

UN Special

MAGAZINE DES FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX – THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS

New Development Agenda



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The work has only just begun

In case you have not yet realized, the year 2015 will go to the history as a pivotal year that defined the New Development Agenda of the century. This agenda is now broadly defined and we have tried to cover it from various angles. There are two particular features of this agenda that stand out for me: the focus on people and partnerships. There is an acknowledgement that human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment. And furthermore, this can only be done by means of partnerships in a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focussed in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realised. And nowhere it is more acutely obvious than in Geneva, where international organizations and NGOs possess the expertise and capacity to come together under the umbrella of this Agenda. The articles and stories we brought to you this month give a quick glimpse to this. We will surely return with more next year.

For us, the work has only just begun.

Le travail ne fait que commencer

Au cas où vous ne vous en seriez pas encore rendu compte, l'année 2015 restera dans l'histoire comme un moment décisif où l'on aura défini le nouvel agenda de développement de notre siècle. Cet agenda est maintenant tracé dans ses grandes lignes et nous nous sommes efforcés de le traiter sous divers angles. Selon moi, deux caractéristiques ressortent tout particulièrement: l'accent mis sur les gens et les partenariats. On y reconnaît que les êtres humains peuvent réaliser pleinement leur potentiel dans la dignité, l'égalité et un environnement sain. En outre, cela ne peut se faire qu'à travers des partenariats, dans un esprit de solidarité globale renforcée et avec une attention spécifique sur les besoins des plus pauvres et des plus vulnérables, ainsi qu'avec la participation de tous les pays, de toutes les parties prenantes et de tous les individus.

Ces inter-relations et la nature intégrée des Objectif de développement durable sont d'une importance capitale pour s'assurer que les buts de ce nouvel agenda seront atteints. Ceci est d'autant plus évident à Genève, plus que partout ailleurs, avec ses organisations internationales et ses ONG qui disposent d'une expertise et de la faculté de se rassembler autour de cet agenda. Les articles que nous vous présentons ce mois-ci vous en donnent un bref aperçu. Nous reviendrons très certainement sur cet agenda l'année prochaine.

Pour nous, le travail ne fait que commencer.

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Humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society

As the international community is dealing with an ongoing migratory crisis, Jill Helke, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships at International Organization for Migration (IOM), kindly accepted to answer UN Special's questions.

OLIVIER BORIE

How do you define migrants at IOM?

For many years the most widely accepted definition of a migrant has been “a person who is outside the territory of the State of which he or she is a national or citizen and who has resided in a foreign country for more than one year.” The reality of migrants and population mobility of our age has rendered this definition obsolete. Many migrants make multiple moves, and remain in any one place for periods of less than one year. IOM has therefore recently decided to use as its definition of a migrant: “any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, and his/her children, regardless of (1) a person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.”

What is IOM and its mission?

IOM was founded in 1951 as the Provisional Intergovernmental Committee for the Management of Migration from Europe to help address the problems of massive displacement and high unemployment after World War II. It acted as a logistics agency to help move people – refugees and migrants – in an orderly, safe and dignified way.

Over the years, IOM broadened its scope and evolved into the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. With 157 member States and an annual budget of some 1.5 billion USD, it employs close to 10,000 people in nearly 500 offices located in around 150 countries. IOM acts together with its partners in the international community to:

- Uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants,
- Encourage social and economic development through migration,
- Assist in meeting the growing operational challenges of migration management, and
- Advance understanding of migration issues.

Does the current migratory crisis have a measurable impact on human trafficking?

The recently published IOM Briefing Document on *Trafficking and Exploitation in Times of Crisis*¹ has shown that there exists a direct link between crisis, be it an armed conflict, a natural disaster or a protracted crisis and trafficking, exploitation and increased vulnerability. The study indicates that protracted crisis situations such as in Eastern Africa and along the migratory route through North Africa, such as in Libya, has shown to increase the vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation of migrants. Migrants have been found to expose themselves to serious risk by requesting the services of unscrupulous smugglers and becoming victims of abuse, trafficking, abduction, violence and by adopting negative coping mechanisms. In Europe, there are concerted efforts to

identify victims of trafficking and unaccompanied and separated children at landing points as well as within the international protection procedure and ensure referral to specialized assistance and care.

Has this crisis challenged IOM's work? How?

This crisis, on top of, and partly as a consequence of, all the other concurrent crises and mis- or poor management of migration – i.e. failing to manage mobility in a holistic, comprehensive, evidence-based and balanced way – has indeed put additional pressure on IOM because of the additional demands on us for guidance, policy advice and practical services.

In an ever more globalized world, what are IOM's priorities for the years to come?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development points the way very clearly for the international community as a whole on migrants and migration in a number of goals and targets, but none more clearly than target 10.7: *"facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies."* IOM is working to support the implementation of this with states, partners in the UN system and in particular fellow members of the Global Migration Group, CSOs, the private sector and all other relevant partners, including through the provision of advice and guidance, and the collection and analysis of data. We have developed a Migration Governance Framework setting out the essential elements of good migration governance, which could be a basis for IOM's support to governments, and for monitoring and measuring progress on target 10.7. We are working increasingly with parliaments and with local authorities whose constituents and populations are constituted increasingly of migrants, internal and international. Another area of particular focus is that of migration, environment and climate change.

How does IOM collaborate with other stakeholders?

IOM works with many different partners, besides states and the UN system partners, in a host of different ways. 62 NGOs have observer status, and we work with more than 1,600 CSOs world-wide. We also work with academic institutions, foundations, private sector partners, diaspora organizations and with migrants themselves.

How can the UN and IOM better work together?

IOM was founded outside the UN system, but has drawn closer to the UN over the years.

- 1991: became a Standing Invitee of the Inter Agency Standing Committee;
- 1992: became an Observer of the UN;
- 1996: signed a Cooperation Agreement with the UN;
- 1998: joined the UN security system;
- 2003: co-founded the Geneva Migration Group in 2003 which became the Global Migration Group in 2006;
- 2005: was designated with Cluster lead responsibilities under the UN humanitarian Reform;
- 2007: joined the UN Staff Pension Fund;
- Since 2011, the IOM DG has been the UN's PSEA Champion.

IOM is thus deeply embedded in many areas of the UN's work, particularly coordinating and collaborating at field level, but its status outside the system remains an impediment to full integration. The relationship between IOM and the UN has been the subject of discussion among the member states over the years since IOM's founding, and has been the subject of a specific Working Group since 2013. ■

1 <https://www.iom.int/news/iom-launches-research-human-trafficking-and-exploitation-mobile-populations-crises>

NB.Credit goes to Mrs. Jill Helke, Director of the Department of International Cooperation and Partnerships at IOM.

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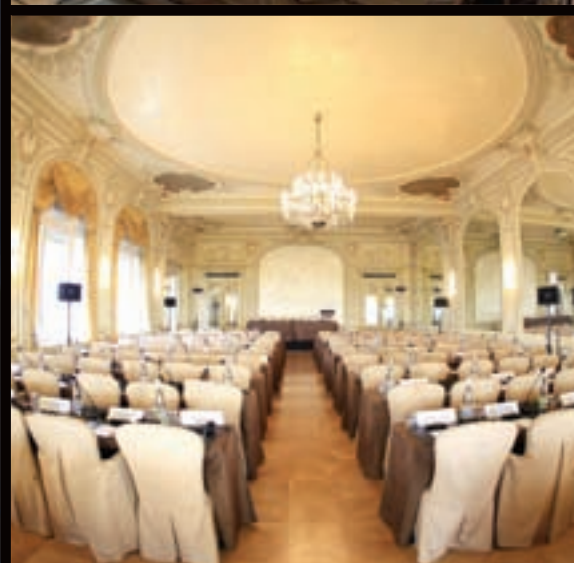
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Un «rafteur» exceptionnel, un conteur de talent

Entretien avec le Docteur Antoine Geissbuhler¹, professeur d'informatique médicale

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, SDLS, UNOG

Professeur Geissbuhler, vous êtes aujourd'hui à la tête du Service de Cybersanté et Télémedecine des Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève, racontez-nous ce qui vous a amené à ce poste.

J'ai toujours été intéressé par ce sujet et j'ai débuté ma carrière dans la médecine High Tech aux États-Unis. C'est en 1999 que je suis venu à Genève diriger le service d'informatique médicale des HUG. A ce moment-là, la grande préoccupation était le risque du passage de l'an 2000. Ça paraît bien loin, n'est-ce pas, maintenant que tant de choses se font à distance!

En effet! Et une fois le «bug» de l'an 2000 contourné, que s'est-il passé?

Le Conseiller d'État à la santé de l'époque m'a proposé d'aller explorer de quelle manière les technologies utilisées à Genève pourraient être utilisées en Afrique, à l'occasion des préparatifs du sommet mondial

de la société de l'information, chapeauté par ITU, au Mali.

Et cela a été facile?

Disons que, au départ, j'étais un peu perplexe quant aux possibilités de développement de projets qui nécessitaient des technologies que peu d'universités pouvaient encore s'offrir. Alors j'ai demandé à un chauffeur de m'emmener faire un tour dans des villages de brousse afin d'avoir une observation directe des conditions sanitaires et des ressources.

Et c'est ainsi que j'ai fait connaissance avec Cheikh Oumar Bagayoko, un jeune étudiant en médecine, qui m'a clairement fait comprendre son besoin de futur médecin. A savoir que lorsque lui – et ses pairs – seraient médecins dans des lieux isolés, ils craignaient d'être déconnectés des savoirs. Il rêvait de pouvoir, grâce à l'Internet, garder le contact avec les avancées médicales et en faire bénéficier ses patients.



Dr Antoine Geissbuhler

Avez-vous trouvé des moyens de répondre à cette demande?

Tout à fait! Une rencontre impromptue a eu lieu le soir même dans un amphi avec une poignée d'étudiants et l'idée a germé de la mise en place d'outils tels que des antennes satellites afin de proposer des formations accessibles à distance. Il nous fallait réfléchir à des procédures simples et durables. Ces jeunes gens allaient travailler à partir de cybercafés ou de lieux dans lesquelles les bandes passantes seraient très faibles.

Vous avez créé premiers webcastings, au tout début des années 2000, alors!

En effet. Nous avons commencé à donner des cours, à la demande. Les résultats étaient globalement satisfaisants et les financements pérennes grâce à l'État de Genève et à des fondations. Toutefois, il arrivait que les informations que nous transmettions ne correspondent pas aux possibilités disponibles sur place. Ainsi, pour la tumeur cérébrale, nous préconisions le recours à des appareils d'imagerie auxquels



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les médecins locaux n'avaient pas forcément accès.

C'est ainsi que nous avons très vite décidé que la formation serait dispensée par des médecins spécialistes locaux tout en assurant un soutien logistique.

Et quelle est la situation aujourd'hui?

Nous avons monté le Réseau RAFT² et nous couvrons maintenant 300 hôpitaux, dans 25 pays. En Afrique principalement mais aussi en Bolivie et tout récemment au Népal.

Vous devez être fier d'avoir la paternité de ce Réseau!

Je suis même devenu «grand-père» du projet il n'y a pas très longtemps puisque l'étudiant qui m'avait invité à la 1^{re} séance de réflexion en février 2000 est aujourd'hui Maître Assistant à l'Université de Bamako et a dirigé les études



Dr Cheikh Oumar Bagayoko avec ses thésards et le Dr Geissbuhler, à l'Université de Bamako, au Mali (group picture - it belongs to Dr Geibulher but he sent it to me in order illustrate the article).

de ses trois premiers thésards. Il m'a d'ailleurs invité à la remise de diplômes!

La nouvelle génération a pris la relève, je n'ai donc plus la paternité directe. Le Dr Bagayoko sera bientôt le premier Professeur d'informatique médicale au Mali.

Pourquoi avoir appelé ce réseau Raft?

Parce que, au départ nous intervenions surtout en Afrique francophone, c'était donc l'acronyme de Réseau en Afrique

francophone de télémédecine. Nous couvrons aujourd'hui des régions anglophones, lusophones, hispanophones, etc., toutefois, nous tenions à garder le symbole du raft, une embarcation frugale, qui ne nécessite pas des moyens énormes et qui permet de passer des rapides! D'ailleurs, pour nous, les noms ont une grande importance. A vrai dire, même pour nommer les logiciels, nous lançons des appels à concours.

Vous pouvez nous donner un exemple?

Notre logiciel de télé-expertise s'appelle Bogou parce que, dans une langue du nord du Niger, ce mot désigne le moment de l'année où on n'a pas assez de forces pour cultiver son champ et où on demande de l'aide au village. Nous avons aussi Dudal, un logiciel de formation à distance. En langue peulh, cela désigne le soir où l'on se réunit autour

du feu pour écouter une histoire racontée par les anciens, et chacun amène un bout de bois pour le faire brûler aussi longtemps que possible.

Nous aimons ces correspondances métaphoriques avec nos logiciels car nous avons pour objectif de permettre les interactions tout en encourageant la contribution individuelle.

Merci Professeur pour cet excellent moment. Non seulement vous êtes le capitaine d'un remarquable «raft» mais vous êtes aussi un conteur de talent! ■

1 Directeur du département de radiologie et informatique médicale de l'Université de Genève, Médecin-chef du service de Cybersanté et télémédecine des Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève, Directeur du centre collaborateur de l'OMS pour la Cybersanté, il dirige la chaire d'informatique médicale de la faculté de médecine de l'Université de Genève.

2 <http://raft.g2hp.net/>



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Un nouveau visage à la tête de la Division des Conférences à l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

Forte de 630 fonctionnaires, la Division de la gestion des conférences est l'une des plus grandes divisions à l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève. Elle "fournit l'infrastructure physique, ainsi que l'expertise nécessaire afin que les conférences soient planifiées, coordonnées et servies dans les meilleures conditions", lit-on sur la page web de l'ONUG.

PRISCA CHAOUÏ, UNOG

A la tête de cette Division, se trouve Madame Corinne Momal-Vanian. Avec son sourire habituel, elle a accepté de nous rencontrer pour nous faire mieux connaître la réalité de la Division qu'elle dirige depuis avril 2015.

De 2009 à 2015, vous avez occupé le poste de Directrice du Service de l'information à l'ONUG. Qu'est-ce qui vous a encouragée à présenter votre candidature au poste de Directrice de la Division de la Gestion des Conférences ?

C'est le goût du changement qui m'a poussée vers cette Division. Mon expérience au Service de l'information fut extraordinaire, mais j'étais arrivée à un point où je ne voyais pas le nouveau que j'apportais. J'étais à la recherche d'un nouveau défi dans ma carrière et passer d'un Service qui comptait 30 fonctionnaires à une Division qui en compte 630 représentait ce défi.

En parlant des défis, pourriez-vous nous indiquer ceux auxquels vous faites face dans la gestion quotidienne de la Division ?

Le premier défi découle de la grandeur de la Division. J'ai toujours eu l'habitude de travailler en étroite collaboration avec mes collègues et je dois désormais accepter que cela n'est plus possible. Tout connaître et tout comprendre sans vouloir tout contrôler représente un autre défi pour moi. Mes défis sont aussi ceux du Secrétariat, puisqu'il y a une augmentation de la demande avec des ressources qui stagnent, pour ne pas dire qu'elles sont en baisse. Une des difficultés réside dans l'adaptation aux changements technologiques qui s'imposent au quotidien des traducteurs et des interprètes, en veillant à ce que ces changements soient bénéfiques et non néfastes.

Comment la Division pourrait promouvoir le multilinguisme à un moment où l'on constate le repli de certaines langues face à la prépondérance de l'anglais ?

La Division est la personnification même du multilinguisme. C'est grâce aux interprètes que les délégués peuvent communiquer dans les 6 langues officielles de l'ONU. Les

traducteurs jouent aussi un rôle central lorsqu'ils assurent la traduction des documents dans les langues que préfèrent les délégués, ce qui évite qu'une langue ait la primauté par rapport aux autres. Soutenir le multilinguisme exige de déployer des efforts pour produire à temps les documents dans les 6 langues, ce qui n'est nullement acquis.

L'on sait que c'est l'Assemblée générale et le Département de l'Assemblée générale et de la gestion des conférences à New York qui fixent les grandes lignes de la gestion des services de conférences dans les différents lieux d'affectation. Avez-vous l'intention d'adapter ces grandes lignes aux besoins de la Division?

Mon intention est de faire la différence dans le quotidien des fonctionnaires au sein de la Division. A titre d'exemple, New York nous a donné les indications concernant le télétravail et les arrangements de travail flexibles et chaque Division les applique à sa discrétion. J'envisage d'utiliser ces outils pour donner plus de liberté aux fonctionnaires en vue de renforcer le climat de confiance ainsi, ces derniers viendront-ils le cœur plus léger au travail. Que ce soit le Directeur général de l'ONUG, M. Michael Møller ou moi-même, nous jouissons d'un large mandat pour la mise en application des lignes directrices fixées à New York.

M. Michael Møller a indiqué, dans l'entretien mené avec lui et paru dans le UN Special du mois d'octobre, sa détermination de faire en sorte que les Conférences qui se tiennent à l'ONUG soient couronnées de succès. En quoi la Division contribuera-t-elle à atteindre cet objectif?

Il faut reconnaître que la contribution de la Division demeure modeste. Quel que soit le degré de professionnalisme et d'engagement des collègues, les Conférences peuvent échouer en l'absence d'une véritable volonté politique. Cependant, la Division peut, à travers des services de qualité, promouvoir Genève comme lieu privilégié pour la tenue des conférences. Je suis déterminée, aux côtés du Directeur général, à simplifier le quotidien des conférenciers. Cela exige, par exemple, une étroite collaboration entre ma Division et celles de l'Administration et de la Sécurité. Nous sommes, par ailleurs, en train de travailler sur un logiciel d'accréditation en ligne pour les délégués. Il s'agit d'un logiciel facile d'usage qui offre aux délégués la possibilité de répondre aux exigences

en matière de sécurité, d'avoir accès aux documents et de naviguer pour se retrouver dans la grande enceinte du Palais.

Quelle est votre vision de la Division pour les deux prochaines années?

Ma vision de la Division est celle d'une division sereine où les fonctionnaires travaillent en confiance. Je pense à une Division capable d'accueillir les changements à bras ouverts, tout en préservant son extraordinaire expertise et son sens du professionnalisme. Je pense à une Division capable de travailler en étroite collaboration avec les autres Divisions de l'ONUG et même avec d'autres collègues exerçant le même métier à Genève. J'ai

déjà pris contact avec mes homologues au BIT, à l'OMS, l'UIT, l'OMM et l'OMC pour examiner les voies de collaboration en dehors des voies officielles. Je voudrais que la Division soit plus accessible aux clients et à tous les fonctionnaires. Pour ce faire, il faut se débarrasser de la fausse perception selon laquelle le monde des Conférences est un monde clos et intimidant. ■



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WHO's country work in the era of the SDGs

Recalibrating health in the sustainable development agenda

Serving in three different WHO regions, having three different specialities – three Heads of WHO Offices in countries, territories and areas (HWOs) tell the story of what it is to represent the Organization at the national level

ALBENA PETROVA ARNAUDOVA, WHO

Juliet Fleischl: Lao People's Democratic Republic

New Zealander by origin. Nurse by education, with a PhD in developing human resources for health. With WHO since 2002, country work experience in the Western-Pacific Region (Cambodia, Solomon Islands). In the current HWO post since 18 months.

Jarno Habicht: Kyrgyzstan

A medical doctor, with a PhD in public health. Estonian of origin. With WHO since 2003, always in the European Region and at country level. Previous duty stations as HWO in Estonia and Moldova.

Yves Souteyrand: Morocco

A French national. An economist, with a PhD in health economics. Worked for 9 years in WHO Headquarter. Took his current HWO function three years ago.

What is it to be a HWO?

YS The HWO work is immensely interesting. Moving from Geneva to a Country Office (CO) is an incomparable experience: after being expert in one domain, you take a function where you need to cover all sorts of topics. After specializing as a coordinator for strategic information on HIV/AIDS at HQ, I had to quickly get competent on non-communicable diseases (NCDs), disabilities, social determinants of health, International Health Regulations (2005) etc. How to do that? You read, learn, ask, develop your competencies... The Organization supports you to do this, and do it fast.

JF As most of our work is about keeping, nurturing contacts, and then building on them, we watch out to make sure that



A national conference on social inequalities in health, Rabat, Morocco, co-organized by MoH and WHO and attended by representatives of all sectors of the Moroccan society and by international partners. The General Secretary of the Ministry of Health Dr Abdelali Belghiti Alaoui, Sir Michael Marmot from the University College of London and Dr Souteyrand were keynote speakers at the event.

fundamentally important aspects of WHO's work are well understood, such as the need to avoid being involved with national politics or with special-interests. Also, a HWO works relentlessly to keep the perception about WHO right – so that all partners recognize the role of WHO as a technical agency, which does not do certain things other UN agencies do to meet their mandate.

JH CO work is about giving governments, societies and partners targeted, applicable policy advice. COs constantly generate pragmatic solutions for doing business. For instance, in the European region, a CO would often help another in an area where it has strong expertise while the other does not. This is a good practice, as the CO-level knowledge is transferable and should be used beyond each individual country.

What is exceptional about a WHO Country Office (CO)?

JF With its country work, WHO makes a real difference. The Headquarters level is

critically important for developing policies, norms and standards. Yet they all must be translated into regional and national contexts. Without this transformation, global products do not come into life. One cannot exist without the other.



Dr Fleischl at the Phonsaly Provincial Hospital, visiting the Maternal and Child ward, meeting an ethnic family with a newborn baby at the entrance.

JH I would describe the CO role by comparing with the way it works in countries: the health system provides the overall platform for all health activities, while the family medicine is the first point of contact and gateway for any health service. This is similar to how WHO serves countries: vis à vis any government, the global level provides an overarching framework, while the CO is the advisor and first reference for any public health issue. To serve well in this capacity, we adopt convene and engage partners for health and build national capacities.

YW One of the most challenging tasks in a country position, is to make the best use of and bring in the capacities of the whole Organization. The WHO uniqueness is this: we are physically there in the capitals, but we are not alone!



The WHO Regional Director for Europe Dr Zs. Jakab on a visit, together with Dr Habicht, to the Clinical Republican Hospital in Chisinau, Moldova.

© WHO/Morocco Country Office

strategies “stay and stick”, prove their value by being embedded into countries’ actions.

JF For the three-levels status quo to work successfully, communications between them must remain open and transparent. Also, globally-generated strategies and policies should be broad enough to allow adaptation into the national context. The delegation of authority is also decisive, whereby CO teams make country-relevant choices, within the priorities defined in the Country Cooperation Strategies. This has been improving, and there is still a lot to do.



WHO Health Day 2015: next to Dr Fleischl is Dr E. Vongvichit – Minister of Health, setting off balloons to mark the start of the celebrations.

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WHO at global, regional and national levels: what is the value of each?

YV I strongly believe in WHO’s unique role at global level, to generate evidence, policy, standards and norms. No other organization does or can do this work. However, you really get to understand the extent to which this is appreciated only when you get to the national level – your eyes open and you see how much countries value the global work. Likewise, the regional-level value is fully understood when you go “down” to a country. Regional Offices (ROs) are the technical advisors for COs around the clock, providing us vital support. Country-based teams cannot possibly have expertise in all technical areas, especially offices of limited size, so regional and global teams give sound expertise which we pull in and engage. As a HWO, you have your CO team, and you have the regional and global resources. This makes it possible to advise and support countries.



Global Road Safety Week 2015: Dr Souteyran visits a primary public school in Ain Atiq, to join celebrations of the Road Safety Day.

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JH Headquarters and Regional Offices are instrumental for helping COs catalyse change within countries. There is no contradiction between the three levels: the normative and evidence-based policy-setting work is meant to “materialize” at country level, to be integrated into national health systems. With WHO’s presence in countries, we can jointly make sure that global norms, standards and

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Belles histoires

Le cadeau de Malika pour ses 50 ans



© Marie-José

Entretien avec Malika Aït-Mohamed Parent, Sous-Secrétaire Générale de la Fédération de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge, en année sabbatique.

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, SDLS, UNOG

Malika, pouvez-vous nous expliquer ce qui vous a amenée à un poste à haute responsabilité à la Fédération de la Croix-Rouge?

Une forme de hasard. A vrai dire, je voulais être météorologue. J'étais inspirée par les nuages mais je n'étais pas assez bonne en maths. Alors, j'ai fais de l'économie. Lorsque j'enseignais, j'étais aussi volontaire dans un comité local de la Croix-Rouge, et de fil en aiguille, je me suis retrouvée au siège à Genève. A la Fédération, je n'ai pas eu de «plan de carrière» précis. Je me suis laissée porter par mes envies, en fonction des opportunités qui se présentaient.

Qu'est-ce qui vous a poussée à prendre une année sabbatique?

A 40 ans, je me suis dit, en observant mes collègues, que la plupart de ceux qui approchaient la cinquantaine étaient soit pris dans une routine sans motivation, soit effrayés par le changement. Je me suis alors promise que, mes 50 ans venus, je prendrai le temps de revisiter ma vie pour mieux me réinventer afin d'aborder les 15 années à venir avec une

nouvelle motivation. Pour ce faire, il me fallait au moins un an de pause, de congé sabbatique. Et je l'ai fait!

Et ça n'a pas été trop difficile à mettre en place?

Je m'y suis préparée, psychologiquement et financièrement. Je me suis aussi assurée de laisser la situation professionnelle en ordre avant mon départ. Je trouve que, quand on a la chance, comme moi, d'être dans le milieu international depuis tant d'années, nous avons toutes les cartes en main pour pouvoir réfléchir à ce que l'on veut faire et se donner les moyens de... vivre ses rêves.

Vous aviez un projet précis?

Pas précisément mais, il y a quelques mois, une editrice basée à New York m'a contactée pour me demander d'écrire un livre lié à mon expérience. Mon projet désormais est d'écrire ce livre sur le thème des «devoirs de transparence». Je tenais donc le fil rouge de mon congé. J'ai commencé à faire des recherches académiques qui m'ont amenée à rejoindre l'Académie Internationale Anti-Corruption (<http://iaca.int/>), à Vienne. Il s'agit d'une organisation internationale dont les membres sont les Etats faisant

partie de la Convention contre la corruption et qui a pour caractéristique de proposer le seul et unique Master anticorruption de ce type, au monde.

J'ai décidé de m'y inscrire et je finis mon premier semestre de cours avec un petit groupe de procureurs et d'enquêteurs, qui m'offrent des perspectives différentes de ce que j'ai fait jusqu'alors. Et aussi, redevenir étudiante à mon âge, est un vrai travail de substance et d'humilité. C'est tout simplement passionnant!

J'imagine que votre vie professionnelle était intense. Ce n'est pas trop destabilisant d'arrêter d'un jour à l'autre?

Je suis en congé depuis huit mois et je n'ai pas vu le temps passer. Je n'ai pas de nostalgie tant je crois à la puissance de l'instant présent. J'ai eu par ailleurs une chance extraordinaire car j'avais fait une demande à la Fédération genevoise des Jardins familiaux pour obtenir une parcelle à cultiver et j'ai été acceptée en début d'année.

Non seulement je ressens un vrai plaisir à faire pousser mes légumes mais ça «m'enracine» davantage dans cette région. Vous savez, pendant

mes 20 ans à l'international, j'ai beaucoup voyagé – j'étais plus souvent ailleurs qu'ici – et ce qui m'a donné la force de le faire, c'est de garder un sentiment d'appartenance à une communauté locale.

Et puis il y a une excellente ambiance, entre jardiniers «parcellaires». Par exemple, en août, nous nous sommes réunis un samedi matin pour cueillir nos fleurs et créer 35 bouquets que nous sommes allés ensuite offrir aux deux EMS de la commune. C'était un moment convivial et très émouvant!

Quelle belle idée! Malika, un mot de conclusion...

Faire ce qu'on aime, cela donne une super pêche!

Pour une jardinière émérite qui combine les talents d'une professionnelle de haut rang, d'une auteure en devenir et d'une spécialiste de la lutte contre la corruption, vous ne pouviez pas choisir expression plus adaptée, Malika. Et merci de nous donner ce magnifique exemple de ce que à quoi ressemble la vie lorsque l'on «cultive» ses passions. ■

continued from page 13

2015: from MDGs to SDGs

JF Moving from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is not about making a radical shift and re-writing policies. Rather, this is an evolution – and an opportunity. I am ready to help WHO help Lao deliver on SDGs. The government already asked us what the SDGs meant. My HQ colleagues from the department for Country Cooperation and Collaboration with the UN System were immensely supportive, providing all the relevant global materials, advice and issues. Now it is our CO turn – to work with the government to refine SDGs targets for the national and sub-national levels, as that is where improvement takes place. We'll also continue previous work, as there is some unfinished MDGs business. In my view, SDGs are all about UN partnerships bringing meaningful outcomes and results within countries.

JH There is one single health SDG, but health and wellbeing are present in many others. This vision reflects the complexity of

public health, as nobody would claim that multi-dimensional challenges such as NCDs, tobacco control, universal health coverage or road safety are exclusively the business of health actors. SDGs are a unique opportunity to re-inforce health throughout the whole sustainable development agenda, with an imperative to attain positive change. The beauty of the SDGs approach is that it refers to all countries – big or small, rich or poor, with or without WHO / UN presence. All WHO Member States have health issues to face and SDGs give a global platform to help them do that.



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Celebrations of the Road Safety Week 2015 in Moldova: Dr Habicht together with UN Resident Coordinator D. Gercheva and the Deputy Minister of Health S. Cotelea

YV UN mechanisms can be powerful for making progress within countries. With UNDAF, all UN agencies present in any given country must cooperate, with WHO leading on the health dimension of the UN presence. We have good relations with UN agencies and, honestly, I don't see major issues of competition. For instance, when we needed to accelerate progress on reducing infant and maternal mortality (MDGs 4 and 5), the new national plan incorporated inputs from WHO and other UN actors. When non-UN partners see high-value UN coordination, they come in with more support, then bilateral partners provide resources for implementation. This is how we can make a difference for the SDGs, too: smooth UN cooperation, then others follow and buy in. ■

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Mon enfant, il n'est pas trop tard mais le défi est grand! Nous devons agir maintenant et ensemble

*Mon enfant, il aura
fallu à l'humanité
un peu plus de
11 000 ans depuis
la préhistoire
pour atteindre
le milliard
d'habitants et
en un siècle
seulement
dépasser les
7 milliards.*

LAURENT CHAMBOST, WHO

Les révolutions industrielles, agricoles puis technologiques, ainsi que les progrès de la médecine, ont permis cette croissance incroyable de la population mondiale.

Mais cela ne s'est pas fait sans contrepartie:

- Déforestation
- Surexploitation des terres arables par une agriculture toujours plus intensive et consommatrice d'énergie
- Appauvrissement des réserves d'eau potable
- Exploitation excessive des différentes sources

d'énergie fossiles (charbon, gaz naturel et pétrole) principaux responsables des gaz à effet de serre, dans le but de satisfaire une demande toujours plus importante

- Pollution atmosphérique

Mon enfant, quand j'avais ton âge il n'était pas encore question de dérèglement climatique, et pourtant les gouvernements commençaient déjà à prendre sensiblement conscience des défis écologiques à venir.

Ainsi les sommets de la Terre organisés tous les 10 ans depuis 1972 (Stockholm, Nairobi, Rio,

Johannesburg, Rio +20) ont présenté un enjeu environnemental important et très symbolique. Mais tu sais, il est difficile de changer les comportements à l'échelle planétaire, et pourtant aujourd'hui ce n'est plus un secret, notre société de consommation est bien responsable du réchauffement climatique dont l'impact semble décisif pour notre survie. Mon enfant, cette année notre pays, la France, organise la COP21 et les enjeux sont grands, les décisions prises seront essentielles, primordiales même, afin d'endiguer ce phénomène et si

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Tu m'as demandé l'autre jour ce que nous pouvions faire à ton échelle, à mon échelle, pour améliorer la situation et faire en sorte que l'horizon soit moins sombre. Je te donne donc ces quelques conseils qui n'ont l'air de rien de toi à moi et qui, pourtant, ont un impact important lorsqu'ils sont adoptés par le plus grand nombre.

Mon enfant, voilà ce que je peux te dire à propos du réchauffement climatique, c'est un défi lancé à l'humanité qui nous démontrera si l'Homme est capable de se responsabiliser face aux conséquences de ses actes passés et présents. Il ne faut pas attendre demain pour améliorer la situation car l'action c'est aujourd'hui si tu veux pouvoir voir tes enfants grandir. ■

Voici donc quelques gestes simples et écoresponsables qui peuvent contribuer à un développement durable de nos sociétés:

Produis moins de déchets:

- Réutilise ou refuse les sachets plastiques
- Évite au maximum les produits jetables et les emballages
- Ne jette pas, donne aux associations
- Participe activement au tri sélectif

Réduis ta consommation d'eau:

- Évite de faire couler l'eau inutilement, surtout lorsque tu te laves les mains ou te brosse les dents
- Préfère les douches aux bains
- Récupère l'eau de pluie pour l'arrosage
- Évite la consommation

d'eau en bouteille puisque nous avons la chance d'avoir une eau au robinet potable

Fais attention à ta consommation d'électricité:

- Utilise des ampoules à basse consommation
- Pense à éteindre les lumières inutiles, ainsi que les appareils électriques qui restent en veille
- Pense à faire tes devoirs à la lumière du jour

Prends soin de ton alimentation:

- Évite le gaspillage alimentaire et les produits sous emballage
- Consomme des produits

de saison et cultivés de manière responsable (bio le plus souvent)

- Réduis ta consommation de viande et de poisson
- Évite les sodas
- Cuisine tes repas plutôt que d'acheter des plats préparés
- Rends-toi au marché pour acheter local

Sois éco-citoyen lors de tes déplacements:

- Privilégie les transports en commun ou le co-voiturage
- Pratique le vélo si tu es en ville
- Conduis doucement pour minimiser ta consommation
- Évite la climatisation



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Alternatiba Léman

La société civile se mobilise pour le climat à Genève

A une période que certains estiment comme cruciale pour l'humanité, à la veille du sommet COP21 qui aura lieu en novembre à Paris, certains acteurs de la société civile souhaitent être plus impliqués, dans la mesure de leurs moyens, en proposant des solutions viables pour un monde meilleur.

CHRISTIAN DAVID, ONUG

Alternatiba focalise cette volonté affirmée en organisant plus de 70 événements destinés à rassembler des acteurs plus importants et à informer la population sur les conséquences de l'évolution du climat et l'absurdité d'une société humaine qui agit en ignorant que ses actions peuvent hypothéquer son futur sur cette petite planète.

Du 18 au 20 septembre dernier, la plaine de Plainpalais à Genève et ses alentours, étaient pavés de stands divers et variés présentant des alternatives à cette consommation effrénée et des solutions vertueuses pour diminuer son impact sur l'écologie.



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Deux des principaux organisateurs de cet événement nous reçoivent:

Camille Bierens de Haan et Olivier de Marcellus, pimpants sexagénaires, sont depuis presque toujours fortement impliqués et militants dans la cité. Ils proclament sans relâche une approche davantage tournée vers le respect de l'homme pour son environnement par

une éco attitude en incluant des valeurs de justice sociale. Camille se donne sans compter pour que toute la région du «Grand Genève», au-delà des frontières puisse participer à cela grâce notamment aux assises transfrontalières (www.assisestransfrontalieres.org).

Olivier, fidèle à ses convictions, a assisté en 2013 au premier village Alternatiba qui s'était déroulé à Bayonne. De retour à Genève, il n'a eu de cesse de convaincre son entourage de la nécessité voire de la légitimité pour une cité comme Genève, de rassembler ces énergies. Sur le principe, il a recueilli l'adhésion. Pourtant, la tâche ne fut pas aisée: trouver un budget, des volontaires pour la mise en

place, recueillir le soutien des autorités et enfin faire appel aux exposants. C'est ainsi que toute l'équipe organisatrice a essuyé les plâtres et relevé des interrogations dont les réponses étaient impossibles à obtenir.

Le soutien des autorités, la sympathie de la ville de Genève et de l'agenda 21 du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement ainsi que l'hébergement gratuit des bureaux octroyés par la cité de la solidarité, ont permis au projet de devenir une réalité grâce à l'acharnement et à l'implication de toute une équipe.

La promenade du week-end de septembre dans ce village alternatif au centre de Genève

ne laissait aucunement transparaître des difficultés de mise en place. De nombreux stands, quelques 250 associations, des centaines de bénévoles aisément reconnaissables à leurs tee-shirts verts, s'activaient au milieu de la foule.

La déclinaison des 18 thèmes abordés sur les stands passait de l'éducation, à la mobilité, les médias, la solidarité, la consommation responsable ou encore l'agriculture.

Chaque visiteur devait payer ses consommations, ses achats en lémans: 1 léman = 1 CHF = 1€uro. Cette monnaie qui n'a plus rien de virtuel sera désormais utilisable des deux côtés de la frontière. Les commerçants et prestataires qui acceptent les lémans s'engagent à privilégier les circuits courts et participer à une consommation locale et ainsi à multiplier les échanges.

Le public, estimé à 35 000 visiteurs pour le week-end, pouvait constater que des solutions locales pour consommer, vivre et partager sont disponibles et accessibles immédiatement pour peu que les autorités soient véritablement à l'écoute. Cette initiative ne stigmatise pas ou très peu ces autorités en les montrant du doigt, mais demande à ce qu'ils fassent fi des pressions imposées par des intérêts qui vont souvent à l'encontre des populations qui les ont élues.

Cette démarche mise en place ne se limite donc pas à une inquiétude relative aux conséquences d'un réchauffement climatique. Alternatiba mène une réflexion sur les conséquences du mode de fonctionnement de notre société. Chaque participant propose, à son échelle, une petite solution, laquelle, combinée aux autres, a pour but de faire évoluer les comportements.

L'interrogation se porte également sur la capacité de nos dirigeants à mettre en place une politique plus réfléchie, avec une vision davantage tournée vers les générations futures que vers des intérêts à court terme, qu'ils soient électoraux, financiers ou autres...

Le pessimisme ambiant qui était de mise après la dernière conférence sur le climat à Copenhague peut-il laisser la place à un optimisme modéré?

Cette question difficile appelle des réponses mitigées tant l'attente est importante et les obstacles évoqués brièvement, semblent incontournables.

Alternatiba Genève aura de toute façon réussi cette mobilisation. Il reste aux forces de la société civile réunies sous une même bannière, à mobiliser davantage les politiques par leur capacité

et leurs solutions éprouvées. Il s'agit pour eux de devenir également, des interlocuteurs auprès des dirigeants et des Organisations Internationales présentes à Genève auxquelles ils avouent n'avoir que très peu accès et auxquelles ils voudraient faire passer ce message, validé par une grande partie de la population.

La Genève Internationale sera en effet présente et impliquée dans la conférence sur le Climat. Outre son expertise sur tous les sujets qui y seront développés, pourrait-elle prendre en compte cet appel populaire et pressant d'une population qui devient de plus en plus concernée?

La question est posée. ■

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The hidden cost of Humanitarian work

There is a hidden cost of Humanitarian operations which is difficult to measure and often not even considered.

JORGE SIERRALTA, OCHA

Organisations and employees tend to view stressors, such as insecure employment status, security risks and variable funding, as an inevitable aspect to the work. However, the impacts of this constant stress are often underestimated.

Persistent and inevitable stress can lead to a high turnover of staff, health problems, loss of productivity, as well as a lack of empathy towards affected populations, family and co-workers. While emergencies, crisis and disasters have an impact



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on psychosocial wellbeing and mental health of the exposed population, studies have shown that Humanitarian workers and organisations are also affected.

Research by the Antares Foundation, including an OCHA Study on Health and Wellbeing of Staff (SHWS) completed in 2014, uncovered concerning levels of anxiety, depression and burnout among humanitarian workers. Behind the statistics, we observe terrible stories of chronic health problems, alcohol abuse, relationship complications and years of hidden suffering within the humanitarian workforce.

However, research has also shown that organisational support, fostered through positive supervisory relationships and team cohesion, can help to diffuse the long term negative outcomes of stress. With-

in the OCHA SHWS, there was a clear correlation between organisational support and staff wellbeing. Furthermore, many respondents specifically identified organisational support as a factor which could mitigate their stress levels. Factors such as psychological support, positive organisational culture, clear leadership, recognition and reward of effort, workload management, physical safety and work-life balance all help to promote long term staff wellbeing.

There is a need for stress management policies, programmes and culture to support humanitarian staff in these ways. This includes putting policies in place, but also ensuring their implementation through comprehensive and holistic actions that are inclusive of all staff, including nationals who are sometimes the neglect-

ed 'heroes' among us. Such investment in staff welfare can improve productivity and reduce burnout, making organisations far more effective.

There have been a number of notable efforts to improve mental health of staff within several organisations, including ICRC, UN and MSF. This has resulted in an increase of mental health professionals working for humanitarian organisations in the past five years. Unfortunately, there is a significant barrier to the effectiveness of these programs.

Within many organisations, there is a 'macho culture' that reflects the adage 'if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen'. While this mindset is widespread, it is not conducive to an effective work environment. Specifically, it prevents those who are most in need of

help from seeking support. Humanitarian organisations have a responsibility to promote a positive work environment and staff wellness. However, this can only be improved with long term investment in preventative practices and a cultural shift regarding staff wellbeing, at all levels of the organisation. The stigma against seeking support must be addressed, beginning with management and leadership placing health and wellbeing as a priority on their agenda.

Being a humanitarian aid worker is a lifestyle – not just a job, bearing this in mind we recognize the contribution of our OCHA staff in the field and wish all good physical and mental health. ■

Jorge Sierralta is a PhD Clinical Psychologist and a Staff Counsellor for OCHA





An Overview of the Post-2015 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

The chief raison d'être of the United Nations (UN) is to simply make this world a better place. Yet, how is that possibly conceivable when 14% of those living in the developing world today, that is more than 830 million people, are extremely poor and hungry¹?

MAHMOUD HAMMOUD, UNOG

The UN's first aspiration is therefore to cut down on poverty and hunger by helping less developed countries adopt policies of sustainable growth that convincingly lead to a decent life for everyone.

UN Member States agreed in September 2000 to eradicate extreme poverty by 2015 through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). MDGs boldly moved this and future generations several great steps closer to the aforementioned vision of the UN. We have arguably already achieved some of those intentions but we have to admit we are not fully there yet.

As the 2015 deadline of the MDGs hurriedly drew closer, the General Assembly created in 2010 the process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in order to accelerate the work towards achieving MDGs, and to continue progress on these beyond 2015.

Yet, the sobering reality of the challenging context of instability of the past two decades naturally set the stage for a collection of new, universal targets, which explicitly address human rights and powerfully tackle the interdependencies of development paths.

The 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, commonly called Rio+20, cou-

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rageously adopted an Outcome document on sustainable future, *"The Future We Want"*, and resolved to set up an intergovernmental process to draft a set of modern, inclusive, and global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDGs and Post-2015 clearly dovetail and intertwine in their diversified but convergent paths and objectives.

Rio+20 also set up an open working group to come up with a draft copy of the SDGs, which must build upon Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, fully respect all the Rio Principles and be consistent with international law.

This workgroup has found that in order to succeed, the discussion must encompass national discussions and open dialogue among its members including national organizations working on development, as well as representatives of governmental and non-governmental actors of civil society and others.

The SDGs do not turn the page on MDGs but rather build on them and agilely go quite a few steps further to incorporate commitments on all social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development. The SDGs were genuinely born in the womb of the MDGs, yet they vie to and realistically do cover contemporary concerns such as energy, economic growth, fair impartiality, sustainable consumption and production, and peaceful societies.

In the past, some saw the MDGs as a methodology for prosperous countries to provide aid to less developed ones. SDGs are ahead of the curve to help the overall growth of low- and middle-income countries by helping them achieve their own home-grown sustainable development.

The SDGs have been practically designed to powerfully decimate extreme poverty and hunger; realistically substantiate gender equality in rights and duties; and give significant momentum to sustainable development. They are action-oriented, concise, aspirational, and applicable to all countries, without losing sight of their national contexts and priorities.

In their final approved format, the SDGs include 17 objectives:

1. end poverty
2. end hunger and adopt sustainable agriculture
3. advocate well-being for all
4. empower inclusive quality education
5. actualize gender equality
6. provide clean water and sanitation
7. ensure access to affordable and clean energy
8. substantiate decent work for all and economic growth
9. build resilient innovative infrastructures and sustainable industries
10. reduce inequality
11. bolster sustainable safe cities and communities
12. improve responsible consumption and production
13. combat climate change
14. conserve the oceans
15. protect ecosystems, forests and biodiversity
16. promote peace, justice and strong institutions in inclusive societies
17. revitalize global partnerships around those goals

The 17 objectives sumptuously include 169 targets that shed further light on how they can be reached, and that can later help measure to which extent they were met. Eliminating violence against women for example, comes as a target under Goal 5 which deals with gender equality.

It is noteworthy, in relation to the actual migration crisis, that the SDGs committed the international community *"to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons"*.

The real thorny question here is who will pay? The cost of providing a social safety net to end extreme poverty is in the tens of billions of dollars a year. Equally required are annual investments aimed at improving infrastructure (water, agriculture, transport, power). Those amount to many tens of trillions of dollars.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of July 2015 came up with "measures to generate investment for addressing the challenges of funding the SDGs". Yet it is more indispensable to come up with the necessary trillions in this respect. Hope comes from the fact that as regular people were involved in the design of these objectives, everyone is now an agent of his own destiny. ■

1 Source: The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015

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1-2 The City that never sleeps is waking up. Early morning. One of the classical radio channels is playing Bach's *Erbarme Dich*. On the announced playlist – Mozart and Wagner. They say it is a special welcome to Pope Francis on his first ever visit to the United States.

3-4 The streets down the 2nd Avenue are already blocked by security patrol services. Behind the fences, black cars with diplomatic numbers are bringing heads of states to their annual global forum, broadcast journalists are getting ready to cover the general UNGA debate and side events. This year is the year of many "firsts".

5-6 The first address of the Pope to the UN General Assembly. The first global youth delegation: Malala and her peers from all 193 Member States are holding solar-powered lanterns – youth's hope for the future and commitment to education and development.

7-8 The closure of the 8 Millennium Development Goals agenda followed by side discussions and the adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals up to 2030.

9 First time the flag of the recognised State of Palestine flies at UNHQ.

10 The new Global Health Strategy on Women and Children is launched by the UNSG, Ban Ki-moon, to help end preventable deaths of women, children and adolescents, and ensure their health and well-being.

11-13 Summits, meetings, side-events – one sees nothing but conference rooms the whole day. An occasional view opening from the huge windows of the Glass Palace reminds us we are still in the Big Apple. A full moon on the other side of the Hudson River is watching the visitors leaving the HQ campus. (Pics 12-13)

14 The end of the day is the beginning of a new era...

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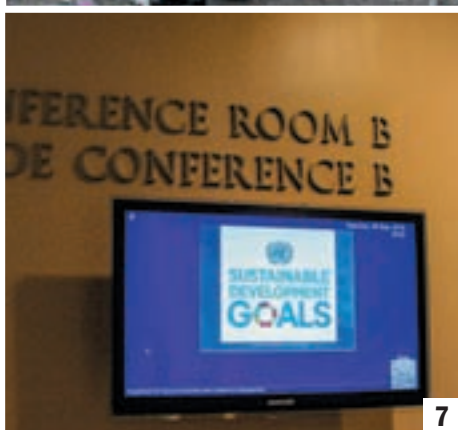
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1 2



4



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ONE SEPTEMBER DAY IN NEW YORK...



5

NATASHA DE FRANCISCO, WHO

2015 is the year of the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Where is the best place to celebrate it?... Definitely in New

York, which is home to the UN Headquarters and is especially exuberant during the last week of September when UNHQ holds its annual General Assembly. *(Pic1)*



3



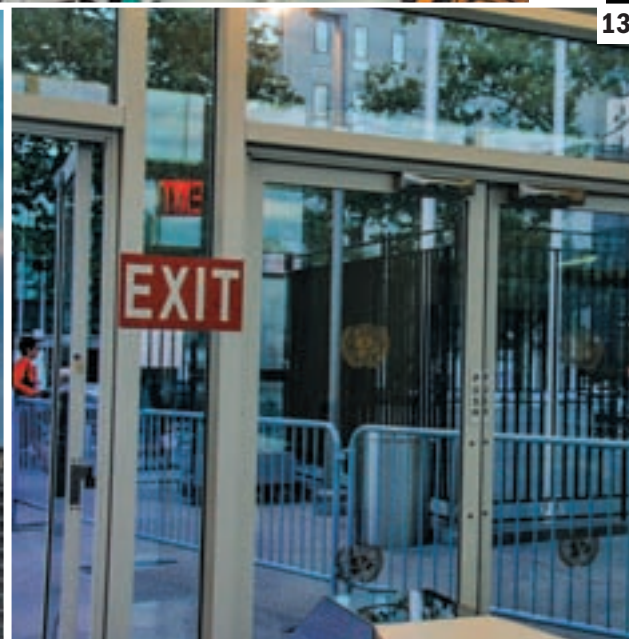
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Transitioning from the MDGs to the SDGs

A Regional Perspective

The year 2015 marks the end of one era and the beginning of another in terms of global progress and development. The eight Millennium Development Goals laid out by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 provided an ambitious vision for the world through a ground breaking approach to collective international action.

FRANCISCO BECERRA-POSADA, LUIZ AUGUSTO CASSANHA GALVÃO, KIRA FORTUNE AND MATTHEW MURPHY, PAHO



© Wikimedia / Ruhnfish

The Millennium Development goals addressed some of the most unjust shortcomings of the global community in an era of mix speed economic growth and political transition in many countries. Still, extreme poverty, illiteracy and perinatal mortality impacted the lives of an unacceptably high number of people throughout the world. This combined with the prospect of a world ravaged by HIV and AIDS, affecting millions of people in the prime of their lives, often in countries that were struggling economically and politically, was a frighteningly real possibility. However, in the last 15 years since the world agreed to tackle these issues, 2.3 billion people gained access to improved water sources, 700 million less people live in extreme poverty and 25 million deaths were averted from malaria and tuberculosis. We are finally seeing a decrease in the incidence of HIV and AIDS thanks to an unparalleled global response along with a growing parity between men and women in school and government. And yet despite these successes, more work still needs to be done in order to reach all of the targets defined by the United Nations.

The challenge now in defining a post-Millennium Development Goal agenda is ensuring that the successes made over the past 15 years are sustained while

other areas requiring action are also prioritized. The formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals both expands upon the ambitious vision of 2000 while requiring the global community to consider both the sustainability as well as the complexity necessary to ensure continued improvements in the quality of life of the world's population. The 17 SDGs under consideration, along with their various targets and associated indicators, represent an important departure from the narrower vision of their predecessors. This is particularly true in terms of the approach to health and well-being, central to the work of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization. Unlike in the MDGs where 3 of the 8 goals dealt explicitly with health (child mortality, maternal health and specific diseases like HIV), only one is dedicated entirely to the issue of health of the 17 SDGs. However, this goal is much more expansive and inclusive than the vision outlined in 2000. "Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages" will require action on many fronts to address issues affecting health from the pre-2015 agenda, such as HIV and maternal health, as well as different challenges, such as non-communicable diseases and growing health inequities, which pose an increasing threat to sustainable development.

While the third SDG on health offers an expansive vision for global action, some might remark on the seemingly diminished importance of health in terms of the overall agenda compared to the pre-2015 vision. In fact, arguably the opposite is true. A growing body of evidence, epitomized by the WHO's Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, has linked the issues addressed by each SDG with important impacts on health. We now have a much greater understanding of the effect that climate change, economic development and urbanization can have on the health of populations. These issues are further amplified by the growing challenge posed by inequality throughout the world, both between and within countries at all levels of economic development.

Now that the SDGs are finalized and have been approved by the General Assembly in September of this year, agencies in the UN system will be responsible for ensuring that governments attain the 17 SDGs while WHO will ensure that health and equity are at the heart of interventions addressing each of them. In order to accomplish this, governments and societies will need to collaborate in new and innovative ways to attain a definition of health that is much more expansive than previously conceived.

To this end, the Pan American Health Organization was the first region of the world to adopt a Plan of Action on Health in All Policies and recently convened a high level expert consultation to provide guidance on implementing said Plan. As part of that expert consultation, a decision was made to form a special task force on Health in All Policies and the Sustainable Development Goals. Health in All Policies (HiAP) provides a framework for action to address the social determinants of health through building collaborations that cut across sectors. It strengthens the role of health sector to partner with other areas of governance including agriculture, finance and education to promote health and reduce health inequities. We plan to provide countries from the region of the Americas with critical technical expertise and guidance on implementing the Sustainable Development Goals with a vision of putting health at the center of public policy making. In order to accomplish this, we intend to identify key indicators from each of the 17 SDGs that can be used to monitor progress both in attaining the targets in each area set for 2030 as well as promoting health.

Putting health in all policies is truly an ambitious goal, particularly given the enormous challenges facing many different areas of development. However, it is key to ensuring the health and well-being of future generations and critical to reducing the unjust and avoidable inequalities that pose one of the greatest threats to future sustainable growth. ■

Geneva

The go-to place for the SDGs

The Perception Change Project (PCP) strives to showcase the richness and impact of the work done by the myriad of international organizations and partners across Geneva.

CAROLINA RODRIGUEZ, KIRSTEN DEALL, PERCEPTION CHANGE PROJECT

With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Agenda due this year, we knew we needed to find an effective way to present how equipped and prepared international Geneva is to support the implementation of the new set of Global Goals. The aim was to design a tool that would help people understand who was doing what and how for each one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We needed to find a way to map out our expertise.

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We kick-started the mapping process by convening PCP partners to a brainstorming session. The first challenge was to determine what we meant by 'expertise'.

We collectively came up with nine areas that cover the different types of work we do: (1) Norms and standard setting; (2) Legal framework and support; (3) Capacity building and training; (4) Coordination; (5) Research and collection of data; (6) Policy formulation; (7) Outreach, advocacy and communication; (8) Data analysis harmonization and statistics; and (9) Operations in the field.

From there, the PCP team developed a structured, web-based survey that was sent out to all partners. Over 70 organisations, including international organizations, NGOs and other Geneva-based institutions, responded and we compiled an initial set of data. Our aim was to have a first set of visualizations ready ahead of the UN General Assembly so representatives from Geneva could share with colleagues and counterparts in New York.

The design component was embedded in the process from the beginning, which led us to collect data in a way that facilitated its visualization. UNOG's design team came on board to turn around the massive amount of information into a series of simple infographics that show our collective expertise goal by goal. The visualizations also show how UN organizations fit into the broader Geneva context. The result is a tapestry of colours that show how each organization works to contribute to the global goals. The infographics have been extremely well received by partners and hailed as a useful tool. There is also interest in replicating the model for other regions. But this is just the beginning. The PCP is in the process of designing a second version that will allow additional organizations to join in and also include more detailed information that was not included in the first round.

The most taunting challenge lies ahead, with the actual implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda. This tool ultimately aims to provide a comprehensive overview for Member States and the international system as they embark on concerted efforts to meet the goals. It has been challenging to bring so many organizations to collaborate and communicate together, but it has proven to be a valuable effort, as it really focuses on the substance and not on the individual organizations. It's clear that we will only achieve the SDGs if we all work together and this exercise is a small demonstration of this mind-set. ■

If you would like to know more about our next steps on this front, please contact perceptionchange@unog.ch

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A constellation of Saint-Ours

A few kilometres away from Geneva there is a small town called Celigny. In Celigny there is an old cemetery. One thing this cemetery is famous for is that it is the last refuge of Richard Burton, an acclaimed Welsh actor and a husband of a Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor.



The City of Geneva in its antic view with a tomb of Rousseau, 1794



The Triumph of the Beauty, 1780

NATASHA DE FRANCISCO, WHO

His tomb is just to the left from the entrance, never missing fresh flowers from the fans, consigning the “neighbours”, eroded by mighty ubiquitous roots of centuries-old trees, to the eternal oblivion.

The monument at the very end of the line, separated from the rest of the tombs by a rusty fence, is looking particularly solemn in the rays of the setting autumn sun. The inscription on the headstone has almost vanished, but one could still read: “Amie Bernard Saint-Ours, 18 mai 1785 – 26 mars 1851, Il l’a passé faisant le bien” (*“The Friend Bernard Saint-Ours. 18 May 1785 – 26 March 1851, He lived his life doing good”*) The Saint-Ours is one of the old

noble Huguenot families settled in Geneva in the 18th century, which by tradition also gave its name to one of the streets by the side of Geneva University. Indeed, the members of this family represent a brilliant constellation of talents and can be remembered for many good deeds.

Jean-Pierre Saint-Ours (1752-1809), a renowned Geneva painter, whose name is inscribed on the facade of the Geneva Museum of Art and History (MAH), is also from this constellation. An indefatigable advocate of the values of justice, freedom, and democracy, Saint-Ours is one of the most prominent “history painters” of Neoclassicism. A strong believer in the “hidden power of images”, he brought into the art – in the



Auto portrait of the 13-year-old artist, 1765



Auto portrait of the 14-year-old artist wearing a hat at the age of 14, 1766

shape of allegories – the whole richness of classical antiquity, reformist theology, and the philosophy of the Enlightenment.

Following the success of 1972 exhibition, “The Age of Neo-Classicism”, organized by the Royal Academy of Arts in London, which had presented several masterpieces by J.-P. Saint-Ours, Geneva MAH – home to the majority of St-Ours’s works – is currently hosting the first ever retrospective of 180 paintings and drawings released by the artist in Paris, Rome, and Geneva.

These three cities have all added unique dimensions to Saint-Ours’s concept of an ideal beauty grounded in the moral values of the classical world.

Paris and its École des Beaux-Arts shaped the neoclassical spirit of his art.

Rome and Lazio surroundings refined this vision by adding antic motives and serving as inspiration for the artist’s most celebrated landscape paintings. Geneva and its 1792 Revolution tested his ideals in political practice – elected in 1793 to the National Assembly; he was mandated to devise a new Constitution. In the course of three years, he was the driving force behind the empowerment and promotion of art as the basis of a more cultivated social environment.

Too idealist, too sensitive to any expression of extremism, Jean-Pierre Saint-Ours finally gets disappointed in his strive for a more harmonious and equitable society. He abandons his political life for a definite reunification with the world of art, where his good is living to this day on canvases and paper.

The exhibition “Jean-Pierre Saint-Ours. A Geneva Painter in the Age of Enlightenment in Europe” is now open in Geneva MAH and will last until 31 December 2015. ■



The Figure of Geneva Republic, 1794



Chacaltaya, la preuve d'une tragédie

En 2007, Tunza, le magazine du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE), prédisait la disparition de la piste de ski la plus élevée du monde abritée par le glacier de Chacaltaya en Bolivie dans la cordillère des Andes.

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY, UNCTAD

Il ne s'agit plus de science-fiction, le glacier a complètement disparu aujourd'hui. Chacaltaya est un glacier fantôme. Il ne reste qu'une montagne, un tas de cailloux, et des souvenirs glacials.

J'y suis allée une seule fois, en 1981, mais les images resteront gravées à jamais dans mon esprit. Emmerveillée par cette matière exotique qu'était la neige à mes yeux, je jouais, et me croyais sans doute naïvement à l'âge de glace. Il faut dire que même si La Paz est à une hauteur de 3660 mètres il ne neige presque jamais.

J'ai quitté plusieurs fois la Bolivie mais mon départ définitif, celui qui fait de nous des émigrants, était en 2003. Quand sept ans plus tard les médias annonçaient avec consternation la mort du glacier Chacaltaya (chemin froid en Aymara), situé à 5395 mètres d'altitude et vieux de dix-huit mille ans, ce sont mes souvenirs et ceux de milliers de personnes qui ont disparu avec lui.

Là où fonctionnait depuis 1939 une station de ski avec une piste de 200 mètres «le Club Andino Boliviano avait construit un refuge et entretenu un rudimentaire remonte-pente à moteur Ford. Il n'en reste aujourd'hui que des photos jaunies sur les murs du club, et un vieil homme pour les regarder». Il y a dix ans, selon Samuel Mendoza qui habite encore au refuge, «tu mettais un bol d'eau dans une pièce et elle gelait pendant la journée. Aujourd'hui, la température descend à peine à -5°C dehors au plus fort de l'hiver».

La disparition du Chacaltaya a été dans une certaine mesure la «chronique d'une mort annoncée». Le site web du Club Andino de Ski indiquait déjà en 1997 que la saison de ski était suspendue à cause de «conditions climatiques adverses». Selon le site, «le phénomène météorologique El Niño et les hautes températures empêchaient la chute de neige».

Dans l'actualité plusieurs glaciers sont signalés par les experts comme les futures victimes du réchauffement climatique. Les chroniques

annoncées de disparitions se multiplient, au point que des spécialistes affirment «Les neiges éternelles du Kilimandjaro ne seront bientôt plus qu'une image que les jeunes générations n'auront jamais pu voir de leurs propres yeux». Selon le journal *Libération* (1^{er} juin 2015) «Les glaciers du massif du Mont Blanc ont perdu en moyenne 10 mètres d'épaisseur entre 2003 et 2012. Un rythme beaucoup plus élevé que durant la période précédente, entre 1979 et 2003». Nous pourrions remplir des pages entières avec des prédictions et des alertes données par des glaciologues, cela ne viendrait que s'ajouter aux sonnettes d'alarme qu'on entend depuis des décennies et qui, à force de les entendre souvent, deviennent banales.

Que diriez-vous si vous partiez quelques années de la douce ville de Genève, et que vos amis vous avisaient que le Mont Blanc n'était plus? ■

Pour plus d'information, visiter: <http://www.un.org/fr/multimedia/videos/video69.shtml>

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What can you do to contribute to overcoming extreme poverty by 2030?

The Sustainable Development Goals, adopted on 25 September 2015, represent probably the most ambitious development programme in human history.



Children in Burkina Faso thanking the 1% Fund for the new well financed by the Fund.

FRIEDRICH VON KIRCHBACH, PRESIDENT, 1% DEVELOPMENT FUND, GENEVA

And yet, success will be elusive unless all stakeholders pitch in. What can we, as individuals living in the Geneva area, do to support this remarkable and comprehensive agenda?

Perhaps the experience of the 1% for Development Fund in Geneva can guide our thinking and actions. Set up in 1976 – the Fund is going to celebrate its 40th anniversary next year – it encourages people to live on 99% of their income and to contribute about 1% of their revenues for member-selected development projects, i.e. as much as the cost of one's daily cup of coffee or tea.

The Fund co-finances small-scale projects and community initiatives in developing countries proposed by local not-profit associations. A great deal of support has been given to build schools and medical infrastructure, to enhance access to water and to assist small cooperatives to improve their production. 100% of the members' contributions are passed on to the beneficiaries, as the Fund is self-administered by its members.

Over the past decades, the members of the Fund have been able to finance some 750

projects in nearly 80 countries, with a combined investment of over Fr. 7 million. This makes the Fund the largest development initiative of UN staff. The Fund is officially registered as an NGO in the Canton of Geneva. Membership is now open to any individual wishing to join, whether working in the public or private sector.

The best part is how much of a difference we can make, with as little as Fr. 10,000.–. Here are three examples:

In a recent project, the 1% Fund (in cooperation with the Geneva-based Graine de Baobab Association) provided the funds to generate solar electricity in a maternity ward in Bané in Eastern **Burkina Faso**. In the past, complications during night deliveries were often not properly treated simply because of the lack of light. The installation of a solar-powered lighting system is now saving lives of mothers and babies. An arrangement with the committee of the maternity ward ensures the maintenance and sustainability of the lighting system.

In **Bolivia**, 83% of children and 69% of women suffer domestic violence. To provide a safe-haven for some of these victims, Voix Libres Suisse purchased a refuge house of 240 m². The 1% Fund provided equipment

and furniture for the refuge house: four solar ovens, tables, chairs, benches, bunk beds, shelves, desks, cabinets, etc. Most of the items are produced by the carpentry workshop run by women in the shelter. The shelter is easily accessible to victims and facilitates collaboration with judicial institutions, the municipality and the police.

In the Howrah District of West Bengal in **India**, the 1% Fund helped local organization Itarai Asha Deep (IAD) to construct a flood-resistant community center that assists the Organization to hold their health care and health educational activities such as assisting self-help women groups for their training programmes and nursery school. A success story that improved lives in five villages with more than 6000 direct beneficiaries.

The message is clear: we can make a difference as individuals. If you would like to know more about the 1% Fund for Development and its members or to join in our efforts to make the world a safer, better place, please visit our website www.onepercentfund.net, send us your questions at info@onepercentfund.net or contact any of our members, e.g.:

- Linda Ollerenshaw, UNOG (lollerenshaw@unog.ch); Kristine Goulding, WHO, and Sagnik Chattopadhyay, OHCHR, (sagnikh@yahoo.com) in **English** or **French**;
- Isabelle Ferigo-Hézelot, ILO – isaferigo@gmail.com and Sylvie Pichelin, spichelin@bluewin.ch in **French**;
- Roberto Smith-Gillespie in **Spanish**, **English** or **French** (roberto@onepercentfund.net)
- Fengqi Li, WMO in **Chinese** or **English** (fengqi@onepercentfund.net);
- Maurice Allal in **Arabic**, **French** or **English** (mauallal@bluewin.ch);
- Olga Solleder, ITC in **Russian**, **English** or **French** (olga@onepercentfund.net);
- Friedrich von Kirchbach in **English**, **French** or **German** (friedrich@onepercentfund.net). ■



CHRISTOPHER STÖBEL AND
GAUTAM BASU, WHO

Ronnie Peters, born 1915, joined WHO as one of its first staff members when the Organization was still on the drawing board at UN conferences and its Constitution was being drafted.

In her three decades in WHO, she has been on the staff of the first Director-General, the first Regional Directors for two regions, and served in HQ and four of the six regional offices. This remarkable retired staff celebrated her 100th birthday recently.

If this was not enough to fill up several volumes of memoirs, she even got evacuated on a US Navy vessel from a WHO office in a war-time emergency. "I enjoyed my years in WHO and perhaps that contributed to my healthy life. My duties in WHO took me around the world and opened up new horizons for me," she told friends and former colleagues at her 100th birthday party.

As former WHO staff members flocked to her house near Geneva to savour the moment over smiles and memories on her centenary earlier this year, Director-General Dr Margaret Chan sent congratulations and birthday greetings to the "first WHO centenarian she is aware of". But for Ronnie, it was like all in a day's work. "I feel nothing special ... I would rather be younger!" she said. Of all her memories over the past century, Ronnie says she treasures most the ones from her time in WHO, "especially the evacuation from Alexandria on an American warship!"

In service during the Great War

Ronnie Peters' life has been eventful, as she witnessed and lived through a myriad and

tumultuous events of the 20th century. She was born in Finsbury Park, London, and went to Skinner's Companies School for Girls in Stamford Hill. In the years just before the Second World War she took business and commerce secretarial training at Mayfair. Her first job was at Marks and Spencer just a few blocks down from the proverbial lodgings of Sherlock Holmes on London's Baker Street. In 1940, when the Second World War had arrived in the British skies (the Battle of Britain), Ronnie volunteered for duty in the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (the FANYs, now called the Princess Royal's Volunteer Corps). It was in uniform that Ronnie learnt how to drive and later she was a full time volunteer driving military ambulances and Lorries in night convoys from Edinburgh to the British coastal stations. She was part of a backroom team manning the huge logistical effort to organize the colossal deployment of troops for the historic Normandy landings in 1944, better known as "D-Day".

An eventful career in WHO

After demobilization in 1946 Ronnie joined the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration) for a short stint in Poland, the country of her father's birth, before she moved to WHO in Geneva. "My years in WHO were most interesting," Ronnie explains, "probably due to the fact that I was working with many nationalities in different regional offices."

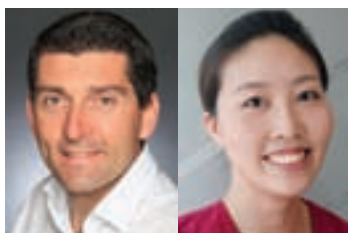
Ronnie's service in WHO predates the Organization itself. She was recruited by the Interim Commission – that later became the WHO headquarters in Geneva – on 19 March 1947, and that's a full year before WHO was born. And when Dr Brock Chisholm of Canada took over as the first DG in 1948, Ronnie

was his personal secretary. Having been on the move as part of the British War effort, Ronnie developed an enduring passion for travel and seeing the world. In August 1949 she sought a transfer to the newly formed Eastern Mediterranean Region's headquarters in Alexandria, Egypt, as Administrative Assistant to their first Regional Director. On 1 November 1956 all WHO staff at Alexandria were evacuated to Geneva at the onset of the hostilities over the Suez Canal. EMRO staffs were relocated temporarily in the offices of the Palais des Nations till 1957. Ronnie did not have to return to Alexandria as Dr Mani, the first Regional Director of the South East-Asia Region, offered her a post as Administrative Officer for Information Retrieval in New Delhi. After two years in India and Ronnie moved to the WHO Regional Office for Europe in Copenhagen. And in September 1965 she joined her fourth regional office, for Africa in Brazzaville. After six years in Africa, she returned to Geneva in June 1971 as Administrative Officer in the Cooperation Programme for Development.

Her mantras to a long life

Ronnie Peters retired from service in May 1976, but retirement has been no less active for Ronnie. She continued to travel the world. When she finally chose to "truly retire" in a suburb near Geneva, she remained active through many activities, including the women's clubs of Geneva and Nyon, painting watercolours and on porcelain, and caring for her furry and feathered friends, especially cats and dogs.

Ask Ronnie Peters for some advice on how we could all live healthy and long lives, and she provides three "mantras": "Enjoy your work, practice sports and keep a dog or cat as a companion." ■



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An opportunity for change

In this article, Professor David R Harper and Philip Angelide¹ discuss a recently published Chatham House paper 'Rethinking the Global Health System' that identifies priority areas for reform to make it fit for the challenges of the post-2015 era².

MARCO SCHÄFERHOFF, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, SEEK DEVELOPMENT

The Ebola crisis in West Africa has once again focused the world's attention on the effectiveness of the global health system. Many distinguished experts have been examining the response to Ebola, and countries are understandably looking forward to the positive action that should follow.

However, no matter how important it is to improve the global management of infectious disease outbreaks, we must resist any temptation to neglect the wider requirements of a system that must be fit for the post-2015 era. We have to deal with health in the broadest sense, and many of the drivers are outside the health sector, not least those in the financial, education, energy and environment sectors.

We must also take into account demographic shifts, along with economic and political developments, that are reshaping the global burden of disease and presenting complex challenges, such as those arising

from ageing populations and non-communicable diseases. Despite the rapid and sustained economic growth that is vaulting many low-income countries (LICs) to middle-income country (MIC) status, pockets of highly vulnerable populations remain: in 1990 about 90 per cent of the world's poor lived in LICs, but now MICs account for more than three-quarters.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The recent adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals was very timely – its 17 goals with 169 associated targets takes a large step towards reflecting the complex needs of a world facing extreme poverty, inequality and injustice and the ever-present threat of climate change. By acknowledging the need for inter-sectoral cooperation and recognizing the broad determinants of health, the SDGs stress the linkages between health, gender and sectors such as education and the environment. Centred on people, they include one explicit set of health targets, grouped in the goal number three: 'to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at



all ages'. However, the SDGs will not be achieved unless the existing global health architecture is changed, and in some areas completely transformed.

Priority areas for action

Ebola has reminded us of the ongoing need to strengthen health systems. A shortage of trained health workers and equipment, and too few supplies, coupled with insufficient capacity for public health surveillance and outbreak management, allowed Ebola to spiral out of control. In an ever more globalized world, the persistent threat of new pandemics and major disease outbreaks, compounded by the challenges from anti-

microbial resistance, indicates that effective 'management of externalities' will be of critical importance.

Direct country support is still oriented towards the priority challenges of the last two decades. Many low- and middle-income countries are projected to experience substantial economic growth into the next decade, which should enable them to spend more on health themselves. Therefore, the capacity of the global system should be strengthened to support countries in expanding their fiscal space for, and commitment to, financing for health and health systems, and to increase public funding for poor and vulnerable populations.

There is a pressing need to scale up health research and development and improve access to new technologies and pharmaceutical products. Millions of people in LICs and MICs continue to die from diseases that could be addressed by large-scale investments in research and development, but which remain economically unattractive to the pharmaceutical industry. Global health funders must continue to explore how their strategies can address the rising challenges affecting poor populations and pockets of high disease burden in MICs.

Strong leadership and stewardship form the 'glue' necessary to hold together an effective system. Looking to the future, there is a need for an institutional arrangement that links health with its broader social determinants and facilitates strong collaboration between all of the relevant actors – including the private sector and civil society. A proposal put forward at Chatham House adopts the cross-sectoral approach of UNAIDS and involves the creation of a new United Nations health organization.

This would bring together all UN agencies with health-related mandates, based on a common results framework. Alternatively, a UN health Commission could be set up to improve coordination without the radical changes to the architecture required for a new UN Health organization.

Conclusion

The adoption of the SDGs and the political energy arising from the Ebola outbreak offer a rare opportunity to address the weaknesses of the global health system. To do so, and achieve the SDGs, will require:

- the underlying determinants of poor health to be addressed;
- strong, resilient and equitable systems to be built at the country level;
- better systems for detecting and responding to emergencies.
- more targeted and efficient support for countries;
- greater investments for research and development; and
- reforms focused on building stronger leadership and stewardship.

So far, the international community has been preoccupied with *what* will be needed to achieve the new targets set out in the SDGs, but what is more needed now is *how* to change the architecture to make it fit the post-2015 era. ■

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2 *Rethinking the Global Health System*. London: Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs; 2015.

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Climate Change Not just a phrase

Climate change is defined by the Oxford English dictionary as a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

RHIANNON MAY

It's a phrase that's in constant use in our daily lives and a consistent part of vocabulary everywhere from news reports to Hollywood blockbusters (as the source of yet another disaster movie); but what does it really mean? For current politicians it means desperately trying to meet carbon emission targets and smiling politely at conference after conference about "going green" and "global warming". For scientists it means a race to find an effective and sustainable renewable energy source before it's too late. But what about for the next generation of children and young peo-

ple? As a teenager growing up in a world that is more technology reliant than ever before in history, when a power-cut means everything grinds to a sudden halt and constant connection is expected as a societal norm the loss of fossil fuels and climate change is terrifying. An unsustainable way of life has been created over recent years and no one appears to be equipping the next generations with the tools to fix it. What happened to not inheriting the earth but borrowing it from our children?

Everyone listens to the reports about rising sea levels and watches the melancholy adverts about polar bears whose homes are literally melting away with graven faces and promises to change their ways by switching off lights and recycling more. However, as soon as the latest heat wave arrives, we all praise the summer sun while barbecuing and heading to the beach, and fail to acknowledge the obvious link between the hottest recorded temperatures in over 100 years and the fact that towns will soon be disappearing under the sea.

The wildlife we co-exist with is also suffering because of what has been described by the media as "uncontrollable climate change". Predictions have been made that we are entering the next 'great extinction' with species disappearing every day. The young people of this earth are facing a situation where their children will think the idea of an elephant is alien as that of a

dinosaur, as it will be so removed from their reality, and the only way they will be able to view the current abundant wildlife that we take for granted will be in a picture book.

It's easy to see some aspects of climate change as positive such as the increased temperatures and heat waves that are becoming a regular occurrence across the world. However, the real impacts seem to be ignored; wildlife is dying off as they lack the time to adapt to this rapidly changing environment; droughts are becoming

Restaurants



more prevalent as California is entering its fourth consecutive year of drought and a state of emergency has been declared. This prolonged drought period means children in the Western world are growing up and believing that this constant worry over water levels and drought is part of the normal routine of life. With the current stress levels of young people being the highest ever recorded, should we really be burdening them with the ever prominent fear of whether their future will even vaguely resemble the world they currently live in? Children are learning the words 'climate', 'fossil fuels' and 'renewable energy' as part of their weekly spelling tests making it seem almost inevitable that they will be left to clean up the mess that has been created in relation to the global climate.

It appears that the future of the world, the leaders of tomorrow, are being ignored as the race to attain all possible fossil fuels heats up and carbon dioxide emissions levels are experiencing no noticeable improvement. As a young person, it is hard to imagine a world without fossil fuels as they are the crutch that appears to hold humanity up. Without this support we lose everything from cars to plastics but the current leaders seem unconcerned with this impending doom, and instead focus on how much resistance their latest fracking plan will encounter and how much money the most recent oil spill would have cost them.

However, is it possible for us to find a silver lining in all this negativity? Climate change has caused a wealth of unseen positive effects; our scientists are developing new technology at an almost alarming rate and launching us into a new age of discovery as innovation is hailed as the new way forward and solution to our problems. Creativity within science is being encouraged and rewarded and the results are astounding. Each day there seems to be a new idea or invention that could revolutionise life as we know it and as a consequence, science is becoming more accessible to the general public with solar panels appearing of house and school roofs and wind turbines becoming a permanent fixture in farmers' fields. It reinstates some of my hope for the future as slowly, but surely, change is being implemented and results are final-

ly being seen. This consistent scientific advancement is also vital to the economy as new job roles are being created each day with titles that didn't exist a century ago; this is mirrored by the spike in university applications and graduates that are equipping themselves with the necessary tools for change.

Surprisingly, the new generation also seems to be benefiting from this wealth of scientific advancements. As a young child I remember being intrigued by teachers consistently telling us that fossil fuels will run out within our adult lifetime, and being tasked to invent an alternative power source or compare the positives and negatives of fossil fuels versus renewable energy was a typical science lesson; thus sparking an uncontrollable interest and passion for science that has continued and multiplied throughout my young adult life and features heavily in my future career plans as a doctor.

The next generation is rebelling and is ready to take back the globe before it's too late. ■

Rhiannon May is a high school student with big dreams of travelling and changing the world.

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The Empowerment of Young Girls through Public Figures

The UN have listed one of their sustainable development goals (SDG) as “Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life” (5.5). In regards to full gender equality I believe this goal to be the most important.

MARY KINCH

Speaking from experience, sometimes the sheer presence of another female above the glass ceiling is the biggest boost you can receive. The realisation that your goal isn’t entirely impossible, that it has been achieved before, can give you that little bit of faith you’ve been looking for.

The simple gift of hope, however, is not enough. We must drive forward this SDG with the end result being fair representation for both genders at *every level* in society. It will take time, yes, and it will take a lot of effort and a lot of unavoidable setbacks. There is absolutely no point in pretending this will be an easy task, it won’t be. But we can’t let that stop us, when we have so much to gain. Millions of brilliant ideas will never be heard if they aren’t nurtured and allowed to grow. The next generations will have millions of potential politicians, doctors, teachers and thinkers. Why should their gender silence them? Many of these girls and women will unfortunately have to fight against deprivation, financial hardships, illnesses and other issues. They should not have to fight through all of that period, yet to get through it all only to be stopped by their gender? It makes a mockery of it all. Surely our society can see that?

According to recent figures, nearly 17% of the world is illiterate. Two thirds of that 17% are women. This is holding gender equality back more than anything in my opinion. For women to have full and effective participation, they certainly need to

be able to read and write. Education is key. From the youngest age possible, all people must be educated to a standard of competent literacy and numeracy at the very least. Not everyone has to go to university or straight into work, for some being a stay at home parent is the job they want. That is perfectly fine, but they still need to be competent enough to look after themselves and their baby. Math and literacy skills won’t help you look after your children or yourself. Education comes in many forms, being able to do calculus is all fine and well but if you can’t make yourself healthy food or make sure your children get their required nutrients then your “education” is obsolete.

Women especially need to be educated on staying healthy through puberty and pregnancies. According to the United Nations Population Fund, 289,000 women died of pregnancy or childbirth related causes. This figure may be decreasing overall but many developed countries still have incredibly high rates of maternal mortality. The death of a mother has incredibly far reaching effects for the families involved. Psychologically, the children lose their maternal figure, the ones they associate with comfort and nurturing; the parent left behind is now alone with a new-born to manage. If that parent has a job they may have to cut back or quit entirely; the baby will likely need breast milk to keep it healthy but now that can’t be easily attained. As these children grow, the older ones may need to take on more responsibility, causing them to miss out on their education or training

for work. From there, this will affect their whole life. They aren’t educated, they aren’t trained. Their childhood has been spent living the life of an adult.

Females have faced prejudice and discrimination for centuries in all levels of society. Due to women being regarded as the weaker sex, men have tended to dominate in positions of power, authority and public life. This culture has been deeply ingrained into our society, not just in politics or public life but in the way we behave and live our lives, the way we view genders in general. If a woman is seen to be assertive and decisive, people think she is unfeminine or brash. Being assertive as a male is seen as normal and brashness is sometimes encouraged. If a father works long hours instead of being home in time to pick up his children from school or cook dinner, then it is rarely called into question. However if a mother is working long hours, then she is often made to feel guilty for not being there for her children. For some people, this is how they choose to live their life, one parent takes on a greater share of responsibility for the children and/or housework whilst the other, who perhaps earns more, may work longer hours in order to bring in a better and more manageable income. Women choosing to stay at home or choosing to let their career take a backseat in favour of their partners are not unsuccessful or are oppressed. They are living their lives as they choose. That is one of our fundamental rights as human beings. However, it must be our choice. It shouldn’t be that women must decide



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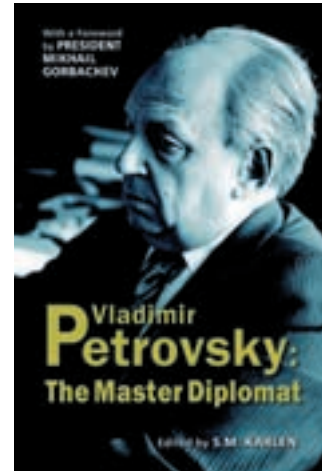
between having a successful career and a successful family. That if they want to look after their country as a politician, they can't have any children to look after. That if they choose to attend higher education then they miss out on their time to start a family.

There is no easy fix to this situation. This has been an issue for centuries and it won't go away overnight. This does not mean we give up. We are at a point now where, as a global community, we have the resources and potential to make a difference worldwide, for good. The world is growing, innovating and developing; there are new discoveries being made every day. Discoveries made by men and women. Our genders do not define who we are or what we are capable of. What matters lies in our hearts, our minds and our souls. We can dream up beautiful possibilities, ground-breaking ideas and life changing inventions. Why should those things mean anything more or less because they came from the mind of a woman? ■

Vladimir Petrovsky

Book presentation in Geneva

This book gives insights into the life of Vladimir Petrovsky, an important figure in the political landscape of the second half of the 20th century.



EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

His diplomatic career took him from the ideologically confined Soviet system to the pinnacle of internationalism. The book highlights his significant contributions to many key processes, such as the Helsinki Final Act, Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika, disarmament and the strengthening of the United Nations. Vladimir Petrovsky describes the necessary tools to create a more inclusive world, a world where individual and collective security, development and self-determination are at the core of all deliberations and actions. ■

ment and the strengthening of the United Nations. Vladimir Petrovsky describes the necessary tools to create a more inclusive world, a world where individual and collective security, development and self-determination are at the core of all deliberations and actions. ■

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Namibie

Rendez-vous avec les Himbas

Avide de grands espaces et attirée par la rencontre des tribus qui les peuplent, la Namibie faisait partie des contrées que je voulais connaître.

STÉPHANIE TORRES, OMPI

Cela remonte à une dizaine d'années lorsque je découvrais le peuple Himba lors de la diffusion de l'émission «Rendez-vous en terre inconnue» qui lui consacrait un très beau reportage.

Alors, lorsque j'apparis que l'association «Terre de Partages» proposait un voyage à la découverte de cette peuplade, je ne mis pas longtemps à m'engager dans l'Aventure.

Le Kaokoland

Après plusieurs jours de voyage dans les immensités désertiques namibiennes, nous arrivons, la tête déjà remplie d'images, dans la région du Kaokoland, «Terre Lointaine» en langue Herero. C'est à Opuwo, ville cosmopolite de 6000 habitants et capitale administrative du

Kaokoland, que nous côtoyons pour la première fois le peuple Himba. Opuwo, une ville de bout du monde, bruyante et poussiéreuse, surprenante par sa mixité et son énergie. Quel étonnement pour nous, Européens, de nous promener en ville au milieu des Himbas et des Hereros. Cela nous semble irréel et, en même temps, tellement normal. Nous nous ravitaillons et reprenons la piste sauvage et vallonnée en direction d'un des plus beaux sites du pays: les chutes d'Epuwa. C'est dans cette région que vivent les Himbas et demain nous irons à leur rencontre. Ce soir nous dormirons sur la rive du fleuve Kunéné, bercés par la musique des chutes.

Bienvenue chez les Hembinda

Isolé près du fleuve Kunéné qui fait office de frontière avec

l'Angola, le village de Otjoma regroupe une trentaine de personnes toutes issues de la famille Hembinda. A leur tête, Otjoma Hiyakondumbu, âgée de 70 ans, a hérité des fonctions de son mari récemment décédé. Nous sommes invités

à entrer dans le village et à découvrir la vie de cette communauté. Joseph, notre guide sera notre interprète lors de cette rencontre. Afin de faciliter la communication avec les adultes, nous tentons de prononcer quelques mots de

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vocabulaire Himba: Bonjour «moro», comment allez-vous? «ua penduka nawa?», tout va bien «peri nawa», merci «oku-hepa»... Notre maladresse est évidente, les rires éclatent de part et d'autre, le contact entre nous est établi. Dans le village, de nombreux enfants s'amusent et, curieux, viennent à notre rencontre. Avec eux, la communication est plus facile. Quelques sourires, bonbons et grimaces suffisent... La visite se poursuit, nous vagabondons dans le village et découvrons également l'intérieur des huttes. Joseph nous explique l'organisation et le mode de vie de la tribu.

La vie d'un village Himba (Kraal)

Quelque 10 000 Himbas vivent dans la région. Chez les Himbas, le pouvoir politique et spirituel

appartient aux hommes alors que le pouvoir économique est détenu par les femmes. Leur vie est rythmée par le souci de trouver de l'eau et des pâturages pour leur bétail. La vie du kraal, généralement constitué d'une dizaine de huttes, s'articule entièrement autour du troupeau qui représente toute la richesse des Himbas et constitue l'essentiel de leur subsistance.

Avec le cuir des vaches, les Himbas se confectionnent des ceintures, des couvertures et des parures. Mélangée à de la terre, la bouse de vache sert à construire des cases qui restent chaudes en hiver et fraîches en été. L'alimentation est principalement basée sur le lait de vache qui est mélangé à la

farine issue des céréales cultivées pour former une sorte de porridge. La viande de chèvre est consommée environ une fois par mois lors des grands événements (naissance ou une visite). Pour toutes ces raisons, les Himbas entretiennent une relation intime et unique avec chacune de leurs bêtes et peuvent passer des heures à contempler leurs vaches.

Rituels et secrets de beauté

C'est pour être aussi belles et fortes que les vaches rousses que les femmes Himbas s'enduisent quotidiennement le corps d'un mélange de graisse animale (omaze), d'herbes aromatiques, et d'ocre (otjize). Obtenue à partir de l'hématite réduite en poudre, l'otjize ajouté au mélange donne une crème facilement utilisable qui protège du froid, de la chaleur et qui est «100% bio»! C'est également en l'honneur de la vache, et toujours par coquetterie, que les jeunes filles se font arracher les quatre dents du bas dès l'âge de 11 ans.

Les femmes se vêtissent de manière traditionnelle. Elles ne portent qu'une jupe en peau et des bijoux traditionnels sur leur torse nu. Les coiffures, et appareils ont une signification très précise. Les jeunes filles portent des tresses pointées vers l'avant, alors que les femmes ont de longs cheveux noués en tresses et enduits de terre rouge. Chez les Himbas, la pudeur interdit aux femmes de dévoiler leurs chevilles.

Celles-ci sont donc ornées de lourds bracelets pour les dissimuler.

La scolarisation des enfants

Dans le village d'Otjoma, seulement 5 enfants sont scolarisés. L'école est située à 5 kilomètres. Tous les matins, les enfants de Otjoma se rendent à l'école à pied avec le troupeau de chèvre dont ils ont la responsabilité. Pendant la classe, le chien de berger veille sur le troupeau mais les enfants doivent rester vigilants. A la sortie des classes, les écoliers reprennent leur rôle de berger et rentrent au village. Si les Himbas souhaitent que leurs enfants fassent des études, ils craignent également que l'école les éloigne de leur famille, de leur tradition et leur ouvre d'autres perspectives loin du village.

La rencontre s'achève sans que nous n'ayons vu passer la journée. Nous quittons le village avec quelques bracelets Himbas à nos poignets et reprenons la route vers d'autres aventures... ■

La Namibie est un pays aux horizons magnifiques, riche en couchers de soleil et en belles rencontres... Je vous invite à la découvrir avec l'association «Terre de Partages» et son partenaire local «Sandwich Adventure Tours».

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1/6th of the World's Biodiversity Endangered by Climate Change



© Neil Palmer

Picture the typical zoo. Picture the crowds of people swarming to peer at the wild and exotic creatures of this Earth. Picture your favourite animals, all dispersed for you to admire and wonder at. Now remove one-sixth of them.

GABRIELA SAGUN

Unfortunately, this is not a mere exercise of the imagination. According to a recent study by Mark Urban of University of Connecticut in *Science* magazine, accelerating climate change threatens the extinction of one in six species. Dr. Urban's study was an analysis of one hundred thirty-one multispecies studies. This analysis suggested that 7.9% of species are expected to go extinct, but the inevitable increase in global temperature could threaten extinction to one in six species. South America, Australia, and New Zealand are most prone to extinction risk due to their higher biodiversity in climate. However, since many of these exotic species are adapted to survive only in very specific climates, a slight change in temperature could be the difference between survival and extinction. While a change in climate opens new niches for species dispersal, this dispersal into new suitable habitats cannot be guaranteed and therefore must be assumed to not occur in any model. Furthermore, the

proportion of species threatened by extinction is smaller still than the proportion of species affected by climate change. Climate change impacts ecosystems of interdependent species and environmental factors. As Dr. Urban put, "even species not threatened directly by extinction could experience substantial changes in abundances, distributions, and species interactions." With every degree increase in global temperature, extinction risks rises. Dr. Urban emphasizes how we must "act now to limit future climate change."

However, current international policy is not able to facilitate such change. Today international goals strive to limit temperature change to 2°C, yet "most experts believe [this] is no longer achievable." Efforts of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition aim to reduce global warming by 0.6°C by 2050. Yet, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that the average global temperature is likely to increase by 0.3°C to 0.7°C from 2016

to 2035. To put it simply, the climate is changing faster than government action can begin to keep up with. This only places more attention and pressure upon the UN Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris this year. The outcomes of this conference will not only impact the course of nations in terms of resources, pollution, and finances, but will impact the very extinction of species across the globe. This will set the precedence for how humanity as a whole will impact this Earth.

Yet, the way we impact this Earth is not isolated to government reforms and regulations. Many non-profit organizations work tirelessly to spread environmental impact awareness across communities. To name a few, the Environmental Youth Alliance, EarthCorps, and the Sierra Club are only some of the thousands of organizations taking the initiative to save the environment. Many targeting young adults, they often focus on volunteer work. While some may question the capability of seemingly grassroots organizations planting trees and building compost sites, these organizations hold great influence over public awareness. Especially by emphasizing youth involvement, the experience gained from this type of volunteer work shapes the perspective of the younger generation.

With such an aware generation, the world will be more empowered to further combat climate change. Although Dr. Urban's study is certainly holds alarming implications, it does not suggest scenes of disaster taken from cinema. In a way, this study acts as a new standard for the coming generations to measure themselves to. These are the generations that must be the ones to reduce the carbon footprint, increase alternative energy, and protect the endangered species. The possible challenges for the future only present greater potential for the people to come. ■

Do not deprive children to finance raises for United Nations senior management!

BARBARA TAVORA-JAINCHILL, UNITED NATIONS STAFF UNION

The International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) is an independent body established by the United Nations General Assembly to regulate the conditions of service of United Nations staff. A recent report from the ICSC contains a proposal on UN employees' compensation package. If this is approved by the United Nations General Assembly, UN staff members who are single parents will earn much less than they currently do. The money to be taken away from single parents and their children will be put towards financing a substantial raise to United Nations senior managers (Under-Secretaries-General – USGs and Assistant Secretaries-General – ASGs).

USGs and ASGs currently earn (gross per year) around \$192,000 and \$175,000 respectively; if this ICSC proposal is accepted, their salaries will increase to approximately \$202,000 and \$183,000. In the meantime, thousands of UN staff who are single parents will lose an average of \$6,000 a year. Why? Because the ICSC assumes that these single parents receive child support and therefore do not need the UN provided income they currently receive due to their children.

This is unacceptable! It shows how out of touch the International Civil Service Com-



mission is. Thousands of United Nations staff members who are single parents rely on the additional income to pay for child-care facilities, sitters and nannies who ensure the wellbeing of their child(ren) while they are working and are travelling on official mission around the world. These employees cannot always count on their families for support since usually they are working away from their home countries. Most of them do not get child support (from the other parent) either.

To help stop this nonsense proposal, a petition was launched to show H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft (Denmark), President of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly, and Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, that children should come first, especially at the UN.

This change will affect many of us. Please do not let this injustice and clear discrimination go unnoticed. ■

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© Sandy Roupioz

Aix-les-Bains

L'autre cité lacustre restée méconnue des Genevois et pourtant si romantique

*«O temps suspends ton vol et
vous heures propices!
Suspendez votre cours:
Laissez-nous savourer
les rapides délices
Des plus beaux de nos jours»*

SANDY ROUPIOZ, OCHA

Située à seulement soixante-dix kilomètres de Genève, Aix-les-Bains a su garder un charme suranné lié notamment à sa situation géographique et à ses sources d'eau chaude qui en firent jadis une station thermale de renommée internationale. Blottie au bas des montagnes, la ville d'eau – «Acquae» à l'époque romaine – a, à ses pieds, le lac du Bourget. Il s'agit du plus grand lac de France d'origine glaciaire qui s'étend sur dix-huit kilomètres

de long et trois kilomètres de large. Selon la légende, le lac du Bourget aurait un destin lié à celui des lacs d'Annecy et le lac Léman. Ainsi, au moment où Dieu aurait demandé à trois de ses anges de quitter les Alpes du Nord, ces derniers auraient versé trois larmes créant ainsi trois lacs, le Léman, celui d'Annecy et celui du Bourget, parfois également surnommé, lac d'Aix-les-Bains.

'Turquoise égarée' pour Balzac, lieu de méditations et témoin de souvenirs passionnés pour Lamartine, le lac du Bourget fut chanté par de nombreux poètes et écrivains du XIX^e et XX^e siècle, en théâtre de l'art romantique.

C'est au bord de ce 'Lac' que le poète Alphonse de Lamartine rencontra Julie Charles, épouse du célèbre physicien Jacques

Charles. Lamartine sauva en effet de la noyade, Julie, lors de son premier séjour thermal à Aix-les-Bains en octobre 1816. L'année suivante, Lamartine retourna à Aix-les-Bains mais Julie, très malade, ne put le rejoindre. C'est au cours de ce second séjour qu'il composât le «Lac» à l'intention de la chère absente, transformée en véritable muse du poète. A cet effet, le Musée Faure d'Aix-les-Bains présente, entre autres, une reconstitution de la chambre du poète qu'il avait occupée à la villa Perrier, lors de ses huit passages entre 1816 et 1830.

Après avoir lui-même effectué une cure en 1888, Guy de Maupassant, a fait se dérouler le début de son ouvrage posthume l'*Âme Etrangère*, à Aix-les-Bains «ville de douches et de casinos, d'hygiène et de plaisir, où tous les princes de la



© Sandy Roupiez



© Sandy Roupiez

terre que les trônes ont rejetés fraternisent avec tous les rasta-quouères dont les prisons n'ont pas voulu...»

Aix-les-Bains n'a pas seulement séduit les grands écrivains du XX^e siècle, les grandes têtes couronnées ne sont pas non plus restées insensibles à la beauté authentique de la ville. En effet, thermes, casinos et anciens palaces construits entre 1850 et 1930, trilogie gagnante d'une ville thermale au temps de la Belle Epoque, sont dignement représentés dans la ville.

La visite guidée de ces palaces vous propose chaque samedi après-midi jusqu'à la mi-novembre, de vous immerger dans l'atmosphère féerique et cosmopolite de cette époque. Construits pour accueillir les Grands de ce monde qui souhaitaient concilier joies du thermalisme et luxe, les premiers hôtels (Grand Hôtel et Astoria) sont situés en centre-ville près

des thermes et du casino. En revanche, la seconde vague de palaces (Excelsior, Splendide, Royal) a été bâtie sur les premières hauteurs de la ville permettant ainsi de faire profiter à ses hôtes d'une vue plongeante sur le lac. Parmi les invités de marque qu'a pu compter Aix-les-Bains figurent la reine Victoria (trois visites entre 1885 et 1890) qui se faisait passer pour la comtesse de Balmoral afin de profiter d'un séjour incognito en compagnie de sa fille, la princesse Béatrice souffrant de rhumatismes. Sissi, impératrice d'Autriche, se rendit brièvement dans la ville en 1895 pour assister à une réception privée organisée par le roi de Belgique, Léopold II. C'est un banquier américain, John Pierpont Morgan, devenu propriétaire de la compagnie maritime White Star Line qui se trouvait également à Aix-les-Bains pour une cure alors même que son bateau, le tristement célèbre Titanic, faisait

naufage. On ne saurait terminer de broser ce tableau sans évoquer la famille régnante de Savoie qui se trouve présente dans toutes les grandes étapes du développement de la ville thermale. C'est ainsi sur les bons conseils du duc de Chablais, frère du roi de Piémont-Sardaigne que la construction du premier établissement thermal moderne a été initiée.

Au-delà des palaces, il est possible d'admirer de belles villas entourées de jardins paysagés. Le chalet de Solms, construit mi-XIX^e siècle pour la princesse Marie de Solms, petite fille de Lucien Bonaparte se situe non loin de la gare, tout comme le chalet Charcot, du nom du célèbre explorateur polaire, qui est un véritable chalet suisse dont la façade est entièrement recouverte d'écailles de bois. Le plus étonnant témoignage de la période de 'Belle Epoque' reste le château de la Roche du Roi,

un château privé pour lequel seul l'ornement comptait au moment de son construction.

Aix-les-Bains a aussi su se doter d'équipements et d'activités propres à une ville thermale: une croisière thématique sur le lac, un hippodrome, un Bois Vidal avec son parcours de santé, des balades et randonnées le long de la chaîne de montagnes qui entourent un des flancs du lac, de la chaîne des Aravis au Mont-Revard en passant par la «Dent du Chat»... sans oublier au loin le Mont-Blanc, témoin majestueux de la beauté naturelle de la Savoie.

Pendant l'automne, si le cœur vous en dit, laissez-vous charmer par les eaux bleues de l'«autre lac». Il sera peut-être temps de jeter l'ancre pour un week-end, et ainsi savourer 'les rapides délices des plus beaux de nos jours', sur les traces de Lamartine... ou de la reine Victoria... ■

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© Claude Maillard

La frise de la vache noire

Lascaux

Chef-d'œuvre de la préhistoire

Une grande exposition consacrée aux chefs-d'œuvre de Lascaux est à voir jusqu'au 17 janvier 2016 à Palexpo Genève. Reconstituées au millimètre près, les reproductions grandeur nature de cinq fresques révèlent aux visiteurs la splendeur d'un site fermé au public depuis 1963.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

Présentée pour la première fois en Suisse, après la France, les Etats-Unis, le Canada et la Belgique, cette exposition interactive s'enrichit des contributions remarquables du Muséum d'Histoire naturelle et du Musée d'Art et d'Histoire de la Ville de Genève.

L'incroyable découverte

Lascaux, c'est une fantastique histoire. Celle de quatre adolescents réunis dans un village de Dordogne, dans une France en guerre: Marcel Ravidat, Jacques Marsal, Simon Coencas et Georges Agniel. En balade avec son chien, Marcel repère un trou. Il propose à ses copains de l'explorer quelques jours plus tard. C'est ainsi qu'ils découvrent par hasard, le 12 septembre 1940, un témoignage archéologique majeur de l'humanité. Des animaux peints les accueillent sur les murs et les plafonds. Une fois habitués à la pénombre, ils n'en croient pas leurs yeux. Une semaine après leur découverte, les quatre explorateurs alertent leur instituteur à la retraite, Léon Laval, passionné de préhistoire et d'archéologie.



Le panneau des deux bisons

Le 21 septembre, l'abbé Henri Breuil, expert en art pariétal, remonte bouleversé de sa visite dans la grotte. Il séjournera plusieurs semaines sur les lieux avant de commencer à l'étudier minutieusement. Dès décembre 1940, la grotte de Lascaux est classée Monument historique. Elle sera ouverte à la visite en 1948. Les recherches archéologiques seront ensuite confiées à l'abbé André Glory en 1952. Marcel Ravidat et Jacques Marsal ont été les premiers, dès 1958, à signaler les dégradations dues à l'invasion d'algues vertes. Parmi les découvreurs de la grotte, Simon Coencas reste le seul témoin vivant de cette époque.

Un véritable voyage dans le temps

Les animaux représentés sur les parois de la grotte de Lascaux sont célèbres dans le monde entier. Cerfs, chevaux, aurochs, bisons..., leurs couleurs et leur mystère fascinent et interpellent sur nos origines. Les peintures murales de la grotte nommée aussi «Chapelle Sixtine de la Préhistoire» constituent un trésor de l'art pariétal, classé au patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO. L'exposition dévoile les secrets des chefs-d'œuvre peints par nos ancêtres les Cro-Magnon, il y a de cela 200 siècles. Semi-nomade, Cro-Magnon vivait de chasse et de cueillette. Il évoluait dans une organisation sociale structurée. Loin de l'image d'Epinal de l'homme des cavernes,

sa culture était bien plus sophistiquée et raffinée que la majorité d'entre nous ne l'imagine. Il créait des outils, confectionnait des vêtements, des ornements et il peignait.

Sur 4000 m² d'exposition, cinq scènes fabuleuses provenant surtout de la Nef, la plus longue partie peinte de la grotte, sont représentées. Le panneau de l'empreinte et la frise des bouquetins, la frise de la vache noire, le panneau des deux bisons, la scène du puits et la frise des cinq cerfs. Des clichés inédits de Norbert Aujoulat, photographe officiel de Lascaux pendant 23 ans, sont également exposés. Les visiteurs peuvent aussi découvrir un campement Cro-Magnon surprenant de réalisme ainsi que l'histoire et le résultat des découvertes préhistoriques de Veyrier, au pied du Salève.

«Chacun a droit à toute la connaissance du monde»

Cette phrase d'Yves Coppens, membre de l'Académie des Sciences et Président du Conseil scientifique de la grotte de Lascaux, résume bien l'intérêt de cette exposition. Fragilisée par une trop grande affluence, la grotte fut fermée au public à la demande d'André Malraux, alors Ministre de la Culture. Et sans cette extraordinaire exposition, nous passerions à côté d'un fabuleux trésor de l'humanité... ■



Semi-nomade, Cro-Magnon a fréquenté Lascaux



Quel bonheur de pouvoir partager un instant avec Yves Coppens!

Yves Coppens

Paléoanthropologue, Yves Coppens est l'un des plus grands spécialistes français de l'évolution humaine. Homme de terrain, il a monté de multiples expéditions (Tchad, Ethiopie, Algérie, Tunisie, Mauritanie, Indonésie, Philippines...) et entrepris de nombreux chantiers de fouilles souvent fructueux comme, par exemple, la découverte de la célèbre Lucy vieille de 3,3 millions d'années.

Passionnant, très abordable, d'une gentillesse sans limite, Yves Coppens est un homme attachant. Et, à quelques jours d'une nouvelle aventure en Ethiopie, sur les terres de Lucy, faire sa connaissance restera pour moi un moment inoubliable. Un seul regret: qu'il ne puisse pas m'accompagner...

Festival FILMAR en America Latina from 13-29 November

November can be a bit sad and grey in Geneva... The 17th edition of the biggest cultural event in Switzerland dedicated to Latin America, with two weeks of screenings and events in and around Geneva and in neighboring France, could be the antidote...



© Sara Cereghetti

Festival Director – Sarah Cereghetti

SARAH JORDAN, SDLS, UNOG

The FILMAR Festival has almost come of age and this 17th edition builds on all that has made its success to date. Now that the Festival is “here to stay”, its aim is both to satisfy its existing audience and reach out to new cinema-goers.

The Director of the Festival, Sara Cereghetti, explains how this year, the approach to the hundred or so films to be projected will be thematic rather than based on the geographical origin of films, like in the past. Films from 18 countries will be categorized into nine themes or “boxes” and promise something for everybody.

Coups de Cœur (Favourites) – Eight films in competition for the *Prix du Public*. This category presents the most notable Spanish language films of the

last six months, from confirmed film-makers.

Opera Prima (First works) – Eight films in competition for the *Prix du Jury des Jeunes* – a selection of the most impressive first films from young or not – so – young talents, both fiction and documentaries, because, as Sara puts it “a good film is a good film.”

Immersion – Twenty-five films from Panama to Tijuana – This selection inspired this year’s poster and present a more in-depth exploration of recent Central American and Mexican productions.

Des Humeurs et des Envies (Moods and Desires) – A panorama of 30 recent films with sub-categories to guide the public. *Joyaux de Festivals* – films that won prizes in recent Festivals; *Femmes en quête de soi* (Women in search of themselves) – films with a focus on heroines; *Crises d’amour* (Love in crisis) – films examining couples under tension and *Saudade en 3 temps* – Brazilian films focusing on different historical periods.

Au Front (On the Front) – Films with a social message to provoke reflection and discussion. *FILMARcito* – For children aged four and upwards and their families.

Dédicaces (Dedicated to...) – Eight films on the theme of childhood.

Corps à Corps (Body to body) – Films on the theme of dance and movement.

A revoir (To see again) – Recent films, already released, that the public may have missed or want to see again, including the 2014 FILMAR prize winners. After certain screenings, the public will be able to exchange with Latin-American film makers as well as with persons or associations with insight into the themes raised. A photo exhibition at the Maison des Arts du Grütli in relation with a Colombian documentary screened there and several “after parties” at different cultural venues will give film buffs plenty of opportunities to prolong their discussions.

The Festival will open on Friday 13 November at the Auditorium Ardit in the presence of Mr. Sami Kanaan, Geneva Councillor for Culture, with a film from Guatemala, *Ixcanul/Volcan*, directed by Jayro Bustamante. The full programme can be consulted at www.filmar.ch ■



© Festival FILMAR

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 le succès est au rendez-vous, le magazine comportera à l'avenir une rubrique «nos lecteurs nous écrivent».

Et maintenant, à vos plumes!

Adressez vos commentaires à:

Garry Aslanyan, rédacteur en chef – UN Special
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Suisse
Par courrier électronique: unspecial@who.int

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.

We are also thinking of a regular feature with the messages from our readers.

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

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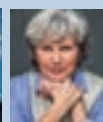
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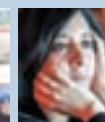
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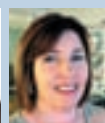
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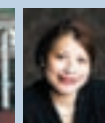
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