

UN Special

Sustainable Development Goals

Where are we now?



N°773 - OCTOBER 2017

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The role of the private sector in implementing the SDGs

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Permanent Representative of Canada



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UN staff simulating the Sustainable Development Goals logo at the Palais des Nations in Geneva



ALEXANDER MEJIA

Rédacteur en chef / Editor-in-chief

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The 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have galvanized the United Nations, but there is still much to do. We are now focused on monitoring, follow-up, and review mechanisms, and especially on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) undertaken by governments each year at the UN High-Level Political Forum. We invite you to glance at our centerfold to see the exact status in terms of reviews. You will also find an article on the role of the private sector in implementing the SDGs, as well as a piece on the UN Decade of Action for Nutrition and its linkages with the Agenda.

Our magazine is always open to contributions from the Permanent Missions. This month, we welcome an article from the Mission of the Republic of the Philippines on the 50th anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Golden Jubilee recently celebrated in Geneva. We are also thankful to the Permanent Representative of Canada for allowing us to interview her to learn more about her work.

UN Special would also like to recognize the impeccable performance of UNOG interpreters and translators. They play a critical role in the Division of Conference Management, and we appreciate their work. In this edition, you may read about the intricacies and challenges of their job, as well as its enormous impact on the work of the UN.

We also feature pieces on training for electoral practitioners, cyberattacks as methods of warfare, hierarchy at the UN, equalizing access to UN internships, and Rotary Day 2017. On the travel side, you will find here an article by our own Veronica Reimer on her mountaineering exploits in the heart of Sydney Harbor, as well as the latest installment of Claude Maillard's portrait of the canal du Midi. Happy reading! ■

The official magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization

Le Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et ses objectifs de développement durable (ODD) ont galvanisé l'ONU, mais il reste encore beaucoup à faire. Nous sommes désormais concentrés sur les mécanismes de surveillance, suivi et examen, et plus particulièrement sur les examens nationaux volontaires entrepris chaque année par les gouvernements lors du Forum politique de haut niveau des Nations Unies à New York. Nous vous invitons à consulter notre page centrale pour en savoir davantage. Vous trouverez également un article sur le rôle du secteur privé dans la mise en œuvre des ODD, et un autre sur la Décennie d'action des Nations Unies pour la nutrition et ses liens avec le Programme.

Notre magazine est toujours ouvert aux contributions des Missions permanentes. Ce mois-ci, nous proposons un article de la Mission de la République des Philippines sur le 50^e anniversaire de l'Association des nations de l'Asie du Sud-Est et le jubilé d'or récemment célébré à Genève. Nous remercions également la Représentante permanente du Canada de nous avoir permis de l'interviewer sur son travail.

UN Special tient aussi à saluer les prestations irréprochables des interprètes et traducteurs de l'ONUG. Ils jouent un rôle essentiel à la Division de la gestion des conférences, et leur travail est apprécié. Dans ce numéro, vous trouverez des informations sur la complexité de leur travail et sur son impact à l'échelle des Nations Unies. Nous vous proposons également des articles sur la formation des praticiens électoraux, les cyberattaques comme méthodes de guerre, la hiérarchie à l'ONU, l'égalité d'accès aux stages à l'ONU et la Journée du Rotary 2017. Côté voyages, vous trouverez un article de Veronica Reimer sur ses exploits d'alpiniste au cœur du port de Sydney, ainsi que le dernier épisode du portrait de Claude Maillard sur le canal du Midi. Bonne lecture! ■

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



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An All-Hands-On-Deck Approach

The role of the private sector in implementing the SDGs

UN Member States have adopted a myriad of visionary landmark agreements that will shape the future of tomorrow and of generations to come. In that light, the United Nations General Assembly is giving priority to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

NIKHIL SETH, UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Agenda is an umbrella agreement, that embeds all actors and aspects of society. Through its holistic approach, it reconciles and weaves together human, economic and social aspirations, environmental concerns, and the desire for more equal, peaceful, and just societies around the globe. The broad scope of the new Agenda represents a shared vision for humanity and a blueprint for a sustainable world to be realised by 2030.

A shadow of uncertainty with respect to our common future, is however cast by the current climate of extreme instability and volatility. Humankind finds itself confronted with unprecedented challenges including economic and environmental constraints, natural disasters, high demands on political and financial stability, and dramatic refugee emergencies. It is in this context that responsible and responsive leadership is needed more than ever, to channel the intentions of our ambitious international agreements on sustainable development, climate change and others, into concrete actions and solutions that affect the lives and livelihoods of people on the ground.

The underlying principles of the Agenda include the need for strengthened partnerships, whole of government and society approaches, leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest first. Leadership will come from our conventional leaders, as well as those considered not so conventional. We will need an all-hands-on deck approach!

I am with others in emphasising that the ambitious goals enshrined in global agreements will not be met without the energetic engagement and proactive commitment of the private sector. The participation of business representatives was crucial in conceptualizing the 2030 Agenda, and will remain crucial throughout all phases of its implementation.

The transformational power of global cooperation, partnerships and solidarity offers infinite possibilities, and I believe the UN has a pivotal role to play in accelerating and facilitating such opportunities, including through public-private sector engagement. The private sector has substantial contributions to make to each of the five pillars of sustainable development laid out by the Agenda: Prosperity, Peace, Planet, People, and



Partnerships. I hereby present just a few examples.

From large multinationals to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), the private sector has the potential to drive equitable economic growth, deliver local and decent employment, women's empowerment, education and skills development opportunities, production of sustainable goods, as well as to drive investments in research and development (R&D). Through sustained R&D investments, private companies and industries may spearhead the development and promotion of innovative technologies that may in turn drive energy efficiency, renewable energy production and consumption, energy storage, green building and sustainable transportation.

In striving for peace, the private sector can champion more peaceful, just and inclusive societies by acting as an overall stabilizing force. Businesses can create stable livelihoods and represent channels through which marginalized communities may receive further education, training, and skills. Education and economic prosperity are long-term enablers of societies committed to deterring violent extremism, resettling refugees, and tackling underlying causes of displacement.

As a significant partner in delivering on humanitarian action, the private sector also makes its contribution to the cause of peace. The private sector shares with governments and international organisations a

common responsibility to invest in local institutions to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and mitigate disasters, and thus has a strong incentive to build cross-society partnerships for these purposes.

To protect the planet from degradation, business' role in mitigating climate change, natural disasters and risks, as well as both current and foreseeable water and food shortage crises cannot be underestimated. There are already plenty of examples of such commitment, such as Chanel's partnership with ACTED to deliver gender-sensitive humanitarian relief in the wake of hurricane Matthew in Haiti; PepsiCo's financial contribution to tackling food insecurity in Libya; or Netafim's work in the field of sustainable agriculture and water treatment in arid areas worldwide.

Examples of the private sector's participation in these initiatives are abundant, and show clearly how win-win results that serve social, environmental and commercial interests can be achieved. Business may also be expected to fill the funding gap that is left open by inadequate public financial investment, and business is demonstrating how it may devise and engage creatively with innovative sources of funding, such as green bonds, global funds, carbon markets and other financial instruments including ways to innovatively source the financing for new MSMEs (e.g. mobile banking).

It must be emphasised that private sector should not be



“A key to success will be innovation. We must unite public and private investors around new concepts, solutions and instruments, and we need to do so at scale. I am speaking here of addressing major issues such as health, food, water, sanitation, education, women's empowerment – and, of course, infrastructure. The world has the resources to deliver the 2030 Agenda. Let us liberate them and deliver them to where they are needed most.”

Antonio Guterres¹

seen solely as an investor and financial resource provider. Its potential to leverage public sector finance and resources, as a partner in delivering change, sharing the responsibility for pursuing sustainable development pathways and sharing ownership of the Future We Want, is unequivocal, and we must support business which

upholds equitable, human rights, environmental and sustainability standards.

The UN Global Compact constitutes a consortium of companies committed to implementing human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption principles. UNITAR is working with the UN Global Compact,



other UN Agencies and the Geneva Chamber of Commerce, to strengthen private sector's commitment to Agenda 2030 and build awareness of the opportunities presented by public-private partnerships, including the sharing of best practices. UNITAR recognises that awareness raising and training will be an essential component to fostering new partnerships and development pathways. We have found that examples of effective private sector engagement are many, and must be better communicated and hence further multiplied.

In looking to the months ahead, UNITAR and UNOG look forward to welcoming the President of Microsoft Corporation, Mr. Brad Smith, to Geneva for the Geneva Lecture Series on 9 November 2017. We hope you will be able to join us! ■

1 UN Secretary General, 18 September 2017, Remarks at UN Private Sector Forum



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Nikhil Seth, UN ASG and Executive Director of UNITAR.

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UN decade of action on nutrition

A unique opportunity for SDG achievement

Combating malnutrition in all its forms is one of the greatest global health challenges. Influenced by economic and income growth, urbanization and globalization, a significant shift in the quality and quantity of human diets and nutrition-related epidemiology has occurred in the past few decades.

ALESSANDRO DEMAIO, LINA MAHY AND FRANCESCO BRANCA¹

Nutrition and associated epidemiological and demographic transitions were once accepted as near-linear, gradual processes. Instead, countries are now experiencing a fast-evolving and more complex nutrition paradigm.

Today, nearly one in three persons globally suffers from at least one form of malnutrition: wasting, stunting, vitamin and mineral deficiency, overweight or obesity and diet-related NCDs. In 2014, approximately 462 million adults worldwide were underweight, while 1.9 billion were either overweight or obese. In 2016, an estimated 41 million children under the age of 5 years were overweight

or obese, while 155 million were chronically undernourished. Nutrition-related factors contribute to approximately 45% of deaths in children aged under 5 years (mainly due to undernutrition), while low- and middle-income countries are now witnessing a simultaneous rise in childhood overweight and obesity (Figure 1).

The developmental, economic, social and medical impacts of this global burden of malnutrition are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries.

The global double burden – an opportunity for double returns

This coexistence of seemingly contrasting and confounding

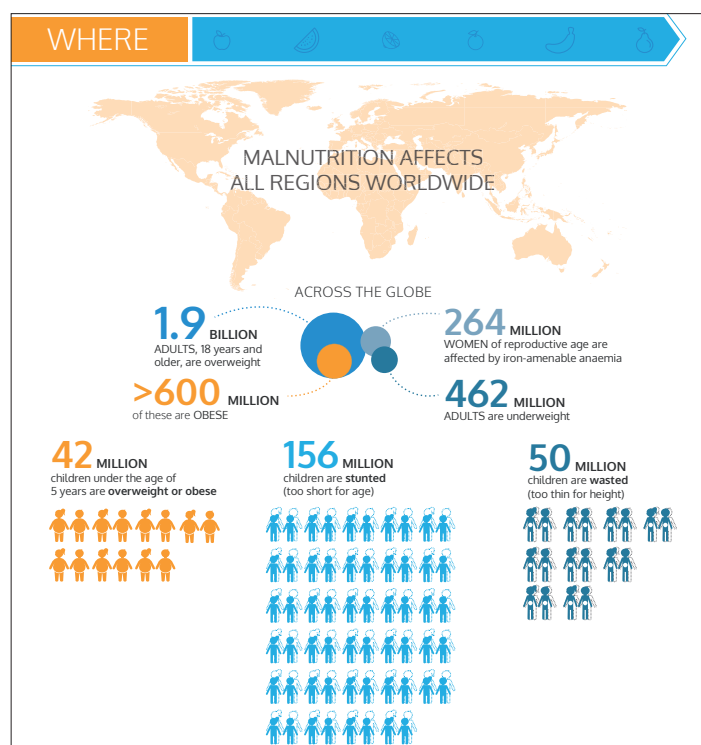


Figure 1: Global burden of malnutrition



Figure 3: Action Areas of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition

- Promotion of appropriate early and complementary feeding in infants;
- Regulations on marketing;
- School food policies and programmes.

Nutrition and the SDGs

While SDG 2 focuses specifically on ending all forms of malnutrition, the cross-cutting nature of nutrition including diets and food systems offers win-win opportunities for the achievement of almost every SDG (Figure 2). The process and outcome of ending malnutrition will have significant benefits for all aspects of sustainable development.

The UN Decade of Action on Nutrition: a window of opportunity for better nutrition

To further intensify action to end hunger and eradicate all forms of malnutrition

worldwide, on 1 April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming a *United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition* from 2016 to 2025. This Nutrition Decade aims to ensure universal access to healthier and more sustainable diets – for all people, wherever they are and wherever they live.

Focused across six key areas for action (Figure 3) and reflecting both the ambitions of the SDGs and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) Framework for Action, the Nutrition Decade will provide a platform for country-driven SMART commitments towards the shared goal of ending malnutrition by 2030.

In addition and under the Nutrition Decade, countries interested to move forward on

a specific topic will be encouraged to establish and lead Action Networks. These are groups of countries with shared policy and programme ambitions and will catalyze further leadership, knowledge sharing, and action. Norway has set the example of leading an action network on Sustainable Food from the Ocean for Food Security and Nutrition.

WHO Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016-2025

In the context of both the Nutrition Decade and the SDGs, WHO has developed a new, comprehensive nutrition strategic framework, WHO Ambition and Action in Nutrition 2016-2025.

This strategic document commits WHO, the UN health agency, to work with countries to ensure health through access to sustainable, healthy diets. Our dedication to universal access of healthy and sustainable diets recognizes the central and fundamental role of healthy diets at all stages of life, as well as the importance of sustainable environments and food systems in achieving the nutrition targets as recognized by the ICN2.

WHO's core goal for sustainable food systems, as outlined by the Ambition and Action in Nutrition, is to: "Define healthy, sustainable diets and guide the identification and use of effective nutrition interventions." With this goal, WHO is responsible for defining healthy, sustainable diets that not only ensure the prevention of all forms of malnutrition and diet-related NCDs throughout the life course, but also are compatible with planetary health. This audacious goal requires developing national policies that incorporate both international and local contexts in order to ensure effective interventions that do not

unintentionally harm local populations and cultures. Additionally, as global guidelines for sustainable diets are not yet defined, WHO will be challenged to clearly articulate and measure their goals in a fairly new field in nutrition.

Specifically, this new strategy commits WHO to:

1. Improve efficiency and transparency of the guideline development process;
2. Maintain and expand the guidance development groups;
3. Strengthen and expand guideline dissemination processes;
4. Update integrated guidance (effective means to achieve global nutrition targets);
5. Strengthen the process of monitoring adoption and evaluating impact of guideline adoption and implementation;
6. Develop tools to facilitate policy implementation; and
7. Keep the three levels of the Organization up to date with new and revised guidance.

These actions can and will be delivered through a multisectoral approach. WHO has a role as a leader and catalyst for multisectoral action to ensure the development and proliferation of sustainable food systems. Through WHO's Ambition and Action in Nutrition, our agency is fit for purpose in its goal to end malnutrition in all its forms. ■

ARD, LM and FB are staff members of the World Health Organization. The authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication and they do not necessarily represent the official position, decisions, policy, or views of the World Health Organization.

1 Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, WHO

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H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh (7th from left), Secretary-General of ASEAN with the Permanent Representatives of ASEAN Missions to the UN in Geneva (from left): H.E. Sek Wannamethee (Thailand); H.E. Evan P Garcia (Philippines); H.E. Amran Mohamed Zin (Malaysia); H.E. Hasan Kleib (Indonesia); H.E. Dato Mahdi Rahman (Brunei Darussalam); H.E. Ney Samol (Cambodia); H.E. Khan-Inh Khitchadeth (Lao PDR); Chargé d'affaires a.i. (Ms.) Nitya Menon (Singapore); and H.E. Chi Dung Duong (Viet Nam). Other dignitaries are included in the picture.

Asean@50

A golden jubilee under the chairmanship of the Philippines

ASEAN was established in 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. The Founding Members aimed to “bind themselves together in friendship and cooperation” to promote peace and stability in the region and secure freedom and prosperity for their peoples.

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Brunei Darussalam joined in 1984, followed by Viet Nam in 1995, as well as Lao PDR and Myanmar in 1997. Cambodia joined in 1999, completing the ten member-states of ASEAN.

Since its establishment, ASEAN has become the cornerstone of regional accord and progress.

ASEAN has matured into a community that is centred on economic integration and growth, as well as consensus building, also known as the “ASEAN Way”.

The population of ASEAN was 628.9 million in 2016, or 8.7% of the world’s

population. ASEAN is now the world’s seventh-largest market and its third-largest labour force. It collectively became the third largest economy in Asia in 2015, with a combined GDP of US\$ 2.4 trillion. It is also projected to become the fourth-largest economic bloc by 2030, following the launch in 2015 of the ASEAN Economic Community, creating a single market for production, thus facilitating even closer economic, political, social, and cultural cooperation. Long before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ASEAN was already bound by a people-centred sustainable development agenda. In addition, ASEAN has put in place key platforms for political and security dialogue and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, including the ASEAN Regional Forum (established in 1994), which provides an inclusive venue for 26 countries, the EU and the United Nations for constructive dialogue and consultation on broad issues. It also helps promote confidence-building and preventive diplomacy in the region.

Coinciding with this golden jubilee year is the Philippines’ chairmanship of ASEAN. The Philippines sees the occasion as an invaluable opportunity to present ASEAN to the world, including International Geneva.



Ambassador Evan P. Garcia, Permanent Representative of the Philippines.

its efforts ultimately aim to better the lives of its peoples.

As Ambassador Evan P. Garcia, Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva and current Chair of the ASEAN Committee in Geneva (ACG), said: "In its 50 years of existence, it is very clear that ASEAN has stood for multilateralism. ASEAN reaffirms this belief, as well as its aspiration to deepen its global engagement, in this milestone year, as reflected in the theme of the Philippine chairmanship of ASEAN." ■

The theme under the Philippines' ASEAN chairmanship is "Partnering for Change, Engaging the World."

Since its last chairmanship ten years ago in 2006, the Philippines has built a legacy of promoting a caring and sharing community in ASEAN in areas like the rights and welfare of women, children, migrant workers, and vulnerable sectors; poverty eradication; environmental cooperation; and youth empowerment; among others. The Philippines helped draft the ASEAN Charter.

Under the chairmanship of the Philippines this year, the ASEAN Committee in Geneva (ACG) organized activities to mark the 50th anniversary of ASEAN.

A significant highlight of ACG's commemorative activities was the visit of the ASEAN Secretary-General H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, the first ever visit to International Geneva by a serving ASEAN Secretary-General.

The ASEAN Secretary-General graced the opening of the ASEAN@50 Photo Exhibit at the Palais des Nations on 12 September 2017. It portrays the aspiration of ASEAN to share One Vision, One Identity, One Community and unity in diversity.

ASEAN continues to be an outward-looking region. It has not only intensified cooperation with partner countries at the United Nations but has remained a key force in global efforts to combat terrorism, trafficking-in-persons, and illegal drugs, among other issues. It has people at its heart – a caring and sharing community – and all

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Fair, transparent and open elections are a key indicator for liberal democracies and a milestone for countries emerging from conflict. A new online programme has been developed to help to strengthen that capacity in the effort to achieve more inclusive and just societies.



Afghan voters at a polling centre in the capital, Kabul, on 5 April 2014.

EKATERINA SITNIKOVA AND ADAM KANE, UNITAR

“Democracy is an invaluable tool of nation-building and conflict resolution”, says **Mr. Henry Atem Oben**, Executive Director of the Centre for Democracy and Electoral Studies in Cameroon, whose professional goals include increasing the quality of electoral outcomes in Cameroon and across the African continent.

Regular, just, and transparent elections contribute to the empowerment of communities globally, while providing social groups and individuals with a voice, which ensures societal justice and cohesion. Supporting local actors in their attempts to enhance the quality of elections in their countries is a key component in the long-term strategy towards the achievement of more peaceful and just societies with stronger institutions – all part of the Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 16.

Some professionals working in the field of elections noted that the capacity of the local electoral management bodies (EMBs) were limited due to the lack of expertise, specifically in electoral policy and administration, and this was especially prominent in young democracies. *“Many people come to electoral work from the disciplines that are very far from it”,* says **Mr. Sylvester King**, Deputy Elections Supervisor in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. *“If each EMB had at least one staff member enrolled in a specialized programme on elections, we would be in an incomparably better position to deliver high quality service to our electorate”.*

Mr. King, an experienced professional in community development, is himself currently enrolled in the Master’s in Electoral Policy and Administration degree programme (MEPA), developed jointly by the United Nations Institute for Training

and Research (UNITAR), Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Italy, and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA). The programme is intended to meet the global structural demand for electoral expertise, and forms part of a broader initiative to promote sustainable peace and inclusivity in communities worldwide. MEPA is targeted at mid- to upper-level professionals, like Mr. Atem Oben and Mr. King, in order to provide them with skills needed to effectively assume specific roles in the area of electoral policy and administration.

The student body of MEPA is strikingly diverse with each student profile telling a unique story of civil duty and dedication to work for the betterment of their respective communities. Despite their diversity, all of the students are also inextricably united in their devotion towards the goal of achieving sustainable and

inclusive political systems. **Dr. Mulanda Juma**, an expert on peacebuilding, democracy and electoral policies in the Democratic Republic of Congo, works extensively with grass-roots organizations in an effort to prevent elections related violence, which he fears might occur during the upcoming general elections in his country. Holder of a doctoral degree in Politics, Human Rights and Sustainability and having a long-standing career in teaching, governance and peacebuilding, Dr. Juma enrolled in the MEPA programme because he felt the need to obtain a more in-depth education specifically in the field of electoral policy and administration in order to deepen his understanding and fulfil his future plans of improving elections – while at the same time transferring this knowledge to regional EMBs, universities and civil society in order to strengthen their capacity. He believes that, *“communities can only exercise*



Electoral workers conducting voter registration for the upcoming 2015 elections in Burundi.

their influence when they are knowledgeable enough about what to say and when to say it, and what is wrong with the current policies". He feels strongly that for political processes to be truly inclusive, civil society needs to have a stronger influence in the way that electoral policies are shaped.

As a legal analyst with the UNDP Malawi Electoral Cycle Support Project, Ms. Fatuma Silungwe represents local staff in the international team of experts, who are working in collaboration with the Malawi Electoral Commission to reform the country's electoral system. Ms. Silungwe explains that after joining UNDP two years ago, *"I discovered that elections were about much more than just dispute resolution, which I had been previously concentrating on, and becoming part*

of it required from me now a thorough understanding of the whole electoral framework". Ms. Silungwe notes that the MEPA curriculum equips her with transversal skills applicable to a wide range of contexts, communities and political systems, *"I have always been working at a local level, but I would like to make a contribution at the international one as well. MEPA has definitely helped me broaden my horizon and enabled me to provide competent advice on elections for any other country".*

"New solutions like the growing use of social media or online voting are radically redefining the landscape, they are redefining how people vote," says Mr. King, who believes in the effort to achieve inclusive societies, democratic governments must not only strive to

achieve high-quality electoral processes and institutions, but continuously maintain and update them as well. He stresses, *"Democracies are evolving. Since fair elections form the basis of democratic governance, those involved in electoral management should be really at the cutting edge".* Continuing, he adds, *"Championing innovative approaches in the area requires having access to the pool of the best practices and experiences from your colleagues all over the world".* Regarding this, Mr. King admits that peer learning – one of the basic elements of MEPA – is particularly enriching, *"Through learning from each other's experience, we can be truly innovative with lesser risks, which opens up great perspectives for all of us".*

Bringing together a dynamic learning community of teachers and students, the programme enables the creation of a partnerships and shared knowledge amongst the individual professionals. Mr. Henry Atem Oben highlighted this aspect of the MEPA programme, *"Where else can you learn firsthand about what is happening, for example, in the Georgian electoral system or about the use of marbles during the last elections in Gambia?"*

MEPA participants have already proven that whether in stable

or fragile communities, there are individuals and institutions who, with proper training, are willing to take the lead in promoting sustainable peace, inclusive and just societies. With support from UN institutions and their partners, societies can become closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with hopes to do so before 2030. The MEPA programme has already had several intakes of students and is gradually expanding. The one-year course is mainly delivered online with a short optional in-person component in Pisa, Italy, which students undertake while writing their final thesis. ■

More information about the degree programme can be found online at: <http://onlinelearning.unitar.org/masters-in-electoral-policy-and-administration>



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Conference on Disarmament meeting.

Interview with Rosemary McCarney Ambassador of Canada in Geneva

UN Special sat down with the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament, Rosemary McCarney, to learn more about Canada's global role and its relationships with the United Nations system organisations.

**Dr. GARRY ASLANYAN,
WHO, DEPUTY EDITOR**

First of all, tell us more about yourself and how long you been Canada's Permanent Representative? Do you read *UN Special*, if so, what do you like/dislike about it?

I've just had my second anniversary as Canada's Ambassador to the United Nations and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. These two years have passed very quickly because as everyone knows the pace in Geneva, across all of the UN agencies programmes and other organisations, is wonderfully relentless. I feel both honoured to be representing Canada and fortunate to be in this role which pulls on my background in law, academia, civil

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well the heart of the work in Geneva and the international civil servants and diplomats who are the face and energy of what makes Geneva such an important centre of global activism and progress.

What are the overall objectives and goals for Canada, and for you as the Ambassador, in Geneva?

For Canada, Geneva is an important capital for multilateralism and international diplomacy. Canadians are strong supporters and consumers of the multilateral principles and multilateral institutions. As a middle power and G7 member outward facing, we know that strong multilateral diplomacy is one of the most effective channels to articulate our values to international organisations, exert our influence and achieve our shared objectives. We know that only by working with other countries can we answer the needs of Canadians for a world where the rule of law is respected and human rights are honoured, economic progress is inclusive and the environment is protected. Canada has always looked to and supported multilateral institutions as a way of securing our place in the world and responding to the

society and business. I've learned a great deal about the Art of Diplomacy from my talented colleagues at the Canadian Mission and foreign missions in Geneva. But at its heart, diplomacy is about relationships of trust and confidence and being able to find your way through complex problems and to solutions to the issues we are confronted

with. What is wonderful about the work in Geneva is that I get to touch and work on the major challenges of our time, every single day.

I enjoy *UN Special* which always seems to tackle some of the issues that the diplomatic community is grappling with and reflects



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Expo 67, United-Nations Pavilion, on Notre-Dame Island, Montréal, Québec, Canada.

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legitimate aspirations of our own citizens, who come from all four corners of that world. Canada remains strongly committed to strengthening and supporting the work of the key multilateral institutions and agencies situated here in Geneva.

Canada has a long standing record of supporting the UN and its institutions. What can staff of UNOG and Geneva based agencies expect from Canada's leadership in the coming years?

Because Canada has a long standing record of supporting UNOG and its institutions, the UN staff and Geneva based agencies can count on Canada's assertion of the critical role of multilateralism in addressing the major challenges facing the world today. In Geneva, we have a talent pool that is second to none. For example, we have the formidable staffs at the World Health Organisation who work tirelessly to protect us from global health crises and set standards that benefit our daily lives. We have the courageous teams at UNHCR working tirelessly to respond to the largest ever population of refugees and displaced persons across the planet, offering support and protection to those made vulnerable through no fault of their own. We have the passionate staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights who remind us of the obligations that the world signed up to, in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War, of a world that respected the human rights of every person wherever located that are key to the prevention of atrocities. We have the dedicated staff at the International Labour Organisation that relentlessly pursues a world where decent work for everyone

is a reality in our time. In every corner of the 30 plus UN institutions and treaty bodies headquartered in Geneva, I find the unsung international civil servants who demonstrate extraordinary commitment for millions of individuals they will never meet.

All of the Geneva based treaty bodies and institutions in the UN and beyond can expect to see Canada being very clear and supportive both in its policies and investments. From our perspective, this includes: gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, an unequivocal commitment to diversity and inclusion the good governance and protection of human dignity in all parts of the world, inclusive economic growth and prosperity that works for everyone, and support and focus both at home and abroad on how to combat climate change and its disproportionate impact on those most vulnerable. What you have heard Canada speak of is also about working hard at home to ensure that Canada becomes a model for others so that we can demonstrate the importance and power of inclusive governance systems that enable all voices to be heard and for every person to be enabled to participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives.

The UNGA in New York focused on various issues, including political commitment to SDGs, what did Canada achieve at this meeting?

At the UNGA meetings in NY the Canadian delegation was led by our Prime Minister. This is a good indication of the high regard for which Canada holds the UN. Over the last two years, bringing world leaders

together in NY has resulted in significant milestones for the planet. In 2015, we agreed on a 15 year program of action – the Sustainable Development Goals and UNGA this year will be an important moment to do an early stock taking on how countries are aligning themselves to achieve the 2030 objectives of the SDGs, now only 13 years in front of us and counting. In 2016 the leaders of the world assembled in New York and signed the New York Declaration. The leaders in NY this year will most certainly be occupied by the continuing massive forced displacement of people in all parts of the world caused by climate and caused by conflict. Many of us in Geneva, NY and in capitals around the world are working very hard and fast to come back to NY in 2018 to sign a Global Compact on Refugees and a Global Compact on Migrants. UNGA 2017 this year is the mid-point of the commitments made in the NY Declaration and presents an opportunity for countries to share how they are implementing those commitments.

Would you like to add any additional thoughts and observations?

There are many who would say that UN institutions need to be dramatically reformed or that they are not able to respond to the major challenges of today. Continuous improvement is a virtue that all institutions and organizations should embrace. However, I often wonder if we would have the wisdom today of those who came before us had, in creating these remarkable institutions that are our collective best chance in responding to the legitimate needs and aspirations of all our citizens to a more peaceful and just world. ■



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Traduire à l'ONU

*Quand même,
c'est un métier...*

OLIVIER MEYER, UNOG

...S'écria l'amie que j'aidais bénévolement à traduire un diaporama. Mon intervention prit quarante minutes au lieu des cinq prévues. Non, traduire ne consiste pas à remplacer mécaniquement les mots d'une langue par ceux d'une autre! C'est une activité complexe, rigoureuse et créative, qui ne s'improvise pas. Les fonctionnaires des services linguistiques du Secrétariat traduisent plus de 250 millions de mots par an dans les six langues officielles de l'ONU. Une activité indispensable à la communication et à la prise de décisions. Ces deux articles inaugurent une série destinée à mieux faire connaître ce «travail de l'ombre». La coordination du projet est assurée par l'Assemblée de secteur du Service linguistique (LSSA), qui défend les intérêts des fonctionnaires du Service linguistique de l'ONUG. ■

BRUNO NISSOU, UNOG

Sur le fil des mots

La traduction à l'ONU est un défi permanent. On n'a que rarement «fait le tour» de la question, même si l'on se spécialise dans tel ou tel domaine, ce qui est souvent le cas.

Lorsque je suis arrivé à New York au service français de traduction, après avoir passé un concours international comportant une série d'épreuves écrites, dont une épreuve éliminatoire, et un entretien devant un jury, j'avais près de 20 ans d'expérience de la traduction. Cette année-là, je suis arrivé au Siège de l'ONU avec d'autres traducteurs et traductrices qui, comme moi, avaient été reçus au concours et avaient déjà une expérience plus ou moins longue du métier.

Outre la découverte de l'Organisation, fort intéressante, il y eut pour moi l'initiation au «monde de l'ONU» par les textes décrivant ses multiples initiatives, projets, programmes, plans, etc. Cette initiation est plus ou moins longue selon l'expérience qu'on a du mode de fonctionnement d'une organisation

internationale. Pour ma part, je n'oublierai pas le jour où, après avoir consulté quotidiennement, six mois durant, la base documentaire du Service, contenant des années de traductions sur une multitude de sujets, afin de m'imprégner de ces textes, j'eus soudain l'impression de sortir de la brume et de pouvoir commencer à naviguer sans trop craindre les écueils. Je pouvais enfin commencer à traduire sans être habité par le doute.

Si les outils informatiques d'aujourd'hui permettent de consulter rapidement de nombreuses références, ils ne peuvent cependant d'aucune façon remplacer l'expérience et les connaissances acquises avec le temps en suivant les activités des multiples organes pour lesquels des traductions sont demandées, en se tenant au fait des relations internationales, en s'intéressant à l'évolution de tel ou tel pays, sans oublier non plus l'évolution de la langue dans laquelle on traduit. Bref, il ne s'agit pas, fort heureusement, de remplacer mécaniquement les mots d'une langue par ceux d'une autre langue, mais bien de comprendre de

quoi l'on parle et d'en rendre compte, aussi fidèlement que possible, avec ces merveilleux outils que sont les mots.

Le doute qui m'habitait lorsque j'ai débuté est devenu un compagnon indispensable. J'ai besoin de sa présence, comme le funambule a besoin de sa perche. ■

La parole est à vous...

La coordination de ce projet est assurée par l'Assemblée de secteur du Service linguistique de l'ONUG (LSSA), une entité indépendante qui représente les fonctionnaires des différents corps de métier de la traduction. Que vous soyez l'un d'entre eux ou l'un de leurs «clients», votre contribution est la bienvenue. Merci d'envoyer vos témoignages, commentaires ou suggestions à l'adresse suivante: sbencherif@unog.ch.



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Des textes bien traités

La résolution no 50/11 de l'Assemblée générale dispose que «l'universalité des Nations Unies et son corollaire, le multilinguisme, impliquent pour chaque État Membre de l'Organisation, quelle que soit la langue officielle dans laquelle il s'exprime, le droit et le devoir de se faire comprendre et de comprendre les autres». On mesure alors le rôle central du Service linguistique dans le bon fonctionnement de l'ONU. Ayant pour objet de poursuivre les traditions d'une grande maison déjà septuagénaire, il est empreint du souci d'assurer la pérennité des échanges dans un monde aux prises avec de profonds et rapides changements. Au sein de ce service, le groupe de traitement de texte est le chaînon entre la traduction

et la publication. Par usage, dans la Section française, on l'appelle le «Pool», surnom atavique hérité d'une époque, pas si lointaine, où l'équipe était exclusivement composée de dactylographes.

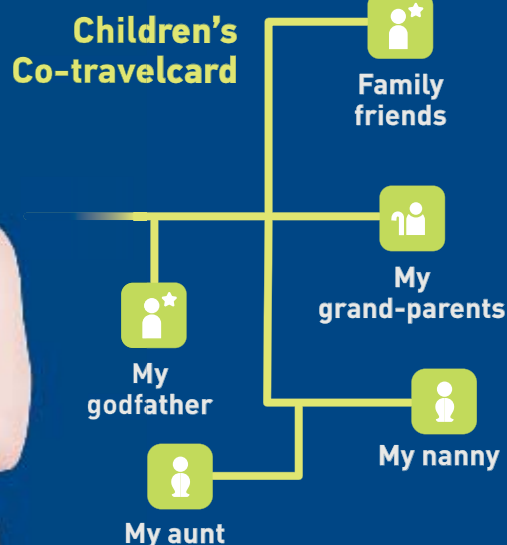
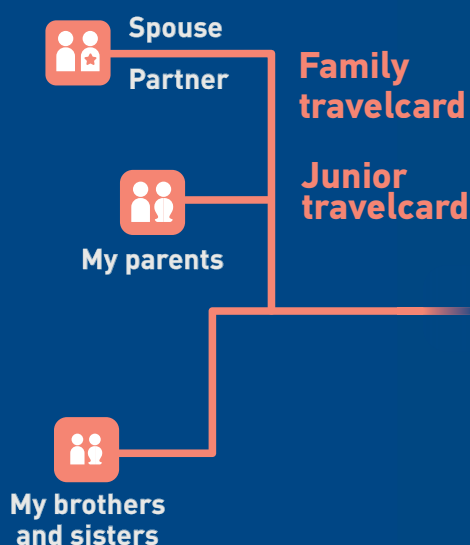
Ses principales tâches se résument à la transcription de dictées et à l'insertion de corrections manuscrites sur des brouillons caviardés par des traducteurs grandeur ratures. Aujourd'hui, les traducteurs ne dictent plus et les réviseurs corrigent leurs épreuves en mode «suivi des modifications». Les temps ont changé et les missions du groupe de traitement de texte se sont enrichies. Bien sûr, il a conservé ses fonctions de mise en forme et de structuration de documents parfois complexes. Il garantit ainsi une certaine clarté formelle qui rend intelligibles les idées exprimées. Bien

sûr, il assure toujours un travail de relecture des documents. Débusquer l'erreur, lever les doutes, se retrouver dans les arcanes de la grammaire et de l'orthographe, de l'accord du participe passé et du juste emploi du trait d'union... Bref, déjouer un certain nombre des embûches que se plaît tant à tendre le français. Cela reste au cœur de ses préoccupations.

Mais aujourd'hui, le groupe de traitement de texte réalise des publications à l'aide de logiciels de PAO. Il contribue également à alimenter les outils d'aide à la traduction, par la mise en correspondance des différentes versions linguistiques d'un même document. D'ailleurs, travail de traduction et de traitement de texte, s'ils sont clairement définis et ne se chevauchent pas, n'en restent pas moins interdépendants. Et, à bien y regarder, tout le travail

de traduction consiste en une pesée de mots. Appliquée, attentive, minutieuse. Il convient de faire bon poids. C'est une question d'équilibre. Tel le funambule sur son fil d'archal, le traducteur avance sur son texte en danseur de corde. Avec, en guise de balancier, les outils de soutien à la traduction et, pour filet de sécurité, le groupe de traitement de texte. ■

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Confrontation aux discours traumatiques

Quel impact sur la vie des interprètes?

Dans l'exercice de leur métier, les interprètes ont pour tâche de faire en sorte que la voix d'un témoin, d'un réfugié, d'un politicien, d'une victime, d'un patient... soit entendue. L'interprète ne fait pas qu'écouter et dire, il s'imprègne d'un contexte, d'une histoire et de la vie d'un autre.



Visite de Michel Barnier, ancien Ministre français des Affaires étrangères, dans un camp de réfugiés d'El-Fasher au Darfour (Soudan) le 27 juillet 2014.

CHARLOTTE HENSON¹

En reprenant le «je», il est amené à vivre ce que l'autre a vécu, à ressentir et compatir avec l'individu qui peut, par son discours, éveiller en lui un événement passé et douloureux. Porteur de la parole de l'autre, inhibiteur de la sienne, l'interprète s'expose à des risques méconnus. Malgré une obligation de neutralité, il/elle n'est pas à l'abri de ressentir des émotions comme la colère, la tristesse ou la peur. Ainsi, il est possible d'évoquer la notion de «traumatisme vicariant», que l'on peut définir comme le traumatisme qui

peut survenir «lorsque nous intervenons auprès d'une clientèle traumatisée et que nous entendons à répétition des descriptions détaillées de scènes perturbantes et traumatiques» (Pascale Brillon, 2013).

Dans le cadre d'une recherche récente, j'ai tenté de comprendre l'expérience vécue par ce groupe de professionnels. Dans l'échantillon étudié, une majorité d'interprètes affirment avoir déjà été confrontés à des discours portant sur la torture et la maltraitance, ou sur des attaques terroristes, ou encore traitant de sujets comme la

famine, les prises d'otage, le viol, les abus, les agressions et les attouchements sexuels. Afin de pouvoir procéder à une étude comparative, deux groupes d'interprètes ont été constitués: le groupe «fréquence élevée», composé d'interprètes *fortement* confrontés aux discours traumatiques; et le groupe «fréquence faible», composé d'interprètes *faiblement* confrontés aux discours traumatiques.

7/8^e des interprètes affectés

Les résultats de mon enquête montrent que la quasi-totalité des participants du groupe «fréquence élevée» reconnaissent

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avoir été affectés par les récits d'évènements traumatiques et négatifs qu'ils ont eu à interpréter, contre seulement une minorité du groupe «fréquence faible». Pour ces derniers, les symptômes ressentis restent éphémères et se résument au sentiment de «malaise», «peur» ou «colère». Les symptômes évoqués par les participants du groupe «fréquence élevée» sont généralement accompagnés de répercussions plus importantes et durables.

La moitié des participants présente des troubles du sommeil et/ou des ruminations sur des périodes plus ou moins étendues, allant de quelques jours à quelques années. L'une des participantes évoque son expérience en Syrie: «Dernièrement, j'ai dû interpréter pour des femmes syriennes en camp de réfugiés... c'était la chose la plus atroce que j'aie jamais eu à faire [...] j'ai fait des cauchemars pendant des mois, en ré-imaginant tout ce qu'elles m'avaient raconté». Le sentiment de tristesse et l'épuisement physique et mental sont évoqués par 3 participants. Le sentiment de culpabilité est évoqué par 2 interprètes qui relatent leurs missions à l'étranger, notamment dans des pays souffrant de famine. Les crises de colère sont, elles, citées par 2 participants.

Stratégies de coping & capacités d'adaptation extrêmes

Afin d'atténuer les effets négatifs des discours traumatiques, les interprètes font part des

différentes stratégies adoptées. Le choix d'une activité sportive pour «évacuer» et relâcher la pression est majoritaire. Vient ensuite le partage des expériences difficiles avec l'entourage proche. L'une des interprètes précise l'effet thérapeutique que peut avoir sur elle le dialogue entre collègues: «On en parle, et c'est un peu une thérapie en fin de compte. Ça nous aide à évacuer les effets négatifs, parce que si on garde tout ça en soi, ce n'est pas bien. Ça fini par affecter le travail, et par nous affecter nous, donc on évacue en comparant avec les expériences d'autres personnes qui ont vécu exactement la même chose. Et ça permet d'en parler sans trahir le secret professionnel».

Si le partage avec les personnes de l'entourage arrive en deuxième position, la majorité du groupe «fréquence élevée» et une minorité du groupe «fréquence faible» abordent le sujet de la confidentialité, faisant partie intégrante de leur déontologie. Certains évoquent la difficulté supplémentaire que peut représenter le secret professionnel lorsqu'ils sont confrontés à des situations parfois douloureuses à supporter: «Ce qui est très difficile aussi, c'est de ne pas pouvoir en parler à sa famille quand on est en mission. Même au téléphone on ne peut rien dire parce que tout est surveillé. Avec tout ce qu'on entend et tout ce qu'on voit, ne pas pouvoir évacuer ça renforce l'angoisse et la frustration qu'on ressent».

Entre pays pauvres, pays en conflit, camps de réfugiés ou prisons, un participant s'exprime sur l'épuisement occasionné par la capacité d'adaptation constante dont il doit faire preuve: «Quand on va en mission pour une semaine ou deux, c'est une fenêtre sur un autre monde qui s'ouvre, et on n'est pas forcément préparé à s'adapter à ce nouveau contexte rapidement. Ce qui peut être traumatisant, c'est cette gymnastique sociale que l'interprète doit montrer... C'est de vivre dans des cultures différentes, et de revenir –de se retrouver facilement et rapidement».

Insuffisance des sources de soutien

La majorité du groupe «fréquence élevée» confie être affectée par ces situations, mais aucun des participants n'a connaissance d'une quelconque source de soutien à leur disposition. Beaucoup évoquent cette absence avec déception et incompréhension. Une majorité exprime le besoin explicite de bénéficier d'une aide. Entre descriptions de cas de burnout, d'AVC et de symptômes à plus long terme, les témoignages attestent de la nécessité pour les interprètes de bénéficier d'un soutien adapté dans le cadre de leur travail.

Le manque de formation évoqué le confirme: 100% des participants disent ne jamais avoir bénéficié d'une formation adéquate les préparant à faire face aux discours de nature traumatique. Cette recherche

permet d'attirer l'attention sur la nécessité de compléter la formation des interprètes et de renforcer les services d'aides mis à leur disposition. Ces manques sont révélateurs de l'insuffisance de reconnaissance des difficultés du métier et de sensibilisation aux symptômes dont peuvent souffrir ces professionnels, qui mériteraient d'être davantage explorés. Il serait intéressant d'envisager la mise en place de temps de supervision d'équipe, centrés sur l'accompagnement des interprètes et l'amélioration de leurs conditions de travail: cela offrirait la possibilité pour les interprètes d'aborder de manière collective leurs expériences et de mobiliser de nouvelles ressources. ■

1 Charlotte Henson est psychologue

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs have been incorporated into national development plans and national budgets. Now is time to focus on monitoring.

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven”. These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. Regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There is an online review platform dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the Voluntary National Reviews of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. To learn more please visit: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs



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De bas en haut et de gauche à droite... Bruit de couloir

Le concept de hiérarchie, tiré des vocables grec hieros («sacré») et archos (ce qui est en relation avec le commandement, le chef) s'applique à plusieurs domaines, physiques ou moraux.

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY, CNUCED

Une hiérarchie? C'est comme un énorme escalier qui monterait au ciel, espacé de paliers parfois infranchissables.

Nous ONUsiens avons quelques exemples: G1G2G3G4G5G6 G7-P1 P2 P3 P4 P5-D1 D2. C'est aussi compliqué que de jouer à la bataille navale!

Pour couronner le tout, il faut compter les steps, G1 step 1 G1 step 2... ainsi de suite jusqu'à 12! On entend comme un rythme anglais pas vrai? Et puis... il vous est certainement déjà arrivé de rencontrer quelqu'un pour la première fois et qu'il ou elle vous demande «comment tu t'appelles?» sans vraiment écouter, et juste après vous pose la vraie question qui tue, «qu'est-ce que tu es?» Les plus naïfs répondent «je suis belge» ou «je suis brésilien», ne comprenant visiblement pas la question, avant de réaliser que la réponse attendue est; Je suis G comme «girafe», ou je suis P comme «pélican».

La littérature nous a donné un formidable exemple de fonctionnaire si dévoué à sa hiérarchie qu'on ne peut pas le contourner:

«C'est immense, immense», s'exclamait Adrien Deume (l'un des personnages d'Albert Cohen dans son roman *Belle du Seigneur*): «Mille sept cents portes, tu te rends compte, chacune avec quatre couches de peinture pour que le blanc soit impeccable... Et puis, mille neuf cents radiateurs, vingt-trois mille mètres carrés de linoléum, deux cent douze kilomètres de fils électriques, mille cinq cents robinets, cent soixante-quinze extincteurs, ça compte, hein!»

L'histoire se déroule à la Société des Nations, en 1935. Quatre-vingt ans plus tard peut-on imaginer des clones d'Adrien Deume qui ne fréquenteraient les gens que par rapport au réseau relationnel qu'ils peuvent leur apporter? Après trois mois de voyage au nom de la SDN, à son retour,



La couverture du livre «Belle du Seigneur»

Il s'agit désormais pour Adrien d'avoir une vie sociale à *fond*: «Cartes de vœux chères pour les A et au-dessus! Et avec quelques mots écrits à la main!» Ça rapportait! Des relations nom de Dieu! L'homme ne valait que par ses relations!» Bien plus, l'homme était devenu ce que ses relations avaient fait de lui oubliant ainsi qui il est réellement, un homme né de la terre (pachamama) et observant les étoiles pour donner une direction à son existence!

il ne rêve que de décrire à Ariane, sa femme, les hôtels de luxe dans lesquels il a séjourné, les gens importants qu'il a rencontré, les perspectives de carrière qui en découlent selon lui. Difficile de ne pas juger ce personnage qui, à bien des égards, se comporte de façon ridicule. Il n'a qu'une ambition: devenir cadre A au lieu de cadre B. et ceci sans jamais réussir à se concentrer sur son travail.

Sacré Adrien, il lui arrivait de se balader aux alentours du cabinet du sous-secrétaire-général dans l'espoir d'échanger quelques mots avec lui. «En règle avec sa conscience il fit ses cent pas dans le couloir, s'assurant de temps à autre de la décence de son pantalon. Tout à coup, il s'arrêta. Si on le surprenait à se balader les mains vides, de quoi aurait-il

l'air? Il courut à son bureau, en revint tout essoufflé, un gros dossier sous le bras, ce qui faisait sérieux, occupé».

Sacré Deume. Sacrée hiérarchie, de bas en haut et de gauche à droite... ■

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Can cyberattacks be considered armed attacks under the United Nations Charter?

The means and methods of warfare evolved at the same time as technology, and these last decades have seen major developments in cyber technologies.

However, there is an absence of international texts that regulate the use of cyberattacks.

GUILLAUME FOURNIER¹, IIHL

To keep up with this rapid change, many countries have invested massively to develop offensive and defensive cyber capabilities and have setup military and/or civilian agencies in charge of cyberoperations. The use of computers and the integration of cyber technologies are now widespread in military and civilian systems and infrastructures. This renders them vulnerable to cyber operations. This risk is on the rise since there are currently very few regulations on such matters and a variety of states and non-state actors have shown their willingness to conduct offensive cyberoperations against military or civilian targets in the form of cyberattacks, cyberespionage, cybercrime, cyberterrorism, or cyberwarfare. Concerning cyberattacks there is an absence of international

texts that define, govern and limit their use. In the absence of international consensus on what constitutes a cyberattack and what response should be given the appreciation is left to states. This creates the potential for inappropriate, non-proportional, or uncontrolled responses.

The United Nation (UN) Charter² prohibits the threat or use of force by states in its Article 2(4). In the Nicaragua v USA³ case of June 27, 1986, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) stated that the prohibition of the use of force is covered by treaty law (UN Charter), by customary international law and that it is also a Jus Cogens norm. This general prohibition applies to all states and knows as only exception the right of individual or collective self-defense against “armed attacks” listed under Article 51 of the

UN Charter. In its July 1996, advisory opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons⁴ the ICJ stated that these regulations apply “to any use of force, regardless of the weapons employed”. A major question is whether cyberattacks are a form of cyber “weapon” and whether as a result, their use could potentially be considered a form of attack.

The problem is that the terms used in the UN Charter (“use of force” in Article 2(4), “aggression” in Article 39 and “armed attack” in Article 51) are ambiguous and not defined. The definition of an “armed attack” must therefore be determined in comparison with these two other notions. The general state practice limits “use of force” to the military use of force. But not all use of military force would amount to

an “armed attack”. Concerning the crime of “aggression” the definition can be found in the UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 of December 1974. This resolution considers an act of aggression as “the use of armed force by a State against the sovereignty, territorial integrity or political independence of another State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Charter of the United Nations.” Based on this Resolution an armed attack necessarily constitutes an act of aggression but not all acts of aggression are armed attacks. Article 4 of the Resolution specifies that “the acts enumerated above are not exhaustive and the Security Council may determine that other acts constitute aggression under the provisions of the Charter”. So, the possibility exists that certain cyberattacks, depending on their target

and consequences, could constitute an act of aggression, and by extension, be considered armed attacks.

The jurisprudence of the ICJ is also essential in the determination of what is an “armed attack”. In the Nicaragua v. USA decision, the court stated that the definition is not found under Article 51 of the UN Charter, but in customary law of self-defense. In the same decision, the ICJ stated that only the most serious uses of force would qualify as an armed attack. In its November 6, 2003 decision Islamic Republic of Iran v. USA, the ICJ gave other indications such as the level of gravity of the attack and the specific intent of the attacking state to harm the other. The ICJ also insists that the military response to the attack should be “necessary” and “proportional.” This



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latest decision is criticized by some authors such as Yoram Dinstein because they consider it puts limitations on the right of self-defense of states.

Even though the decisions of the ICJ and the UN General Assembly predate the development of computers, the internet, and the risks from cyberoperations they are still pertinent to determine if cyberattacks can be considered armed attacks. The ability to qualify a cyber-attack as a use of force, an act of aggression, or as an armed attack could therefore depend to a great extent on its severity.

States need to determine the threshold of what kind of cyberattack could be considered an armed attack under the UN Charter and how they would respond.

Most countries agree that a major cyberattack committed between states that would cause widespread destruction on critical infrastructure or military systems, and that would result in casualties, could potentially amount to an armed attack. It would still mostly depend on the invasiveness, the scale of the attack, the immediacy of the consequences and how direct the connection is between the attack and the attacker. Therefore, only states

that are prepared to assume the consequences of widespread cyberattacks would launch them. Others will only go as far as they can go without crossing the line.

Each state determines what constitutes its critical infrastructure. A cyberattack on these infrastructures could have huge national security, economic and health impacts. These soft targets are usually not as well protected as military systems and therefore attacks on them are on the rise. States that are victims of such cyberattacks will not always be inclined to publicize their vulnerability, and may be reluctant to resort to military action as a response.

Even if states have legally the right to resort to military action under their right to self-defense if a cyberattack is considered an armed attack it still seems difficult to apply. Before resorting to a military response, states victim of an attack would need overwhelming proof that it has been perpetrated by another state, by agents linked to another state's government, or by non-state actors acting on such state's orders. Even if the attack comes from governmental infrastructure or is committed by agents affiliated to

a government it is not enough because non-state actors or another third-party state can hide a cyberattack through some other state. States cannot be held responsible for the actions of non-state groups unless it is proven that they had effective control over them. Currently the majority of cyberattacks have been perpetrated by groups that have no proven direct links to governments. In such cases, the right to self-defense would not apply since the UN Charter only covers actions committed by states. It is therefore important to identify without doubt the party behind the attack. This can be especially difficult because these attacks are clandestine in nature and can originate from anywhere on the planet. Cyberattacks are an effective way to disrupt or undermine the security and credibility of states. The lack of risk for states to resort to them since they can hide their involvement using non-state groups as proxies will be an incentive to increase their usage.

Currently the majority of cyberattacks do not easily fall under the definition of armed attacks. A new UN framework providing definitions, regulations and potential graduated responses (including military) would be beneficial to help states deal with the growing use and threats of cyberattacks. This would be useful to minimizing the risk of unexpected consequences. ■

- 1 Guillaume Fournier works at the International Institute for Humanitarian Law (IIHL), Geneva office. www.iihl.org
- 2 <http://www.un.org/en/charter-unit-ed-nations/index.html>
- 3 <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/icj-nicaragua-v-united-states>
- 4 <http://www.icj-cij.org/files/case-related/93/093-19,960,708-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf>

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Worms for the starter, crickets for the main course – *ça vous dit?*

Would you like to have worms for the starter? Can you imagine being asked this question at the UN cafeteria or by the Chef of the distinguished UN Delegates' restaurant? Maybe this question sounds unbelievable today, or even shocking, but it might well become reality tomorrow.

EVELINA RIOUKHINA AND RYAN KENNEDY, UNECE

Yes, by eating worms, you can make your contribution to the implementation of the SDGs!

No, we are not writing an absurdity. You might be interested to learn that several years ago, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) already acknowledged the high nutritional content of insects¹.

Many insects are high in protein, fiber, good fat and rich with vital mineral content. They are “particularly important as a good supplement for undernourished children”. Insects are also “extremely efficient” in converting feed into edible meat. Crickets, for example, need 12 times less feed than cattle to produce the same amount of protein. Mealworms, for example, (i.e. the larval form of a particular species of darkling beetle living in temperate

regions worldwide) provide protein, vitamins and minerals on a par with those found in fish and meat. Small grasshoppers rank up there with lean ground beef in protein content, with less fat per gram.

Insect farming is “one of the many ways to address food and feed security”. “Insects are everywhere and they reproduce quickly, and they have high growth and feed conversion rates and a low environmental footprint,” according to the FAO report. Most insects are likely to produce fewer environmentally harmful greenhouse gases than other livestock. The ammonia emissions associated with insect-rearing are far lower than those linked to conventional livestock.

Entomophagy (derived from Greek *éntomon*, “insect”, and *phagein*, “to eat”) is the human use of insects as food, or the consumption of insects as food.



Yummy crunchy deep-fried crickets sold by the bag for on-the-go snacks at the bus station market.

© Wikimedia/McKay Savage

Insects have been eaten by humans from prehistoric times to the present day. As of today, there are more than 1,900 edible insect species on Earth, hundreds of which are already part of the diet in many countries. Raw and cooked insects are usual dishes in many countries of the world. They are eaten as starters, as main dishes, or even as desserts.

The most common and the richest in nutritional qualities are beetles (Amazon basin and parts of Africa), butterflies and moths (Africa, Central and South America), bees and wasps (Asia, Africa, Australia, South America and Mexico), ants, grasshoppers, crickets, and locusts, flies and mosquitoes, water boatmen and backswimmers, or stinkbugs.



The market of Kampong Cham, Cambodia.

© Wikitravel.org & Travelstudies.org

Insects are consumed as food in the 36 countries of Africa, in 23 countries of Latin America and in 29 countries of Asia and Oceania. Even 11 countries of Europe consume insects but the continent cannot be called “entomophagous” as insect consumption is not yet commercialized in Europe. In this respect, our host country Switzerland is something of a pioneer: since last month, three insects – wheatworms, crickets and grasshoppers – have been on sale in Coop supermarkets.

Insects are a source of nutrition over almost half of the Globe, or nearly half of our United Nations member-states. And clearly, this begs a question: if we live and work in such an international environment, wouldn't it be logical to see the food of at least half of the Globe in our UN cafeteria, where all the tastes of the world meet? And this is in addition to all the other nutritional values and advantages listed above.

The title of our article might cause a sarcastic smile today. Nevertheless, this might be our food in the future; food that will solve many nutritional and environmental challenges

(and maybe even poverty and hunger). So, if you do not like the title, or if you feel a sort of “consumer distaste” at reading it, please change your attitude. In eating insects, we will boost nutrition and reduce pollution, and do not forget that by eating more insects we will help fight world hunger and thus contribute to the implementation of the most vital SDGs.

Do not look at our title. Just think of how you can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs. **Implementing the SDGs – ça vous dit? ■**

(The authors thank Oleksandr Svirchevsky for helping to prepare photos for this article).

- 1 “Edible insects: Future prospects for food and feed security”, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, 2013, ISSN 0258-6150.



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On 11 August, Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of WHO, met with the intern community, where the issue of equal access to internship was addressed specifically.

Internships in the United Nations system

Increase equal access

Equal access to internships within the World Health Organization (WHO) is not a reality, and the discussion of paid or unpaid internships is an ongoing debate. These discussions have resurfaced many times in the past, yet no feasible solution has been found to date. We have a suggestion.

K. NYBERGER, A. CANDY AND S. BAKHSHIYEVA

Interning at the World Health Organization (WHO) represents a win-win opportunity for both the intern and the organization. We find role models, develop rich networks and, most importantly, acquire new competencies that will have substantial value in our future careers.

In the light of previous discussions, we would therefore like to propose and support a quick success solution, without financial implications and through which WHO country offices could provide a backbone to the internship programme. Creating a strong foundation is essential, and to improve and increase internship opportunities, we believe that a bottom-up approach that supports the important work performed in-country is necessary.

Given that funding, visas, and accommodation are currently the major barriers to



Members of the intern community engaged in discussion with Dr. Tedros Adhanom, Director-General of WHO.

internships, making these opportunities more accessible at country level has many advantages. Internships will be more affordable and allow the intern to use his or her own housing and networks thus benefitting from local prices according to national standards. Moreover, WHO country offices could potentially establish partnerships more easily with private partners to create more affordable housing in-country if needed. We believe that by supporting this approach, decreasing barriers and enabling equal access to internships for young professionals across the globe, diversity within WHO and therefore across the UN system can increase. Most importantly, this will contribute to a more diverse view of the world, encouraging people with different backgrounds and perspectives to come together and raise

awareness of the existing problems in their home countries.

Increasing access to internships is a process that has stagnated for many years. However, in writing this article, we would like to acknowledge the important work that WHO has already started within their regional and national offices. Vietnam and Ethiopia, for example, are currently two countries leading by example and increasing access to internships. Today, 23% of all interns within WHO Headquarters, regional and country offices combined – are from developing countries. However, during the past year, when WHO started to adapt the new approach of increasing access to internships in national and regional offices, the number of interns originating from developing countries increased by almost 22% in country offices. We believe

that existing success stories need to be shared in order to inspire other countries to take part and further develop the internship programme. With this goal in mind, we propose a pilot internship programme that will be initiated in a few selected WHO country offices.

It is important to understand the many challenges we face in order to improve the internship programme. We believe that our proposal could help set a benchmark. Moving forward, a review of existing internships, monitoring and evaluation are necessary, and could help to establish best practice. Moreover, we believe that understanding best practice will reveal challenges, inspire other countries to join, and help promote the programme and recruit new talent. Partnerships could be developed with local institutions, non-governmental

organizations and collaborative centres. Moreover, there is a need to explore different approaches to recruit and supervise interns, and we believe that country offices should be invited to participate in this process. Additionally, country and regional offices, WHO Headquarters, as well as former interns acting as ambassadors, should work together to actively promote this internship programme.

Integrity, professionalism and respect for diversity are the core values of the United Nations System. If a person's wealth, prestige or citizenship, rather than his or her knowledge or competencies are the deciding factors in securing an internship contract, we are contributing to the disparities that already exist in our society instead of fighting them. ■

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Rotary Day at the United Nations

Peace: making a difference

The world is at war; peace should be the norm. A sentence that expresses what countries like Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, Yemen, South Soudan, Congo and Ukraine have been going through: conflicts and humanitarian emergencies.

DOUGLAS BUENO

These conflicts threaten not only people's security but also the development of countries involved, and its neighbors, creating unstable regions around the world. According to Jean Marie-Guéhenno, a French diplomat specialist in International Relations and security issues: "The world is entering its most dangerous chapter in decades. The sharp uptick in war over recent years is outstripping our ability to cope with the consequences. From the global refugee crisis to the spread of terrorism, our collective failure to resolve conflict is giving birth to new threats and emergencies"¹.

Keeping in mind that living in a peaceful environment is essential for countries to become fairer and more democratic and allow people to thrive, this year's Rotary Day theme will stress the importance of peace building and peace keeping through the following theme: "Peace: making a difference".

In order to celebrate the good relationship that Rotary maintains with the UN, 2017's Rotary Day will close the Peace Week organized at the United Nations Office in Geneva. We, from Rotaract Genève International, have been engaging in the organization of this event. This is part of the Rotary's will to empower youth, preparing the new generation of leaders and social entrepreneurs to take action now.

As a young club, created in November 2016, Rotaract Genève International has been

gathering the international youth from the European UN capital. Counting members from several nationalities, its principal asset is its members' different cultural and academic backgrounds: international relations, economics, law, sustainability, etc. Aware that collective actions are set to be more successful than individual ones, the club's engagement to co-organize the Rotary Day has been faced as a challenge but also as an opportunity by its members. The President of the Club, Amélie Bultot, talks about what such an event represents:

"This major international event will gather an exceptional audience of people from all around the world and engaged to one common goal: create a lasting peace. We will encourage the younger generation to take daily actions as agents of change to create a sustainable peace throughout the world. This event will also be an incredible opportunity for Rotary International to promote the importance of education and youth empowerment as priorities".

Amélie can count on other members' engagement to make the project happen and the whole team has been working towards its realization. Gwenaëlle Fuchs, Public Relations Manager, is one of the members involved in the organization of the event: "This event is great opportunity to gather the communities of the world and meet their Rotarians. La Genève Internationale and its headquarter of the United



Conference of Malika Ait-Mohamed Parent on “Corruption, prevention and control, in the Humanitarian sector” Graduate Institute, Maison de la Paix (December 2016).

Nations is a place of choice to unite the people and make recommendations regarding both local and global issues, such as Peace through Education of the Young Leaders. Rotaract Genève International is very honored to take part in the organization of this celebration of the relationship between Rotary International and the United Nations. This first year of existence of our Club is an extraordinary opportunity to demonstrate we can Connect the Initiatives for the Communities”.

The role they play will be more visible in the workshop organized by and for young leaders that will take place on November 11th. During this workshop the speakers will address the opportunities that the relation between science and education

might present in order to attain peace. They will bring their different points of view as they have diverse backgrounds: Barbora Brunt Gulojeva has a PhD in Physics and works at CERN; Anna-Lena Schluchter is expert in the inclusion and influence of women’s groups and other civil society actors in peace building processes and member of WEF Global Shapers; Justin Hadjilambris is President of European Rotaract Information Centre (ERIC) and studied Economics and International Relations at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA); Anna Lucky Dalena is Vice President of Rotaract Europe and holds a Master’s Degree in Human Rights and Democratization in the MENA Region, focusing on the importance of cultural identity as a tool for peace.

The Rotary Day is open to all and it is a great opportunity for people to learn more about peace as well as to connect with exceptional individuals. We invite you all to participate to the debates during which you will be able to widen and sharpen your knowledge on the topics addressed. ■



Rotaract Genève International Charter Event

For registration and the complete program of the event, please visit: <http://rotarydaygeneva.com/en>

- 1 Guéhenno, Jean-Marie, “10 conflicts to watch in 2017”, Center for Security Studies, ETH Department of Humanities, Social and Political Science, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/10-conflicts-watch-2017> [Accessed: September 26, 2017].


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Obasute: the golden rule of civilized society begins with each of us

They say the maturity of a society can be measured by the way that society takes care of its most vulnerable, i.e. children and the elderly. The respect that we pay to those we have an advantage over is an indicator of high moral values, and a golden rule of all civilized societies.

VIKTOR BADAHER, UNECE

In this context, a parallel comes to my mind – surely the way the Organization takes care of its long-standing and most devoted staff, who worked for it for decades (20 or 30 years), should be an indicator of the maturity of the moral values of the Organization?

Do we really take due care of our retired people, or do we just wait for them to go so we can open another vacancy? Is it as simple as that? The very moment they are gone, we cross them off our lists with no regret because they “got their generous retirement package” and thus should feel happy and privileged. But what about the moral aspect? Doesn’t it have any meaning anymore? Incidentally, we are all future retirees. Even those young people of today, those who might be at the origin of some recently made decisions, they will also be retirees at some point. If not tomorrow, the day after. And when that day comes, they will feel the very same bitterness that some of the current retirees are filled with when visiting the Palais. The Palais where nobody is actually waiting for them; where they do not even have their own place to meet; where, if in need, they have to “beg” their younger colleagues for help, even with such miniscule issues as copying their medical insurance documents; and where, according to the new regulations, they will not even be able to come in by car, unless they wait in a long queue and obtain a daily pass like all other “strangers” attempting to enter the UN premises.

I would not believe all these sad stories if this had not happened to my former boss, who, after having served the Organizations for around 25 years, was not allowed last week to pass through the gate by car. As we know, Geneva is a costly place and, as such, forces many retirees to live outside the town. However, the retirees do still visit the Palais on certain occasions. They come here to attend various events, or to run errands (e.g. related to medical or social security matters). For them, the ability to enter the premises is more important than for many of us. They do not visit the Palais often, and yet it seems that even on those rare occasions when they actually do, it is still too much for the Organization to grant them a permanent entry badge for their vehicles. In blunt disrespect of their previous work and accomplishments, the UN, in accordance with the new parking rules, forces them to either pay for expensive parking outside, or to queue in a long line and go through a humiliating procedure each and every time they “dare” to come where they apparently do not belong anymore. They worked for the Organizations for years, decades, or in certain cases even their whole life. They deserve to be properly treated. This is a minimum courtesy that we owe them.

Furthermore, in view of the current giant reconstruction, I truly hope that it will be possible to allocate an office (with a PC, Wi-Fi, a printer and a copying machine) where all retirees arriving at the Palais, whether from Geneva or from elsewhere,

cannot only meet, but also print a page, or make a photocopy without being subject to humiliation.

I do hope that my article will be the first in a series on how well we take care of the staff who contributed to the Organization by working for it for many years. And I do hope, that at least, this article will resolve the parking space problem for our older colleagues. I also appeal to all those who are involved in drawing up the new regulations (on parking policy, on rules of entry, etc.), to not forget the golden rule – the way we treat and care for our elderly staff (retirees) shows our own maturity.

Being raised in Kazakhstan where older people have been always treated with unprecedented respect, I would never accept any consideration of retirees as “waste material”. To those who write and sign the rules that create problems for retirees, I would advise watching an old movie “The Ballad of Narayama”. It is a Japanese film from 1958, directed by Keisuke Kinoshita, and based on the 1956 novel of the same title by Shichiro Fukazawa. The film explores the legendary practice of *obasute*, a brutal tradition in accordance with which, elderly people (once they reach a certain age) were carried to a mountain and abandoned to die.

I just hope that new parking rules are not a new example of *obasute*, but rather a mistake, which will be corrected soon. ■



© Sarah Jordan



© Sarah Jordan

A night at the museum with the Club Photo International (CPI) Meet people, have fun and develop your photographic skills!

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR

The nights are drawing in and autumn will soon be here, but on a fine mid-September evening, members of CPI were still able to bask in the last few rays of sunlight outside the Château de Penthes as they assembled for the first practical session of the season. Sporting tripods, flashes and filters and resembling paparazzi, they were soon ushered into the *maison de maître* that is home to the Museum of the Swiss abroad. The Management of the Museum had kindly made it available to the Club for an after-hours visit. Once the door was locked, the shutters down and surrounded by *objets d'art* dating back several centuries, there was a definite night at the museum feel to the proceedings. No dinosaurs though – just busts of Louis XIV and Marie-Antoinette, amongst others, paintings, old flags, suits of armour and scale models of famous Swiss battles including Marignan, fought between the Swiss and the French in 1515.

The theme of this practical session was indoor photography and the challenges it presents: lighting, dealing with white balance, reflections in glass show cases, eliminating shadows, contrast, exposure length and the pros and cons of flash

photography. Georges Emmenegger, member of CPI, led the session, conducted in English and French, offering tips to all the participants whether novice or experienced. The group was small enough for individualized attention, yet big enough for drawing comparisons from the results achieved with different equipment. Everyone learnt something and had fun into the bargain!

CPI celebrated its tenth anniversary last year and has been holding sessions twice-monthly either after work or at lunchtime on a very wide range of themes throughout this period. As of this year, the frequency will be diminished to once a month. In the near future the Club has many projects. For starters, its annual photo competition – open to both members and non-members. This year, the theme to inspire entries is “movement”. In January 2018, the finalists and winning entries will feature in an exhibition to be held on the third floor of the E building.

The Club is also contributing photos by club members to the forthcoming second book on the history of the Palais des Nations by Jean-Claude Pallas, former Chief of the

Buildings and Engineering Section. The first volume received much critical acclaim. To mark its tenth anniversary, the Club published its own book last year “The world we live in”, illustrated with photos by members of the many countries and situations that have moved or marked it. A copy was presented to Director-General Michael Møller and the Club was also delighted to see its work acknowledged in the 2016 edition of the United Nations Annual Report.

As it starts its new academic year, the Club is keen to recruit new members. Membership is open to all UN staff members, specialised agencies, accredited NGOs and permanent mission staff – you just need to pay the annual subscription of 50chf, to already have a badge giving you access to the Palais and, of course, a certain interest in photography – even if only with your smart phone for now! In addition to practical sessions, peer-to-peer sessions and outings are also organized. The Club website is a treasure trove of information and gives a great overview of what to expect. ■

For further information:
<http://clubphotointernational.com>



© Flickr/Gabriella Fundora

Sydney Opera House & Harbour Bridge.

Climbing the Coathanger

What does a keen Swiss mountain hiker do on holiday in Sydney, Australia? Well, climb the Sydney Harbour Bridge of course...



© BridgeClimb, Sydney, Australia

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

I had read in the Lonely Planet that the BridgeClimb was one of the world's top 10 'Biggest Adrenaline Rush' experiences and it had been on my bucket list for many years, so when my daughter won a place on a bilingual exchange programme at a school in North Turramurra, Sydney, I knew climbing the "Coathanger" (as it is affectionately known because of its arch-based design) would be one of our best adventures when I flew out to see her.

From the four climb times (dawn, day, twilight and night), we selected a day BridgeClimb, of three and a half hours. The BridgeClimb was officially launched in October 1998, and was the first climb of its kind anywhere in the world. Since then over 3.6 million people have climbed the bridge and some special events have included Tai Chi classes, gelato tastings, musical performances, Chinese dragon ascents, engagements and even weddings, to name a few. It is open to anyone over 8 years old in good health, and a good head for heights is recommended,

but if you do have a fear of heights, then "No Worries", they even have a Face your Fear toolkit which will help you to muster the courage to set foot on the iconic steel arches.

Safety is paramount and each climber is given rigorous instruction and directions before heading out, starting with a breathalyser test to ensure no-one registers a BAC level above 0.05. This is followed by a change of clothes into the blue/grey BridgeSuit (to blend in with the arches), security belts which attach by cable to the infrastructure of the walkway and steps, and then a headset, which is enables all the participants in the group to follow the direction and running commentary from the Climb Leader. A brief simulation of the ladders section of the climb is given in the changing area, with opportunities to practise on ladders as well as hooking to the security system (although once you are on, you're safely attached the whole time until the end of the climb). Safety is the number one priority on an operation like this – it is run with military



Sunset at Harbour Bridge, Sydney.

precision – which is good to know when you are 134 metres above the ground with six lanes of trains, cars and lorries rushing beneath you.

Our Climb Leader, a home-grown Aussie called Graham, congratulated us for having chosen one of “the best days” for a BridgeClimb – not too hot, not too windy, and picture perfect blue skies. However, he confirmed that climbs take place all year round in rain and shine, and are only postponed in extreme weather conditions, such as an electrical storm, – he had done over 200 climbs and assured us that BridgeClimb has a 100% safety record!

Once out on the bridge, the climb starts with a hook up to the safety rail which leads to a short ascent along an approach span and up some stairs inside one of the concrete pylons (which were constructed for purely cosmetic reasons, to give better visual balance to the bridge). The pylons were not part of the original design, and were only added to allay public concern about the structural integrity of the bridge.

From the ladders we were led to the main arch, where we started the climb up a narrow staircase to the top, where the

Australian and New South Wales flags fly proudly side-by-side. Is it scary? Is it dangerous? No, not at all – it is absolutely breath-taking, with views over one of the most beautiful harbours in the world. To our right the skyscrapers of Sydney central business district, centre stage is the magnificent Sydney Opera House in all its shining glory, behind which is Mrs. Macquarie’s Point and the Royal Botanic Gardens and the beautiful bays, such as Rose Bay which surround the city beyond.

To the other side of the bridge we looked down on Luna Park and the northern shore, and as we turned to cross the bridge, we had views of the Blue Mountains in the distance. With so many fabulous photo opportunities, and a no personal camera policy on the bridge for safety reasons, it’s a relief that a camera is carried by all Climb Leaders. Given that any personal item dropped from that height could cause chaos on the bridge below, it is perfectly understandable that strict rules are in place to avoid accidents of this kind. However, Graham took pictures of all us, in a group and on our own, which serve as wonderful souvenirs of our incredible adventure.



Participants on the BridgeClimb on the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

The descent overlooks Darling Harbour which has undergone major urban renewal development and is now home to a range of attractions for out of town tourists and Australians alike, such as the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Sydney Aquarium and the Chinese Garden of Friendship as well as many other points of interest. Throughout the climb Graham kept us entertained with stories about the history of the bridge build, the opening of the bridge and the first commercial climb which led to the success of the enterprise today.

But out of all the Sydney sights and sounds, (and we did pretty much all of them) climbing the bridge was definitely the highlight. While it is

a premium priced activity in Sydney, which is after all one of the most expensive cities in the world, it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience, incredibly safe and incredibly well run with a team of well over 200 employees. The price also includes group photo, climb certificate, BridgeClimb cap and entrance to the Sydney Bridge museum and tourist centre, housed in the south-eastern pylon, which has a 360° lookout at the top providing views across the harbour and city – an awesome option for the less adventurous. ■

For more information about the climb, booking a place, and climb prices go to: bridgeclimb.com



© Claude Maillard

A 15 km de Toulouse, le magnifique pont en briques roses de Pompertuzat.

France

Au fil du Canal du Midi (3^e partie)

La silhouette des remparts de Carcassonne se détache à l'horizon. Après avoir arpenté plus de la moitié du Canal du Midi (voir le numéro précédent du UN Special), une pause bien méritée dans cette citée médiévale inscrite sur la liste du patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco depuis 1997 sera la bienvenue.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Depuis les berges du Canal du Midi, une belle ascension nous attend encore pour parvenir au pont-levis qui permet de pénétrer dans l'enceinte de la forteresse qui domine la ville Carcassonne, Préfecture de l'Aude. Après avoir quitté Marseille à l'aube, le chemin a été long. La fatigue commence à se faire sentir, les jambes deviennent lourdes et les gorges sont sèches. A l'unanimité, la visite commencera avant tout par un bistro à la terrasse ombragée pour déguster une bière artisanale, bien fraîche, concoctée par les brasseurs locaux. Une fois revigorés, nous pourrions partir à l'assaut des petites ruelles pavées de la Cité aux 52 tours.

Carcassonne «La Magnifique»

Fabuleuse et irréelle, aménagée et transformée au cours des siècles par les différentes civilisations qui s'y succédèrent, la Cité de Carcassonne domine



© Claude Maillard

Le pont Saint-Pierre qui enjambe la Garonne à Toulouse.



© Claude Maillard

À l'image du héron cendré, une abondante faune a colonisé le Canal du Midi.

du haut de ses vingt-six siècles d'histoire, une vaste plaine qui fut de tout temps le trait d'union entre la Méditerranée et l'Océan.

Une présence humaine est attestée dans la région depuis le paléolithique, mais c'est réellement vers le VI^e avant J.-C., durant l'âge du fer, que l'homme viendra occuper l'éperon rocheux sur lequel est bâtie Carcassonne. A partir du II^e siècle avant notre ère, les Romains s'y établissent et construisent les premiers remparts et les premières tours. Mais la fortification de la ville commence vraiment au IV^e siècle suite aux attaques répétées des Wisigoths. Plus tard, de 725 à 759, cela n'empêchera pas les Sarrasins d'occuper brièvement les lieux. Ils en seront chassés par Pépin le Bref. Après la mort de Charlemagne, le démembrement de l'empire donne naissance à l'époque féodale.

Carcassonne va alors accéder à un rayonnement exceptionnel. Durant cette période faste, le Catharisme se développe rapidement et le 15 août 1209, après quinze jours de siège perpétré par la croisade prêchée par le pape Innocent III, le destin de la Cité, alors cédée au Roi de France, va être bouleversé. Carcassonne s'affirme dans son rôle de forteresse royale. Mais l'utilisation des nouvelles techniques de guerre et surtout le recul de la frontière franco-espagnole en 1659 entraînent peu à peu son abandon. Au XVIII^e siècle la Cité n'est plus qu'un quartier misérable promis à la démolition et sans l'intervention du célèbre architecte Viollet-le-Duc, cette incroyable forteresse ne serait plus qu'un vague souvenir. Et aujourd'hui, des milliers de touristes peuvent admirer ce site fortifié le plus accompli en Europe avec ses deux enceintes concentriques qui totalisent trois kilomètres de remparts.

A l'intérieur de la Cité, la visite de la Basilique Saint-Nazaire et du Château Comtal (datant du XII^e siècle) n'est à loupes sous aucun prétexte...

La route est encore longue pour nous. Une bonne centaine de kilomètres restent encore à parcourir avant d'entrer dans Toulouse. Dès le lendemain nous regagnons les berges du Canal du Midi, direction le vieux village de Bram à l'architecture très originale, bâti en cercle autour de l'ancien château-fort aujourd'hui disparu. Capitale mondiale du Cassoulet, Castelnaudary n'est plus très loin. La ville est une étape gastronomique incontournable et nous ne pourrions pas résister à la tentation... Après cela, mieux vaut prévoir de dormir sur place avant de poursuivre la randonnée!

Seuil de Naurouze, clef de voûte du Canal du Midi

Les eaux de Canal du Midi

attirent une faune sauvage considérable. Plusieurs sortes de poissons comme les brèmes s'y reproduisent mais aussi des espèces carnassières qui viennent des rivières alimentant le Canal. On y croise aussi des ragondins et des rats musqués qui aiment creuser des terriers dans les berges. Canards, poules d'eau et hérons cendrés sont également très présents.

De Castelnaudary, huit écluses sont à franchir pour parvenir au Seuil de Naurouze pourtant tout proche. Point culminant du Canal du Midi avec ses 189 m d'altitude, c'est l'endroit stratégique découvert par Pierre-Paul Riquet pour le partage des eaux entre l'Atlantique et la Méditerranée. Là, un bassin de forme octogonale avait été creusé afin de contrôler le débit du Canal. Il était alimenté par une rigole longue de 34 kilomètres qui amenait l'eau depuis le réservoir de Saint-Ferréol situé dans la montagne Noire



La péniche «Savannah» amarrée dans le port de Castelnau-auroux



A mi-chemin sur le Canal du Midi, la cité médiévale de Carcassonne inscrite au patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco

140 m plus haut. Rapidement ensablé par les eaux très chargées en limon, le bassin a été supprimé et remplacé par un canal construit par Vauban. Aujourd'hui, une magnifique allée de platanes bicentenaires, l'une des plus majestueuses de France, traverse l'ancien bassin. Près du site, les héritiers de Pierre-Paul Riquet ont fait ériger en 1826 un obélisque en son honneur.

Nous approchons de Villefranche-de-Lauragais où nous passerons la nuit près de l'église Notre-Dame de l'Assomption surmontée d'un exceptionnel «clocher-mur» en briques roses, typique de la région Toulousaine. Nous touchons au but de notre randonnée tout au long du Canal du Midi. Un dernier coup d'œil au vieux lavoir de Montgiscard, l'un des derniers que fréquentaient les lavandières jusqu'au milieu du siècle passé, et nous pénétrons dans les faubourgs

de Toulouse. Le long des berges sont amarrées d'innombrables péniches reconconditionnées en habitations.

Toulouse, la ville rose

Située entre mer et montagne, Toulouse attire par sa taille humaine et son âme villageoise qui en font une ville dont on tombe sous le charme. Pourtant, la capitale de la région Occitanie-Pyrénées-Méditerranée, avec plus de 711 000 habitants, est la quatrième agglomération française. Dotée d'un patrimoine exceptionnel, moderne et actif, cette métropole européenne puise dans sa proximité avec l'Espagne un tempérament latin et une architecture remarquable. Toulouse se classe aux premiers rangs des villes françaises où il fait bon vivre. Troisième ville universitaire de France, Toulouse n'a jamais sommé et brille par son sens de la fête. Ce qui ne l'empêche pas de réussir sa vie économique.

Berceau du Concorde et de la fusée Ariane, patrie d'Airbus, la ville rose se place sous le signe de l'aéronautique et du spatial, des activités de pointe et de la recherche. Toulouse vit une relation fusionnelle avec son fleuve, la Garonne venue des Pyrénées. Ses quais baignés de soleil sont l'un des lieux de promenade préférés des Toulousains. Entièrement rénové en 2013, le cœur historique de la cité connue dès le Moyen Âge se découvre aisément à pied, à vélo ou en métro. Ici nous attendent la prestigieuse place du Capitole, la basilique Saint-Sernin (étape majeure du pèlerinage de Saint-Jacques de Compostelle), le cloître des Jacobins, les hôtels particuliers bâtis à la Renaissance, mais aussi une vingtaine de musées plus prestigieux les uns que les autres. Au travers des nombreux marchés quotidiens, restaurants et cafés, Toulouse est une ville à la fois tendance et conviviale,

et flâner dans ses rues procure une réelle sérénité. Sérénité que nous avons ressentie tout au long de ces 240 kilomètres passés au fil du Canal du Midi qui traverse de part en part la ville avant d'atteindre le port de l'Embouchure. Ici, il rejoint le canal latéral à la Garonne qui permet aux bateaux de poursuivre leur route jusqu'à Bordeaux, puis à l'océan Atlantique. ■



Discover Rugby in Geneva

The Rugby Club Geneva of Plan-les-Ouates (GEPLO) offers rugby to children of five years old and older! Come and discover a world in which friendship and values are at the very centre.

BRICE THOMASSIN

About the Rugby school (1999-2012)

The aim of the rugby school is to develop players as men and women. Over the years, players develop their affective, motor and cognitive skills while sharing with people who will become friends for life! Our rugby school welcomes every kind of player from five to 18 years old, boys and girls, small and tall, thin and plump, beginners or experienced. Every child will find their strength and their role in accordance with this. As fun and respect are the golden rules of our sport, we encourage everyone to come and try. You only need sports shoes and appropriate clothing. As we believe that every child should have the freedom to choose, we offer three free training sessions in order for them to decide if they want to continue. If the child and the parents are then satisfied, we will provide the new member with a uniform and a rugby licence, necessary for official competitions. Our rugby school has qualified coaches who have human qualities and love rugby!

The adult team is waiting for you too!

GEPLO has two adult teams which play in national competitions. The first team is a competitive one that plays in the higher national championship (LNA). For years, the Knights of Plan-les-Ouates have aimed for the crown, which they have won five times. The team also reached the Swiss Cup eleven times. The second development team plays in Excellence A, a championship for LNA club reserve teams. The aims of this team are to prepare the players to reach the first team and to have fun in a less competitive way. Both teams are trained together at the Stade des Cherpines every Tuesday and Thursday from 7.15 to 9 p.m. Feel free to come and join our family!

More than 20 nationalities, more than 120 kids, two teen teams and two adult teams await you. ■

For more information please:
Write to: ecole@rcgeneveplo.ch

Visit: <https://www.rcgeneveplo.ch/home-en> or www.facebook.com/RCGPLO



Chess grand masters visit to UN Geneva

As befits the “Game of Kings”, chess has been a popular game at the United Nations at Geneva (UNOG) and a fixture of the United Nations Inter Agency Games (UNIAG) annual competition ever since the first games held in Champéry in 1973.

UN CHESS CLUB

Chess is a game of equality where black and white symbolizes unity and equal rights for all. Victory is won in a peaceful struggle where *strength is proven by the triumph of reason*.

One of the international chess events, the Grand Prix, was held in Geneva this year from July 5 to 14, 2017. The tournament hosted 18 top-ranked chess players. This event traditionally attracts chess players and fans from all over the world, among them many well-known public figures, representatives of the business elite and intellectuals, coming together to support this unique sport which represents peace, stability and strategy for global action.

On July 11, when the competition was on a break, we took the opportunity to promote chess at the UNOG by organizing a half-day chess event. We invited the world’s best chess players to visit the Geneva premises, including Grand Master Ernesto Inarkiev who won the European Youth Chess Championship in 2001 and 2002. The World Chess Federation (FIDE, La Fédération Internationale des Échecs) group consisted of around 25 people including Grand Masters from all over the world, from Russia to China and Israel to name a few, participating in the Geneva Grand Prix and organizations ranging between 2700 – 2800 Elo (Chess rating

method) The FIDE Group arrived at the Palais des Nations and together we gathered before the Assembly Hall. Following introductory speeches, the simultaneous game commenced. There were seven participants from UNOG, ITU and WHO playing against IGM Ernesto Inarkiev, who generously accepted to play simultaneous games against the players of the UNOG Chess Club. International Grand Master Ernesto represents Ingushetia republic in the Caucasus region in competition although he is originally from the Kalmykia Republic of Russian Federation which has a well-known reputation for prowess in chess. It was an excellent demonstration of his talent; he won all of the games, though he conceded that we were not that easy to defeat. Meanwhile, the FIDE Group was taken on a tour of the Palais des Nations.

The UN Chess Club was established in 1972. Every year since its inception, club members have been participating at the UNIAG. Currently, we are a group of 15 staff members and retirees. The club used to meet every week and organize tournaments regularly but has been less active of late. We would like to renew our activities and are keen to invite new members. ■

If you are interested to join or would like to find out more, please contact Jose Andres Hernando (jherrera@unog.ch) or Hakan Volkan (Hakan.Volkan@unece.org).

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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Message from the editor-in-chief

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

Write to us!

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

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

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

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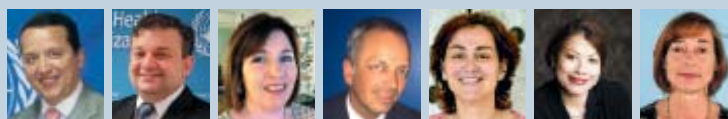
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