, époque où des gens s'installèrent sur ces pentes, ils permettaient de vivre dans ce climat sec et chaud. Des sentiers pédestres qui permettent de découvrir les environs. En fait le territoire s'étend depuis la plaine jusqu'au Wiwanihorn situé à 3.001 mètres d'altitude! Le centre du village est petit. Les mazots typiques du Valais ne sont pas encore convertis en résidences secondaires. L'un d'eux héberge un petit musée sur la vie locale d'autrefois.

Aujourd'hui l'agriculture persiste mais les gens élèvent également des moutons ou des chèvres. La commune possède aussi son propre petit vignoble. On m'explique que chaque citoyen doit y travailler un jour de l'année! Le vin est bu lors de cérémonies officielles et durant des assemblées.

Pour clore ma visite, je prends un repas typiquement valaisan: *le choléra*, une tourte de légumes, pommes de terre, lard et fromage. L'origine de l'appellation n'est pas tout à fait claire. Elle proviendrait du mot *chola* qui signifie charbon en langue locale car à l'époque le plat mijotait sur des braises du combustible. Quoi qu'il en soit, c'est délicieux! ■

Depuis Genève, prenez le train pour Brigue, et ensuite pour Ausserberg. Comptez deux heures et 40 minutes.

A Ausserberg il y a des visites guidées tous les vendredis à 17 h30, de fin juin à mi-octobre.



© Carla Edelenbos



Porto Novo bénéficie d'un microclimat qui en fait la ville la plus ensoleillée de tout l'archipel.

CAP-VERT 2/4

Au rythme de la morna

Eden perdu au milieu de l'océan Atlantique au large des côtes africaines (voir le précédent numéro du UN Special), le Cap-Vert n'est plus la destination confidentielle qu'elle était il y a quelques années. Popularisé par Cesaria Evora qui l'a si bien chanté, cet archipel a en effet beaucoup à offrir.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Escarpées, verdoyantes ou désertiques, la dizaine d'îles à la beauté volcanique qui forment le Cap-Vert dévoilent une surprenante «Afrique atlantique». Balayées par les vents, les îles de l'archipel du Cap-Vert ressemblent à des morceaux de lune posés sur l'océan. Ses collines désertiques à la teinte ocre et brûlée ne manquent cependant pas de charme et quelques îles possèdent une végétation luxuriante. Un voyage au Cap-Vert ne peut qu'enchanter les amateurs d'activités de plein air. Et hors des sentiers battus, au plus près des volcans actifs ou non, là où la nature

est préservée, la randonnée se décline à l'infini et à tous les rythmes. Et une fois pleinement rassasié, le trekkeur épuisé pourra se délecter sur l'une des nombreuses plages de sable blanc ou noir baignées par des eaux turquoise et profiter ainsi du climat chaud et ensoleillé du Cap-Vert. L'archipel ravira également les amateurs de sports nautiques, de planche à voile, de kitesurf et de pêche en haute mer. La plongée y est aussi réputée pour les espèces sous-marines aisément observables comme les dauphins à bec étroit, baleines bleues ou à bosse, requins, raies ou tortues vertes et à écailles.

Cesaria Evora, «la Diva aux pieds nus»

Sao Vicente, aéroport de Mindelo: Cesar¹ qui sera notre guide est au rendez-vous. Depuis 2012, le nouvel aéroport a été baptisé du nom de la «Diva aux pieds nus», Cesaria Evora. Née sur l'île en 1941, la chanteuse fut la meilleure ambassadrice du Cap-Vert à l'étranger. Pour la petite histoire, le gouvernement lui avait d'ailleurs attribué un passeport diplomatique pour lui faciliter ses déplacements. Sa voix révéla au monde entier une partie de la culture cap-verdienne. Elle faisait salle comble partout où elle se produisait et collectionnait les récompenses (Grammy Awards, disques d'or,

Victoires de la musique, Légion d'Honneur...). Sa disparition le 17 décembre 2011 à l'âge de 70 ans bouleverse le Cap-Vert: ce pays auquel elle a apporté une reconnaissance mondiale lui rend hommage dans de grandes et émouvantes funérailles nationales.

Destin exceptionnel pour celle que ses amis appelaient affectueusement «Cize», l'une des voix noires les plus célèbres au monde qui a fait connaître internationalement la morna. Née au milieu du XIX^e siècle, cette musique nostalgique et plaintive reflète le métissage du peuple cap-verdien créole descendant de colons et d'esclaves. Au Cap-Vert, la musique est partout et reste avec la danse le meilleur moyen de s'amuser et de s'évader. Depuis toujours, du plus jeune au plus vieux, personne ne vit sans la musique locale, autrefois moyen de communication et soutien moral pour les esclaves. La musique et la danse ont subi plusieurs influences qui se perçoivent nettement; de l'Afrique, de l'Amérique



© Claude Maillard

À chaque coin de rue, musique et danse permettent aux Cap-verdiens de s'amuser et de s'évader.

latine et de l'Europe, plus précisément du Portugal avec la morna qui s'apparente au fado. Cesaria Evora en a été la plus grande impératrice, notamment avec sa chanson «Sodade» qui lui a donné une notoriété internationale.

C'est à l'orphelinat, alors qu'elle avait une dizaine d'années, qu'elle apprit à chanter au sein d'une chorale. Plus tard, elle entreprit la tournée des bars de Mindelo et conquiert très vite le cœur du public au travers de ses chansons qui évoquent la souffrance, la tristesse et la mélancolie de son pays. Mais découragée par la vie dure d'artiste, elle décroche pendant près de dix années, sombre dans l'alcool avant d'être invitée à Lisbonne pour une série de concerts. Après un album enregistré à Paris, elle connaîtra enfin la gloire et remplira l'Olympia. Elle entamera alors sa première grande tournée internationale en 1993 et sillonnera le monde entier.

Santo Antao, paradis des randonneurs

Nous laissons derrière nous Mindelo et son enchevêtrement de maisons multicolores, capitale cosmopolite de Sao Vincente. Environ 75 000 personnes

vivent à Sao Vincente, l'une des îles les plus arides du Cap-Vert caractérisée par un relief montagneux avec seulement 2% de terres cultivables. En moins d'une heure nous rejoignons Porto Novo, petit port blotti au sud de Santo Antao. Sur le ferry quelques locaux, mais surtout beaucoup de randonneurs en quête d'aventures sur cette île aux fabuleux paysages à couper le souffle.

Avec ses trois pics alignés qui culminent à plus de 1800 m et qui forment une chaîne, Santo Antao est séparée en deux versants, l'un plus aride au sud et l'autre plus luxuriant au nord. Bien vite, la route qui nous conduit à Curral das Vacas se transforme en une voie pavée construite sous le pouvoir colonial en place jusqu'en 1975 afin de désenclaver les contrées reculées. L'endroit est un point de chute idéal pour de nombreuses randonnées et nous y poserons nos valises pour quelques jours. Fantastique, chaotique, grandiose, vertigineux, spectaculaire... le panorama qui nous entoure nous laisse sans voix. Natif de l'île, notre guide Cesar va nous faire découvrir la Ribeira das Patas, grande vallée aux paysages contrastés qui délimite en



© Claude Maillard

Paysages extravagants surplombant le canyon de Ribeira das Patas sur l'île de Santo Antao.

quelque sorte les parties occidentale et orientale de Santo Antao. Le vert des cultures (manioc, bananes, canne à sucre) tranche gaillardement avec le noir des «dykes», ces lames de basalte érigées à la verticale sur les rochers. De là, on grimpe jusqu'au Tope de Coroa, point culminant de l'île avec ses 1979 m d'altitude. Impatient de nous faire connaître le village où il a passé son enfance, Cesar va nous conduire jusqu'à Caibros où vit encore sa famille qui nous accueille à bras ouverts. Nous poursuivrons notre chemin jusqu'à Cha das Pedras, bourgade où la gentillesse des habitants et l'accueil qu'ils réservent à l'étranger sont légendaires. De rares maisonnettes sont éparpillées, accrochées à flanc de montagne. Perdue au milieu de nulle part, celle de Bia. A 84 ans, elle vit là, isolée de tout, avec son mari, sa vache et ses poules!

Après ces quelques jours passés à crapahuter en altitude parmi ces décors dantesques, direction plein nord via le bourg de Cha de Igreja pour arriver à Cruzinha da Garça. Ce petit port blotti au pied des falaises sera notre point de départ pour une longue randonnée le long

de l'océan Atlantique pour rejoindre Ponta do Sol distant de 14 km. C'est une charmante ville aux maisons colorées où règne une atmosphère nonchalante. Ses belles demeures anciennes à l'architecture coloniale et ses rues pavées constituent aujourd'hui le patrimoine historique de l'île. Sous le soleil, avec ses façades pastel, la ville a vraiment des airs cubains. Le temps semble s'être arrêté et on a l'impression d'être au bout du monde. C'est l'une des plus belles villes de l'île et le retour des pêcheurs avec leurs barques peintes de couleurs vives vaut le coup d'œil.

Ville la plus septentrionale de tout l'archipel du Cap-Vert, Ponta do Sol va nous donner l'occasion de recharger nos batteries après tous ces dénivelés parcourus. Mais avant de pouvoir goûter au plaisir du farniente, un chemin empierré qui enlace la montagne et qui joue les funambules au-dessus de l'océan nous attend; sujets au vertige s'abstenir! ■

Suite de l'aventure à vivre dans le prochain numéro du UN Special

1 Allibert Trekking
www.allibert-trekking.com
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À vos agendas • Save the date

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNOG

FESTIVAL LES NUITS DU MONDE*

8–17 November

This new edition of the festival invites you to discover a rich palette of musical genres from all over the world in which the voice unfolds in an exceptional way. With Sardinian polyphonic vocals, Persian vocal tradition, jazz, gospel, and blues among others.

Information

<http://adem-geneve.com/en/les-nuits-du-monde>

LES AUTOMNALES*

8–17 November

Fun, entertaining and interactive, this big annual regional event at Palexpo is also a sales event that offers a unique opportunity to discover new products from some 400 retailers. Side exhibitions include international contests of cats and dogs.

<https://www.automnales.ch/>

«MINIMAL MAXIMAL»*

10–17 November

This is an artistic performance composed of three choreographies created by three renowned choreographers: Ioannis Mandafounis, Andonis Foniadakis and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui

Information

<https://www.gtg.ch/minimal-maximal/>

FESTIVAL LES CRÉATIVES*

12–25 November

The festival les Créatives is multidisciplinary, feminine and feminist, and presents a demanding and audacious programme of some 60 events that celebrate women and feminist creation in all their diversity.

Information

<https://www.lescreatives.ch/>

FESTIVAL FILMAR en América Latina

15 November – 1 December

A festival dedicated to Latin America and its film productions.

Information

<http://filmaramlat.ch/>

A BREAK AT MOZART 1.1

20 November

What could be more unusual than the combination of a hip-hop dance troupe and a classical music ensemble? The result is a unique form of artistic dialogue.

Information

<https://www.forum-meyrin.ch/spectacle/un-break-mozart-11>

FESTIVAL COULEUR CAFÉ

20–30 November

This is the main showcase of African cultures in Geneva. It offers a rich programme of musicians, dancers, film directors, actors and authors at the top of their art. Ivorian reggae singer Tiken Jah Fakoly, the voice of African protest reggae will play in Geneva for a unique show to close the festival.

Information

<https://www.couleurcafe.ch/>

Les Rencontres cinématographiques.

Palestine: Filming is Existing

5–10 December

This event was created with the idea of giving space to the vision, creativity, humour and hopes of Palestinian filmmakers. This year, the films will highlight Palestinian women filmmakers, contributing to the dynamics of women's struggles to make their voices heard.

Information

<https://palestine-fce.ch/>

WORLD AIDS DAY

Each year, on 1 December, the world commemorates World AIDS Day. People around the world unite to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS-related illnesses. **PVA-Geneva Association (People Living with HIV/AIDS-Geneva, in French “Personnes Vivant Avec le VIH/SIDA”)** is an association founded in 1992. It works to both prevent and fight HIV/AIDS, particularly through sharing testimonies and promoting dialogue between medical and social actors and society as a whole. The services provided by PVA-Geneva also cover the psycho-social aspects of health by adopting a multi-disciplinary approach.

On the occasion of this important day, PVA-Geneva organizes a series of events listed below:

5 and 8 November (10:00–13:30)

Christmas Market

Place de la Navigation (Pâquis). Geneva

27 November at 19:30

Screening of the movie *120 BPM (Beats per Minute)*
Salle de Dialogai. 5 rue du Levant. Geneva

27 November – 24 December

A tram with the colours of the PVA comic strip will circulate in the canton of Geneva!

28 November at 18:30

Launch of the PVA comic book «Histoires en pilules»
«Librairie Cumulus». 5 rue des Etuves. Geneva

1 December at 12:00

Interfaith Ceremony
Temple of Pâquis. Geneva

1 December at 13:00

Convivial Meal
La Maison de quartier des Pâquis. 50, rue de Berne. Geneva

For more information:

Association PVA-Genève (Personnes Vivant Avec le VIH/SIDA)
35, rue des Pâquis. 1201 Geneva / +41 22 732 44 45
secretariat@pvageneve.ch
www.pvageneve.ch
https://www.unaids.org/en/World_AIDS_Day

* Special offers on tickets (for International Geneva employees & their family members & for visiting delegates) at Kiosque Culturel of CAGI in Palais des Nations (Door C6)

Message du rédacteur en chef

Vous aimeriez partager votre opinion sur le magazine et son contenu?

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis. Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

Si vous souhaitez proposer un article, n'hésitez pas à me contacter à tout moment.

Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à:
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Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Suisse
Par courrier électronique: alex.mejia@unitar.org

Message from the editor-in-chief

Would you like to share your opinion about *UN Special* and its contents ?

Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you. The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

Should you wish to submit an article, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:
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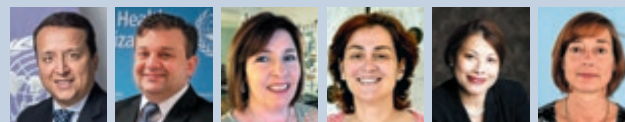
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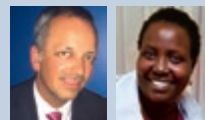
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right on time and can
even have a ☕ 😊

Good luck !
See you later 😊



New network from 15 December