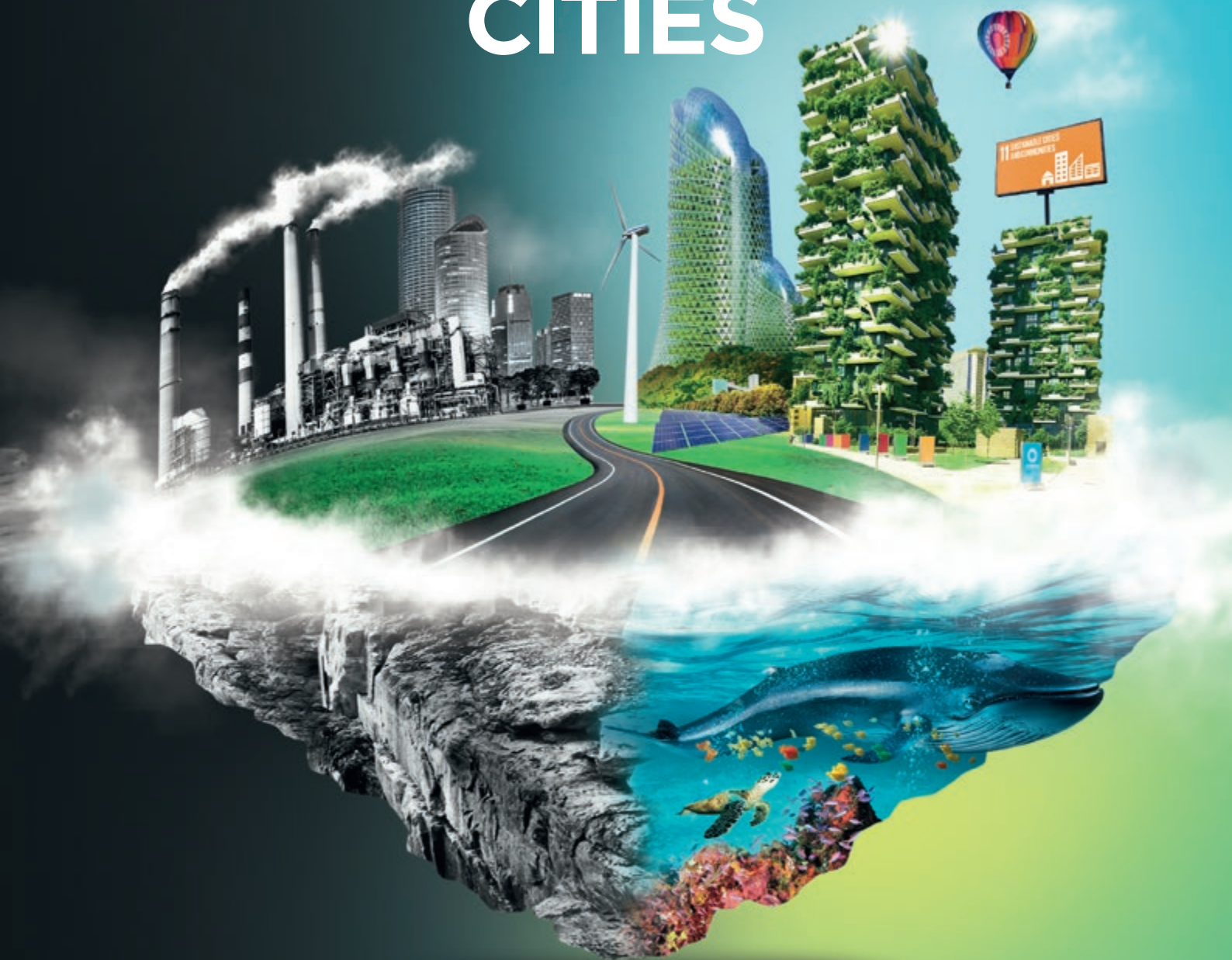


UN Special

SUSTAINABLE CITIES



FEATURED / À LA UNE

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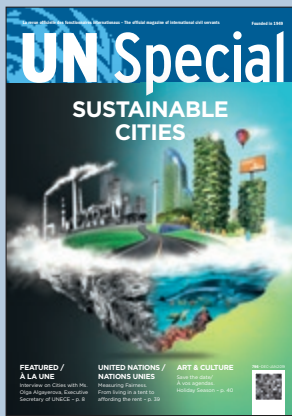
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ALEXANDER MEJIA

Editor-in-chief/Rédacteur en chef

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Are we prepared for new urban realities?

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3 If you think that in 2015 half of the world's population was already living in cities and that by 2050, that number will have grown to reach two thirds of humanity, you will be compelled to enhance your understanding of how cities will cope with that massive influx of dwellers. Will it be 'business as usual' or will it be a planned transition? Will it perhaps be something bordering on chaos or will local government actually rise to the task? We have dedicated this edition precisely to this topic, in the hope that you will learn more about what the UN is doing in this regard. Be engaged and avoid remaining passive in the face of all the challenges and opportunities ahead. You are indeed an urban dweller and we are all in this together.

26 In this edition, we invite you to read about the public lecture on ethics at WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), and how this provides a moral compass for the greater good. In addition, I would be remiss if I did not mention the article covering our friend Marie-José Astre-Démoulin's latest book "Genève émois".

36 Other topics include, among others, a piece on the United Nations Ombudsman and mediation services and its civility campaign, the Braille alphabet, and an article on quality scoring of UN Internships.

38 Finally, we hope you will enjoy this edition's Art & Culture section. We have prepared for you a selection of events to enjoy for the holiday season and beginning of the year, such as the 4th annual Christmas Concert and the Geneva Black Movie Festival. *UN Special* wishes you an excellent end of the year and beginning to your holiday season and looks forward to 2020! ■

Quand on pense que depuis 2015, la moitié de la population mondiale vit déjà en zone urbaine et que d'ici 2050, ce nombre atteindra les deux tiers de l'humanité, nous sommes obligés de mieux comprendre comment les villes vont gérer cet afflux d'habitants. Va-t-on continuer comme si de rien n'était, ou irons-nous vers une transition planifiée? Serions-nous au bord du chaos ou bien les gouvernements locaux se montreront-ils à la hauteur de la tâche? Nous avons consacré cette édition justement à ce sujet pour que vous en sachiez davantage sur ce que l'ONU fait à cet égard. Engagez-vous et ne restez pas passif face à ces enjeux et opportunités qui vous attendent. Vous êtes un citoyen et nous sommes tous concernés.

Dans ce numéro, nous vous invitons à lire un article sur la conférence publique de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Propriété Intellectuelle (OMPI) sur l'éthique et comment cela peut servir de référence morale pour le bien commun. De plus, je ne saurais oublier de mentionner l'article sur le livre «Genève émois» de notre amie Marie-José Astre-Démoulin.

Parmi les autres sujets abordés, vous pourrez lire sur l'Ombudsman des Nations Unies et ses services de médiation, sur l'alphabet en braille et un article sur la notation de la qualité des stages à l'ONU.

Enfin, nous espérons que vous apprécierez la section Art & Culture de cette édition. Nous vous avons préparé une sélection d'événements pour les fêtes de fin d'année et le début de l'année, tels que le 4^e Concert annuel de Noël et le Festival Black Movie de Genève. *UN Special* vous souhaite une excellente fin d'année et un bon début de période des fêtes. À 2020! ■

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La revue officielle des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation Mondiale de la Santé



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**DIE ENTFÜHRUNG
AUS DEM SERAIL**
(The Abduction from the Seraglio)

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Day of Cities, Roundtable 1. Palais des Nations, Geneva, April 2019.

UNECE and cities

Are we prepared for new urban realities?

Some reflections on the UNECE “Day of Cities”.

MILICA APOSTOLOVIC, UNECE

Both for cities and urban authorities, these truly are the best and the worst of times.

The worst, because the usual problems associated with urban life are now worsened by the prospects of changing climate; and action at the local level is crucial if we are to offset some of the worst consequences of climate change.

The best, because we are now able to harness technological progress to plan for better, more resilient and sustainable cities of the future; and mayors have rarely had so much power to make a difference in the lives of so many people.

To be sure, urban life has always come with a set of distinctive challenges.

We only need to take a glance at classics such as Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities* or Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* to understand why.

In this popular imagery, cities are disorderly spaces: crowded, loud, polluted and dangerous. At the same time, they are also the birthplace of trade and commerce, civic engagement and the modern idea of freedom; spaces where prevailing norms are questioned, and social inequalities challenged. This contrast is at the heart of the very definition of a city.

What, then, are the greatest challenges our cities are facing nowadays?

Rapid urbanization, as well as demographic changes associated with an ageing population and uncontrolled migration, are making it increasingly difficult to plan sustainable cities that would meet the needs of their burgeoning populations.

Affordable housing is scarce; car-ownership, once hailed as the marker of life in modern city, contributes to traffic congestion and to the increasing

rates of air pollution and other environmental and health hazards.

Rising sea levels and extreme temperatures are threatening the very existence of some cities; and displacement due to the changing climate is increasingly becoming a reality for a growing number of people.

Times are difficult for urban policy-makers, too. Limited budgets; pressures to create enough jobs and to provide adequate housing for city dwellers; all within relatively short mandates and in line with the overall government strategy, contribute to the feeling of powerlessness in the face of urgency.

But how are mayors thinking about and approaching this seeming cul-de-sac? What is their vision for cities of the future and how is this vision aligned with those of their constituents, peers, and international community?



Day of Cities, the opening. Palais des Nations, Geneva, April 2019.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) hosted the “Day of Cities” in April 2019 in an attempt to find this out. Over 50 mayors and deputy mayors from all over the UNECE region came to share their vision for smart sustainable cities of the future.

At the Day of Cities, we learned that safe, affordable and healthy housing remains the key point of concern for large cities in the region and that housing affordability continues to plague capital cities.

In some capitals, such as Bratislava, the urban administration’s efforts are distinctly directed at developing sustainable rental and social housing, particularly to tackle the needs of urban migrants and vulnerable groups of population.

Geneva, home to the United Nations and informally known as the capital of peace, acknowledged that its housing stock is oversaturated and noted that the city administration is undertaking steps to ensure that the city remains a welcoming place for the international community.

Of course, what happens in one city inevitably affects what happens in others; so many mayors stressed the importance of coordinated action and working together.

The city of Annemasse, for instance, highlighted the problem of significant income inequality in the city that stems from its proximity to Geneva and the high number of working commuters that increase property and rental prices.

This was an important reminder that city-to-city cooperation is essential if we are to build a more egalitarian world, that will not be strictly divided along the lines of haves and have-nots.

Glasgow, for its part, stressed the efforts of the city in providing housing for the most vulnerable parts of society; as well as taking into consideration equality concerns – in terms of gender, age, and income - when it comes to urban development projects.

A number of mayors spoke about the concrete steps towards greater sustainability of urban transport systems. Introducing incentives to reduce car ownership; shifting to electric cars and increasing the accessibility and efficiency

of public transport clearly is at the top of the participating mayors’ action agendas.

The speech by the mayor of Tirana caught the spirit of this discussion perfectly when he invited the delegates to reflect on how much time and resources they invest in their means of transport; and compare that to what they spend on their children. Against the backdrop of cities designed for cars, more than ever, we need cities that are designed for people, observed the mayor, inviting his peers to further share their ideas on how to make this happen.

The importance of green urban spaces for keeping the social fabric of the city together was a recurrent topic in the discussions, with mayors aware that one of the most important ways in which they can contribute to the ongoing fight against climate change is to plant more urban trees.

This simple, inexpensive, and yet profoundly impactful way to make cities more sustainable and resilient inspired another initiative launched by the UNECE Executive Secretary, Ms. Olga Algayerova: the “Trees in Cities Challenge” (more on page 18) which invites mayors to commit to plant more trees in their urban areas and take immediate climate action.

The “Day of Cities” raised some important points concerning the future of our cities, but perhaps the most important lesson that came out from that day was an expected one: for a better urban future, we need to work together. Mayors are clearly willing to do so. ■



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INTERVIEW

Making smarter and more sustainable cities work for everyone

*Interview with
Ms. Olga Algayerova,
Executive Secretary
of UNECE for
UN Special on Cities.*



Ms. Olga Algayerova opening the "Day of Cities".

Representative of Slovakia to International Organizations in Vienna, working on a whole range of issues, from security, the environment, economic affairs, new technologies, and so on. When you are looking at these issues every day – where they originate, where they matter the most, and how profoundly they affect human lives – you cannot help but look at cities, as their enabling environment.

Finally, as the Executive Secretary of UNECE, I lead an organization with an ambitious agenda for cities – even to the point where we will convene a *Forum of Mayors* to ensure our policy priorities are in line with those of local leaders; a rather unique platform in the UN system.

MILICA APOSTOLOVIC, UNECE

Brief biography

Ms. Olga Algayerova has been the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) since 2017. Prior to her appointment, she was the Permanent Representative of Slovakia to International Organizations in Vienna, the President of Slovak Millennium Development Goals and the Corporate Export Manager for Zentiva International. At UNECE, she focuses on building and nurturing partnerships between key stakeholders as well as re-organizing the work of UNECE to ensure that it is well-suited to meet the challenges of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional, national and local levels.

M. APOSTOLOVIC: Could you tell us more about your career before UNECE and what inspired your focus on smart sustainable cities?

O. ALGAYEROVA: My background spans multiple seemingly different areas. I started my career in the private sector, working for

a pharmaceutical company with a global outlook, allowing me to travel extensively and interact with local governments for the first time.

I then had the privilege to serve as my country's State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for four years (2006-2010). It was in this capacity that I became acquainted with what was the most ambitious United Nations agenda at the time: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). I then led the efforts of the Slovak Republic towards the achievement of the MDGs. While the MDGs could certainly be regarded as revolutionary at the time, they lacked a specific focus and failed to acknowledge the importance of local action for the goals and cities – where more than half of humanity lives today! – and this is where the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have real leverage.

I thereon continued pursuing a diplomatic career, serving as the Permanent

What are some of the greatest challenges cities are facing nowadays, especially in the UNECE region?

Our region is the most urbanized in the world, and the one which is ageing fastest. These are key differences. But otherwise, cities in the UNECE region are, by and large, facing similar challenges to those in other regions.

Some of the most pressing urban challenges include urban sprawl and uncontrolled urbanization, which bring a whole range of other issues, including environmental pollution, unaffordable housing, crumbling and outdated infrastructure, to name just a few.

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than ever, ensuring better use of land, that the buildings we make are energy efficient, that we integrate social housing targets in housing schemes and that cities are actually suitable for people who live in them. UNECE is running programs helping member States address all these issues. An emerging challenge is to adopt a more holistic approach looking at the impact of public policies across all these different sectors.

“Smart sustainable city” is one of the most commonly used catch-phrases today. Yet, it is far from clear what it means. Could you explain more how this term guides your work at UNECE and what it is, exactly, that you are hoping for cities to achieve.

Together with our partner organizations, UNECE has worked to develop a definition of a smart sustainable city as “an innovative city that uses ICTs and other means to improve quality of life, efficiency of urban operations and services, and competitiveness, while ensuring that it meets the needs of present and future generations with respect to economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects”.

I think this definition contains the most important aspects of the terms “sustainability” and “smart city”, both of which are often used in a rather vague manner: a city that satisfies the needs of its inhabitants without compromising those of the next generation; a city that understands that quality of life depends not only on our ability to get access to urban services, such as public transport, quickly and efficiently, but also on the ability to enjoy our public spaces, breathe clean air, take our children outside to play without concern for their safety, and so on.

It is important to note that, at UNECE, we do not take the approach that ICTs are a panacea for all problems. New technologies can help us understand problems, assess their gravity, and then solve them; however, they can also bring problems themselves, if issues such as accessibility, equity and transparency are not considered.

Why are cities so important for the SDGs and what is UNECE doing to help cities live up to their potential?

To put it very simply: there cannot be a successful implementation of the 2030

Agenda without action at the city level, where 55% of the population lives today, a proportion that is set to increase to 68% by 2050.

I literally cannot think of a single SDG that is not directly relevant to cities.

At UNECE, we are well-aware of the importance of engaging cities in supporting member States to achieve the SDGs. This is why we developed, together with ITU and partner agencies, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure the progress on smart sustainable cities; our work on transport aims at ensuring that safe and sustainable urban mobility is well-integrated in urban planning; our work on the environment aims at ensuring that the air we breathe is clean, the water we drink is of high quality and accessible, that citizens’ voices are heard in decision making affecting the environment, and that public plans and programmes encompass environmental assessment at the conception stage.

Likewise, we work to discourage growing consumption of natural resources by presenting new circular economy models

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and encouraging people to extract more value from waste products, minimize food waste and transit to lifestyles that are more environmentally friendly.

We often hear that building the cities of tomorrow requires not just a tactful approach to harnessing new technologies, but also a different approach to leadership. How, in your opinion, does this relate to the question of gender? What is your personal experience with this?

There is no need to beat around the bush – politics at the local level, like at the national level, have traditionally been male-dominated. The UNECE region is not an exception: the majority of mayors and urban policy-makers tend to be men. Numbers speak for themselves: in the UNECE region, women are in the minority in local governments, with only *four countries out of our 56 countries* reaching the threshold of 40 per cent which is considered as “gender parity”.

The lack of a female perspective is not limited to urban policy-making alone: how many female architects, urban planners or designers can you name? When you visit a city, take a tour and learn about stunning architecture, how often do you hear the names of female architects? We thus need to ask: who built our cities and for what purpose?

As mentioned earlier, the way cities are designed, planned and led profoundly impacts our everyday life. So far, women have mostly been at the receiving end of urban policies – but they need to be creators, too! Infrastructure, the safety of public spaces, public transport – all these need to integrate a female vision. What is considered safe and accessible for a



Ms. Olga Algayerova at the UNECE exhibition on smart sustainable cities.

50 year-old man, may not be so for a 20 year-old woman. So, an inter-generational and inter-gendered dialogue is necessary to ensure our cities are truly fit for the needs of everyone living in them.

Here at UNECE, we work to make this a reality. Our “Gender Responsive Standards Initiative” aims to provide a practical way forward for standards bodies wishing to take a step towards making the standards they develop and the development process they follow gender responsive.

Is there a message you would like to send to the new generation of urban leaders, and elaborate your vision for the cities of tomorrow?

I would say: use your energy as the engine for social change.

Recognize the opportunities offered by new technologies and make the most of them; but do not forget the importance of diverse views and of inter-generational knowledge.

Look forward to the future but learn from the past. There is a lot we can learn from the way countries, and indeed cities, have been governed in the past. In my youth, environmental awareness was practically non-existent, and activism was a dirty word. Nowadays, young leaders in our region enjoy the privilege of living in open societies where they can discuss these issues more freely – and this is something they really need to make the most of. ■

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Combatting food waste in cities

Sustainable food regimes start with cities.

LILIANA ANNOVAZZI-JAKAB, KHAN SALEHIN, MILICA APOSTOLOVIC, UNECE

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), globally, about 14% of food is lost from post-production up to the retail stage. The share gets larger when the food waste by consumers is added to these figures. In developing countries, up to 80 kg per person are wasted every year.

Cities are, by and large, magnifying the food waste problem. Fast-paced lifestyles, higher incomes and expectations, have become the defining characteristics of urban life. The fundamental transformation of the tourist industry, associated with the rise of budget airlines and sharing platforms, have added to the problem; and cities are today the main drivers of unsustainable food regimes.

This trend is likely to get worse. The UN projects that two-thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas by 2050, which will lead to a significant rise in food wasted.

The problem of food loss and waste has not just to do with the intuitive cringe when we discard the food which might be desperately lacking from dinner tables of many families around the world. It also means immense waste of resources used in its production, including but not limited

to, land, water and energy; food that is not consumed means CO₂ emissions that could have been avoided. It means growing landfills, inefficiencies and income losses.

In low-income countries, feeding city dwellers remains a big challenge. There, food waste and loss are predominantly linked to inadequate storage, as well as infrastructural and financial difficulties. For the producer and trading communities, the economic loss impacts pricing, and as a result, the lack of food security. The problem is gaining attention and slowly, people and policy-makers are not only recognizing the need for action but also the need for a radical change in the food system and our consumption habits.

In this regard, cities are our most fabulous incubators for innovations, new trends, new ideas. Given the high receptiveness of city dwellers, cities are often the most successful playing grounds and mini-labs for initiatives, business ventures and voluntary action by engaged citizens. The urban population in developed countries, in particular, with its fast consumption habits, ready-to-eat meals, take out habits, and distance from traditional food preparation and conservation, produces food waste (as well as wrapping and plastic waste) by the ton. Fully stocked supermarkets throw away food often still edible but unattractive and therefore, unsellable.

These city dwellers are also the first to use the Apps that distribute food on the verge of going bad; institutions and businesses have proven that they can work together



UNECE exhibition of the 67th Commission Session – Farmers' Market.

© UNECE/Antoine Tardy

for a fast and efficient distribution of food to the needy; and new types of supermarkets are willing to sell this food as long as consumers are willing to buy it and as long as it is not hazardous for human consumption.

International organizations, including UNECE, have worked on this issue for years. UNECE works on impact-driven solutions that focus on a systematic what, how much and where vis-à-vis the measurement of food loss and waste. It provides much-needed advice on how to handle food so that fruit does not rot before it reaches our plates and on how to set up a distribution system that engages the public and private sectors for viable and sustainable solutions to one of the biggest economic and environmental challenges of today. ■

To learn more about tackling food loss and waste, visit the UNECE webpage.

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INTERVIEW

Connecting cities with forests

*Interview with
Ms. Paola Deda,
Director, Forests,
Land and
Housing Division
at UNECE.*



Ms. Paola Deda and the “Re-birth” sculpture.

MILICA APOSTOLOVIC, UNECE

M. APOSTOLOVIC: You are currently serving as the Director¹ of Forests, Land and Housing Division at UNECE. The relationship between forests, housing and urban development is not intuitive; how are these issues related and how is this relationship reflected in the work you do?

P. DEDA: The relationship may not be intuitive, but it becomes clear upon reflection. Deforestation in our region, like elsewhere, has a lot to do with urban expansion. Similarly, urban-driven consumption puts a drain on natural, including forest-based, resources, and has a detrimental environmental impact. It immediately becomes clear that we cannot tackle forest-related or urban-related issues separately.

My division has a long and proud history of working on these issues in an integrated manner. Perhaps the most notable recent example of trying to promote the symbiotic relationship between the two is the UNECE Executive Secretary’s “Trees in Cities Challenge”.

Tell us more about how you bring the importance of forests and the forest-based sector closer to the public.

We do this by organizing interactive, engaging events which aim to really get people “out there” and teach them to love forests.

For instance, UNECE is a member of the UN Sustainable Fashion Alliance, through which we are trying to promote the use of forest-based fibres to make fashion more sustainable and environment-friendly.

The fashion industry alone is responsible for about 10% of carbon emissions globally – this needs to change. Through the Alliance, we have been able to raise awareness about this issue and bring it to a whole new level; this is probably best demonstrated by the popularity of our “Made in Forests” film, featuring Michelle Yeoh.

Twice already, we have recreated a forest in the Salle du Pas Perdu to allow the visitors to really *feel* what it is like to be in one. We are regularly organizing exhibitions to promote wood-based materials as an alternative to plastics, including during Foret2019 in November.

But it is not all exhibitions and events. The work on forests is also highly political, as it is intertwined with climate change, biodiversity

conservation, production and consumption patterns.

For instance, countries in our region are currently discussing the possibility of negotiating a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe. Also, countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus which have already committed three million hectares of land to new forests, are finalizing a strategy for landscape restoration that they will soon adopt.

It is important to underline the importance of our joint work with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), with whom we share a joint office in Geneva. Our work exemplifies the benefits of bringing different UN entities under one umbrella for better delivery of our programme of work, which is

also one of the key objectives of the reforms undertaken by the Secretary-General.

We recently learned that the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management is planning to convene the “Forum of Mayors” in October 2020. What makes this Forum different to the existing networks of mayors?

Indeed. This year the Committee agreed to convene the Forum of Mayors as a prelude to its annual Committee Session. This meeting will, in a manner similar to the Day of Cities that we hosted in April 2019, provide a unique opportunity for local governments to voice their concerns and channel them to their national governments through UNECE.

This, I am convinced, will have a significant impact on our ability to support the member

States in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level.

There are, of course, already many organizations and networks advocating for a greater involvement of local policy-makers – with the Forum of Mayors, we are not trying to “re-invent the wheel”. Instead, I would say, we are *de facto* moving towards a new form of political participation in the UN context.

Likewise, a lot of the action going on in the international area tends to focus on capital cities, or ‘mega cities’. We do not have such an exclusionary focus. In fact, quite a few exciting, innovative practices take place in medium-sized, or even small cities, where policy-makers tend to work very closely with people. By inviting them to provide an input, we are giving them a chance they

rarely have – to have a say that will echo far beyond the confines of their municipality.

There is clearly a lot going on in your Division. Is there any aspect of your work that you are particularly proud of and would like to highlight?

I feel quite privileged to have been able to work in the area that interests me so much and in which there is always something new to learn. Whenever I do learn something new, I get inspired to share it, and a good way to do this is by starting something in the Palais des Nations.

For instance, I learned about the ongoing efforts to preserve cultural heritage in the Palais (and indeed, the Palais itself). I am an architect by training, so I always saw the building as a work of art in its own right and marvelled at the

idea of contributing to it in some way.

The opportunity emerged in 2015, when I worked with Mr. Michelangelo Pistoletto to come up with a sculpture that you can see in the Palais des Nations’ gardens today, called “Re-birth”. It is made of 193 different stones; each of which bears the name of a UN member State engraved in it. It embodies the purpose of the UN: to find balance between different ideas, create harmony through dialogue, promote diversity and multiculturalism. These are the values that first drew me to work for the United Nations; and those that have inspired me to stay here for so many years. ■

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Instead of heavy traffic around the Place de la Nation in Paris: much fewer car lanes and more space and easy to access space for people and nature. October 2019.

EcoMobility for sustainable cities

Mobility is key to urban life quality as well as to CO₂ emissions from a particular city. EcoMobility gives priority to walking, cycling, wheeling, public transport and shared mobility.

MONIKA ZIMMERMANN ¹

One of the key ways of making a city sustainable is making its transport network sustainable. All around the world, ever increasing motorized transport is causing huge problems in urban areas, including air pollution from engines and tires, noise, hazardous waste, congestion, accidents and (mis-) use of public space. At the same time, lack of exercise and related diseases, insecurity for women and elderly people, unequal access opportunities to public space and mobility and a high accident risk for cyclists and pedestrians are examples of the social problems in our current transport systems. On top of these problems are huge car-centered financial investments which penalise other means of mobility and public infrastructure.

And the trends? Nearly everywhere, we face a growing number of privately owned cars² (congesting the curbs), vans

getting bigger and bigger, an increase in the number of km driven per year by motorized vehicles³, a big increase in the amount of goods transported and in emissions from transport as well as a high death toll on the roads.

CO₂ emissions from transport are rising all over the world⁴. No other sector struggles so much with reaching climate targets and presents growing rather than falling greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in urban areas.⁵ Even if there were many more e-cars, we would only meet a few of these challenges and – as long as electricity from renewable energy is not more widely available – there is the risk of just shifting emissions from one area to another.

The problems are obvious and so are the solutions. Instead of building transport systems around individual cars, the



© Monika Zimmermann

Re-shaping a city by converting a car lane to a bike lane. Here in inner-city Paris in October 2019.

backbone of urban mobility must be walking, cycling, public transport and shared vehicles, complemented by small, flexible, e-driven vehicles: EcoMobility is an approach developed by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability which can be applied in all municipalities.

Experts agree: cities should invest in public transport, freely

accessible public areas, shared spaces and EcoMobility lanes for the various new vehicles on two, three or four wheels, with or without an e-motor.

Cities should make individual car use and car parking much more expensive, limit access to inner-city areas and introduce speed limits (e.g. 30 km) for almost all streets in the

city. In parallel, ecologicistic concepts are needed, which channel, shift and reduce the transport of goods by motorized lorries. The next step is urban planning which favors development concepts around public transport and creates car-free neighborhoods.

How do we get to this point? With a combination of ambi-

tious and visionary local leadership, a civil society movement which gives priority to health and includes all sectors of society (vulnerable groups), a future-oriented urban planning model, a local business sector which understands that continuing with current trends will result in problems (people and goods stuck in traffic jams), innovative start-ups which



Vehicles of the future of an urban size. Paris, October 2019.

identify new business opportunities for micro mobility, connected mobility, and Mobility as a Service (MaaS), supported by new digital platforms. And higher levels of governments that take up their responsibilities for supporting or forcing their cities to allow new (eco) mobility patterns.

The Ministry of transport in the German State of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, has formulated five key goals for a mobility transition (Verkehrswende 2030). In reality, the ministry is not only encouraging and supporting active cities, it is also providing a new infrastructure: networks, knowledge hubs, innovation centers, pilot projects and labs.

Translating these goals into action reveals the ambition and challenges. To meet the targets, this state with a population of 14 million needs in the next 10 years, for example: 2 million e-cars, 1 million charging points, 50,000 shared cars, 500 km of dedicated lanes for fast buses, 50,000 climate neutral trucks, climate mobility plans

for 44 municipalities, 20 new regional fast bike lanes and 500 smaller municipalities which have turned their inner cities into traffic reduced and livable areas.

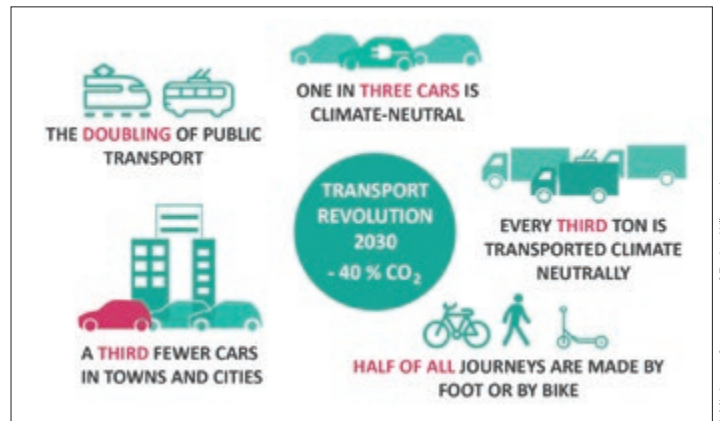
Local and regional mobility strategies form the basis for such developments. They go far beyond traditional transport plans. For example, they investigate the real mobility needs of all parts of society, the variety of means to respond to these needs, trends of non-motorized mobility and how these can be strengthened. They look into protecting their locations, including their air spaces. Such mobility strategies also center around climate targets and SDGs and contribute to their local implementation.

Utopia? Yes and no. More and more cities around the world have understood that EcoMobility is not a luxury but a need to ensure livability, for themselves and in a global context. Oslo, Stockholm, Copenhagen, London, Paris, Bogota, Suwon, Berlin and many more have started visible and tangible change.

The Kaohsiung Strategies for the Future of Urban Mobility⁶

It provides a framework for all local actors. The 12 key principles and their detailed explanations can be implemented in all municipalities.

1. We plan our cities and their mobility together
2. We prioritize people over vehicles
3. We support the shared and efficient use of vehicles, lanes, curbs, and land
4. We promote equity
5. We support fair user fees
6. We work towards integration and seamless connectivity
7. We lead the transition towards a zero emission and renewable energy transport future
8. We support that autonomous vehicles (AVs) in urban areas should be operated only in shared fleets
9. We protect the air space of our cities
10. We apply sustainability principles for moving goods: Green freight and ecologistics
11. We engage with stakeholders
12. We prepare our local governments for mobility in the future



The Ministry of transport in Baden-Württemberg (Germany) has formulated five key goals for a mobility transition.

They are supported by international organizations, such as ICLEI and IDTP. Broadly developed principles help their strategy and implementation process, for example the Kaohsiung Strategies for the Future of Urban Mobility. ■

- 1 Monika Zimmermann is former Deputy Secretary General of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability. Now expert, consultant and moderator
- 2 The ownership of cars has increased again in almost all EU countries. The “top country”, Luxembourg, has 670 cars per 1000 inhabitants. See: https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Passenger_cars_in_the_EU.

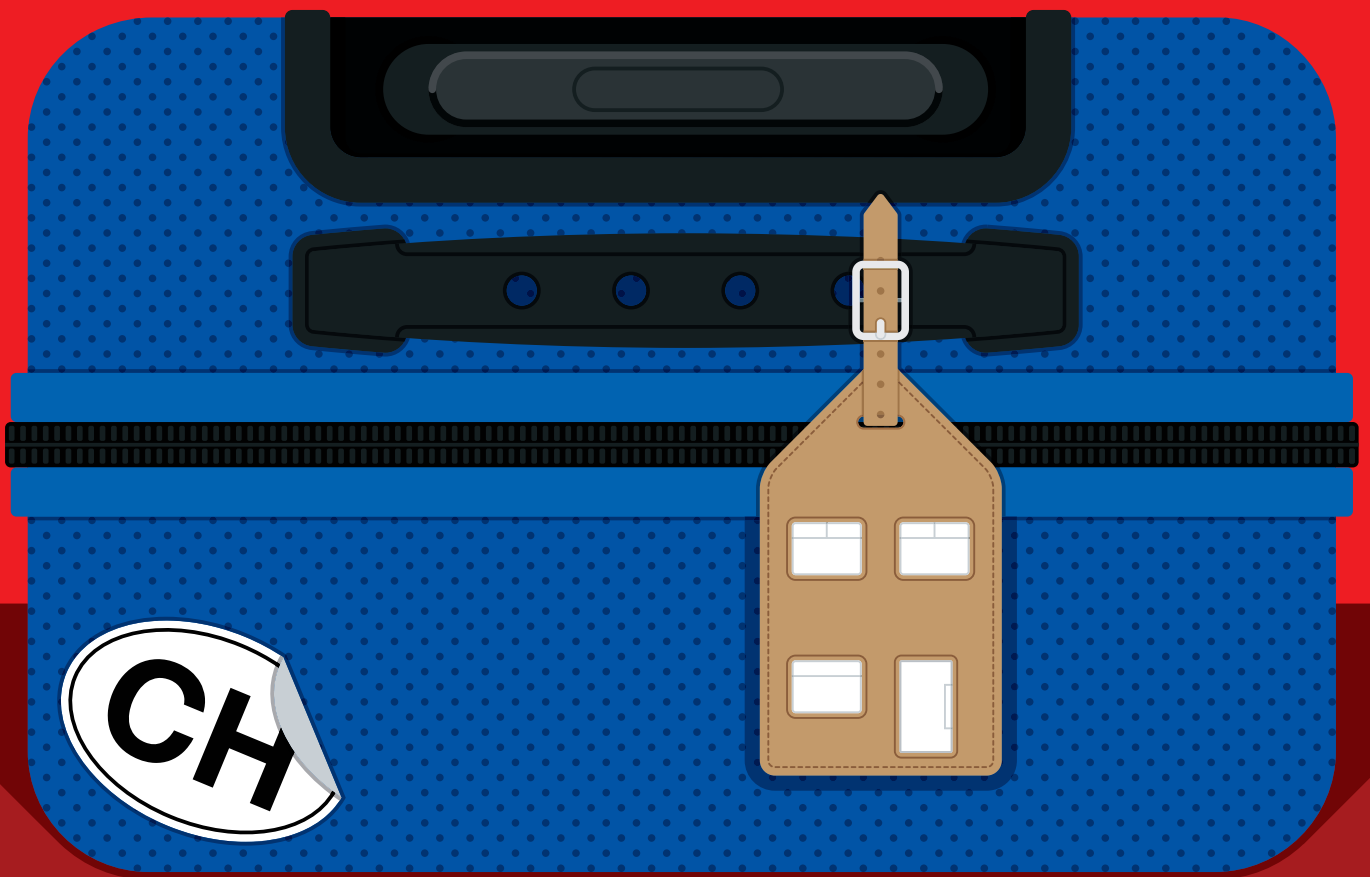
3 For Germany: The mileage of households using private cars increased by 7.8% between 2005 and 2017. ((Die Fahrleistungen der privaten Haushalte mit Personenkraftwagen sind von 2005 bis 2017 um 7,8 % angestiegen)

4 ITF Outlook 2017 in its Executive Summary: “CO2 emissions from transport could increase 60% by 2050 despite the significant technology progress...”

5 See for example: Transport and Climate Change 2018, SLoCat. <http://slocat.net/tcc-gsr>

6 <http://kaohsiung.ecomobilityfestival.org/declaration/> Available also in French, Spanish, German, Chinese, Korean.

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Trees and cities unite against climate change

Considering that cities are responsible for 75% of carbon emissions worldwide, it is time they played an active role in mitigating climate change. One way for them to do so is through the UNECE's Trees in Cities Challenge.

CHIARA MORFEO, UNECE

If you have experienced any of the strong heatwaves this summer, you have probably also become aware of a new protagonist taking center stage – trees. As the sun was relentlessly beating down on you while you were making your way across town to a meeting or to run errands, every little bit of leafy shade brought sweet, albeit momentary, relief. This experience has likely inspired a new level of appreciation for our arboreal friends among city-dwellers that, prior to the record temperatures, tended to notice trees only when accidentally running into one while bending over their smartphones.

We may not be aware of it, but the presence of trees in our cities positively impacts our lives at every stage of an average workday.

Imagine we are back in July 2019: according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) likely to be the hottest month recorded to date. You step out of your front door and take a deep breath, bracing for the day ahead. Even this small action connects to trees in multiple ways. The air you are breathing has likely been cleaned by surrounding trees and cooled down by up to 8 degrees Celsius.

Next you take the car, public transport, or bike to work and, yet again, trees play a vital role. Their presence encourages careful driving and is known to reduce the frequency of traffic accidents.

Finally, you reach your workplace. But unbeknownst to you, the natural shade provided by the trees outside the building reduce the need for air conditioning by as much as 30%, thus reducing your building's energy consumption and lowering carbon emissions that contribute to increasingly high temperatures in the first place.

Next you encounter a group of energetic and convivial colleagues at the first meeting of your day. You might think that these people are inherently nice, but trees might

have also had a hand, or branch for that matter, in bringing out the best qualities in them. Not only have trees been proven central to building stronger communities, they also have an important impact on health and well-being.

Now you might find that all these life enhancing qualities attributed to urban trees are not enough to make them a meaningful solution to the ongoing climate crisis. After all, cities are responsible for 75% of carbon emissions worldwide.

In search for a less carbon-intensive life you decide to move to the countryside. But urban trees might even have an impact on your exit from the city. When selling your home in the city, the trees in the vicinity of the building not only help control underground waters and prevent landslides, thus making your former home safe, they also drive up property prices. So, whatever you do or wherever you go in your city, trees have almost certainly impacted your experience in some way or another.

Considering all these benefits attributed to trees, you might have guessed it by now: in addition to being silent and oft-overlooked observers of the hustle and bustle of city life, trees are in fact nature's finest weapon in the fight against climate change. Scientists keep highlighting that planting trees is one of the most cost-effective ways of combatting global warming. And now that climate change has reached staggering proportions, it is time to leverage their potential.

This is why the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Executive Secretary, Olga Algayerova, launched the global "Trees in Cities Challenge" campaign at the Climate Action Summit 2019 in New York. Considering their disproportionate carbon emissions, cities are the site where the battle against climate change must be fought and won. Hence, she invited mayors from all over the world to make a pledge to plant more trees in their urban areas.

The response was overwhelming. In an era of limited budgets and climate action that either targets the national level or individual citizens, this is seen as an initiative that offers cities steps for concrete climate action. Bonn, Tirana, Helsingborg, and Victoria; these are just some of the cities whose mayors enthusiastically

joined this campaign to make their cities greener, more sustainable and more resilient.

In fact, UNECE has introduced a nexus on smart and sustainable cities, which builds on the strengths of UNECE in the field of transport, energy, economic development, innovation, environment, trade, urban planning, and population. One of the first successes of the nexus was the Day of Cities which took place in April 2019. The event highlighted the necessity for UNECE to work more closely with cities to support member States in the implementation of urban-related Sustainable Development Goals.

Strikingly, the first cities to commit to the Trees in Cities Challenge are from the UNECE region, which shows that the Economic Commission for Europe is on the right track with its focus on cities. Where are you from? Is your city on board? Check here. If not, share the initiative with your friends and mayor! ■

<https://treesincities.unece.org>

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Immeubles de logement en pierre massive à Plan les Ouates, Consortium Perraudinarchiplein.

La ville durable idéale doit-elle être verte ?

BRIGITTE PERRIN, UNIGE

Longtemps critiquées, les disciplines de l'aménagement et de l'urbanisme ont intégré, depuis une vingtaine d'années, les principes de la durabilité. D'une part parce qu'elle est devenue une norme imposée par des réglementations (densité, normes énergétiques, transports), mais aussi grâce au fait que les pouvoirs publics, en particulier en Suisse, ont depuis longtemps une forte conscience de la nécessité d'une gestion durable du territoire. Dès 1978, une loi sur l'aménagement du territoire a vu le jour pour faire face à la rareté du sol, à l'économie du sol particulière de la Suisse, qui a nécessité d'urbaniser vers l'intérieur. Les enjeux de densification ont donc été conscientisés depuis longtemps.

Il n'y a d'urbanisme que durable

Le professeur Laurent Matthey, co-directeur du MAS en urbanisme de l'Université de Genève, souligne ainsi qu'il n'est plus vraiment nécessaire d'accoler le terme durable à une formation en urbanisme: «Il me semble que l'association

des deux termes est devenue évidente pour les acteurs de l'urbanisme. Il ne peut y avoir d'urbanisme que dans une perspective durable de nos jours. Les professionnels de l'urbanisme sont les premiers à avoir dû faire face aux problèmes de durabilité de nos villes. Ils ont participé à la définition des solutions.»

Pourtant, la notion de ville durable n'a pas la même signification pour les urbanistes et pour le grand public: «L'imaginaire de la ville durable n'est pas la même pour les habitants et les techniciens. Pour les habitants, il s'agit surtout d'une ville verte alors que pour les urbanistes elle a longtemps été d'abord dense et efficiente d'un point de vue énergétique de manière à réduire l'impact environnemental global du système urbain», relève Laurent Matthey. Cependant, la place du végétal et de l'organique dans la ville est en plein essor depuis une dizaine d'années entre autres à cause du changement climatique et de la conservation des sols.

C'est au début du XX^e siècle que l'on entend parler pour la première fois du mot «urbanisme». Ce métier devient alors un corps d'état en France. Avec l'irruption de la ville industrielle, les premiers urbanistes se sont mis à penser à une autre échelle: il fallait remettre de l'ordre dans le bâti désordonné. Cela a favorisé l'émergence de nouveaux métiers tels que les ingénieurs, les géographes, les sociologues. Rapidement, ils ont concurrencé les architectes.

Le végétal dans la ville: une utopie

En Suisse, la formation des urbanistes n'a pas donné lieu à la création d'école d'urbanisme au sens strict. La formation s'élabore d'abord à partir d'une discipline (architecte, géographe, paysagiste, sociologue...) puis d'une spécialisation post-diplôme. Aujourd'hui, les métiers de l'urbanisme se spécialisent de plus en plus. Les architectes-urbanistes ou les géographes-urbanistes restent majoritaires, mais les paysagistes et ou les ingénieurs de l'environnement sont de

plus en plus nombreux dans les métiers de la ville. «Les paysagistes ont la capacité à concevoir l'espace à grande échelle à partir du végétal ou de l'organique.», relève la Marlène Leroux, docteur en Science, Architecture et science de la ville de l'École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) et coordinatrice du MAS en Urbanisme. «L'imaginaire du végétal dans la ville est une utopie tant que l'on utilisera majoritairement de matériaux inertes tel que le béton. L'utilisation plus systématique des matériaux naturels pourrait être une piste vers la réalisation de véritables «éco-quartiers».

L'ennemi: le béton

Envisager une ville durable sans béton, c'est une priorité pour Marlène Leroux, en particulier si l'on veut atteindre les objectifs de développement durable. «Les labels que l'on connaît aujourd'hui (ISO, Minergie, 2000Watts) se concentrent sur la performance des bâtiments, ce qui est bien, mais ils ne prennent pas en compte l'énergie utilisée pour

arriver à ces performances. Pour évaluer le réel impact écologique d'un bâtiment, il faut considérer le cycle total de la vie du bâtiment, de l'extraction des matériaux à leur acheminement, tout en passant par leur façonnement. Puis il faut considérer l'énergie nécessaire pour démolir le bâtiment en fin de vie. Dans cette logique, la production du béton, par exemple, est particulièrement énergivore et son recyclage encore complexe et à un coût prohibitif. Si on construisait en matériaux naturels, en briques de terres, en bois ou encore en pierres massives, le coût en énergie serait moindre, il n'y aurait pas ou peu transformations et la mise en place de circuits courts plus appropriée. Il ne faut pas penser les villes durables en termes d'aménagement du territoire seulement, de performances énergétiques mais aussi en termes de matériaux

et dispositifs constructifs écologiques», conclut la coordinatrice du MAS

Et qu'en est-il des «smart cities»? Sont-elles plus durables puisqu'elles permettent souvent d'économiser de l'énergie? Oui, surtout si l'on parle des transports en commun, de l'éclairage public ou toutes autres fonctions urbaines qui peuvent être optimisées, pour moi, la ville durable idéale doit être aussi «low tech», explique Marlène Leroux. Pourtant, lorsque l'on s'intéresse au «low tech», on touche aux questions de l'imperfection des matériaux naturels, des spécificités de leurs mises en œuvre, finalement de la complexité de la normalisation de tout ce qui n'est pas issu d'un processus industriel, tant de paramètres insaisissables pour les logiciels d'accréditations souvent obtus de la «smart cities».

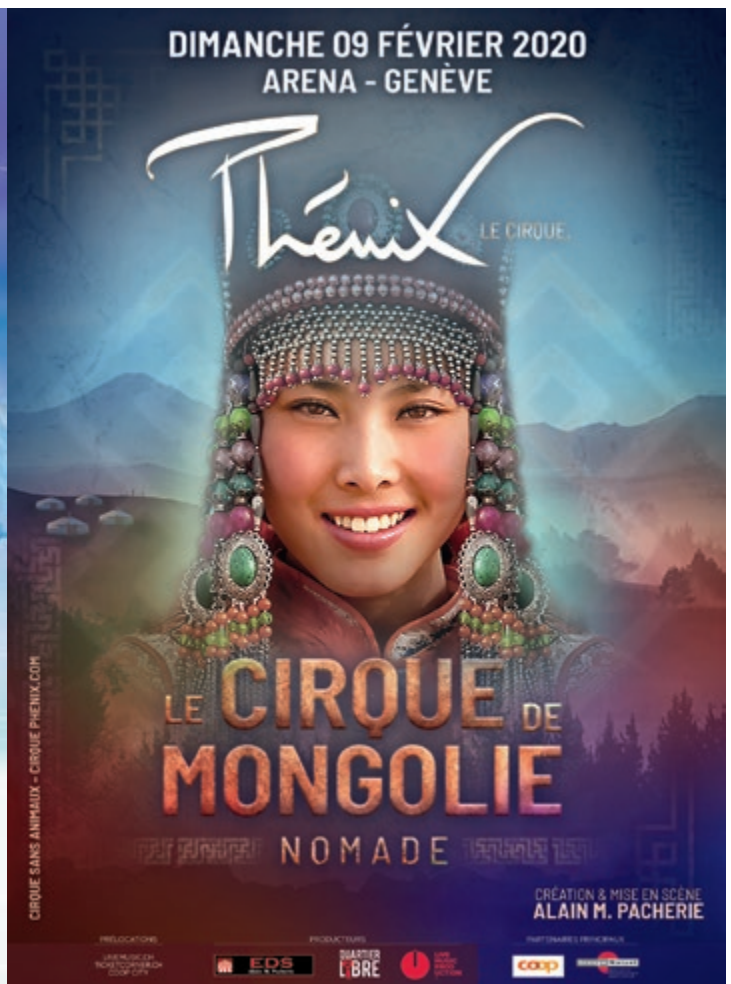
La collaboration, clé de voûte de l'urbanisme de demain

Pour Laurent Matthey, les ODD ont évidemment une influence sur les politiques publiques. «Par l'intermédiaire des administrations qui les déclinent notamment dans leurs appels d'offres ils orientent également la fabrication de la ville, que ce soit du point de vue d'objectif globaux relatifs au climat ou de problématiques plus locales de l'inclusivité dans l'espace public. Ces objectifs traduits dans les appels d'offre déterminent ainsi de nouvelles façons de faire parmi les professionnels. Ces nouvelles façons de faire nécessitent de plus en plus une collaboration fine entre les différents métiers de l'urbanisme». C'est pour cette raison que le MAS en urbanisme conjoint à l'UNIGE et l'EPFL met point d'honneur à pousser l'interdisciplinarité. Les participants doivent être capables de produire un projet

en équipe pluridisciplinaires. «D'ailleurs l'interdisciplinarité est devenue une norme des appels d'offres relève Marlène Leroux.

Apprendre l'urbanisme dans une haute école suisse, c'est aussi apprendre à remettre en question les grandes recettes qui ont fait long feu par le passé. «On ne peut reproduire les mêmes modèles de développement en tous lieux du monde. Il faut toujours tenir compte des lieux. L'urbanisme est un art de la mise en rapport d'un programme et d'un site. Chaque situation est différente. Le changement climatique comme les changements sociaux et économiques rendent plus encore nécessaire la recontextualisation de chaque projet» conclut Laurent Matthey. ■

Plus d'informations:
<https://www.unige.ch/formcont/cours/mas-urbanisme>





The Alcazaba and the roman theatre in Malaga.

© Malaga City Council

The role of cities in the 21st century

Life in cities currently produces more than 60 percent of the planet's CO₂ emissions. Therefore, action against climate change has to be undertaken more and more in cities.

Mr. FRANCISCO DE LA TORRE PRADOS, MAYOR OF MALAGA, SPAIN

If it has always been important to correctly manage the competences that the local level plays in the public administrations of each country, as the twenty-first century advances, it is becoming even more essential. There are two main explanations for this.

The first one, because with each passing year, the proportion of the population moving from small towns and rural areas to live in medium and large cities is higher. As a matter of fact, by 2050, 68 percent of the world's population will live in cities.

The second one, because city dwellers produce a higher proportion of CO₂ than the percentage of urban population today. Therefore, action against climate change is becoming increasingly important in cities; it is a matter of winning the battle on the basis of having

efficient public transport, preferably with electric vehicles, and it is also a matter of having in the cities themselves facilities for the production of renewable energies, whether photovoltaic, geothermal or even wind energy, and hence close to the consumer's own demand, with less expenditure on transport. It is about getting the circular economy right and successfully proposing the sustainable reuse of waste generated by cities.

However, it is not only environmental sustainability that justifies the importance of city management, but also social and economic sustainability depend, to a large extent, on the success of local management.

The European Charter of Local Self-Government (ECLSG) states that "the exercise of powers should, in general, preferably be the responsibility of the authorities that are closest to the citizens". In addition, it is very important that well into

the twenty-first century all United Nations countries make a clear commitment to decentralization to the local level. At this stage, the best response is given to policies on social inclusion, quality education so that no one is left behind, vocational training so that employment opportunities are not lost, and even the promotion of innovation and entrepreneurship policies that are so important for economic development and global competitiveness.

Even in development cooperation cities can play an essential role with genuine twinning agreements and sharing good practices to help the momentum needed by less developed countries.

At the local level, transparency is more effective, citizens can be better informed of the reality of public accounts and, therefore, citizens' participation and control over power is more effective than at more

distant levels such as regional or national. This means that local decentralisation strengthens democracy, and this is also one of the challenges of the 21st century.

Ultimately, when by 2030 we want to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we should not forget the essential role that municipalities with the appropriate levels of competence can play in this task. And we should not forget the leadership that the local power can develop towards the neighbours of the respective municipality, so that good practices such as energy saving, water saving, importance of education at family level, avoiding waste in the consumption of food and so forth are shared by the highest possible percentage of the population.

In the case of Malaga, at the beginning of 2018 the City Council Plenary approved the elaboration of a progress report and an action plan



Mr. Francisco de la Torre Prados,
Mayor of Malaga, Spain.

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2030. In this way, a collaboration process was established between the City Council, the CIEDES Foundation and CIFAL Malaga, dependent on the UNITED NATIONS Agency, to locate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the city. This process seeks at any given time the involvement of as many agents and citizens as possible, especially the main leaders and those responsible for the city's projects.

The process of locating the 2030 Agenda in Malaga is progressing according to the following steps: awareness, training and dissemination on SDGs; Involvement of agents ("Leave no one behind"); Progress report on the SDGs and their targets in Malaga; Alignment of the city model and Action Plan 2030 SDGs Malaga.

The Malaga CIFAL Centre began to operate on the basis of

the memorandum of agreement between the City Council and UNITAR in March 2018 with the vision of becoming a reference training centre for the entire Mediterranean, where local, regional and national leaders can acquire the skills that will enable them to build the foundations for sustainable development in their communities and, finally, have an impact on improving the quality of life of their societies.

Its presence in Malaga has allowed it to generate a dynamic of expansion of knowledge and interest in SDGs and important alliances have been created with local and provincial agents who are transmitting the need for the involvement of all citizens in this global Agenda. It must be borne in mind that Malaga also works for the leaders of the future. Since its inception, more than 1,000 pupils have been trained, capable of understanding what

SDGs are and their involvement as the generation of change.

In Malaga, in addition to the Strategic Plan of the metropolis, promoted by the CIEDES Foundation and all its sponsors, Malaga City Council coordinates the Urban Agenda 2050, former Agenda 21, which is also a key part of the process of locating the 2030 Agenda in Malaga.

Of course, as pointed out in the Brundtland Report (1987), also entitled: "Our Common Future", Sustainable Development is that which "satisfies the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs", for this, "we have to think globally and act locally", something that Malaga has undoubtedly had in mind during the last decades. Thus, we will help save the planet and the future will be better for all. ■



"What I love most about a Yule log is perfecting the icing; it requires great technicality to produce a delicious-looking colour, a flawless texture, and a festive sparkle."

Migros pastry chef M. Djadour's little pleasure





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M comme Merveilleusement bon.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



sustain

“Urban security, liveability and resilience in an interconnected world”

Infrastructure security 2019

Average: 72.5

Rank	City	Score
1	Singapore	96.9
2	Osaka	94.5
3	Barcelona	94.4
4	Tokyo	94.3
5	Madrid	94.2
6	Frankfurt	93.7
=7	Melbourne	93.5
=7	Sydney	93.5
9	Wellington	93.2
10	Washington, DC	93.1
11	Chicago	93.0
=12	New York	92.5
=12	Toronto	92.5
14	Seoul	92.4
15	Los Angeles	92.2
16	Amsterdam	92.0
17	San Francisco	91.7
18	Hong Kong	91.1
19	London	90.4
20	Copenhagen*	89.0
21	Brussels	88.9
22	Zurich	88.5
23	Stockholm	87.5
24	Taipei	87.1
25	Paris	85.9
=26	Abu Dhabi	83.2
=26	Dubai*	83.2
28	Rome	83.1
29	Milan	82.8
30	Dallas	81.9

Health security 2019

Average: 68

Rank	City	Score
1	Osaka	88.5
2	Tokyo	87.5
3	Seoul	85.2
=4	Amsterdam	81.6
=4	Stockholm	81.6
6	Frankfurt	81.2
7	Washington, DC	81.1
8	Singapore	80.9
9	Zurich	80.8
10	Taipei	80.2
=11	Copenhagen*	79.8
=11	Sydney	79.8
=13	Brussels	79.3
=13	Melbourne	79.3
15	Paris	78.7
16	London	78.0
17	Toronto	77.4
18	San Francisco	77.2
19	Chicago	77.1
=20	Madrid	76.1
=20	New York	76.1
22	Dallas	75.9
23	Los Angeles	75.8
24	Barcelona	75.2
25	Rome	75.1
26	Milan	74.9
27	Hong Kong	73.2
28	Wellington	72.9
29	Abu Dhabi	71.8
30	Moscow	71.5

Five biggest improvers (last five years)

City	Country	Rank (out of 140)	Overall rating (100=ideal)	Five-year movement
Moscow	Russia	68	80	4.9
Belgrade	Serbia	77	74.5	6.4
Hanoi	Vietnam	107	59.7	5.5
Kiev	Ukraine	117	56.6	5.2
Abidjan	Côte d'Ivoire	123	52.2	6.3

Five biggest decliners (last five years)

City	Country
Detroit	US
Asunción	Paraguay
Tunis	Tunisia
Caracas	Venezuela
Tripoli	Libya

Liveable cities

Digital security 2019

Average: 67.2

Rank	City	Score
1	Tokyo	94.4
2	Singapore	93.1
3	Chicago	92.9
4	Washington, DC	92.2
=5	Los Angeles	91.4
=5	San Francisco	91.4
7	Dallas	91.3
8	New York	91.1
9	Toronto	90.6
10	London	90.2
=11	Melbourne	89.4
=11	Osaka	89.4
=11	Sydney	89.4
14	Amsterdam	89.0
15	Copenhagen	87.3

Humanity is a predominantly urban species. The 56% of the world's population who live in cities today will rise to 68% by 2050, reflecting a speed of urbanisation even faster than previously predicted. Accordingly, the success or failure of cities will define the quality of human life in the years ahead.

Personal security 2019

Average: 77

Rank	City	Score
1	Singapore	95.3
2	Copenhagen*	93.6
3	Hong Kong	91.9
4	Tokyo	91.7
5	Wellington	91.5
6	Stockholm	91.3
7	Osaka	91.1
8	Toronto	90.8
9	Amsterdam	89.4
10	Sydney	89.1
11	Abu Dhabi	88.9
12	Dubai*	88.6
13	Zurich	87.8
14	Frankfurt	87.7
15	Seoul	87.5

The concept of liveability assesses which locations around the world provide the best or the worst living conditions. Assessing liveability has a broad range of uses, from benchmarking perceptions of development levels to assigning a hardship allowance as part of expatriate relocation packages.

The liveability rating quantifies the challenges that might be presented to an individual's lifestyle in any given location and allows for direct comparison between locations.

Given the importance of urban security, here is an updated index to assess the relevant strengths and weaknesses of leading cities worldwide, highlighting the multifaceted nature of urban safety.

The ten least liveable cities

Country	City	Rank	Overall rating (100=ideal)	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Venezuela	Caracas	1	46.9	35	33.3	56.3	66.7	53.6
Algeria	Algiers	2	44.1	50	45.8	45.4	50	30.4
Cameroon	Douala	3	44	60	25	48.4	33.3	42.9
Zimbabwe	Harare	4	42.6	40	20.8	58.6	66.7	35.7
PNG	Port Moresby	5	41	30	37.5	47	50	46.4
Pakistan	Karachi	6	40.9	20	45.8	38.7	66.7	51.8
Libya	Tripoli	7	40.4	35	41.7	40.3	50	41.1
Bangladesh	Dhaka	7	39.2	55	29.2	40.5	41.7	26.8
Nigeria	Lagos	9	38.5	20	37.5	53.5	33.3	46.4
Syria	Damascus	10	30.7	20	29.2	40.5	33.3	32.1

The ten most liveable cities

Country	City	Rank	Overall rating (100=ideal)	Stability	Healthcare	Culture & Environment	Education	Infrastructure
Austria	Vienna	1	99.1	100	100	96.3	100	100
Australia	Melbourne	2	98.4	95	100	98.6	100	100
Australia	Sydney	3	98.1	95	100	97.2	100	100
Japan	Osaka	4	97.7	100	100	93.5	100	96.4
Canada	Calgary	5	97.5	100	100	90	100	100
Canada	Vancouver	6	97.3	95	100	100	100	92.9
Canada	Toronto	7	97.2	100	100	97.2	100	89.3
Japan	Tokyo	7	97.2	100	100	94.4	100	92.9
Denmark	Copenhagen	9	96.8	95	95.8	95.4	100	100
Australia	Adelaide	10	96.6	95	100	94.2	100	96.4

Rankers (last five years)

Rank (out of 140)	Overall rating (100=ideal)	Five-year movement
56	86.3	-4.4
99	65.6	-3.2
106	59.8	-2.8
131	46.9	-4.4
137	40.4	-3.8

Si Genève et l'ONU nous étaient contés...

Entretien avec Marie-José Astre-Démoulin autour du livre «Genève, Émois», publié aux Éditions des sables.



© Alain Adlouni

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

Marie-José est une ex-collègue avec qui j'ai la joie et le plaisir de collaborer pour le magazine *UN Special* depuis quelques années maintenant. Elle est un parfait exemple d'une carrière accomplie à l'ONU et d'une belle intégration à Genève. Hormis ses activités de consultante en gestion de conflits, de coach et formatrice en communication, elle est aussi auteure de récits. Son dernier ouvrage *Genève Émois* nous emmène dans le monde des internationaux et des expatriés. Il nous fait entrer au Palais des Nations et nous en révèle quelques secrets, et nous dévoile une Genève symbole de paix.

S. BENCHERIF: Comment est née l'idée de ce livre?

M.-J. ASTRE-DÉMOULIN: *Genève Émois* est né de la conjonction entre deux choses: ma découverte de la ville de Genève et la fréquentation d'ateliers d'écriture.

Lors de mes premières années à l'ONU, je vivais à Petit-Saconnex dans un immeuble totalement multiculturel, je sortais avec des collègues internationaux, je m'investissais beaucoup dans mes activités professionnelles. Ma vie

tournait donc essentiellement autour du Palais des Nations.

Jusqu'au jour où je me suis inscrite dans un atelier d'écriture, en vieille-ville de Genève. Très vite, j'ai été grisée par la découverte des traditions et de la culture des Genevois de souche. Il se trouve que ces derniers étaient eux aussi curieux vis-à-vis de moi. Ils souhaitaient mieux comprendre «mon» monde, celui des «internationaux», dont ils disent ne rien savoir.

J'ai raconté l'ONU, avec bonheur. J'ai écouté Genève, avec plaisir. J'ai pris des notes. Et cela a été le début de ce livre.

Et de quoi parle-t-il?

Il s'agit d'une compilation de courts récits qui peuvent se lire indépendamment les uns des autres. Certains sont des déambulations genevoises: parc des Bastions, quai Gustave Ador, cimetière des rois, ou parvis de la cathédrale.

D'autres, plus caustiques, s'attaquent à la question immobilière, à la perception que les Genevois ont des frontaliers, ou à la fête de l'Escalade, fabuleuse mais étonnante

célébration guerrière dans une ville symbole de paix.

Mes origines haut-savoyardes m'ont aussi amenée à explorer l'histoire commune entre la Savoie et le canton de Genève, ainsi que les différences qui existent entre les deux rives, séparées par une frontière, de mon bien-aimé lac Léman.

Et puis, il y a l'ONU, bien sûr Et il est question de Sergio Vieira di Mello, de notre somptueux parc de l'Ariana, de Gustave Revilliod, de nos statuts particuliers, de la diplomatie, et de bien d'autres choses encore.

Votre livre reflète bien votre profond attachement à Genève et à l'ONU. Qu'est-ce qui vous a le plus marquée de ce vécu?

À l'ONU, ce que j'ai adoré, c'est le «bouillon de cultures»! Toutes ces langues, toutes ces nationalités, toutes ces personnalités que l'on croise au quotidien et avec qui on a la chance de pouvoir échanger. On ne trouve cela nulle part ailleurs.

Mes souvenirs les plus intenses sont ceux de mes missions sur le terrain. J'y ai rencontré des centaines de collègues courageux et engagés, notamment parmi ceux que nous appelons «le personnel local». Je continue à collaborer avec certains d'entre eux, à titre personnel ou comme consultante.

Quant au fait de vivre à Genève, c'est une chance extraordinaire. Peu de villes sur terre offrent un tel niveau de confort et de sécurité, tout en étant

aussi ouvertes au monde et internationales.

Quels conseils donneriez-vous à une personne qui souhaiterait travailler à l'ONU?

Il faut aimer les peuples du monde, les langues et la diversité. Être capable de faire face à des conditions de vie précaires, dans des lieux différents, et pas toujours très sûrs ni agréables

Et surtout, il faut entrer à l'ONU, non pas pour «faire carrière» mais parce qu'on veut y apporter une contribution, accomplir une mission qui nous tient à cœur.

Où peut-on acheter votre livre?

Je vais demander au kiosque de la porte 6 s'ils accepteraient d'en prendre quelques exemplaires en dépôt.

Sinon, il peut être commandé dans les librairies genevoises ou sur le site des Éditions des sables¹. Ou envoyez-moi un email (mjastre@gmail.com) et je me chargerai de l'envoi ou du dépôt à l'ONUG ou autre lieu dans Genève.

Avez-vous d'autres projets de livres?

Un ouvrage doit paraître prochainement. Il s'intitule «La marmite gauloise»². Il traite de la manière dont les Français sont perçus au sein des milieux internationaux. Le texte est assorti d'illustrations pleines d'humour, faites par Jan Abellan.

Et je travaille à un nouveau manuscrit dans lequel mes aventures onusiennes seront sans doute très présentes.



Je me souviens avec précision du jour où Christian David, rédacteur en chef du magazine de l'époque, est venu me proposer d'écrire des articles. Je n'en croyais pas mes oreilles. Je me sentais honorée. J'ai accepté aussitôt. Merci, Christian, pour cette proposition fantastique!

«Adieu UN Special,
Adieu et merci mon pote!»

mais c'est encore à l'état embryonnaire.

Un mot en guise de conclusion?

Ah oui! Je tiens à dire que je suis immensément touchée de figurer dans le tout dernier numéro de *UN Special*. Ce magazine a joué un rôle très important dans ma vie. C'est peut-être même grâce à lui que je me suis mise à écrire des livres.

J'ai ainsi pu approcher des personnages éminents de la vie genevoise: un membre du Conseil administratif de la ville, le Directeur d'un théâtre ou un politicien réputé, par exemple. Ces rencontres ont été des déclencheurs, ce sont elles qui m'ont donné envie de mieux m'intégrer dans Genève.

Et puis, l'écriture d'articles a stimulé mon imagination et

renforcé mes compétences rédactionnelles. C'est ainsi qu'est né mon désir de m'inscrire à des ateliers d'écriture. La fréquentation de ces ateliers a abouti à la naissance, en 2013, de mon premier livre³ et aujourd'hui, voici «Genève, Émois». D'ailleurs, *UN Special* figure dans mon livre, à 3 ou 4 reprises, je pense.

Ma collaboration avec Alex Mejia et son équipe a été un véritable plaisir. J'ai adoré chaque minute des échanges avec les contributrices et contributeurs du magazine! Sarah, Solange, Evelina, Garry, etc. Et avec vous, Sarah, qui savez conserver votre calme – et le sourire – même quand la photo est un peu floue ou le texte en retard. À ce propos, je suis ravie de figurer dans ce dernier numéro en qualité d'interviewée et non pas de rédactrice (même pas besoin de «faire le travail»!).

Cette pirouette constitue peut-être le moment idéal pour rendre mon dernier hommage au magazine qui a tant compté pour moi – et pour tant d'autres onusiens ou acteurs de la Genève internationale.

Ce septuagénaire magnifique, aussi honorable qu'irrévérencieux, aussi soucieux des institutions qu'imprévisible ne s'offusquera pas d'un mot d'adieu qui hésite entre familiarité et profond respect, alors je me lance et lui dis, du fond du cœur: «Adieu UN Special, Adieu et merci mon pote!» ■

1 <https://www.ed-des-sables.ch/publications.htm#group=group1&name=astre>

2 <https://www.fnac.com/SearchResult/ResultList.aspx?SCat=0%211&Search=la+marmite+gauloise&sft=1&sa=0>

3 *Le nid vide, récit d'un mal de mère*, Marie-José d'Astrée. Éditions Favre

The United Nations Ombudsman and mediation services

Empowering you to improve the way we all work together

Getting to know the office of the United Nations Ombudsman and mediation services and its civility campaign.



DEBBI VARIDEL & CHRISTEL NONNENMACHER, OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATION SERVICES

Headed by Ms. Shireen Dodson, Assistant Secretary-General and UN Ombudsman, the Office of the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services is composed of eight Regional Offices across the globe, including one here in Geneva, which is staffed by the Regional Ombudsman, Mr. Nicholas Theotocatos, and his assistant, Ms. Debbi Varidel. The Office of the Ombudsman is dedicated to improving the way that we work together at the United Nations by managing conflicts and workplace issues effectively.

Serving as an “ear to the people”, we ombudsmen are here to listen to you and help you find solutions to your workplace concerns outside of the formal justice system. Operating under the principles of independence, neutrality, confidentiality and informality, we address workplace conflict in meaningful ways such as:

- options discussion (looking over your issue and evaluating pros and cons of options available to you);
 - conflict coaching (teaching you techniques so you are better equipped to face your situation);
 - role play;
 - shuttle diplomacy (practicing various scenarios and approaches so you are prepared to have that difficult conversation);
 - information gathering (collecting information useful to your situation, which cannot be shared without your explicit permission);
 - facilitated conversations (allowing parties to a dispute to speak and be heard thanks to a third party, neutral facilitator);
 - structured mediation (facilitating the dialogue between parties in a conflict, and looking for a resolution that fits the needs and interests of all);
 - workplace conflict analysis (gathering insights on existing and/or perceived issues);
 - group facilitation (useful for teams to identify, make decisions and address problems contributing to ongoing conflict(s));
 - presentation and capacity building (explaining our services and/or teaching new conflict resolution skills to a group in workshops).
- In addition to implementing the core services detailed above, we also undertake special initiatives such as the current Dignity through Civility Campaign, which aims to increase awareness, engage dialogue and promote action to improve the quality of workplace behaviour.
- The Dignity through Civility Campaign is the Office of the Ombudsman’s contribution to the Secretary-General’s civility initiative, in which he called upon senior managers to “ensure the dignity of each person by promoting an environment of civility and psychological safety that empowers staff, fosters creativity and



Ms. Shireen Dodson (center), United Nations Ombudsman, with Mr. Gang Li (left), Regional Ombudsman for Vienna, and Mr. Youssoupha Niang (right), Regional Ombudsman for Nairobi, and Regional Coordinator.

innovation, and enables better communications amongst all staff.”

The Campaign includes:

Community-Civility-Communication (C3) Workshops

This interactive, three-hour workshop is being delivered across the United Nations by the Office’s staff, and partners within their own organizations. The workshop focuses on the connection between dignity and civility in the workplace, explores how communication enhances or undermines dignity, and invites participants to brainstorm on how to build work communities that support the notion of dignity. With a firm footing in the UN charter, the goal of the workshop is to illustrate a new dynamic of workplace interactions, provide participants with a language

to describe this dynamic, shift mindsets towards civility and inspire participants to take concrete actions.

Some takeaways from the workshop include:

- the understanding of how our beliefs about human nature can influence behavior change,
- the realization that recognizing dignity allows for robust exchanges without bruising discussion participants,
- better tools for communicating that we value others, and
- the concept of Ubuntu (caring for each other’s wellbeing in a spirit of mutual support) and its application in the workplace.

Civility Cafés

The Civility Cafés offer a unique opportunity for United Nations

employees at all levels to gather and discuss issues that matter to them. Based on the World Café conversation model, the Civility Cafés allow decentralized, self-directed groupings (duty stations, work teams, offices) to establish an environment where diverse perspectives can come forward to explore the topic, listen to one another and leave with a greater sense of understanding and ideally some action steps they can take to improve the quality of civility in their workplace.

In the feedback received from participants to recent Cafés, 95 per cent really enjoyed the two-hour session, saying that it was positive, entertaining and motivating. Some really enjoyed connecting with people from diverse offices and

hierarchical levels, while others saw the Cafés as the beginning of a new trend: “today we are 20, tomorrow we may be 40...” wrote one enthusiastic Café goer.

These C3 Workshops and Civility Cafés are further supported by a communications campaign, guidance on online training, and support for senior management in fulfilling the commitment within their compacts to promote an environment of civility and psychological safety. ■

For more information about the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services or the Civility Campaign, please visit our website at www.un.org/en/ombudsman, our iSeek page at <https://iseek.un.org/Ombudsman-and-mediation> or email us at unoms-oasg@un.org. If you would like to contact the Office of the Regional Ombudsman in Geneva directly, please call us at +41 22 917 3760 or email nicholas.theotocatos@un.org.

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World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) public lecture on ethics

In these untruthful times, ethics provides a moral compass to guide individual and collective actions for the greater good.

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR, UNOG

After Peter Singer (June 2018) and Julian Baggini (April 2019), Jeroen van den Hoven, Professor of Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology will be giving a public lecture at WIPO on 27 February 2020. He is founding Editor-in-chief of *Ethics and Information Technology* and a member of the *European Group on Ethics* in the European Commission. He has been widely published on ethics and information technology, including *Information Technology and Moral Philosophy* (2009) and *Designing in Ethics* (2018). His latest work, *Evil Online* (2018) investigates the spread of evil through the internet and social media.

Deputy Editor, Sarah Jordan, had the privilege of meeting Professor van den Hoven in Geneva in October 2019 when

he was here in the context of an international consultation at WHO on artificial intelligence (AI) in global health and the ethical considerations it raises. He will cover this and other themes in his WIPO Public Lecture.

S. JORDAN: You are a philosopher and ethicist. When did your interest in technology start?

J. VAN DEN HOVEN: My interest in information and communications technology (ICT) dates back to the 1980s. I realised early on that technology was going to shape and change the world in a big way and affect human lives because everything is mediated by technology. I started with ethics and was interested in how people justify their moral judgements. Is there a method, a standard way of proceeding? In 1999, I founded a journal called *Ethics and Information Technology*, which is now a benchmark

in the field. Then I became a Professor (first at Erasmus University, Rotterdam, then Delft University of Technology) and moved into the ethics of all kinds of technologies, robotics, materials science, civil engineering...

Does this have anything to do with design thinking, which is very much in fashion right now?

Yes, indeed; we apply design thinking to ethics. You need to think ethics from the outset when you start to think about designing and shaping. When you work with organizations, including the United Nations, it's important to start with public and institutional values and determine what problems they have. Then, you talk to policy makers and a broad range of stakeholders and work out how they and politicians can integrate the values into their procedures and IT systems in order to



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© Jeroen van den Hoven

Jeroen van den Hoven, Professor of Ethics and Technology at Delft University of Technology.

deal with the problems. We're talking about things that relate to everyone in a society: social security, education systems, healthcare...

The best way to make the world a better place is to make sure that the institutions and the devices available to people are good for them. As Churchill said: "We shape our buildings, and afterwards, our buildings shape us". In the material world our phones, our computers and the other devices and systems around us are

very important shapers of our behaviour and our thinking.

And what sort of problems are you working on right now?

My particular focus is on the issues that are triggered by new technologies, for example how should artificial intelligence (AI) be applied in healthcare? Is it a good idea to replace a doctor with a robot? Ethical questions need to be raised about the apps proposed by health insurance companies that track your fitness and dietary habits so they can calculate how likely

you are to fall ill and adjust their premiums accordingly. Or about motor insurance companies that equip your car with a black box so that they can predict how risky a driver you are. Or about Google timeline that tracks your every move.

The question here is who owns the data? Privacy is the term commonly used, but in Europe, people talk about data protection. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is the strictest legal framework in the world. In the age of big data, people outside of Europe are now realising that with so much uncontrolled data out there, strict legislation is a good idea and they would like the same level of protection.

International law is very soft – non-binding treaties that you can go in and out of, as we saw with the climate agreement. Europe has set a global standard by means of EU law. The big corporations who want to do business in Europe need to be in compliance. The new European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, has promised that within the first 100 days of her presidency she will come up with new legislation for AI, for example. And within the Commission, the Danish politician Margrethe Vestager is working on a "Europe fit for the Digital Age". The fines she has handed out

in the past are quite substantial and big tech does not like it.

Does this relate to the antitrust action the United States government is trying to initiate against GAFSA (Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple)?

Absolutely, it's the same sentiment. It is about paying tax and taking responsibility and curbing the tendency to put the negative externalities on the plate of society. These huge companies have too much power. It is part of a movement started by the economist Piketty's empirical work on inequality. The idea that the benefits of all of this trickle down to the common man or woman doesn't work. People's salaries are not rising. European countries may be fairly egalitarian when it comes to income, but the inequities as far as capital is concerned are increasing.

Is there a link here to our United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The United Nations has done a wonderful thing in defining the SDGs. It's the best consolidated list of the world's problems. We know what we need to work on: 17 goals with 169 targets that we need to meet before 2030. It has also created the new Technology Facilitation Mechanism¹ to support the goals.

To deal with climate change and with rising sea levels we



have to do something right away and that means innovation – but innovation which has ethics built into it from its inception. If you look at the UN SDGs they are about equity – about affordable healthcare, about stronger institutions, about drinking water, about the position of women, about medicines. These are all ethical aims, right from the start.

So the United Nations got it right in integrating an ethical component into the SDGs from the outset?

Absolutely. The second thing the UN got right is to realise that it has to shift gears and bring in the scientists and the engineers and invite them to meetings alongside the diplomats, politicians and international lawyers. We need smart solutions. I'm not saying that all the problems can be solved by technology, but we have to act now. Ethics is no longer a question of doing an analysis and preaching to the world, repeating ethical principles over and over again. It's about teaming up with companies and with governments and advising, training and incentivising them how to think differently and work on smarter solutions.

And those innovating need to aim at the big problems, not silly things – like smart fridge interfaces to tell you

when you've run out of milk or self-parking slippers in Korea! People get excited about innovation and novelty and they think it's "per se" good because it's new. You have to ask whether your idea is a good idea and think about the consequences; to assess and evaluate what you're doing. Look at Uber or Airbnb – on paper they looked like good ideas, but have serious downsides too. Or contrived durability and planned obsolescence – a shortened lifespan is programmed into consumer goods. Centennial lightbulbs are possible, but for commercial reasons they are not available. Deep fundamental research that is just curiosity driven is also necessary as serendipitously you might stumble across something that could help our big problems, but first aim at serious problems in society and then proceed responsibly.

But do you think people nowadays know how to proceed responsibly? How are the younger generations coping in this technology-dominated world?

I don't want to be negative, but I do see a problem. I have written a book called *Evil Online*, about the dangers to kids growing up online. In the book, with my co-author, Dean Cocking, we analyse how the online world with mobile phones 24/7 is

affecting the moral capacity to relate to other people. We claim that the online environment has a number of features, such as perceived anonymity, virality, filter bubbles. Together they may create a Moral Fog, in which young and vulnerable people may lose their way. This is how ordinary people may become nasty individuals online.

Kids who spend hours per day online often have to do without parental interaction. Parents don't look over their shoulder and comment on what they've done, how they behave, what they say or how they choose their words. Initiation into a moral society with norms and values is a very delicate, nuanced thing... Parents serve as checks and balances to children asking them to say why they chose a course of action or suggesting alternatives. We interact like this as adults with friends, partners or colleagues with the aim of becoming better. Parents who don't interact with their children don't impart those fundamental capabilities that are necessary to keep a moral society, a moral life or moral interactions going. Fewer and fewer people outside their online community comment on their behaviour or provide valuable feedback.

The book also looks at cyber bullying. In Germany, there was a case recently where a schoolboy killed himself after five of his classmates made a website that destroyed his reputation. When asked why they had done this, the classmates replied: it was online, it was virtual, just a computer game. The Germans have a wonderful word for this – *verharmlosen* – you make things seem innocent.

We can describe our interactions in thousands of ways – this interview for example – here we are sitting in a lobby, talking about philosophy, preparing for a lecture, having a

drink – all of these descriptions are true – but if something happens, if there's an accident, some of these descriptions are more relevant than others. So, what people do, especially online, is pick the solution that suits them best. We know this phenomenon. People who had to provide an account of what they did during the Second World War at the Nuremberg trials were champions of this. They said – I was just running a camp, transporting people to Bergen Belsen in a train, I tried to get as many people as I could into the train – which is all true – but it's not the most relevant description – they were sending people to their deaths.

New technology is all online, it's all virtual, just a website, fun and games. People use the novelty of the technology to distance themselves from actions in a way that they couldn't if they were to kill somebody with an axe in the real world in a traditional environment. It suits them well not to get to a better understanding. This "banality of evil" is something that Hannah Arendt wrote about in her work on Eichmann in Jerusalem. And ethics is a good starting point in the combat against this particularly sinister aspect of technology.

Professor van den Hoven, on behalf of UN Special readers, thank you for this interview. We look forward to hearing more on this subject at WIPO on 27 February. ■

For more information, or to register for WIPO's Public Lecture on Ethics, please send an email to: publiclecture@wipo.int

1 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/tfm>

Le désarmement nucléaire, une tâche vraiment impossible?

Fat-Man et Little boy c'est le nom des bombes qui bientôt serviront à détruire Hiroshima et Nagasaki.

MATTHIEU GUEGAN, LYCÉEN¹

Ce «petit garçon» et ce «gros homme» s'apprêtent à faire des centaines de milliers de morts et à entrer dans l'histoire. Après leur lancement, une crainte s'installe, l'Homme est capable de détruire des pays voire la vie.

Seulement quelques mois après le largage des deux engins de destruction massive contre une population civile, l'assemblée générale de l'ONU appelle à éliminer totalement les armes nucléaires. Force est de constater qu'en 2019 l'arsenal nucléaire mondial reste impressionnant. Depuis la première utilisation par les Américains, de nombreux pays se sont dotés de l'arme atomique. Le désarmement nucléaire est un sujet complexe. Les pays qui possèdent l'arme nucléaire ne souhaitent pas forcément s'en séparer. La bombe atomique est une arme de dissuasion. Le pays qui la possède a moins de chances d'être attaqué, car les adversaires pourraient craindre des représailles désastreuses. Lorsque deux états qui possèdent l'arme nucléaire sont en tensions, un «équilibre de la terreur» s'installe. Une nouvelle fois, c'est la peur des représailles qui fait la force et l'efficacité de l'arme atomique. L'arme atomique est une arme que l'on pourrait qualifier d'hypothétique. C'est l'hypothèse de son utilisation et des conséquences potentielles qui lui confère sa force.

De nombreux accords ont été signés pour endiguer la prolifération de l'arme atomique
La guerre froide en est un bon exemple. Si les États-Unis et l'URSS n'ont jamais utilisé l'arme atomique, c'est que chacun savait que dans le cas d'une utilisation par l'un, l'autre retorquerait. Ce qui aurait pour conséquence, la destruction mutuelle des deux états. Il semble très intéressant pour un état de se doter de ce type d'armes, d'où la volonté de beaucoup de pays de se doter de celle-ci depuis Hiroshima et Nagasaki.

Sa prolifération pose un problème: plus le nombre d'états possédant l'ogive nucléaire est élevé, plus les chances d'une utilisation ou d'un dérapage sont élevées. De nombreux accords ont été signés pour endiguer la prolifération de l'arme atomique, plus particulièrement pendant la guerre froide entre Moscou et Washington. Aujourd'hui certains de ces accords sont menacés.

Il est possible de réduire le nombre d'ogives nucléaires par différents degrés de contraintes

Certains traités sont tout simplement abolis. Cette «crise» du désarmement nucléaire peut s'expliquer par la rupture du traité sur les forces nucléaires à portée intermédiaires (FNI). Depuis le 2 août 2019 les États-Unis et la Russie ont cessé de respecter ce traité qui a pour objectif l'élimination de toute une catégorie d'armes: les missiles de croisière et balistiques d'une portée de 500 à 5500 kilomètres. «Les perceptions sont floues entre les États-Unis et la Russie sur le traité de Prague mais aussi la question de la dénucléarisation de la péninsule coréenne et la sortie des États-Unis de l'accord sur le nucléaire iranien et par bien d'autres raisons liées aux désaccords profonds qui opposent États-Unis, Russie et Union Européenne», résume Viatcheslav Kantor, Président du forum de Luxembourg. Cette ONG née en 2007 sur une décision de la conférence internationale de prévention des catastrophes nucléaires, réunis, dirigeants et experts sur la question de la non-prolifération des armes nucléaires, la limitation et la réduction de celles-ci. S'ajoute à toutes ces raisons, la tendance des politiques unilatéralistes et de rapports de force entre états.

La menace nucléaire nous concerne tous

Face à cette crise du désarmement nucléaire dans le monde, il est possible de réduire le nombre d'ogives par différents degrés de contraintes. Tout d'abord en réglementant et en limitant les armes. Des plafonds, des contraintes sur le déploiement ou l'emploi des armes nucléaires, des interdictions de test ou de transfert, des mesures de transparence et confiance existent déjà. Il existe aussi la non-prolifération qui correspond à des actions préventives contre la dissémination d'armes de destruction massives.

À son degré le plus élevé, la contrainte du désarmement interdit et élimine tout vecteur ainsi que les armes qu'il peut transporter. Il existe un autre moyen efficace mais encore trop peu présent pour endiguer la prolifération de l'armement nucléaire, c'est l'opinion publique. Si les citoyens des états qui possèdent l'arme nucléaire, décident de faire du désarmement nucléaire un sujet de premier plan politique, peut-être que les états qui possèdent la bombe atomique reverraient leur copie. Même si ce sujet semble peu concernant pour un citoyen lambda, l'arme nucléaire est en réalité une menace qui concerne l'humanité tout entière. ■

Sources: France culture; Peter Kolarov (UNODA); Fondation Eduki


1 Matthieu Guegan est lycéen au Lycée Sainte Famille de La Roche-sur-Foron (France). Il a participé à Jeunes Reporters à l'ONU, une initiative sous les auspices du Projet de Changement de Perception (PCP), dans le Bureau du Directeur général de l'ONU à Genève, de la Fondation Eduki et du Service de l'Information des Nations Unies (UNIS).

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© UN Choir

La chorale des Nations Unies à Genève Dix ans déjà et beaucoup de choses à fêter!

La chorale des Nations Unies à Genève commémore son 10^e anniversaire avec une liste de concerts célébrant la paix, la solidarité et les droits de l'homme.

SIMONETTA ZARRILLI, UNCTAD

La chorale de Nations Unies de Genève, fondée en 2009, clôt sa première décennie avec éclat en se présentant, le 25 juin, à la cérémonie de départ de Michael Møller, directeur général de Nations Unies de Genève. Vingt-deux membres de la chorale étaient sur la scène de la salle de l'Assemblée du palais des Nations pour entonner la chanson zoulou «Siyahamba» et l'irlandaise «An Irish Blessing». Et, aussi, pour appeler le public à participer au chant spécial pour le DG: «We will miss you».

Dirigé par Kirsty Griffiths, le chœur des Nations Unies de Genève offre une occasion d'améliorer les compétences en chant, d'apprendre des chansons du monde entier et de rencontrer de nouvelles personnes dans un environnement détendu et amical. Les répétitions ont lieu toutes les semaines à l'OMS et les occasions de représentations publiques ont augmenté rapidement. Le chœur des Nations Unies ajoute sa voix



© UN Choir

La chorale des Nations Unies à Genève interprète des chansons folkloriques, classiques et populaires du monde entier.

chaque fois que la paix, la solidarité et les droits de l'homme sont en jeu.

Un moment important pour la chorale dans l'année de son 10^e anniversaire était un voyage à New York, début mai, avec quatre concerts programmés. Les choristes ont chanté à deux reprises avec les «UN singers» de NY, chorale mère de celle de Genève, au siège de l'ONU. Ils ont participé à un concert de musiques latines pour les pauvres du Venezuela avec plusieurs chorales latines de NY dans la Luke Church de Manhattan. Et au Port Authority, ils ont donné un concert complet dans le cadre de «Sing for Hope», un programme visant à apporter la paix sociale grâce à la musique.

Cette dixième année de la chorale des Nations Unies de Genève s'est construite en crescendo avec de nombreux autres concerts: celui de l'émission de la Radio Suisse Romande «Le Kiosque à Musique», en janvier; un pour la Clôture de la Conférence du Désarmement, en février; autre pour la cérémonie en mémoire des victimes du crash de l'avion d'Ethiopian Airlines au Parc de l'Ariana, fin mai 2020.

Le concert annuel de la chorale à l'auditoire Calvin en Vieille Ville de Genève, début juin, a affiché complet. Le programme à l'affiche était riche: il était composé de 13 chansons du monde interprétées par 24 choristes, d'un solo en ukrainien de K. Stetzenko («Oh, ne dyvuï») par Nadiya Dzyubynska et d'un duo de Délibes («Sous le dôme épais») par Natacha à Porta et Kirsty Griffiths.

La rentrée 2019 démarre intensément: en septembre, les choristes de Genève ont participé au concert «La Nuit est belle – Harmonie sous les étoiles» durant l'extinction de l'éclairage public des communes

du Grand Genève. En octobre, ils ont chanté pour l'inauguration de la galerie d'art de l'OMS et pour «Remembrance» en commémoration du 75^e anniversaire du Débarquement et 80^e anniversaire du début de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale, dans le fameux Rosey Concert Hall de Rolle.

A Noël, le traditionnel concert de la chorale des Nations Unies de Genève est la date choisie pour commémorer le dixième anniversaire: le 11 décembre à 13h dans la salle des Pas Perdu du palais des Nations.

La chorale accueille de nouveaux membres, chanteurs expérimentés et collègues qui aiment la musique et souhaitent partager un moment d'amitié et bonheur avec les autres. Il est facile de rejoindre le chœur!

Rejoignez la chorale pour chanter des chansons du monde entier, rencontrer de nouveaux collègues et partager des moments d'amitié et de joie. ■

Contactez-nous à l'adresse suivante: un.choir.geneva@gmail.com et regardez-nous sur YouTube (UN choir Geneva).

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GENEVA
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4 janvier, Journée mondiale du braille

Le braille n'est pas une langue!

*Le braille n'est pas une langue!
C'est un alphabet, point barre.*

REPRIS D'UN TEXTE PUBLIÉ SUR LA PAGE FACEBOOK «MAMAN DANS LE NOIR» ET ADAPTÉ PAR LE SERVICE LINGUISTIQUE DE L'ONU

Avez-vous déjà entendu quelqu'un parler en braille? Si oui, dites-moi où je peux trouver cette personne, je veux entendre ça! Le braille, ce n'est pas non plus des symboles qui traduisent des mots ou des pensées, comme dans l'écriture chinoise.

Le braille, c'est juste ABC-DEFGHIJKLMNOPQRS-TUVWXYZ, les chiffres, la ponctuation, les symboles mathématiques. Tout ça avec des points au lieu des lignes et des traits. En braille, le mot «pomme» s'écrit p-o-m-m-e, comme en français. La plupart des lettres restent les mêmes en braille, que j'écrive en français, en anglais, en allemand, en espagnol, etc. Certains symboles varient cependant d'une langue à l'autre, comme la ponctuation et les abréviations. Les QUOI?!

Les abréviations! Parce que, nous autres, une fois qu'on a fini d'apprendre notre alphabet, on n'a pas vraiment fini d'en baver. En fait, on COMMENCE à en baver. ;)

Les abréviations, c'est un truc machiavélique tout droit sorti du cerveau tordu d'un quelconque Voldemort aveugle qui, pour une raison inconnue,

a décidé de faire souffrir tous les aveugles de la planète en les obligeant à apprendre les abréviations. Et, comme si ce n'était pas assez, le p'tit monsieur a décidé que, contrairement à l'alphabet, les abréviations changeraient selon la langue!

J'ai appris mes premières abréviations en première année et j'ai terminé en cinquième année

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Avec le temps, j'ai compris que les abréviations n'avaient pas été inventées exclusivement pour me faire trimer, mais pour améliorer ma vitesse de lecture et tenter, je dis bien TENTER, d'économiser du papier. Parce que le braille, ça prend de la place!

«Harry Potter et les reliques de la mort», c'est 13 volumes en braille abrégé. Oui, oui 13 livres! Ça serait probablement 17 ou 18 livres en braille intégral.

Quelqu'un m'a déjà demandé, ébahi devant un tel nombre de volumes, «si il y avait des aventures dans la version braille qu'il n'y avait pas dans le livre original». J'ai trouvé ça trop mignon. Oui, un seul volume en noir, ça donne vraiment 13 livres en braille!

Je dois être à peu près la seule jeune à lire encore des livres en braille papier. Et tant qu'ils seront produits, je continuerai. L'afficheur braille me fait mal aux doigts à la longue, je ne suis pas auditive pour 2 sous, alors out les livres audio (oui, ça existe une aveugle pas auditive), et j'aime encore pouvoir lire un bon vieux livre en papier, le sniffer, me casser les doigts sur les points à moitié effacés.

Je ne pourrai jamais trouver les mots pour dire à quel point

je suis reconnaissante envers Louis Braille, sans qui je ne saurais rien... ou pas grand-chose. Je ne sais pas si vous réalisez à quel point on a de la chance, nous. Vous, vous ne savez que vaguement en quelle année et par quel peuple l'écriture a été inventée. Moi, j'ai un nom! Un Monsieur qui a existé et qui a changé la vie de tous les aveugles après lui. Je rêve de pouvoir aller un jour au Musée Louis Braille et d'aller faire une p'tite prière sur sa tombe. Lui dire un beau gros merci, plein de larmes et de reconnaissance.

Le braille n'est cependant plus très à la mode et vit des heures très difficiles. On aime à dire qu'il est en déclin, ce que je trouve infiniment triste. Un grand nombre de personnes, obnubilées qu'elles sont par les nouvelles technologies, en oublient les vertus pourtant essentielles du braille. Contrairement à l'audio, le braille nous permet de savoir épeler les mots. Il nous aide à mieux comprendre les structures d'une phrase et d'un texte. Et OUI, on peut lire vite en braille. Ok, on ne peut pas lire en diagonale, mais les vieux brailleistes comme moi, qui lisent depuis l'enfance, ont une bonne vitesse de lecture, comparable à celle d'un voyant.

Le braille peut aussi être très romantique, voire sensuel...

Imaginez: vous avez reçu une lettre d'amour en braille... Fermez les yeux, touchez les mots du bout des doigts, caressez le papier en les lisant. Vous vous languissez de l'être aimé... C'est merveilleux, non? C'est aussi très pratique de pouvoir lire dans le noir le plus complet, sans déranger le conjoint qui dort à côté.

J'anticipe un gros clash entre mon fils et moi, quand viendra le temps de lui apprendre le braille. Il est né avec les iPhones et les synthèses vocales à outrance, il me trouvera sans doute ringarde de vouloir lui apprendre ce vieux système dépassé. Il faut que je me prépare psychologiquement, car je sais que ça me fera tout de même un peu de peine. Un peu comme quand on fait écouter la musique de notre jeunesse à des plus jeunes et qu'ils trouvent ça tellement dépassé! ■

Publié avec l'autorisation de l'auteur.

JOURNÉE MONDIALE DU BRAILLE
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Glaucoma, a silent cause of sight loss

Glaucoma is an asymptomatic disease, but is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in western countries.



Prof. Kaweh Mansouri, glaucoma specialist.

JULIANE RICHARD

The condition causes a build-up of pressure inside the eye, which damages the optic nerve, resulting in a decrease in the field of vision and gradual loss of sight. Swiss Visio Montchoisi, a centre of excellence in ophthalmology located in the heart of Lausanne, specializes in the management of ocular pathologies, including glaucoma. We interviewed Professor Mansouri, FMH Specialist in Ophthalmology and Ophthalmic surgery, twice ranked in the Top 40 under 40 ophthalmologists worldwide and a Top 5 under 50 glaucoma specialist worldwide.

J. RICHARD: You are an internationally renowned expert in glaucoma. Can you tell us more about this disease?

PROF. K. MANSOURI: Glaucoma is an insidious condition, and patients do not experience any warning signs or symptoms in the early stages. That is why it is important for anyone aged 40 or over to undergo regular screening from an eye specialist. Glaucoma is a chronic condition, meaning that it cannot be cured. However, there are very effective treatments

available that stop it from progressing and prevent patients with glaucoma from suffering permanent loss of sight. At the Glaucoma Research Centre in Swiss Visio Montchoisi, we are actively conducting research in this area to understand the underlying causes of the disease, improve diagnostic methods, and develop innovative surgical procedures to combat it. We are fortunate enough to welcome patients from all over the world, thanks to our recognised expertise in glaucoma. Having a diverse range of patients gives us the chance to study rarer pathologies, and also encourages young colleagues from the five continents to come to our centre for training.

You mentioned screening, what does that involve?

The only way to detect glaucoma early is through an eye examination by an ophthalmologist. We recommend screening every three years after the age of 40. This test, which is carried out by an ophthalmologist, lasts about 20 minutes and is both painless and harmless. The specialist uses a slit lamp, which emits

a light beam, to observe the inside of the eye. They then measure eye pressure and look at the fundus of the eye to carefully examine the optic nerve and retina.

What are the latest advances in glaucoma treatment?

In terms of diagnosis, advances in imaging have made it possible to better detect early-onset glaucoma and unstable glaucoma. A number of sensors, both inside and outside of the eye, also allow us to measure and monitor intraocular pressure continuously. This represents a revolution in management of glaucoma. Our partnership with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) and a start-up based in Germany have made us one of a handful of centres in the world to provide the latest advances in continuous intraocular pressure monitoring and surgery to our patients. We still have a lot to learn about this disease, which is why our research foundation founded in 2017, called Swiss Glaucoma Research Foundation, has the goal of organizing and funding studies to better understand, diagnose, and treat glaucoma.

Tell us more about Swiss Visio Montchoisi.

Swiss Visio Montchoisi is led by Prof. André Mermoud, ranked 27th in the world by the prestigious Ophthalmologist Power List 2018, and I personally lead the Glaucoma Research Center. Our team is made up of internationally renowned ophthalmologists, resident doctors, and certified and experienced optometrists. In addition to glaucoma, we treat all eye diseases such as cataracts, corneal and retinal diseases, and macular degeneration. Our centre can also handle ophthalmological emergencies. Additionally, we are opening a refractive surgery unit in January 2020. This is a proven, painless and safe procedure to correct all types of visual disorders, such as short- and long-sightedness, astigmatism, and presbyopia.

Swiss Visio Montchoisi

Avenue du Servan 38, 1006 Lausanne
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www.swissvisio.net



Measuring Fairness

From living in a tent to affording the rent

UN organizations ranked against Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) benchmarks.

**ALBERT BARSEGHYAN, HANNAH REINL,
FAIR INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE**

If you are planning to undertake an internship with an entity within the United Nations System, you might be better off considering a position at ILO, WTO or UNOPS, and refrain from submitting applications to the UN Secretariat, ITU or UNESCO. This, at least, is what the presentation of the first-ever Quality Scoring of UN Internships revealed at the event “Measuring Fairness: From Living in a Tent to Affording the Rent”, organized by the UNOG Staff Coordinating Council and the Fair Internship Initiative on November 18 in the Palais.

Drawing from an extensive survey conducted among more than 700 UN interns across the world in summer 2019, the Quality Scoring aims to indicate areas for reform by exposing strengths and weaknesses of internship policies currently in place in entities within the UN system. It ranks different UN organizations in a “Fairness Index” by their respective performance in four areas: application process; onboarding and internship period; completion of the internship; and equal

opportunities, including the provision of financial support to cover basic living expenses. The questionnaire-based survey allowing interns to score UN organizations along these quality indicators was developed in line with the Joint Inspection Unit’s (JIU) benchmarking framework for the system-wide reform of internships, recommended in a recent report (JIU/REP/2018/1). It was thus only fitting that a keynote speech by Inspector Jean Wesley Cazeau, author of the report, marked the opening of the event. While some progress had been made, Cazeau remarked, most recommendations had not been fully implemented yet.

The Fairness Index, which is now publicly available, reveals how 20 UN entities scored on a scale from 0 to 5, between *very poor* (0–1), *poor* (1–2), *mediocre* (2–3), *good* (3–4) and *very good* (4–5). While most organizations are rated as either *mediocre* or *good* against the first three benchmarks, scores for the fourth benchmark reveal a different picture with more than half of the entities’ performances in *equal opportunities* rated as *very poor* or *poor*.

These low scores are mostly on account of lacking or insufficient financial remuneration, a critical condition for the accessibility and inclusiveness of UN internships and career development. As Linda M. Mülli, a cultural anthropologist from the University of Basel researching on the situation of persons at an early stage of their potential ‘UN career’ in Geneva and Vienna, puts it: “My research shows that an internship can be key for a successful application. Especially, when it comes to the desired behaviour, everyday work performance and network.” And she specifies: “Due to economic limitations and mobility restrictions, many young applicants striving for a UN career are excluded from a first working experience in one of the two prestigious UN headquarters in Europe. This goes clearly against the organization’s ideals of inclusiveness.”

It might thus not be surprising that, having been attested an excellent performance in the provision of equal opportunities, the International Labour Organization (ILO) ranks highest in the fairness index with an overall score of 3.99. Runner-ups are WTO with an overall score of 3.84, UNOPS with 3.56, and the World Food Programme (WFP) with 3.42.

Within the four benchmarks, WTO ranks first in *application and selection procedure* with 4.33 (average score: 3.27), WFP in *onboarding and internship period* with 4.66 (average score: 3.46), UNOPS in *completion of the internship and career development* with 3.8 (average score: 2.75), and ILO in *equal opportunities* with 4.72 (average score: 1.81). With overall ratings of respectively 1.8 and 1.95, UN Volunteers and UNRWA form the tail end of the ranking. Also, the UN Secretariat, subsuming other entities governed by its internship policy (including OHCHR, UNCTAD or UNEP), ranks in the bottom quarter of the list with an overall score of 2.35. Other poor-performing organizations such as UN Women, UNDP and WHO, meanwhile, have announced their intention to reform their internship programmes and will have to be re-evaluated in future surveys. ■

The Quality Scoring was implemented and published by the Fair Internship Initiative, a global advocacy movement fighting for fair, accessible and quality internships across the UN System since its inception in 2015. The full results of the “Fairness Index” are available at <https://fairinternshipinitiative.org/>.

À vos agendas • Save the date

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNOG

HOLIDAY SEASON

Friday 6 December at 5 p.m.

4th annual Christmas Concert at the Palais des Nations

Finish your week and ring in the holidays on a high note! Drop by the Assembly Hall at the close of day, to enjoy this free concert of uplifting holiday music provided especially for those working in the Palais. This annual event, co-organized by the UNOG Staff Coordinating Council and the United Nations Christian Association (UNCA), seeks to gather together those in the Palais community (and their friends), in order to spend a festive hour together sharing the message of Christmas peace, love, and joy. Venez nombreux!

4–31 December

Noël aux Bastions

The Parc des Bastions will become a magical world of Christmas from December 4 to 31.

Come and visit this fabulous Christmas Market in the heart of the City of Geneva, a great place to meet and spend the afternoon or evening with family and friends.

This year, there will be a fondue chalet and a “Christmas pub après-ski” with products labelled GRITA (Geneva Region Terre Avenir), to taste mulled wine, champagne and winter cocktails such as Irish Coffee, not to mention fondue and raclette. Open until 11 p.m. on weekdays, and until midnight between Thursday and Saturday.

A wonderful programme for this holiday season that includes workshops to prepare Christmas gingerbread with your children, the presence of a tale teller, Alpine horns, the now famous ice-skating rink, a carousel, a yurt and yoga classes.

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

1314 December

Christmas market at the Budé farm

A festive Christmas Market in Geneva. For two days, the courtyard of the Budé Farm (La ferme de Budé) will welcome local craftsmen to share with you the warm and pleasant Christmas atmosphere. A market of farmers, regional and traditional market professionals with quality products: textile, jewellery or ceramics, and a variety of delicatessen

products such as Fribourg terrines, Geneva wine and beer will be on sale from the craftsmen themselves.

<https://www.ferme-de-bude.ch/marchedenoel2019>

7 December 2019 – 8 February 2020

Disco on ice

Every winter, the City of Geneva invites you to dance on the ice of the Vernets ice skating rink.

Entertainment with DJs and light shows are on the disco on ice programme. With friends or family, have a good time during the holiday season.

Dates (From 7 p.m. to 11.30 p.m.)

7, 14 and 26 December 2019

11 and 25 January 2020

8 February 2020

<https://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/sport/lieux-sport/patinoires/disco-glace/>

OPERA

13–29 December

Les Indes galantes¹

The Grand Théâtre welcomes Rameau’s masterpiece for the first time ever on its stage; the music will be conducted by a quasi-local talent: Leonardo García Alarcón and his Cappella Mediterranea. With this opera-ballet by Jean-Philippe Rameau, the Grand Théâtre also opens a new era of artistic collaboration between its opera stage and the Geneva Ballet.

<https://www.gtg.ch/en/les-indes-galantes/>

DANCE

16–20 December

Sorry, do the tour. Again!¹

Dance to disco and laugh with nostalgia. “Sorry, do the tour. Again!” stages a marathon disco dance competition and very freely takes inspiration from John Cassavetes’ film *Opening Night*. The show features the disco music that the choreographer listened to throughout his teenage years.

<https://www.comedie.ch/en/sorry-do-the-tour-again>

17–19 December

Threshold (The Free Ice Skate)

An incredible team of five exceptional ice-skaters, high-flying athletes, who have chosen to cross their discipline with contemporary dance beyond performance. They walk, run, tumble, jump and spin at high speed on the ice. In *Threshold*, these flying athletes tell the story of a group’s life between symbiosis and divisions.

<https://www.forum-meyrin.ch/spectacle/threshold>

THEATRE

03–22 December

“A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens¹

On Christmas Eve – a celebration he detests above all others and happily qualifies as “humbug” – Ebenezer Scrooge, an avaricious moneylender – is visited by three ghosts. A classic not to be missed. Surtitled in French and English on Friday 6, Sunday 8, and Wednesday 11 December 2019.

<https://theatredecarouge.ch/saison/piece/un-conte-de-noel/63/>



CINEMA

05-10 December

The Palestine Film Encounters: Filming is Existing

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.

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

13-14 December

Les journées des Films Kurdes de Genève - Cinéma Spoutnik

On this occasion, four Kurdish films and documentaries will be screened in the presence of the filmmakers. The diversity of the films screened will echo the personal and collective representations that filmmakers are building in Kurdistan.

<https://spoutnik.info/cycle/centre-democratique-kurde-de-geneve/>

PHOTOGRAPHY

Until 25 January 2020

David LaChapelle "Radiance"

The American artist's first solo exhibition in Switzerland! Works from 1987-2019 explore various aspects of LaChapelle's vast career to reveal the unique point of view which has expanded the definition of photography and established the image maker as a fixture in contemporary art. Highlights of the exhibition include an homage to LaChapelle's early mentor – Andy Warhol, as well as a re-imagining of Sandro Botticelli's Venus.

Exhibition until the 25th of January 2020 at Galerie des Bains, rue des Bains 22, 1205 Geneva

<https://galeriedesbains.ch/project/radiance/>

1 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

BLACK MOVIE

International Festival of Independent Films - Geneva, 21st edition

17-26 January 2020



Committed to defending Asian, African, Eastern and Latin American productions, the Black Movie Festival gave audiences the opportunity to discover for the first time films by directors who have now won awards and been recognised at the most prestigious festivals in the world (Cannes, Berlin, Venice, Busan, Toronto, Rotterdam...).

Sorted into thematic sections (society, politics, new urban culture, gender...), the films screened during this annual 10-day festival bear witness to the liveliness of an international cinematography completely ignored by commercial distribution circuits and barely visible in Switzerland. Here, audiences find all shapes and sizes of film: fiction, documentaries, experimental, animated, feature length and short films. Daring and specifically targeted programming encourages minority voices, cinematographic quality and impertinence.

Each year, a Black Movie for Kids section offers a programme for small children. Master classes and round tables are organised around the screenings to deepen analysis of issues raised by the thematic sections. Faithful to its commitment to the human and convivial, Black Movie provides opportunities for the public to get

into direct contact with the filmmakers, whether in Q&A sessions organised after each session or during the central venue's memorable "Nuits Blanches".

Programme for this 2020 edition

- Round tables to extend the discussions in the presence of professional guests + a masterclass "Talking Head" by Pedro Costa on January 22nd.
- Ten evenings of Nuits Blanches at various locations
- Black Movie for Kids programme for small children+ a new cine-concert.
- Invited filmmakers: Pedro Costa, Andrei Cohn, Hassen Fehrani, Lemohang Jeremiah Mosese, Dmitry Mamuliya...

More info

www.blackmovie.ch

www.facebook.com/BlackMovieFestival



© Carla Edelembos

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte des 26 cantons

Berne: Büren an der Aare

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

CARLA EDELEMBOS,

ANCIENNE FONCTIONNAIRE DE L'ONU

C'est par chance que je suis arrivée à Büren an der Aare. Je faisais un tour à vélo, au long de la rivière Aare, et cherchais un endroit pour dormir. Quel plaisir de découvrir ce petit bourg!

Pour y arriver, je dois passer par le très joli pont couvert en bois qui traverse l'Aare. Il y a une passerelle à cet endroit depuis 1275. Malheureusement, le pont a été plusieurs fois ravagé par des incendies, parfois intentionnellement comme en 1798, quand les habitants ont mis le feu au pont pour bloquer l'avance des troupes

de Napoléon. Après un incendie en 1990, le nouveau pont (le neuvième!) a été rehaussé de 30 centimètres pour faciliter la navigation. Le pont que j'emprunte est donc flambant neuf, ce qui ne réduit guère son charme.

Le centre du village se résume à deux rues, qui convergent à une jolie place avec une belle fontaine. Son bassin date du XVII^e siècle, mais la statue du banneret qui orne la fontaine a été refaite en 1985 à l'occasion du 850^{ième} anniversaire du bourg.

De l'autre côté de la place se trouve l'ancien château, qui héberge maintenant le bureau de police. Le château a été construit dans les années 1620, et était le siège des baillis jusqu'en 1798. La façade est décorée avec des peintures murales du XVII^e siècle qui ont été restaurées en 2003 et ont donc retrouvé leur splendeur d'avant.

La mairie, qui date aussi du début du XVII^e siècle, est plus modeste. Elle clôt une rangée de maisons dans la rue principale, et ne se distingue pas beaucoup de ces splendides maisons, mais elle montre une fière armure de Berne et de Büren. L'aigle qui la protège est d'une date plus récente, l'ancienne ayant été détruite par des troupes napoléoniennes – ce qui me fait penser que l'incendie du pont à l'époque n'a donc pas servi à grand chose.

Sur la place se trouve aussi le Gasthof zum Alten Post, un restaurant italien qui loue des chambres, quelle chance! Le soir venu, nous y mangeons de bonnes tagliatelles à la crème dans le jardin. Pour d'autres types de cuisine, Büren offre une choix étonnement large. Dans le centre du bourg il y a au moins cinq restaurants.

Un autre restaurant se trouve sur le quai à côté du pont, dans l'ancien Kornhaus (maison de

la graine). Ce bâtiment a servi d'entrepôt pendant des siècles, surtout pour stocker du grain et du vin, arrivés par bateau. C'est un des rares bâtiments dont la façade donne sur la rivière – presque toutes les autres maisons lui tournent le dos!

La rue principale est longée de grandes maisons, et on voit encore les jolies enseignes qui annonçaient autrefois l'existence d'auberges et de commerces, et qui donnent à cette rue un charme particulier. Au bout de la rue principale se trouve l'église de Sainte Catherine, qui date du XII^e siècle. Quel joyau à l'intérieur! À ma surprise, je découvre de magnifiques chapiteaux de l'époque romane avec des scènes représentant la création et le jugement dernier. Les beaux symboles des quatre évangélistes dans la voûte sont un peu plus récents et datent du début de l'ère gothique. L'ensemble a été très bien restauré en 1963. Mais – quel malheur! – le jour avant



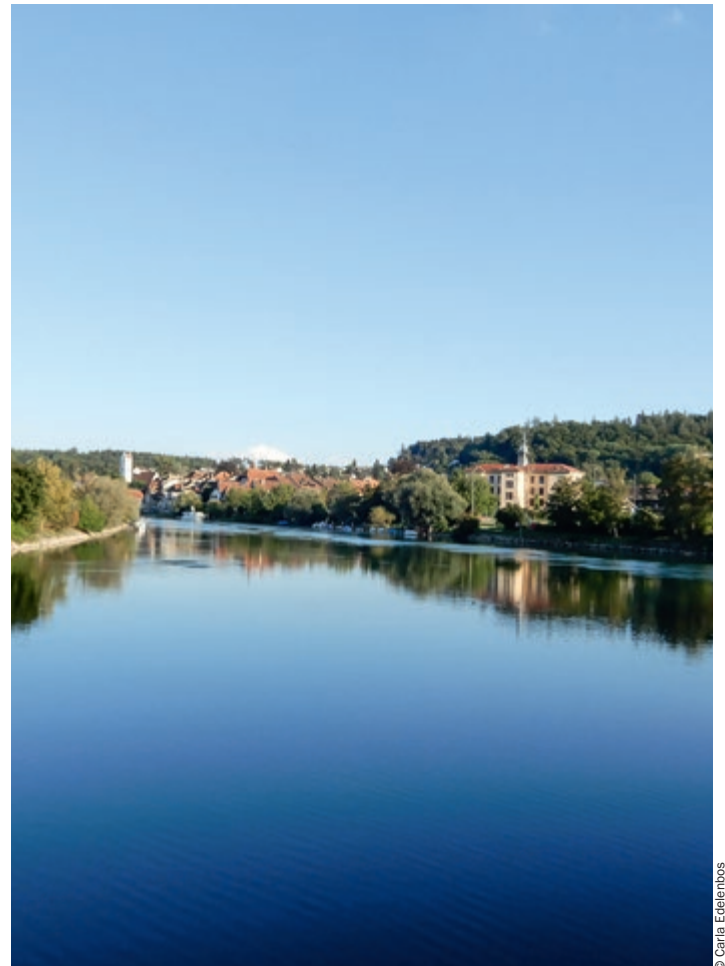
© Carla Edelembos

la cérémonie de réouverture, la tour (datant de 1500) s'effondra et démolit une partie du chœur. Heureusement, il n'y avait pas de blessés et les chapiteaux ont survécus!

Pendant le XV^e et le XVI^e siècle, l'église de Büren fut soumise à une rude compétition par l'église de pèlerinage d'Oberbüren, au-dessus du bourg. Cette église était un lieu de pèlerinage important avec une fonction remarquable et quelque peu lugubre: les gens venaient de loin avec leurs bébés morts pour les faire revivre ne serait-ce que pour un instant afin qu'ils puissent recevoir le baptême et donc être sauvés de l'enfer. C'était ce qu'on appelait: le miracle sur commande. Pas surprenant donc que l'église fut détruite avec l'arrivée de la Réforme. Des fouilles archéologiques ont montré la présence des squelettes de quelque 250 bébés qui y avaient été enterrés.

Après toutes ces découvertes, je me repose à la boulangerie qui a un joli salon de thé et une terrasse qui donne sur la place principale. Là, j'apprends que les Bürener ont une réputation de fêtards – ils sont les premiers à célébrer le carnaval, et cela le 1^{er} janvier même! Allez voir! ■

Depuis Genève, prenez le train pour Biel/Bienne. À Biel/Bienne, vous pouvez prendre le train pour Busswil, où vous changez pour le train vers Büren. Durée de trajet: deux heures. Une autre possibilité est de prendre le train direction de Soleure et changer là pour le bus en direction de Büren.



© Carla Edelembos



D'un bleu pastel, la petite église de Sao Filipe est magnifique au soleil couchant.



Sur l'île de Fogo, la crique de Ponta da Salina offre un abri naturel aux bateaux de pêche.

© Claude Maillard

Cap-Vert ³/₄ D'île en île

Au Cap-Vert, terre de contrastes à la nature flamboyante et sauvage, terre de feu baignée par des eaux turquoise, la splendeur des paysages emplit les yeux et la gentillesse des habitants emplit les cœurs.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Île de Santo Antao. Nous laissons derrière nous Cruzinha da Garça, petit village de pêcheurs, pour rallier Ponta do Sol où nous passerons la nuit (voir le précédent numéro du *UN Special*). Après un petit détour à l'école pour saluer les élèves, nous nous engageons sur un sentier de muletiers pavé en balcon, très escarpé, qui surplombe de façon vertigineuse l'océan. Midi approche, le soleil est au zénith et une halte «rafraîchissante» à Formiguinhas sera la bienvenue. Tenu par Sonia, le bistrot Montanha avec vue imprenable sur l'Atlantique nous tend les bras, et nous ne pourrions pas résister! Mais pas de sieste au programme, la route est encore longue. Passé le village de Corvo, nous apercevons au loin les maisons colorées accrochées à la montagne de Fontainhas, hameau blotti au creux d'un amphithéâtre naturel très verdoyant. Paysage d'une beauté incroyable, lieu grandiose qui se dessine entre l'océan Atlantique et les massifs montagneux de

Santo Antao. La montagne cisèle le ciel d'un bleu éclatant, les cultures en terrasse de canne à sucre, de manioc et d'igname façonnent les pentes et entourent le village. L'endroit a été classé parmi les trois plus beaux panoramas au monde. Encore quelques montées, encore quelques efforts avant de découvrir au détour d'un lacet Ponta do Sol, son atmosphère provinciale et la chaleur des habitants qui confèrent à cette halte bienvenue un charme singulier.

Petit paradis terrestre, la luxuriante Ribeira do Paul est irriguée toute l'année grâce à l'eau accumulée dans le Cova do Paul, le cratère du volcan qui domine l'endroit. Nous quittons l'océan pour suivre une route pavée parsemée de hameaux et entrons dans une petite vallée à la végétation exubérante. Bananiers, canne à sucre, arbres à pain, caféiers se nichent sur les terrasses et offrent un aperçu de la vie rurale et villageoise. Les petites



© Claude Maillard

Point culminant de tout l'archipel du Cap-Vert, le volcan Fogo se voit de très loin.



© Claude Maillard

Sur la côte ouest de Brava, le petit port de Faja da Agua se niche au fond d'une vallée escarpée.

maisons aux toits de chaume, admirablement disposées, le bruissement de l'eau et les fabriques de grogue (rhum local) qui tournent à plein régime rythment notre marche jusqu'aux anciens jardins portugais de Passagem, terme de notre randonnée sur cette magnifique île de Santo Antao.

Brava, l'île aux fleurs

Après le Ferry qui nous permet de regagner Mindelo sur l'île de Sao Vicente, c'est par les airs que nous rallions l'île de Fogo, 500 kilomètres plus au sud. Entre-temps nous avons fait escale à Praia (île de Santiago), capitale du Cap-Vert. Puis, dans la foulée, c'est à nouveau par la mer que nous posons les pieds sur l'île de Brava, dans le petit port de Furna.

Réputée pour ses belles fleurs, Brava est la plus petite île habitée de l'archipel avec seulement 9 km de longueur d'est en ouest. C'est aussi la plus difficile d'accès à cause de son isolement et du vent fréquent. Au relief très

accidenté, elle est peu peuplée et peu touchée par le tourisme, ce qui en fait une escale idéale pour se ressourcer. Cette île, la plus verdoyante du Cap-Vert, abrite les plus grandes variétés de plantes et de fleurs, surtout l'hibiscus présent partout, notamment pour créer des haies. C'est parmi celles-ci que nous allons évoluer lors de l'ascension du Monte Fontainhas, le plus haut sommet de Brava qui culmine à 976 mètres. Partis de Nova Sintra, capitale de l'île construite dans un ancien cratère de volcan, nous traverserons le charmant petit village de Nossa Senhora do Monte avant de descendre vers l'océan pour rejoindre le port de Faja da Agua. Depuis le sentier en étroits lacets qui dévale vers le village côtier, la vue sur la vallée est superbe. Ciel bleu et soleil de plomb nous accompagnent. Bâties le long d'une mince plage de galets, une trentaine de maisons surplombent l'océan. Ancien port de relâche des baleiniers américains au XIX^e siècle, l'endroit a connu une histoire tragique en

1943. Tentant de fuir la famine, 51 émigrants qui avaient pris la mer en direction des Etats-Unis ont trouvé la mort lorsque leur bateau, la Matilde, a sombré dans les eaux tumultueuses de l'Atlantique.

Retour à Nova Sintra, ville natale du poète Eugenio Tavares, également l'un des plus grands compositeurs de morna. Nous y séjournerons chez Maria et Marco, sympathique couple d'Italiens qui ont choisi l'île de Brava comme patrie de cœur. Leur écolodge construit au milieu d'un terrain où poussent arbres et plantes typiques du Cap-Vert jouit d'une magnifique vue sur la mer et sur Fogo, île que nous allons découvrir les jours suivants.

Fogo, à l'ombre du volcan

Retour sur l'île de Fogo où cette fois-ci nous ne ferons pas qu'une brève escale. L'île de Fogo n'est pas seulement à découvrir pour son célèbre volcan mais aussi pour la randonnée, notamment dans ses

forêts de conifères et de gigantesques agaves. Le sentier qui longe la coulée de lave de 1951 et qui rallie le pied du cratère au village de Mosteiros édifié au bord de l'océan en est le plus bel exemple.

C'est au XV^e siècle que débute le peuplement de Fogo. Sa première activité a été la culture du coton pour la fabrication des pagens servant de monnaie d'échange contre les esclaves. Les pirates n'ont pas manqué de visiter l'île à maintes reprises et l'ont pillée. Fogo, comme sa voisine Brava, a connu la même émigration vers les Etats-Unis avec l'arrivée des baleiniers qui s'y arrêtaient pour faire le plein de main-d'œuvre.

Sao Filipe, avec environ 8000 habitants, est la capitale de l'île. Du haut de la falaise sur laquelle la ville est construite, on domine une belle plage de sable noir, idéale pour le farniente. Sao Filipe est célèbre pour ses sobrados, maisons de maître qui hébergeaient



Dans la vallée de Paul (Santo Antao), l'une des nombreuses distilleries artisanales qui produit le grogue, rhum local.



Pause «récré» imprévue pour les élèves de l'école de Cruzinha da Garça lors de notre passage.

les colons portugais. Avec leur balcon de bois et peintes dans des couleurs pastel, elles ne manquent pas de charme. Cette ville empreinte de nostalgie est calme et reposante et on s'y sent bien. Très coloré et fort achalandé, le marché situé en centre-ville est très animé. Beaucoup de poissons, même si la pêche n'est pas trop développée. Les habitants de l'île sont avant tout agriculteurs. De manière artisanale, elle est pratiquée dans certaines localités comme Salinas, Mosteiros et Sao Filipe dont le port de Vale de Cavaleiro est construit en contre-bas de la ville.

Loin de la foule et de l'agitation, une petite pause gourmande est toujours la bienvenue. Toujours guidés par l'expérimenté Cesar (Allibert Trekking¹) qui connaît toutes les bonnes adresses, nous découvrons un havre de paix, une sorte d'oasis où règne une certaine sérénité. Blottie dans une cour intérieure, à l'ombre d'un grand palmier, la terrasse du Tropical Club est absolument parfaite pour nous satisfaire. La carte du restaurant tenu par Alfred et Ana est bien fournie et l'on y sert de généreux plats de poissons

et de viande. Réputé et exquis, le fromage de chèvre local sera également un incontournable, le tout bien entendu servi avec un manecom, excellent vin très fruité confectionné à partir des raisins cultivés au pied du volcan.

L'île de Fogo invite à la découverte de ses sites fantastiques

et très différents, comme les immenses étendues à la végétation luxuriante et les plages de sable noir, bénies par le très imposant volcan que beaucoup rêvent d'escalader. Rêve que nous allons pouvoir réaliser.

Suite de l'aventure à vivre dans le prochain numéro de *UN Special*. ■

¹ Allibert Trekking
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Contact Suisse: +41 (0)22 519 03 23

Suite et fin

MARIE DIUR, ONU

L'article publié dans le numéro précédent de *UN Special* (novembre 2019, pages 8 et 9) mérite d'être ici explicité: je le dois aux collègues de l'ONU, je le dois à nous tous qui travaillons tous les jours pour améliorer les choses, et je le dois au multilatéralisme tant décrié ces temps-ci.

Je me dois de préciser que tous les interprètes fonctionnaires à l'ONU ont passé un concours indispensable pour être recrutés, que des tests freelances existent à l'ONU depuis de nombreuses années et que des efforts sont faits année après année pour qu'ils soient plus inclusifs et que chaque année nous accueillons dans nos rangs de jeunes collègues nouvellement accrédités.

Je me dois de préciser que nous continuons d'y croire. Il y a des obstacles, et il y aura encore des problèmes, mais, beaucoup d'interprètes de l'ONU veulent y croire toujours. Merci à eux.

Malgré les difficultés et les obstacles, il y a des formations à distance et en présentiel, des séminaires et une assistance pédagogique pour les interprètes de demain qui se poursuivent. Un programme d'ouverture vers les universités continue d'offrir une visibilité à l'ONU. Il nous faut maintenant continuer d'y croire et d'y travailler. Certes, la tâche n'est pas terminée, mais nous allons continuer, tout simplement. ■

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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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!

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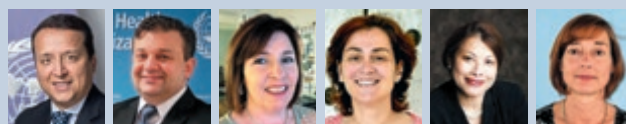
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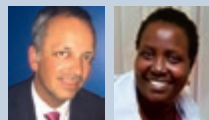
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