

UN Special

MAGAZINE DES FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX - THE MAGAZINE OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS



N° 755 - DÉCEMBRE 2015 - JANVIER 2016

Volunteerism, values and principles
UN Special -finalist for the UNSG Award
Volontariat et joie de Vivre
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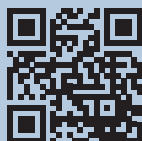


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GARRY ASLANYAN

Rédacteur en chef par intérim/interim Editor-in-chief

ÉDITORIAL

3

ENTRETIEN/INTERVIEW

- Volunteerism, values and principles 5
- Une rencontre avec l'ombudsman de l'ONUG 8
- The Spirit of Davos 2.0 Enter the fourth industrial revolution 14

OMS & ONU/UNOG & WHO

- UN Special* – finalist for the UNSG Award 10
- "Virus of volunteerism" carried by *UN Special* and its editors 16
- Volontariat et joie de vivre 18
- Un chauffeur des sommets 22
- Nearly 20,000 join UN 70 celebrations at the Palais des Nations in Geneva 28
- United Nations Open Day in Geneva 29
- Les bénévoles du sport à l'ONU Genève 30
- Courir pour le succès – les athlètes de l'escalade s'entraînent à l'ONUG 31
- Entraînement de l'Escalade au Palais des Nations 32
- Goal 13 – Urgent Climate Action, Before It Is Too Late 36
- Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity – A global Human Rights issue 38
- Help us to preserve the values of our *UN Special* staff magazine 46
- Aidez nous à préserver les valeurs de notre magazine *UN Special* 46

SOCIÉTÉ/SOCIETY

- Concours de photographie 21
- Romantic triangles of Old Moscow 26
- The library in Geneva 34
- @un70's open day celebration 34

NOUVELLE GÉNÉRATION/NEXT GENERATION

- New Year in New York 40
- From Guns to Gardens 41

RECETTES DE FÊTES/

HOLIDAY SEASON COOKING RECIPES

- Huîtres tièdes aux œufs de caille 43
- Sri Lankan Chicken Curry 43
- Tarte au vin 44
- Georgian Chanakhi 44
- Picana navideña de Bolivia 45
- Bûche de Noël 45

The spirit of giving

This time we start off with an interview with the Executive Secretary of UNECE who reflects on volunteerism, values and principles, followed by a conversation with the Ombudsman of UNOG who keeps his doors wide open to all staff needs and finally an update on Davos, which, in the words of his founder, is the prime example of international public-private cooperation.

Volunteerism has always been a core value of the *UN Special*. Enshrined in its statutes is the work of non-paid writers, editors and other contributors. They are not paid not because they are worthless but because they are priceless. Harnessing the efforts of volunteers in creating this magazine month after month is the biggest joy of being its editor-in-chief. And what a better way to end the year with the spirit of giving so fit for the holiday season but by being nominated for the UNSG's Award for volunteerism. However, that spirit is fragile at the moment; hence a petition signed by numerous *UN Special* supporters is published at the last page of this issue. Their request is simple – keep the staff magazine written for staff, by staff and about staff.

And don't miss the new recipes section that brings culinary treasures from around the globe to make for a healthy, restful and peaceful holiday season.

L'esprit de générosité

Cette fois-ci, nous commençons par une interview du Secrétaire exécutif de la CEE-ONU qui nous livre ses réflexions sur le bénévolat, ses valeurs et ses principes. Vient ensuite une conversation avec l'ombudsman de l'ONUG qui garde ses portes grandes ouvertes à tous les besoins du personnel. Enfin, nous faisons le point sur Davos, qui, selon les propres termes de son fondateur, est l'exemple par excellence de la coopération internationale public-privé.

Le bénévolat a toujours été une valeur centrale de *UN Special*. Ce principe, inscrit dans nos statuts, s'applique aux auteurs, aux éditeurs ainsi qu'aux autres contributeurs. Aucun d'entre eux n'est payé, non pas parce qu'ils ne valent rien mais parce qu'ils sont sans prix. Comme éditeur en chef, mobiliser les efforts de bénévoles pour créer ce magazine, mois après mois, est ce qui me réjouit le plus. Quelle meilleure façon de terminer 2015, toujours dans cet esprit de générosité qui prévaut également durant les fêtes de fin d'année, qu'en ayant été nommé pour le prix du Secrétaire général de l'ONU récompensant le bénévolat? Toutefois, cet état d'esprit est en ce moment fragilisé, d'où la publication en dernière page d'une pétition signée par de nombreuses personnes en soutien à *UN Special*. Leur demande est simple: le magazine du personnel doit continuer à être produit par le personnel, pour le personnel et parler du personnel.

Ne manquez pas non plus notre nouvelle section de recettes de cuisine qui propose des trésors culinaires du monde entier pour passer la période des fêtes sous le signe de la santé, du repos et de la paix.

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Volunteerism, values and principles

Mr. Christian Friis Bach of Denmark was appointed as the Executive Secretary of UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in 2014. On the occasion of the theme of volunteerism of this issue of the magazine and in light of Mr. Bach's long history of engagement with civil society during his career, the interim Editor-in-Chief posed several questions to the Executive Secretary to learn his views on the topic.



GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO

Thank you for agreeing for the interview on the topic of volunteerism. As you may know, *UN Special* was shortlisted for UNSG awards for staff volunteerism. It is great that you could share this important value with us. What is your view on the value and importance of volunteerism and its importance. Why?

I believe voluntary organisations are crucial for our societies. They shape solidarity between our citizens; they create the social fabric that keeps our countries and communities together; they help to hold decision makers accountable; they solve significant tasks and they are, as researchers such as Robert Putnam has showed, critical also for social capital and economic growth. Countries and communities with strong voluntarism simply do better, than those without. Moreover, voluntarism shapes strong social networks. I miss the many good people I worked with in the Danish civil society. So I strongly encourage my colleagues – if they have

time and can do so within our rules and regulations – to engage in voluntary work and voluntary organizations.

To make it more personal, what volunteer activities have you been involved in? Are you involved in any of them now while working for the UN?

I have been heavily involved in voluntary organisations since I went to High school. When I was young, I spent a lot of time importing fair trade coffee from Africa and Latin America, driving around on a bicycle trying to convince Danish supermarkets and consumers to buy it. I also have been involved in starting up several voluntary initiatives about fair trade shops, Ethical Trading initiatives. I was a board member of our local pre-school and was heavily involved in rescuing our local public swimming pool by running it voluntarily for several years. I have been active in establishing civil society organizations such as Amnesty International, WWF and as chairman for the Danish Association for International Cooperation as well. All my

involvement in political organisations and voluntary work have played a significant role in my life. Today, I have only a limited amount of time for volunteering, but guided by the UN ethical rules, I will join the Advisory Board of ICTSD and I remain as a board member of the Danish Foreign Policy Society.

I understand you worked in various positions (Government, Parliament, professor, journalist, etc). Does UN work differ from all those and in what sense? How did you imagine UN work before you came and is it the same in reality? How does volunteering may differ for UN staff?

While working in the UN, we are perhaps not that much close to our local communities where voluntarism is mostly seen. However staff members work so hard because they believe in the vision behind the UN and because they wish to contribute to a better world. Accordingly, the time for voluntary work may be limited. But I still hope many colleagues will engage in voluntary organisations, engage in their local

communities and also engage in voluntary work within the UN. It adds so much value to our societies.

What did this year being in UN change in your life? How did it change? What were your most important achievements?

I hope I have been able to bring with me some of the values and principles I fought for when I was active in voluntarism and civil society: transparency, participation, accountability and equality. We have done a lot to strengthen transparency in the past year with our Open UNECE section on the website and new rules for funding, evaluations and management. I strongly believe in transparency as a management tool.

In Denmark there is a special ointment you use for cows after you have milked them. I used it a lot when I was young and worked on a big farm milking cows. You can also use this ointment for lots of things. There was once a Danish business man who said that “transparency is like cow ointment, you can use it for heaps of things and it works”. I strongly believe in this statement.

We just had a historic UNGA. It is clear the organization will need to adjust in the coming years to face the challenges in order to achieve the various goals and commitments, both those of the UN as well as member states. What should we look in the future leadership? You think we will have the first woman?

In Rio-20, I was negotiating on behalf of the EU as I was Danish Minister of Development and Denmark was chairing the EU Council. The most important decision we took was perhaps to develop the Sustainable Develop-

ment Goals in an Open-Working Group with participation of country delegates, voluntary organisations, civil society, companies, researchers... It worked. The room was full of new ideas and strong engagement. We must learn from this and apply it to when we strive to implement the goals. It can only be done with strong multi-stakeholder partnerships where we engage companies, civil society, voluntary organisations, schools and universities. This is the way forward. And, yes, it would be great if, from the UN side, it was led by a woman.

If you would lead the Organization tomorrow, what would you do? What values would you continue to promote in staff? Will you continue to support volunteerism?

We have achieved a lot in UNECE and I am very proud of my colleagues. We host hundreds of norms, standards and conventions that are highly relevant for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. We are directly involved in 16 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and substantially involved in 10. But we can do more and we can do better. Here I believe we can learn a lot from voluntary organisations. This is why I will continue to support staff who engages in voluntary work outside of UNECE. It will be helpful to inspire us and bring in new ideas. It will help us to become even more transparent, participatory and accountable, to build stronger partnerships. And to change the world. ■

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Et si la solution se trouvait dans la médiation?

Une rencontre avec l'ombudsman de l'ONUG

«Le Bureau de l'Ombudsman et les services de médiation des Nations Unies opèrent à l'endroit où la créativité se heurte au conflit et aident à orienter ces conflits vers des solutions constructives. Nous agissons en offrant un suivi personnalisé des conflits, en fournissant des informations aux bureaux des Nations Unies, en utilisant la diplomatie de la navette, la médiation et d'autres moyens de règlement informel des différends».

PRISCA CHAOUI, UNOG

C'est l'une des phrases qui accueille les visiteurs du site des Services de médiation et de l'Ombudsman des Nations Unies. Le bureau de l'ombudsman à Genève est l'un des huit bureaux de médiation que l'ONU a mis en place au service de ses fonctionnaires. Afin de mieux connaître le Bureau et celui qui le gère, nous avons rencontré Monsieur Louis Germain qui occupe ce poste depuis octobre 2010.

Quelles sont les activités que vous menez dans le cadre de votre mandat d'Ombudsman?

Dans le cadre de mon mandat, je suis appelé à examiner 3 types de cas que me soumettent les fonctionnaires à savoir, les conflits qui surgissent entre collègues et

qui sont très souvent dus à l'absence de communication ou à une communication défectueuse, les litiges en lien avec le système d'évaluation et de notation et enfin les cas d'insatisfaction liés aux promotions. Mon objectif est de trouver une solution individuelle et informelle à ces différents cas. Toutefois, lorsqu'il y a des situations qui reflètent des défaillances systémiques, j'en fais rapport au bureau à New York.

Quels sont les outils dont vous disposez pour l'accomplissement de votre mandat?

Comme mes efforts sont avant tout des efforts de médiation, je veille, dans mes interventions, à impliquer le bureau du Conseiller du personnel, le Service médical et le Conseil de coordination du personnel de l'ONUG qui contribuent, chacun selon

ses compétences, à la résolution des différends. Pour ce qui est des problèmes de nature systémique, j'essaie d'engager un dialogue avec les Directeurs exécutifs des différentes entités couvertes par mon mandat afin de trouver des issues convenables aux problématiques posées.

Quel bilan dressez-vous des activités que vous avez entreprises depuis que vous occupez ce poste?

Il est clair qu'il y a une demande importante pour les services de médiation. J'ai été surpris de voir que des rendez-vous ont été fixés dès l'annonce de la création du Bureau de l'Ombudsman à Genève. Force est de reconnaître que 80% des cas soumis trouvent une solution. Toutefois, le tableau est plus mitigé lorsqu'il s'agit des

cas de promotion, puisque dans ce cas de figure, mon intervention vise à normaliser les relations qui deviennent tendues suite à l'annonce des résultats du processus de sélection.

Selon vous, le recours à la médiation peut-il réduire le nombre de plaintes déposées auprès du Tribunal du contentieux administratif

L'affirmation selon laquelle la médiation remplace le recours au Tribunal est erronée. Malheureusement, dans certaines situations, seule la voie formelle, c'est-à-dire le Tribunal, est possible. La médiation peut prévenir le recours au Tribunal lorsque les deux parties au conflit sont déterminées à parvenir à une solution, ce qui est loin d'être toujours le cas. De plus, très souvent, lorsque l'une des parties se résout à avoir recours à la médiation, l'on constate que les tensions ont déjà atteint un niveau tel qu'il est impossible de les apaiser et que la seule voie de sortie est le recours à la procédure formelle.

De par sa nature, la médiation ne peut en aucun cas être imposée aux parties

au conflit. Selon vous, qu'est-ce-que l'Administration de l'ONUG peut faire pour encourager le recours à la médiation?

Je pense qu'il est important, de prime abord, que les fonctionnaires se rendent compte de l'existence de la médiation avant qu'ils ne s'adressent au système formel, d'où l'importance de la sensibilisation aux bénéfices potentiels de la médiation. Lorsque l'Administration prend connaissance de l'existence d'un litige quelconque, elle peut encourager les fonctionnaires concernés à emprunter le chemin de la médiation. Personnellement, je m'attelle à trouver une issue satisfaisante aux cas qui me sont adressés et il est certain que plus les fonctionnaires trouveront solution à leurs problèmes en passant par mon bureau, plus le système informel connaîtra de l'essor.

Les quatre principes qui sous-tendent votre mandat sont la confidentialité, l'impartialité, l'indépendance et le caractère informel. Estimez-vous difficile de garantir le respect de ces principes?

De mon côté, je veille au respect de la confidentialité. Toutefois, cette confidentialité

n'est pas préservée puisque les fonctionnaires qui viennent me voir ne la respectent pas souvent. Pour ce qui est de l'impartialité, elle est garantie car je suis neutre dans mes interventions, en ce sens que je ne prends jamais partie, ma tâche principale consistant à parvenir à une entente entre les concernés. De même, rien ne peut ébranler l'indépendance de mon Bureau, puisque je fais rapport uniquement au Bureau de l'Ombudsman à New York et à l'Assemblée générale en cas de lacunes systémiques. Par ailleurs, mes interventions sont toujours informelles car je n'établis aucun dossier et même le Tribunal du contentieux ne peut me demander de témoigner.

Quel est le message que vous aimeriez envoyer à l'ensemble des fonctionnaires de l'ONUG et plus particulièrement à ceux qui se trouvent dans une situation conflictuelle?

Mon message est le suivant: la porte du Bureau vous est ouverte, n'attendez pas que la situation s'enflamme avant de la traverser. Derrière elle, se trouvent une multitude d'options que je pourrais vous proposer sans pour autant vous les imposer. ■

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Dr. Garry Aslanyan, interim Editor-in-Chief posing for a picture with magazines at the ECOSOC Chamber.

***UN Special* – finalist for the UNSG Award in the category “Staff Volunteerism”**

2015 was an exceptional year in the life of UN Special magazine – shortlisted for the UNSG Awards and honoured as a finalist during a special Ceremony with Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on 23 October 2015. This event was even more remarkable because it took place on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which is also the eve of UN Special’s birthday.

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

The application was submitted by Evelina Rioukhina on behalf of the magazine and supported by the Coordinating Council. The competition was structured in 4 categories as follows:

- 1) Rewarding **creativity** that demonstrates superior or improved performance as a result of the introduction and implementation of a new and innovative idea, or the improvement of existing processes.
- 2) Honouring outstanding **role models**, who demonstrate leadership, vision, strong judgement and decision-making in

empowering others, and who build trust and effectively manage performance.

- 3) Acknowledging **teamwork** that ensures the successful delivery of projects through joint collaboration efforts with multiple stakeholders.
- 4) And **staff volunteerism** that promotes organizational values through the commitment of personal time and/or expertise to a deserving cause outside one’s job description.

It was difficult for us to select the category in which to submit our application because *UN Special* corresponds to and

had chances of winning in each of them. After discussion, it was decided to submit the magazine under the category of staff volunteerism, because this is the most outstanding value of our staff magazine. This characteristic is indeed what makes *UN Special* special.

The nomination was submitted in the summer of 2015 and at that time we did not know whether we would or not be considered at all. To our enormous joy, we

continued on page 12



SWEDISH LUXURY FOR DIPLOMATS

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continued from page 10

received a message from the UN Awards Committee that we had been selected for the shortlist and that a special Ceremony with the Secretary-General in the ECOSOC Chamber would be held on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, on Friday, 23 October 2015, to which all shortlisted candidates would be invited. We were also requested to provide names and some visual supports.

After consultations, the following Award “top 10” were selected to represent Geneva staff who have marked the last years of *UN Special* by their volunteerism (Garry Aslanyan, current Editor-in-Chief a.i., Evelina Rioukhina, Editorial Board/Committee Member, former Deputy Editor-in-Chief and UNOG Coordinator, Ian Richards, UNOG, former Editorial Board member and contributor, Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE, EC member, web editor, Christian David, UNOG, former Editor-in-Chief (2007–2013), Sarah Jordan, UNOG, Editorial Committee member, Marie-José Astre, UNOG, Editorial Committee member, Solange Behoteguy, UNOG Editorial Committee member, Alex Meja, Editorial Committee member (new) and Laurence Vercammen, WHO, former Editor-in-Chief, 2014). The names of another 10 colleagues who have also marked *UN Special* was sent to the Committee. These included: David Winch (UNOG, currently ICAO), Sergio da Silva, UNOG, Emmanuelle Gantet, UNOG, Veronique Magnin, UNOG, Gautam Basu, WHO (new), Veronica Reimer, WHO (new), Elizabeth James, UNECE, as well as three retired colleagues: Jean-Michel Jackobowicz, former Editor-in-Chief, UNOG/UNECE, André Rotach, UNOG, and Maria Dweggah, WHO, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, WHO. (It was not possible to include a longer list of volunteers; their names were listed in our article in the Sep-



UN Special Staff Magazine during the presentation in the ECOSOC Chamber in New York.

tember issue of *UN Special*).

Dr. Garry Aslanyan attended the Ceremony in New York on behalf of *UN Special*. Sarah Jordan and Grace Acayo, *UN Special*'s administrative assistant, joined the live transmission of the Ceremony via VTC, graciously arranged by WHO. Evelina Rioukhina, who could not leave her desk, watched the Ceremony live. David Winch was with us from his office in Canada and many other colleagues tuned in. The Ceremony is still available on webcast.

A solemn moment. The Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Takasu, who chaired the UN Secretary General Awards team, opened the Ceremony. It was announced that due to recent events Mr. Ban Ki-moon had been obliged to make a trip to the Middle East and was on his way to join the Ceremony and the floor was given to the Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Eliasson, who made an opening statement. In his remarks, addressed to the finalists and guests, Mr. Eliasson noted: “We can be proud that this indispensable Organization has as its mission to help people all over the world live their lives in peace, dignity and hope... Yet, our work is never fully done. Our mission is never complete. This Organization

is both a mirror of the world as it is – but also of the world as it should be. It is our challenge to narrow that gap. And as Dag Hammarskjöld said, what is important is not only the vision – the horizon – but also the step you take to get you towards that horizon... Your hard work and dedication is the basis for the United Nation’s mission to make the world a better place for all... we honour staff members who have been nominated by their peers for extraordinary achievements in a variety of fields... Over 100 impressive entries were submitted, each exemplifying the dedication and passion of our staff members and their commitment to the values of our Charter. The remarkable projects and people that made the short list are truly inspiring. All of you deserve an Award. May I ask all the finalists here today to stand – either in this chamber or from your locations – and be recognized with a round of applause”. All stood up and the sound of applause filled the room. Mr. Ban Ki-moon joined the Ceremony just before the presentation of our project. We at *UN Special* are highly privileged and fortunate that our project was presented on such a prestigious occasion in the presence of the Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General and other Senior

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UNSG and Deputy SG at the time of *UN Special* nomination presentation.

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Managers and Officials and guests. Three projects selected from across the United Nations were on the shortlist in our category. The prize was awarded to volunteers who helped Syrian child refugees, a worthy cause indeed, on which we will publish a special issue to express our solidarity. Our magazine has always been on the front line of humanitarian causes.

The Ceremony was concluded by the Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon who said “I wanted to be here earlier. As you know, I have just returned from an emergency mission to the Middle East... but I did not want to miss this important occasion, and the opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to all winners and finalists, and my thanks to all nominees for their enormous efforts. Congratulations to all of you... We cannot close this Ceremony without looking ahead. On this 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN, I urge you all to keep to the spirit of these Awards as we seek to uphold the values of our Charter in our daily work”.

Today is the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, and this is a huge celebration and event in the life of the Organization. It is also the 66th birthday of our magazine. It is not a jubilee, but a solid enough age to prove credibility as well as serious and sustainable foundations, which have resisted over more than six decades! We remind readers that *UN Special* magazine was established in October 1949 by a group of colleagues as a staff bulletin, which later turned into a staff magazine. Until now, *UN Special* has functioned under the authority of the UNOG Coordinating Council and the WHO Staff Association. It differs from all other professional magazine and draws its strength from the fact that it is written for staff members by staff members. None of these are professional journalists or writers, but all are united through their passion and create and publish this colourful staff magazine every month, 10 issues per year,

50 pages in each, in out-of-office time, in addition to their professional duties.

We congratulate and pay tribute to all our colleagues, staff members working for UNOG, UNECE, OCHA, UNCHR, UNITAR or WHO, current or former members of the *UN Special* Editorial Committee (the nomination included all those who have marked the history of the magazine over at least a decade), whose example of personal and collective volunteerism, devotion and commitment to the defence of staff interests and the promotion of Organizational values from the rostrum of this magazine has been so highly acknowledged in the ECOSOC Chamber in New York!

We would like to thank our partners – our publisher and advertisers and in particular Barbara King and Michel Schnegg, who have also contributed to our success. We thank too our readers for their loyalty and their trust in our magazine. We also thank the Coordinating Council, in the person of its Executive Secretary, Ian Richards, who supported our nomination on behalf of the UNOG Staff Council. Staff Volunteerism is the value that has characterized our magazine for 66 years and which took us all the way to the ECOSOC Chamber for the UNSG Awards Ceremony in New York. It should remain its strength and should be irrevocably defended. *UN Special* magazine, written by staff, about staff and for staff. ■

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Prof. Klaus Schwab

OLIVIER BORIE

UN Special had the privilege to interview Prof. Klaus Schwab who shared with us his insights on the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2016 in Davos and on the future of relationships between the World Economic Forum and the United Nations Secretariat and its specialized agencies.

The 46th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting will take place from 20 to 23 January 2016. Since its first edition in 1971, you have witnessed both a multiplication and an acceleration of global issues. Will that trend continue?

Today, I believe we are on the cusp of nothing less than a Fourth Industrial Revolution. This is fundamentally different from the first three that the world has already witnessed. While the first industrial revolution saw huge progress achieved through power, whether steam or electricity, the second was powered by mass production and the third was defined by computer processing, the Fourth Industrial Revolution is powered by billions of connected devices and has the power to change all the previous three.

This Fourth Industrial Revolution differs from previous ones in three crucial ways. Firstly, its speed makes past revolutions look like evolutions. The second is scale, in that it relates to a complete re-design of systems rather than incremental innovation to single products or processes. The final defining feature is the force of creative disruption it will unleash, with jobs and even industries being replaced or transformed. This is the transition that

we are living through today and it is vital that, at the earliest possible point as we enter it, we seek to understand the forces of this revolution so that we can harness it to shape our collective future and to reflect on our common objectives and values.

In your view, what have been, so far, the highlights of the United Nations involvement with the World Economic Forum?

The United Nations and the Forum have always enjoyed a deeply collaborative relationship. This relationship is evolving, still, to the point where today we see engagement with a number of UN agencies and leaders across a wide portfolio of issues. This year, for instance, the Forum has supported UN efforts towards establishing a new model for financing development and we are also playing an active supporting role, mobilizing public-private cooperation around December's COP-21 climate talks in Paris.

The Forum and the United Nations have worked together in the past to jointly design and launch public-private partnerships around critical projects. For example, in 2000 when together with the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation we established



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GAVI, the vaccine alliance. I like to think the Forum plays a formative role in galvanizing the private sector behind the priorities and vision of the United Nations. This effort was formally recognized in 1999 with the signing of the UN Global Compact, which to this day encourages and motivates business leaders to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies. In addition, our Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters every January provides a platform for Secretary Generals to outline their priorities and vision for the year ahead to leaders across all stakeholder groups.

What opportunities are there to enhance this cooperation?

If there is one thing that is clear as we enter this Fourth Industrial Revolution it is that the velocity, complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges we see before us will only ever be addressed, let alone solved, through collective action. To help foster this collective, multi-stakeholder action, the Forum has identified nine areas where we believe public-private cooperation can have a transformative effect. These range from economic growth and social inclusion and gender parity to climate change, food

security and the future of the internet. To drive action in these areas, we are convening a coalition of responsible, committed and determined stakeholders to drive action that will ultimately help leaders chart a path through this period of transformation. <http://www.weforum.org/projects>

How do you see public private partnerships evolving, particularly in light of global challenges such as climate change and the Sustainable Development Goals?

There is certainly an enhanced appetite for public-private partnership, given the scale, complexity and interconnectedness of the challenges the world faces. We see there is increased willingness of the private sector to play a role in areas such as migration, or completely new areas such as global security, by helping build resilient supply chains and contribute to recovery in fragile states.

Harnessing the energy and resource of the private sector is very important, but it is not the only determinant for leaders to navigate the fourth industrial revolution. Too often, leaders find themselves stuck in crisis mode,

unable to focus on long term solutions such as sustainable development goals. In order to overcome this and bring lasting, sustainable change, they must embrace horizontal decision making that draws on the expertise of all stakeholders from industry, to civil society as well as established institutions.

What are the priorities of the World Economic Forum for the years to come?

At our Annual Meeting in Davos-Klosters this year, we will celebrate – quietly – our first anniversary as the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. It is a period of reflection; to assess the work achieved to date in our 9 Global Challenges, many of which support the vital work of the UN, for example. Our end goal is to accelerate progress in all these challenges by adding a major new dimension of public-private cooperation in each and our focus in the short term is to complete putting the structures place that will allow these processes to happen. ■

About Professor Klaus Schwab: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_ProfessorKlausSchwab_Factsheet.pdf

About the World Economic Forum: <http://www.weforum.org/world-economic-forum>



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“Virus of volunteerism” carried by *UN Special* and its editors

On 28 November the United Nations Orchestra will play a concert for a noble cause – the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. The previous concert, organized by the UN Orchestra, paid tribute to refugees from Syria (June 2015).

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, UNOG

EDITED BY DAVID WINCH¹

The young Franco-Belgian cellist **Camille Thomas**, “the new star of cello”, will be the guest cellist. She received 1st Prize at the 2014 Victoires de la musique classique. She also won the 7th International Antonio Janigro Croatia Contest, the Yamaha Music Foundation of Europe Strings Competition, the Competition Edmond Baert and the Léopold Bellan Competition. She plays a Ferdinand Gagliano cello dating from 1788. On 28 November the benefits from the concert will be donated to the NGO Geneva Call.

Why is it called the United Nations Orchestra, and what relationship does it and the young cello star have with the United Nations? The idea of the Orchestra came from Antoine Marguier, a former clarinetist in the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande and today guest conductor with major international orchestras, professor of chamber music at the Haute École de Musique and music director of the Orchestre du Conservatoire. Whether at that time he was passionate about conducting an international orchestra is difficult to tell today, but he was definitely far from thinking about conducting a UN staff orchestra.

As it happened, Marguier addressed the then President of the Cultural Commission, M. Le Loarer, Director of the UNOG Library; he in turn came to *UN Special*. The magazine had always been known for innovation, creativity and promoting interesting

and innovative ideas. But this time it was indeed exceptional. Not only did *UN Special* help to implement this idea, it practically “created” the whole orchestra, composed by UN staff.

This was a huge job, achieved as we often say “by the team”, and but in reality, most of the work was done by a single person and his sheer enthusiasm – Christian David², then Editor-in-Chief of the staff magazine. Christian contacted all staff and, through the magazine, all Permanent Missions as well as CERN and other NGOs in Geneva. They came through volunteerism, inspired by Christian, and today the United Nations Orchestra is composed of 60 non-professional musicians, who work at the UN and other international bodies, such as diplomatic missions, NGOs and CERN. In this sense, Christian can be called co-founder of the Orchestra, which was literally born with his involvement in 2011.

The “virus” of volunteerism, engrained in the *UN Special*, and in Christian himself, led much further, by doing things voluntarily. The Orchestra gives concerts with the sole aim of raising funds for various organizations working for peace in the world, or to raise revenues for a good cause.

Even today world stars, such as Martine Coppens and Antoine Marguier, or guest professional artists, his friends and *UN Special* colleagues all know that Christian was totally inspired by this idea. He wanted to create an orchestra, and to cre-

ate a UN Orchestra. Our friend, veteran Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Maria Dweggah (WHO), used to say: “This guy – it is him who made it happen. The Orchestra – it is him!” And she is right. It was him. He himself was too modest to admit it, and even today, he says “I did not do anything extraordinary! It is necessary to recognise the team of *UN Special* editors, as well as other “journalists” inside and outside UNOG, and even my wife! Mr. Jean Ziegler gave me also good advices, and I consulted some colleagues inside the UNOG who were helpful”.

We know that he worked days and nights to make this happen, voluntarily, putting all his heart, emotions, energy, inspiration and his “sparkle” into this endeavour, a very difficult one. The first concert was also arranged and organized by Christian at Victoria Hall. It was a tremendous success. Since then the UN Orchestra has taken its due place not only in the music world, but also among those known for their humanitarian actions, with this “virus” of volunteerism. They do it for the cause, without honoraria, purely as volunteers.

The idea of a UN Orchestra is not the only one that fully belongs to him and to his volunteerism. He marked the history of our magazine, which is our common pride. He was an outstanding example, in the highest sense of this word, for the Orchestra and many other projects he has been involved in (UN Green Day, Bee UN, a voluntary gesture to go to Burkina

Faso). For seven years as Editor-in-Chief, he worked with us, sometimes doing the magazine with very few people or even on his own, keeping it alive through the force of his volunteerism. He left in our hearts a bright sparkle demonstrating the highest volunteerism in the most noble sense of its word and helped to spread the noble “virus of volunteerism” of *UN Special*.

Thank you, dear Christian, for your sparkle and your noble “virus of volunteerism” for the *UN Special* staff magazine and for the noble cause! ■

1 David Winch is in the nominal list for the UN Secretary-General Awards. He was Associate Editor, and Member of Editorial Board, from 1995 through 2012.

2 Christian David is among top 10 personally nominated for the Staff Volunteerism Secretary-General Award of the *UN Special* Staff Magazine, which was shortlist and honoured as finalist during the Ceremony in New York on 23 October 2015 (described more in details in a separate article).



Solidarity with our French colleagues

UN Special was deeply shocked by the series of terrorist attacks in the heart of France.

The editorial committee expresses its solidarity with all our French colleagues and friends many of whom have volunteered to our staff magazine – *UN Special*.

Solidarité avec nos collègues français

L'*UN Special* a été profondément choqué par la série d'attaques terroristes au cœur de la France.

Le comité éditorial exprime sa solidarité avec tous ses collègues et amis français, dont la plupart se sont portés volontaires au magazine du personnel – *UN Special*.

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Volontariat et joie de vivre

Dans le cadre des activités volontaires, nous avons rencontré quatre membres du personnel de l'ONU et qui offre une partie de leur temps libre à leurs collègues, pour notre plus grand bonheur! Leurs points communs: une extraordinaire motivation, une remarquable bonne humeur et un sens inné du groupe. La preuve en est que lorsque nous leur avons demandé une photo, tous ont choisi d'emblée des clichés qui les représentaient avec un ou plusieurs autres collègues!

MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, SDLS, UNOG

Cécile Carlier – Formatrice dans les ateliers de Prévention du VIH/SIDA

Pour moi, tout a commencé un jour d'été. Mes filles, adolescentes, bavardaient dans le jardin avec des amies et je les ai entendues en train de dire «le Sida, ce n'est pas grave maintenant, on prend un médicament et c'est tout». Cette remarque m'a effrayée et j'ai essayé de leur expliquer ce que je savais du virus sans pour autant être certaines de les avoir convaincues.

Quelques jours plus tard, un broadcast est paru à l'ONU pour demander des volontaires prêts à délivrer des formations de sensibilisation pour la prévention du VIH/SIDA auprès du personnel de l'Organisation. J'ai su que je voulais faire partie de ce projet!

Je suis allée à une séance d'information et aussitôt après, j'ai demandé l'autorisation à mes superviseurs de m'impliquer dans le programme. Ils ont accepté et voilà, depuis



Cécile Carlier et Sylviane Jaillet-Boberg préparant un atelier

trois ans, avec Sylviane Jaillet-Boberg, nous avons conduit plus de trente ateliers.

Cette activité m'a énormément apporté. J'ai rencontré des personnes de tous les univers. J'ai eu des échanges avec d'autres facilitateurs, UNCARES, ONUSIDA, les services médicaux ou la Section de la formation. De plus, j'ai appris à parler devant un public. Je vais vous faire une confidence: la formation comporte la démonstration de la pose de préservatifs masculin et féminin. C'est un sujet délicat, surtout si on connaît

une partie des participants... Eh bien, une fois qu'on a fait ça devant un groupe, on n'a plus peur de rien en termes de présentations publiques!

Je me sens dans une communauté soudée. Et puis, il y a des interventions de personnes de UN Plus, un réseau qui regroupe des collègues vivant avec le VIH. Certains d'entre eux acceptent de venir témoigner dans les ateliers. Ce sont des histoires poignantes et leurs interventions représentent sans aucun doute le point d'orgue des formations.

Ce que mon implication m'apporte? C'est simple: j'en ressors avec une joie et une foi dans l'Organisation qui vaut le coup. Dans notre carrière on peut être affecté par des déceptions et des regrets, ce genre de démarche ravive ma motivation et ma foi dans ce que l'on fait. ■

<http://www.unplus.org/unplus/>

<http://www.uncares.org/francais/>

Ajkuna Thanati – Responsable de la loterie du Bazar annuel de l'ONUG, organisé par le Cercle féminin des Nations Unies

Je suis arrivée à Genève car je suivais mon mari dans ses fonctions professionnelles. Je ne travaillais pas, alors j'ai eu envie de me rendre utile. J'ai découvert le Cercle féminin des Nations Unies et cela a été pour moi un endroit parfait. Il y avait un aspect multiculturel qui me plaisait beaucoup et les échanges sociaux sont très riches. J'ai rencontré des femmes fantastiques du monde entier, c'était une véritable chance.

Je me suis tout de suite impliquée dans l'organisation du Bazar que nous organisons au Palais des Nations chaque année. Grâce à cet événement, nous levons des fonds qui nous permettent de financer différents projets destinés à venir en aide à des enfants défavorisés dans le monde entier. Et je suis devenue la personne responsable de la loterie.

Au début c'était une aventure. J'ai appris à organiser une équipe, trouver des donateurs, chercher l'harmonie entre différents groupes. J'ai pris ça comme un challenge et j'ai vu qu'il fallait aller jusqu'au bout si je voulais que des sommes importantes soient récoltées.

Comme je parvenais à obtenir de nombreux lots pour cette tombola: des voyages, des montres et même une voiture. A ce propos, je suis ravie que l'on puisse l'exposer, exceptionnellement dans l'enceinte du Palais. Il faut dire que le Directeur général et le Directeur de l'administration de l'ONUG soutiennent formidablement cet événement.

Ça fait presque 12 ans que je suis en charge de cette loterie et nous avons un tel réseau grâce aux membres du Cercle, donateurs, missions diplomatiques et aussi des compagnies privées, que je parviens à continuer à m'en occuper alors que je travaille maintenant à temps plein.

Mon grand plaisir, c'est non seulement de pouvoir contribuer à une cause mais aussi de partager les joies des personnes qui ont des billets gagnants (le tirage est effectué sous le contrôle des autorités suisses). Avec mes amies du Cercle, on adore annoncer les lots aux heureux gagnants. Et il y a parfois de belles histoires.

Ainsi, j'ai appelé un jour un monsieur pour lui annoncer qu'il avait gagné une montre



Ajkuna Thanati le jour du tirage de la loterie en 2014, avec ses amies du Bazar.

de très grande qualité. Il était très âgé et m'a dit qu'il souhaitait offrir cette montre en cadeau à la dame qui s'occupait de lui. Celle-ci avait cassé sa propre montre alors qu'elle travaillait chez lui. Il m'a indiqué le nom de cette dame et, quand elle est venue chercher la montre elle était très émue. Et moi aussi... ■

<http://www.unwg.ch/French/UNWG.htm>



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Evelina Rioukhina – Membre du Comité de rédaction de *UN Special*

J'écris depuis... toujours! C'est inscrit dans mes gènes. Ma famille, depuis des générations, produits des personnes qui écrivent: qui des articles, des livres, des travaux politiques (ou scientifiques), etc. Ma mère, étant politicienne, écrivait aussi de superbes poèmes. Prendre la plume était donc naturel pour moi, voire indispensable.

Et c'est Jean-Michel Jackobowicz qui m'a proposé de rejoindre le Comité de rédaction de *UN Special*. J'ai assez vite pu apporter ma propre touche en mettant au programme Shakespeare, l'amour, la beauté, la poésie. J'étais enchantée et j'ai très vite eu ma rubrique qui s'intitulait «Sublime Empowers Nations». Cette rubrique s'inspirait de la philosophie de l'écrivain russe Fiodor Dostoïevski qui pensait



From left to right: David Winch, Monique Eid, Elizabeth James, Christian David, Evelina Rioukhina, Maria Dweggah.

que «Ni l'homme ni l'action ne peuvent exister sans l'idée du sublime». C'est aussi ma devise – et elle me semble essentielle, surtout dans le monde actuel.

Mon souhait a toujours été de provoquer l'inspiration. J'adore créer, à partir de rien, utiliser mon imagination. J'aime comparer la naissance d'un article à la conception d'un bébé: on l'imagine, on en prend soin, on y met tout son cœur, ses émotions. On lui consacre des nuits blanches, des journées de labeur et on le voit prendre corps, prendre forme, prendre

vie, se développer. Et je suis mère, je sais de quoi je parle.

Lorsque je vois les épreuves du magazine, je peux vous dire que j'ai un véritable sentiment d'accomplissement! A ce moment-là, tout le travail de recherche que j'ai effectué auparavant semble oublié. Pourtant, c'est un chemin ardu pour parvenir à un texte de qualité, surtout dans le contexte international où nous nous trouvons.

Pour pouvoir présenter une information liée à une culture particulière, il convient de se documenter en profondeur car il ne s'agit pas seulement de trouver un angle intéressant mais également de s'assurer que toutes les informations sont parfaitement correctes. Rien n'échappe à notre lectorat, nous avons une telle chance de côtoyer autant de talents, d'être une sorte d'échantillonnage de la population planétaire.

Au-delà de la production d'articles, ce que j'aime par-dessus tout, c'est de travailler avec des personnes qui partagent mes valeurs sur le volontariat. Les contributeurs du magazine viennent de pays, de cultures et de milieux sociaux différents mais nous avons tous une vision commune: celle de publier un magazine de qualité.

Nous y consacrons du temps le soir ou pendant le week-end afin de contribuer encore plus à une Organisation que je me sens honorée de servir. Avec mes collègues rédacteurs du journal, je suis heureuse de produire dix fois par an un «bébé» collectif, un *UN Special* source d'inspiration pour moi et pour, je l'espère de tout cœur, tous nos lecteurs! ■

<http://unspecial.org/> – (site temporairement indisponible pour raisons techniques)

Sergio Da Silva – Président du Club Photo International

L'origine du Club photo remonte à 2005. J'avais alors envie de créer une galerie photo au Palais des Nations, sur une idée conjointe avec Pierre Pelou, le Directeur de la bibliothèque et Président du Comité des activités culturelles de l'époque.

Notre projet de galerie n'a pas abouti mais il m'a alors été suggéré de créer un club photo, ce que j'ai fait en 2006. J'étais intéressé par ce sujet depuis longtemps et il a fait suite à l'achat de mon premier appareil «reflex» en 1979 et de son utilisation intensive depuis! Après la sélection, en 1983, de quelques-unes de mes photos pour une première exposition au BIT avec des peintres, sculpteurs et autres artistes, je me suis rendu compte que j'avais envie de partager des



Sergio da Silva, Fabien Dumesnil, Heather Wicks, Suroor Alikhan, Cecilia Viscarra, Jan Hoffmann, Florence Chabannay et Ernesto Castro

connaissances sur l'image photographique avec d'autres passionnés. Vous voyez, on apprend aux enfants à parler, lire et écrire des textes mais personne ne leur apprend à lire l'image. Je m'intéresse beaucoup à la lecture et au décodage de l'image par exemple en complément de la rédaction d'un rapport ou d'une étude, ou pour transmettre un message ou une émotion.

Le but du Club photo c'est précisément cela: mettre ensemble des gens qui ont compétences différentes pour apprendre

chaque jour comment mieux communiquer grâce à l'image tout en s'amusant. Nous avons une cinquantaine de membres et tous nos collègues de l'ONU et de ses agences, des missions et des ONG auprès de l'ONU sont les bienvenus.

Nous proposons deux sessions de rencontres par mois et nous organisons un concours annuel ainsi que quelques sorties extérieures. Chacun a son mot à dire et toutes les voix sont écoutées car, ce qui compte, c'est surtout le regard qu'on porte sur un sujet. La technique est abordée dans nos sessions mais elle n'est pas essentielle. On peut venir avec simplement un smartphone si on veut!

La prise de vue est le moment ultime d'un processus qui doit être mental. En fonction du point de vue, la réalité peut

changer, nous devons changer de perspective et, si possible même, tourner autour du sujet à 360 degrés avant de faire un choix. Si nous choisissons d'autres angles, la réalité apparaîtra différente. Si on réfléchit bien, c'est aussi vrai pour la vie en général, non?

Qu'est-ce que le Club m'apporte? C'est un complément indispensable à mon activité professionnelle. Quand notre profession n'exploite pas la totalité du spectre de nos intérêts, il faut trouver comment compenser ce manque pour être en paix avec nous-même et donner le meilleur de nos possibilités. Et puis, le fait de partager apporte en retour une reconnaissance qui n'a pas de prix. C'est la meilleure gratification possible! ■

<http://clubphotointernational.com/>

Concours de photographie



CECILIA VISCARRA

L'Office des Nations Unies à Genève s'est associé avec le Canton de Genève pour organiser un concours photographique sur le thème: «Vœux 2016 de l'administration cantonale».

Le prix a été décerné en octobre 2015 par M. François Longchamp, Président du Conseil d'Etat.

Mme Cecilia Viscarra Moser a remporté le premier prix avec son image *Genève multiculturelle*: «Avec cette image j'ai

voulu capturer la multiculturalité et la tradition de la Genève internationale. Les enfants – dont le mien à gauche – illustrent le côté innocent et frais, le renouvellement et les nationalités différentes de cette belle ville. Le mur des Réformateurs en arrière-plan, montre le côté historique de la Genève des XVI^e et XVII^e siècles».

Cecilia Viscarra Moser est consultante internationale pour la facilitation du commerce (CNUCED), et Membre du Club Photo International. ■

Photographic contest

Through this image I wanted to capture both the multicultural and the traditional sides of the 'International Geneva'. The children-mine is on the left-embodiment innocence and freshness, renewal and the varied nationalities of this lovely city. The Reformation wall in the background reminds the history of Geneva in the XVIth and XVIIth centuries. ■

«Genève multiculturelle»: Image victorieuse du concours de photographie.

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Un chauffeur des sommets

Thierry Garnier fait partie de l'équipe de chauffeurs qui conduisent le Directeur Général de l'ONU, M. Michael Møller et d'autres personnalités de haut rang lors de ses déplacements à Genève.

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY, CNUCED



Aimable et surprenant, ce chauffeur atypique a conquis des sommets de haute montagne.

À 21 ans il regarde *Opéra vertical*, documentaire sur la vie du grimpeur Patrick Edlinger, et attrape le virus de la montagne. Avec en poche une formation dans la gendarmerie, Thierry Garnier devient guide

de haute montagne, peut-être à la recherche de ses propres limites.

Il fait de l'alpinisme été comme hiver dans l'arc alpin, des escalades en Europe et ailleurs: Calanques, Sainte Victoire, Jonte, Tarn, Verdon, Presles, Corse et Sardaigne, en Grèce et au Canada. Né à Besançon en Franche-Comté, région gâtée

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par la géographie et l'âme de la montagne, il fait du ski au massif du Mont-Blanc en Savoie, puis viendra l'Amérique Latine où il conquiert l'Aconcagua et le Ranrapalca (6162 m).

Au Népal il réalise l'ascension du Lobuche et au Pakistan le Broad Peak où il atteindra 7500 m (sur les 8047 m). C'est au cours de ce dernier exploit qu'il rencontre Yannick

Gagneret. Cette amitié sera son trait d'union avec les Nations Unies et, même si à l'époque il ne le sait pas, lui apportera une leçon de vie: finalement on tient «la vie au bout des doigts».

Un an après en 2012, Ludo Challéat, un autre passionné de montagne qui faisait partie de leur tribu, perd la vie dans une avalanche. C'est le moment pour Thierry de changer de cap. Grâce à Yannick, Thierry réussit à entrer au service de sécurité de l'ONU, une décision prise après avoir longuement réfléchi. Thierry pourrait résumer cela avec sa citation préférée de René Char: «L'essentiel est sans cesse menacé par l'insignifiant».

Aujourd'hui deux des trois amis ont disparu. A 38 ans, Yannick Gagneret, en vacances, a été pris par une tempête au sommet du Malaku. Thierry aimerait qu'u

hommage lui soit rendu dans le présent article. J'emprunte pour cela la phrase d'un communiqué que ses camarades lui ont adressé lors de ce triste événement: «C'est un privilège d'avoir croisé ta route, c'est un privilège pour les Nations Unies d'avoir eu dans ses rangs, un homme de cette qualité».

Il n'y a à priori pas de lien entre guide de montagne et chauffeur, Thierry y trouve néanmoins des similitudes: «on est celui qui va devant pour assurer la sécurité de la route, s'assurer que l'objectif sera accompli, il faut être prévoyant, arriver à l'heure, choisir le bon itinéraire». Cela lui ressemble bien: il aurait donc dans son travail deux temps à respecter, celui de la réflexion et celui de l'action.

Son travail commence la veille d'un déplacement, quand il reçoit les consignes

des assistantes de direction. S'ensuivent des discussions entre collègues pour partager des informations, souvent les plus anciens transmettent leur expérience aux jeunes. Si le temps est suffisant une première mission de reconnaissance s'organise afin de faciliter le trajet du lendemain vers le «point B».

Et pendant le trajet, que fait M. Møller? Thierry sourit «Oh, vous savez, il a tellement de choses à faire, des coups de fils à passer, et si on arrive en avance, il a toujours son ordinateur avec lui».

Discret, Thierry conclut: «la mission est bien accomplie quand la journée se termine par une poignée de mains et un sourire». ■



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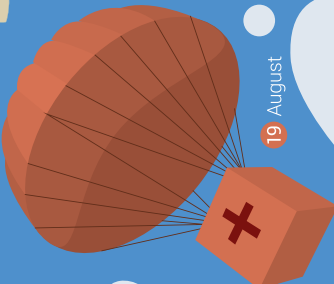
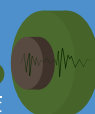
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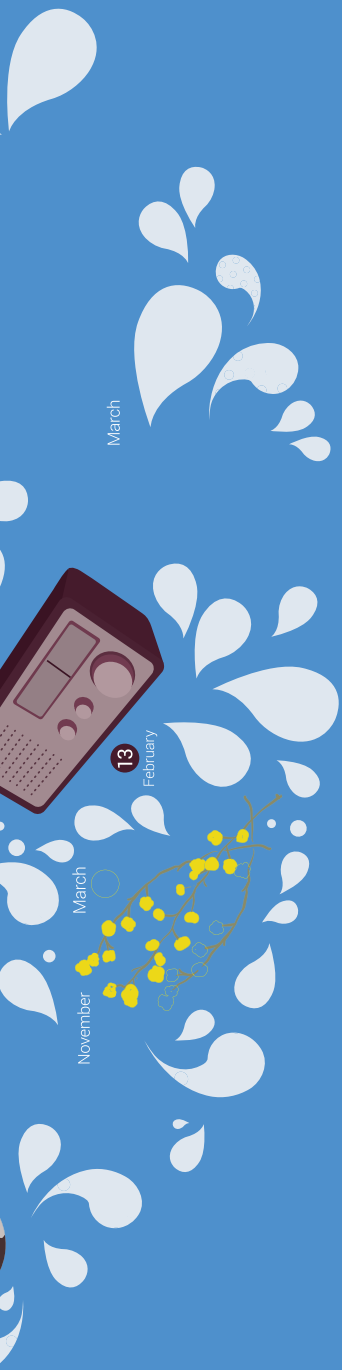
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Design by Lolita Suleimanova

Official Holidays for 2016 at the United Nations Office at Geneva

The illustration highlights a selection of International Days observed by the United Nations.





Building 17. Savva and Zinaida Morozov. Maria Andreeva



Building 2/6. Herbert Wells, Maxim Gorky, Moura Budberg

Romantic triangles of Old Moscow

Old streets of Moscow, those within the Garden Ring, keep many secrets. Among them are true love stories which had been the source of inspiration for brilliant literary works and scientific studies, unique art objects and greatest architectural creations. If you are planning for a trip to Moscow, take a quick stroll along these lines first to discover some places outside of traditional “tourist” routes.

NATALIYA BOGOMOLOVA,
TEACHER, SCHOOL 171(45), MOSCOW

Nikitsky Gates Square. There is something really special about this place to me. Calm, meditative boulevards, The Greater Church of Christ's Ascension, where Alexander Pushkin, Russian illustrious 19th century poet, married Natalia Goncharova. A bit further down the road a very old tall building where I used to live: a spacious front area with a cloak-room and a legendary door-man, a wide staircase covered with a carpet leading up to the apartments with their unique life stories.

We will turn right from here, on to **Spiridonovka street**, a short lane forming a triangle with

Malaya Nikitskaya street and the **Garden Ring**. This triangle hosts some beautiful mansions which were homes to some dramatic love triangles that transformed turbulent feelings into immortal cultural heritage.

Spiridonovka, 17. Designed in 1898 by Fyodor Schechtel in the English Neo-Gothic style at the request of Savva Morozov, a well-known Cambridge-educated industrialist and philanthropist, for his wife Zinaida, it's been an usual home for an usual couple. Too talented, too exposed, they soon got tired of one another. Zinaida kept on shining at the balls, Savva got fascinated by the ideas of revolution and fell in love with an actress Maria Andreeva that regardless of his

generous financial donations to her theatre remained unrequited until his death caused by suicide (or political murder) in Cannes in 1905.

The reason is that Andreeva was already in love with Maxim Gorky, celebrated Russian and Soviet writer. His mansion is on the opposite end of the street – **Building No 2/6**. Also erected by Schechtel in a classic art-nouveau style, this mansion was too sophisticated and “ridiculous” for the Soviet genius singing to the poor. But it is in this house that Gorky met his last true love who was not his quiet wife, nor an exuberant actress Andreeva, but his secretary – charming, but at times quite unkempt, Ukrainian-born Maria

Zakrevskaya-Benckendorff (Moura Budberg), who was 24 years younger and, true or not, used to be a double Soviet-British agent. And it is in this house that one morning Gorky found Moura in arms of Herbert Wells, English writer, her mate since Cambridge times and Gorky's friend. Moura has been romantically linked to many eminent men of the epoch, including British diplomat and secret agent Robert Bruce Lockhart, and she is great-great-grandmother to Nick Clegg, UK Deputy Prime Minister during the 2010-2015 parliament.

Building No 4 is of a less imposing facade but no less full of bohemian charm and stories. Many renowned Russian and

Soviet poets and writers were living or renting apartments here. This was home to the first and the last loves of the first Russian Nobel Prize winner in Literature – Ivan Bunin. His first love was his wife – Vera Muromtseva. His last love was a Russian poetess – Galina Kuznetsova. The Nobel Prize was awarded to Bunin in 1933 preceding and coinciding with a dramatic period of this love triangle that had certainly influenced his writing process. As it happens, the passion after having yielded inspiration, faded away. Galina left Bunin... for a woman, opera singer Margo Stepun.

That's the end of the street, but not the end of my romantic narrative – there are many more love stories to be told. Their shades reside in Lubyanka street as a silent reminder of a tragic Mayakovsky-Briks triangle. They wander along the corridors of “Sheremetev Hospital”

(Sklifosovsky Medical Research Institute) in Sukharevskaya square, built in the late XVIII century by Count Nikolai Sheremetev in memorial to his loving wife – soprano opera singer and a former serf – Praskovia Kovalyova-Zhemchugova. After her death, the Count made this palace home for sick and poor and over the years this place has always remained the place where everyone, regardless of their status or beliefs, can receive help.

Stormy or rosy, love stories themselves constitute a priceless cultural heritage.

Love conquers all, “love equals all a better way” as nicely defined it Abraham Cowley, the English 17th century poet nicely defined it. Love is great power that brings to life beauty and forgotten values. ■



Building 4. Ivan Bunin and Vera Muromtseva. Galina Kuznetsova

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Nearly 20,000 join UN 70 celebrations at the Palais des Nations in Geneva

On Saturday 24 October, close to 20,000 visitors flocked to the Palais des Nations, the historic home of the League of Nations and the United Nations Office at Geneva, to partake in the festivities marking the 70th anniversary of the United Nations.

MILADIN BOGETIC, UNOG

"It was a great day where people could feel closer to the United Nations and what we are doing, being able to see our beautiful premises," said an Open Day volunteer. "It was really energising."

The festive atmosphere was felt from the moment the gates flung open, as visitors were welcomed by the smooth sounds of a local jazz band. UNOG Director-General Michael Møller, the Mayor of Geneva, Esther Alder, and Switzerland's Ambassador Alexandre Fasel greeted the first visitors. In Ariana Park and inside the Palais, visitors were spoiled for choice. Outside, they joined dignitaries including former Secretary-General Kofi Annan, and Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto for the inaugu-

ration of his sculpture "Rebirth", consisting of 193 large rocks, one for every UN Member State. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research flew drones above the park, displaying images on a large screen, the United Nations Refugee Agency exhibited its recognizable tents, used to house displaced people around the world, and explained the registration process refugees go through; and the United Nations Mine Action Service demonstrated a demining process.

Inside, visitors could opt for free guided tours, attend a magnificent ballet performance, enjoy a classical music concert, dance along with Thai dancers, learn about Chinese tea ceremonies and calligraphy, or witness a simulation

of the Large Hadron Collider by the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN). The Library organized several events, including spooky visits through the book stacks, tours of the UN Archives, and a chance to speak with people such as the UNOG Director-General, diplomats, peacekeepers and interns to learn about their work. Many Permanent Missions showcased their national costumes, cuisines and music, contributing to the overall colourful atmosphere.

"It was a wonderful day and everyone seemed to really enjoy the visit! There was an excellent joyful ambiance," said a volunteer, capturing the positive feedback received from 400 surveyed visitors. The Open Day brought together

more than 40 Permanent Missions, 25 UN agencies, funds and programmes, as well as 20 external entities and non-governmental organizations. Over 170 United Nations staff, all wearing the specially designed "I am 70" T-shirts, volunteered their time to make the Day a success. The hash tags #UN70 and #OpenDay were trending in Geneva and across Switzerland.

In the evening, the iconic Geneva landmark, the *Jet d'eau*, was lit up in UN blue, joining more than 350 sites around the world in the "Turn the World Blue" campaign. ■

Photos of the Day can be seen on the UN Geneva Flickr page, while a short video including interviews with participants can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1cAG_Bta0w

United Nations Open Day in Geneva



Palais des Nations and those bordering the Ariana Park.

In addition to the manifest desire of our Directors to communicate, the resounding success of these Open Days shows that the local population really are attached to an Organization which has the merit of having deployed energy continuously for 70 years trying to resolve the problems that humanity has had the knack of creating since its inception.

There is no better way of changing public perception of the usefulness of all the agencies present here in Geneva than wonderful opportunities such as these for the public and people working in the Organization to share moments together. Those colleagues who work in the field commit their will, their expertise, their sweat and sometimes even their life attempting to do what they can to make the world better. The incredible success of the Open Day on 24 October, with more than 19,000 visitors, is a clear sign of the public's growing awareness.

Dozens of United Nations volunteers, easily recognisable in their white tee-shirts won visitors over by sharing about their roles at the UN and explaining the relevance. On the numerous stands, the curiosity of the public was perceptible, as was the implication, and at times the passion, of those staffing them as they described their different tasks.

Information is one thing and perception of it is quite another. For anyone to receive information, several conditions need to converge. The first of these is a favourable context, then comes the receptiveness and the accessibility of the receiver. Finally, individual memory comes into play and stores the information. It is only then that it can be retrieved and circulated.

In the meantime, we must not spare our efforts. Favourable conditions will converge once more and spark popular interest. They will provide us all with opportunities to respond to this collective awareness, to pass it on and support it.

A lot has been said about the success of these initiatives. One thing could be added – the next one will certainly be even more successful!

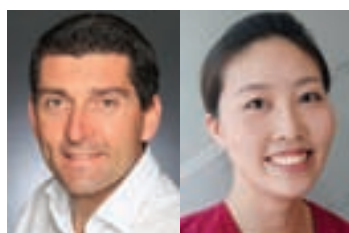
UN Special present at the Open Day

UN Special was, of course, present at the Open Day with space kindly allocated to the magazine by Sergio da Silva on the International Photo Club stand. Grace Acayo, the UN Special administrative assistant arrived bright and early by taxi with a too-heavy-to-carry cargo of 300 copies of recent issues of the magazine. Alongside Sarah Jordan and Solange Behoteguy of the Editorial Committee, Grace distributed magazines and answered the public's questions, outlining the magazine's 66 years and its founding philosophy "written by staff, about staff and for staff". A very enjoyable day was had by all and couldn't have been a more appropriate demonstration of the volunteerism for which the magazine was honoured only the evening before at the SG Awards Ceremony in New York (see article page 10). ■

Could it be becoming a habit? Twice this year, the United Nations in Geneva has opened its doors to the public.

CHRISTIAN DAVID AND SARAH JORDAN, UNOG

The 70th anniversary of the Organization and training for the Escalade Race are both occasions which welcomed large crowds. Not only were visitors able to take ownership of the magnificent park, but also to discover all the different professions and areas of expertise that occupy the buildings of the



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UNOG: Le Directeur général et les participants aux Jeux interagences 2015

Les bénévoles du sport à l'ONU Genève

OLIVIER COMBE, UNOG¹

Où trouve-t-on des bénévoles?

Le monde du sport est un endroit très propice pour côtoyer des bénévoles. Au sein du personnel des Nations Unies à Genève, de nombreux clubs de sport entièrement gérés par des bénévoles existent: badminton, échecs, course à pied, golf, football, tennis de table, tennis, pétanque, cyclisme, fitness, gymnastique, danse et volley-ball. Il existe également la Commission des sports du personnel des Nations Unies qui fait le lien entre les clubs, le Conseil de Coordination et l'administration. Cette Commission organise la participation du personnel de l'ONU Genève aux Jeux interagences, la participation des clubs aux journées portes ouvertes des Nations Unies et aux journées du personnel et organise depuis deux ans des ateliers pour reprendre une activité physique ouverts à tous les fonctionnaires.

Concrètement, que font ces bénévoles?

Ils assurent la pratique du sport dans de bonnes conditions, en intégrant le

club dans les championnats locaux et en organisant des tournois ouverts aux autres clubs de la région. Ils assurent aussi le suivi des finances du club, l'organisation des Assemblées Générales et répondent à mille-et-une demandes pour satisfaire les membres du club.

Après avoir suivi une formation spécifique, certains font office de coach et dispensent des entraînements de course, de marche et d'exercices physiques ouverts à tous au sein du Palais des Nations. D'autres organisent aussi la préparation des participants aux Jeux interagences pour défendre les couleurs de l'ONU Genève.

Prend-on des risques dans le bénévolat?

Dans l'immense majorité des cas, les bénévoles ne prennent que peu de risques. La taille et l'envergure financière des clubs de l'ONU sont très loin des enjeux des clubs de sport professionnels. Cependant, il faut savoir que les Jeux interagences doivent entièrement s'autofinancer, et qu'il est arrivé que des organisateurs soient

personnellement tenus pour responsable du déficit financier. A ce jour, ni les administrations des agences onusiennes ni les associations du personnel ne garantissent ces organisateurs contre la banqueroute.

Pourquoi devient-on bénévole?

La première réponse qui vient à l'esprit est «parce qu'il n'y a personne d'autre» et que sans bénévoles, l'activité du club disparaîtrait.

Heureusement, le bénévolat apporte beaucoup. Il permet d'avoir une activité sociale en dehors du travail et, dans le cadre du sport, il contribue à se maintenir en bonne santé. Il permet de partager sa passion et contribue fortement à l'équilibre personnel en renforçant sa résilience face aux difficultés et au stress de l'activité professionnelle. ■

¹ Olivier Combe est président de la Commission des Sports du personnel des Nations Unies à Genève.

Courir pour le succès les athlètes de l'escalade s'entraînent à l'ONUG



© UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré (https://relo.com)

**VIRGINIE NOBLAT-PIANTA,
NIVERTE NOBERASCO, UNOG**

«Le sourire des 3744 participants à l'entraînement de la Course de l'Escalade, les chants, les hip hip hourra à l'arrivée, nous ont rempli de joie et démontré, si besoin en était,

que cet entraînement est un événement en soi. La magie du site, le symbole qui y est rattaché et la beauté du paysage ont vraiment séduit tous les marcheurs et coureurs», selon les mots de M. Bottani, Président de la course de l'Escalade.

Après l'ouverture du Portail des Nations, nous avons offert trois parcours qui ont permis aux sportifs de découvrir nos moutons, nos paons et nos abeilles, ainsi que nos arbres centenaires et notre parc fleuri. L'excitation et l'énergie des enfants ont fait vibrer les drapeaux multicolores de l'entrée du Palais des Nations.

Le Directeur général a accueilli les bénévoles, enthousiastes, venus des différents services de l'ONUG pour que cette journée ait pu se dérouler dans la joie et la bonne humeur.

Pour la deuxième année, après une visite des stands et un

échauffement sur la Place des Nations, les sportifs sont partis à la conquête de l'ONUG et de la Genève internationale sur des parcours de 2, 6 ou 9 km qui se sont terminés par une collation. Cet événement a été rendu possible grâce à nos hôtes d'honneur, l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle et l'Ecole internationale de Genève, et au soutien de la Confédération suisse, de la République et canton de Genève, de la Ville de Genève et de la Commune de Pregny-Chambésy.

Nous nous félicitons de l'organisation de ce type d'événement qui nous permet de partager notre magnifique cadre de travail et d'ouvrir le Palais. Tout le monde se réjouit d'ores et déjà de participer à la prochaine édition de l'entraînement de la course de l'Escalade autour du Palais des Nations en 2016! ■

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Entraînement de l'Escalade au Palais des Nations

Une autre perception de l'ONUG

Dimanche 8 novembre 2015: les paons du Palais des Nations semblent à nouveau perplexes: que ce passe-t-il encore dans le parc de l'Ariana?

EVELINA RIOUKHINA, CHRISTIAN DAVID, UNOG

En quelques semaines, leur belle tranquillité a été troublée. Après les portes ouvertes qui avait déversé une foule de 19000 piétons, ce sont les sportifs qui envahissent l'espace. Aujourd'hui, l'ambiance semble différente, moins nonchalante, plus dynamique. Une marée

humaine, bariolée et joyeuse, parcourt d'un pas alerte les allées du parc.

Ils arpentent ces 46 hectares parsemés d'arbres d'exception, une prairie dans laquelle les 10 ruches offertes par le pays hôte constellent de leur couleur rouge cette étendue et font danser les abeilles.

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Les participants, ainsi que nos nombreux collègues s'entraînent dans ce cadre idéal pour la prochaine et traditionnelle course de l'Escalade qui se déroulera en décembre prochain.

La course de l'Escalade reste un événement incontournable dans le calendrier de Genève et l'idée du Directeur général de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève d'organiser une séance d'entraînement au Palais des Nations l'année passée, tend à devenir une habitude, voire une tradition. Le «genevois» Michael Møller reste constant dans sa démarche symbolique destinée à prouver qu'il n'existe plus de frontières entre local et international et que des valeurs communes et partagées sont désormais, et le plus souvent possible, mises en exergue.

Cette année, l'entraînement est plus symbolique car il s'est déroulé suite à l'immense succès de la Journée portes ouvertes organisée à l'occasion de 70^e anniversaire des Nations Unies.

Cet entraînement, organisé conjointement avec le partenariat de la Confédération suisse, compte, parmi nos hôtes d'honneur, l'Organisation mondiale de la propriété intellectuelle et l'Ecole internationale de Genève.

Après un mot de bienvenue de Monsieur Møller, le portail s'ouvre. A 10h, 3500 coureurs et marcheurs s'engouffrent en longeant la mythique allée des drapeaux.

Quatre parcours sont proposés: 9,1 km, 6,4 km, 2 km et walking.



Certains s'arrêtent pour contempler «Renaissance» l'œuvre du sculpteur Michelangelo Pistoletto, acquise grâce au concours de la CNUCED et inaugurée le 24 octobre dernier. Ses 193 blocs représentant les Etats Membres.

Bien entendu, la sphère armillaire, ornée aujourd'hui par les deux vases fleuris reste un lieu incontournable pour les amateurs de selfies.

Signe des temps, à l'heure où la population mondiale devra faire face à des défis toujours plus importants, le message distillé depuis un an à Genève est que tout le travail effectué par l'ONU, ses agences et au-delà toute la communauté internationale ne sera efficace que s'il est perceptible, partagé et compris par tous.

La populaire course de l'Escalade constitue, de ce fait, un événement incontournable pour la population locale et le message envoyé est fort. Les coureurs, les volontaires présents et les effectifs de sécurité mobilisés pour l'occasion ne boudent d'ailleurs pas leur plaisir, quelques conversations, signes amicaux et applaudissements ne laissent aucun doute sur la réussite de cette initiative.

Cette journée démontre également un incroyable esprit d'équipe des fonctionnaires volontaires et bénévoles

La Genève internationale est en action, les paons devront se faire une raison, ils risquent d'avoir de plus en plus d'admirateurs! ■




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The library in geneva @un70's open day celebration

When the Palais des Nations opened its gates to the public on 24 October, around 19,000 people joined the celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. The warm and sunny weather on a relaxing Saturday provided an ideal setting for an array of special indoor and outdoor festivities organized on this significant occasion.



TESS CASTANEDA WIETESKA, UNOG

At Door 20, the home of the United Nations Library and Archives, the knowledge hub of the entire United Nations family an assortment of events, activities and exhibition stands (Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Action pour la Genève internationale et son rayonnement (AGIR) and the Ecole internationale de Genève) greeted visitors. All of the events challenged perceptions and encouraged visitors to be active participants in the Organization.

“Recipes for Peace, Rights & Well-Being”: A book signing by the UNOG Director-General.

The Perception Change Project (PCP) transformed a corner of the Library’s Cyberspace into an “International Geneva Kitchen.” The stand was bustling with activity: children played a memory card game about International Organizations in Geneva, as well as making peace macarons from playdough and taking photos with chef hats for the treasure hunt challenge. The PCP also shared the cookbook “Recipes For Peace, Rights, and Well-being” with visitors and the UNOG Director-General participated in a very well attended book-signing, with visitors queuing up far beyond the room to get their signature and a chat with the head of the house.

“Speed Dating@The UN: Meeting Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Work”

gave the popular concept of “Speed Dating” a fresh and interesting non-romantic twist by offering visitors “face-to-face” encounters with 19 UN staff members who gamely participated as “Persons of Interest” or POIs. Designed to help the public gain a better understanding of the United Nations through friendly “dates” with its workforce, the set of participating POIs represented geographical variety and cultural diversity while showcasing the various occupational categories that support the work of the United Nations all over the world. In appreciation of the work of our field staff, a “skype date” was also arranged with Ms. Yasmina Bouziane in Haiti, MINUSTAH’s Chief of Communication and Public Information.

A huge countdown timer on the screen projector ensured that each “date” lasted for a maximum of 3 minutes at a time. There was no limit to the number of POIs one could meet, nor rules on the topic they could discuss.

The successful event elicited many positive and encouraging remarks from both sides of the dating table: “entertaining... interactive... educational...”



innovative... perception-changing". A colleague remarked "We should do this more often." Encore!

"Spooky Ride": Using special effects and lighting, with costumes fit for a horror film, a team of 10 volunteers, including two from the UNOG Theatre Club, transformed the ground level of the Library stacks room into a scary haunted house. Screams and shrieks from visitors were heard as the "ghost of the stacks room" and his spooky friends scared them away.

A you tube video link¹ captured some spine-chilling scenes from "Spooky Ride".

"Make Your Mark": The United Nations Archives at Geneva gave participants the opportunity to "make their mark" and become a part of the legacy preserved in the archives through an interactive digital programme. Within the archives reading room, visitors completed a short survey on their knowledge of and opinion about today's United Nations. These electronic documents, over 160 of which were submitted, will become a part of the United Nations archives, and posters provided explanations on the lifecycle of these records.

Visitors were also able to peruse a small selection of documents from the archives

collections, including Le Corbusier's proposal for the Palais des Nations, Nobel Peace Prize medals awarded to United Nations entities, and the campaign materials for Switzerland's entry to the League of Nations in 1920, among many other original materials. In addition, Thomas Hornisberger, the Library's bookbinder and conservator gave demonstrations of his craft and exceptional skill, a critical asset to the preservation of our institutional memory, even in the digital age.

"Library Tours: A Visit through Time and Knowledge" organized special guided tours of the historic UN Library Geneva, its reading rooms and resources' collection "From Gutenberg to e-books". Since 1919, the UN Library Geneva has served as a centre of international research

and an effective instrument of international understanding.

"Transoundart": Dessa, the pseudonym for artist and author Deborah Sharom Ables, coined the word "Transoundart" to describe the simultaneous transposition between sound and painting. The event featured an improvised conversation between Dessa's paintbrushes and Michael Wiener's piano chords. A camera was placed above Dessa's paper and art tools so that the audience could follow the visual development on a screen projector. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful fusion of art and music. Happy 70th year anniversary to the United Nations! ■

Strategic Planning, Programme Evaluation and Outreach Section, UNOG Library

1 https://youtu.be/_czNs3u8RkK



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People's Climate March in Melbourne. View down Bourke Street from the top of Parliament House steps as the march turns into Spring Street.



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Goal 13

Urgent Climate Action, Before It Is Too Late

The world's weather is warming up! This development is one, which will have apocalyptic consequences on our lives and far worse consequences on the lives of our children and grandchildren. We should have done something about it a long time ago, but we have been hesitant and slow to act. We absolutely must act now. The United Nations, as the direttore dell'orchestra of the world, must spearhead multilateral action on this urgent concern.

MAHMOUD HAMMOUD, UNOG

The Sustainable Development Goals approved by the General Assembly in New York in September 2015 constitute an important part of the UN's mission and vision from now until 2030. Those 17 Goals are intended to bring humanity closer to a better future. Goal 13 calls for urgent action to fight climate change and its tragic

impacts. The explicit urgency of the call denotes the concern of many: every day we are heading one-step closer to a point of no return, when our action might be regrettably too late.

There is no controversy over whether we must take action on climate fluctuation or not. There is a clear universal consensus that reckless unsustainable human behavior of consumption and the abuse of resources have undeniably impacted the climate and that something must be done. The actual controversy revolves around where to start, when to start, how much will action cost, and who will fund it?

According to various UN sources, every single country and region in the world has first-hand experience of the results of climate variation. Since 1990, greenhouse gas emissions have escalated to dangerous levels of more than 50%. This escalation has led to global warming that has caused, and continues to cause, permanent changes to our ecosystem with irreversible consequences.

Earthquakes, flooding, tropical cyclones, and tsunamis are today behind the hemorrhaging of about a trillion dollars every year and by 2020, we must help mobilize \$100 billion per year to help vulnerable regions manage the risks of climate fluctuation and mitigate related cataclysms.

Every faith and culture has the belief that we should leave future generations a better world than the one we inhabit. This is also part of the UN's commitments to the children of the world. How then do we explain the fact that this generation will leave our children a broken world, one where resources have been depleted and the climate has become catastrophic, if we do not act now?

In a courageous move, the Green Cross collaborated with various NGOs and civil society actors this year to create a "Rights and Responsibilities Declaration" that was referred to as "The Universal Declaration of the Rights of Humankind." This document was built on the 1789 Paris *Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen* and the 1948 Paris Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as on related agreements, treaties, and documents. "The Rights and Responsibilities Declaration" concluded that "it is the right of humanity to live in a world whose future is not compromised by the irresponsibility of the present generation," as stated by the French president François Hollande.

World decision makers will be flying to Paris in December for the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) to agree to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, also known as "Paris 2015." Countless eyes will be watching Paris from all corners of the world. A universal agreement on climate change must commit all signees to limiting the increase in world mean temperature to 2°C above pre-industrial (global warming) levels. This goal is achievable if all countries involved make a concerted effort to have a real impact on climate variation, a cause that is shared by literally all of humanity, in the present and future.

How Can COP21 Stop Global Warming?

COP21 should create policies and methodologies, and find the right financing, to ensure that global emissions will be kept under control. COP21 must also launch a high-momentum campaign to promote

renewable non-carbon clean energies, which goes hand-in-hand with SDG7. This goal will require long-term multipartite sustainable management of the oceans, seas, and marine resources (SDG14), as well as of the ecosystems by restoring forests and combating desertification (SDG15). Those goals could only be reached if there is a true transfer of know-how. It is crucial to empower societies to develop sustainable infrastructures (SDG16) and sensibly substantiate the means of implementation and revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG17). It is crystal clear that action on climate change cannot happen without making progress on all other SDGs because of the complex interrelations among those goals.

Leaders at COP21 must remember that Paris 2015 will be a turning point in the history of humanity. What world do we want to leave to our children? Sitting on a dying world and killing it off with more undeniable pollution is an intolerably irresponsible and selfish act by modern mankind. When we are intellectually equipped to reverse at least some of our negative impacts by measured, collaborative, sustainable and responsible living.

No to Keystone Pipeline, Yes to the Future of our Children!

On Nov 6, 2015, only a few weeks before COP21, President Obama rejected the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline, explicitly citing its effect on Climate Change. Keystone XL has become an emblem of the debate over climate policies across the Atlantic. President Obama explained his decision by saying: "America is now

a global leader when it comes to taking serious action to fight climate change... And, frankly, approving this project would have undercut that global leadership." This decision, beyond its symbolic meaning for both sides of the debate in the United States, is an unencrypted message to decision makers around the planet that the US is genuine about taking action on climate change. This memorable decision follows a set of aggressive new regulations aimed at reducing emissions from American power plants, which the American president issued in August this same year.

Rejecting environmentally controversial projects such as Keystone XL is a welcome move, but far from being enough. We must all act responsibly about climate change and global warming. We must all do something before it is too late. We must make the right decisions at COP21. Self-interested behavior or inaction will wreak havoc on all of humanity. We do not have the right to compromise our children's future through our irresponsibility or inaction on climate change. ■

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Panelists, Human Rights-based Approaches to Eliminating Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity: Implementation in Practice

Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity A global human rights issue

Organized by UNFPA and Action for Development (AFD) – an NGO operating in Afghanistan with a focus on community based health services, a side event to the UN Sustainable Development Summit 2015 was held on September 25th at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

LAURANNE BOTTI¹

The event was co-sponsored by the WHO and the Permanent Missions of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia and New Zealand to highlight Human Rights-based approaches to eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

The goal to 'Improve maternal health,' one of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), stresses the need to address maternal mortality as a global human rights issue. However, the panelists of

the side-event frequently raised the issue that the international community failed to meet MDG 5 on improving maternal health, with the goal to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters by 2015. Dr. Najia Musolino, Chair of AFD Board of Trustees, stated that many countries still need to prioritise and improve capacity of safe birthing techniques and antenatal care, including increase in timely access to quality healthcare for women living in remote areas of the world.

Dr. Doris Chou, Medical Officer of the WHO, highlighted the importance of family planning and community support through communication and distribution of information on sexual and reproductive health rights. The representative from the Permanent Mission of Colombia in Geneva added that Colombia has a prominent national difficulty in suppressing teenage pregnancies, due to the lack of accessibility, availability and acceptance of information and education on contraception and abortion.

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Gender discrimination is another clear obstacle for the improvement of maternal health. Mr. Azizullah Omar, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan, highlighted the need to ‘increase the participation by women in public affairs’ in countries like Afghanistan.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are giving the world a second opportunity to face the aims set for 2030 and, this time, to achieve them. It is up to key stakeholders to meet all 17 Goals and, especially in this case, eliminate maternal mortality. Mrs. Myriam Poussi from the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso argued that girls and women’s agencies are key to solving long-term problems that are consequences of a mother’s ill health.

A global strategy for reducing the world’s maternal mortality ratio is crucial in these circumstances. A Human Rights-based approach is to have low-mortality-ratio countries join efforts to aid high-mortality-ratio countries. This strategy has already been adopted with the training of midwives in Afghanistan. Mrs. Pashtoon Azfar, Tech-

nical Midwife Advisor of the International Confederation of Midwives, confirmed that there were 1,600 maternal deaths per 100,000 before the thorough education and recruitment process of midwives was set in place in the country. The interventions by international NGOs and national advancements have led to a rapid expansion of midwifery qualifications, resulting in a 25% decrease of maternal mortality in Afghanistan.

The target goals of MDG 5 have not been met, but the successes of Goal 5 need to be recognized – ‘There has been progress,’ added the OHCHR. The evidence that the global maternal mortality ratio has been reduced by 45% illustrates that the framework of MDGs has established the worldwide use and importance of reliable data for evidence-based medicine (EBM) and decision-making.

Women’s health is not just a female-centered issue, said Mrs. Michelle Pichon, Head of Midwifery at the Haute École de Santé Genève; males of all ages need to participate in the elimination of prevent-

able maternal mortality and morbidity in order to globally promote and protect women’s health.

In addition, Dr. Luc de Bernis, Senior Maternal Health Advisor at UNFPA urged everyone to use the United Nations in Geneva as a key locus for Human Rights specialists, country missions, international organisations and other health agencies to meet and propose solutions and strategies in preparation for the adoption of the SDGs.

Overall, the Human Rights framework is fundamental to successfully improving global maternal health for 2030, the target for the SDGs. Eliminating preventable maternal mortality and morbidity is now in the hands of key leaders in health, community actors, governments and Human Rights specialists to ensure that the world exceeds in achieving quality health standards for all ages and gender across the globe.

1 Lauranne Botti, University College London Political Science 2014



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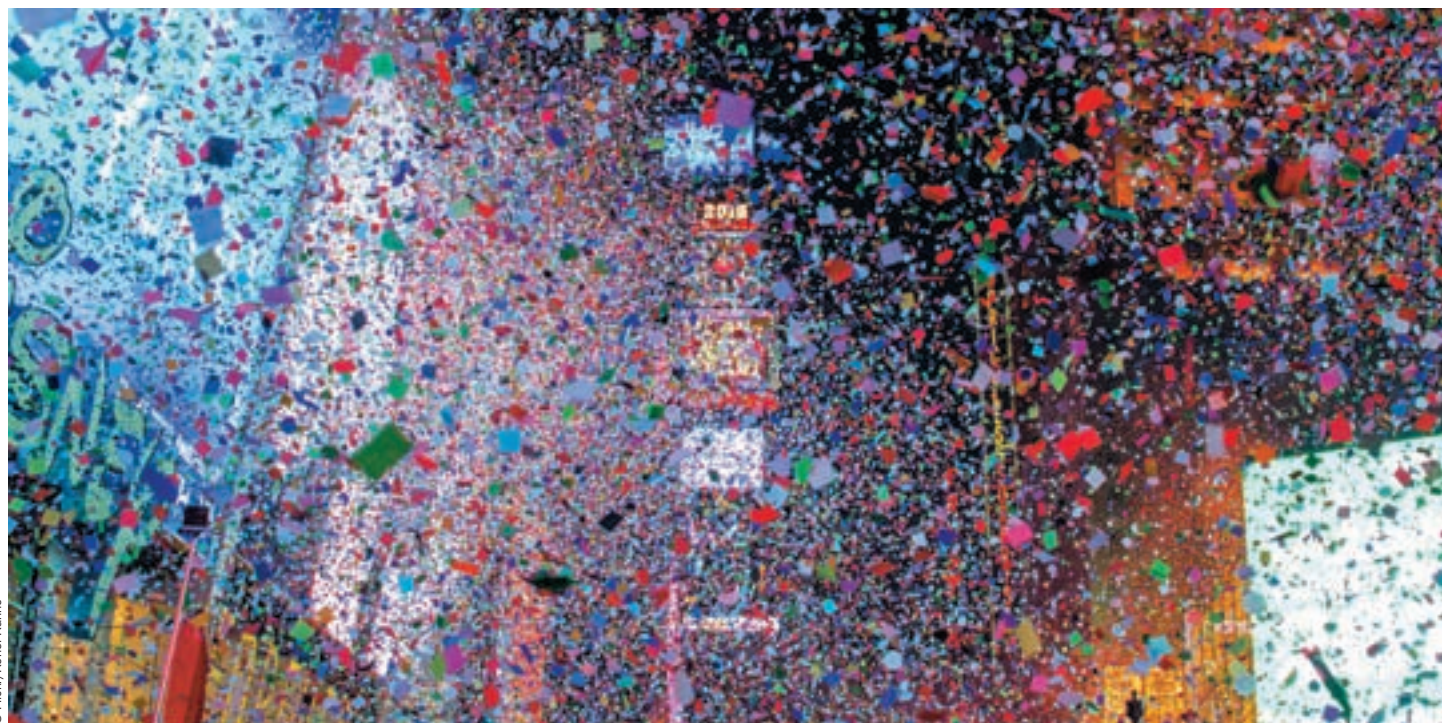
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MAISON DES LANGUES





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New Year in New York

*“Give me such shows
Give me the streets of Manhattan”*
– Walt Whitman ‘Leaves of Grass’

NILOFAR BAWA

December 31, hours before midnight, the streets of Manhattan are packed with millions of people patiently making their way towards Times Square. Roads are closed and hundreds of spectator metal pens are set up. The NYPD officers are out in their dark blue uniforms, guiding people: young and old, men and women through arrays of neatly laid out pens. The officers calmly and politely encourage everybody to keep moving forward. Large handbags, cameras and rucksacks are discouraged. We carry only

our iPhones and small wallets. Slowly but steadily we move from one pen to the other with every step getting closer to our goal – The ball!

The temperatures are below zero. Each breath lets out a plume of white mist. It's freezing, but the spirits are high. We brave the bitter cold. The air echoes softly with laughter. In the distance Times Square beckons the crowd like a lighthouse. It is lit up like a blazing sun. The Piccadilly Circus of New York City. Perhaps it is Times Square that earned the

Big Apple its reputation and prompted L.J. Smith to call New York “the city that never sleeps”.

Huge screens and billboards on either side of the approaching Square scream some different wonder or attraction. Spider-Man is climbing a skyscraper. The Lion King roars majestically from his Broadway pedestal.

As we approach midnight the crowd begins to chant: 100! 99! 98! 97! 96! 95!... 10! 9! 8! 7! 6! 5! 4! 3! 2! 1! At the strike of

midnight, the ball drops! Colourful confetti fills the square below. Millions of voices erupt into a huge cheer! New Yorkers and visitors turn around to greet their neighbours! Happy New Year! Balloons lift into the night. Lady Gaga bursts into song and dances with the Mayor of New York. Laughter and joy fill the night. For that one moment differences are shed, citizens, tourists and NYPD officers are all united as one big family. Happy New Year! ■

*“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come,
Whispering it will be happier.”*
– Alfred Tennyson



© Evelyn Harford

From Guns to Gardens

Youth living in Africa's largest slum have traded in their guns for a different kind of weapon. Urban farms are transforming ex-armed robbers into green revolutionaries.

EVELYN HARFORD

Edmonton Mugita, 30 was born and raised in the Kenyan slum Kibera, located just southwest of Nairobi's city centre. Mugita started his urban farm in Kibera three years ago after spending a year and a half in jail for robbery.

As a reformed, self-professed gangbanger Mugita has influenced other former gang members to join his small green revolution.

"We turned our guns into gardens and our fish into bullets," said Mugita.

Mugita now tends to his kales, fish and poultry that grow amongst the grime and dust blanketing Kibera. Mugita and his crew of twelve have transformed from gangsters to gardeners. They call their urban farm The Junction Self-Help Group. Estimates suggest that almost a million people live in Kibera – most live on less than a dollar per day. Unemployment in Kibera nears 50 per cent – disproportionately affecting youths. Urban farming has sprung up within Kibera as a way to combat unemployment and food insecurity. Many parents don't have enough money to support their children – including Mugita's.

"It's hard here. You grow up with six siblings. Because you're big your father sends

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you out of the house and you live between homes, clubs and the streets,” he said.

Mugita did brief stints as a hard laborer, but life on the streets soon turned into a life of crime. The men from The Junction chatted for hours about their life and past. Slowly as their hard exteriors began to melt away, they told me about their criminal past.

All of the five men surrounding me, including Mugita had been in a gang together.

“It’s because of hardship. There was no food, no money, no dressing. So, I had to look for money,” said Mugita.

“We are victims of circumstance,” said Jamil Ochieng.

Mugita and his friend Jamil Ochieng were ringleaders. Their crew was involved in armed robberies of Kibera’s neighboring gated communities.

“We didn’t have a name, but it was just a gang. We don’t have an exact number but we had like 100 guys under us,” said Mugita.

Mugita explained that his crew would storm a home and take whatever they could, but electronics and jewellery were the ideal grabs.

“It was every man for himself and God for us all,” said Mugita.

Violence and theft is normalized for young boys within Kibera. It is often the only option to afford a meal at the end of the day. Now, having found the productive and beneficial passion of urban farming Mugita feels remorse for the past.

“Stealing from old people was bad,” he said. “And sometimes beating somebody around when you’re drunk, that was bad.”

Now a father to a six-year-old son, Mugita’s priorities are different. He wants to set a good example for his child and his community.

“We are reformed now,” he said.

Although reformed, Mugita is still respected and in many ways feared by the community. This gives him influence and power to



© Evelyn Harford

change more young men whose shoes he was in only a decade ago. The glimmer of a lost young man still appears in Mugita’s eyes, even years after reforming his life.

“When most of the friends were killed or taken to jail, we said we need to be an example.”

Mugita spent a year and a half in jail himself when he was 18-years-old.

“I stole from someone who knew me and he traced me to the police,” he explained.

“Once I got out I knew I needed to stay busy,” said Mugita.

“We sat down and found a piece of land from the county representative. So we cleared the place, cleaned the bushes and devised that we should do something better. We came from a background of agricultural people and decided that’s what we should do,” said Mugita.

They first started with sack gardens and quickly expanded into rearing chickens, rabbits and most recently fish. Sack gardens are made from repurposed grain sacks, filled with soil and perforated along the sides for kales, onions or tomatoes to sprout out from. An oasis among the chaos, The Junction provides fresh and affordable vegetables and meat to the surrounding community. Mugita explains proudly that the farm now clears about \$1000 dollars per month from sales of poultry, fish and fresh vegetables. Each group member is able to take home around \$100 dollars each month. There are now over 10, 000 sack gardens in

Kibera alone, said Lucy Mbrgua, a Nairobi City County Agricultural Ward Extension Officer. Urban farming is a trend capturing the imaginations of youth. Mbrgua visits The Junction often to provide guidance and support for Mugita and his crew.

“It is my wish they can embrace agriculture. I want them to get income. I want them to succeed,” she said.

Their compound has over two-dozen sacks, two box planters over a dozen chickens and rabbits and nearly 600 fish. Increasing interest and investment is stirring around their project. The newly built fish tanks containing mudfish were funded by Nairobi City County. For this group, the donations of the fish and the tanks have made a big improvement; fish are the most profitable and rare type of farming venture in Kibera.

“The NGOs don’t support us, so we have to do something. We need to make the money. That is why we put on our gum boots, go to the farm and get dirty,” said Mugita.

As urbanization increases in Nairobi, the population of Kibera will continue to swell increasing food insecurity. Youth like Mugita will continue to sow the seeds of change by providing a reliable food supply for Nairobi’s poorest residents and an example for future generations. ■

NB: Evelyn Harford: A Canadian-based journalist with a passion for international affairs, and all things granola.

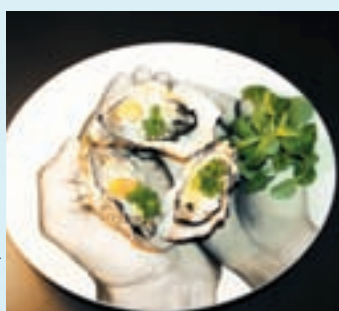
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COMPILED AND EDITED BY SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY, CNUCED

Huîtres tièdes aux œufs de caille



© Dominique Chantrel

Une des attractions des fêtes de fin d'année dans ma région de France, la Bretagne c'est les Huîtres.

DOMINIQUE CHANTREL, UNCTAD

Je vous propose une version d'huître tiède très facile à préparer. Il vous faudra 15 à 20 minutes de préparation et 5 minutes de cuisson au four position grille.

Les ingrédients

12 huîtres (catégorie 2 ou 3 si possible), 12 œufs de caille, 1 poireau, 2 cuillères à soupe de crème fraîche, une noisette de beurre, 2 cuillère à soupe de vin blanc, sel et poivre. Une astuce, prendre 300 g de gros sel pour caler les huîtres sur la plaque pour le four.

Et c'est parti

Eplucher le poireau et l'émincer

très fin (prendre que la partie blanche du poireau).

Sur une plaque à feu vif, mettre une poêle de petite taille (20 cm par exemple) avec la noisette de beurre. Jeter le poireau dans la poêle pendant 1 à 2 minutes, ajouter le vin blanc, cuire 1 minute, diminuer le feu et mettre la crème fraîche. Laisser cuire 2 minutes maximum. Votre préparation est faite!

Ouvrir les huîtres, vider le jus, les déposer sur une plaque de cuisson (sur le gros sel) de façon à ce qu'elles soient bien à plat. Mettre environ 2 cuillères à café de poireau sur les huîtres, casser un œuf de caille

sur chaque huître. Vous pouvez attendre vos invités.

Mettre le tout au four position *grill* pour 5 minutes. Servir de suite en général 2 à 3 huîtres par personne. Moi j'ai mis à côté une petite salade verte avec une vinaigrette à la moutarde forte pour l'accompagner. Vous pouvez aussi ajouter un peu de caviar ou d'œuf de lump noir pour décorer vos coquilles.

Pour accompagner cela un vin blanc «gras» du type Côte du Rhône blanc (par exemple un Domaine Amadiou à Gigondas) ou plus chic un Condrieu (par exemple un Château Grillet). ■

Sri Lankan Chicken Curry



© Shyamini Puvimanasinghe, OHCHR

SHYAMINI PUVIMANASINGHE, OHCHR

Ingredients

4 chicken thighs
2 cups of coconut milk
1 tablespoon of oil
1 tablespoon of vinegar
1 onion chopped
1 tea spoon (tsp) ground ginger
1 tsp ground garlic
2 green chillies sliced
1 tsp salt
¼ tsp ground black pepper
1 tsp chilli powder
¼ tsp turmeric
1 tsp curry powder

4 cardamoms
4 cloves
1 small piece of cinnamon
1 sprig of curry leaves
1 small piece of pandan leaf
1 small piece of lemon grass

Method

Wash and cut the chicken and prepare all ingredients. Heat oil and fry onions, curry leaves, lemon grass and pandan leaf. Add curry powder, green chillies, pepper, turmeric, cinnamon, cardamoms and cloves. Sauté for about 2 minutes. Add gin-

ger and garlic and fry until the mixture gives a good aroma. Add chilli powder (quantity can be increased to make more hot and spicy), vinegar, salt and chicken and mix well. Reduce heat, cover and cook until the meat is tender (about 20 minutes). Then add coconut milk and simmer until done. Serve with steamed rice, dhal (lentils), and vegetables of your choice.

(The herbs and spices mentioned herein are usually available in Asian shops) ■

Tarte au vin



© Robyn Scherrer-Keen

*La tarte au vin
est un dessert
traditionnel des
cantons du Valais
et de Vaud.*

ROBYN SCHERRER-KEEN, UNCTAD

C'est un dessert vite préparé, en 15-20 minutes sans compter la cuisson, il se dégustera aussi bien froid que chaud. Bien entendu un vin blanc AOC d'origine Suisse romande sera le vin idéal tant pour réaliser cette tarte que pour l'accompagner!

Ingédients

Une pâte brisée prête à l'emploi pour un moule ronde env. 25-30 cm
3 dl de vin blanc
2,25 dl de crème, 35% de matière grasse
3 œufs
60 g de farine

210 g de sucre

1,5 petite cuillère de cannelle

Préparation

ÉTAPE 1: Mélanger dans un bol (avec une fourchette) le vin blanc, de la crème et les œufs.
ÉTAPE 2: Dans un petit sac en plastique mélanger des farine, sucre et cannelle (ferme et secouer).
ÉTAPE 3: Etalez la pâte sur un moule à tarte beurré et fariné ou avec du papier cuisson.
ÉTAPE 4: Piquez la pâte avec une fourchette.
ÉTAPE 5: Versez ensuite au-dessus le mélange du sucre, cannelle et farine sur la pâte.

ÉTAPE 6: Versez lentement le mélange du vin, crème et œufs, essayant de ne pas mélanger (j'utilise le dos d'une cuillère).

Cuisson

ÉTAPE 7: Enfourez dans un four préchauffé à 200 degrés et cuire pendant 25-35 min: le dessus doit être légèrement caramélisé. Servez tiède ou froid. ■



Georgian Chanakhi



© Nataliya Shapovalova

*Hospitality of
Georgians and
generosity of
Georgian cuisine
are well-know all
over the world.*

NATALIYA SHAPOVALOVA, WHO

Here is one of the favourite dishes of the most famous soviet Georgians of all times – Joseph Stalin. This dish was frequently cooked for feasts at Stalin's much-loved "dacha" in Sochi by the Black Sea.

Chanakhi (or "Aragvi" – renamed by Stalin after a Georgian river) is a Georgian lamb and vegetable stew baked and served in individual clay pots. The dish is believed to become part of local meals as of XVI century when potatoes were brought to Europe from South America.

Ingredients:

300g fatty mutton / lamb shoulder
2 eggplants
2 sweet red bell peppers
1 green bell pepper
2 potatoes

1 large onion

5 cloves garlic

5 tomatoes

1 bunch fresh cilantro

1 bunch fresh basil

3 tbsp cooking oil

Salt, black pepper, khmeli-suneli to taste,

*Khmeli-suneli – is a typical Georgian spice that is widely used in Caucasus region to add savory flavour to soups and stews. Similar flavour can be obtained by mixing equal parts of the following powdered ingredients: basil, parsley, celery, dill, coriander, bay leaf, mint, marjoram, and saffron.

Here is the fastest way of cooking it

Preheat the oven to 180° C
Cube unpeeled eggplants, bell peppers, tomatoes, potatoes; chop onion; chop meat

Heat oil in a large frying pan, fry pieces of meat over high heat until the strips form a crust. Transfer meat in a clay pot. Sprinkle with khmeli-suneli.

Add another tbsp of oil to the pan and sauté all vegetables about 10-15 minutes. Transfer vegetables to the same pot as a layer on top of the meat. Sprinkle again with khmeli-suneli. Add pressed garlic and a layer of tomatoes. Sprinkle again with khmeli-suneli.

Cover the pot and put it in the oven for 1 hour. After 1 h, check potatoes – if not ready, keep on cooking until they are soft. Remove from the oven and season the dish right in the pot with fresh herbs.

To be served with good dry red wine! ■

© Fond conçu par Freepik

Picana navideña de Bolivia



© CECILIA VISCARRA MOSER

Desde que tengo conciencia he comido picana navideña en casi todas las cenas de noche buena, el 24 de diciembre.

CECILIA VISCARRA MOSER, UNCTAD

Cuando llegué a Suiza, traje conmigo la receta de la mami Martita, la nana de tres generaciones de la familia. La particularidad de la picana navideña, aparte de tener cuatro carnes, es que mezcla dulce con salado y esa aromatizada con vino tinto.

Esta receta está dedicada a todas las nanas-madres que nos dan amor sin medida. Cecíenla así, con mucho amor, ¡pero respetando las medidas indicadas abajo!

Preparación e ingredientes (4 porciones, 60 minutos en equipo)

Hacer dorar en una cacerola 200 g. de res, 200 g cordero y 200 g de cerdo cortados en cubitos (sin hueso) con 150 g de cebolla y 200 g de zanahoria en cubitos usando un chorro de aceite de girasol (10 minutos). Añadir 200 ml de agua hirviendo, un cubito de caldo de gallina, una cucharilla de pimienta, una de comino molido y tres hojas de laurel. Dejar cocer a fuego lento 20 minutos.

Freír 200 g de pechuga de pollo en una sartén (5 minutos) e incorporar a la cacerola con las otras carnes. Dejar

cocer durante 10 minutos más. Faltando 5 minutos para el final añadir uno tomate cortado en cubitos, dos cucharas de uvas pasas, una copa de vino tinto (tipo Cabernet o Merlot) y una cuchara de azúcar. Probar y ectificar la sal si es necesario. Yo agrego un poco de pan molido para dar consistencia.

Hervir los maíces 3 tres estrellas de anís y una cuchara de azúcar a fuego medio (30 minutos). Hervir 15 papas pequeñas (tipo Charlotte) enteras y peladas (20 minutos dependiendo del tamaño).

Servir la picana en un plato soper y al lado una brocheta maíz-papa-maíz.

Bûche de Noël



© Dominique Chantrel

Une tradition française, c'est la célèbre bûche de Noël.



DOMINIQUE CHANTREL, UNCTAD

Pour 8 personnes, 45 minutes de préparation, 10 minutes de cuisson, 1 heure au frais.

Ingédients pour le gâteau (génoise)

4 œufs, 120 g de sucre, 1 cuillère à café de sucre vanillé, 30 g de farine, 70 g de fécule de maïs, une pincée de sel.

La crème appelée ganache

2 feuilles de gélatine alimentaire, 1 bol d'eau froide, 200 g de crème fraîche liquide très froide, 150 g de chocolat (40% ou plus comme vous aimez) 200 g de framboise, et quelques fraises et un peu de sucre glace pour la décoration

Préchauffer le four à 180 °C (thermostat 6).

Dans un saladier, fouetter les œufs et ajouter le sucre

et l'extrait de vanille (vous pouvez mettre au bain marie (40 °C). Il faut compter 5 à 6 minutes pour obtenir une pâte bien aérée et sans grumeaux. Ajouter la farine et le sel, toujours en mélangeant au fouet. Verser cette préparation sur une plaque rectangulaire et mettre au four 10 minutes toujours à 180 °C. Dès que c'est cuit, démouler sur un torchon humide et rouler le gâteau. Laisser reposer 30 minutes avec le torchon.

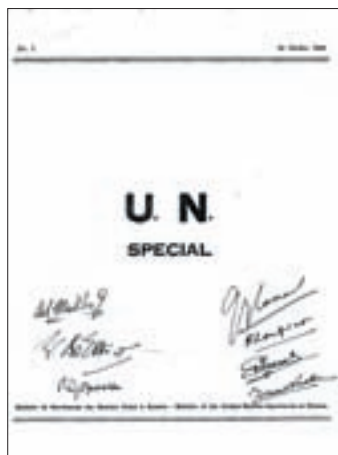
Pendant ce temps, préparer la ganache:

Ma solution est de mettre la crème liquide au congélateur 10 minutes, prendre 150 cl de crème et la battre pour faire une chantilly. Il faut normalement 4 à 5 minutes pour obtenir une bonne chantilly. Dans une casserole, mettre les 50 cl de crème restant, ajouter le

chocolat (en morceaux ou en poudre). Mélanger jusqu'à obtenir un consistance bien lisse.

Dérouler le gâteau, enlever la croûte, pour avoir un gâteau blanc et napper de la ganache, ajouter des framboises (une bonne vingtaine.) et rouler nouveau, sans le torchon cette fois. Enduire l'extérieur avec le reste de la ganache, ajouter quelques framboises et fraises, saupoudrer de sucre glace pour la décoration.

Pour accompagner, vous pouvez mettre un vin rouge légèrement sucré du Languedoc tel un vieux Maury ou un Banyuls ou, pour ceux qui préfère les vins blancs, on peut prendre un vin d'Alsace vendanges tardives par exemple un Gewurztraminer. ■



Help us to preserve the values of our *UN Special* staff magazine written for staff, by staff and about staff – since 1949

We, members of the current and former Editorial Committees/Boards of UN Special magazine, request you, dear readers, to support us and not to let the character and volunteer nature of this staff magazine be changed.

We address this petition to the representatives of UNOG and to the WHO Staff Council/Association, which constitute the magazine's parent body, asking them to forward our petition to the senior management of both Organizations.

The mandate of the magazine stipulates that it be written for staff, about staff and by staff. *UN Special*, for 66 years now, has been a unique magazine in the media world.

The mandate also stipulates that the functions of Editor-

in-Chief should be assigned to a staff member on a voluntary and unpaid basis. We have learnt that current attempts aim at imposing the replacement of these volunteers – staff members – by professional journalists. This constitutes a breach in total contradiction with the statutes of *UN Special*. We strongly object to these attempts.

We insist on the fact that *UN Special* magazine remain the magazine of the staff, and that the election of its Editor-in-Chief for the 2016-18 mandate

be conducted in a democratic and transparent manner. The candidate(s) must be chosen among staff members only, and their work must remain voluntary.

Please help us to defend *UN Special* – in accordance with its values and its long history, which dates back to 1949! ■

Signed by the current and past 40 members of the Editorial Committees and Boards of the magazine and UNOG/WHO staff. The full list is available upon request.



Aidez nous à préserver les valeurs de notre magazine *UN Special*, écrit pour le personnel, par le personnel et sur le personnel depuis 1949

Chers lecteurs,
Afin de préserver la nature volontaire et bénévole du magazine, les membres des comités du magazine *UN Special* vous encouragent à soutenir leur requête.

Cette pétition a été adressée à l'organe de tutelle du magazine composé des représentants du personnel de l'ONUG et de l'OMS, en leur demandant de la transmettre à la direction des deux organisations.

Le mandat de la revue stipule qu'elle est écrite pour le personnel, sur le personnel et par le personnel. *UN Special* reste depuis 66 ans, un magazine sans pareil dans le paysage médiatique.

Le mandat stipule également que les fonctions de rédacteur en chef sont dévolues à un membre du personnel sur une base volontaire et bénévole. Nous avons appris que des tentatives visent à imposer un remplacement des volontaires, issus du personnel, par des journalistes professionnels.

Cet état de fait constitue une rupture, en contradiction totale avec les statuts établis. Ainsi, nous nous opposons fermement à ces tentatives.

Enfin, nous souhaitons insister sur le fait que le magazine *UN Special* reste le magazine du personnel, que la désignation de son (de sa)

rédacteur(-trice) en chef pour le mandat 2016-18 doit se faire de manière démocratique et transparente. Le/la candidat(e) devra être choisi(e) parmi les membres du personnel uniquement et son travail devra demeurer bénévole.

Aidez-nous à défendre le magazine *UN Special* conformément à ses valeurs, sa base volontaire et son histoire qui perdure depuis 1949! ■

Signé par 40 membres actuels et anciens du comité de rédaction fonctionnaires de l'ONU et de l'OMS. La liste complète est disponible sur demande.

Message du rédacteur en chef

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

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis.

Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

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

Et maintenant, à vos plumes!

Adressez vos commentaires à:

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

Message from the editor-in-chief

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

Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you.

The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

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

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

Garry Aslanyan, editor-in-chief – UN Special
20, avenue Appia – 1211 Genève 27 – Switzerland
By email: unspecial@who.int

Nos remerciements vont également aux personnes qui ont participé activement à l'élaboration de ce numéro:

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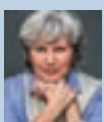
Composition du Comité de rédaction Composition of the Editorial committee



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Garry Aslanyan



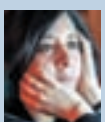
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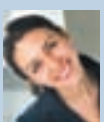
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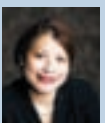
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