



# UN Special



## Multilatéralisme Multilateralism





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Rédactrice en chef / Editor-in-chief

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## Le multilatéralisme

### Une dose de sagesse, une pincée d'humilité

Face aux défis mondiaux impliquant plusieurs intervenants, le multilatéralisme dans sa vision la plus classique, qui réunit des acteurs étatiques en vue d'une solution globale, serait-il à bout de souffle?

L'incapacité à répondre efficacement à certains conflits européens et mondiaux est une réalité. Elle nécessite peut-être une remise en question ainsi qu'une approche moins segmentée et élitiste qui impliquerait sagesse et humilité.

Avec des enjeux géopolitiques complexes et des modes de communication modernes, une approche transversale invitant tous les acteurs, même non étatiques, à se réunir autour de la table est inévitable. Apporter une nouvelle dimension à la sphère de négociation et une réponse stratégique cohérente implique l'adhésion de toutes les parties concernées.

En donnant toute sa dimension aux minorités et aux pays émergents, qui font pencher la balance en construisant de nouvelles alliances, certaines institutions ont déjà saisi la balle au vol.

Une approche multilatérale responsable reconnaît la valeur de chaque intervenant. Personne ne peut être laissé au bord du quai au risque de s'égarer, de prendre un chemin de traverse et éventuellement faire de mauvaises rencontres.

Le train est en marche. Il doit s'arrêter à chaque station en invitant tous les voyageurs à monter pour prendre part au voyage.

## Multilateralism

### A drop of wisdom, a pinch of humility

Global challenges by definition involve many actors. In the face of such challenges, could it be that multilateralism – traditionally conceived as bringing together State actors in search of a unique global solution – has run out of steam?

That fact that we have not been able to provide an efficient response to certain European and international conflicts calls perhaps for a rethink in support of a less segmented and elitist approach involving wisdom and humility.

With complex geopolitical stakes and modern means of communication, a transversal approach in which all actors, even non-State actors, are present at the negotiating table is inevitable. In order to bring a new dimension and generate a coherent strategic response, all interested parties must be committed.

By giving a full say to minorities and BRICS countries, which give added weight to their influence by forging new alliances, certain institutions have already seized the changing day.

A responsible multilateral approach recognizes the value of each actor. No-one should be left standing on the platform: people left out are in danger of getting lost, of taking a wrong turning and of perhaps falling in with the wrong sort of people.

The train is under way. It should stop at every station, inviting all the travellers to climb on board and take part in the journey.



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Dr. David Nabarro visits Freetown, Sierra Leone

## Interview with Dr. David Nabarro, Special Envoy on Ebola

# The first-ever UN emergency health mission

*UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) is the first-ever UN emergency health mission, set up in response to the unprecedented Ebola outbreak. Dr. David Nabarro tells us about UNMEER and his role as Special Envoy to ensure coherent strategic direction for the overall response.*

LAURENCE VERCAMMEN  
AND CHRISTINE ETZENBACH

**What is unique about UNMEER compared to previous UN and WHO emergency health missions?**

The Ebola outbreak in West Africa has been the worst outbreak of this disease that the world has ever seen. It became clear in August 2014 that the outbreak has significant social, economic, humanitarian, political and security dimensions. There was a need for a robust response that brought together all the different capacities of the UN system to support the efforts of the people and Governments of the affected countries – building on the unique capabilities within the World Health Organization and working closely with the many different partners that were

offering their support. The UN Secretary-General decided to establish a UN Mission – the first ever UN system wide mission to address a multi-faceted public health crisis. The concept of the Mission was that it would draw on the capacities of the entire UN system including the WHO and the World Bank, as well as the system's agencies, funds, and programs.

UNMEER was established on 19 September 2014. This initiative by the Secretary-General received the unanimous support of the UN General Assembly through resolution 69/1 on 19 September, and was supported by the Security Council in its resolution 2177 on the Ebola outbreak.

Why did the UN Secretary-General establish a mission to



Dr. David Nabarro meets with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia

respond to a public health challenge? The Mission is designed to bring together the vast resources of the UN agencies, funds and programs, to reinforce the WHO's technical expertise and experience in disease outbreaks and to support the governments and communities of the affected countries with their efforts in response to the crisis.

**Who are the different actors that UNMEER works with and how is the leadership organized?**

UNMEER supports and works closely with the governments and national structures of Ebola-affected countries. It contributes to preparedness in neighbouring nations. It works in close coordination with regional and international actors, such as AU<sup>1</sup> and ECOWAS<sup>2</sup>, and with member states. UNMEER builds on the existing presence and expertise of: UN country teams; international partners (including NGOs<sup>3</sup>); the private sector; and civil society within the countries. UNMEER is designed to provide strong logistic and coordination capacity, to minimize gaps and to ensure consistent direction of the UN system entities involved in the response.

My role as the Special Envoy on Ebola is to ensure coherent strategic direction for the overall response and to work

in very close coordination with the Special Representative and Head of UNMEER: initially this role belonged to Tony Banbury: since early January 2015, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed has been serving as SRSG<sup>4</sup>.

UNMEER is headquartered in Accra, the capital of Ghana. Its capacities in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are headed by Ebola Crisis Managers who report directly to SRSG Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

The WHO is responsible for the overall direction of the health response strategy and provides technical guidance within the countries, working closely with the Mission. Other UN agencies act on the response from within their area of expertise under the overall leadership and direction of the SRSG.

**Very specific milestones and targets have been set for the mission to eradicate Ebola as quickly and as effectively as possible. Who set these and what is the ultimate goal? What is still needed to stop the outbreak?**

The WHO worked with the SRSG to set ambitious targets for the response (and for the Mission) – for example on isolating cases of Ebola or on the number of safe burials and contact tracing. These targets – developed in late September 2014 – represented what was needed at the time to restrict

the exponential growth of the outbreak and start reducing the number of cases.

The ultimate target is to completely extinguish the Ebola outbreak. To achieve this we need the continued and full support of the international community.

There is still an active outbreak even when disease transmission is in decline. There is a continuing need for vigilance to ensure that any progress made is sustained and not reversed, especially throughout the impending rainy season. We are seeing flare-ups of cases in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Complacency is one of the greatest dangers in the fight against Ebola.

As the Ebola outbreak in West Africa has evolved, the countries immediately adjacent to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are at heightened risk of inter-country spread of the disease. The successful containment of the virus in Mali has shown that the need for inter-country work has become paramount in order to enhance regional preparedness and capacity for infectious disease outbreaks in the future.

The role of social mobilization and community engagement in the response communities remains crucial. Through the engagement of local leaders, emphasis is being placed across all three countries to ensure that communities participate in social mobilization and perpetuate awareness raising, education and training.

There has been an extraordinary response from the international community and the private sector. However, the Ebola response remains short of financial and material contributions to save lives and protect communities. For example,

several Ebola facilities face financial constraints in implementing Infection Prevention Control (IPC) recommendations. As a result, cross-infection issues remain critical, particularly during transportation and within holding facilities, as suspected cases are often kept together with confirmed cases.

The latest Overview of the UN system and partners' Requirements for the Ebola Response – launched at the World Economic Forum last month – appeals for \$1 billion in funding. The funding will support the efforts of the national governments of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as they identify and treat people affected by Ebola, ensure a rapid end to the outbreak, re-establish essential social services and improve people's food and nutrition security. The appeal includes the funds needed for enabling nearby countries to reduce their risk of human infection.

**Has the multilateral approach and collaboration between different actors under the sole guidance of a Head of Mission made this Mission more efficient or more complex?**

Neither UNMEER nor the affected countries could stop Ebola alone. We needed a Global Ebola Response.

Coordination and collaboration of actors are absolutely crucial to ensure resources are available where they are needed most. The coordination role they play is challenging and complex but has been crucial to reducing transmission of the virus.

The outbreak has drawn together an unprecedented coalition of organizations that can not only help Ebola affected countries to recover stronger for the future but I hope will



also construct a global health architecture that can leave us all safer and better off.

**The WHO headquarters are located in Geneva and the UN also has an office there. What role does Geneva play in the Mission?**

The WHO in Geneva works in very close collaboration with UNMEER, for example by providing expertise in epidemiology, setting standards for treatment or protective clothing.

My own office as Special Envoy is based both in Geneva and at the UN Headquarters in New York. This way I can keep in touch with the international community and the latest developments in both locations.

However, this crisis has been tackled only in part through Geneva and New York. We

must recognise the leadership of the national governments of the affected countries in responding to this crisis, and the commitment and resolve shown within Africa, including the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union and the contributions from the African private sector.

**What value for the Mission has been your experience in working for the public sector (British Government) as well as for a large international organization (WHO)?**

Tackling an Ebola outbreak of this scale has been the most challenging issue I have faced in my career. I have had to call upon all my experience, both when working unilaterally for a national health service and multilaterally for an international organization.

**Do you think this pilot mission will trigger future multilateral**

**collaborations between the UN, the WHO and other UN agencies?**

The international community, including the Member States and UN System, regional organizations as well as NGOs, are following very closely the progress being made to stop Ebola.

There is unprecedented interest in this mission following the unanimous adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/1 on 19 September and the adoption of Security Council resolution 2177 on the Ebola outbreak.

I believe Member States value the collaboration that has been made possible through the UN and its first-ever health mission system-wide.

And yes, I feel it could pave the way, depending on the nature of the crisis or outbreak, for similar collaborations in order

to leverage expertise and address complex, multi-dimensional challenges in a concerted effort. ■

<sup>1</sup> African Union (AU)

<sup>2</sup> Economic Community Of West African States (ECOWAS)

<sup>3</sup> Non-governmental organization (NGO)

<sup>4</sup> Special Representative Secretary-General (SRSG)



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## Campaigning Summit Switzerland 2015

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*That is the belief that anything we do must have our brain's mark and also our love's imprint. This is also the leading idea of the "Campaigning Summit Switzerland", taking place in Zurich on 13 March.*

### GIOVANNA DE MARCO

Campaigning Summit Switzerland is a great opportunity to gather experts and lovers of communication, public relations, social media, change management and personal development. At this event, new trends and innovations in the field of advertisement campaigning and the art of storytelling as an extraordinary tool to engage people are displayed. We met Peter Metzinger, founder of business campaigning. He and a team of passionate campaigning *aficionados* created a platform where the not-for-profit, political and corporate sectors, can learn from each other through stories and examples; where they can learn to think "outside the box" and consequently embrace change.

### What is business campaigning?

Business campaigning is a management model to achieve change by engaging people. It is also a way of thinking, a philosophy that originated in the strategies of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Greenpeace, which are accustomed to "impossible missions" with extremely challenging goals, big opponents and tight budgets, too tight for what they deem necessary to succeed.

Business campaigning is the framework for a coordinated series of strategically planned activities or operations to change the behavior and thinking of specific groups of people. It is more than communication.





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Peter Metzinger, founder of business campaigning



Lively exchange between delegates

**Campaigning Summit is an event involving different sectors, where multilateralism is the keyword. Can you tell us more about it?**

We have representatives coming from many fields such as public relations, advertising, NGOs, political campaigning, social media, change management. A mixed crowd with one common denominator: achieving change by turning target groups from opponents to supporters of a goal. It is a true hub to connect professionals from the non-profit and business sectors.

**You have been creating campaigns since 1982. How does your background as physicist help or influence your approach?**

My two first campaigns were against a paint sludge landfill outside our village and against written tests during my physics studies at the University of Heidelberg. As a physicist you learn to analyze very critically any assumption and to be extremely precise in how you define things. This way of thinking helps me a lot when it comes to deeply understanding the initial situation and to defining the goals of a campaign. Too many campaigns are based on an insufficient situation analysis or goals that have not been clearly defined. These campaigns

are doomed to fail in general. The mechanisms of campaigning, of course, I did not learn at university but through experience "out in the field".

**What is the main goal of the Campaigning Summit Conference and what can we expect from such an event?**

Our mission is to bring together people who are interested in the latest state-of-the-art approaches to change management and communications. Our objective is to offer a platform for inspiration, networking and learning from each other, especially from representatives of other professions who need answers to similar questions, such as: "how do I engage people to help me achieve my goals?" and "how do I make people change their behavior or their way of thinking?"

**Why is it important to attend the conference?**

For networking, inspiration and knowledge exchange between professionals. For instance, marketing specialists can learn from change management specialists, public affairs experts can learn from social media experts and the other way

around. The feedback we received from the past Campaigning Summits was that there are many marketing conferences, but none of them is as inspiring and useful as the Campaigning Summit Zurich, now called Campaigning Summit Switzerland.

**What will make campaigns successful in the future?**

Social media have brought us new dimensions that strengthen the way of campaigning. Authenticity as prerogative will become even more important, not only because of the increased transparency that comes along with social media but also as a result of issues like the National Security Agency scandal. The space for manipulation is strongly reducing.

Just as important is a new way of thinking. Not only do we need to use networks, we also need to think in networks. This thinking is called "Relational Thinking". It is about the relation between people, organizations, different communication channels and professions. If we understand relational thinking, we are ready for the next phase of marketing, communication and corporate strategy. ■



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## Strong political commitment brings healthy lifestyles and healthy systems: Russian experience

The creation of the Russian Federation in 1991 was accompanied by radical changes at all levels of society. These changes have drastically impacted the social, economic, political, and ideological landscape. Particular concern was caused by the threat of high-level mortality in the active population.

After experiencing a financial crisis in the late 1990s and in the course of gradual economic recovery, the Russian Federation has strengthened its health system infrastructure.

Through its persistent efforts, the federal ministry of health gained a strong leadership

role in the prevention and fight against noncommunicable diseases.

Politicians engaged in a dialogue with the WHO and benefited from international project networks to join the group of countries actively involved in the promotion and implementation of the action plan for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases. Actions were taken at country level that led to its sustainability at the international level.

Through a "Federal health-targeted program", the community of health professionals and the

mass media supported and promoted considerably the key role played by the living environment on people's health, without undermining the determinant aspect of medical prevention.

This initiative was aligned with the WHO's strategy in support of a healthy lifestyle development through the promotion of cross-sectoral cooperation measures in socio-economic development related to health, currently known as "Health in all policies". The initiative has also led to the adoption of a federal law called "The basis of health protection in the Russian Federation".

Today, as a result, the population supports more and more the measures to address major health risk factors and implement them in their day-to-day life toward a healthy lifestyle. ■

*The complete Russian version is available on next page*





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# Твердая политическая приверженность Залог формирования здорового образа жизни и жизнеспособных систем: опыт России

**Цешковский М.С.<sup>1</sup>, Аксельрод С.В.<sup>2</sup>,  
Бойцов С.А.<sup>3</sup>, Герасименко Н.Ф.<sup>4</sup>**

Последние два десятилетия Россия переживает едва ли не самый критический период своей современной истории. Распад СССР и последовавшие демократические преобразования, включая рыночные реформы экономического развития, привели в действие механизмы незнакомой для населения страны парадигмы общественных отношений. Экономические реформы, несмотря на экспертную помощь и инвестиции ряда стран, далеко не всегда оправдывали возлагаемые на них надежды. В обществе нарастало чувство неуверенности в завтрашнем дне со всеми сопровождающими последствиями, вплоть до общественных волнений и конфликтов в некоторых частях страны.

Печальным итогом почти семи лет тяжелых экономических испытаний и социального стресса населения стали финансовый дефолт 1998 года и глубокое разочарование масс населения с утратой надежд на “скорое достижение благополучия”. Наоборот, по данным Всемирного банка произошло обнищание

значительной его части (41,5%). Трагичной тенденцией для России конца 20 века стал резкий для мирного времени рост смертности населения и депопуляция страны.

## **Здоровье населения России в переходный период.**

В конце 80-х годов по показателю ожидаемой продолжительности жизни населения СССР (69,7 лет, рис.1), особенно после проведенной антиалкогольной кампании, предполагался прогноз, сопоставимый с общеевропейской тенденцией улучшения здоровья населения континента. Однако с 1990 по 1994 год этот показатель претерпел “беспрецедентное для мирного времени падение на целых 5 лет”. Ученые-аналитики объясняют это состоянием деградации по всему спектру социальных детерминант: условий жизни, экономического благополучия, структур жизнеобеспечения общества, включая снижение финансирования здравоохранения, которые через психологический стресс и обычно сопутствующие ему вредные для здоровья привычки (табак и алкоголь) проявились увеличением удельного

веса преждевременной смертности, главным образом от сердечно-сосудистых заболеваний (ССЗ) и внешних причин с заметным сдвигом в сторону трудоспособного возраста.

Среди ряда предпринятых реформ здравоохранения в 90-ые годы, важным считается создание системы обязательного медицинского страхования, которая позволила несколько улучшить ресурсную поддержку здравоохранения, при сохраняющихся средне-годовых начислениях из госбюджета в пределах 3,9%. Между тем, в ходе регулярно проводимых социологических опросов в течение многих лет неудовлетворенность медицинским обслуживанием оставалась в числе 2-3 главных причин озабоченности населения страны.

## **Профилактика неинфекционных заболеваний – приоритетная область развития медицинской отрасли**

Восстановление экономической самостоятельности России, стабильная правительственная поддержка в укреплении инфраструктуры здравоохранения и небла-



## Ожидаемая продолжительность жизни, Российская Федерация (Life expectancy at birth, Russian Federation, both sexes)

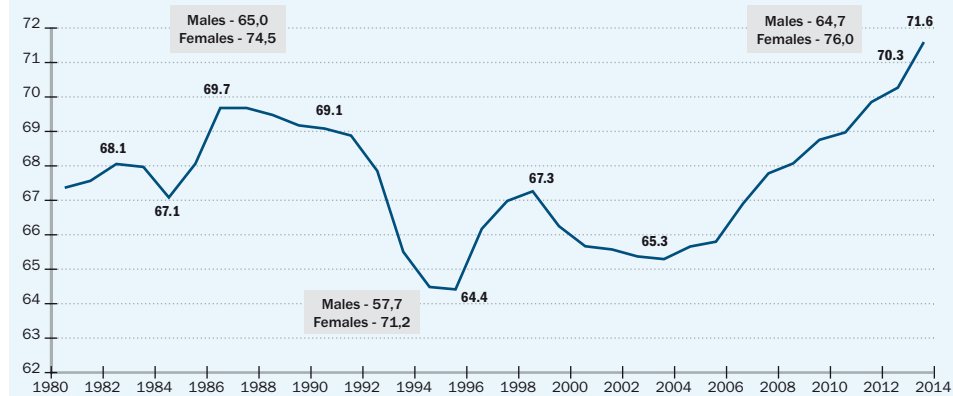


Figure 1 Life expectancy trend over 30 years, Russian Federation (ROSSTAT data)

гополучие в состоянии здоровья населения послужили возрождению подхода медицинской профилактики и укрепления здоровья населения. Минздрав России, используя экспертную оценку и авторитет ВОЗ, поддержку академических институтов, участников кооперативных исследований 70-80-ых годов по многофакторной профилактике сердечно-сосудистых заболеваний (ССЗ), также заручился поддержкой президента страны для решения неотложных проблем по контролю эпидемии неинфекционных заболеваний (НИЗ). Реализуемый с 2006 г. приоритетный национальный проект “Здоровье”, первоначально ориентированный на восстановление первичной медицинской помощи и обеспечение населения высокотехнологичной медицинской помощью, в 2008 году был дополнен компонентом по снижению бремени сердечно-сосудистых заболеваний и дорожно-транспортного травматизма.

Используя доказательные данные о значительной роли в формировании здоровья людей многообразной среды обитания, Минздрав завоевал признание лидера по координации межсекторального сотрудничества, основанного на понимании роли множества социально-экономических детерминантов здоровья, действующих интегрально на протяжении всей жизни индивидуума, а также понимании необходимости включения соответствующих мероприятий в деятельность многих министерств (образования, транспорта, культуры и спорта, торговли, и др.) в поддержку *формирования здорового образа жизни*. Именно такую формулировку получила одна из семи целей “Концепции развития здравоохранения России до 2020 года”, с детализацией плана действий по профилактике и борьбе с НИЗ, принятой “на вооружение” Всемирной орга-

низацией здравоохранения. Это был посыл официальной устойчивой поддержки правительством России политики по созданию “профилактической среды” в науке и практике здравоохранения. Активное участие средств массовой информации обеспечивало широкое освещение предлагаемых подходов противостояния вызовам.

Три года целевого внедрения отдельных компонентов плана и параллельное прохождение слушаний в законодательном собрании завершили утверждением концепции укрепления здорового образа жизни в профилактике НИЗ в рамках Федерального закона Российской Федерации “Об основах охраны здоровья граждан в РФ” №323 от 21.11.2011<sup>5</sup>.

Приверженность заявленной политике подтверждается принятием федеральных законодательных и ведомственных административных решений в поддержку “общеправительственного” подхода, для мотивации и поддержки людей в развитии своего потенциала на протяжении всего жизненного цикла. Была создана широкая амбулаторная сеть центров здоровья (625), где было оценено состояние здоровья более 40 миллионов человек, включая детей и подростков, проведены консультирование и диспансеризация лиц, отнесенных в группы риска по развитию НИЗ. Население в большинстве своем позитивно относится к образовательной информации и, соответственно, к ограничительным мерам в отношении вредных факторов для здоровья. В 2014 году при социальных опросах населения 35% их участников считали себя здоровыми по сравнению с 27% в 2011 году.

Проводимый мониторинг показателей указывает на существенный прогресс в деле

реализации “Рамочной конвенции ВОЗ по борьбе против табака”, “Глобальной стратегии сокращения вредного употребления алкоголя”, безопасности пищевых продуктов. Также отмечается сокращение дорожного травматизма после введения соответствующих регулирующих мер. Достижения по конкретным индикаторам в области здоровья, а также увеличение показателя ожидаемой продолжительности жизни до 71,6 года были представлены на международном научно-практическом форуме “Российская неделя здравоохранения-2014”.

В заключение следует отметить, что трудно переоценить важность сотрудничества в рамках деятельности ВОЗ для мотивации и организации проведения данной программы. Авторитет ВОЗ и ее рекомендаций правительствам стран могут оказаться решающими в принятии ими правильных решений, основанных на обширном международном опыте использования инновационных подходов и доказательной практики. Проведение в Москве глобальной международной министерской конференции по борьбе с эпидемией неинфекционных заболеваний вызвало отклик Генеральной Ассамблеи ООН, предопределив приоритетность национальных и международных усилий по реализации Глобального плана действий по профилактике неинфекционных заболеваний и борьбе с ними. Последним в этой цепи развития является создание в Москве, при финансировании правительством России, отделения Европейского регионального бюро ВОЗ – “географически удаленного офиса”, с функциями продвижения в государствах-членах регионального плана профилактики неинфекционных заболеваний и борьбы с ними. Его презентация состоялась в Москве 1 декабря 2014 года. ■

<sup>1</sup> Центральный НИИ организации и информатизации здравоохранения, Москва (Federal Research Institute for Health Organization and Informatics, Moscow, RF (mtsechkovski@mednet.ru – corresponding contact person)

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<sup>3</sup> Государственный НИЦ профилактической медицины, Москва (State Research Center for Preventive Medicine, Moscow, RF. prof.boytsov@gmail.com)

<sup>4</sup> Государственная дума, Федеральный парламент РФ, Москва (Committee for Health Protection, State Duma, (contact via his assistant: Alexey.Kuznetsov@healthyhearts.ru)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.rg.ru/2011/11/23/zdorovie-dok.html>



Joint Task Force country mission to Minsk (Belarus). Meeting with UN Resident Coordinator.

# Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases

## UN system action to support national governments

*Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) kill an estimated 38 million people each year. Almost three quarters of NCD deaths (28 million) occur in low- and middle-income countries.*

**OLEG CHESTNOV (WHO), NICK BANATVALA (WHO), ALEXEY KULIKOV (WHO), DOUGLAS WEBB (UNDP), DUDLEY TARLTON (UNDP)**

Sixteen million NCD deaths occur before the age of 70 and 82% of these “premature” deaths occurred in low- and middle-income countries. What is the agenda of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force (UNIATF) established in 2013 to prevent NCDs?

### **Noncommunicable diseases – an epidemic of the 21st century**

Noncommunicable diseases – cardiovascular disease (CVD), cancers, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes – make the largest contribution to mortality in the majority of developing countries and require concerted, coordinated action. These diseases are largely preventable by means of effective interventions that tackle shared risk factors, namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol. NCDs have significant negative impacts on human and social development. Premature deaths from

NCDs reduce productivity, curtail economic growth and trap populations in poverty. The underlying determinants of these diseases and their shared risk factors mean that multisectoral, whole-of-government and whole-of-society responses are required to prevent and control NCDs. Most premature deaths from NCDs are largely preventable by influencing public policies in sectors outside of health.

Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths (17.5 million people annually), followed by cancers (8.2 million), respiratory diseases (4 million), and diabetes (1.5 million). While the risk factors imply personal behaviours, public policies in sectors like trade, taxation, education, agriculture, urban development, food and pharmaceutical production have a major bearing on risk factors for NCDs at the population level. Throughout the life course, inequities in access to protection, exposure to risk, and access to care and treatment are the cause of major inequalities in the

occurrence and outcome of NCDs. While these social and economic determinants and their pathways are multifaceted and complex, they are also the keys to how national policies in developing countries with UN assistance can narrow the disparities in health outcomes. The challenge with NCDs is to make the broader social and economic policies and programs, whose core business is not health, become NCD-sensitive. Effective NCD prevention and control requires political leadership, coordinated multi-stakeholder engagement and multisectoral action, not only in government but also across the UN and other development partners.

### **Political commitment to act**

In the 2011 Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, Heads of State and Government expressed a commitment to a world free of the avoidable burden of NCDs, an issue that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) did not



address. Heads of State and government committed themselves to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to tackle NCDs and to integrate NCD policies and programs into health-planning processes and the national development agenda of each Member State. In 2013, the World Health Assembly endorsed the WHO Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of NCDs 2013-2020. This action plan provides Member States, international partners and WHO with a road map and menu of policy options which, when implemented collectively between 2013 and 2020, will contribute to progress on nine voluntary global NCD targets to be attained by 2025, including a 25% relative reduction in premature mortality from NCDs by 2025. The Plan also stresses the need for the UN system to work together with governments to reduce NCDs, including by integrating NCDs into the UNDAF<sup>1</sup>. A WHO/UNDP Guidance Note on such integration is being launched very soon.

In 2013, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of NCDs (UNIATF) and in 2014 endorsed its terms of reference including a division of tasks and responsibilities for UN agencies, funds and programs and other international organizations. The UNIATF is led by WHO and coordinates the activities of its member in support of the 2011 Political Declaration on NCDs and the WHO Global NCD Action Plan 2013-2020. The Task Force has six objectives to enhance and coordinate systematic support to Member States, focusing efforts at the national level:

- To increase support to Member States in their efforts to prevent and control NCDs;
- To facilitate systematic and timely information exchange across Task Force members on strategies, programs and activities;
- To facilitate information on resources to support national efforts and undertake resource mobilization;
- To strengthen advocacy efforts;
- To ensure that tobacco control is prioritized;
- To strengthen international cooperation to support national, regional and global NCD plans.

A work plan for 2014-2015 describes actions that the Task Force is working on collectively. A progress report was issued

in December 2014. The Secretary General reports regularly to ECOSOC on the work of the Task Force.

#### Joint Country missions

As part of its activities, the UNIATF undertakes joint country missions to support UN Country Teams (UNCTs) scale up action on NCDs. In 2014, missions took place to Belarus, India and Kenya. The need for UNCTs to respond to NCDs has been highlighted in two joint letters to UNCTs from the Administrator of UNDP and the Director-General of WHO. The 2012 letter proposed UNCTs integrate NCDs into UNDAF design processes and implementation. The 2014 one reiterated the importance of mainstreaming

NCDs into UNDAFs and encouraged UNCTs to scale up capacity to support governments in responding to NCDs<sup>2</sup>.

The joint country missions support the UNCT in providing technical assistance to national governments and their engagement with other stakeholders in tackling NCDs and their risk factors. Agencies joining the missions have included UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank and WHO. The mission meets with national government ministries, including health, finance, agriculture, consumer affairs, sports, planning, UN Country Teams,

*continued on page 17*

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# Can we impact multilateralism individually?

*How can we impact multilateralism individually, on a small scale? How can we diversify the way we work together? And, overall does multilateralism even work?*



RHIANNON MAY

EDITED BY OMAR BAWA, CMO OF GOODWALL

Multilateralism can be defined as multiple countries working together on a given issue; this happens around the world constantly without the majority of the general public noticing. Multilateralism takes many forms; trade between countries miles apart, fundraising such as Red Nose Day and governments sending money in varying directions across the globe.

In July 2015, as part of a team of young people, I am flying to Tanzania for a month. While there, we will be partaking in a trek that will take us through the Uluguru Mountain Range. We will begin in Morningside and reach the summit of Bondwa peak before descending to Kinole. The trek will take us along the ridge line passing through forestry and ethnic villages where we will have an unbridled chance to interact with local people. This interaction will give us an insight into how we can change and diversify the face of multilateralism; instead of governments helping other governments we will perform multilateralism on a much smaller scale with individuals aiding other individuals. As part of our equipment list for the expedition we have been encouraged to bring small gifts for

the local children that we will meet, this is arguably small scale multilateralism as we will have a direct impact on the lives of these children whether it's through the provision of a pair of shoes or a tennis ball to play with.

However, the main focus of the expedition is the time we will spend on project. This is where we will be staying near a government school and performing a huge variety of tasks from teaching and repair work to running a sports day. It will allow us to perform an innovative form of multilateralism with governments working with individuals on a specific project.

The privilege of being able to positively influence and impact people's lives is amazing and shouldn't be wasted by falling into the trap of meaningless multilateralism where governments or groups make empty promises of bringing change and improving the quality of life. Therefore, I believe that by diversifying multilateralism we can change the way we conduct fundraising and the way aid is given.

We must also ask whether multilateralism is benefiting everyone involved. In some African countries the local textiles' trade has collapsed causing more job loss and

poverty because of the huge amount of donated clothes arriving from Western countries; the provision of free clothes caused a huge drop in the purchase of locally made clothes. Therefore this type of aid adds to the problem instead of beginning to fix it. However multilateral aid is beginning to repair these problems, multilateral aid comes from international organizations which receive money from several countries. Overall we need to balance the advantages and disadvantages of aid and multilateralism to be able to reach the perfect equilibrium.

We need to ensure that countries receiving aid don't become dependent on it; that aid reaches the places and people where it is needed without being lost to corruption and that the aid is not causing another problem by fixing a pre-existing one. By making certain that aid benefits everyone involved we ensure the desired balance. I believe through diversifying multilateralism we can ensure that the way we give and receive aid is constantly evolving to suit the ever changing needs of the people that require it, multilateralism doesn't just have to involve governments making decisions for everyone, every individual can have an impact. ■



*continued from page 15*

representatives of civil society and private sector. The dialogue maps on-going national efforts to address NCDs and identifies its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for further development, including through provision of a rationale for increasing multi-sectoral investment for NCDs at the country level.

Many findings of the missions are common for all countries, namely high burden of common NCD risk factors, the need for improved coordination between governmental departments on NCD activities, better communication between government, civil society and private sector, and the scarcity of budget allocations for NCD prevention and control. For 2015, the UNIATF plans to expand its activities by carrying out up to nine country missions in all the WHO regions and support two follow-up missions to Belarus and Kenya.

These missions among other goals will support the integration of NCDs into countries' United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). Informal

collaborative arrangements between UNDP and WHO allowed the analysis of UNDAFs rolled out in 2012-2013 from the UNDAF database,<sup>3</sup> to determine the global baseline of 15 countries that have integrated NCDs into their UNDAFs. There is now a global target of 30 countries achieving this by the end of 2015, from the current 15 at the end of 2013.

#### **Global Joint Programs**

Inter-sectorial nature of the NCD response drives UN agencies to join their efforts around particular challenges. To date there is an operative joint program between the International Telecommunication Union and WHO on the use of mobile technologies to address non-communicable diseases (active involvement in 8 countries). Achievements of this collaboration inspired the Task Force members to accelerate the development of multisectoral joint programmes in a range of spheres, including a WHO-UNDP NCDs and trade initiative in the South Pacific that has impacted on tariffs on unhealthy foods. New initiatives include the development of comprehensive cancer control systems, cervical cancer

prevention and control, healthy cities and occupational health. Ongoing discussions are intended to clarify sources of financing, roles of agency and means of coordination.

The UNIATF will be instrumental in taking forward system-wide action to help implement the NCD-related targets in the post-2015 development agenda. The value of the Task Force is its ability to reach across sectors, link disparate issues, and support delivery at the country level. The UNIATF necessarily has a broad and ambitious agenda for the coming years. The foremost objective is to empower UNCTs in their capacities to include NCDs into UNDAFs, and develop joint programmes. We must normalize NCD responses across the UN system, recognising that NCDs constitute one of the major challenges for development in the 21st century. ■

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Development Action Framework (UNDAF)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.who.int/nmh/UNDP\\_WHO\\_Joint\\_letter\\_on\\_NCDs\\_24Feb2014.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/nmh/UNDP_WHO_Joint_letter_on_NCDs_24Feb2014.pdf?ua=1)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.undg.org/?P=234>



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\* 7<sup>th</sup> May is an information session and participants will follow a slightly different schedule.



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## Multilateralism

# The Cornerstone to face today's and tomorrow's challenges

*We live in times of swift and hasty changes, of instant social networking and real-time tweets that cross the oceans in a second or less, and we cannot deal with the challenges of this era using the methods of the last century. There is no doubt that the future will bring more challenges, requiring greater efforts that simply cannot be met without multilateralism.*

### MAHMOUD HAMMOUD<sup>1</sup>

Robert Keohane, author of the book “After Hegemony”, defined multilateralism as “national policy coordination in groups of three or more countries.” Multilateralism may exceed the circle of states and be between any combination of parties such as international organizations and agencies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector.

In the field of international cooperation or coordination, multilateralism is a means of achieving world peace, prosperity and stability. Multilateralism often leads to synergy, resulting in a greater and more effective outcome than the sum of the individual efforts.

In politics, multilateralism is the cooperation of several countries to work together to address common issues. Perhaps the clearest example of this is fighting terrorism, but other examples include dealing with financial crises, economic instability and others.

### The Development of Multilateralism

Miles Kahler, a professor at the University of California, San Diego, considers that “multilateralism is opposed to unfair bilateral agreements that practically established the dominance of the strongest on the weaker”, which fueled conflicts in the international arena. After World War II, a common quest for independence in the developing world generated many small

states, which soon realized the difficulty to compete economically and commercially with much bigger countries.

Since 1945, there has been a progressive increase in awareness of the need for competitive conglomerates. There has been an increasing trend towards the formation of regional and international institutions, and numerous attempts to unite with partners of common interests. NATO and the European Union are among the most prominent examples in this area, especially as the first provides security to its members, and the second economic and political cooperation. The whole world is moving from a small mini-states system to a new system of geographic regions



or unions of economic and commercial interests, including ASEAN, the African Union and MERCOSUR.

### **Multilateralism, the only formula to solve the problems of the present**

Every village, city and state has its special challenges that need to be addressed and dealt with. But at the present time, many problems have a strong link not only to the central state, but way beyond that to the neighboring countries and the world. The need for multilateral solutions is mainly due to the fact that many modern challenges are global in nature and thus require global solutions.

Some examples of issues which are literally impossible to deal with at the local or national level without cooperation beyond borders are global warming, pollution in many forms, climate change, security and peacekeeping, human rights violations, the spread of epidemics, and extremism especially in religion, ethnicity and terrorism. Pollution of natural resources such as rivers, seas and air is not hampered by the border between two states. As natural sources are necessarily shared by their nature, so too must the solutions be common or multilateral.

### **Issues with Multilateralism**

Multilateralism knows many challenges such as conflict of interest. More often than not, multilateralism is easier to talk about, describe and recommend in conferences and in making conclusions than applying it on the ground where individual or national interests sometimes come first when making decisions.

Multilateralism is also often blamed for increasing bureaucracy as making any decision tends to take far more time and effort in a pluralistic context. All this does not preclude that multilateralism, despite these challenges, is no less than the lifeblood to find solutions to common problems, especially in this era of globalization.

### **The Future**

In an interview with the Swiss newspaper "Le Temps", Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General and ex-minister of foreign affairs of Sweden, declared that we should be ready for major challenges plaguing international stability today and in the future. Incidentally, Mr. Eliasson, the

second person in the international organization, emphasized the essential role of Geneva, for what it represents as a center of multilateralism and peacemaking in the world. Eliasson further stressed that the United Nations, through its leadership in multilateral efforts, is more important today than ever before in the history of humanity.

The United Nations is based on the three foundations of peace and security, development, and human rights. No-one can claim any progress on any of these three fronts without the participation of major conglomerates today. Take, for example, the problem of Ebola as its spread directly

threatens the security of the affected countries and no single party can fight the deadly disease alone. Multilateralism in the fight against the disease indicates that it is the only logical way to deal with global issues today and in the future. ■

<sup>1</sup> To contact the author of the article [hammoud.m@gmail.com](mailto:hammoud.m@gmail.com)



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## SIDS in a multilateral world

# The Bahamas' perspective

*Small Island Developing States (SIDS) face particular challenges by virtue of their smaller economies and populations which result in diseconomies of scale. How is multilateralism fundamental to their very existence and development?*



Her Excellency Rhoda M. Jackson

### RHODA M. JACKSON<sup>1</sup>

Small Island Developing States by definition are characterized by their distinctive small size, their remoteness from larger external markets, their extreme vulnerability to external economic shocks and susceptibility to natural disasters and environmental change. SIDS face particular challenges by virtue of their smaller economies and populations which result in diseconomies of scale. These challenges are further exacerbated by limited human

and financial resources on one hand, and high and increasing debt burdens, on the other.

While The Bahamas may not suffer acute remoteness that some confront, the dispersion of some 700 islands over 100,000 square miles (13,940 km<sup>2</sup>) poses significant developmental challenges. A key challenge arising from the archipelagic nature of our country is the Government's need to replicate public services in the 25 inhabitable islands, particularly as it relates to the provision of health and education services and essential infrastructure.

Another development constraint rests on the fact that The Bahamas is now a middle-income developing country. While we have experienced economic growth, the designation of middle income is somewhat arbitrary, since it does not take into account other equally impor-

tant indicators, such as concentration of income or the asset classes, in calculating the GDP per capita. Being designated as such, has limited the Government's access to preferential or concessionary finance.

Complicating our development pathway is the fact that The Bahamas is acutely vulnerable to climate change, as 80% per cent of our land mass is within 1.5 meters of sea level. The economic cost of catastrophic climate related events such as hurricanes, storms, floods and sea surges have devastating impacts on development.

It is against the backdrop of these vulnerabilities that the efforts of Small Island Developing States to become an active participant in the global community should be considered. These realities make it imperative for SIDS to enhance their efforts to beneficially

integrate into the global economy, on terms that take account of their realities. Hence, multilaterally accepted rules that support the development of SIDS are fundamental to their very existence.

The Permanent Mission of The Bahamas to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva opened in May, 2013 and was the first overseas mission established by The Bahamas on the European continent. The Mission has the unique opportunity to advance the interests of The Bahamas in International Geneva. Given the myriad United Nations specialized agencies and funds, as well as the numerous intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, The Bahamas is well positioned to benefit from its interaction with these stakeholders. Exchanges in forums such as the ILO, WHO, ISDR, UNHCR and UNHCHR, provide a platform for The Bahamas, not only to learn of activities undertaken by other countries to mitigate the impact of smallness, but also to articulate its own position in a multilateral environment.

The involvement of The Bahamas in discussions at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), for example, affords the opportunity to reiterate the



need for greater investment, access to concessionary finance and appropriate technology, as a means of further delivering stable and sustainable development to our peoples.

This form of advocacy for our developmental needs will be bolstered when The Bahamas accedes to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Through membership in the rules-based trading system, The Bahamas aims to reflect its unique developmental concerns while pursuing trade, and ultimately development objectives.

Other key areas of priority for The Bahamas include migration, climate change and crime reduction. In September 2014, The Bahamas signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Organization on Migration (IOM),

establishing a framework for greater cooperation on matters pertaining to migration management. This step served to reiterate the Government's commitment to working with our neighbours, in particular, Haiti, Cuba, Turks and Caicos and the Dominican Republic to systematically address the challenges of migration.

The Bahamas recognizes that climate change poses an existential threat to our country. In accepting this sobering reality, our Government continues to play an active role in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the national, regional and international level. At the national level, The Bahamas has adopted a National Energy Policy with a view to increased renewable energy use by 30% by the year 2030. With respect to our

oceans, The Bahamas considers the sea of great commercial value and has taken steps to ensure sustainable fishing, including through the establishment of marine protected areas, the management of its fishery stocks and intensifying efforts to fight against poaching. The Bahamas remains an active member of the Save Our Shark Coalition at the United Nations in New York.

The commitment of The Bahamas to addressing issues of crime and security is critical to domestic peace, social cohesion, economic progress and ultimately, development. To this end, The Bahamas deposited its instrument of ratification on 25 September, 2014 becoming one of 50 states to ratify the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, a treaty designed to regulate international trade in conventional arms. The Bahamas, in fulfilling

its treaty obligation, seeks to work together with its regional partners, to restrict the flow of illegal weapons with a view to complementing our efforts to diminish the scourge of crime.

The old adage, "no man is an island," is even more applicable and pertinent to Small Island Developing States like The Bahamas. In recognition of the harsh realities that SIDS face as a consequence of small size, they are able to mobilize their collective diplomatic and political influence, as a means of advancing the common cause of SIDS which is sustainable development. International Geneva provides the ideal environment for such engagement. ■

<sup>1</sup> Her Excellency Rhoda M. Jackson is Ambassador/Permanent Representative of The Bahamas in Geneva

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Berlin, avril 2008 - Alphabet de la "Gebärdensprache" (langue des signes)

# Quelle langue internationale dans le futur?

*Les langues internationales ont varié au fil du temps en fonction de leur qualité propre et du contexte. La mondialisation semble tendre vers une standardisation de la planète, mais l'espace créé par internet change la donne et pourrait modifier l'existence-même d'une lingua franca.*

## OLIVIER BORIE

La langue est un outil essentiel de communication que ce soit entre deux personnes ou deux pays. De nos jours, l'anglais est la langue internationale la plus utilisée, l'outil le plus efficace pour prendre part à la vie de la planète, souvent dans une version simplifiée, qui ne reflète ni sa richesse ni ses nuances.

Se dirige-t-on vers une culture homogène, un mode de pensée standard, une perte de diversité voire un appauvrissement de l'esprit? Toute langue exprime une vision du monde. Chacune a sa façon propre de structurer la pensée. Chaque mot est une prise de conscience qui désigne et crée une nouvelle réalité.

Une langue ne sert pas qu'à échanger des informations mais construit aussi une identité, une façon d'appréhender la condition humaine et notre univers. Elle doit pouvoir exprimer la modernité, désigner ou évoquer des situations et des réalités nouvelles. Autrement, elle risque tout simplement de disparaître.

Sur un plan international, on considère généralement que la lingua franca a toujours été celle de la puissance dominante. Dans le passé, plusieurs ont fait office de langue diplomatique dans des régions ou des groupes donnés dans les mondes connus d'alors. Si chacune a pu se targuer d'être la plus claire, la plus souple, la plus nuancée, la plus élégante ou la mieux



adaptée aux négociations internationales, le fait que toutes aient pu jouer ce rôle illustre que ce ne sont pas seulement leurs caractéristiques propres qui leur ont procuré ce statut.

Dans l'Antiquité, en Europe, le latin a d'abord supplanté l'étrusque puis le grec. Il a longtemps été la langue de l'occident chrétien. Au bout d'une longue période de déclin, il est devenu à son tour une langue morte dont l'influence se fait malgré tout encore sentir aujourd'hui.

Le français s'imposera par la suite, grâce notamment à des efforts d'unification et de normalisation linguistique sur tout le territoire, permettant également de réduire le pouvoir de l'Eglise qui n'était, à l'époque, pas que spirituel. S'affranchir du latin se fit progressivement car on ne remplace pas du jour au lendemain une langue riche dont l'hégémonie s'exerçait entre autres sur les sciences, la religion, le droit. Cela a nécessité un enrichissement de la langue et sa normalisation, d'où la création de l'Académie française. Notons enfin, qu'après la royauté, l'harmonisation du français fut poussée plus loin encore en l'imposant à la place des langues régionales afin de rendre la compréhension mutuelle instantanée et, en particulier, celle des décisions de l'Etat.

Le français laisse à son tour place à l'influence de l'anglais. De fait, jusqu'à la fin du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle, en dehors des territoires restés indépendants ou colonisés par d'autres puissances, l'anglais est la langue qui prévaut. Les anciennes colonies anglaises ont d'autant plus d'impact aujourd'hui que plusieurs étaient des colonies de peuplement. D'ailleurs, au XX<sup>e</sup> siècle, c'est justement l'émergence de l'une d'entre elles, devenue indépendante, qui a accéléré la diffusion de la langue anglaise (sans entrer dans le débat de savoir si l'anglo-américain et l'anglais britannique sont la même langue ou pas...).

Les Etats-Unis, au-delà de leur puissance militaire, établie et renforcée à la suite des deux guerres mondiales, ont à travers leur *soft power* influencé des générations entières, que ce soit par des prouesses technologiques en envoyant des hommes sur la lune, à travers le cinéma, la musique et aujourd'hui internet.

Pourtant, avec le recul de l'histoire, on peut s'attendre à ce qu'un jour une autre langue prenne le pas sur l'anglais comme langue

internationale. La situation actuelle est toutefois inédite car elle concerne l'ensemble de la planète. L'accélération et la multiplication des moyens de communication et de transport semblent tendre vers une intégration croissante, ralentie seulement par la géographie de la terre et les contraintes qu'elle impose. On standardise et normalise à tout va pour favoriser les échanges et le commerce. Jusqu'à quel point cela transforme-t-il les cultures, les identités?

Internet, perçu parfois comme l'outil le plus efficace de la mondialisation, a aussi créé un nouvel espace, à la fois de compétition entre des langues mais aussi de développement pour chacune d'entre elles. On assiste

à une interpénétration entre la réalité et un monde virtuel où les mots n'ont pas forcément la même correspondance, le même sens. Des outils de traduction toujours plus perfectionnés sont développés. Cette numérisation croissante de mots et des langues codés par le langage informatique modifiera-t-elle la notion-même de langue internationale? La rendra-t-elle obsolète? Ce qui compte finalement, c'est que les possibilités de dialogue soient préservées. ■

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## Un livre au secours des enfants du monde

*Le livre de l'OMS «Soins hospitaliers pédiatriques» vient d'obtenir le prix BMA*

*«Medical Book of the Year 2014».*

*Le docteur Paul-Jacques Lamotte nous livre son expérience de pédiatre, spécialiste en médecine tropicale et en santé publique, lors de ses missions en Afrique subsaharienne en tant que bénévole pour Médecins Sans Vacances (MSV-Belgique)<sup>1</sup>.*

**D<sup>r</sup> PAUL-JACQUES LAMOTTE, PÉDIATRE**

Le “bien-être des enfants” est le thème essentiel et prioritaire de tous les discours des édiles et des publications des organismes nationaux et internationaux qui construisent les développements techniques et sociaux des structures pédiatriques et de santé publique, aussi bien dans le monde développé que dans les pays émergents.

L'indicateur le plus significatif, permettant de définir l'évolution de cette recherche du “bien-être des enfants”, est le “taux de mortalité des enfants de moins

de cinq ans” (TMM5). Le classement des pays selon cet indicateur permet à des organismes nationaux et internationaux de cibler leurs actions selon des besoins ainsi objectivés et de définir leurs priorités en fonction de leur expertise et de leurs moyens.

*Médecins Sans Vacances* est l'un d'eux: organisation non gouvernementale belge, forte de 600 médecins et infirmiers qui, pendant leurs vacances, partent pendant deux à trois semaines participer bénévolement à des actions médicales dans des hôpitaux d'Afrique

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subsaharienne. Le travail bénévole de ses spécialistes de la santé est actuellement organisé et structuré dans des hôpitaux de district, dans les régions où des accords nationaux et internationaux sont intervenus.

Afin d'améliorer la qualité des soins et de diminuer les taux de mortalité infantile, il faut permettre, faciliter, voire obliger l'accès à ces hôpitaux, simplifier et standardiser les procédures d'orientation des patients lors de leur entrée, améliorer la qualité des diagnostics et normaliser les actions exploratrices et thérapeutiques.

Ces petits hôpitaux ont été choisis pour inculquer les bonnes pratiques de la prise en charge des enfants, entre autres par la mise à la disposition du personnel médical et paramédical de "guides pratiques" aux références internationales

immédiatement consultables au pied du lit du patient ("bed side teaching") pour orienter les actions diagnostiques et thérapeutiques, même là où l'accès à l'énergie électrique ou à internet est impossible ou aléatoire.

Les bonnes pratiques, ainsi dégagées par le personnel local et les volontaires de MSV deviennent alors consensuelles avec effets durables. Elles permettent l'amélioration globale de la qualité des soins et une nette diminution de la mortalité des enfants hospitalisés, immédiatement observable dans les statistiques de l'hôpital.

Après de nombreuses recherches en bibliographie internationale, les experts de MSV n'ont identifié qu'un seul ouvrage qui rassemble, à lui seul, toutes les qualités requises pour servir à une prise en charge optimale des enfants

en milieu hospitalier dans ces conditions minimales: il s'agit du mémento, publié par l'OMS et intitulé: "Soins hospitaliers pédiatriques. Prise en charge des affections courantes dans les petits hôpitaux<sup>2</sup>", dont l'édition 2013, en anglais, vient de recevoir le prix "Medical Book of the Year 2014" par la British Medical Association.

Sur le terrain, les volontaires de MSV présentent ce mémento comme "outil de travail" et mettent en évidence son aspect pratique, l'exhaustivité et l'actualité de ses références internationales mais aussi un élément méconnu, souvent oublié car discrètement inséré dans les toutes premières pages du livre: parmi les rédacteurs, contributeurs et correcteurs, figurent de très nombreux médecins et pédiatres, exerçant encore actuellement dans les pays où MSV intervient. Il est

particulièrement stimulant et encourageant d'entendre les membres d'équipes thérapeutiques locales de ces hôpitaux dire ainsi: "mon cousin"... ou "mon grand frère"... ou "ma tante"... ou "mon grand-père"...", est cité(e) dans la liste des collaborateurs à cet ouvrage de référence!

Ce mémento est mis gratuitement par MSV à la disposition des équipes en place. Les éditions précédentes sont disponibles en anglais, français, portugais, russe et turc. La nouvelle traduction en français de l'édition anglaise de 2013 lauréate est imminente. ■

<sup>1</sup> Pour plus de renseignements sur Médecins sans Vacances, veuillez consulter le site [www.azv.be](http://www.azv.be)

<sup>2</sup> WHO-Pocket book of Hospital care for children. Guidelines for the management of common illnesses with limited resources. Second edition 2013. 412 pages. ISBN 9789241548373



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*«Une négociation réussie n'est pas un événement,  
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*“A successful negotiation is an ongoing process,  
it is an adventure of listening and understanding.”*

*— Guy Cabana*









Donation by Japanese Government in Accra, Ghana, on 8 December 2014

## The Ebola crisis is a test of multilateralism, diversity, and international solidarity

*Multilateralism and diversity are key in a successful fight against any global health emergency or any public health emergency of international concern like Ebola.*

### GEMMA VESTAL<sup>1</sup>

Multilateralism is a diplomatic term that refers to cooperation among several countries working together towards a common goal. Diversity is a related but distinct concept from multilateralism. Diversity means the inclusion of different types of

groups and people. Both multilateralism and diversity are key in a successful fight against any global health emergency or any public health emergency of international concern.

In the case of Ebola, a number of countries have provided

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much needed funds. They are mostly and understandably members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. And some countries, such as China, Cuba, and Nigeria, have sent teams of nurses and doctors to West Africa. Notably, there has been diverse and unparalleled collaboration between international organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) as well as humanitarian organizations, donors, private sectors, religious leaders, and many other groups.

WHO's response teams, reflecting WHO's diverse workforce, comprise 700 staff and consultants from developed and developing countries deployed to West Africa. Significant efforts have been made in more than 110 countries in all WHO Regions to strengthen the public health response to Ebola. Training workshops are being conducted on risk communications, laboratory testing and biosafety, infection prevention and control, and case management. WHO has supported the organization of national workshops and simulation exercises in many countries to minimize gaps.

#### Including developing countries in the response to the Ebola crisis

The concept of equitable economic and geographic representation to achieve balanced

geographic preparedness for any public health emergency of international concern is neither dealt with in the International Health Regulations (IHR) of 2005 nor in the Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel. The thrust of the IHR is to prevent the international spread of disease with the least interference to international traffic and trade; while that of the Global Code is the prevention of brain-drain in the migration of health workers to more affluent countries.

One would not be surprised if few developing countries volunteered their prized human capital, their health workers, to be deployed to public health emergency hotspots, like the West African countries battling Ebola, namely: Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. However, these hotspots provide precious teaching experiences and human resource development/training for long-term health system sustainability in the source country.

Ebola on-the-ground training strengthens the skillset of nationals from developing countries, enabling them to respond to their own crises, empowering them to exercise their rights and responsibilities, and decreasing their dependence on developed countries. Staff from developed and

developing countries each have their expertise and knowledge, and they can learn from each other as they work together on the ground.

#### Players in the global recruitment of health workers for surge capacity

A number of organizations are recruiting health workers for the Ebola response: WHO, United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), UN Volunteers, Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), Samaritan's Purse, International Medical Corps, Partners in Health, USAID, and the Canadian Red Cross. They need to include in their recruiting framework equitable economic and geographic representation – mobilizing individuals from both developing and developed countries. They should consciously ensure multilateral cooperation and diversity in the hiring process, encouraging hiring from developing countries and discouraging active recruitment from developing countries facing critical shortages of health workers.

Global response to fund the anti-Ebola effort has been challenging. Therefore, it would not be surprising if the call for health workers, both paid and volunteers, received the same anaemic response. However, international non-governmental

organizations such as the International Council of Nurses and the World Medical Association could leverage their influence by reaching out to their national memberships, especially in developing countries, to support the recruitment of health workers in global hot spots, like West Africa in the case of Ebola.

#### Response to health emergencies

A global public health emergency, such as the Ebola crisis, requires a multilateral and diverse response. Including developing countries in this response mechanism is the logical next step. Not only will it go a long way towards strengthening health care systems in those countries, but also empower them to readily face a similar crisis should it occur within their borders. ■

<sup>1</sup> with research assistance by Angeli Vigo and Moira Sy

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Carlos Lopes and Daniel Kablan Duncan, Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire

# Challenges to multilateralism

*Multilateralism is more complex today than ever before. It remains a necessary challenge that must see an update in the way we conduct diplomacy.*

## CARLOS LOPES<sup>1</sup>

Over the past two decades, the international order has undergone a qualitative change. As a matter of fact, a new discourse has gained prominence in the international relations theory that emphasizes a rapidly changing global environment characterized by an ever-growing confluence of world-scale challenges.

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The challenges that range from widespread poverty and undernourishment, financial and economic crisis, climate change impact, human insecurity, organized crime, drug trafficking and many others are linked in inextricable ways. New technologies and transportation revolution further exert a profound influence on these linkages increasing at the same time a sense of interconnectedness within the human community to unprecedented levels.

Interconnectedness runs counter to our traditional modes of thinking and organization – that are highly compartmentalized. A holistic approach will be needed for an effective response to emerging global challenges.

### Megatrends

There are at least five broad areas where important megatrends have become visible in the current political, economic and social landscape including:

1. financial and economic regulatory framework failures,
2. lack of decisive solutions to the climate change issue aggravated by the global spread of consumerist society patterns,
3. transformation of the traditional peacekeeping concept
4. demographic trends, increased mobility, and its impact on identities, and
5. the power of new technologies transforming our life styles and value systems.

First, world financial crises unleashed broader discussions on the need to

improve global economic and financial governance systems. Globalization that has been characterized by free markets' ideology and financial deregulation has resulted in growing inequalities, financial speculation, and economic structures with the financial sector dominating over the real economy instead of serving its needs.

The social impact of the three-decade long economic liberalization wave was largely negative. The first decade of the 21st century was perceived as successful given the growth rates in the developing world. It seemed that the MDGs<sup>2</sup> somewhat alleviated the impact of the deregulated markets on social policies and helped to drive the development agenda and poverty reduction efforts.

However, there are many MDGs for which the world is still not on track despite the significant progress made by many countries. In the wave of the crisis, the problems of growing inequalities and rising unemployment have resurfaced on the global agenda challenging the predominant economic model and calling for a stronger State presence in the economy, and more robust national and public policies. The SDGs<sup>3</sup> will be adopted next September in the middle of this negative outlook.

Second, climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation are closely interlinked with issues of economic and social development. Indeed, the predominant economic model has been questioned, and there is a growing realization of a pressing need to include

environmental and social dimensions in economic thinking and the measurement of economic performance.

Political commitment on behalf of governments is crucial to making progress in climate change negotiations. However, any political solutions must be complemented by specific and efficient measures aimed at promoting a truly sustainable growth.

The exponential growth of consumerism is currently driven by ever higher aspirations of the upper and middle layers in rich countries, as well as the expanding demand of emerging middle-classes in developing countries, while inequalities continue to grow, and a significant proportion of the world population lives in poverty. Our true ambition should be therefore to create incentives for the profound transformation of attitudes and consumption styles. In this context, education will play a major role.

Third, the UN's peacekeeping work became the focus of increased attention and significant criticisms in the 1990s following the end of the Cold War and an eruption of a high number of conflicts in Africa, but also in Europe and other continents.

However, the situation has changed again and requires a new vision. Compared to the previous decade, we are speaking about the emergence of a new type of conflict. They do not necessarily represent an immediate threat to the national sovereignty of a State.



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Carlos Lopes with President Macky Sall, Senegal

A variety of expressions of political instability and low intensity conflicts characterizes the current landscape: from political violence and *coups d'état*, to natural resource conflicts, high levels of crime, terrorism, challenges to governance systems by various non-state actors, and separatism.

The majority of conflicts are intrastate, and politicized; often inextricably intertwined with various criminal activities such as drugs trafficking, human trafficking, money-laundering, financial criminal activities, and use of small arms.

The actors themselves have changed, and their actions are no longer predictable: they tend to have a global narrative discourse with global ideology attempts.

The concept of peacekeeping has evolved from imposing the cease-fire on the two belligerent states, to cover a broad range of activities from civilian protection, support to government-led reconciliation efforts, to countering organized crime. Furthermore, there is an expectation that UN peace operations should adequately support national capacity development in areas of public administration, rule of law, and security.

These developments, together with the evolving international normative

framework, offer a window of opportunity for promoting peace, justice and human rights.

Conflict prevention must be prioritized as part of the development agenda, and should include deeper structural measures aimed at addressing political, social and economic fault lines.

Fourth, the demographic geography is rapidly changing. The world's population has now surpassed 7 billion, and is projected to reach 9.6 billion by 2050, with the bulk of the growth taking place in less developed countries and among the poorest populations in urban areas. Currently, 60% of the world population lives in Asia and 15% in Africa. In 2100, 4.6 billion will be living in Asia and 3.6 billion in Africa.

More than half of the world population is urban and it is expected that by 2050 it will reach 69 per cent. Africa's population is projected to increase and to become the second largest after that of Asia.

Linked to these phenomena is an increased mobility. Migration resulted in the transformation of the ethnic composition and the monolithic character of the host societies and the emergence of transmigrants with multi-layered identities. In this area, there is a pressing need

to create a solid international migration governance framework to increase the development gains of migration and protect migrants' rights.

Fifth, the spread of ICTs<sup>4</sup> creates unprecedented opportunities for connecting people and providing access to information. They make people around the world ever more aware and concerned about things happening in the parts of the world and multilateral issues in general.

The spread of ICTs and increased access of population to information and communication means already resulted in a formidable expansion of social participation and civic mobilization. ICTs are qualitatively transforming our perceptions, communication, governance and negotiation systems. There is also a need for reflection on how to make better usage of opportunities generated by ICTs to promote more inclusive governance and efficient negotiations' methodology.

### Challenges to multilateralism

The global and interconnected character of the 21st century challenges calls for solutions transcending national borders. There is a need for renewed multilateralism that would be based on an integrated approach as opposed to the traditional thematic clustering and isolated handling of the problems, embrace the concept of Global Public Goods, and promote the effective use of partnerships with multiple state and non-state stakeholders. The very notion of sovereignty is currently being affected by these multiple crises, and the renewed multilateralism should first and foremost be conducive to the shaping of more effective and equitable global governance structures.

On the one hand, we are witnessing a global gridlock in multilateral negotiations and understanding of how to tackle different types of crises. The examples of multilateral negotiations that didn't lead to a desired outcome in crucial areas are many, including for example the absence of progress in the Doha round negotiations.

This negotiation deadlock results from a discrepancy between the current forms of the organization of international life dominated by the states-based approach and crucial trends shaping the global society.



Three main areas where the challenges to multilateralism can be identified include concepts, methods and institutions.

First, concepts are becoming volatile eroded by problems of global dimension that have to be handled over national borders. Some examples include national sovereignty versus human rights concerns or international criminal justice decisions, environmental and health problems. We have reached the critical level in so far as international public law is concerned (the number of international conventions having multiplied over a few decades).

Second, negotiation methods and techniques do not capture the complexity of modern society. On the one hand, analogies from IT such as open software mode in terms of organization, contributions, negotiation and decision-taking might be better suited to the modern challenges. The negotiation experience from the scientific and technical communities could provide helpful information in learning how to handle those challenges that are not purely political.

On the other hand, the use of sectoral approaches in practice runs counter to intrinsically transversal concepts such as that of sustainable development.

Third, the existing institutions do not reflect the increasing role of regionalism and the changing balance of power. The Security Council reform is still being discussed after a few decades, and there is a problem of inadequate voting rights of emerging and African economies in the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, despite recent progress. The rapid emergence of new global players such as BRICS<sup>5</sup> has profound implications on negotiations and international governance. Emerging powers are building alliances and common positions in various international fora. African countries increasingly realize that they can better defend their interests when speaking with one voice.

The international governance system is outdated, both in terms of the distribution of power among the states and its essentially state-based nature. As a result, these tensions lead to a major gridlock in all the main negotiation areas.

Multilateralism is indeed more complex today than ever before. ■


<sup>1</sup> Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)


<sup>2</sup> Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

<sup>3</sup> Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<sup>4</sup> Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

<sup>5</sup> Association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)



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Sahana Sri Lanka provides livelihood support to female-headed households

© Terre des hommes

## At 22 she built a village Today, her focus is on reconciliation

*“When we genuinely help people with pure feelings and sincere intentions, many wonders and exceptional opportunities come along the way, enabling greater achievements” says Indira Kithsiri, founder of the Non-governmental organization Sahana Sri Lanka.*

THARINDU VISHWANATH<sup>1</sup>

PROPOSED BY OMAR BAWA, CMO OF GOODWALL

“You need to be truly passionate and optimistic, have entrepreneurial spirit and faith, demonstrate a high level of empathy and always remain humble to achieve greater heights, make a difference in people’s lives and become a source of inspiration for others,” said Indira with sparkling eyes. Following the 2004 Tsunami, she founded Sahana Sri Lanka, a Swiss NGO that aims to increase the education level and improve the living conditions of disadvantaged children and women around the world.

The opening ceremony of the new community was held on 18th July, 2005 in Hiniduma, a rural village located in the south of Sri Lanka. The wind was blowing and the sun was shining brightly. Children were running across the new playground and smiles were on everyone’s faces. Surrounding villagers had brought traditional sweets to welcome ten Tsunami-affected

families who had lost their houses six months earlier. Notable distinguished personalities were also present. But among everyone, the highlight was a fair skinned Swiss lady, yet bearing the familiar features of a Sri Lankan, clad in a green sari. Her eyes showed signs of both present victory and future plans for many more noble endeavours. Her name was Indira, a woman who struck me with her passion to make this world a better place.

It was in February 2005 that I first met with Indira to help her translate a text into Sinhala. At that time, she was selecting vulnerable families and children in refugee camps. I was mesmerised by the efforts of this young girl, then only 22. “Why are you interested in helping us?” I asked her. She smiled at me and said, “Tharindu, we all have our own aspirations in life to feel fully accomplished. For me it is about helping people in need and to see their lives in better conditions; I chose to come to Sri Lanka because of my origins”.



Together with James, a Canadian volunteer whom she had met at the immigration office in Colombo, she worked to construct an entire community of permanent houses in Hiniduma with funds raised in Switzerland and Canada. They struggled to speak the local language, yet James and Indira found a way to deeply immerse themselves in the local culture. Indira's warmth towards the children was evident in the way she spoke to them in broken Sinhala: 'Hiniduma yanna kamathiy' (do you like settling in Hiniduma?)

A year later, with my help, she recruited teachers and started classes for children of the village. "Children in Hiniduma should be taken out of their boundaries. They have set mental and geographical barriers. They have to realise their potential and capitalize on their inner strengths to reach the next level. We should encourage and guide them on their journey." This is the message Indira conveyed to all the staff to be passed on to all children who quickly became eager to learn more.

In time, Isuru Sampath, a shy boy from a local tea estate, became active and was eventually appointed leader of the

community. Today he works a stable job in a supermarket in Colombo, the capital of Sri Lanka. Imanthi, a very enthusiastic young girl, took every opportunity to learn and study. She was not afraid to raise questions and hence became a member of the leaders' group. As a result of her efforts, she entered university. "I didn't imagine I could make it. But with Sahana Sri Lanka classes, I gained the confidence and the knowledge," she said with tears of joy. These are only two examples of success stories amongst many others.

After five years, as children and parents alike realised it was time for them to stand on their own feet; the community was able to reach its independence. Yet Indira wanted to support the ones who needed further help. In 2011, she acquired a seven-acre tea plantation, profit from which was used to finance educational and healthcare projects in other regions of the country. This innovative self-sustaining solution allowed her to envisage new types of collaboration with other NGOs. Moreover, by allowing Sinhalese tea pickers from the South to support Northern Tamil communities, she had imagined a great initiative that would be a step towards post-war reconciliation between the two ethnic groups of the country.

Later on, in 2014, Indira's NGO entered into a partnership with Terre des hommes (Tdh) to carry out a livelihood project supporting women affected by the consequences of the war in Northern areas. Indira strongly believes that local partnerships can provide win-win solutions ensuring long-term sustainability, transfer of knowledge, and greater impact on the ground. "Support from Sahana Sri Lanka has

allowed Tdh to help particularly vulnerable female-headed households in a way that would not otherwise have been possible. The integration of livelihood support into our work has provided the opportunity to identify and respond to individuals whose acute vulnerability exposes them to the dangers of exploitation. The project has proven that even a small intervention at the individual level can contribute to significant outcomes," said Geoff Cordell, Country Representative of Tdh Sri Lanka.

Alongside managing Sahana Sri Lanka, Indira graduated from Ecole Hôtelière de Lausanne in 2010, where she received the Social Responsibility Award. Today, she works for the World Economic Forum in Geneva as "Community Associate for India and South Asia". "The Forum offers me exceptional learning opportunities which truly inspire me, allowing me to bring another dimension to the work I achieve on the ground. It is also an immense privilege to interact with outstanding individuals sharing similar values and concerned by the same mission, to improve the state of the world." ■

<sup>1</sup> Author of "Time of Reality" Rojak

For more information on Sahana Sri Lanka, please visit [www.sahana-srilanka.org](http://www.sahana-srilanka.org)

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# In Commemoration of our Fallen Colleagues

## Even one death is one death too many



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### IAN RICHARDS AND EVELINA RIOUKHINA

There is never enough we can do to pay tribute to those who paid the ultimate price – their life. Our Fallen Colleagues are those who were victims of terrorist attacks, malicious acts of violence, aircraft/helicopter crashes, accidents on mission, or natural hazards, no matter what kind of mission they were carrying out – humanitarian or technical aid, peacekeeping missions, or voting assistance.

#### 5 years ago. January 2010.

##### The earth shook.

William Gardner has eloquently described the tragic events that morning, five years ago, when the earth shook. 102 staff and peacekeepers lost their lives. As did hundreds of thousands of Haitians with whom they shared the island.

Our colleagues were there to help rebuild the country following conflict and misrule. Many fascinating and inspiring paths brought them to Haiti and to MINUSTAH<sup>1</sup>. Some examples:

- One colleague, from Haiti, was a cabling assistant helping install an optic fibre network in the country. He died at age 28.

- Another colleague, from the UK, was a personal assistant to the police commissioner. She had worked 25 years at the UN, and served 17 years of her career in seven peacekeeping missions.
- Another colleague, from Germany, started in 2002 as a Junior Professional Officer. He worked on the Secretary-General's Policy Committee and the High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence, before joining MINUSTAH as a special assistant. Having been born in 1976, he had a promising career ahead of him.

These brief portraits reflect the diversity and commitment of the colleagues we lost in Haiti.

These portraits also reflect the diversity and commitment of our colleagues working today around the world, colleagues who day in day out serve in extremely difficult locations. They do incredible work, offering a shelter to the dispossessed, rebuilding countries and societies from the rubble of conflict, working tirelessly to bring life to the fine words that are spoken in this building. Their experience, energy and resourcefulness are the organization's greatest asset. An asset that needs to be better valued, and an asset we cannot afford to lose.

Yet, for their dedication and hard work, many colleagues continue to work in danger of their lives. Indeed, we now live in a world where those who do good, are a threat to those who wish bad. Delivering humanitarian aid, bringing peace, affirming the rights of women, promoting justice, all these are an anathema to certain people, groups and ideologies.

In this environment, where our flag of hope is a target for evil and hate, the UN has more to do than ever before to protect its staff and support the good work of our brave colleagues in safety and security.

Last year, the staff unions called on the Secretary-General and the General Assembly to do all they could to bring UN deaths to zero. Sadly, that hasn't happened. Since

then we continue to lose colleagues to attacks from terrorists, from extremists, and from ebola...

UN staff have died in line of duty since the earliest days of the Organization. The first was Ole Bakke, killed in 1948. One tragedy occurred on 18 September 1961: the UN lost its Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, in a plane crash during a peace mission to the Congo. The UN family has been badly hit by terrorist attacks: Baghdad, Algiers, Kabul, Abuja... The list is long. The toll is on the rise. During the last five years the loss is: 2010-173; 2011-115; 2012-112; 2013-109; 2014-124. And only since 2000, the number of UN staff perished in the line of duty is higher than for the whole previous history of UN. As of today, the total number of victims is 3315, including 560 civilian UN staff (both international and national), 237 security and police officers, and 87 military observers<sup>2</sup>.

This year, the commemoration events were held in the memory of the victims of the Haiti earthquake and took place in January at the Headquarter and in other duty stations. On the eve of the Service, UN Special, the pioneer in organizing commemorating actions, re-iterated its earlier proposal to designate a Day of Remembrance and invited all staff for reflection on that. We could unite on the Day of Remembrance to honour our colleagues who lost their lives working for the UN, to pay our collective respect, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying forward their work. Family members could join the commemoration to feel that their dearest ones are remembered. Fallen Colleagues are our living memory, they are our history and human heritage. ■

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

<sup>2</sup> Statistics based on available UN data covering the period 1948 through 31 December 2014. This data is still under review and may therefore contain omissions or errors.

# New Swiss nationality law

*The UNOG Coordination Council, following feedback as part of the recent survey we undertook on the UN Special and your request to update on the legislation of the Host country and how it can affect UN staff members (both international staff, national staff and “frontaliers”), is proposing an article on how a new law might affect UN staff.*



## CATHERINE PECK ARIF<sup>1</sup>

The Swiss parliament agreed a new law in June 2014 changing conditions for applying for Swiss citizenship. These changes will likely enter into force during 2016. There are two requirements for applying for Swiss citizenship. The first is ten years of residence. The second is that a C permit is required at the time of application. Until the new law enters into force, you may apply for nationality under the current rules.

Early in 2014, having become aware of potential changes, we highlighted our concerns at a number of levels; this received coverage in *Le Temps* and *Radio Suisse Romande*. Years holding a *carte de légitimation* will now explicitly count towards the ten years, something the original draft had omitted. However, the C permit requirement was not modified as for some parties it was emblematic to the reforms. Today the concern of the UNOG Coordination Council is that, with some exceptions, spouses and children of UN staff will not be able to obtain a C permit

regardless of years of residence or work in the country and are therefore not able to apply for a passport. The Council believes that if spouses and especially children of UN staff have developed long-term ties to Switzerland, have contributed to the economy (including through taxes) and have integrated into society, they should be able to demonstrate this; and under the new law, the C permit serves as the indicator of integration. Furthermore, the Council is concerned that for the children of staff, who may have grown up their whole lives in Geneva, and know no other country, there is also a basic issue of fairness.


Ian Richards, Executive Secretary of the UNOG Coordination Council together with the Council Bureau and other Council colleagues are now working with other unions in Geneva and seeking advice from experts on the matter in order to determine how best to address and campaign on this issue. Given that the C permit requirement (including for UN staff) was

a centrepiece of the new law and that no party launched a referendum to contest it, it would be unrealistic to expect any changes to be made at this level. The Council believes it important to respect the Swiss democratic process. However, one area being examined by the unions that would be politically less contentious, is the possibility of allowing spouses and dependents to be able to apply for a C permit, thus enabling them to then apply for citizenship. The Council is also looking

at whether any leeway might be identified in the federal and cantonal application decrees of the citizenship law. In addition, the UNOG Coordination Council had a discussion with the Director-General on how UNOG could raise this issue directly with the authorities.

The UNOG Coordination Council will keep our readers informed on further development. ■

<sup>1</sup> Deputy Executive Secretary, UNOG Coordination Council





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Una calle en La Habana

## El multilateralismo y un nuevo amanecer en el Caribe

*Hace un par de semanas, durante una entrevista en la que el famoso periodista Charlie Rose conversaba con Jorge Castañeda en Washington DC, el conocido escritor y ex ministro de relaciones exteriores de México le decía al Sr. Rose que la histórica decisión de restablecer relaciones entre los gobiernos de Estados Unidos y de Cuba ha sido un acierto histórico, pero que sin embargo obedecía más a razones económicas que a una confluencia política.*

**ALEX MEJIA**

Su análisis se basa en que el gobierno Cubano necesitaría abrir la economía de la isla en el futuro, debido a que sus principales socios estratégicos, Venezuela y Rusia, están enfrentando serias crisis internas magnificadas por el abrupto descenso en los precios del petróleo en el año 2014. Al mismo tiempo y para no perder la perspectiva política, decía el Sr. Rose que esta decisión del Presidente Obama había dividido al Congreso de los Estados Unidos, pero que aun así la mayoría de los legisladores coincidían en la necesidad de incorporar a Cuba sin restricciones en el concierto de las naciones, pues ha transcurrido suficiente tiempo desde el deterioro de las relaciones bilaterales en 1959 y desde el embargo económico, comercial y financiero impuesto por Washington en Octubre de 1960. Más allá de las razones que estos dos gobiernos hayan tenido para restablecer relaciones hace unas semanas, es importante analizar el contexto global y hemisférico en que este histórico acercamiento se está dando, pues Cuba se merece un futuro sin interferencias.

La diplomacia multilateral ha evolucionado de manera acelerada desde el fin de la Guerra Fría y abarca hoy temas que van más allá de la ortodoxia diplomática del siglo XX. Durante las últimas dos décadas hemos visto el advenimiento de una nueva amalgama de temas que han ensanchado las prácticas comunes de las organizaciones multilaterales y de los diplomáticos y funcionarios técnicos que las conforman.

El derecho internacional y temas de soberanía han cedido espacio a temas del ámbito social, ambiental y humanitario, con alta prioridad en lo económico. Cuando el economista Británico Jim O'Neill concibió el término BRIC en el 2001 ninguno de nosotros habríamos esperado que la emergencia de Brasil, Rusia, India y China hubiera sido tan acelerada pero al mismo tiempo tan disímil como ha sido. De entre estos países con creciente influencia global, Rusia se ha convertido en un caso complicado tanto en lo político como en lo económico. Su involucramiento en Crimea y su posición en el conflicto interno en Ucrania generaron sanciones impuestas por los países occidentales que han afectado su economía.

A eso se unió la caída del precio del petróleo causada por el exceso de oferta liderado por Arabia Saudita al mismo tiempo que el llamado 'fracking' inundó parte del mercado energético con petróleo barato de los Estados Unidos. Quien hubiera dicho que decisiones tomadas en lugares tan lejanos afectarían el futuro de Cuba.

El acuerdo bilateral entre Estados Unidos y Cuba anunciado el 17 de Diciembre pasado permitió un intercambio de prisioneros, y compromete al gobierno Cubano a la liberación de presos políticos, a permitir la entrada de observadores de la Cruz Roja Internacional y de relatores de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas, además de la ampliación del acceso a internet en la isla. Parte integral del diálogo es la reapertura reciproca de embajadas en Washington y la Habana (cerradas por más de medio siglo), pues desde 1977 solo han existido las Oficina de Intereses de cada gobierno en ambas capitales. La primera misión del Departamento de Estado de los Estados Unidos ya visitó Cuba y se ha iniciado el proceso de manera formal, pero Cuba exige que primero se remueva su nombre de la Lista

de Estados que Promueven el Terrorismo. De la misma manera, el Presidente Raúl Castro exige que se termine el embargo (conocido como 'bloqueo' en Cuba) antes del total restablecimiento de relaciones bilaterales.

El multilateralismo en las Américas ha sufrido también cambios importantes en los últimos años. La Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) ya no es la única plataforma política continental y ha visto emerger bloques políticos como ALBA<sup>1</sup>, UNASUR<sup>2</sup> y CELAC<sup>3</sup> que se han unido a los Parlamentos regionales que existen en America Latina para tomar decisiones políticas que no incluyen una visión continental

o hemisférica como la que promueve la OEA. En el ámbito económico el multilateralismo en las Américas también ha cambiado en las últimas décadas, con el fracaso de la creación del Área de Libre Comercio de las Américas (ALCA) la década pasada y el mantenimiento o la conformación de varios bloques comerciales exitosos como CAN<sup>4</sup>, MERCOSUR<sup>5</sup>, CARICOM<sup>6</sup>, NAFTA<sup>7</sup> y CAFTA<sup>8</sup>. Washington ha disminuido su influencia en las Américas y Cuba ha sido considerada por los Estados Unidos 'una piedra en el zapato' que le ha costado capital político a la OEA, al ser vista como muy cercana a los designios (para no mencionar que su sede queda a poca distancia de la Casa Blanca en Washington). Cuba fue



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Los hermanos Fidel y Raúl Castro

suspendida de la OEA el 21 de Enero de 1962 y ha estado siempre ausente de la Cumbre de las Américas. Hasta que Cuba no regrese a la OEA, la arquitectura multilateral del Hemisferio Occidental se mantendrá fragmentada.

En el centro del sistema multilateral global, la ONU ha adoptado resoluciones en contra del embargo por 23 años consecutivos. El pasado 28 de Octubre la Asamblea General lo hizo una vez más, con el voto a favor de 188 estados miembros, con tres abstenciones de pequeños países de Oceanía, y con el acostumbrado voto en contra de los Estados Unidos y de Israel. Al mismo tiempo, la ONU reiteró su llamado a los estados miembros de abstenerse de promulgar leyes con efecto extraterritorial, como la llamada Ley Helms-Burton de 1996 que impone sanciones a ciudadanos y empresas

de terceros países que hagan negocios con Cuba (aunque no sean estadounidenses).

Tal vez la parte más complicada en esta histórica transición diplomática es la demanda norteamericana de que el gobierno Cubano permita el libre funcionamiento de partidos políticos y de medios de comunicación, además de espacio político para disidentes y activistas. Si el análisis de ex canciller Castañeda tuviere algo de razón, estaríamos frente a una disyuntiva que contrasta intereses políticos e intereses económicos.

Cuba necesita una economía floreciente e interacción abierta con los Estados Unidos, sin restricciones económicas, comerciales o financieras. Al mismo tiempo, Washington espera una apertura política interna y externa de la Habana, que llene sus expectativas de cómo una democracia debe funcionar. Tarea nada fácil para ambos gobiernos y sus diplomáticos. En los próximos meses seremos testigos de cómo la diplomacia bilateral y multilateral reconcilia estas dos posiciones para reinsertar a Cuba como país soberano en el concierto de las naciones.

Ya era hora... ■

<sup>1</sup> Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA)

<sup>2</sup> Union de Naciones Suramericanas (UNASUR)

<sup>3</sup> Comunidad de Estados Latinoamericanos y Caribeños (CELAC)

<sup>4</sup> Comunidad Andina (CAN)

<sup>5</sup> Mercado Común del Sur (MERCOSUR)

<sup>6</sup> Comunidad del Caribe (CARICOM)

<sup>7</sup> Tratado de Libre Comercio de América del Norte (NAFTA)

<sup>8</sup> Tratado de Libre Comercio de Centroamérica (CAFTA)

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# 200 years of actions for peace in Geneva



EVELINA RIOUKHINA, SARAH JORDAN\*

The long history of peace movements in Geneva dates back to the first congress of the Société de la Paix, convened in 1830 by the Count Jean-Jacques de Sellon in one of his castles, Château d'Allaman, sometimes called the Peace Castle. It is interesting to note that peace activities started in Geneva even earlier, symbolized by three monuments erected by

Count de Sellon, which could be called the "golden triangle" of peace. They mark Geneva as the birthplace of peace movements and activities. The first monument, the "Peace Column," bearing the inscription "Blessed are the peacemakers," was only discovered in 2013, during reconstruction work on the Château. The column was literally "hidden" inside the walls, probably deliberately, in 1939 at the outbreak of World War II, in order to protect this marvel from potential danger. The second and third monuments, unveiled in Count de Sellon's other property – the villa la Fenêtre, which today belongs to UNOG, could be even more significant. Monument number two is a black marble obelisk, inaugurated in 1830-32 on the occasion of the

first congress of the Société de la Paix. It was placed by Count de Sellon's family on his grave in the cemetery where he is buried. It can be visited, but practically nobody knows that in reality it is a monument standing for non-violence and peace, conceived and erected by Count de Sellon himself.

The third monument might have been erected much earlier; sources give 1820 as the date. Called the *Temple of Friendship and Peace*, it can be considered the real birthplace of peace movements in Geneva. This monument is not well known, although it is listed as historical heritage and is the earliest tangible sign of peace actions in Geneva. The monument was destroyed in 1946 and never re-built, a few rare photos of it remain

in archives. If re-erected today, (and why not in the grounds of the Palais?) this monument would serve as a symbol of the birthplace of peace activities in Geneva, preceding the creation of the Society of Nations/League of Nations. It is as an important milestone which bears witness to almost two centuries of peace actions in Geneva, the world capital of dialogue, diplomacy, non-violence and peace. In addition, this Temple would carry the important message today of interfaith harmony and tolerance. Besides its historical and educational significance, it is also an architectural marvel, which is important to restore and safeguard for future generations! ■

\* with the gracious help of Mr. Markus Jerger, Château d'Allaman

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*Si vous vous promenez du côté de Chamonix, ne manquez pas de grimper jusqu'au plateau d'Assy pour y découvrir son église, Notre-Dame-de-Toute-Grâce, un édifice surprenant.*

**PHILIPPE DEHALU**

Sur le territoire de la commune de Passy, face à la chaîne du Mont Blanc, se dresse à 1000 m d'altitude l'église catholique Notre-Dame-de-Toute-Grâce construite entre 1937 et 1946. Elle a été érigée à l'initiative du chanoine Jean Devémy et est l'œuvre de l'architecte savoyard Maurice Novarina.

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Vitrail signé Marc Chagall

Avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale, le plateau d'Assy est une station sanatoriale réputée, qui accueille les malades atteints de tuberculose. Le plateau d'Assy compte alors une vingtaine de sanatoriums. Certains sont dotés d'une petite chapelle; d'autres sont visités par des aumôniers. Dans la commune de Passy, lieu isolé, il n'y a pas d'église.

En 1935, pour remédier à cette situation, le chanoine Devémy, aumônier d'un sanatorium, a l'idée de bâtir une église pour les malades et le personnel sédentaire du plateau d'Assy. Il lance un concours d'architectes au terme duquel il confie la

réalisation de l'église au jeune architecte savoyard Maurice Novarina. Celui-ci s'engage dans la construction d'un édifice sans prétention en utilisant les matériaux de la région: une pierre du pays (une carrière de grès vert est ouverte à cet effet), le bois et l'ardoise. Le gros-œuvre, réalisé par des entreprises de la région, est terminé avant la déclaration de la deuxième guerre mondiale.

Alors que l'église sort de terre, le chanoine s'investit dans sa décoration. Il veut trouver, pour «son» église, un petit «bijou». A Paris, lors de la visite d'une exposition, il tombe en arrêt devant un vitrail de Rouault, représentant un Christ de la Passion. Aussitôt rentré à Assy, il prend les mesures des fenêtres de son église et constate que l'œuvre de Rouault s'enchâsse exactement dans les cadres de pierre! C'est, dit-il, «le miracle d'Assy».

Ce qui fait avant tout la renommée internationale de Notre-Dame-de-Toute-Grâce, c'est sans nul doute la qualité de sa décoration, confiée par l'abbé Devémy aux plus grands maîtres de la première moitié du XX<sup>e</sup> siècle. Décoration, grâce à laquelle l'humble église de montagne s'est transformée en un véritable manifeste des mouvements artistiques de l'époque, marquant un renouveau de l'art sacré.

Avec enthousiasme, des artistes parmi les plus importants de l'époque, de toute confession ou opinion philosophique, acceptent de collaborer au projet. Ils signent peintures, sculptures, tapisseries, vitraux, céramiques, mosaïques, pièces

d'ameublement et objets de culte. Dans une conférence qu'il prononça en 1996 devant l'académie des beaux-arts, l'architecte Maurice Novarina évoqua l'admiration et la reconnaissance qu'il portait à tous les artistes qui acceptèrent de collaborer à cette épopée architecturale malgré les polémiques qu'elle suscitait à l'époque: «il s'agissait des plus grands noms du moment, tous habitués à des actions personnelles. Aucun n'a hésité à porter son talent dans le cadre unique de cette église répondant à un programme religieux précis, quelle que soit sa confession.»

Venez découvrir la façade couverte de mosaïques de Fernand Léger; poussez la lourde porte et regardez la lumière filtrer au travers des vitraux de Georges Rouault, Jean Bazaine, Paul Bercot, Marie-Alain Couturier, Adeline Hébert-Stevens et Marguerite Huré. Restez bouche bée devant la tapisserie de Jean Lurçat. Admirez les céramiques d'Henri Matisse et de Théodore Strawinsky, le bas-relief de Georges Braque, la toile de Pierre Bonnard. Laissez-vous séduire par les fonts baptismaux en marbre de Carrare de Carlo Sergio Signori, tout entourés de céramique, vitraux et bas-relief signés Marc Chagall. Flânez dans ce lieu à la découverte de ses trésors cachés, vous ne le regretterez pas. ■

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FACULTÉ DES LETTRES





# Portraits croisés

## A la rencontre de Michèle Arnaud-Kichenin et de Ravi Rajalingam

*Ce mois-ci «Portraits croisés» nous fait découvrir Michèle Arnaud-Kichenin et Ravi Rajalingam qui, respectivement dans le bar de la presse à l'ONU et le bar à café à l'OMS, nous servent avec bonne humeur café, chocolat chaud, en-cas ou autres douceurs.*



Michèle Arnaud-Kichenin, ONU



Ravi Rajalingam, OMS

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY

### Les habitués de Michèle

J'ai rendez-vous à 15 heures avec Michèle qui travaille depuis 17 ans au bar de la presse. Elle arrive avec un grand sourire.

Michèle est née à Bellegarde-sur-Valserine (France), mais elle a également la nationalité suisse. Il lui faut 20 minutes pour arriver au travail par beau temps, et deux heures quand il neige. Elle en est déjà à son troisième café, au bar. Elle aime le café, beaucoup. Pendant qu'on discute, une femme part... "Adieu ma chérie, bon weekend! C'est mon amie, elle est géniale". Maintenant c'est un monsieur qui s'apprête à quitter le bar. Michèle s'approche pour lui souhaiter une bonne mission. Il s'éloigne avec un grand sourire.

Michèle a deux chats qu'elle adore, Inca et Roquette. Elle les a recueillis au refuge de la SPA, Inca avait la queue cassée. Personne ne voulait de lui, Michelle, si... "il est heureux comme un prince chez nous".

Michèle a du caractère. C'est un peu pour cela que son ancien patron du CERN lui a demandé de venir au Palais. Pour la plupart d'entre nous, le bar

de la presse c'est Michèle... et Michèle s'y sent chez elle, elle aussi. C'est comme ça, une sorte de symbiose. Le bar de la presse sans Michèle? Impensable! "C'est un lieu stratégique" nous dit-elle, avec sa voix grave de fumeuse, tout le monde vient ici, on rencontre les diplomates, les directeurs, mais je ne fais pas de différence. Des habitués? Tout le monde est habitué au bar de la presse! Ils viennent pour la chaleur, pour rencontrer une oreille amicale, pour faire des confidences... même les personnes qui viennent pour des conférences deviennent des habitués. "Quoi? Un latte, mais il y a six mois vous aviez demandé un ristretto! Un café? 10 francs pour vous!"

Michèle travaille avec Mano. Ils forment un tandem sympathique. On se sent bien avec eux. Le café est en train de couler dès qu'on arrive... pour Marion un renversé, pour Paul un expresso, Arianne aura un café allongé...

### Libre cours

Je peux dire ce que je veux? Il y a un film que j'aime beaucoup "La ligne verte". Il est magnifique. Ce film m'a bouleversé. Je n'aime pas les injustices.

GARRY ASLANYAN

### Coffee with a smile

Ravi Rajalingam, a barista at Bar à Café at WHO for the past 12 years, is a familiar face to many. It seems everybody loves Ravi for his dedication and personable service. So it was a no brainer for me to choose to sit down with him for a few minutes to paint his "portrait".

Many employees and visitors to WHO think they know Ravi, but do they? Born in Sri Lanka, Ravi came to Switzerland almost 20 years ago to take refuge from the civil war in his country. His mixed Tamil and Sinhalese background made it difficult for him and his family to be safe. While at school in Sri Lanka, Ravi remembers learning about the United Nations and its agencies as beacons of peace-making. He had no idea that he would one day work at WHO. "I often hear people talk about their duty travels and health issues they are working on in various countries. Recently, I could sense the pressure many of my clients were under during the Ebola outbreak", he told me.

Ravi's passion is playing cricket and soccer. In fact his team, the Sri Lankan Cricket Club of Geneva, won the Swiss cricket

league championship a few years ago. But he says he doesn't have as much time now to play. His focus is on spending time with his two boys, aged 10 and 8. As his French was not up to "standard" when he arrived in Geneva, it was difficult for Ravi to continue his education. He wants to make sure his sons have all the opportunities he may not have had. "They were born here. I want them to succeed in whatever they do, but also to be aware of their family and roots back in Sri Lanka". He takes them to Sri Lanka often and has seen dramatic improvements in the country which make him happy and proud.

During his 12 years as barista, Ravi hasn't noticed a change in people's coffee drinking habits but has seen a change in the foods that are being offered. He has observed a trend with an increased interest in bio foods, more grains and healthy choices. "It makes me feel good when I know I can make my clients happy, help them get through the hard work of the day and be productive in whatever they are doing, be it those who work at WHO or those who come for meetings from all of the world all year around", said Ravi. ■



© SATUS Genève

# The VIVICITTÀ Race comes to Geneva

*On Sunday 19 April 2015, you are invited to participate in the 5th edition of this 12 km race. The start and finish area is situated on the lakeside, close to the Bains des Pâquis.*

## HANS THURNHERR<sup>1</sup>

One of the most well-known races in the world, known as the Vivicità, is taking place in Geneva this year on Sunday 19 April 2015.

With its origins in Italy, the first Vivicità City Supporter Run started in 1984, and quickly became an “international event”. It brings together thousands of people, running simultaneously in cities across the world. Now hosted in 20 countries around the world (but primarily in Italy in more than 20 cities), this annual 12 km race attracts around 80,000 professional and amateur athletes. The theme behind the race is that those runners competing, demonstrate their support for an eco-friendly environment, in solidarity with citizens from other countries who share different cultures, thus sending a united message of peace.

Geneva, as a truly international environment, is the first city in Switzerland to join the panel. The hosting club is SATUS Geneva which has organized the famous “Cross international” for the last 60 years.

With the starting point at the Bains de Paquis, the race runs parallel to the lake for approximately one kilometre before turning up through the Botanic Garden, behind the Palais des Nations and crossing the park of Château de Penthes to the village of Pregny-Chambésy. The race then takes a course behind Chambésy, and returns to the lakeside at La Perle du Lac where runners cross the finish line.

The results of the race are based on an international ranking, taking into account the profile of the race and the altitude in each country. This allows a perfect comparison of individual results, irrespective of the country where the race has taken place. For example an athlete in Venice can be compared to his sporting colleagues who are in Lisbon, Budapest and Havana. Each athlete receives a diploma with their classification developed by the Central Organizing Committee, the IPSC, which collects

all the results. Participation of blind and visually handicapped runners is very much encouraged and walkers and Nordic Walkers may also participate. A shorter distance race is organised for boys and girls between 10 and 17 years of age over 1.5km and 2.8 km.

## How can I register?

If you would like to compete, or would just like to go along and support the runners, you can find more details about the race and registration here: [www.sat-us-geneve.ch/vivicitta](http://www.sat-us-geneve.ch/vivicitta) ■

<sup>1</sup> Deputy Chairman of Vivicità







© Olexandr Sirchevsky

Temple of Heaven

## The Path to the Open Doors of Heaven

*Heritage is our legacy.  
No person, no nation  
can exist without taking  
due care of its heritage.  
History and Art are  
components of this  
heritage.*

**EVELINA RIOUKHINA**

We invite our readers to discover every month a selection of artworks exhibited at Palais des Nations and the World Health Organization in Geneva and the fascinating stories related to each of these masterpieces.

The arts collection at the Palais des Nations has a long history. Considerable numbers of works of art were inherited from the League of Nations, whose headquarters were located in the same building, the Palais des Nations. Since the Second World War, and especially during the past decade, this collection has grown remarkably thanks to generous donations from United Nations Member States. Today, the collection comprises sculptures, frescoes, stained glass panels, tapestries, paintings, portrait drawings, engravings, prints, posters and even caricatures.

### Restaurants



The UNOG art collection as a whole is unique. Whilst most museums concentrate on certain historical periods or particular schools of art, UNOG is not bound by such limitations. Here, at the Palais des Nations, the collection reflects an infinite variety, including works by contemporary artists from many different countries, examples of traditional national art, pieces of ancient art and paintings and murals in the European classical tradition. Within the United Nations, art does not exist only for its aesthetic values. It also serves one of the Organization's major goals, the promotion of the unity of humankind in all its cultural diversity.

Many masterpieces are world known, but there are also "hidden" treasures, never exhibited and thus practically never seen.

#### Temple of Heaven

Temple of Heaven is, perhaps, one of the most known and most visited pieces of arts in the Palais. The tapestry is located in the middle of the 3rd floor of Building E, right after the connecting corridor. Usually, all tours of the Palais include a visit to this wall tapestry, or even start there.

The visitors to the Palais certainly remember how, trying to understand the mystery of this tapestry, they moved from one side of the tapestry to the other, and

each time they moved, the path always moved along with them, the door always facing them. Indeed, while going from the old building to Building E, there is always a crowd, strangely walking back and forth and looking at the wall. Even we, employees at UNOG, although used to this optical phenomenon, involuntarily check if the pass is still moving together with us while rushing to our meeting rooms. But where is the open door leading us?

The tapestry is a gift from the Government of China on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of UNCTAD, donated more than 30 years ago, and unveiled on 17 September 1984. Temple of the Heaven, located in the southern part of Beijing, is the largest group of temple buildings of their kind built in a unique circular style on 273 hectares of land. Every year, on the winter solstice and in the first month of the lunar calendar, the Ming (1348-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) emperors went to the temple to worship heaven and pray for good harvests. The tapestry represents the Qiniandian, the main temple hall built in 1420. The circular structure of the temple made of wood and bricks is covered by a triple conical roof set with deep blue glazed tiles. Supported only by 28 wooden pillars, the hall is called "The Beamless Hall". Its ceiling is exquisitely painted in patterns of traditional Chinese style.

This tapestry is 12 feet long and 9 feet wide, made of closely hand-woven fine woollen threads. It took five veteran weavers – who have always been regarded as artists – six months to complete. They used as much as 275 colours and shades of fine woollen threads and tied an amazing 1,306,800 knots.

The mystery of this tapestry, or one of the most distinguishing features, is that the door of the hall always faces the person looking at it, from whatever angle. The weavers did not reveal the secret of how this was achieved. And today, for more than 30 years, no matter how many times we have seen this masterpiece or if we discover it for the first time, there is something so mysterious and magnetizing about the door that each time we pass by, we try to understand the secret hoping it will lead us to the open doors of Heaven! ■

*With thanks to Ms. Clara Goyu for providing precious documents from the archives*

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Vue sur Sultanahmet du haut de la tour de Galata

## Istanbul

# Entre Orient et Occident (2<sup>e</sup> partie)

*Après avoir visité le quartier de Sultanahmet et découvert la mosquée Bleue, la basilique Sainte-Sophie et le palais de Topkapi (voir le UN Spécial du mois passé), direction les rives du Bosphore en faisant un petit détour par le Grand Bazar et le Bazar égyptien, les marchés les plus populaires d'Istanbul.*

### TEXTE & PHOTOS CLAUDE MAILLARD

On recense près de 3000 mosquées dans Istanbul. Au sommet d'une colline, surplombant le Bosphore, face à un incroyable panorama sur l'Europe et l'Asie, s'élève majestueusement la mosquée de Soliman le Magnifique. La plus grande des mosquées de la ville, achevée en 1557, œuvre de l'architecte impérial Sinan, traduit parfaitement l'ambition, la magnificence et le pouvoir de ce sultan. Non loin, après avoir traversé le vaste parc de l'université dominé par la tour de l'ancien poste de surveillance des incendies, se situe la mosquée Beyazit. Terminée en 1506, c'est la plus ancienne d'Istanbul. A quelques pâtés de maisons, la mosquée de Nuruosmaniye, très bel

exemple d'architecture baroque ottomane, date du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle. Ces trois mosquées sont en périphérie d'un autre temple, celui des meilleurs marchands du monde: le Grand Bazar.

### Une ville dans la ville

Les nombreux marchés d'Istanbul sont à l'image de l'effervescence de la ville. Le Grand Bazar est le plus grand marché couvert du monde. Une véritable enclave dans la ville. Un labyrinthe de près de 200 000 m<sup>2</sup>, traversé d'une soixantaine de ruelles bordées de 4 000 boutiques. On y accède par 18 portes. En moyenne, 300 000 visiteurs le fréquentent quotidiennement. Construit en 1461 pour financer l'entretien de Sainte-Sophie, il sera détruit à plusieurs reprises par des

incendies ou des tremblements de terre. Malheureusement, aujourd'hui, il est devenu très touristique et les marchandises exposées sont quasiment toutes les mêmes. Fini l'époque où chaque ruelle abritait sa corporation d'orfèvres, de marchands de tapis, de vêtements, de chaussures, de fabricants d'objets en laiton...

Plus authentique, le Bazar égyptien est situé dans le quartier d'Eminönü, proche du Bosphore. Il a été construit en 1663 grâce à l'argent des impôts collectés au Caire, d'où le nom de Bazar égyptien. Egalement appelé le marché aux épices pour la multitude d'épices qu'on y trouve, il représente un subtil mélange de couleurs rutilantes, de



Près de Eyüp, sur les eaux calmes de la Corne d'Or

parfums capiteux et de saveurs épicées. Autrefois, le loyer des échoppes permettait de financer l'entretien de la mosquée Neuve édifée juste en face.

La mosquée Neuve constitue l'une des plus imposantes et connues des mosquées d'Istanbul. Sa construction commença en 1597, mais il faudra 66 ans pour la terminer en raison de différends politiques au sein du pouvoir ottoman, puis d'un incendie qui détruisit une grande partie des structures déjà réalisées. La mosquée Neuve occupe un emplacement de tout premier ordre à Istanbul, trônant au milieu d'une vaste place face au pont de Galata qui enjambe la Corne d'Or et des embarcadères à l'activité effrénée.

#### Sur les pas de Pierre Loti

Le moyen de transport le plus pittoresque pour visiter la Corne d'Or est le bateau pour Eyüp, quartier d'Istanbul situé là, où l'estuaire, long de 7 kilomètres, fait un coude avant de devenir moins navigable. Depuis le siège de Constantinople, Eyüp a toujours été un lieu saint où les pèlerins viennent se recueillir sur la tombe d'Ayoub al-Ansari, ami proche du prophète Mahomet, tombé ici en 674. L'endroit est également connu pour le café Pierre Loti, perché

au sommet d'une butte d'où la vue est très belle. Pierre Loti, écrivain français (1850-1923), auteur notamment de «Pêcheur d'Islande» et de «Fantôme d'Orient», peintre de talent et membre de l'Académie Française, a mené parallèlement une carrière d'officier de marine. Une grande partie de son œuvre est autobiographique, inspirée de ses voyages comme marin. Il a gardé toute sa vie une attirance très forte pour la Turquie et plus particulièrement pour Istanbul dont il disait qu'elle était «unique au monde». Et c'est là, à Eyüp qu'il aimait venir se reposer.

De retour à l'embarcadère d'Eminönü et pour profiter des derniers rayons de soleil qui embrasent Istanbul, la traversée du pont de Galata s'impose pour monter au sommet de la tour de Galata, haute de 67 m et d'où le panorama sur les continents asiatique et européen est fabuleux. Et pour terminer la journée en beauté, une petite escapade chez Güllüoğlu s'impose. La vénérable institution datant de 1820 propose en effet les meilleurs baklavas d'Istanbul, si ce n'est de Turquie...

#### Au fil du Bosphore

Alors que l'orage gronde sur la ville, des dauphins improvisent un show près de la berge du

Bosphore. Long de 32 kilomètres, reliant la mer Noire à la mer de Marmara, frontière entre l'Europe et l'Asie, le Bosphore a toujours été vital pour les Stambouliotes. Ses flots semblent déchiquetés en tous sens par le trafic. Entre deux mastodontes qui remontent le courant, le pétrolier Shogun et un porte-conteneurs danois, c'est un véritable chassé-croisé latéral des ferries et des bacs assurant la liaison entre les deux rives, auquel s'ajoute le va-et-vient des embarcations de pêcheurs et des bateaux de touristes reliant les îles des Princes. L'augmentation du transport maritime dans le détroit, sinueux et parfois étroit, représente un danger important pour les marins, mais également pour les riverains en cas d'explosions, notamment pour les propriétaires de yalis, ces maisons en bois construites au ras de l'eau. Ces chefs-d'œuvre, témoins de la nostalgie ottomane, bâtis dès le milieu du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle pour les dignitaires de l'empire, vizirs ou hauts fonctionnaires et riches commerçants, sont malheureusement en voie de disparition.

Dans les eaux du Bosphore se reflète une merveilleuse mosaïque de palais, de jardins, de citadelles et de villages de

pêcheurs somnolents dans leurs anses serties de verdure. Et pour profiter de ce spectacle, le mieux est certainement d'embarquer sur un bateau en route vers le nord. Avant de passer sous le pont Bogaziçi qui permet, en une superbe enjambée de plus d'un kilomètre, à 64 mètres de haut, de passer du continent européen au continent asiatique, les trésors architecturaux ne manquent pas. On peut admirer l'imposant palais de Dolmabahçe, achevé en 1853 pour le sultan Abdül Mecit et qui fut ensuite le palais présidentiel où mourut Atatürk en 1938. Puis le palais de Ciragan, impressionnant édifice bâti en 1867, dont la façade de marbre blanc scintille au soleil et qui est devenu l'un des hôtels de luxe les plus prisés d'Istanbul. Enfin, proche du pont, sur une minuscule presqu'île, est érigée la mosquée impériale d'Ortaköy.

A quelques kilomètres, un deuxième ouvrage d'art permet de franchir le Bosphore. Long de 1510m, le pont de Mehmet le Conquérant est suspendu à plus de 100 mètres de haut. A proximité, après avoir longé le palais de Beylerbeyi, entouré de terrasses fleuries, se dressent sur les deux rives du fleuve les forteresses d'Anadoluhisari et de Rumeli Hisari. Elles ont été construites à l'emplacement le moins large du détroit pour une surveillance totale du trafic maritime en prévision du siège de Constantinople.

En vue des Jeux Olympiques 2020 auxquels Istanbul s'était porté candidate, la réalisation d'un troisième pont sur le Bosphore est en court non loin des rives de la mer Noire. Malheureusement, le CIO en a décidé autrement... ■



FIFOG

# Ode to my mother

*The United Nations Information Service and the International Oriental Film Festival of Geneva (FIFOG) commemorate International Women's Day with a screening of the film "Ode to my mother"*

SARAH JORDAN, SDLS, UNOG

To mark International Women's Day, and in partnership with the 10th edition of the International Oriental Film Festival of Geneva (FIFOG), the UN Information Service will project the film *"Ode to my mother"* on Tuesday 10 March at 12 noon in the UN cinema (room XIV). This is the eighth time the Information Service and a Festival (FILMAR, FIFDH<sup>1</sup> or FIFOG) have co-organized a screening on themes that are relevant to UN concerns.

*"Ode to my mother"* is a 2014 Saudi-Arabian documentary (in English with subtitles for the sections in Arabic) produced by Ferial Masry, the daughter of the mother to whom this ode – or lyric poem – is dedicated. She will be present at the screening alongside Tahar Houchi, Artistic Director of the FIFOG. The film tells the life story of Saudi-born Tahra Abdul Hafiz Al-Sibai, through the eyes of her seven adult children. They describe her as a "visionary" and "the guiding light in our lives" and this is their tribute to her. The film describes how she left her country of origin in the 1960s to raise her children in Egypt, Morocco and England in accordance with her philosophy of the "three Ds" – Determination, Duty and Dignity. Despite many personal sacrifices, she also managed to build a successful career for herself as a fashion designer and expert in traditional Saudi apparel, about which she wrote eight sumptuously illustrated books, including one inspired by the seventh century love poet Umar Ibn Abn Rabi'ah. As her son puts it: "Us Arabs, and particularly the Saudis, do have a civilization that is so wonderful and so beautiful that the world has the right to see it." Cultural authorities in Saudi Arabia hail her for preserving the

"clothing identity" of their civilization and "reviving history."

The film is very moving, specific to one family, but universal in its reach: origins, migration, integration, motherhood, education, freedom, creativity, life and death are all themes relevant to women today. And if this film whets your appetite for more thought-provoking oriental films, the FIFOG will have more than 100 films, debates and side events on offer from 20 to 29 March at 20 venues in and around Geneva. Like for other festivals in Geneva, the number of spectators is growing: from 80 for its first edition in 2006 to 7,000 last year. This year's theme is an audacious one: "love" – but what could better express the hope, peace and desire to reconcile the East and the West, the main quest of this Festival? "A winter candle that enlightens", in the words of its Artistic Director, Tahar Houchi.

The Honorary President this year has the name to match the theme: Adonis. He is the celebrated Syrian poet and literary critic, Ali Ahmed Saïd Esber, whose nom de plume refers to the Phoenician God of cyclical rebirth. The idea of obscurantism disappearing and then recurring in civilizations is one that will be debated, assures Tahar Houchi. More than two hundred partners support the Festival: three competitions present long and short films, fictions and documentaries, and there are also two competitions for schoolchildren in association with the Lanterne Magique, an international cinema club for children. Five juries award a golden and silver FIFOG trophy in each category.

The Festival promises to end on an interesting and highly topical note. Jossot was an early twentieth-century caricaturist, who started to draw political caricatures in his native France just before the law separating Church and State was signed. He later moved to Tunisia and converted to Islam. His drawings from both sides of the East/West divide are the focus of the film *"Jossot: from Gustave to Abdul Karim"*, which will be projected on Saturday 28 March followed by a debate on the subject of "Insults to liberty or the liberty to insult?". ■

<sup>1</sup> International Film Festival and Forum on Human Rights (FIFDH)

For further details: [www.fifog.com](http://www.fifog.com)



## Message de la rédactrice 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:

Laurence Vercammen, rédactrice en chef – *UN Special*  
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Suisse  
Par courrier électronique: [unspecial@who.int](mailto: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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20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Switzerland  
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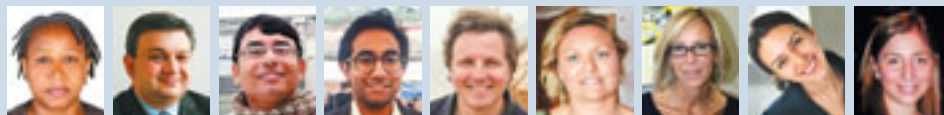
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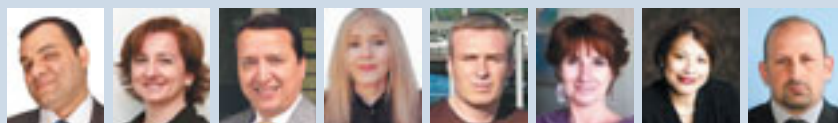
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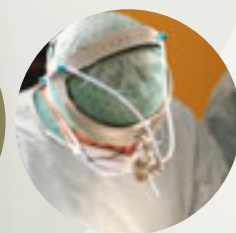
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