

UN Special

Goodwill Ambassadors

AN EXAMPLE OF ALTRUISM



N°783 - OCTOBER 2018

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Sexual harassment in the work environment

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ALEXANDER MEJIA

Rédacteur en chef / Editor-in-chief

This edition is dedicated to those individuals who give their time to the cause of the United Nations with altruism and outstanding generosity. There are many people that fit into that category, but a few of them are famous, highly visible and are doing an outstanding job as Goodwill Ambassadors. They work without monetary incentives and outside the structures that define a staff member or a diplomat accredited to our organization. They are an example of commitment and we congratulate them.

We are also commemorating the life of Kofi Annan, our departed Secretary-General, with a special article and our central pages. His legacy is indeed amongst us, and will resonate for generations to come.

The rest of the edition includes two articles on the issue of casual sexism and sexual harassment in the work environment. We also feature a piece from the “Fair Internship Initiative” on equalizing access to UN internships. These are sensitive topics that should be addressed to foster a more harmonious workplace.

Additionally, you will read, among other interesting articles, two about a new type of weapon and its use and another one on the challenges of interpretation and translation.

Finally, and as is customary, you will read the latest piece by Claude Maillard on his travels, as well as some tips for making the most of Geneva’s main cultural events.

Enjoy reading our magazine! ■

Cette édition est dédiée aux personnes qui donnent de leur temps à la cause des Nations Unies avec altruisme et une générosité exceptionnelle. De nombreuses personnes entrent dans cette catégorie, mais quelques-unes d’entre elles sont célèbres, très médiatisées et font un travail remarquable en tant qu’Ambassadeurs de bonne volonté. Ils œuvrent sans aucune rémunération et en dehors de la structure qui abrite le personnel ou les diplomates accrédités auprès de notre organisation. Ils sont un exemple d’engagement et nous les félicitons.

Nous commémorons également la vie de Kofi Annan, notre regretté Secrétaire général, avec un article spécial et nos pages centrales. Son héritage est en effet parmi nous et continuera de résonner pour les générations à venir.

Le reste de l’édition présente deux articles sur le sexisme insidieux et le harcèlement sexuel en environnement professionnel, ainsi qu’un article de «Fair Internship Initiative» sur l’égalité d’accès aux stages de l’ONU. Ce sont là des sujets épineux qui devraient être abordés pour favoriser un climat de travail plus harmonieux.

De plus, vous lirez entre autres articles intéressants, deux sur un nouveau type d’armes et leur utilisation et un autre sur les enjeux de la traduction et l’interprétation. Enfin, comme à l’accoutumée, vous lirez la dernière contribution de Claude Maillard sur ses voyages, ainsi que quelques conseils pour profiter au maximum des événements culturels majeurs de Genève.

Bonne lecture de notre magazine! ■

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United Nations Goodwill Ambassadors: powerful voices for those in need.

A different kind of ambassador

Almost 65 years ago the United Nations pioneered a new field of diplomacy to shine a spotlight on otherwise forgotten causes.

SEBASTIAN HOFBAUER, UNITAR

Diplomacy's need for innovation

Continuity, rather than innovation, seems to be one of diplomacy's intrinsic qualities. After all, aren't we still relying on many of the norms and conventions developed several centuries ago when modern diplomacy originated? And yet, lofty speech and dusty negotiating tables aside, diplomacy needs innovation like any other field to keep up with the accelerating pace of change in the world around us. Most readers will recall how Twitter diplomacy has surprised, and, sometimes, shocked the world, even beyond the circles of international relations enthusiasts.

Before the advent of *#diplomacy*, another innovation took the stage of international

relations: celebrity diplomacy. Surprisingly perhaps, celebrity diplomacy is far from being new and actually dates back several decades. Today however, at a time when decentralization and fragmentation of opinion has intensified, celebrity diplomacy has received renewed interest. Its unlikely pioneer? Our United Nations.

Ahead of their time

Our world is increasingly interconnected, as demonstrated by the domestic impact of external issues. As the nature of media coverage has expanded in the last 20 years with the rise of 24/7 global news programming the traditions of diplomacy are being challenged.

What does this mean for the United Nations? In short, it could be argued that



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Portrait of jazz musician and Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Herbie Hancock.



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British Actor and UN Women Goodwill Ambassador Emma Watson. 20 September 2014, New York.



© UN Photo/John Isaac

Actress Audrey Hepburn, Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, addresses the gathering. 8 October 1991.

there is a danger of exacerbating an issue that has long plagued the organization: the disconnect between its work and public perception. The increasingly complex web of ever changing information does its part in ushering this disconnect. What is more, while more and more actors are empowered to participate in international affairs, not everyone is interested in diplomacy.

Our organization has long been aware of this challenge and sought to remedy its effects. In this respect, emotion, rhetoric, and opinion have become key bargaining tools. Within the UN, a highly visible aspect to tap into this are UN Goodwill Ambassadors. They represent a decades-old innovation to public diplomacy that seems almost ahead of its time.

The UN's most-recognized faces

UN Goodwill Ambassadors, from music star Shakira for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF to British actress Emma Watson at U.N. Women, are distinguished individuals that volunteer their time, talent, and passion to raise awareness of the UN's efforts to improve the lives of billions of people everywhere. Eric Falt, the Director of the Outreach Division of the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) summed it up quite nicely when he said, "we want to use the appeal of our Goodwill Ambassadors and draw attention to UN issues that we often have difficulties informing the public about". It is the sober realization that the

UN needs help in spreading its messages across the world.

It is in the nature of the Goodwill Ambassadors that they represent some of the most-popular parts of the UN's many efforts. In fact, while many people might not be able to name a single UN official beyond the Secretary-General, they most certainly are aware of at least one of the UN's most prominent ambassadors. What many readers might not be aware of, however, is that the UN has appointed Goodwill Ambassadors as far back as 1953.

A new kind of Ambassador arrives

Today, Goodwill Ambassadors are carefully selected from the fields of art, literature, science, entertainment, sports or other fields of public life. They are well-respected individuals that should have real passion for the cause they represent. The beginnings of the UN Goodwill Ambassadors can be traced back to a chance encounter on a near calamitous flight 64 years ago.

Danny Kaye, American actor, singer, dancer, comedian and musician, became the first Goodwill Ambassador after he met UNICEF's Executive Director Maurice Pate on a plane from London to New York in 1953. One of the plane's engines failed and their plane had to return to Europe. On the journey back to safety Kaye and Pate spoke about UNICEF and one of the

organization's main challenges: recognition. Kaye, one of the world's most beloved entertainers at the time, decided to help and agreed to act as a spokesperson for UNICEF. He was appointed officially as UNICEF's Ambassador-at-large.

A hard act to follow

Shortly afterwards, Kaye toured UNICEF projects in Myanmar, India, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand and Japan to publicize its activities in alleviating the plight of children. His trip was filmed for a short documentary entitled *Assignment Children* (1954), which reached an estimated audience of 100 million. The resounding success of Mr. Kaye's appointment should become the blueprint for other UN's Goodwill Ambassadors.

Realizing that cynicism towards its purpose and effectiveness is as old as the UN itself, it is not surprising that the organization was keen on duplicating Kaye's success. Without delving too deep into the issue, it can be argued that a lack of recognition remains one of many causes for cynicism towards the UN. The often hard to understand and complex nature of the UN's work is, after all, not necessarily prime time material. Coupling a complicated issue with a well-known and well-loved face hence became a welcomed way to reaching new audiences, increasing recognition of the UN's work, and even bolster its effectiveness.



Angélique Kidjo, West African singer and songwriter and Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).

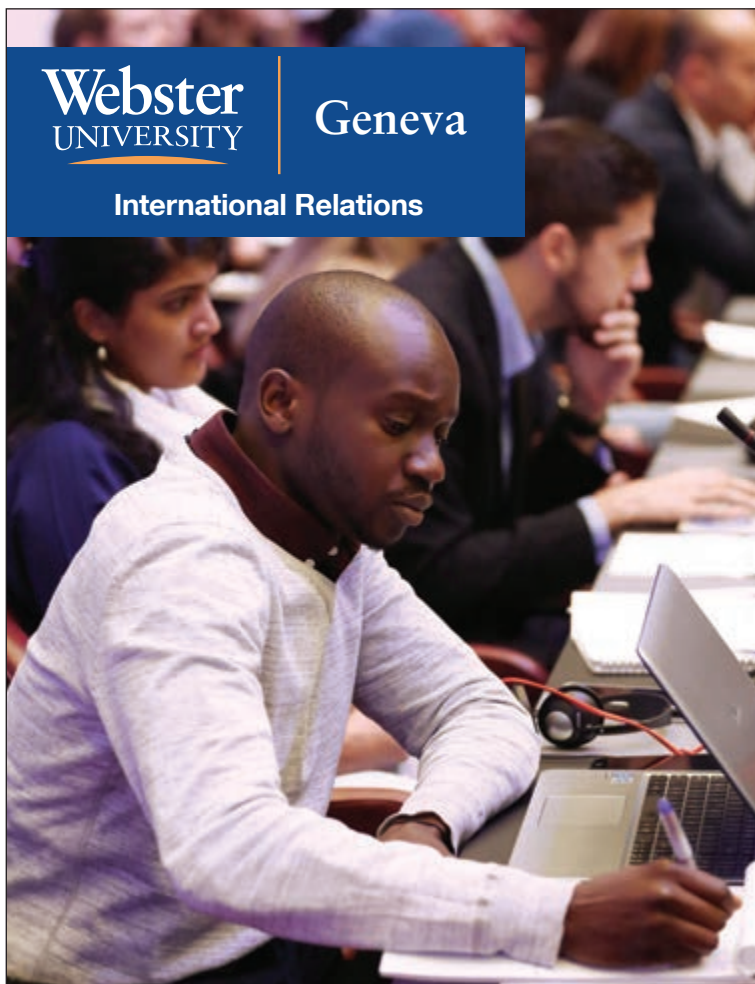
the New Millennium', which included stars such as the Brazilian footballer Ronaldo, and declared "he wanted celebrities to be the tools the UN would use to pressurise reluctant governments to take seriously the rhetorical pledges they make during every General Assembly".

Kofi Annan believed that celebrities could influence international public opinion to support the UN's goals of idealism and universalism. When his assignment ended, more than 400 well-known individuals were on official mission for the UN. Their famous faces shining a spotlight on otherwise hopeless causes and cases at the centre stage of world attention. ■

A spotlight for lost causes

In this edition we honor former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He was perhaps the Secretary-General that best recognized the great potential stemming from

collaboration with public figures. Following his appointment in 1997 he engaged in a ubiquitous employment of Goodwill Ambassadors. In 2002, Annan hosted a conference entitled 'Celebrity Advocacy for



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Michelle Yeoh, actress, road safety activist and Jean Todt, UN Special Envoy for Road Safety and President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), address a press conference on the Global Road Safety Film Festival held in Geneva on 20 February. Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Jean Todt and Michelle Yeoh

An inspiring couple committed to positively impacting the world

She is an internationally acclaimed movie star and he is a leading figure in the world of motor racing. Together, Jean Todt and Michelle Yeoh are a successful and high achieving couple who travel the globe in support of a wide range of humanitarian, social and conservation-related causes. Meet the warm, loving and humble global couple who is changing the world.

Alex Mejia, UN Special Editor-in-Chief:

Can you tell us a little more about your youth and where you found inspiration to become a champion for the fight against poverty and to bring progress to people. Tell us about your history before you became famous.

Michelle Yeoh: I come from a small city in Malaysia called Ipoh, it was a tin mining, rubber plantations city. I grew up pretty much outdoors, playing all kinds of sports, going climbing in the mountains, going to the sea with my parents. A very healthy kind of lifestyle.

Where I got my inspiration from, I guess, that came a little later in years because I think there is a big difference between doing charity and being a philanthropist.

Doing charity is something we learn from home like giving and sharing with the people who are less fortunate than you. Which is a big difference to what I do now; it is not just about giving, it is about sharing and really giving back in a much more sustainable way. I had the privilege of going to study in England and loved the place. Then my first job was in Hong Kong, that I would call my second home. Because that is really where I spent the growing years as an adult.

In Hong Kong I started with the movie industry and I was very privileged to get to know amazing people, philanthropists who really gave me an insight, what it was real charity work with schools, hospitals... etc. so it was there that I learnt a lot more about doing real advocacy.

Jean Todt: I was born in Cantal, a remote region in France. My father was a doctor and I remember him going on his motorbike to visit his patients while the snow was blocking the roads. So, I can say that I learnt a lot from him and his devotion to his patients. When I was a little boy, I had a passion for cars and car racing. I was very ambitious, and I started as a rally co-driver at 20. Then I realized that I would be better in management and followed my dream of becoming a team director.

In 81, I was appointed Peugeot's Director of Racing and founded Peugeot Talbot Sport (PTS). On 1 July 1993, I left Peugeot and became Director of Ferrari's Racing Division, and from 1993 to 2008, Scuderia Ferrari won 14 FIA Formula One World titles. I left Ferrari in March 2009 and was elected President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) on 23 October 2009 and was re-elected in 2013.

During all those years, I had to face some difficult times. I remember witnessing crashes and accidents. The worst memory of my life was in Egypt: I was following a rally by helicopter and I saw from above a car catch fire with its passengers, one of them was a friend of mine. So, I got to better understand crashes around the world.

And when I left Ferrari in 2009, I was ready to be completely focused on giving back. So going back, FIA has 2 pillars: motor racing and mobility, so we are the automobile club of about 150 countries. Like Aneta in Ecuador, like the Touring

Club Suisse (TCS) here in Switzerland or the Automobile Association (AA) in the UK. So those organizations supply services to our users: who can be pedestrians, cyclists, motocyclists. And when I was elected, I said, priority must be given to road safety. Over the years, we had contacts with all UN organizations, and we got the opportunity of addressing that to Ban Ki-Moon, and his team, until one day, I understood that he had decided to appoint me as UN Special Envoy for Road Safety.

Sarah Jordan, Deputy Editor: Michelle, you spoke about being in Hong Kong when you were young, at the beginning of your career. I would like to hear a little bit about the

path that led you to be a UNDP goodwill ambassador.

Michelle: In 2016 UNDP approached me. By then I had been doing a lot of road safety work for about 10 years, as goodwill ambassador for the Decade of action for road safety, and I remember at that time the interest in road safety was low. I don't think anybody was taking ownership of this. So can you imagine, the numbers, the facts are so horrifying: 1.3 million people dead on the roads, and that does not include the 50 million that are severely injured or handicapped and what kind of things it does to a family. So when you know figures like that and you know there are solutions, you ask yourself why

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Jean Todt and Michelle Yeoh during their visit to the UN Special. 6 July 2018 - Palais des Nations, Geneva

they have not been applied. With this in mind we pushed very hard. So then nobody really understood what road safety should be about. We were really pushing so hard to be part of the Sustainable Development Goals, because we realized that if we failed in that, road safety didn't have a chance at all. I did my part as much as I could and went where we would go, I went to the World Bank, to WHO, etc. saying "please do something, all this is happening on your watch, how can you allow this to continue in that way".

That was my role as the ambassador for road safety, and then when UNDP approached me, that was when the sustainable goals were out, and they really wanted more people to help them creating

the awareness globally for this. Half the people have no idea what the SDGs are, what they are for. And it's a shame because 193 country leaders came together and decided that these 17 Sustainable Development Goals would make such a huge difference resulting in a safer world, a healthier planet, a better future, so we needed to get the message out to the real people. Because every voice, every action, every step, every dollar that is contributed by them would contribute to what is happening. It is not good just us talking at the UN, you know, the general assemblies, and the leaders, it has to get out to the real people because they are the ones who really make a difference.

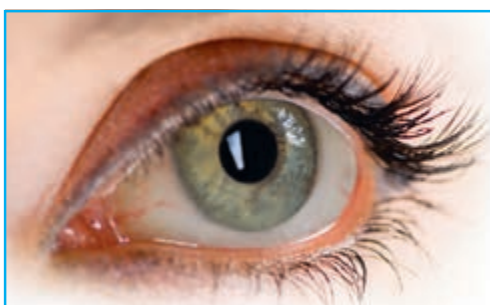
So when they asked me, I thought it was

the perfect way to join the things that I had been advocating for, and also, because I support different AIDS movements, cinema against AIDS, for example, and cancer networks present in 170 countries already, with an amazing network and 50 years of experience, I could tag into their problems and was able to do things that were very important to me and at the same time help them to send out their message. And I think two SDGs that really became very personal for me were, #1 the eradication of poverty and #5 gender equality, because if you think about it, if women are not equal, men are not equal either. You know it's the yin and the yang, it's a balance. And if the two don't go hand in hand, we do not have a chance of eradicating poverty.

So, you know, we have been doing a relatively good job because since 1990 we have already helped from extreme poverty, a billion people, but we still have more than 800 million in poverty, but if we do it together, we can reach this goal by 2030. So that's why I teamed up with UNDP, and they've given me a great experience because they are amazing people to work with.

Editor-in-Chief: Thank you for what you do and for telling people about it and explaining why it is important to support them. We need people with managerial skills at the highest levels! I think you have proven that.

Evelina Rioukhina: A somewhat spontaneous question. I was very touched by what you said about it being time to give back. I have learned that throughout your life you have been involved in giving back. You were only appointed "Special Envoy" in 2015. Did it change your perception or possibilities? You were a pretty powerful person already, and you were already doing so much. How did becoming a representative of the UN change you, if at all, in terms of your possibilities or feelings?



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Michelle Yeoh, actress, road safety activist and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Goodwill Ambassador to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addresses the high-level General Assembly plenary meeting on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. 24 April 2018 – United Nations, New York


Jean Todt: Of course, I had heard about the UN, and how prestigious and important this global organization is, but I may say, its like deciding that you are going to land on the moon, you don't know what to expect. I remember travelling to Kenya many times, and I never could imagine,

that in Nairobi, you had such a fascinating organization as the United Nations. And when I was appointed, I wanted to understand better what the UN was. In a way, I have always done that in my life. When I was appointed at Peugeot I wanted to know all the heads of the organization,

to understand and to prepare myself, and the same at Ferrari even with Ferrari being a smaller organization. But when I was appointed as Special Envoy for Road Safety, I wanted to commit myself, and that is how I met a lot of UN representatives, in Vienna, in Geneva, and I was amazed. We were living in Geneva for 6 years, we could see some flags when we were going around but I had no idea what was behind those walls, that is why I say, it was like moving to a different planet. Then every time I travel – I visit 50 countries per year, because it was one of my commitments before being elected President of the FIA, and as I said earlier there are 150 country members – I promised I would speak to people, I was campaigning, and telling each President of the National Federation that I needed their vote – if you elect me I will get to know you better and I will come to visit you in your countries – this was my commitment. And that is something I have done in my life. If you commit you need to deliver.

When I was appointed Special Envoy, I visited a lot of countries, for FIA and for the UN and I met amazing people of



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Secretary-General António Guterres (right) meets with Jean Todt, UN Special Envoy for Road Safety and President of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). 10 January 2018. United Nations, New York.



Jean Todt with Michael Schumacher at podium Suzuka 2000

different nationalities here in Geneva, in New York, or in UN Agencies elsewhere. This was fascinating for me because I love people and have never made a difference about colour or religion. Each human being is a prototype – the same ingredients, but a different result. In Geneva life is not too difficult, in New York it is just hectic, but then when I see colleagues, in Pakistan or in Syria, I have maximum respect for them. They have so much motivation and passion. I think it is important to realize how blessed we are to be able to decide to pick up a glass and put it to our mouths to drink clean water. It's not a given; it's a privilege we have. But this privilege also means we have the responsibility to give something back, because unfortunately there are people who don't have the possibility to drink clean water. They don't have the possibility of instructing their hands to hold the glass.

Editor-in-Chief: Fascinating, and very profound. Let me ask you one last question, and then of course any message that you would like to communicate to our readers would be very welcome. My question is about the future, and what is ahead. I would like it to be framed from two perspectives

if possible, the private sector and resource mobilization, which as you rightly say make a huge difference to the impact that the United Nations can have and then, how can media and film, and even social media be used to leverage all the efforts that we need to make? First because we all understand that the United Nations cannot do it alone, and second, because we understand that other than people living in urban areas and at a certain socio-economic level not many people know about the United Nations or the Sustainable Development Goals or road safety. The vast majority of people don't. So if I may invite you Michelle first, how can we leverage the power of media and film to do this?

Michelle: I think that's what we've been trying to do. The first work I did with UNDP was when we went to Chengdu, where there is a rehabilitation centre for pandas. They were very kind, they donated two baby pandas. We asked people from all over the world to name these two cute, fluffy pandas, taking inspiration from the 17 SDGs – why is that goal important to you, and why have you named the panda like that? We used different social media to do this because it reaches out to people, it's what young people do a lot of

nowadays – on Instagram or Facebook. And we do the same whenever there is a special date, Women's day, International Children's Day... to raise awareness. Awareness is like education – without awareness or without education – people are blind. This is how people communicate about climate change, saving the seas, plastics, electricity, and all that. And you have to start from young because like that you have a much better chance. So through the films that we make, for example, I recently made one with UNDC, for sustainable fashion, we approach issues at different levels. Remember – there are 17 goals, so there is a lot to choose from, and I think sometimes you have to choose your battle. Often, you look at a problem and you are discouraged "It's too big, there is nothing I can do!" But this is not the case. Maybe one person can't do a lot about it, but if we all come together, we can make a change. If you look at a beautiful beach, it is made of little grains of sand. And that is exactly what we are. So, yes, we use media, and it is very helpful, but we also have to be careful of abuse. Getting the message out there is the objective and I try to do that. The hard work, I leave it to him.

Jean Todt: Michelle made a speech in April at the General Assembly in New York, tell them.

Michelle Yeoh: I was very fortunate to have been invited to the General Assembly by President Miroslav Lajčák to talk about building sustainable peace. I spoke about empowering women to take part in conflict prevention and peace negotiation. To have the feminine and masculine views on this kind of things really helps. Afterwards, Secretary-General Guterres made some very inspirational remarks. Knowing that the rest of the world leaders are on the same page as us was a very special moment.

Alex Mejia: And what about sexual harassment and the #Metoo movement?

Michelle Yeoh: We just have to be careful that it doesn't become a witch hunt and abusive. It is something that needed to come out, of course, but we also have to be mindful that innocent and good people don't get hurt in the process. And not falsely accused.

Alex Mejia: I also hope we can have something similar to fight against poverty; we frequently debate this at the UN: the difference between what is important and what is urgent. How can we do this?

Michelle Yeoh: We can eradicate poverty but it takes everyone.

Jean Todt: We were at a congress in Nepal, Kathmandu in April 2015 when the earthquake struck. We were fortunate and privileged to be able to leave the country quickly. But Michelle was very sad and touched about leaving the country. So two weeks later she went back...

Michelle Yeoh: Yes, I work with the foundation "Live to Love" and I know His Holiness the Gyalwang Drukpa well. I worked on access, water supply and relief distribution first with the nuns and then in collaboration with UNDP. We had to work fast because the monsoon was imminent. I have also worked in collaboration with the Malaysian government, on an emergency hospital programme for the Rohingya refugee camps. I went to encourage our doctors and nurses. I would like to highlight the heroic work being done there by the government of Bangladesh, the Red Cross and all the different NGOs.

Alex Mejia: And one final question, Jean, how can we mobilise the private sector, the titans of industry, the big people not into philanthropy who are not working with the UN?

Jean Todt: I must admit we get requests to donate every day. But even if you have the possibility of giving you should be able to choose. For me, there are three ways of convincing people to give – the quality of the programme you are promoting, the certainty the money will be protected and how the money will be used. The programme then needs to be monitored so it gives results. In my past life it was clearer, you did the race and you won or you stopped racing. With what I am doing now, it is more difficult. With the UN Decade for road safety, for example, the goal was clear, but it will not be reached. We mustn't be pessimistic or negative though because we have raised awareness of road

safety. Before it was unknown, now it is less unknown, even if there is still a lot of work to do.

Alex Mejia: And we can count on you to do it... On behalf of UN Special magazine and our readers, thank you Jean and Michelle for sharing your thoughts and experiences with us today. It has been most fascinating. ■

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Original Kofi Annan portrait © UN Photo/John Isaac

On Leadership A Tribute to Kofi Annan

WAYNE VISSER¹

The recent death of Kofi Annan gives me pause to think about the nature of leadership – and especially what makes one leader stand out, as Annan clearly did. What makes a leader good, or inspiring, rather than simply effective?

I heard Annan speak at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 – the so-called Rio+10 conference. Beyond this, I cannot claim to have known him, or even to have studied or reflected deeply on his leadership.

And yet he affected me. In fact, I believe he affected all of us – and for the better. We are all under the influence of leadership. Our lives are constantly

touched by political leaders, business leaders, community leaders, religious leaders and thought leaders.

But Annan represents a special brand of leadership. He was what we might call a purposeful leader – someone who has the ability to inspire others to act for the common good, to serve some greater cause, to pursue a larger goal, to believe in a higher ideal.

In our age of celebrity worship and social media hype, it is tempting to think of leadership in terms of charisma. We can all think of celebrated leaders who exude a certain dynamic quality, whose combination of enthusiasm and confidence is infectious.

It is almost as if we are drawn to these leaders because their positive energy rubs off on us. There is a halo effect that leaves us feeling uplifted, optimistic, buoyant. We believe in them because they so clearly believe in themselves.

I'm not sure this is what made Annan stand out. Rather, some leaders secure our loyalty because we believe in the cause which they represent, and we can see that they are dedicated to serving that cause – whether that be peace, or justice or sustainability.

As Secretary-General, besides being a symbol of global unity and conflict resolution, Annan was instrumental in setting up the Millennium Development

Goals and the Global Compact, both of which inspired others to tackle human development.

Leaders like this don't need to convince us of their greatness, merely to persuade us of their effectiveness. We are not looking so much for them to be superstars as fellow believers; people in power who share our passion for making a difference in this life.

By being a champion of human rights and environmental responsibility, Annan became a symbol for putting wrongs right in the world. We believe in leaders like him because they believe in our cause. They embody our common humanity.

There is also a quiet, unassuming kind of leadership which is

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built on earned respect. Here too, I believe Annan shone brightly. He was a leader who led by personal example. He represented human qualities that we all – in our best moments – would want to emulate.

Annan was given the Nobel Peace Prize for his commitment to the struggle to contain the spreading of the HIV virus in Africa and his declared opposition to international terrorism. We believe in someone like this because they reflect our ideals. They are our role models.

Like Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, Kofi Annan was a servant leader – one of those rare individuals who put aside their personal ambitions in order to facilitate the development of others. We believe in them because they believe in us.

It is no surprise that Annan was invited to be part of the Global Elders, a group of wise leaders who are dedicated to using their status, influence and credibility to bring about positive change in the world; to be a voice for the voiceless.

We are inspired by leaders like the Elders. Such leaders enable us to achieve together what would have been impossible alone – for leadership is the art of synergy. Wise leaders allow us to see possibilities that were not on our horizon – for leadership is the gift of visioning.

The best leaders encourage us to stretch to reach our potential – for leadership is the practice of empowerment. Good leaders dedicate themselves to fulfilling the needs of their followers – for leadership is the calling of service.

We are all leaders and followers in different spheres of our lives. As parents, we lead our children. As teachers, we lead our students. As managers, we lead our staff. As captains, we lead our teams. As volunteers, we lead our communities.

Yet to be good leaders, we must be good followers also. For leadership is founded on empathy. And for every situation in which we rise as natural leaders, there is another in which others are better placed to lead.

A true leader is humble, for they know that the mantle of leadership is a privilege bestowed on them by their followers. At the same time, a leader who hides their talent from the world serves no one.

As a child of Africa – born in Zimbabwe and growing up and living for many years in South

Africa – I will always be grateful to Annan for being a beacon of good African leadership, in a continent too often blighted by corrupt and selfish leaders.

Now it is up to us – whether in Africa or elsewhere, in business or government, in communities or universities, to take up the mantle. So where do your leadership abilities lie? In what way can you serve and inspire others today?

Annan said: *To live is to choose. But to choose well, you must know who you are and what you stand for, where you want to go and why you want to get there.* Now it's up to you to take your stand. Today. Simply take a deep breath and take the lead. ■

1 Professor at Antwerp Management School, fellow at Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership.

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Casual sexism: is it a problem at the UN?

NICOLE MAGUIRE AND LIDIYA GRIGOREVA, UNOG

I had been working here for a few months when a more senior colleague asked me in front of a group of male colleagues if I could lend a “female hand” to an event that was being planned in the office. I felt humiliated but couldn’t think of a clever response at the time.

I am not usually that timid but I was a newcomer, I didn’t know the colleague particularly well, and it seemed petty to respond to it anyway. I was thinking maybe this is how things are around here. It’s only one episode, I’m not going to raise it. The moment passed. Friends told me later what I should have said, but that wasn’t much help, to be honest.

Time passed and other things happened. Sometimes it was comments about my appearance, sometimes it was “jokes”, often it was being interrupted before finishing my sentences. I began to take evasive action, minimizing contact. Two years passed and I bumped into the colleague one day in the lift. The colleague started talking about the #MeToo movement, which was in the news at the time, presenting a personal opinion about it as if the opinion was a widely acknowledged and incontrovertible fact. That day, for some reason, I decided to take action. I decided to speak up. I made a plan how to do it and eventually gave the feedback that I had been withholding. My colleague was appalled, could hardly remember having said all those things,

didn’t understand why I hadn’t said anything sooner. The colleague hadn’t meant any harm.

The thing is, it seems like a series of small things really to an outsider, but they all built up and affected how I felt about myself at work, which is what I’m here for in the end.

Has this happened to you? A succession of small events that, taken alone, seem like nothing but that are covert, difficult to prove, often unintentional and make you feel uncomfortable, as if you were being marked out as the odd person out in the group.

Academics refer to these events as “micro-inequities” and they are perpetrated, often out of awareness, against people who in some way are perceived to be different from the “in group”. What is insidious about them is that they are “woven into all threads of our work life and of education” (Mary Rowe) and there are no manuals for addressing them.

The campaign against casual sexism launched by the Director-General of UN Office at Geneva is an attempt to provoke a reflection about these kinds of events and the harm that they can do. The goal is to raise awareness of the phenomenon and engage all those who frequent the Palais des Nations in efforts to eradicate it. No one has any illusions that this is easy to do but the alternative to doing nothing is to leave the impression that sexism is tolerated, relativized and, ultimately, minimized.

What is casual sexism?

The term casual sexism denotes behaviour or attitudes that foster stereotypes based on sex or gender and perpetuate unequal treatment of others. Casual sexism feeds into a culture and a mindset in which de facto discrimination becomes part of everyday life and opens the door to harassment and abuse.

Is everyday sexism such a big problem at the UN anyway?

The short answer is that we don’t really know and it is likely underreported. However, in a gender survey conducted last year at UN Geneva, 30 per cent

of respondents said that they had witnessed sexist behaviour or heard inappropriate comments from colleagues or supervisors. Sexism in the workplace is an everyday reality for more people than we can actually imagine”, the Director-General said in an interview with UNTV.

Some examples of these unwelcome comments and possible responses are displayed in a roving exhibition that is being held at the Palais up to the end of the year. As you may also have seen, every phone in the Palais has the “I say no to



Performance by the UN Theatre Club at the special event organized with staff by Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of UN Office at Geneva to discuss sexism in the workplace. 20 June 2018

sexism” campaign logo. There are posters on conference room doors, messages on screens across the building, a social media campaign, and discussions have been held in various forums about the issues raised.

It is difficult to measure the impact. Some people have said that the campaign is great and

timely, and we have received more reports and feedback about unwelcome comments and behaviour. Other people have said that they find the campaign invasive and suggest that we focus on more important priorities.

The aim of the campaign, in raising these issues, is to



Special event organized with staff by Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of UN Office at Geneva to discuss sexism in the workplace. 20 June 2018

encourage people to speak up and foster a more harmonious workplace where everyone feels respected. The campaign is also one of the building blocks in the implementation of the UNOG Policy for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. ■

More information about the campaign can be found on the UNOG website
[https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/unog.nsf/\(httpPages\)/26F1D8267F5A8097C1258291005E8BF6](https://www.unog.ch/unog/website/unog.nsf/(httpPages)/26F1D8267F5A8097C1258291005E8BF6).

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What to do if you think you are being sexually harassed in the work environment

MIKAYLA GONZAGA¹
AND GEMMA VESTAL²

Unfortunately, sexual harassment has been and continues to be prevalent both in the private and in the public sphere. The workplace is no exception, with 38% of women and 13% of men victims of the offence.³

In February 2018, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres reaffirmed his stance on the issue saying, “we will not tolerate sexual harassment anytime, anywhere.” Being the victim of sexual harassment in the workplace can foster a feeling of vulnerability and powerlessness, due to the associated stigma which discourages victims from speaking up. Mr. Guterres has also taken the initiative to tackle the issue through legislative means, including introducing a mandatory staff training course on sexual harassment. If you find yourself the unfortunate victim of sexual harassment, make it a priority to be well informed on all options and the best course of action to ensure justice and to maintain a safe workplace environment.

Are You Being Sexually Harassed?

Preconceived notions have negatively influenced the way we perceive sexual harassment, resulting in misunderstandings. The UN defines sexual harassment as any sexual conduct that is unwelcome and offensive to the recipient. The ILO also specifies two forms of sexual harassment: where the victim’s engagement in sexual behaviour is a condition for job employment or benefits, also known as *quid pro quo*, and where the victim feels intimidated or humiliated as a result of a hostile working environment, both of which interferes with the victim’s work. Both the victim and the abuser are not defined by any gender, nationality, or religion.

It is important to note that the offender’s intent does not play a factor in determining whether their actions are considered sexual harassment. The focus is on the word “unwelcome”, which in this context is not synonymous with the word “involuntary.” A victim’s consensual or even active participation in offensive and objectionable

conduct does not constitute the offender’s actions as being “welcome”. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the victim to voice their discomfort, because the point at which sexual conduct is considered unwelcome is dependent on the victim’s own personal threshold.

Cost of Sexual Harassment

Victims of sexual harassment not only undergo tremendous psychological, behavioural, and physical suffering but are also likely to face severe career costs as a result. Many victims resort to leaving employment due to the fear of the probable economic retaliation they will experience after blowing the whistle, such as demotions, lack of promotion or training opportunities, and impediments to job advancement. With an environment lacking trust and team spirit, organizations suffer as well. Progress within the organization is disrupted due to declining productivity, not to mention the legal fees involved.

Taking Action

The complexity of figuring out “what do I do now?” stems from the fact that the UN is not homogenous, meaning every UN organization has adopted their own different internal procedures and standards of proof for investigating sexual harassment. Nonetheless, the first course of action would be to raise your concern internally. There are two ways of undergoing this: informally and formally.

An informal resolution is the most preferable course of action because it does not require the involvement of many other people or a detailed investigation. The process is also much more expeditious compared to that of a formal appeal. In every UN Organization, you are able to informally address the issue with your presumed harasser directly or raise the concern(s) informally to any applicable manager or supervisor. The International Labor Organization (ILO) has a review procedure in the case that you require assistance during your internal, informal approach. You have the option to request the third-party assistance of the Human Resources Development

Department (HRD), a higher-level chief, the Staff Union, or an ILO official to aid you through dialogue with the offender. If initiating dialogue with your presumed harasser poses an issue, you have the option to request the assistance of a specially trained ILO official, whose job is to facilitate and enable dialogue between parties.

Other organizations, such as WHO, UNESCO, and UNDP, have opted for an Ombudsman, whose role as a staff mediator requires him or her to assist staff members individually with problems or grievances relating to their employment and their relationships with chiefs and colleagues.

Though it is encouraged to approach the issue through an informal resolution, attempts to rectify the issue may fail. In this case, you would now consider undertaking a formal approach and submitting an appeal to your organization’s internal appeals body. Keep in mind that it is also “your right to proceed directly to the formal stage, especially if the allegations are serious.” The role of the board is to review the allegations presented in order to submit a report containing all facts, findings, and recommendations to the Executive Head for his/her decision. Despite the advantages of having board members who are already well-versed regarding their specific organization, including its rules and practices, the biggest limitation of internal appeal bodies is their inability to decide; they only assess facts and provide recommendations for the Executive Head. If you are satisfied with the Executive Head’s final decision, then your case ends there. Unfortunately, the board’s review may also result in them deeming your case as unfounded and rejecting it. In this case, you either have the option of terminating litigation or submitting an appeal to the higher Tribunal.

If you do decide to proceed with your allegations, the board’s report will be provided to the Tribunal, providing a full summary and analysis of your case. Depending on your organization, you will submit your appeal to either one of the UN common system’s two Administrative Tribunals – the

Administrative Tribunal of the International Labor Organization (ILOAT) or the United Nations Appeals Tribunal (UNAT via the UN Dispute Tribunal). Both Tribunals have the ability to order the rescinding of a contested decision or the specific performance of the obligation provoked.⁴

Judgement Concerning This Matter

There are many cases in both of the Administrative Tribunals that exemplify the importance of being well informed of the proper process when submitting formal grievances of sexual assault.

In ILOAT Judgment No. 3597, the complaint was dismissed due to the complainant's inability to produce evidence to support her claims. Previously in the internal appeals procedure, the complainant's case was accepted by the Secretary-General and she was rewarded with CHF 34,000 for various costs and damages. Dissatisfied with this decision, the complainant submitted an appeal to the ILOAT of insufficient compensation on the grounds that not all of her relief requests were granted and that the Appeals Committee and the Secretary-General did not take full consideration of the violations of the Codes of Conduct on the part of the Secretary-General, the Head of the Human Resources Department, and the Legal Counsel. Ultimately her claims were declared unfounded as a result of insubstantial evidence to support her claims to additional compensation and justification to open an investigation of Code of Conduct violations involving the individuals concerned.

However, ILOAT Judgments No. 2975 and 3414, the Tribunal ruled in favour of both of the complainants; one who submitted allegations that the non-renewal of her contract was retaliation against her previous allegations of sexual harassment and the other who contested the Director-General's decision to reject the complainant's appeal against the Regional Director's decision to reject all of the RBA's finding against the organization and dismiss the complainant's appeal entirely without rewarding her any costs, respectively. Thorough knowledge of her organization's policies on harassment and staff regulations and staff rules concerning grievance procedures, such as informal conflict-resolution measures, grievance panels, and the sufficient timeliness of responses necessary, provided the complainant with not only a firm argument but also a successful one.

Conclusions and Recommendations

First and foremost, it is of utmost importance to understand your organization's internal procedure. Knowing your rights and correct grievance procedure will protect you from the potential setback of the UN organizations' autonomous system. During every step of the process, it is crucial to keep a thorough record of all of the details surrounding your allegations. This includes the dates, times, circumstances, witnesses, and a record of the incidents' effect on your personal life or professional abilities. Leaving employment should not be the primary response when you find yourself the unfortunate victim of sexual harassment. Enhancing self-awareness and

empowering victims to speak up are just the first steps in tackling the issue of sexual harassment in the workplace; acknowledge the issue and know that you have options. From there, taking full advantage of your available resources is just the next stride in ensuring justice and achieving a safe work environment in the UN common system. ■

- 1 Summer 2018 FICSA intern
- 2 WHO Staff who is currently serving as FICSA General Secretary.
- 3 <http://www.stopstreetharassment.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Full-Report-2018-National-Study-on-Sexual-Harassment-and-Assault.pdf>
- 4 https://www.jstor.org/stable/23072491?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents

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For a true “21st century UN”, we must reform the UN internship programme

“Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.”

– Article 23, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

THE FAIR INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE

The United Nations is currently undergoing sweeping reforms aimed at creating a “21st century UN”. These reforms, championed by the Secretary-General and supported by numerous Member States, include increasing efficiency, improving human resources management, and bringing the Organization closer to its core values. At the Fair Internship Initiative (FII), we strongly believe that for these efforts to be successful, it is time to bring change to the UN internship system.

The Fair Internship Initiative is a youth-led organization with chapters in Geneva, Vienna, and New York that advocates for fair and accessible UN internships. It is our goal to ensure that UN internships are both valuable and positive experiences for all parties involved. We strive for a UN internship programme that advances equality, remains transparent, and protects the rights and welfare of all interns, as unfortunately, this is not always the case.

A learning experience

The number of UN interns has grown sharply from 131 in 1996 to over 2,200 in 2015 while P1, P2, and other entry-level positions have decreased. Likewise, between 2009 and 2017, close

to 40,000 young graduates interned at the UN, representing an increase of 41.5% for the 2009-2015 period. Today, interns outnumber both P1 and P2 staff members combined. Human resources policies have thus far failed to adapt to this trend, which has resulted in an increased reliance on unremunerated personnel to perform core functions. This represents a worrying shift in responsibilities that detracts from the crucial educational component of the internship.

An internship, as stipulated by the UN administrative instruction, should be a learning experience. Internship opportunities are meant to provide relevant work exposure and proper guidance to help develop skills and build professional capacity. As such, interns should not replace paid staff positions, yet a recent survey conducted by the FII discovered that 81 percent of respondent UN interns felt that they contributed to their overall team’s objectives that might not have been met otherwise, suggesting that interns do indeed perform core functions rather than merely engaging in a “learning experience”.

“Gratis Personnel”

When the UN first began its internship programme in 1958,

those recruited were provided with stipends and travel allowances. Today, however, interns fall into the category of “gratis personnel”, with the vast majority of those working for UN agencies, programmes, and funds, and all of those under the Secretariat, receiving no form of compensation. This status also means that interns receive no health insurance and their agreements make no mention of any rights or entitlements – such as personal or sick leave or access to an Ombudsperson. In these ways, many interns’ rights fall short of minimum labour standards.

Worldwide, the United Nations stands for equality of opportunities and diversity, yet the unpaid nature of UN internships contradicts these values and could even be considered discriminatory in practice. The lack of financial support contradicts the *raison d’être* of the United Nations. Without a stipend, many prospective interns, often those from low socio-economic backgrounds, cannot afford to live unpaid for up to six months in cities such as New York or Geneva. The poor representation of interns coming from developing countries provides concrete evidence of this. Indeed, between 2009 and 2015, 63 percent of participating interns came from Europe and the Americas while only 15 percent came from Africa. In this way, the refusal to supply interns with a basic living allowance exacerbates inequalities that exist between and within Member States.

The practice of unpaid internships not only goes against

some of the UN’s core values but also find itself at odds with the Organization’s founding document. Article 8 of the UN Charter explicitly states that the UN “shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs”. These inconsistencies in word and deed reinforce the notion that young people are an expendable source of free labour, and the UN’s continued reliance on unpaid internships, and the discrimination that this entails, undermines the Organization’s credibility and its overall mission.

A climate of reform

In June 2018, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), the independent external oversight body of the United Nations system, released a detailed review of the UN internship programme as part of the ongoing human resources management reform. Citing many of the same concerns as those highlighted above, the report includes seven recommendations and 16 benchmarks to strengthen the UN internship programme and that of its funds and programmes. Among these recommendations are calls for “the consideration of the introduction of compensation schemes” and for the establishment of “more coherent internship programmes [...], taking into account the benchmarking framework for good practices in internship programmes”. The report argues that these measures would support the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth as well



Labour Day March, 1st May 2018

to the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development related to youth, decent work and gender equality. The JIU acknowledges that while there would be a cost associated with several of these reforms, costs “would need to be seen in balance with the reputation of the Organization”.

The FII believes that the current climate of reform within the UN presents the perfect opportunity to usher in these long overdue changes. Building on this momentum, the UN system must make a concerted effort to implement the JIU recommendations and to include the internship programme in its human

resources reforms. If the goals of these reforms truly are to shepherd the United Nations into the 21st century, bringing them closer to the values enshrined in the Charter and within the pages of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, then the injustices and inconsistencies of the UN internship programme can no longer be ignored. ■

- 1 Information is drawn from the annual (for staff) and biennial (for interns) Reports of the Secretary-General on the Composition of the Secretariat. For 2015 data on interns see: United Nations. Composition of the Secretariat: gratis personnel, retired staff and consultants and individual contractors: Report of the Secretary-General. Geneva, 2016.
- 2 Joint Inspection Unit, (2018), Review of Internship Programmes in the United Nations System, https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2018_1_english.pdf
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- 8 United Nations Charter (1941), <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/>
- 9 Joint Inspection Unit, (2018), Review of Internship Programmes in the United Nations System, https://www.unjiu.org/sites/www.unjiu.org/files/jiu_rep_2018_1_english.pdf
- 10 Ibid.



Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room in the Palais des Nations after a meeting of the 2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems.

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Killer Robots: The Laws Around LAWS

Not too long ago, concerns over “killer robots” likely would have been dismissed as purely pertaining to the realm of science-fiction, yet due to certain technological advancements, it may only be a matter of time before Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) become a reality on the battlefield.

AUSTIN GIGNILLIAT¹

Weaponized drones have paved the way for this next generation of weapons systems by demonstrating the military and political advantages that increased autonomy has to offer – most notably in that they remove the operator from harm’s way. Unlike weaponized drones, however, LAWS would eliminate the human element from the real-time equation entirely. Once fully activated,

these systems would be programmed to select and engage targets without further intervention by a human operator. This prospect – that of entrusting a machine with decisions over life and death – raises numerous practical, moral, and legal questions that must be examined proactively rather than in retrospect.

Though no such systems are yet known to exist, a fierce

debate has already formed around them. A threshold of concern is whether LAWS can be introduced into an armed conflict in a manner which fully complies with the principles underlying international humanitarian law (IHL). Often referred to as the “laws of war,” IHL exists to restrict conduct in armed conflict so as to limit the human suffering caused by what would otherwise be the unfettered horrors of modern war. To that end, the treaties, conventions, and customs that together comprise IHL mandate protections for non-combatants and limit the means and methods by which war may be waged. Furthermore, Article 36 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions expressly requires member states to determine, prior to implementing any new weapons systems, whether their usage would meet the standards set by international humanitarian law. Simply put, militaries seeking to develop and employ

these autonomous weapons must use their due diligence.

The debate around LAWS frequently centers on two key components of IHL: the principles of proportionality and distinction. For an attack to satisfy the standards of proportionality, any harm to civilians cannot be excessive in relation to the military objectives sought to be achieved. This means that LAWS must be able to reliably judge whether the strategic value of an attack would outweigh potential civilian casualties – a calculus that could be constantly changing depending on the scenario. For example, a building could be a legitimate military target, but any attempt to destroy it could suddenly become disproportionate if a full school bus were to stop in front of it. Likewise, to comply with the principle of distinction, LAWS must be capable of differentiating between civilians and combatants. On today’s complex battlefields, where belligerents



Second meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems in Geneva, Switzerland.

are oftentimes non-state actors and where many combatants do not wear uniforms or even actively present themselves as civilians, this task becomes all the more difficult.

Non-governmental organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have raised grave concerns over this emerging technology and its ability to respect these principles as well as other aspects of IHL. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots,

a global coalition of non-governmental organizations dedicated to achieving a preemptive ban on LAWS, has called autonomous weaponry an “unacceptable application of technology” and believes that human control is paramount to “ensuring both humanitarian protection and effective legal control.” For these groups, human soldiers are simply better equipped for the moral reasoning that the correct application of IHL requires, and many believe that the decision to take a life on

the battlefield should amount to more than just programming.

Others contend that LAWS would not only be able to act within the confines of international law but also that they might prove even more capable than humans in this regard. After all, a robot would be absent of any fear, prejudice, or fatigue that might lead a human soldier to pull the trigger when they ought to have stayed their hand. In this scenario, it becomes somewhat of a moral imperative that the states with the means to develop and deploy these weapons do so.

Faced with this dichotomy presented by LAWS, how should the United Nations and the international community respond? Multilateral treaties aimed at banning certain categories of weapons have produced results in the past, but an agreement to restrict an emerging technology

such as LAWS may prove more difficult. In April and August of this year, the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) met in Geneva for the second time to discuss issues surrounding LAWS. While the GGE has made progress in creating a much-needed international definition of what constitutes an autonomous weapon, in terms of reaching an accord regarding the status of LAWS under IHL or delaying development of the technology, little else was achieved. Regardless of where people might fall on the debate over LAWS, it should be largely agreed upon that weapons with the ability to decide whether to take a human life but which themselves lack humanity represents a dramatic development demanding caution and restraint. ■

1 Former UNITAR Intern and Student at the University of Georgia (USA)



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A TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF KOFI ANNAN 1938 2018

● ●

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of progress,
in every society,
in every family"**



Annan in his early years at the United Nations. He joined us in 1962 at the WHO in Geneva and went on to work at UNHCR, before relocating to New York in 1983

He was appointed as the Secretary-General on 13 December 1996 by the Security Council, and later confirmed by the General Assembly, making him the first office holder to be elected from the UN staff itself. He was re-elected for a second term in 2001, and was succeeded as Secretary-General by Ban Ki-moon on 1 January 2007



António Guterres, the current UN Secretary-General, said that "Kofi Annan was a champion for peace and a guiding force for good."



Kofi Annan in his youth, at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. He graduated in 1961 with a degree in Economics. He went on to study international relations at the Graduate Institute in Geneva and management at MIT in Boston



He went on to work in several capacities at the UN Headquarters including serving as the Under-Secretary-General for peacekeeping between March 1992 and December 1996



In 2001, the Nobel Committee decided that the Peace Prize was to be divided between the UN and Annan. They were awarded the Peace Prize "for their work for a better organized and more peaceful world"

He was the founder and chairman of the Kofi Annan Foundation, as well as chairman of The Elders, an international organization founded by Nelson Mandela



Kofi Annan and his wife Nane Annan

Annan died on the morning of 18 August 2018 in Bern, Switzerland, at the age of 80 after a short illness. The body of Kofi Annan was returned to his native Ghana from Geneva



Baku Night View.

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Interview with H.E. Minister of Foreign Affairs Mammadyarov

100th Anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic

The Republic of Azerbaijan recently celebrated two milestone anniversaries: the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the 25th Anniversary of its membership to the United Nations. We met His Excellency Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs to tell us more about his country.

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan's independence. What makes this centenary so important today?

On May 28, 1918, the first parliamentary democracy in the Muslim world – the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR) – was founded with the adoption of the Declaration on Independence.

Despite facing grave internal and external challenges arising from the collapse of the Russian

empire, the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic succeeded in setting effective state institutions, upholding the rights of its citizens and gaining the trust of the international community. Universal suffrage right, as well as the right of voting of women was guaranteed.

The Government was formed on the basis of accountability and separation of powers and the Azerbaijani Parliament was a democratically-elected,

multi-party and truly representative legislative body, the first of its kind in the entire Muslim East. In its two-year tenure, the Republic was governed by five executive cabinets, and the Parliament held 155 meetings and discussed more than 240 draft laws. Another vital pillar of the state-building process came with the establishment of the Chamber of Appeals, creating in effect a modern judicial system that would check the powers of the Parliament and the Cabinet of Ministers.

The newly formed Republic made education a primary concern, and the Baku State University was founded. Despite multiple economic and political difficulties that the Republic was facing, it aspired for long-term human capital investment by providing scholarships for hundreds of young students to study in leading European universities. The Azerbaijani language was declared the official language, the national tricolor flag and the anthem were adopted, modern theater and opera were established, Azerbaijani postage stamps were printed and a national Azerbaijani currency – Manat – was issued.

As stated in the Declaration of Independence, the establishment of friendly relations



His Excellency Elmar Mammadyarov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

with all nations, especially the neighboring nations, was determined as one of the foreign policy priorities of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

The first major breakthrough in diplomatic relations came when the parliamentary delegation of Azerbaijan, headed by Speaker of the Parliament Mr. Alimardan Topchubashov, went to Paris with the main goal to gain international recognition for the ADR at the Paris Peace Conference. Members of the delegation to the Conference impressed foreign dignitaries with their respect to ideas of liberty, rights and justice. The unanimous de-facto recognition of the independence of Azerbaijan was attained, and the Azerbaijani mission received an invitation to the Supreme Council of the Paris Peace Conference.

The Azerbaijani people treasuring the heritage of the ADR celebrate the centennial

anniversary of their independence this year with the heightened sense of pride and particular spirit of festivity.

Today the Republic of Azerbaijan as the independent, sovereign and democratic country brings into the reality the aspirations and ideals of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic with its good and effective management, socio-economic and human capital development as well as its growing role and prestige in international relations. If the founders of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic were alive, they would have been proud of today's Republic of Azerbaijan.

Since regaining its independence, Azerbaijan has become a member of the international community. In that sense, how do you value the relations between the United Nations and Azerbaijan?

Shortly after restoring its independence, Azerbaijan was

admitted to the United Nations on March 2, 1992. Membership to the UN allowed Azerbaijan to re-integrate into the world community as an independent State. Since then, Azerbaijan has consistently demonstrated its strong commitment to the principles and purposes of the UN Charter and international law, and has staunchly supported the Organization and actively contributed to its activities.

We highly appreciate the support of the UN, and all its institutions, particularly the UNHCR assistance during the active military phase of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict in 1992-1993 to the refugees and IDP's of Azerbaijan. We look forward to the continued presence in and support to Azerbaijan by the UN system, particularly the UNDP in assisting to keep momentum of success from the realization of the Millennium Development Goals to that of the Sustainable Development Goals.

On October 6, 2016, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Ilham Aliyev, issued an Executive Order on the Establishment of the National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, instructing it to identify national priorities and their indicators until 2030, in line with the global development goals and targets, adapt the relevant State programs and strategies to the SDGs and prepare annual national SDG progress reports.

During this short period, Azerbaijan has been elected to two principal organs of the United

Nations, namely, the Security Council (2012-2013) and the Economic and Social Council (2003-2005, and since 2017 for the following three years term), as well as to the Commission on Human Rights (2005-2006), the Human Rights Council (2006 – 2009) and the Organization's other elected bodies and agencies. Azerbaijan's election to the UN institutions is also a vivid example of confidence rendered by the Member States to my country.

Azerbaijan is the main author of a series of resolutions adopted within the United Nations on humanitarian, human rights, economic, and cultural issues.

My country is fully committed to maintaining international peace, security and stability and is making sustained efforts towards that end.

As the Secretary-General pointed out in his address to the Security Council in early 2017, "challenges to national sovereignty and territorial integrity are reminders that we must collectively work to preserve and strengthen a rules-based international order so as to maintain peace and security, in accordance with the Charter".

Once being a net consumer of security and international aid, now Azerbaijan acts as a donor country by making contributions to the UN's various programs. In this context, Azerbaijan pays particular attention to addressing the needs of the developing and least developed countries, as well

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as those recovering from natural disasters. Over the years, we have provided humanitarian and other assistance to a number of countries in different regions.

Azerbaijan also attaches primary importance to the promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue at the national and international levels.

Finally, I can also add that Azerbaijan contributes to world affairs via its active membership in the United Nations and tries to make the world a better place for all in the future.

Historically Azerbaijan played an important role on the ancient Silk Road. What is the role of Azerbaijan in building connectivity along the East-West and North-South axes?

You are absolutely right that Azerbaijan was one of the important locations along the ancient Silk Road. Based on this historical heritage the development of regional and trans-regional multi-modal transport corridors along the East-West and North-South axes is among the priorities of Azerbaijan.

We have constructed a backbone strategic Baku – Tbilisi – Kars railway with a freight-forwarding capacity of 6-7 million tons at the first stage and its subsequent increase to 17 million tons a year. In expert community is sometimes called the Iron Silk Road. This railway, commissioned last October and passing through Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, is a key segment of the emerging trans-continental corridor, called New Silk Road, which will link trans-Europe and trans-Asian railway networks and will significantly contribute to a reliable and integrated freight railway connection between Europe and Asia. It will also definitely increase transport

and transit capacity of those countries involved and will promote economic growth, stability and welfare in the region. It is expected that Baku – Tbilisi – Kars railway will carry one million passengers at the first stage and 3 million passengers in few years that contributes to movement of people across different regions, their well-being, and paving the way for growth in inter-cultural ties. The Baku – Tbilisi – Kars railway will create opportunities not only for Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, but also for the countries in Asia and Europe. It is an important connection in the Lapis Lazuli trade and transit corridor, aimed at unlocking trade potential of Afghanistan and its link to Europe.

Considering the volume of trade between only China and EU being over €500 billion, it is obvious that there should be a diversity of reliable trade routes – not in conflict or competition with each other, but in complementarity to each other.

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and Ukraine have crafted the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route as a cornerstone of its East-West trade corridor strategy, whose prime objective is to link Europe with East Asia. This is a corporate-institutional undertaking of railway companies, sea ports, and maritime companies of the involved countries. Our initial estimation is to transit some 3-4 million tons of goods during next years and then, subsequently to achieve the volume of 8-10 million tons per year.

Azerbaijan is also actively engaged in further development of the North-South transport corridor that will enable transit of cargo from the Gulf countries via Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia to Europe. We joined this project in 2005, and since then have taken significant steps and

decisions to facilitate trade flows between the northern Europe, Germany, Russia on one side and the South-West Asia and, South Asia on the other.

There is also another trade corridor – that is, South-West international transport route, whose purpose is to bridge India, Iran, Gulf countries with Turkey and Europe. The railway authorities of Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, Iran, and Azerbaijan are jointly developing this route.

Another priority area for the Government of Azerbaijan in promoting connectivity is good governance in transport and trade facilitation, inter alia, through streamlining import, export and transit border procedures, efficient trade formalities allowing more transparent customs processes in transit and trade. Particular attention is given to introduction of information technologies in trade facilitation measures.

Removing bottlenecks and creating a diversity of regional and inter-regional connectivity projects is one of the priorities of my country in its bilateral relations and in all international and regional economic forums.

Belonging to different political and economic domains should not create bottlenecks. However, nations trade with each other, invest into each other's economies, and support each other based on mutual respect and trust. The objective of a new Silk Road is a shared benefit for all those who are interested and willing to cooperate. Azerbaijan has tried so far, and we are willing to do more in order to contribute to these shared benefits.

Azerbaijan is also very well known for its staunch support for intercultural dialogue and multiculturalism.

For centuries, representatives of different religions have been living in Azerbaijan in peace and dignity. Today our historical monuments reflect that cultural diversity. Our strength is in cultural diversity.

We, in Azerbaijan, attach primary importance to promotion of intercultural and interreligious dialogue at all levels. Multiculturalism and tolerance made a longstanding tradition in my country that strengthens and consolidates our society. We deem that cultural diversity and multiculturalism are strength and wealth that give an ample opportunity to contribute to promotion of dialogue, encourage ethnic and religious pluralism, and thus effectively prevent potential rise of violent extremism. It is not a coincidence that in Azerbaijan the year 2016 was proclaimed as “The Year of Multiculturalism” by a decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Government of Azerbaijan continues to pursue a consistent policy towards protection of rights of all ethnic and religious minorities. More than one thousand mosques, eleven churches, six synagogues and other religious temples are functioning in Azerbaijan without any obstacles.

In 2016, Baku hosted the 7th Global Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilizations entitled “Living together in inclusive societies”. This important event was attended by more than 4,000 delegates from 147 countries, including the heads of states and governments, ministers, government officials, representatives of international organizations and mass media. The Forum's themes reflected the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which incorporates the promotion of inclusive societies as pivotal component for sustainable development.

World Religious Leaders' Forum, Intercultural Dialogue Forum and other international events are regularly held in Baku, thus contributing to the cause of multiculturalism. There should not be alternative to multiculturalism. The alternative is discrimination, xenophobia, Islamophobia.

Ten years ago we initiated the beginning of the Baku Process. That was our initiative supported by the United Nations to invite government officials from the member-states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Council of Europe. Azerbaijan is one of the few countries, which is a member of both organizations. We invited their members to Baku to get together to address the issues of intercultural dialogue, to reduce tensions based on ethnic and religious grounds, to establish a platform for dialogue and mutual understanding, to address seriously the issues of xenophobia in the world.

The Baku Process this year will celebrate its 10th anniversary. It is a unique international platform, which unites countries of the Muslim world and Europe, and which is open to all countries, and the goal is to create a better understanding between different countries, representatives of different religions and ethnic groups.

Azerbaijan will continue to play its important role in promotion of these values.

The Southern Gas Corridor was commissioned in May this year and Azerbaijan's gas started to be delivered to the Turkish market through the TANAP pipeline. What are the next following steps?

Today Azerbaijan is a key enabler of the Southern Gas Corridor (SGC), which is one of the largest infrastructure and energy projects in Europe. More than 40 billion USD will be invested in all four segments of the project with the aim of bringing alternative gas volumes from reliable and alternative source to European markets. The SGC is a unique project of energy security with the right balance of interests among producers, transit countries and consumers. The SGC is also a project of energy diversification and diversification of routes and sources. The gas from the huge Shah Deniz field in the Caspian sector of Azerbaijan will be transported through three consecutive pipelines – the South Caucasus Pipeline, TANAP – Trans-Anatolian Pipeline, and TAP – Trans-Adriatic Pipeline. The South Caucasus and TANAP pipelines are now operational. With the completion of the TAP project the Azerbaijani gas from the Shah Deniz II field in the Caspian Sea will start to be delivered

to Greece, then cross Albania and the Adriatic Sea and will reach Italy and other buyers in Europe. The TANAP/TAP project provides vast opportunities for employment, new investments and prosperity in the countries where it will be passing.

We highly appreciate productive and fruitful cooperation and partnership of all parties involved in the TANAP/TAP project. We are also glad that the European Commission considers the TAP project as a strategic one for the energy security of the European Union.

The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict remains unresolved. What are your expectations for the resolution of the conflict?

The continued occupation of Azerbaijan's lands by Armenia and maintaining the status-quo of occupation constitutes the major threat to regional peace and security. In 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted four Resolutions that reaffirm the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory, and demand the immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from all the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. This year marks the 25th anniversary of adoption of these Resolutions. UN Security Council Resolutions do

not have time limits and form the fundamental political-legal basis for the resolution of the conflict.

In April this year an inevitable political crisis and government change have taken place in Armenia. Azerbaijan made it clear that if reasonable political forces come to power in Armenia, then it would be possible to make progress in the resolution of the conflict. We also realize that having faced the existing social-economic and political challenges, the new Armenian government needs some more time to become closely engaged with the resolution of conflict.

However, we do hope that new political leadership of Armenia will make a realistic assessment of the situation on the ground, and will come to understanding that the soonest resolution of the conflict will open up opportunities for lasting peace and regional cooperation. It will be people of Armenia who primarily will be able to benefit from the prospects of regional cooperation. Armenia should demonstrate its commitment to peace and security by de-occupying the seized lands of Azerbaijan, and such a move can guarantee durable peace and security, which can be reached in the region. ■

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USA-China: Clash of the titans

Are we bound to fall into Thucydides' Trap?

When an aspiring power challenges an incumbent, historians speak of a "Thucydides' Trap". The seemingly inevitable outcome of this pattern? War.



SEBASTIAN HOFBAUER, UNITAR

The beginning of the 21st century has witnessed a notable increase in challenges with global scope. From the failure of the global economic system, emerging security threats to climate change and a growing sustainable development task – today there is no space without challenges of enormous complexity. Underlying them all is a crisis of geopolitics, a seemingly inevitable clash of an aspiring power and an incumbent one.

The lack of a shared narrative

The 19th Century age of Imperialism was for both the United States and China a pre-hegemonic era and in the 21st Century we are headed to a post hegemonic era. We have grown accustomed to a short hegemony that emerged in the second half of the 20th Century. The emergence of the truly global challenge that does not know borders reminds us of the importance of partnerships. In our post hegemonic era this becomes a challenge in itself, superimposing the others.

There is today no sharable discourse between the United States and China, with two hegemonies favoring narratives that aspire to collaboration, but can't quite get there. Global order threatens to become global disorder. Xi's "China Dream" and the "New Type of Great Power Relations" seem set to collide with the United States' incumbent position at the steering wheel of global politics, Trump's "Make America Great Again" arguably being the initial shrapnel.

An inevitable clash?

When an aspiring power challenges an incumbent, historians speak of a "Thucydides' Trap". The seemingly inevitable outcome of this pattern? War. Indeed, history

knows several instances when an aspiring power challenged an incumbent. In ancient Greece, Athens confronted Sparta. A century ago, Germany challenged Britain. The consequences are of the worst kind, leaving whole countries and even continents in ruins. Are we bound to fall into Thucydides' Trap?

While history does tend to repeat itself, geopolitics doesn't know immutable rules. If anything, this still young 21st century has been a not-so-gentle reminder of this. While adding to the global insecurity, the plasticity of international relations opens up opportunities. Despair, it seems, will push us into the luring abyss of Thucydides' Trap. To escape, we critically need to invest in new thinking.

Relationality

Hope, as the opposite of despair, is needed to take on this challenge. Hope is not, however, a method and, above all, we need a new method for exploring shared narratives. China's leading International Relations Theorist, Dr. Qin Yaqing, President of China Foreign Affairs University, has promoted the concept of Relationality as a new Chinese theory of International Relations that is worthy of examination. Relationality argues that actors base their decisions on relations foremost. Aiming to explain relationships in an increasingly complex world, the framework could help to re-contextualize global affairs and power structures.

At the same time, the American approach to serving national interests can best be achieved by transcending the current squabbles, i.e. over currency and trade or the South China Sea debate, by seeking to reestablish a rule of the road based upon the equality of nations. Partnership is an overused but under-developed concept in the American foreign policy lexicon.

The equality of nations

Anniversaries bring with them a welcomed opportunity to look back and reflect. This year happens to mark the 150th birthday of the Burlingame Treaty that changed the U.S. foreign policy to China from one based on "unequal treaties" to one based on "equality of nations." Anson Burlingame was an abolitionist who was a founder of the Republican Party, and Lincoln's Ambassador to China. He believed in the equality of man, and the equality of nations – and consequently earned the trust to serve as China's envoy to the America and the Great Powers. The Burlingame Treaty of 1868 was the first equal treaty between China and a western power after the Opium Wars and shaped the image of China as a sovereign state. By following a cooperative policy that substituted the old doctrine of violence, Anson Burlingame played a key role in fostering the mutual tolerance between the US and China. This shift in foreign policy showcased the benefits of coordinated and collective action between the two powers.

The Burlingame Principles

Anson Burlingame was the original expositor of a "new type of great power relations". His work shaped the relationship between the United States and China for decades. Today, the underlying principle he based his work on are of renewed relevance, but need to be rediscovered and transformed for the contemporary context. In practice, this could be achieved by the establishment of a bilateral working group to bring together scholars and practitioners from both sides and to formulate shareable concepts and a shareable narrative for US-China relations in the 21st Century under the banner of Burlingame Principles. They might just be what saves us from Thucydides' Trap. ■

The weaponization of human rights

ALFRED DE ZAYAS

The weaponization of human rights has transformed the individual and collective entitlement to assistance, protection, respect and solidarity – based on our common human dignity and equality – into a hostile arsenal to target competitors and political adversaries. In the stockpile of *weaponized human rights*, the technique of “naming and shaming” has become a sort of ubiquitous Kalashnikov.

Experience shows, however, that naming and shaming fails to alleviate the suffering of victims and only satisfies the strategic aims of certain governments, non-governmental organizations and of a burgeoning *human rights industry* that instrumentalize human rights for the purpose of destabilizing others and often enough to facilitate “regime change”, regardless how undemocratic that may sound and notwithstanding the customary international law principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

This strategy rests on the false premise that the “namer” somehow possesses moral authority and that the “named” will recognize this moral superiority and act accordingly. Theoretically this could function if the

“namer” were to practice “naming and shaming” in a non-selective manner and refrain from obvious double-standards. Alas, the technique frequently backfires, because the “namer” has its own skeletons in the closet. This classical example of intellectual dishonesty usually stiffens the resistance of the “named”, who will be even less inclined to take any measures to correct alleged violations. Another technique of norm-warfare is what is termed “lawfare”, whereby the “law” is used to subvert the rule of law, and international criminal law is instrumentalized to demonize certain leaders and not others. A self-respecting judge would not betray the profession by playing this kind of game – but some do, and instead of safeguarding the ethos of the rule of law these politized judges corrupt it (remember Roland Freisler’s *Volksgerichtshof!*) thus undermining the credibility of the entire system.

The arsenal of weaponized human rights also includes non-conventional wars such as economic wars and sanctions regimes, ostensibly justified on the alleged human rights violations of the targeted State. The result is that, far from helping the victims, entire populations are held hostage -victims not



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only of violations by their own governments, but also of “collective punishment” by the sanctioning State(s). This can entail crimes against humanity, when as a consequence food security is impacted, medicines and medical equipment are rendered scarce or are available only at exorbitant prices. Demonstrably, economic sanctions kill. Under certain conditions, “naming and shaming” involve further violations of human rights and the rule of law, contravening Arts. 6, 14, 17, 19 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and could reach the threshold of what is termed “hate speech” (Art. 20).

Bottom line: “naming and shaming” is a thoroughly ineffective instrument of change.

States and NGOs would do well to revisit Matthew VII, 3-5 and replace the obsolete “naming and shaming” technique by good faith proposals and constructive recommendations, accompanied by the offer of advisory services and technical assistance so as to concretely help the victims on the ground. Sowing honesty and friendship is best to reap cooperation and progress in human rights terms.

What is most needed today is mature diplomacy, result-oriented negotiations, a culture of dialogue and mediation, instead of this petulant culture of grandstanding, intransigence and holier-than-thou pretense that help no one. ■


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Of Names and Men

Interpretation is a living process that takes shape in diachronic dynamics where history, culture, politics and geography can interfere in defining the end product.

MOHAMED BEN SAID, UNOG

On 19 April 2018, the King of Swaziland Mswati III announced that the Kingdom of Swaziland had renamed itself the Kingdom of Eswatini to mark the 50th anniversary of Swazi independence. The new name, Eswatini, means “land of the Swazis”. During conferences and meetings, speeches are delivered and issues are debated often in a very swift and interactive fashion. There is nothing more common in those debates than mentioning states by their names, quoting from people and referring to places and sites.

For a conference interpreter, it is often believed that conveying names is just a piece of cake... What can be more obvious indeed than saying John for John and Smith for Smith! but quite often it is far from being banal and simple. Conference interpreters bear that responsibility on their shoulders as they have to encapsulate the moment and decide in a wink of an eye the true charge of a name and convey it their own way.

Proper Names:

Definition and Scope

Proper names are nouns used to designate a particular person or place. In fact, with names come also perspective and attitude.

An *exonym* or *xenonym* is an external name for a geographical place, or a group of people, an individual person, or a language or dialect. It is a common name used only outside the place, group, or linguistic community in question. For instance, “Austria” is the English language exonym, “Autriche” is the French language exonym, “النمسا” is the Arabic language exonym and “Österreich” is the endonym for the same country in Europe.

An *endonym* or *autonym* is an internal name for a geographical place, or a group of people, or a language or dialect. It is a common name used only inside the place, group, or linguistic community in question; it is their name for themselves, their homeland, or their language. Exonyms are sometimes derogatory.

The interpreter may have to opt for one of the existing methods if the scope and perspective remain identical. However, should the scope vary with a proper name, the interpreter may be faced with the ordeal of choice and decision-making depending on the tenor and ramifications of the designation of a particular person or place.

The role of a conference interpreter in action is to seize all

those ramifications and weigh their connotations instantly and on both the speaker and the recipient. *The Interpreter acts then not only as a vehicle but as a full-fledged diplomat who captures the meaning and potential message(s) slipped in between the lines.*

What's in a name?

Changing endonyms to exonyms is often an act of conquest; changing them back a statement of liberation¹.

It is a common misconception to believe that interpreting names does not require cogitation. Interpretation is a living process that takes shape in diachronic dynamics where history, culture, politics and geography can interfere in defining the end product.

At times, a word mispronounced or hastily delivered can lead to a completely different meaning. In Arabic, the feminine adjective “gharbiya” (غربية) stands for “Western” and the word maghrebiya (مغربية) also stands for “Moroccan” which is itself from the root word “Gharb” / “West” versus “Shark” / “East”, hence the “Mashreq” and the “Maghreb”. The latter (Maghreb) is the name of the country Morocco, but can have a larger scope in Arabic englobing all of North Africa if used in contrast with the “Mashrek”.

Combining that in a speech with the word “Sahara” and the one-letter difference in Arabic between “Maghribiya” / “المغربية” / Moroccan and “Gharbiya” / “الغربية” / Western can lead to diplomatic incident.

Old place names that have

become outdated after renaming may afterwards still be used as historicisms like names of Andalusian cities. In 1985 the government of Côte d’Ivoire requested that the country’s French name be used in all languages instead of exonyms such as Ivory Coast, so that Côte d’Ivoire is now the official English name of that country in the United Nations including Arabic and English.

In the four corners of the world and over the fault lines of confrontations but also of cultural exchange, we can still find many spots with names overloaded with connotations and meanings that can impose further contemplation on the conference interpreter beyond the mere linguistic exercise.

Is the War of Names Near?

North or South, East or West, Names are a highly efficient means to assert identity and sovereignty: Of tremendous impact, names have the merit of brevity with the power of long sermons.

On the 7 April 1993, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 817 unananimously, after examining the application of the Republic of Macedonia for membership in the United Nations. The council noted “... that a difference has arisen over the name of a State, which needs to be resolved in the interest of the maintenance of peaceful and good-neighbourly relations in the regions”. It also recommended to the General Assembly that Macedonia be admitted to membership in the United Nations, this State being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the United Nations as “the former Yugoslav



The Treachery of image (sometimes translated as The Treason of Images) also known as This Is Not a Pipe and The Wind and the Song), René MAGRITTE (Surrealism), 1929.

Republic of Macedonia” (aka FYROM) pending settlement of the difference that has arisen over the name of the State.

Recently on the 17 June 2018 all major media relayed the news about Greece and Macedonia having taken a major step towards resolving the old dispute over the latter’s name (officially FYROM) by signing an agreement that would see Macedonia change its name to the Republic of Northern Macedonia.

What Resolution 817 did not mention though was the

conflicting ambiguity in nomenclature between the Republic of Macedonia, the adjacent Greek region of Macedonia as well as the appropriation over the glorious history of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon which made Alexander the Great also known as Alexander the Macedonian.

Often at the UN, Member States take formal steps to change their official names: The Kingdom of Eswatini was the most recent.

The UN Policy over names of Territories

In an attempt to find solutions

to these potential problems, the UN has endowed itself with experts who meet on a regular basis and provide technical recommendations on standardizing geographical names at the international levels within The United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNCSSG) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN)².

The UN list of Country names is constantly updated and is used as a reliable reference by states and international civil servants including translators and conference interpreters.

With written texts to be translated the challenges are far more reduced. For delivered speeches however, the text jumps alive and kicking and becomes multi-dimensional and lively with additions from contextual and extra-textual elements.

These impose choices on the interpreter that are not necessarily prescriptive. Depending on the situation they may deem it appropriate to use an exonym or an endonym or place

themselves in a larger historicist continuum.

In most cases however, the United Nations official written documents are annotated with the following unless otherwise required.

“The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries”.

To the disappointment of interpreters, their professional duty does not allow them the luxury nor the comfort and the time to read that statement at the end of every speech interpreted. ■

- 1 The Last Word: Tales from the Tip of the Mother Tongue, Ben Macintyre. June 1, 2011
- 2 See Official list of Country names established by the UNGEGN available on this link: https://unstats.un.org/unsd/geoinfo/UNGEGN/docs/26th-gegn-docs/WP/WP54_UNGEGN%20WG%20Country%20Names%20Document%202011.pdf



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Un tournoi de football encore plus apprécié



© FC ONU

Le FC ONU au 3^e tournoi contre la discrimination et le racisme au Complexe sportif «La Cigale» à Tabarka, Tunisie.

La 3^e édition du tournoi annuel contre la Discrimination et le Racisme initié par le Football Club Organisation des Nations unies (FC ONU) s'est déroulé le 12 mai 2018 à Tabarka (Tunisie) sur les prestigieuses installations du complexe sportif "La Cigale".

YOUSSEF DHABBAH,
SECRÉTAIRE AU FC ONU

Les équipes du FC Stade Nyonnais (Suisse), le FC Tabarka (Tunisie) et la JJA d'Azzaba (Algérie) avaient répondu à l'invitation du FC ONU pour participer à cet événement sportif.

Le coup d'envoi de cette 3^e édition a été donné par M. Mohamed Sedki BOUOUN (Gouverneur de Jendouba) et son équipe dirigeante. Le discours de la cérémonie d'ouverture, prononcé par

le délégué de Tabarka M. Ali ZOUAOU (ancien professionnel de l'UNOG), donna le ton de l'évènement de par sa pertinence axée sur la fraternité entre les peuples.

Sous un ciel immuablement bleu permettant de sceller l'alliance de la mer, de la montagne et de la forêt se trouve l'étoile montante du tourisme tunisien: Tabarka.

Les richesses naturelles et le potentiel commercial de Tabarka lui ont valu les con-

voitises de nombreux colons. Une fortification fut érigée en 1542, c'est la naissance du fort Gênois, un roc sur lequel toutes les tentatives d'assaut se sont soldées par des échecs. Le fort militaire, au programme des visites, était l'une des splendeurs tabarkoises.

Au cœur du pays de l'accueil chaleureux, les membres du FC Tabarka et la Sureté Touristique ont assuré à leurs convives suisses le charme d'un havre de paix, de détente, de confort, un bien-être et de relaxation sur cette terre bénie.

C'est dans cet environnement "Magic Hotels Thabraca" que les équipes suisses étaient conviées à prendre congé avant d'écrire une nouvelle Histoire du Football international.

Lors de la finale, opposant le FC ONU contre le FC Tabarka porté par leur star MEHEREZ (ancien joueur du Jendouba

Sport Ligue 1), l'abnégation et la diversité des joueurs du FC ONU ne se sont donc pas laissés bercer par le rythme et la chaleur tabarkoise. Les locaux n'ont pu résister aux assauts et ont fini par s'incliner 4 buts à 1, pour ce qui sera une fête d'amitié des peuples avant toute chose.

L'Organisation des Nations Unies se préoccupe de la lutte contre la discrimination et le racisme depuis sa fondation. Cet événement, le sport en général et le FC ONU en particulier, contribuent à promouvoir des relations amicales et pacifiques entre les nations et les peuples. ■



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Les normes: la face cachée des énergies propres

ESTELLE CURRIT¹

Il est urgent de trouver des solutions face au réchauffement climatique dont les effets se font de plus en plus ressentir sur la planète. De plus, des scientifiques prévoient que la demande d'énergie des pays en voie de développement doublera d'ici 2040. L'une des solutions face à ces défis est la production d'énergie propre. C'est d'ailleurs l'un des Objectifs de développement durable à l'horizon 2030.

L'énergie propre est une source primaire d'énergie qui pollue faiblement comme par exemple les énergies solaires ou marines. Il ne faut pas confondre «énergies propres» et «énergies renouvelables». Ces dernières sont des énergies inépuisables qui proviennent d'éléments naturels. La définition de l'«énergie propre» reste subjective et contestable. Par exemple, le nucléaire fait débat: alors que certains le considèrent comme une énergie propre, d'autres prennent en compte les déchets produits par la production de ce type d'énergie et le considèrent comme une simple énergie fossile.

Plusieurs organisations peuvent aider les pays et les entreprises à opérer une transition vers les énergies propres. Une des principales est l'ISO, l'Organisation internationale de normalisation. Fondée en 1947, l'ISO est une organisation indépendante et non-gouvernementale constituée de 162 membres et plus de 100 000 experts. L'ISO crée des normes internationales dans des domaines comme l'industrie, le commerce ou les transports, sur l'utilisation, la consommation et le stockage de l'énergie notamment. Elle développe les infrastructures et améliore les techniques pour promouvoir les énergies propres.

Les normes sont «des documents qui définissent des exigences, des spécifications, des lignes directrices ou des caractéristiques à utiliser systématiquement pour assurer l'aptitude à l'emploi des matériaux, produits, processus et services.»² Elles ont comme priorités l'atténuation des



Photo prise durant la conférence Jeunes Reporters à l'ONU du Mercredi 28 février 2018 sur l'Énergie propre. Dans le panel figurent: Sandrine Tranchard et Kirsi Silander de ISO, Antoinette Pitteloud de IEC et Catherine Fegli de UNIS.

émissions de gaz à effet de serre et sont régulièrement révisées afin de prendre en compte les évolutions économiques, sociales et environnementales.

Une autre organisation est l'IEC, la Commission électrotechnique internationale. Cette Commission élabore de normes internationales et des systèmes d'évaluation de la conformité. Elle a été créée en 2014 et regroupe 15 pays et 84 comités nationaux. L'ICE s'occupe également des énergies renouvelables, des tests, des certifications, des dispositifs, des installations, de la maintenance, de la réparation pour les installations en rapport avec les énergies marines et solaire. Elle est composée de 20 000 experts qui travaillent dans 213 secteurs d'activité et au sein de 1 450 groupes de travail.

L'«éclairage» est un exemple du domaine de travail de l'ISO et de l'ICE. D'ici 2030 la demande en éclairage artificiel devrait augmenter de 80%. Une des solutions écologiques pour faire face à ce défi est le recours aux LED, des ampoules avec un meilleur rendement énergétique. Il s'agit d'une énergie propre, qui consomme moins d'énergie que les autres sources d'éclairages tout en étant aussi efficaces.

Cependant, les LED sont un assemblage électronique complexe. C'est pourquoi l'ICE élabore des normes qui ont pour but de vérifier la qualité des composants.

Les avantages d'améliorer l'efficacité énergétique sont nombreux. Grâce aux normes, la sécurité énergétique est améliorée. L'utilisation des énergies propres peut aussi avoir un impact positif sur les budgets nationaux, dans le domaine de la santé, et la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre.

Cependant une vision à court terme notamment sur les coûts et un manque de motivation peuvent faire barrage au développement des énergies propres.

Malgré le réchauffement climatique qui ne fait qu'empirer, il est encore possible d'agir et l'utilisation des énergies propres est une solution concrète. Dans ce contexte, les normes élaborées par des organisations comme l'ISO et l'IEC sont importantes pour accompagner ceux qui décident de franchir le pas de la transition énergétique. ■

1 Estelle Currit a 17 ans et est élève au Collège Calvin à Genève

2 Source: <https://www.iso.org/fr/standards.html> et notes personnelles de la conférence

United Nations Federal Credit Union introduces new initiatives for members in East Africa

UNFCU opens office in Uganda. It is the first US credit union to offer direct payment transfers to Kenya M-Pesa accounts.



ELISABETH PHILIPPE, UNFCU

United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU) announced last July that it opened a representative office at the UN Entebbe Support Base. The credit union decided to open the office to meet the financial needs of the United Nations (UN) community based in Uganda, as well as to several thousand UN Field Staff who transition through Entebbe annually.

UNFCU's team of locally-hired financial experts is equipped to provide members on the base, as well as those working at UN organizations in Kampala, with personal consultations regarding UNFCU products and services that best meet their evolving needs.

"After a thorough review of several possible locations, we felt that a UNFCU representative office was most needed in Uganda," said William Predmore, president/CEO of UNFCU. "Many of the staff members accessing the UN Entebbe Support Base are involved in peacekeeping missions. We can now connect with members in person, offering financial guidance to help them achieve their goals. We thank the United Nations administration at the Entebbe Support Base, the UN Resident Coordinator, and the Ugandan Government for their support."

The UNFCU Representative Office in Entebbe is the financial cooperative's fifth location outside the United States. Hours of operation for the new facility are 08:30 to 17:00 Monday through Friday, with the flexibility to open with short notice on weekends.

Additionally, UNFCU recently became the first credit union in the US to offer its members the ability to transfer payments to Kenya M-Pesa1 accounts. M-Pesa is a mobile phone-based financial wallet widely used in Kenya to make daily transactions.

Using UNFCU's Digital Banking, members can now directly transfer funds from their UNFCU accounts to registered Kenya M-Pesa digital wallet accounts. UNFCU worked closely with global payments provider Transpay to introduce the new M-Pesa program. In addition to Kenya M-Pesa transfers, members can now also transfer funds in Uganda Shillings.

About United Nations Federal Credit Union (UNFCU)

UNFCU offers a full suite of banking products and services designed for the mobile lifestyle of the global UN community. Headquartered in New York, UNFCU was founded in 1947 by 13 UN staff members. Today, UNFCU has more than 128,000 members worldwide with representative offices in Austria, Italy, Kenya, Switzerland, and Uganda. In 2015, UNFCU launched the UNFCU Foundation with a mission to sustain the path out of poverty through healthcare and education for women and children. A number of projects are improving lives in Africa. ■

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Musée d'ethnographie de Genève (MEG)

Afrique. Les religions de l'extase.

Africa. The Ecstatic Religions.

Since it re-opened in 2014, the Musée d'ethnographie de Genève has increased its number of visitors tenfold. In addition to a magnificent permanent collection, the impressive temporary exhibitions it holds each year have certainly had something to do with this success.

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR

After Asia, the Americas and Oceania, Africa is the focus of the current exhibition, open until 9 January 2019.

Ecstasy is a very old word, originating from ancient Greek and used in European languages since the fourteenth century. It means “to be taken out of one’s normal state and enter a state of intensified or heightened feeling”. Drugs are one way of doing this, but so is religion – or mysticism – in its quest for communion with divinities or spirits. This exhibition approaches the wealth of religious practices in Africa through the emotions they procure, rather than from a more conventional historical perspective often seen in exhibitions on a religious theme.

Visitors discover the diversity and dynamism of African religions through the 400 objects from MEG archives brought to life by almost 200

contemporary photographs and five video installations. The contrast between the static exhibits and the intense movement in some of the videos, together with almost theatrical sound and light effects, appeal to visitors’ emotions – even the most primal.

The 1,000 m² of exhibition space is divided into four “chapters”. The monotheist religions of Africa, Christianity, Judaism and Islam, are familiar to most visitors – but discovering the many ways they are practised in Africa – or in African communities in Geneva or elsewhere in the diaspora – is enlightening. Then follows an examination of some more intrinsically African cults: divination, funeral rites and ancestors. This leads on to the cults of possession and finally the magical universe. The ecstatic state is central to these different forms of communication with divinities and the believers it unites. A lot of the content



seems familiar at first – ritual, voodoo, sorcery, statuettes, masks – but further examination of objects, photographs or videos, including many filmed testimonials, takes visitors one step further – this is undeniably an exhibition that provokes reactions and thought.

As always at the MEG, a rich tapestry of events accompany the exhibition throughout its lifecycle – a full programme of imaginative and informative visits, conferences, concerts and workshops target different publics, young and old, expert or simply curious. If you have not yet visited the MEG, go! It’s on our doorstep and won the European Museum of the Year award in 2017. For the permanent collection, there is no entrance fee and the temporary exhibition is free on the first Sunday of every month. Next year, the temporary exhibition will focus on Europe and storytelling. I can’t wait to discover it!

Watch this space! ■

For further details: <http://www.ville-ge.ch/meg/index.php>

- 1 **Metamorphosis 7**
by Mohau Modisakeng (1986 –)
South Africa. 2015
- 2 **Priests and pilgrims celebrate Orthodox Easter, Fasika, at Bet Medhane Alem Church in Lalibela**
by Anthony Pappone (1979 –)
Ethiopia. 2011
- 3 **Holy 1 & Holy 2 – Vues de l'esprit series**
by Fabrice Monteiro (1972 –)
Senegal. 2014
- 4 **Norayni – The Way of the Baye Fall series**
by Fabrice Monteiro (1972 –)
Senegal, Yoff. 2012
- 5 **Zar Possession**
by Theo Eshetu (1958 –)
Video installation, 2018
Installation created by Theo Eshetu for the MEG





Arc-en-ciel sur le monastère Namgyal Tsemo perché sur son éperon rocheux.

© Claude Maillard

Ladakh ^{1/3}

Au cœur de l'Himalaya

Longtemps resté inconnu pour des raisons politiques et géographiques, retiré du monde, le Ladakh ne s'est ouvert au tourisme qu'en 1974, préservant ainsi une culture bouddhique unique et authentique.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Blotti au pied des deux plus hautes chaînes de montagnes du monde, celles de l'Himalaya au sud et du Karakoram au nord, le Ladakh, ancien royaume, est rattaché à l'Inde depuis 1833. Pris en étau entre la Chine et le Pakistan, il occupe une position stratégique cruciale. Traversé par l'Indus qui a pris sa source au Tibet, le Ladakh est principalement composé de plateaux désertiques situés aux altitudes comprises entre 2500 et 5000 mètres, dominés par de hauts sommets culminant à plus de 7000 mètres.

Après une première approche du Ladakh en 2013 (Voir le numéro 732 du UNSpecial), fasciné par ce pays, par son peuple si chaleureux et accueillant, par ses paysages hallucinants et par sa sérénité idéale pour se ressourcer, il me paraissait

évident d'y retourner. La multitude de sentiers escarpés qui relient les vallées entre elles et qui permettent d'accéder aux villages isolés offre aux passionnés de trek la possibilité de s'en donner à cœur joie.

Il y a cinq ans, nos amis ladakhis de «Adventure Tours» (www.adventure-tours.in) nous avaient concocté un trek d'une quinzaine de jours permettant de rallier la vallée de la Shyok à celle de l'Indus, de Patsathang à Domkhar, en franchissant le Tia-La, col de près de 5400 mètres d'altitude. Nous n'étions qu'à une trentaine de kilomètres de la frontière avec le Pakistan et la tension entre les deux pays était palpable.

Cette fois-ci, c'est à l'ouest de Leh, la capitale du Ladakh, que notre périple va nous emmener. Likir, village qui naguère se trouvait sur un axe commercial



© Claude Maillard

Venues de la campagne, ces femmes ont fait le déplacement à Leh pour vendre leurs maigres récoltes.

important, en sera le point de départ. Mais une période d'acclimatation sera nécessaire avant de nous lancer à l'assaut des hauts sommets himalayens.

Retour au Ladakh

L'aéroport Kushok Bakula Rimpoche de Leh situé à 3520 mètres d'altitude en fait l'un des aéroports commerciaux les plus hauts au monde. Même si sa piste vient d'être considérablement rallongée, l'atterrissage y est toujours aussi spectaculaire. Après avoir survolé le Stok Tengri au sommet enneigé qui culmine à 6121 mètres, le commandant de bord doit effectuer une périlleuse manœuvre pour pouvoir s'aligner correctement sur la piste. Âmes sensibles s'abstenir!

Comme d'habitude, Renée nous attend sur le tarmac et nous accueille toujours avec autant d'enthousiasme par des «djule

«djule» (bonjour) en nous souhaitant la bienvenue. Depuis vingt ans, cette inconditionnelle du Ladakh qui habite à Genève organise des voyages dans ce pays qui lui tient tellement à cœur et qu'elle se fait un plaisir de faire découvrir (furrer.renee@bluewin.ch).

Nous sommes loin de l'agitation et de la chaleur étouffante de Delhi que nous venons de quitter après y avoir fait escale. Avec sa population avoisinant les 30 000 habitants, Leh, établie dans la plus grande oasis du Ladakh, est en effet 700 fois moins peuplée que la capitale de l'Inde. Vestige de l'époque où le Ladakh était indépendant, l'imposant palais royal édifié en contrebas du monastère Namgyal Tsemo domine la ville. Construit au début du XVII^e siècle, à l'époque où le roi du Ladakh régnait sur la quasi-totalité du Tibet occidental,

le palais est un exemple remarquable d'architecture monumentale, au même titre que le Potala de Lhassa bâti par le cinquième dalaï-lama. Le Potala fut le lieu de résidence principal des dalaï-lamas successifs jusqu'à la fuite du 14^e et actuel dalaï-lama en Inde après le soulèvement tibétain de 1959.

La situation géographique de Leh faisait naturellement d'elle un centre privilégié d'échanges commerciaux sur la voie de communication reliant le Cachemire à l'Asie centrale. Les caravanes qui venaient de Russie, de Kachgarie et du Turkestan se rejoignaient à Khotan avant d'atteindre Leh.

Au fil de l'Indus

La période d'acclimatation à l'altitude est consacrée à la visite de quelques monastères édifiés dans la vallée de l'Indus. Dès le lever du soleil, le

thermomètre grimpe rapidement et nous sommes aussitôt exténués par la chaleur. La forte augmentation des températures de ces dernières années fait que le Ladakh peut être de plus en plus considéré comme un véritable désert d'altitude. Dans certaines régions, la sécheresse se fait tellement sentir que l'on doit anticiper durant l'hiver en constituant des réserves de glace sous forme d'iceberg. Une fois les beaux jours revenus, elles fourniront de l'eau pour les habitants, le bétail et les cultures.

Le Ladakh abrite d'innombrables monastères et il n'est pas facile de faire son choix. Notre guide Kunkhen nous fera tout d'abord découvrir Matho, l'unique monastère de la secte de Sakyapa au Ladakh. Perché sur un éperon rocheux d'où le panorama sur la vallée de l'Indus est absolument



© Claude Maillard

L'imposant palais royal de Leh construit au début du XVII^e siècle.

remarquable, Matho est connu pour ses oracles, visionnaires et autres lévitants. Quelques moines en transe s'infligent divers maux, notamment en se tailladant la langue et effectuent des numéros d'équilibrisme sur le toit du monastère.

Considéré comme l'un des plus anciens monastères tibétains du Ladakh, Phyang a été fondé par le roi Jamyang Namgyal en vue d'y introduire l'ordre Digungpa. Arborant des tuniques richement décorées et des masques peints représentant la mythologie bouddhiste, des moines nous permettent d'assister aux danses sacrées effectuées dans la cour intérieure du monastère. Un instant inoubliable chargé d'émotions...

A une vingtaine de kilomètres de Leh, le monastère de Thiksay est le plus grand complexe monacal du Ladakh. Datant du XV^e siècle, il s'étage sur douze niveaux qui couvrent la totalité de la colline sur laquelle il est construit. Accessibles par une succession de portails, quatre

temples peuvent être visités: deux dédiés à Maitreya (dont un qui abrite une immense statue de Maitreya, le Bouddha de l'avenir), un à Duskhang et un à Gonkhang. Il s'agit de l'un des monastères les plus actifs de la région; il héberge une communauté de 90 moines, principalement originaires du Zaskar, de la vallée de la Nubra et du Changtang.

Mais avant de gravir la colline, une visite dans l'échoppe de l'Amchi vous redonnera force et courage. Après consultation de ce spécialiste de la médecine traditionnelle tibétaine et prescription de différentes «croquettes» renfermées dans des centaines de bocaux étalés sur des étagères, vous serez à coup sûr guéris de tous vos problèmes de santé. Une adresse à conseiller située à l'entrée du monastère. En revanche, le plus dur restera à faire: avaler ces croquettes!

Notre périple à travers les montagnes himalayennes peut commencer. Prêts à affronter

des sommets dont l'altitude dépasse celle du Mont-Blanc, nous devons compter sur une solide équipe constituée de guides, de cuisiniers, de porteurs, de muletiers et d'aides. Parmi ceux-ci, la toute jeune Diskit dont ce sera la première expérience dans ce milieu essentiellement réservé aux hommes. Mais avant cela, il va falloir convaincre son père de bien vouloir laisser sa fille nous accompagner. Nous prenons la route pour Ney, petit village situé à une heure de Leh. C'est ici qu'habite la famille de Diskit...

Suite de l'aventure à suivre dans le prochain numéro du *UN Special* ■

JALA – The Dance of Water: culture as a tool for sustainable action

MIHIKA ACHARYA, UNOG

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit – officially came into force. Over the next 15 years, countries will mobilize efforts around these new universal Goals to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. As a major operational hub of the international system, Geneva brings together many actors who play a key role in implementing the SDGs, using sustainable methods and traditional knowledge to break through cultural barriers and implement ecologically sound, durable practices. Sujatha Venkatesh, Artistic Director of Omkara, School of Indian Dance, Geneva, uses dance as a tool for sustainability.

In her latest production, she uses the oldest Indian classical dance form to portray the problematic role of water in mankind's quest for survival. Promoting the sustainable use of water, proceeds from "Jala – The Dance of Water" will go to "Swiss Helvetas Intercooperation" and "Nanhi Kali" which works in water infrastructure and the education of girls in India and Bangladesh.

The production will tour Switzerland in October, supported by the Permanent Mission of India (Geneva) and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). The tour will be held in collaboration with Omkara and its students and Switzerland

will play host to some of India's most accomplished dancers and musicians in a performance of one of the oldest classical dances of the subcontinent, Bharatanatyam. Perhaps the oldest classical Indian dance form, it is a style of dance that is noted for its percussive footwork, sophisticated vocabulary of hand gestures, facial expressions and eye movements. It is performed with legs bent at the knee, similar to a deep plié in ballet. Originally performed in temples, it is considered to be the corporal manifestation of the element of fire. The Shiva temple of Kanchipuram, a city in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, that is decorated with carvings dating back to a period between 6th to 9th centuries CE manifests the development of this dance form by around the mid first millennium CE. Many ancient Hindu temples are embellished with sculptures of Lord Shiva in Bharatanatyam dance poses.

The theme of water or "jala" which is both the onomatopoeic sound of a gushing stream and the Sanskrit word for water, sets the scene for this unique production, sharing in the concerns around the misuse of water, an enthusiastic team of reputed musicians from Bengaluru, India was assembled and commissioned to compose a unique, evocative and innovative musical score. To bring ideas together coherently, a script was crafted to ensure that the music composed effectively communicates the message, delivers maximum impact and transports audiences on a journey that is both enchanting and deeply relevant.



"Alapadma", a hand gesture or "mudra" in the Bharatanatyam vocabulary here symbolises flowers blossoming and the birth of water.

From religion to industry to everyday life, Jala looks at how water connects us all together through cleverly conceptualized Bharatanatyam sequences choreographed by Sujatha Venkatesh, Artistic director of Omkara, School of Indian Dance and Padmini Upadhy, dancer and collaborator from Bengaluru, India.

"Jala – The Dance of Water" has been choreographed in the South Indian Classical style of Bharatanatyam interspersed with Indian folk dances and martial arts to effectively communicate the different roles water inhabits in our daily lives – be it a deity to be worshipped, a medium for transport, a tool for agriculture, or a source for healing. ■

"Jala – The Dance of Water" will be performed in Geneva, Bern and Zurich in mid-October.

Geneva – 12 October – WIPO at 18h 34, Chemin des Colombettes, 1211 Geneva

Geneva – 19 October – Cité Bleue at 18h30
46, Avenue de Miremont, 1206 Geneva

Bern – 21 October – Théâtre Am Kaefigturm at 17h
4, Spitalgasse, 3011 Bern

Zurich – 26 October – Aula Rämibühl at 17h30
56 Rämistrasse, 8001 Zürich

À vos agendas

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

Festival JazzContreBand

Du 1^{er} au 30 Octobre

Événement phare dans le paysage culturel franco-suisse. Au-delà d'un festival dédié au jazz, c'est un réseau de 29 salles de spectacles en France et en Suisse avec cette année 63 concerts, des jams, des masterclass... etc.

Informations

<http://www.jazzcontreband.com>

Festival Chopin Genève 2018

Du 3 au 11 octobre

Cette année le Festival Chopin 2018 apporte son lot de nouveautés avec un Festival itinérant qui vous fera découvrir divers endroits phares de la scène genevoise. Nous ne doutons pas que la richesse du programme sera à votre goût.

Informations

www.societe-chopin.ch

ANIMATOU - Festival International du film d'animation à Genève

Du 5 au 13 Octobre

Animatou invite tous les publics de cinéma d'animation à combler leur désir de découvertes, de rencontres et de discussions. En marge des sections compétitives suisses et internationales et des programmes hors compétition, il y aura une animation suisse au Musée d'Ethnographie de Genève, où seront célébrés les 50 ans du Groupement suisse d'animation (GSFA).

Informations

<http://animatou.com/ABAK>

Théâtre Forum de Meyrin

Les saisons du TFM se déclinent dans une quarantaine de spectacles de théâtre, danse, cirque, musique classique ou actuelle.

11-12 Octobre

Cirque «Terabak de Kyiv» (cabaret de Kiev), un spectacle aux accents festifs

30-31 Octobre

Théâtre «Le triomphe de l'amour», Denis Podalydès s'approprie les mots de Marivaux qui décortique l'amour pour en comprendre les rouages.

6 décembre

Concert du TRIO JOUBRAN, la musique des frères Joubran incarne l'âme lyrique de tout le Moyen-Orient, avec ses arabesques foisonnantes en quarts de ton.

Informations

<http://www.forum-meyrin.ch/>

Théâtre de Carouge

Pour la majorité des spectacles le Théâtre de Carouge propose deux dates de surtitrage (En français ou en anglais). Le surtitrage (ou sous-titrage) en français est spécialement adapté aux spectateurs sourds et malentendants.

13-14 octobre

Portes ouvertes, découvrez en avant première La Cuisine en compagnie de l'équipe du théâtre

Informations

<http://tcag.ch/>

La Comédie de Genève

Théâtre de création, la Comédie de Genève propose des spectacles d'aujourd'hui qui parlent de qui nous sommes et écrivent notre histoire.

Du 29 octobre au 3 novembre

«What if they went to Moscow», d'après «Les Trois Sœurs» de Anton Tchekhov. En portugais surtitré français et anglais

Informations

<http://www.comedie.ch/>

Festival international du film de Genève (GIFF)

Du 2 au 10 Novembre

24^e édition du GIFF. Le Festival genevois consacré au cinéma, à la télévision et au digital, aura pour thème cette année le transrèel. «Le transrèel, c'est le monde dans lequel nous vivons aujourd'hui», explique Emmanuel Cuénod, directeur artistique et général du GIFF. «A savoir cet espace étrange, déconcertant, où cohabitent sur un même plan réalité physique et réalité virtuelle.». Au menu, plus d'une centaine de films, séries et œuvres numériques en premières suisses. Sans compter aussi des soirées, des projets spéciaux, des rencontres avec plus de deux cents invités et une pluie de surprises.

Informations

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

Les Automnales

Du 2 au 11 Novembre

Avec plus de 10 ans d'existence et plus de 140 000 visiteurs chaque année, les Automnales proposent un programme d'animations et de temps forts pour les amoureux des animaux, accros aux nouvelles tendances, gourmands et fans de sports, éternels enfants et joyeux parents, férus de bonnes affaires et grands curieux.

Informations

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

Semaine pour la Paix de Genève

Du 5 au 9 Novembre

Une initiative collective organisée par l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève (ONUG), l'Institut de Hautes Etudes Internationales et du Développement et la Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, en collaboration avec la Confédération suisse. En synchronisant durant une semaine des réunions sur différents sujets liés à la promotion de la paix, la Semaine pour la Paix de Genève maximise les synergies entre les organisations sises à Genève et met en avant la nature transversale de la paix.

Informations

<http://www.genevapeaceweek.ch/>

Save the date

Festival JazzContreBand

From 1 to 30 October

JazzContreBand Festival is the result of cross-border dynamics. Beyond a festival dedicated to jazz, it is a network of 29 theatres in France and Switzerland. This year there will be 63 concerts, jams and master-classes.

Informations

<http://www.jazzcontreband.com>

2018 Chopin Festival

From 3 to 11 October

This year the 2018 Chopin Festival will bring a lot of novelties such as a travelling festival that will make you discover various key locations of the Geneva scene. There is no doubt that you will appreciate the richness of the programme

Informations

<https://www.societe-chopin.ch/index.php/en/>

ANIMATOU - International Animation Film Festival in Geneva

From 5 to 13 October

Animatou invites animation cinema audiences to come and enjoy their fill of discoveries, encounters, and discussions. In addition to the Swiss and international competitions and out-of-competition screenings, there will be a Swiss animation at Geneva's Museum of Ethnography, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Animation Film Group (GSFA).

Informations

<http://animatou.com/>

Meyrin Theatre (TFM)

The seasons of the TFM are divided in around forty shows of theatre, dance, circus, classical or contemporary music.

October 11-12

The "Terabak de Kyiv" (Kiev Cabaret). Circus, a very festive performance.

October 30-31

The "The triumph of love", a play in which Denis Podalydès makes his own the words of Marivaux who dissects love to understand how it works.

December 6

"Trio Joubran concert". Their music embodies the lyrical soul of the Middle East, with its arabesques abounding in quarter-tones.

Informations

<http://www.forum-meyrin.ch/>

Théâtre de Carouge

Each season, the Théâtre de Carouge runs subtitled shows in English. Foreign-language spectators, as well as spectators with hearing impairments, may now fully enjoy performances. Check out the date(s) and enjoy the plays.

October 13-14

Open days. Sneak preview of the play La Cuisine with the theatre team.

Informations

<http://tcag.ch/informations-pratiques/english-1819/>

The Comédie de Genève

As a creative theatre, the Comédie de Genève proposes contemporary shows talking about who we are and our stories.

October 29 to November 3

"What if they went to Moscow" a show inspired by Anton Chekhov's play "the three sisters". The show is in Portuguese with French and English subtitles.

Informations

<http://www.comedie.ch/>

Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF)

From 2 to 10 November

The 24th edition of the Geneva Festival will be held from November 2nd to 10th. Reality/transreality will be the theme of this year's GIFF edition, "Transreality is the world we live in today, says GIFF Artistic and General Director Emmanuel Cuénod. That is to say a strange, disconcerting place where physical and virtual reality coexist." There will be more than one hundred films, series and digital works in Swiss premières as well as parties, special projects, meetings with more than 200 guests and many surprises.

Informations

<https://www.giff.ch/en/>

The Autumnal (Les Automnales)

From 2 to 11 November

With more than 10 years of existence and more than 140,000 visitors each year the Autumnal offers a programme of animations and highlights for animal lovers, addicted to new trends, gourmets, sports fans, eternal children, parents, fond of bargains and great curious, visitors and newcomers.

Informations

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

Geneva Peace Week 2018

From 5 to 9 November

Geneva Peace Week is a collective action initiative facilitated by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, and the Geneva Peace-building Platform in collaboration with the Swiss Confederation. By synchronizing meetings and events on different topics related to the promotion of peace during one week, Geneva Peace Week maximizes synergies between organizations in Geneva, focused on the cross-cutting nature of peace. This year, Geneva Peace Week emphasizes the urgency of finding peaceful solutions for the growing risks of violent conflict, building on the lessons from history and the needs for future peace-building practice.

Informations

<http://www.genevapeaceweek.ch/>

Gothic Geneva and Vampires

KEVIN CRAMPTON, WHO

In 1816, when the planet suffered the volcanic winter known as the “Year Without a Summer”, the English poet Lord Byron (described by his jilted lover Lady Caroline Lamb as “mad, bad and dangerous to know”) travelled to Geneva to escape scandal back in England.

Confined to the rented Villa Diodati in Cologny by the rain and gloom, Byron challenged his assembled friends to each write a ghost story to pass the time. This led, most famously, to Mary Shelley’s “Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus”.

Less well known is that Byron began and abandoned a story entitled “Fragment of a Novel” which was subsequently taken up and completed as “The Vampyre” by his personal physician John William Polidori, a 21-year-old, medical Doctor of Scots-Italian descent who was travelling with Byron and had literary ambitions of his own.

Polidori was the eldest of eight children and had been the youngest person to complete a medical degree in Edinburgh with a treaty on somnambulism. At the time, a doctor was not allowed to practice medicine until 25 years of age and so the newly-qualified medic hunted around for a way to make a living and was recommended by a mutual friend in to Byron’s service.

Byron’s fame (and infamy) was already considerable by 1816 and Polidori was offered 500 English Pounds to keep a diary of his travels with the celebrated poet. Published in 1911, the diary gives a fascinating day-by-day account of

their travels from England to Switzerland and hints at the animosity that Polidori began to harbour towards his employer.

The source of this tension was partly Byron’s arrogant self-assured sense of his own genius. In one instance, Polidori showed one of his plays “Cajetan” to Byron and his friends before they took ship at Dover and became a figure of fun as they rather tore it apart.

Just before reaching Geneva, the rift had grown wider and while sitting overlooking the Rhine, Polidori demanded of Byron,

“What is there, except writing poetry, that I cannot do better than you?” To which Byron casually replied,

“First, I can hit with a pistol the keyhole of that door. Secondly, I can swim across that river to yonder point and thirdly, I can give you a damned good thrashing!” Polidori slipped away to sulk. Things were no better in Geneva and Polidori complained that Byron was lionised while he was largely ignored by the society people they met.

Around mid-May, Byron had issued his famous ghost story-writing challenge to his assembled friends and Byron began and then abandoned a short story about vampires. He shared an outline of the plot with Polidori but the good Doctor was dismissed from Byron’s service at the end of the summer – apparently, his behaviour became more and more irksome. Polidori famously challenged Percy Shelley to a duel after the latter beat him in

a sailing race on Lake Geneva, but backed down when Byron offered to step in and happily shoot his Physician!

It was sometime in the following year that Polidori completed Byron’s fragment since, in 1819, a story called “The Vampyre” was published in the *New Monthly Magazine* in London but it appeared without Polidori’s permission. Much to the Doctor’s great annoyance, the work was wrongly attributed as a new story by Byron’s and Goethe even called it the best short story that the poet had ever written!

“The Vampyre” is notable as it’s the first work that synthesises our modern image of the vampire as suave, sophisticated, irresistible and seductive – setting the whole tone of the genre right through until today. Earlier folk tales of vampires (predominantly from South East Europe) had always portrayed them as undead corpses, risen to renew their life force with fresh blood.

Polidori’s vampire was Lord Ruthven, a charming and dangerous English nobleman who takes a naïve young man, Aubrey, into his service and travels across Europe with him, seducing and killing pretty peasant girls along the way. Lord Ruthven dies in Aubrey’s arms while swearing the young hero not to reveal the death for one year. Upon returning to England, Aubrey learns that his beloved sister is engaged to be married and that his future brother in law is the same Lord Ruthven returned from the grave. Aubrey’s sister is discovered dead and drained of blood on her wedding night and Aubrey has a mental breakdown.

The parallels with Polidori’s travels with Byron are striking (at one point in the diary for example, Polidori recalls how Byron “fell like a thunderclap” on a pretty chambermaid at Ostend) but the choice of the name Lord Ruthven leaves no doubt on whom Polidori modelled his charming vampire. Lord Ruthven had been the name of the main character in Lady Caroline’s Lamb 1816 novel “Glenarvon” (written just after Byron had brutally ended their relationship) as a thinly-veiled and distinctly unflattering portrayal of her “mad, bad and dangerous” ex-lover.

The story of Lord Ruthven and Aubrey would have one final, chilling parallel in real life. When the story was published in 1819 and wrongly attributed to Byron, Polidori began a legal battle to reclaim it as his work and even Byron publicly declared that the story was not his. Polidori was paid just 30 Pounds for the story and with mounting gambling debts and spiraling depression he committed suicide in 1821, aged 25, by drinking prussic acid (cyanide) – arguably another victim that the charming and dangerous Byron left in his wake.

“The Vampyre” laid the literary foundation stone for everything that came after, from Bram Stoker’s “Dracula” (which has forever associated Transylvania in Romania with the vampire legends) to Anne Rice’s novels, “Twilight” and “Buffy”. A whole genre of fiction spun out of a fragmented tale, scribbled by Byron as a plaything one evening in Geneva and picked up and completed by the ambitious, young but ultimately tragic figure of his Doctor. ■

Message du rédacteur en chef

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

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

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

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

Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à :

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Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Suisse
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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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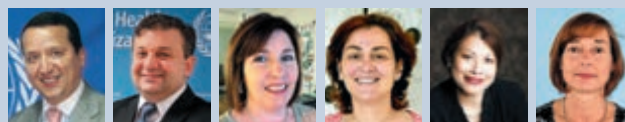
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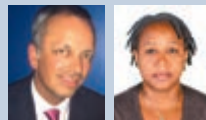
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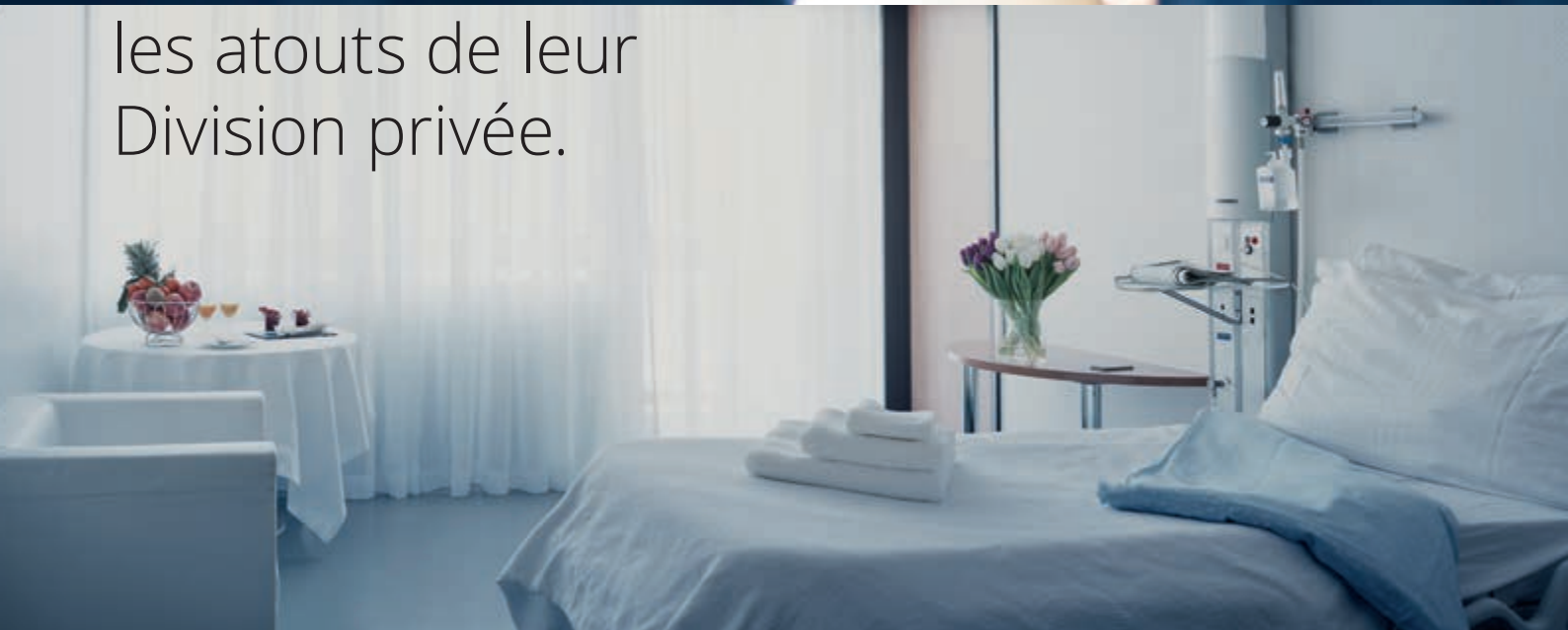
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