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UK'S AMBASSADOR INSIGHT

Brexit's Future

N°762 – SEPTEMBRE 2016

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anniversary of
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ALEXANDER MEJIA

Rédacteur en chef / Editor-in-chief

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Depuis près de sept décennies, notre magazine atteint un bon équilibre entre les questions internes, pertinentes pour le personnel de l'ONU à Genève, et les questions délicates de politique mondiale qui nous concernent tous. Ainsi, nous nous réjouissons que ce numéro contienne un article de M. Julian Braithwaite, Ambassadeur du Royaume-Uni auprès de l'ONUG, dans lequel il partage le point de vue de son gouvernement sur le *Brexit*. Les médias mondiaux ont quelque peu critiqué le *Brexit*, tandis que d'autres l'ont ardemment défendu en tant qu'expression démocratique du peuple britannique. L'Ambassadeur Braithwaite explique pourquoi la Grande-Bretagne restera un leader mondial très engagé dans les affaires internationales, en particulier au sein de l'ONU.

L'élection du Secrétaire général de l'ONU captera toute l'attention le mois prochain et aura une incidence sur la façon dont notre organisation fonctionne et influence l'avenir de la planète. Ce numéro contient un article sur l'importance de la fonction de Secrétaire général pour nous, les 76 000 fonctionnaires de l'ONU, et son importance pour le reste du monde. Khalil Hamdani nous y livre son sentiment après avoir servi quatre Secrétaires généraux et pris sa retraite du poste de Directeur à la CNUCED.

Je m'en voudrais de ne pas mentionner l'article sur l'illustre carrière de notre ami Ahmad Fawzi, qui a été porte-parole de Boutros Boutros-Ghali et Directeur des médias de Kofi Annan et Ban Ki-moon. La photographie de lui prise sur le vif avec le regretté Sergio Vieira de Mello vous dira quel genre d'héritage il laisse derrière lui.

Savourez notre magazine ! ■

**La revue officielle des fonctionnaires
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et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé**

Throughout almost seven decades our magazine has achieved a good balance between internal matters relevant to the UN staff in Geneva and delicate global political issues that could affect us all. From that vantage point we are pleased to include in this edition an article by Mr. Julian Braithwaite, the UK ambassador to UNOG, where he shares his government's views on Brexit. Global media has somehow maligned this topic while others have ardently defended it as the democratic expression of the British people. Ambassador Braithwaite explains why Britain will remain a global leader very much engaged and committed with international affairs and specially with the UN System.

The election of the UN Secretary-General will indeed capture the attention of the world next month and will affect the way our organization operates and influences the planet's future. We also included in this edition an article on how relevant that position is for us, the more than 76,000 civil servants that serve at the United Nations, and also why it does matter for the rest of the world. Khalil Hamdani shares his insight after serving four Secretaries-General and retiring as Director at UNCTAD.

In addition to many other pieces that I am sure will open your appetite for *UN Special*, I will be remiss if I do not mention the article covering our friend Ahmad Fawzi's illustrious career as press man for Boutros Boutros-Ghali and media director for both Kofi Annan and Ban Ki-moon. His picture 'in action' with the late Sergio Vieira de Mello will indeed tell you what kind of legacy he is leaving behind.

You are invited to enjoy our magazine! ■

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A new chapter for a global country

On 23 June, the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. What does this game-changing vote mean for how the UK works with the UN? Julian Braithwaite, the UK's ambassador to the UN and other International Organizations in Geneva, explains.

AMBASSADOR JULIAN BRAITHWAITE*

At the beginning of the summer many feared the UK was withdrawing from the world with its vote to leave the EU. By the end of the summer, Britain's athletes were duelling with China for second place behind the US in the world's greatest sporting competition. There are good reasons to believe that it is this Britain – still resolutely global after so many centuries, still determined to compete – that will write the next chapter in our history.

The vote on 23 June prompted much uncertainty and anxiety about the UK's role in Europe and the world. This has also been true in Geneva, home to some of the oldest and most influential international institutions, from the UN Human Rights Council to the World Trade Organisation, the World Economic Forum, and the great UN agencies.

We still do not know when exactly the UK will invoke the famous Article 50, the two year process for leaving the EU. This is an enormously

complex negotiation, and one that requires commensurate preparation. We cannot at this stage say what, precisely, the relationship between the UK and the EU will look like at the end of it. But as the dust settles following the momentous political events of this extraordinary summer, it is becoming clearer what will not change. Three things in particular will remain the same.

First, the United Kingdom will remain a global political player. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council we are at the centre of the international system of peace and security. As a leading member of NATO, we remain at the heart of the alliance that ultimately underpins European security. Shortly after the EU referendum, the British Parliament voted to renew our nuclear deterrent for another generation, a multibillion pound investment in our global security responsibilities. The UK remains the only member of the P5 to meet the 0.7% commitment to overseas aid. Theresa May and her



Ambassador Julian Braithwaite at Palais des Nations in Geneva

ministers have made clear that the UK will continue to make its voice heard around the world, championing liberal, humane and progressive goals in partnership with others, whether through the Commonwealth or global agencies such as those based in Geneva.

Second, the UK will remain at the heart of the global economy. That's a bold statement to make for a country of 65 million people in a world of over 7 billion. But the global interest in the UK's referendum and its aftermath is but one indicator of a disproportionate role. We are the fifth largest economy in the world, a leading member of the G7, the G20 and the IMF, and home to the world's largest and most global financial centre. If capitalism has a global capital, London can lay a claim to it. We straddle the world's most convenient time zone, we speak the world's language, English common law is the jurisdiction of choice for global commerce. Over centuries, we have furnished many of the ideas and provided much of the leadership that created the global economic system we have today, from Adam Smith to David Ricardo, from John Maynard Keynes to Margaret Thatcher. Thanks to its liberalism, London has also been home to

many of capitalism's critics, Karl Marx amongst them. We know that global trade is the best way to promote our prosperity, but we also know that Government needs to help those left behind by economic change. Prime Minister May has already confirmed that she intends to continue this tradition.

Third, the UK will remain part of Europe. Britain has been a leading European country for centuries and will remain one, not because of its membership of one organisation or another, but because of its size and geography. For the next two years or more the UK will still be part of the EU. We don't know the details after that. But we can be reasonably confident that the UK's relationship with the EU will be uniquely close both politically and economically, will be "special", to quote the German Europe minister. As one would expect from a decision of such magnitude, the referendum has generated a huge amount of emotion both within the UK and across the EU. But as passions cool, common interests remain. And it is clearly in our mutual interest to preserve the economic relationships – the trade in goods and services, the dense webs of investment – that underpin prosperity on both sides.

It will also be in our mutual interest to work together in the many areas where we are and will remain like-minded, not least because we are Europeans, from the environment to migration, terrorism, threats to global health such as antimicrobial resistance, instability in Europe's near abroad, and the global economy.

The UK stands at the threshold of a new era. The summer of 2016 will be carved in our history. We will not have its measure for many years, indeed decades. And of course with great change comes risks. To our economy; to the fluid multinational constitution that has been both the genius of our evolution as a country and the torment of tidy minds; and to the role the UK has played as a dependable anchor of stability through turbulent times.

In Geneva we will proceed as we hope others would expect, with so much at stake. Prudently, with consultation and deliberation, honouring our commitments, looking for solutions that work not only for us but also for our partners. In the process we will be fashioning our global role afresh. This will be particularly true in the WTO, an organisation the UK helped found, including

philosophically, as one of the leading proponents of global trade after the Second World War. We have supported the WTO and the global trading system at one step removed, as part of the EU, for over 40 years. We will soon be able to do so directly, as one of the world's largest and most open trading economies.

As this summer has shown, the UK retains the capacity to surprise. We now need to learn from our athletes, and prepare to make a success of the next chapter of our global story. ■

*Ambassador Braithwaite, UK
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Does it matter who is Secretary-General?

Will the appointment of a new Secretary-General affect the day-to-day work of the more than 76,000 men and women that serve the United Nations? Or, to paraphrase the French saying, will management style change and management practice remain the same?

KHALIL HAMDANI

The changeover in the top job happens once every decade (technically every five years but incumbents tend to serve a second term). We are now at such a breakpoint and there is wide interest in the next appointment. The U.N. General Assembly has called for an open and transparent selection process. Town hall meetings with candidates have been webcast globally. That is refreshing.

Perhaps this time the choice will be different. Up to now he has been a diplomat.

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The plea of civil society is for “not another man, not another Ban”.

It is easy to dismiss Ban Ki-moon on many counts. Critics point to his: lack of media presence, mediocre senior appointments, detached management, subservience to governments and quiet leadership. But wait. U-Thant and Javier Perez de Cuelar were brilliant diplomats but did they have media presence? Were not political appointments more widespread under Kurt Waldheim? Is not detached management better than the heavy-handed secretariat reform from the top under Boutros Boutros-Ghali? Did not disagreement with permanent member states undercut the effectiveness of Trygve Lie, Dag Hammarskjöld and Kofi Annan?

The job of Secretary-General is difficult, some say impossible. There are diverse stakeholders to please: governments want respect, civil society wants advocacy and staff want leadership. Resources are inadequate and the issues are intractable. At some point or another the incumbent will likely stumble or disappoint one

constituency or another. They all did. But their choices defined their character and their legacy.

Ban Ki-moon acknowledges his shortcomings: “I know that I am not the perfect person,” he confided near the end of his first term (at a press conference on 6 June 2011). Perhaps not perfect but evidently right for the job: his re-election two weeks later was uncontested and unanimous.

How does Ban's management style and record compare with his predecessor?

Kofi Annan (1997-2006) is a hard act to follow. Annan had the loyalty of staff, having risen up the ranks from budget officer to Secretary-General. He pioneered the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), championed the Global Compact with business, and reformed the intergovernmental machinery for human rights. He defined the doctrine of Responsibility to Protect for populations vulnerable to genocide and crimes against humanity. He won the Nobel Peace Prize.

There was controversy, as when Annan

said that the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq was illegal. But was this a diplomatic blunder or a heroic defence of the principles of the U.N. Charter? He paid the price for his candour by being accused of mismanaging the “Oil-for-Food” program. The subsequent investigation was a trial by fire that he eventually survived but not without some tarnish to his otherwise distinguished record.

Ban Ki-moon (2007-2016) ushered in a period of quiet diplomacy. His self-effacing style and public discourse are muffled and low-key in comparison to that of Kofi Annan and Boutros Boutros-Gali. His halting delivery of keynote statements lacks the oration of a world leader and does not readily attract media coverage. His promise was to listen to governments and get the job done without fanfare or grand vision.

Ban has a pleasant personality that is not prone to anger. At an early staff meeting that I attended in January 2007, he corrected the pronunciation of his name by saying “Bahn, not ban, I don't ban anyone”. But the downside of his tolerance is that, too

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often, he has been accepting of anyone. His appointments of senior staff have tended to be based less on credentials of merit than on politics (the details of which were reported in *The Guardian* and other newspapers).

Like his predecessors, Ban has been differential to member states but to a fault. His management priority was reform, and he embraced government calls for transparency and accountability of the Secretariat, review of its investigative capacity and establishment of an internal control framework. The “Oil-for-Food” distrust was allowed to simmer with the continuation of the Procurement Task Force (upon the insistence of certain governments). A major initiative to digitize all administrative practices in a globally integrated computer system – Umoja – was presented as a device to track how staff spent funds. Senior managers were asked to sign a USG Compact and were expected to rotate portfolios. Morale sank. Reform came to be seen as politically driven and Ban’s otherwise notable call for change management floundered from weak support within the Secretariat. In July 2010, the head of Internal Oversight bluntly sent a memorandum to the Secretary-General lamenting “the absence of strategic guidance and leadership” and stating “the Secretariat now is in a process of decay.” It was a harsh lesson that reform and change must come from within.

The discontent with Umoja has been voiced openly. In March 2016, a former head of Field Support stated in an op-ed in the *New York Times*: “thanks to colossal mismanagement, the United Nations is failing.” A few weeks later the head of Political Affairs wrote in an email to other senior officials: “I am persuaded that our ability to deliver on conflict prevention and mediation, which require nimble, flexible, and

quick deployments, suffers from Umoja”. All new systems have teething problems. An earlier attempt to computerize the U.N. personnel and financial systems in the late-1980s also suffered delays, cost overruns and poor results, but staff accommodated. The current outcry reflects an underlying frustration with the larger management style of Ban’s tenure.

There were achievements. The U.N. headquarters were renovated (not an easy task as it involved justifying large expense). UN-Women was established (and Ban’s personal commitment to gender parity shows in the appointment of women to senior posts in the Secretariat). The heads of U.N. agencies agreed to act as one (and Ban worked closely with Mr. Kim of the World Bank). The machinery for peace-keeping was strengthened, although some decision-making has been criticized as “cynical and political” and there have been incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse of victims by peacekeepers in spite of a zero tolerance policy. There were landmark agreements on Arms Trade, development goals and climate change.

Unlike his predecessors, Ban served in a turbulent decade of natural and humanitarian disasters, internal political conflicts and global financial crisis. The MDGs would have faded into oblivion had Ban not doggedly pushed their implementation. At times, it seemed to us who worked in development, that he was flogging a dead horse but he kept at it, endorsing dozens of civil society initiatives. He was also a lone voice on climate change, not specially articulate on a complex issue but sincere.

For a Secretary-General known for quiet diplomacy, Ban had no visible success in mediating the Security Council. He had to reverse his decisions on Iran’s participation in the Syrian peace talks (at the objection of the U.S.) and on the listing of the parties bombing children in Yemen (at the objection of Saudi Arabia). To his credit, the quiet diplomat announced his action publicly, saying: “It is unacceptable for member states to exert undue pressure”. His predecessors would no doubt agree.

Global challenges will keep the United Nations in the limelight. The world wants the next Secretary-General to be the perfect person for the job; the Security Council, however, will select the right person. No

matter. Staff should buckle down and get on with the work. The demands and expectations on the 76,000-plus men and women who serve the Organization are great. ■

*Khalil Hamdani was Director of the Division on Investment, Technology and Enterprise Development, of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). His career spanned four Secretaries-General.



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Q&A

The next Secretary-General

What really determines how the next Secretary-General is chosen, and how does it all work? UN Special demystifies the process for you.

When will the next Secretary-General be chosen?

According to what has been reported, the Security Council will choose a candidate during October. That candidate will be recommended to the General Assembly for approval.

Recently there were straw polls for the candidates. Why were they held?

The straw polls provided a rough indication. For each candidate, Security Council members indicated whether they encouraged, discouraged or had no opinion. This is meant to provide informal feedback to candidates. At the same time, it provided member states with useful feedback to allow negotiations with candidates and among themselves. This explains the significant differences in ranking for some candidates from one straw poll to the next.

And do the straw polls matter?

They may. However, it depends whether the discourage votes for certain candidates came from a veto-wielding member of the Security Council or not. Further, some highly placed candidates may have support from one country, but be unacceptable to another. This may favour candidates lower down the ranking who could emerge as a compromise.

Is the process restricted to the declared candidates?

No. Anyone can join at any time. The Charter has no limitations. It is likely that potential candidates are still waiting in the wings in case a compromise candidate is needed but cannot be found among those declared.

There are many candidates with prior UN experience. Does this benefit a candidate?

It depends. On the one hand, it means that they can hit the ground running and be ready to navigate intergovernmental power politics; something no external experience can prepare you for. On the other hand, several internal candidates may at one time or another have upset one of

the veto-wielding members. For some of the candidates this could well be the case.

Does the candidate have to be a woman or from Eastern Europe?

Not necessarily. The Charter is silent on this. It was felt that it was Eastern Europe's turn, as no prior Secretary-General has come from the region. Russia has also indicated its preference for this. But compromises can happen. With regards to gender, a large number of member states, civil society and others have called for a woman Secretary-General. Interestingly, during the straw polls, the two top candidates were men. So nothing is guaranteed, although given the expectations that have been raised, there

will be disappointment if the final selection isn't a woman.

What will be the first actions of the next Secretary-General?

Normally their first action will be to appoint a new Deputy Secretary-General, Chef de Cabinet and Deputy Chef de Cabinet, and their close teams. Shortly after, they may decide to move or replace current Under-Secretaries-General (USGs) and Assistant-Secretaries-General (ASGs), with a few exceptions, such as UNCTAD whose USG is chosen by the General Assembly. For this reason, current USGs and ASGs have generally only been extended until end-March 2017. ■



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50 years of the Joint Inspection Unit

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU). The JIU, which has been hosted by the United Nations Office at Geneva since its beginning, was officially established during the 21st session of the United Nations General Assembly as the only independent external oversight body of the United Nations system.

JOINT INSPECTION UNIT

Origins of the JIU

The JIU was initially created on a temporary basis in November 1966 under General Assembly Resolution 2150 (XXI) after an Ad Hoc Committee of Experts determined that external oversight over the UN system's financial management was necessary. At that time of its creation, the JIU was a most innovative creation of the General Assembly, as it was and still is the only entity charged with conducting inspections, evaluations and investigations system-wide.

Under Resolution 31/192, the General Assembly adopted the statute of the JIU, thereby changing its status from that of a temporary body to a permanent one. This resolution firmly institutionalized the Unit as the only external oversight body empowered with a system-wide mandate. The JIU's Statute went into effect on 1st January 1978.

The JIU is composed of 11 eleven Inspectors elected by the United Nations General Assembly to guarantee their independence and to which they are accountable in the discharge of their functions. The unique feature of the JIU is its system-wide competence to all United Nations organizations that have accepted its statute (currently 28). As a subsidiary body of the governing bodies of its participating organizations, the JIU reports are directly addressed to Member States and is therefore detached from the internal management structure of the organizations, further reinforcing its independence.

As part of its mission, the JIU assists the legislative organs of its participating organizations in meeting their governance responsibilities in respect of their oversight function concerning the management of human, financial and other resources by the respective secretariats. In its reports and notes, the JIU looks at cross-cutting issues and seeks to identify best practices, propose benchmarks and facilitate information-sharing throughout all the

organizations of the United Nations system. In that spirit, for the past 50 years, the JIU has sought to serve as an agent for change across the UN system. JIU works to secure management and administrative efficiency and greater coordination between UN agencies together with other internal and external oversight bodies.

JIU Work Over the Years

Over the past 50 years, the JIU has focused on a number of issues related to oversight, management and administration, seeking to improve policies and practices both at the system-wide and individual organization levels. JIU reports have covered a range of topics from human resources management (Staff Recruitment in United Nations system organizations: A comparative analysis and benchmarking framework: Overview) to results-based management (Results-based budgeting: the experience of United Nations system organizations), to accountability and oversight (Oversight Lacunae in the United Nations System), each outlining in great detail several recommendations for improving how the UN system operates.

"The JIU has come a long way since its founding and is an integral component of the United Nations System," said JIU Chair Inspector Achamkulangare Gopinathan. "We have experienced a great deal of success over the past 50 years and hope to continue that success in the future."

To continue to enhance its usefulness and track down the use of its recommendations, one of the JIU's biggest successes to date is the launching of its web-based tracking system (WBTS), an online follow-up system allowing JIU participating organizations to provide data on the recommendations JIU has provided them. This mechanism greatly helped improve the follow-up system as it helps avoid duplicate data entry and record keeping, while enhancing reporting facilities. The WBTS also offers Member States a central repository of JIU work and real-time access to review status of recommendations and implementations.

50th Anniversary Campaign in Fall 2016

JIU's 50th anniversary represents an opportunity for the Unit to reflect upon its progress on many fronts while recommitting itself to better serving the interests of the United Nations Member States and its participating organizations. To commemorate this occasion, the JIU is launching a communications campaign this fall, during which the Unit will engage in a number of events and activities. The main event will be a high-level panel on the topic of oversight in the United Nations system and the challenges and opportunities for the Unit in the future featuring: Ms. Heidi Mendonza, United Nations Under Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, OIOS; Mr. Malcom Johnson, International Telecommunications Union Deputy Secretary-General; Mr. Gopinathan Achamkulangare, Chair, Joint Inspection Unit. The JIU will also publish a series of articles highlighting JIU's work and achievements since 1966.

Interview of Mr. Achamkulangare



Gopinathan
Achamkulangare,
Chair, Joint
Inspection Unit

What are the responsibilities of the Chair of the JIU?

Article 18 of the JIU statute defines the responsibilities of the Chair as playing a coordinating role in respect of the Unit's programme of work for the year; of being the formal channel of communication with the competent bodies and the

executive heads of the organizations, and of representing the Unit, as necessary, at meetings of the organizations and performing on the Unit's behalf such other functions as it may decide.

In your opinion, what have been the main Unit's accomplishments in conducting its oversight mandate from a system-wide perspective over the last five decades?

The achievements of the Unit over the last five decades are too numerous to encapsulate here: suffice it to say that many of the system-wide reform measures were all anticipated by the Unit well before others began thinking about them. The old-timers in the Unit often say, only half-jokingly, that the Unit has been always ahead of the curve, usually by ten years or so. The most

recent example is the procedure adopted by the President of the 70th session of the General Assembly in introducing a novel procedure of interviewing the candidates for UN Secretary General – I wonder how many of our readers know that this was indeed a recommendation from one of the JIU reports authored by Ambassador Mounir Zahran, former Inspector.

What are the major challenges for the JIU in fulfilling its mandate providing relevant, useful and timely system-wide independent oversight?

At the time that the JIU was established five decades ago, the field of oversight was not a crowded one; however, as years

went by, it became so. This meant that the resources available for the JIU came down substantially, instead of keeping pace with the increased demands and requirements of oversight. How else can one explain the stagnation, or in fact, the decrease in real terms, of the resources made available to the JIU over more than two decades? Other related challenges include those with regard to upgradation of the skill-sets of the staff, more training opportunities for them, strengthening and expansion of the secretariat with more professional staff and so on. ■

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Ahmad Fawzi

Un homme de com

Porte-parole du Secrétaire Général Boutros Boutros-Ghali et directeur de média pour Kofi Annan et Ban Ki-moon. Devenu directeur du service de l'information et de la communication à l'UNOG en 2015, avant son départ nous profitons de son passage pour parler avec cet Égyptien, amoureux de théâtre et fier de ses deux filles. La vie d'Ahmad Fawzi est une source inépuisable d'histoires et d'apprentissage.



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Arrivée à Bagdad avec Sergio Vieira de Mello

SOLANGE BEHOTEGUY

«Good morning ladies and gentleman this is Radio Cairo». C'est avec ces mots qu'il a commencé sa journée, un beau matin de 1972 à 7 h30. Il était essoufflé car ce matin-là son réveil n'avait pas sonné et il avait enfilé ses chaussures en vitesse et couru pour arriver à temps à l'antenne. Ce jour-là Ahmad Fawzi a lu les nouvelles en pyjama. En écoutant cette histoire dans son bureau du Palais des Nations je me dis que malgré l'habit, il aura toujours eu la voix qu'il fallait, car chacun de ses mots illustre une histoire. Ahmad Fawzi est un homme de com.

Son passage par la radio et télévision égyptienne l'amène à interviewer des chefs d'Etat, des Ministres, et des personnalités telles que Frank Sinatra, Julio Iglesias, Henry Kissinger, Omar Sharif, Jimmy Carter ou Indira Gandhi. Puis -le lien étant souvent assez intense et pas toujours très défini entre la communication et la politique- son chemin le conduit vers cette dernière, d'abord comme secrétaire de presse, puis comme chef de cabinet de Jihanne Sadate, la femme du Président égyptien Anouar Sadate.¹

Une visite historique à Jérusalem


En Novembre 1977, Fawzi fait partie

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de la délégation qui accompagne le président Sadate dans son voyage historique à Jérusalem. Il devient alors sa propre source d'information, il est, comme dirait Dominique Wolton, «intégré dans le récit de l'information en tant que témoin». Cette visite, dit-il, a changé le visage du Moyen-Orient et a bouleversé le paysage politique à un moment où l'Égypte était boycottée par tous les pays arabes et par d'autres pays africains.

Ahmad Fawzi nous délivre son témoignage: «Après trois décennies de batailles et des guerres avec Israël, l'Égypte était devenu un pays démoralisé avec une économie de haillons. La guerre des six jours de 1967 avait infligé une défaite humiliante sur les forces armées et les gens. Sadate a estimé qu'il était essentiel de surmonter cette honte et a planifié et lancé la guerre d'Octobre 1973, qui a pris Israël et ses alliés par surprise. Les troupes égyptiennes ont traversé le canal de Suez, ont pris d'assaut la ligne Bar Lev lourdement fortifiée et avancé 100 km dans la péninsule du Sinaï, occupé par Israël pendant la guerre de 1967. Sadate a estimé qu'une victoire militaire, même limitée, renforcerait sa main et lui permettrait d'introduire des réformes économiques et de ramener la paix et la prospérité en Égypte.

C'est dans ce contexte que Sadat ouvre la voie à sa visite historique à Jérusalem. A l'époque, son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Ismail Fahmy, démissionne en signe de protestation, qualifiant l'événement de trahison envers les Palestiniens et la cause arabe.

Quand on est arrivés à l'aéroport, c'était comme un rêve, tout était magnifié, exagéré, on atterrissait pour la première fois dans le territoire de la Palestine occupée. Et là sur le tarmac, quand les portes de l'avion se sont ouvertes, j'ai vu Sadate descendre, très digne. En bas une ligne impressionnante de personnalités politiques l'attendait: Golda Meir, Shimon Peres, Moshe Dayan, Menahem Begin». Une tranche de l'histoire s'écrivait devant ses yeux.

J'ai l'impression de vivre un peu l'évènement avec lui quand Ahmad Fawzi répète le discours de Sadate au parlement: *«j'irai jusqu'au bout du monde pour sauver une seule goutte de sang des gars de notre armée. J'irai aussi loin que la Knesset*

d'Israël pour sauver une seule goutte de sang des gars de notre armée. Je mettrai mes mains dans les mains de nos ennemis pour atteindre la paix.» Il a eu une standing ovation, dit-il, parce que les gens ne l'ont pas cru. Ils ont pensé qu'il exagérerait, comme s'il avait promis devant Yasser Arafat *«j'irai jusqu'aux confins du monde»*.

«Ce jour-là, le drapeau égyptien fut hissé en Israël. On condamne tous la manière dont Israël traite les Palestiniens mais au bout du compte la solution est celle de deux états qui vivent côte à côte et en sécurité. Je crois qu'on est finalement en train de voir la vision de Sadate mise en œuvre».

Journalisme constructif

Fawzi, engagé dans de nombreuses missions pour les Nations Unies, y compris en Afghanistan, en Irak, au Timor-Leste et dans tout le Moyen-Orient, fait le parallèle avec le travail de l'Organisation «Il ne peut y avoir de développement sans paix, ni de paix sans développement ni respect pour les droits de l'homme. Ce sont les trois piliers de notre travail».

Il est connu qu'on peut avoir un message très fort mais que s'il est mal délivré il disparaît dans la marée des informations. Selon Fawzi, on a aujourd'hui une chance de s'en sortir par le journalisme constructif, un courant Danois qui «rejette l'approche

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Ahmad Fawzi avec Lakhdar Brahimi, médiateur international de l'ONU dans le cadre du conflit civil syrien.

Ahmad Fawzi répondant aux journalistes lors d'une conférence de presse au Palais des Nations à Genève le mardi 28 avril 2015.

systématiquement négative de l'information», «ce n'est pas l'info style nord-coréen qui dit que le soleil brille toujours et qui ignore les mauvaises choses de la société», de plus ce serait profitable autant pour le public que pour le business.² Une «antidote au journalisme des mauvaises nouvelles» selon Fawzi, pour qui les gens veulent lire des informations qui proposent des solutions à leurs problèmes, du genre: ne pas montrer aux gens les trous dans le fromage, mais surtout la manière dont il est préparé. C'est sans doute un joli défi à l'ère où les News sont quotidiennement cuites dans une cocotte-minute qui ne laisse pas de place à une réflexion à tête reposée.

Le successeur de Ban Ki-moon

En 2017, les Nations Unies choisiront le successeur de Ban Ki-moon. Que peut-on espérer en tant que staff du prochain Secrétaire Général? Est-ce que nous choisirons la volonté de puissance ou la volonté de l'humanité?³

Pour Fawzi, les Nations Unies sont la seule organisation globale, si on ne l'avait pas, ou si on devait l'abolir, il faudrait la réinventer. Il sait bien que la communication externe est importante, mais également celle interne à l'organisation, celle qui lie les gens entre eux et qui leur fait sentir leur appartenance. «Chaque membre est un ambassadeur de l'ONU, et il doit croire que ce qu'il fait contribue à accomplir les objectifs de l'Organisation. Le nouveau SG devra travailler aussi pour eux, pour leur bien-être en termes de concurrence, salaire, promotion. Il doit comprendre leurs soucis et créer un bon environnement de travail. Travailler aux Nations Unies est inspirateur.

A propos d'inspiration, Yasmine Sherif reprend dans son article du *Huffington Post* une phrase du Secrétaire Général Dag Hammarskjöld: «Quand les gens cesseront-ils de penser à l'ONU comme s'il s'agissait d'un tableau abstrait de Picasso

et commenceront à la voir comme un dessin fait par eux-mêmes?» L'homme de com qu'est Fawzi, celui qui a commencé à travailler à 15 ans n'a jamais abandonné le métier, il imagine son dessin comme un mélange de Picasso, Rembrandt, Van Gogh et Renoir. Un clash de couleurs et de cultures. Il y a là à la fois le conflit et l'harmonie.

La vie d'Ahmad Fawzi est un roman qui s'écrit peut-être un jour. Je l'espère... ■

- 1 Anouar Sadate, Président de la République arabe d'Égypte de 1970 à 1981. Il reçoit le prix Nobel de la paix en 1978 après les Accords de Camp David. Il est assassiné le 6 octobre 1981.
- 2 Pour savoir plus sur l'initiative «journalisme constructive» lire l'article de Catherine Fiankan-Bokonga et Fabio Lo Verso dans le journal *La Cité*. Juin 2016. Page 8 et 9.
- 3 Article recommandé: Selecting a UN Secretary-General Representing Humanity, Yasmine Sherif. The Huffington Post, June 30, 2016.

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THE BOW TIE IN LE BOUVERET

Celebrating the life and work of Chef Anton Mosimann (OBE)

Men on towering stilts, flame twirlers, jugglers, acrobats and a red carpet are not the most expected sight in the quiet lakeside town of Le Bouveret in Switzerland. Nestled on the shores of Lake Geneva, a half hour from the French border, the Le Bouveret campus of César Ritz Colleges Switzerland hosted the unusual spectacle to the mild bemusement of the locals.



The evening was a homage to the life and work of Chef Anton Mosimann (OBE). Over the past 5 decades, he has quietly revolutionised his industry, cooking for the rich, famous and royal and influencing a generation of chefs. Fortunately, Chef Mosimann is as good at collecting as he is at cooking and has saved every souvenir along the way. For the first time, his entire career has been catalogued in the Mosimann Collection, a beautiful,

4-storey whitewashed building attached to the campus.

Each floor is lined with luxurious carpet, beautiful display cases and impressive white orchids, giving any 5-star hotel a run for its money. Each staircase is flanked with photos of Chef with iconic legends from supermodels to presidents. Upstairs, there is even a section dedicated to the British Royal Family, including the menu from TRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's wedding (catered by Chef Mosimann) and a slice of their wedding cake.

The Claude Nobs' kitchen is a hidden gem amongst the collection. Modelled on the founder of the Montreux Jazz Festival's iconic chalet (which has hosted every great musician over the years), hanging flowers and lights in jars adorn the ceiling. Copper pots hang from the kitchen island and a large table flanks one side of the room. This Chef's Table is available to reserve with a private chef for those wishing to host their own future event.

The launch party is not only hosted, but also catered by, César Ritz Colleges and Culinary Arts Academy students (who, as member schools of Swiss Education Group, conveniently and fortunately share this scenic campus). The concept is the students'

idea, as the circus theme is a tribute to Chef Mosimann's 50th birthday party with red, white and black umbrellas hanging upside down from the marquee.



The pressure is on for the students, as this event also serves as their end of year exam. They have meticulously prepared everything from the décor to the menu. The food, served as perfect miniature dishes, ranges from frogs' legs (stealthily disguised as chicken wings to all but the most observant) via palette cleansing shots to an array of delicious desserts. Specially created cocktails, including The Minty Monkey (a whiskey sour with a twist), all add to the merriment.

As Chef Mosimann, adorned in his trademark bow tie, addresses the students to thank them, the sun sets over this remarkable view. At the end of the evening, guests leave with their own miniature bow tie pin, a beautiful box of confectionary delights and lasting memories of an exceptional evening celebrating a truly iconic Chef.

For further details:

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Interactive journeys through the world of work

The International Labour Organization reaches out to the general public with a new website about labour issues

FERNANDA DUTRA B. P. OLIVEIRA (ILO)

GENEVA – In the age of information overload, international organizations face the challenge of communicating their messages and work to a general audience without sacrificing nuance and accuracy. This challenge is not new, but solutions can be. Inspired by innovative online media and using digital storytelling techniques, the International Labour Organization has launched InfoStories (www.ilo.org/infostories).

An iPad application and as of last month a responsive website as well, InfoStories publishes thematic issues on topics such as child labour, forced labour and collective bargaining. Readers navigate through videos, data visualizations and illustrations that present complex concepts and the results of ILO research in clear, jargon-free language. With its visual and innovative approach, InfoStories is also an ideal tool for the classroom.

"InfoStories provides the ILO with an innovative and accessible way to communicate the complex world of work issues to a broad audience. The flexibility of the platform allows us to tell the story of topics like forced labour and wages

in a truly interactive and engaging way that's informative for both those new to the subject and those with knowledge alike," says Martin Murphy, ILO Director (a.i.) of Communication and Public Information.

Senior labour relations specialist Susan Hayter jumped into the deep end with digital in the InfoStory on collective bargaining. *"I was fascinated to see how we could take a relatively academic subject and put it into a more visual format, while staying true to the empirical evidence and not sacrificing detail. Digital technology offers us the potential to feed into a bigger narrative about collective bargaining in a way you simply can't do with a book or a brochure."*

The next InfoStories will cover youth employment and disability in the workplace. Readers can sign up on ilo.org/infostories to receive e-mail notification when new stories are published. ■



InfoStories published

Child labour in agriculture

This InfoStory delves into a fundamental topic to the ILO: child labour. Sixty per cent of all child labourers work in agriculture where accidents and fatalities are very common. With interactive features and videos, this Infostory explains the definition of child labour, the reasons why children are pushed into this situation and the many forms of possible harm that working in agriculture at an early age can cause.

Tackling sex discrimination through pay equity

This InfoStory compares the pay gap between men and women in more than 15 countries, outlining the reasons why a pay gap exists and the various policies and projects that aim to change this reality. Three short videos highlight cases in Jordan and Portugal.

Deceptive recruitment and coercion

Following the story of a fictional victim of forced labour, this issue outlines the main characteristics of modern-day slavery in the world — a situation in which 21 million victims are trapped. Four data visualizations detail which regions of the world have the most victims of forced labour; the breakdown by gender and forms of forced labour; the number of migrants in forced labour; and the profits made from this illegal activity in each region.

Can collective bargaining create a fairer economy?

This InfoStory presents trends for trade union density and collective bargaining coverage around the world. It includes six data visualizations with the most recent data on over 30 countries.

Laying the foundations of social justice

The first story published on InfoStories explains the context of the creation of the

ILO in 1919. Historic photos and videos help recreate a time of growing industrialization, poor working conditions in factories and the rise of trade unions.

The story continues with the opening of ILO Headquarters in Geneva and the first standards approved by the International Labour Conference. ■

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Une journée pour le personnel de la CEE-ONU

AMÉLIA DELLE FOGLIE, CEE-ONU

La deuxième journée dédiée au personnel de la CEE-ONU (Commission économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe) s'est tenue le 1^{er} juillet 2016, vingt ans après sa première édition! Plus de 200 collègues se sont réunis au CIGC pour une journée entièrement centrée sur le futur de la Commission régionale. Le Secrétaire exécutif, M. Christian F. Bach, a fait en sorte que cette activité soit focalisée sur le personnel et sur le développement de leurs attentes et contributions d'ici 2030.



En premier lieu, les participants furent invités à prendre place dans une grande salle, encadrés par une équipe du SDLS (Section de la formation et du développement du personnel), et ont été répartis dans des groupes de 6 à 8 personnes. Chaque groupe avait la même mission: dire où il voit la Commission dans 15 ans. Cette vision devait être retranscrite à travers une mise en scène, une construction Lego, ou encore un schéma visuel ou auditif. Le message qui en est sorti fut le même: une CEE-ONU qui vise l'unité et crée des ponts.

Suite à cela, les participants se sont alignés côte-à-côte pour créer une chaîne suivant le nombre d'années de service qu'ils ont au sein de la Commission. La chaîne a commencé par 3 collègues qui étaient à leur premier jour de travail et s'est terminée par trois autres qui avaient plus de 25 ans de service. Des regards se sont échangés et des rires ont fusé mais le respect était de mise pour la contribution de tout un chacun à la Commission.

Pour terminer, les participants se sont retrouvés dans une autre salle avec plus de 200 tambours. Chacun fut invité à en prendre un et à jouer en suivant le rythme créé par un musicien-animateur et deux autres musiciens. Ce fut dans un bal de sons et de battements de mains que la première pièce de musique de la CEE-ONU

fut écrite. Une pièce qui a souligné l'importance de l'esprit d'équipe et qui a prouvé qu'aucun son ne peut résonner sans l'autre.

La prochaine édition est déjà fixée dans quatre mois et le personnel est curieux de savoir quelles surprises l'y attendent.

Ne s'agit-il pas là d'une expérience à reproduire dans d'autres Départements? ■



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Festival Chopin 2016

ALICJA GAERTNER ABEBE, WHO

Pour la dix-neuvième année consécutive, le Festival Chopin à Genève se tiendra du 9 au 16 octobre 2016 dans la Grande Salle du Conservatoire de Musique de Genève ainsi qu'à la Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive.

Cette année, le festival met à l'honneur de grands interprètes de la musique de Chopin et de la musique du XIX^e siècle.

Les grands interprètes: Frank Levy, Charles Richard-Hamelin Et Lukasz Krupinski provenant des Etats-Unis, du Canada et de Pologne. Trois sensibilités.

Frank Lévy interprétera un programme composé de pièces de Chopin, Scarlatti, Mozart et Liszt.

Charles Richard-Hamelin, lauréat de la dernière Compétition Internationale Frederik Chopin 2015 à Varsovie, interprétera un répertoire exclusivement Chopin.

Dans le cycle «Jeunes Interprètes» à la Salle Willy Buard à la Mairie de Collonge-Bellerive, le public découvrira Lukasz Krupinski, pianiste et virtuose polonais, qui a débuté sa carrière par de nombreuses participations aux concours internationaux. Il présentera un magnifique programme ambitieux composé d'œuvres de Chopin et Schumann.

La traditionnelle Masterclass, ouverte au public, sera donnée les 10, 11 et 12 octobre par le

pianiste Frank Levy, et se clôturera par le concert des lauréats le mercredi 12 octobre 2016 dans la Salle de la Bourse du Conservatoire de Musique de Genève.

Le festival se clôturera par le grand concert de musique de chambre interprété par des musiciens renommés: Leonora Armellini – piano, Olivia Jacobson – violon, Muriel Lopez – violon, Giuseppe Russo Rossi – alto et Florestan Darbellay – violoncelle, qui vont jouer les trois chefs-d'œuvre de la littérature romantique de Chopin, Schubert et Schumann. ■



Vous trouverez toutes les informations sur le Festival Chopin 2016 sur le site internet www.societe-chopin.ch





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Visual art to illuminate food policy

Josep Garí, a UN Geneva staff member, has received the photography award of the Zero Hunger Challenge, an international partnership to eradicate hunger. Here, the author introduces the honoured picture to reflect on new approaches to combat hunger.



Community seed fair at Iringa-Mvumi, Tanzania

© Josep Garí

JOSEP A. GARÍ, UNDP

Well into the 21st Century, hunger and malnutrition remain chronic, seemingly intractable problems. The second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is precisely devoted to eradicating hunger and achieving food security. Because mainstream agricultural, land and trade policies of past decades have not delivered food security worldwide, a shift in direction seems necessary. Visual arts can help illuminate new policy options and avenues.

The photograph “*Community seed fair at Iringa-Mvumi*” has been honoured by the *Zero Hunger* initiative to head the new international campaign against hunger. It depicts a farming community in the central drylands of Tanzania displaying their crops during a local agricultural assembly, which serves to share seeds and field lessons alike. The image reveals the extent of resources, knowledge, labour skills and social fabric that



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endures at the rural grassroots – all of them indispensable to addressing the world’s farming, food and sustainability challenges.

Yet most of the public and private investments in agricultural and rural development over the past decades have concentrated on global institutions that promised to solve the hunger problem. To date, the focus on sophisticated seed programmes, corporate farming, chemical inputs, global trade, agribusiness subsidies and *fast food* chains has not fulfilled the international expectations of food security, delivering instead a new set of social and ecological problems. This photograph silently illustrates the prospects of empowering a different set of stakeholders.

The farmers at the Iringa-Mvumi village represent

the millions of agricultural artisans who work across the hills, plains and shores of the planet, despite scarce means and little external support. They produce a wide range of foods and are custodians of diverse ecosystems. Many of them dwell in remote areas, skilfully producing food from marginal environments. They are also far removed from the agendas of governments and investors, who tend to focus efforts on large-scale agribusinesses. These imbalances are at the root of the uneven and unsustainable food system of today.

The reality – along with this picture – calls for a new, more inclusive approach on agriculture. The vocational farmers, herders, fisherfolk and forest custodians, who are often portrayed as lesser actors in the global economy, actually

deserve recognition and priority support. In effect, they constitute humanity’s corps of field professionals to address the global challenges of sustainable agriculture and food security. They nurture vibrant communities in vast rural expanses, striving to care for critical ecosystems. Accordingly, their lands, resources, knowledge and organisations deserve robust policy support, including the recognition of community rights, participatory technical co-operation, increased finance and a prominent place in development planning.

Such a policy shift would render the global food system more inclusive, more sustainable and healthier – precisely what citizens and consumers are increasingly demanding.


In addition, as their representation in this picture illustrates,


women and youth should be at the forefront of agricultural development. To reinforce their key roles, the fifth SDG is devoted to gender equality and empowering women, and more than a third of the SDG targets relate to young people in some form. Just as the Iringa-Mvumi community visually tells us, the prospects for food security depend on empowering rural women and youth.

Visual arts inspire society to see and imagine the world differently. Likewise, this photograph advocates a new logic in the production and commerce of food: recognising and empowering the artisan farmers around the world will better provide food for all, and do so in more just and sustainable ways. ■

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Of War and Peace

*The Legacy of the UN Secretaries-General:
Peacekeeping efforts and new UN agencies created*



Trygve Lie

Nationality: Norway
Term of Office: 1946–1952

Peacekeeping efforts

- UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)
- UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)

New UN agencies

- International Labour Organization
- UN International Children's Emergency Fund
- UN World Tourism Organization
- International Telecommunication Union
- Universal Postal Union
- International Maritime Organization
- World Health Organization
- UN Relief and Works Agency
- World Meteorological Organization
- UN High Commissioner for Refugees
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- International Civil Aviation Organization



Dag Hammarskjöld

Nationality: Sweden
Term of Office: 1953–1961

Peacekeeping efforts

- First UN Emergency Force (UNEF I)
- UN Observation Group in Lebanon (UNO)
- UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC)

New UN agencies

- International Atomic Energy Agency



U Thant

Nationality: Myanmar
Term of Office: 1961–1971

Peacekeeping efforts

- UN Security Force in West New Guinea (UNSF)
- UN Yemen Observation Mission (UNYOM)
- UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)
- Mission of the Representative of the Secretary-General in the Dominican Republic (DOMREP)
- UN India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM)

New UN agencies

- World Food Programme
- UN Research Institute for Social development
- UN Conference on Trade and Development
- UN Development Programme
- UN Institute for Training and Research
- UN Industrial Development Organization
- UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute
- UN fund for Population Activities
- UN System Staff College



Kurt Waldheim

Nationality: Austria
Term of Office: 1972–1981

Peacekeeping efforts

- Second UN Emergency Force (UNEF II)
- UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)
- UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)

New UN agencies

- UN Environment Programme
- World Intellectual Property Organization
- UN University
- UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women
- International Fund for Agricultural Development
- UN Human Settlements Programme
- UN Institute for Disarmament Research
- UN Democracy Fund



Javier Perez de Cuellar

Nationality: Peru
Term of Office: 1982–1991

Peacekeeping efforts

- UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP)
- UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG)
- UN Angola Verification Mission I (UNAVEM I)
- UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG)
- UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA)
- UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM)
- UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)
- UN Angola Verification Mission II (UNAVEM II)
- UN Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL)
- UN Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC)

New UN agencies

- UN Office on Drugs and Crime



Boutros Boutros-Ghali

Nationality: Egypt
Term of Office: 1992–1996

Peacekeeping efforts

- UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR)
- UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)
- UN Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I)
- UN Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ)
- UN Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II)
- UN Observer Mission Uganda-Rwanda (UNOMUR)
- UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)
- UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL)
- UN Mission in Haiti (UNMIH)
- UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR)
- UN Aouzou Strip Observer Group (UNASOG)
- UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT)
- UN Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III)
- UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO)
- UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP)
- UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH)
- UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES)
- UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP)
- UN Support Mission in Haiti (UNSMIH)

New UN agencies

- UN Office for Project Services
- World Trade Organization
- UN Programme on HIV/AIDS



Kofi Annan

Nationality: Ghana
Term of Office: 1997–2006

Peacekeeping efforts

- UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA)
- UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA)
- UN Transition Mission in Haiti (UNTMHI)
- UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH)
- UN Civilian Police Support Group (UNCPSG)
- UN Mission in the Central African Republic (MINURCA)
- UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL)
- UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)
- UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL)
- UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)
- UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)
- UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)
- UN Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)
- UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)
- UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)
- UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)
- UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB)
- UN Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS)
- UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

New UN agencies

- UN Fund for International Partnerships
- International Criminal Court



Ban Ki-moon

Nationality: South Korea
Term of Office: 2006–2016

Peacekeeping efforts

- African Union/UN Hybrid operation in Darfur -Sudan (UNAMID)
- UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)
- UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)
- UN Interim Security Force for Abyei - Sudan (UNISFA)
- UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)
- UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS)
- UN Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
- UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

New UN agencies

- UN Women

Using art to address violence against women

If you walked through the Palais des Nations in May or if you are at the World Health Organization over the summer, you may have noticed the exhibition “1 in 3. What does it take for you to be outraged”.



Hanifa Alizada

CLAUDIA GARCIA-MORENO, WHO

This multi-dimensional art exhibition put together by the World Bank Art Program was designed to bring the issue of violence against women to the attention of policy makers and ministers, including ministers of health and others working in the health sector.

Violence against women is a gross violation of human rights, and is a global public health problem affecting millions of women around the world. The World Health Organization estimates that, globally, 1 in 3 women will experience physical and/or sexual violence by an

intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner during their lifetime. This staggering statistic has prompted WHO's Director General to speak of violence against women as a “health problem of epidemic proportions”.

Physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections and HIV, repeated unwanted pregnancies, low birth weight babies, depression, and suicide are just some of the many health consequences faced by women who experience violence at the hands of their intimate partner or sexual violence by any perpetrator.

In addressing the issue of violence against women, the health sector has a critical role to play. Most women attend health services at some point in their lives, especially for sexual and reproductive health services. This can provide an opportunity for health professionals to recognize a problem, provide non-judgemental care and support, and refer the woman to other services. Women are also more likely to consult a health professional if they have experienced violence, even if they do not always disclose this. Here the health professional can provide a supportive,

non-judgemental first response and comprehensive services, as well as link women to other services they may need. Strengthening the health care sector's ability to prevent and respond to violence against women is therefore the focus of the World Health Organization's work on violence against women.

By speaking out against gender inequality and the acceptability of violence against women, health leaders can also contribute to changing social norms. They can use the data on the health impacts of violence on women, children and families



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mazda



Jaime Lee Loy

to advocate for change and ensure resources are allocated to address the problem.

In an historic move, and building on a 2014 World Health Assembly resolution, the 69th World Health Assembly in May adopted a Global Plan of Action to strengthen the role

of the health system to address violence against women and children, in the context of a multisectoral response. This global plan of action provides Ministries of Health with guidance on how to do address violence against women by:

- strengthening health system leadership and governance;

- improving health system delivery and health care providers' capacity to respond to the problem;
- providing evidence-based programming for prevention; and generating and disseminating information and evidence.

The plan will contribute towards achieving a number of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the goal on health and well-being, the goal on gender equality and women's empowerment, and the goal on peace, justice and strong institutions. It also contributes to achieving the objectives of the United Nations' Global Strategy for Women's Children's and Adolescents' Health. Through the implementation of this global plan of action, survivors of violence will receive better care and services, and violence against

women will be recognized and addressed as a public health problem requiring urgent action.

Moving the exhibition to the WHO library during the summer months, more people, including UN staff, missions, visitors, and member states have a chance to see the exhibition with work by artists from across the globe focusing on a public health problem that is present everywhere in the world and needs to be addressed by all the different sectors. The exhibition will close at the end of August. ■



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Gender equality and women's empowerment in the aftermath of Ecuador's earthquake

Protecting and promoting women's rights in emergency situations.

How Ecuador integrated a gender perspective in response to the latest earthquake that struck its coast on April 16, 2016.

ANGELA MONTAÑO GARCÍA.

ECUADORIAN SOCIOLOGIST

SPECIALIZED IN GENDER EQUALITY.

The 7.8 earthquake that occurred in Ecuador on April 16, 2016¹ and that took the lives of 671² people was not only a devastating event for the country, but it also highlighted the vulnerability of certain populations during and after emergency situations. This is generally the case of women in disaster areas who in addition to suffering the main effects of a disaster, are highly exposed to health risks, to socioeconomic impacts, and to gender-based violence and discrimination. In spite of this, the specific needs

of women in emergency situations are often forgotten or overshadowed by the urgency with which other situations require quick attention. In this regard, Ecuador made great efforts to mainstream gender into the humanitarian response provided during and after its last earthquake. From its experience, we can retain some good practices that demonstrate that adopting a gender perspective can contribute to the country's recovery and may enable victims to build their own resilience.

Protecting and promoting the rights of women in disaster situations.

After the devastating earthquake, about 20,000 women lost their homes and had to be accommodated in shelters and temporary housing. Precarious, unstable and overcrowded housing conditions, as well as lack of privacy and security, increases the risk of sexual violence on women. In

order to address those risks, UN Women played a key role in combatting gender-based violence, discrimination and stereotypes; and in promoting inclusive policies that defend and protect gender equality and women's rights. Moreover, UN Women also focused its efforts on raising awareness of the importance of participation and inclusion of women in the post-earthquake reconstruction process. Indeed, women should not only be protected during disaster situations, but they must also be full actors in rebuilding communities and in achieving their own empowerment. Citing the words of the representative of UN Women, Moni Pizani, "the role of women in recovery after a disaster is critical because they contribute to build strong and resilient social fabrics". Indeed, women play an essential role in keeping families and communities together as they often maintain strong, large and diverse social networks.



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Training as a tool of empowerment.

UN Women, in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice, have conducted workshops for personal development and micro-enterprises management, intended for women in Calceta and Rocafuerte shelters, in order to encourage their economic empowerment and recovery.

In addition to this, UN Women also organized the collaboration of the Vocational Training Service (SECAP), training in masonry for women in the affected communities. At the moment, around 50 women of the Commune Las Gilces and of the Los Esteros shelter have followed the theoretical and practical course, and have

obtained a certification that enables them to work, remove debris and participate in the reconstruction of the disaster areas. The active participation of female construction workers in the rebuilding of communities has proved valuable in combating gender stereotypes that confine women to the domestic and family sphere.

Therefore, disaster situations should not be solely perceived as tragic events, but also as opportunities to build more just and egalitarian societies.

PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

INSARAG³ and its international search and rescue teams on adopting a gender perspective into their actions. A few words with Mr. Jesper Lund⁴.

For many search and rescue teams including INSARAG, it remains difficult to adopt a gender perspective when it comes to rescue lives and address the needs of victims in emergencies. As Mr. Lund notes, search and rescue teams are often overwhelmed by the gravity and the urgency of the disaster situations. Thus, they do not always take into account the gender specificities of each of the victims. Besides, some persons may still have difficulty accepting that there exist differences between the needs of men and women during disaster situations:

"When I raised this issue with some colleagues, they could get very, very upset and say: 'but we treat everybody equal'. It's like with a medical doctor. If you ask him 'are you certified to treat women and children?', then he would get very upset because 'I've made the necessary medical exams, and I do not differentiate'."

Nevertheless, being willing to understand and assimilate the specific needs of a person based on their gender can actually be productive when reducing the disastrous consequences of emergency situations on the lives of the victims. In this sense, INSARAG is making great efforts to promote the inclusion of more women in rescue teams who can collaborate with their expertise in

dealing with female victims.

"In certain cultures, it can be perceived as inappropriate for a man to touch a woman unless they are on a relationship. This can be a problem especially when the medical male personnel needs to talk and treat female victims. In that case, we would need to collaborate with local female medical teams so that they can help us on handling the victims".

This isn't always an easy task to accomplish, since the international rescue teams are made up of local rescue workers, and those local rescue workers come very often from male-dominated teams. But we must remember that the experience has shown that an active participation of women in rescue teams can contribute to the well-being of female victims and to the respect of their cultural differences.

1. Affecting the provinces of Manabí, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Guayas, Santo Domingo and Ríos.
2. According to figures released by the Government during a press conference held by Vice President of Ecuador, Mr. Jorge Glas, on July 26, 2016.
3. INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group)
4. Mr. Jesper Lund. Chief of the Field Coordination Support Section at INSARAG Secretariat in OCHA Geneva



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- > Chirurgie plastique, reconstructive et esthétique, FMH
- > Médecine esthétique

- > Chirurgie vasculaire et viscérale, FMH
- > Chirurgie orthopédique, FMH
- > Chirurgie des nerfs périphériques
- > Chirurgie de la douleur
- > Ophtalmochirurgie, FMH
- > Bloc opératoire ambulatoire
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- > Santé sexuelle



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Women vital to successful UN/AU peacekeeping operations

The vital, yet often underestimated role women play in peace support missions has been recognized through UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

**KATHARINA WACZEK & ADAM KANE ,
UNITAR**

The UNITAR Peacekeeping Training Programme is working to promote women participation by training them on the guiding principles of UN Peacekeeping, protection of civilians, prevention and response to sexual exploitation and abuse as well as the complete functioning of peace operations. After more than a decade of fighting and a horrific genocide, by the middle of 1994 Rwanda began to emerge from civil war lead by the Rwanda Patriotic Front. Around that time, RPF Freedom Fighters captured the Capital city, Kigali, and shortly after declared victory in the rest of the country.

Since the end of the civil war, Rwanda has seen many of its former Freedom Fighters directing new soldiers in the Rwandan Defense Force to take on new roles as Peacekeepers. Today Rwandan soldiers are highly valued as Peacekeepers because of their training, discipline as well as the growing number of women who are trained and deployed. In fact, the Rwandan Defense Force has become an important contributor to UN and African Union Peace Operations. With more than 5,135 uniformed UN

Peacekeepers and 520 Police, Rwanda ranks as the 2nd largest African contributor and 5th globally¹.

In the year 2000, the UN Security Council passed resolution 1325 on women, peace and security which highlighted a shift in UN policy to engage more females in peacekeeping operations around the world. It affirmed the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, negotiations, peacekeeping, humanitarian responses and post-conflict reconstruction. Further, it stressed the need to integrate a gender perspective in these areas, as well as in peacekeeping operations directly. According to the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) there are now more than 3,550 uniformed women deployed in all 16 UN Peacekeeping Operations. The mission with the largest presence of uniformed women is UNAMID in Darfur. At least one Rwandan woman Peacekeeper serving in Darfur, Sgt. Felicite Mujawamariya, was awarded a United Nations medal of excellence in 2015 for her exceptional performance in reform and restructuring as a

UN Team Site Commander.

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) frequently delivers pre-deployment training in collaboration with the African Contingency Operations Training and Assistance (ACOTA) Programme at the Rwanda Military Academy in Gako. Overall through pre-deployment training, several hundred women have been able to participate with the thousands of uniformed male Rwandan soldiers who serve in Peacekeeping Missions. Marie Gorrette Ingabire, is one of those women who has risen to the rank of Platoon Commander. At the UNITAR training, which took place in May, Ingabire was one of 35 Officers, and the first woman Staff Officer to participate in a UNITAR pre-deployment training in Rwanda. Following pre-deployment training, Ingabire will lead her platoon in the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Mission in Darfur, Sudan.

Evidence has shown that specific roles are better suited to female officers than their male counterparts. As women and children are often the main

victims of violence in conflicts, particularly sexual violence, it is often difficult for male soldiers to cross social and cultural boundaries required to build trust. This is where female peacekeepers can fill a gap by providing women and children with a greater sense of security, but also by being able to foster their trust and in the process gather valuable information for the mission.

There is still a lot to be done to integrate more female peacekeepers into UN missions. More skilled and trained female peacekeepers can only be an asset to future peacekeeping operations. UNITAR is working towards highlighting the special role women can play in Peacekeeping and through its training and capacity building programs disseminates important knowledge and skills on women's role in peace processes. ■

1. (United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, 2015) <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/contributors.shtml>

UN Special spoke with Platoon Commander Marie Gorrette Ingabire about her experiences in a traditionally male-dominated environment and her expectations for the up-coming mission.

Do you see your role as a woman platoon commander different from your male counterparts?

Yes, due to the conflict occurrence worldwide which affect more women and children in violence, there are specific roles female peacekeepers play more than males. Therefore, being a female platoon commander in a mission area will support information operations through confidence – building patrols which will increase access to local women, who may feel more comfortable confiding in me as a female peacekeeper than my male counterparts, particularly in cases of sharing information about rape.

What do you expect to learn on Peacekeeping mission?

- Operating in the country with specific culture and government with its laws
- Leadership in the complex multi-cultural environment
- Decision making in the complexity of challenges
- Collection of information and reporting system

What made you decide to enlist in the military and specifically to serve as a Peacekeeper?

My experience as a Rwandan during



the 1994 genocide and the way the RPF took its premier lead to stop the genocide, I found the encouragement and capacity to keep and maintain peace in my country and worldwide. In the RPF there were females who stood up and fought for the peace of their country with different responsibilities even on the command level.

As a woman, do you feel that you have to work harder to earn the respect of your platoon and from your supervisors?

I have to work harder but not because I am a woman, but because of the responsibilities I hold as a platoon commander which are the same as

for my male colleagues. Therefore working harder is needed not to earn respect only, but in order to build trust, confidence and cohesion in the platoon towards the achievement of the mission assigned.

How long will you serve in the UNAMID mission?

I am mandated to serve for one year.

In your opinion which skills that you have learned in your pre-deployment training will be especially valuable in the mission?

- Culture awareness
- Negotiation skills
- Rules of engagement (ROE)

- Active listening techniques
- Protection of civilians (POC)
- Convoy and patrol conduct

What were some of the biggest challenges in your military career so far?

Have you been working to find ways to overcome these challenges?

I had to deal with some cultural issues specific to the military. Further I had to overcome the mindset of females fearing a military career as it is perceived as a sphere only dedicated for males. I have overcome these challenges by deciding to enlist in the Rwandan military.

What are your long term plans?

Would you like to continue to be a Peacekeeper? Would you like to work in the humanitarian field in Rwanda?

I would like to serve in the military on the tactical and strategic level. I like being a Peacekeeper. As a Rwandan soldier I am working in the humanitarian field in Rwanda on a daily basis through different CIMIC (civil-military cooperation) activities like Community work and Army week. ■

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SHP – Staff concerns

Alex McCusker at ECE highlights significant design flaws with the renovations, negative impact on productivity and UNOG’s poor negotiating approach with the Swiss authorities.

ALEX MCCUSKER, ECE

The Strategic Heritage Plan is in full swing. The majority of the work of the SHP involves improvements to the Palais engineering and conference spaces. I assume readers are familiar with the plan¹ so this article will deal mostly with the concerns staff members see in the proposal for the new building.

Staff understand and support the need for change. It can be an opportunity – when change supports the overall performance of the organisation, improves the quality of outputs, reduces bureaucracy and raises efficiency and working conditions. However the SHP as currently structured does not do this.

One of our main issues is the lack of genuine communication and effective consultation that takes into account staff views. In a process that has been going on since 2009, until spring 2015 there was no consultation in the decisions being made. When this was pointed out to management the response was that the only consultations required were with staff bodies. However administration chose not to involve the Staff Council

until 2015 nor is it currently involved in the governing bodies of the SHP. For the last year we have repeatedly requested, both formally and informally, the demographic information, detailed studies and space planning guidelines underlying the decisions that have been taken, with not even the courtesy of an answer. Without access to specific numbers it is difficult to clearly express the problems and propose solutions. On the issues listed below staff have raised these questions specifically² with no response.

Efficiency

The plans for the new building call for a so-called «flexible» space with staff changing their workplace through the day as their space use changes. This leads to significant time loss, estimated at 15%. Which means 15% fewer outputs or 15% more resources to accomplish the same work. In addition to time spent moving around, there is lowered productivity due to inadequate privacy and inability to focus.

The new building is also further from the entrances and the parking areas which means it will take longer to get to the office. 700 more staff means increased competition for parking. It will also become more difficult to reach the Palais, especially for those staff members living outside Geneva.

Flexibility

The current Palais offices are

highly flexible – desks, chairs and shelves can be moved around to accommodate meetings, privacy and new staff. The offices planned for the new building cannot be changed so easily and space allocations will be much more inflexible. In a comprehensive survey of ECE staff over 90% indicated their functional requirements could not be met in an open office environment.

Health

Studies³ show that staff stress and turnover increase with open-plan offices. Given the increase in stress-related illness in all organizations it would be both judicious and financially sensible to avoid this. The cost savings from such an office pale to insignificance compared with the costs of turnover and staff sickness and reduced cohesion. This is an example of penny-wise and pound-foolish.

	Square meters			Reduction in office Space	
	2008 UN	2008 UNOG	SHP	from UN 2008	from UNOG 2008
USG/ASG	35.6	39	30.4	-15%	-22%
D2	17.8	31	15.2	-15%	-35%
D1		21			
P5	8.9	15	7.6	-15%	-29%
P4		12			
P1-3		9			
G	5.9	6	3.8	-36%	-37%
Hot Desk			2.5		

Space Ratios

The plans for office space call for significant reductions from current UN planning guidance (and from a global average⁴ of 13 m²) with increased inequality. For example USG space goes from 6 times larger than the smallest space to 12 times larger under the SHP. The P to G ratio goes from 1.5 to 2.0.

Finances

UNOG is planning to save \$5 million annually on the Palais Wilson rent. It plans to invest \$130 million in the new building which is a 26-year payback. Presumably there are many other places in the UN system where a similar investment would have much shorter payback periods. Excessive consultancy costs in the SHP have also been raised. Apparently no attempt has been made to negotiate with the Swiss government over reducing or

eliminating the rent for spaces outside the Palais. The fact that the Swiss government is providing a zero-interest loan is somewhat less of a gift in a negative interest rate environment. With the high level of interest from other locations to host these functions without cost, and in view of the 5 billion CHF of annual income Geneva and the area earn from the staff, missions and visitors, there should be some negotiating room.

Measuring outcomes

The UN is currently emphasizing the importance of indicators to monitor progress towards sustainable development. There appear to be no measureable indicators concerning the functionality of space for staff and staff performance in the proposal. The SHP team indicated that improving staff efficiency was not their concern. Staff

efficiency drives the costs of the organization significantly more than building costs. We have been told the old buildings are unrivalled so why do we wish to discard the current functional arrangements for an inferior and more costly solution.

Mr. Møller has stated he opposes these plans for open-space. Given the record of the UN with implementation of plans (Umoja, IMIS, renovation of NY) one would think member states would wish to get more input and review options before committing to the SHP, especially if it will increase overall costs. Again, many of these issues can be discussed and staff are eager and willing to do so. The lack of information and effective consultation means we are without any means to do so. ■

1. See for example 2011, 2013 and 2015 reports on SHP (A/66/279, A/68/372, A/70/7/Add.8)
2. In written form at both the December 2015 ECE SHP Forum and the March 2016 UNOG Town Hall.
3. <https://digest.bps.org.uk/2013/08/19/the-supposed-benefits-of-open-plan-offices-do-not-outweigh-the-costs/> and additional studies quoted in <http://www.ilostaffunion.org/new/wp-content/uploads/safeworkopenspacenote.pdf>
4. <http://www.bdcnetwork.com/corenet-office-space-worker-shrinks-150-sf>

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Plan stratégique patrimonial: bénédiction ou malédiction?

Malgré le «non» des fonctionnaires de l'ONUG au nouvel aménagement de l'espace, le projet du «Plan stratégique patrimonial» va bon train...

PRISCA CHAOU, UNOG

«Plan stratégique patrimonial»; voici une appellation qui aurait certainement suscité la curiosité de Le Corbusier s'il était encore vivant. Le Corbusier n'étant plus, cette appellation intéresse les fonctionnaires du Palais des Nations puisqu'elle a été choisie pour désigner le projet approuvé par l'Assemblée générale pour la rénovation et

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l'extension du Palais et dont les travaux devraient débuter en 2017 et s'achever en 2023. Le projet consiste à rénover le Palais dans son ensemble et à construire un nouveau bâtiment de trois étages qui devraient accueillir jusqu'à 700 personnes. L'objectif premier de ce projet est de rendre le Palais conforme aux normes de construction contemporaines pour ce qui est de l'accessibilité des personnes handicapées et de la consommation d'énergie, mais surtout et avant tout d'optimiser l'usage de l'espace de sorte à ce qu'il y ait 25% de gain d'espace.

Ces objectifs sont à première vue nobles et louables et doivent en réjouir plus d'un. Toutefois, comme pour tout, il y a un prix à payer. Effectivement, l'on estime à plus de 835 millions de francs suisses le coût du projet, coût qui risque de grimper tout comme l'expérience du Plan-Cadre d'équipement ou *Capital Master Plan* à New York l'a démontré il n'y pas très longtemps. Il s'agit d'un prix certes exorbitant qui, à mon sens, aurait mieux fait d'être alloué pour des causes encore plus nobles que notre Organisation défend corps et âme comme le développement et les droits de l'homme. Cela dit, ne faudrait-il pas aussi se poser la question du coût que les fonctionnaires, usagers

actuels et futurs du Palais, pourraient avoir à payer du point de vue de leur bien-être et de leur productivité?

En effet, l'optimisation de l'espace signifie conformément au texte de la Résolution de l'Assemblée 70/248, l'introduction de stratégies de gestion souple de l'espace de travail. Ces stratégies impliquent, selon l'Administration de l'ONU, les espaces de travail ouvert ou *open space* et les postes de travail partagés ou *flexible working space* (c'est-à-dire que le fonctionnaire devrait occuper le premier poste de travail qu'il trouve libre à son arrivée au travail). Il est à noter que la Résolution susmentionnée n'a en aucun cas évoqué ces deux types d'espace de travail mais là aussi, l'imagination de l'Administration, ne connaît pas de limite.

Les études, ô combien nombreuses, menées sur ce type d'espaces de travail sont mitigées et il est certain que celles qui ont fait l'éloge de l'espace ouvert ou de l'espace de travail partagé ne sont pas très nombreuses. Bien au contraire, la majorité des études menées indiquent l'impact néfaste de cet aménagement de l'espace sur la productivité et le bien-être des employés. La productivité et le bien-être sont deux éléments



Espace de travail ouvert au HCR.

Première phase de construction (2017-2019)

La première phase de construction sur le site est la construction du nouveau bâtiment. Celui-ci offrira des bureaux transitoires durant la phase de rénovation des bâtiments existants. Parallèlement à la construction du nouveau bâtiment, un agenda progressif de rénovation des salles de réunions du Bâtiment A sera mis en place, en s'efforçant de minimiser les dérangements dans l'espace de travail. L'agrandissement de l'espace salle à manger de la cafétéria doit également être planifié afin de préparer le Palais des Nations à une plus grande occupation.

Construction d'un nouveau bâtiment permanent (début 2017)

Rénovation du bâtiment A building (conférences et cafétéria)
Rénovation du bâtiment B (Bibliothèque et archives historiques)

Phase de rénovation (2019-2023)

Cette phase consiste dans la rénovation des bâtiments existants et est divisée en deux parties.

Première phase de la rénovation des bâtiments existants :

Rénovation du bâtiment A (bureaux)
Rénovation du bâtiment C (bureaux et conférences)
Rénovation du bâtiment D (bureaux)
Rénovation du bâtiment S (bureaux)

Deuxième phase de la rénovation des bâtiments existants :

Rénovation du bâtiment B (bureaux et bibliothèque)
Rénovation du bâtiment E (conférences)
Déconstruction du bâtiment E (tour de bureaux)




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Atrium au HCR

How have other international organizations in Geneva chosen to do their offices?

UNOG is not the only organization that has chosen to renovate or build new office space. How have other organizations in Geneva gone about it?

UNHCR built its iconic building – some say it resembles a prison – twenty years ago. As was the fashion of the time, it built the offices around a large atrium, which serves a focal point for events, but also uses space. Staff are housed in open space, with desks closely placed to each other. As the organization has expanded, space available to each staff member has reduced significantly. The small size of windows means light is lacking. Opinion wasn't generally positive.

WIPO has had a series of new buildings. The latest, long the Route de Ferney, features atrium spaces, planting on several levels and a mix of colours. Each staff member either shares an office or has their own. Doors are made of glass.

For senior staff, grade defines the number of windows for the office.

The **ILO** has gone for a similar concept for their office space, with glass doors and shared or individual offices.



Bureau partagé à l'OMPI

importants pour garantir l'avenir de notre Organisation, mais ils semblent être relégués au dernier plan des priorités de l'Administration au vu des pressions que les États membres paraissent exercer sur cette dernière. Cela étant, je ne pense pas que notre Administration, en soumettant le projet comme il est envisagé aux États membres, ait pris la peine de leur expliciter la nature du travail des fonctionnaires à l'ONUG qui est la ville siège où les fonctionnaires passent plus de 8 heures par jour dans leur bureau.

Mais laissons là la littérature et la théorie, et faisons un pas de côté le temps d'interroger nos collègues à Genève qui d'ores et déjà travaillent dans des espaces ouverts, certes loin de ceux proposés pour le nouveau bâtiment. La majorité d'entre eux se plaignent, entre autres,

des nuisances sonores, des tensions nées de la promiscuité constante et du manque total de confidentialité. Pour les collègues à New York qui ont déjà connu le goût amer de l'espace de travail partagé, il semble que le travail d'équipe qui est l'une des compétences de base que notre Organisation défend soit affecté, puisque travailler à partir d'endroits différents n'est pas la meilleure recette pour renforcer la cohésion. De plus, le fait de devoir systématiquement chercher un espace de travail libre pour s'y installer entraîne une perte de temps et un certain degré de stress, dont tous les fonctionnaires peuvent se passer au vu de celui qu'ils expérimentent à un moment où le slogan le plus clamé par notre Administration est «produire plus avec moins». Il s'agit là d'avis recueillis auprès de fonctionnaires et que certains considéreraient comme étant

biaisés, mais la question que l'on est en droit de se poser est pourquoi aucune étude de satisfaction n'a été menée à New York pour voir l'impact des changements opérés dans l'aménagement de l'espace de travail sur la performance et le bien-être du personnel avant de suivre le même modèle à Genève. Il s'agit d'une question à laquelle seuls les hauts responsables seraient en mesure de répondre s'il en avaient la volonté.

L'enquête menée par le Conseil de coordination de l'ONUG en avril 2015 à ce sujet a clairement indiqué que parmi les fonctionnaires qui ont déjà fait l'expérience d'un espace de travail à l'instar de celui qui sera introduit, seuls 8,2% estiment pouvoir travailler sans être constamment interrompus dans un espace de travail ouvert contre 4,5% dans un

espace de travail partagé. Par ailleurs, 93,7% sont de l'avis que la nature de leur travail se prête davantage à des bureaux individuels ou à des bureaux partagés. «Capricieux» diraient certains de ces 93,7%, ou même «des vétérans» de temps révolus. A mon humble avis, ces deux qualificatifs sont loin de la réalité puisque cette opinion n'est pas le fruit d'un caprice ni d'une mentalité rétrograde, mais elle reflète les besoins réels des fonctionnaires.

L'idéal aurait été que ces chiffres soient pris en compte dans la planification du projet. Cela n'aura été ni la première ni la dernière fois que l'avis des premiers concernés aura été ignoré... En effet, lorsque les voix se sont élevées pour dire que le personnel n'avait pas été dûment consulté au sujet de ce nouveau projet, l'Administration est vite montée sur

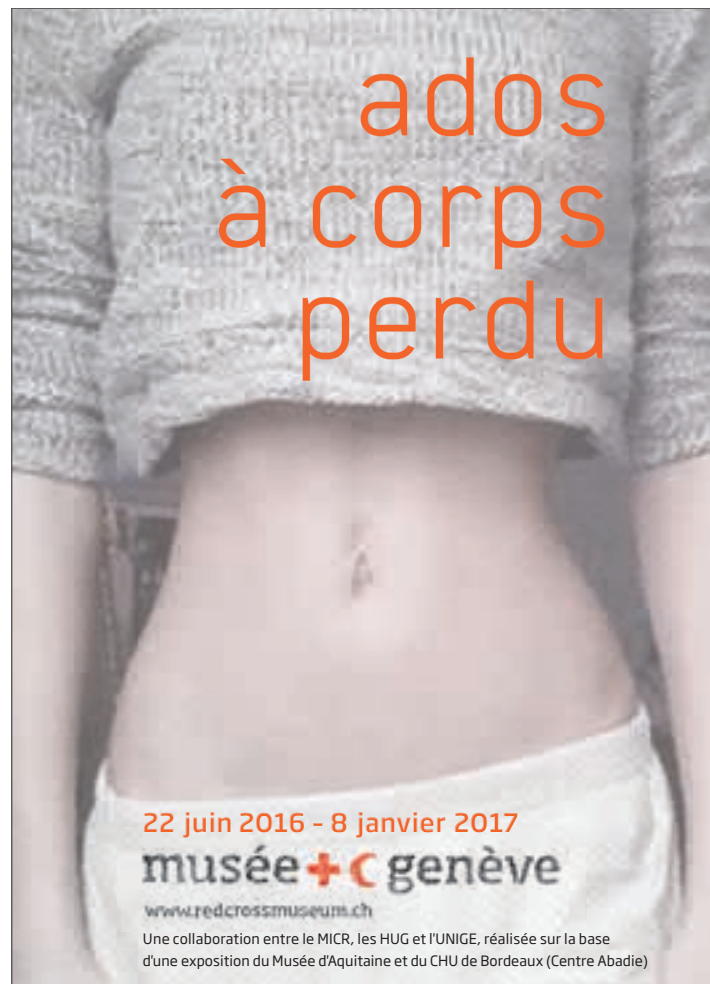
ses grands chevaux prétendant que le fait d'avoir nommé pour chaque Département des points de contact étaient en soi une consultation. Là, je pense que le personnel et l'Administration ne sont point sur la même longueur d'onde, puisqu'il y a une grande différence entre demander aux points de contact de transmettre les informations relatives aux besoins de leurs Départements respectifs d'une part, et leur demander leur avis sur les changements à opérer d'autre part.

Les fonctionnaires sont bien conscients que l'ONU de 2016 n'est pas l'ONU de 1960 et que le contexte économique mondial n'est nullement favorable pour pouvoir défendre l'existence de certaines villes d'affectation où le coût de vie est très élevé comme c'est le cas pour Genève. Les fonctionnaires ne sont pas là pour tout rejeter

de but en blanc. Tout ce qu'ils demandent c'est un environnement de travail qui leur permet d'avoir le plus haut niveau de performance et il est certain que le nouvel espace proposé n'est pas l'idéal pour ce faire.

Les solutions? Il n'y en a pas beaucoup diraient certains, puisque l'enveloppe prévue ne permet pas d'envisager un autre aménagement de l'espace. Toutefois, qui cherche trouve. A-t-on vraiment besoin de détruire le bâtiment E où l'amiante se trouve jusqu'au troisième étage, c'est-à-dire dans la partie qui ne sera pas démolie? L'on dit que les coûts de la rénovation dudit bâtiment sont plus élevés que ceux de la construction d'un nouveau bâtiment, ce qui en fait sursauter plus d'un. Si le bâtiment E est préservé, il pourra accueillir un nombre considérable de fonctionnaires,

réduisant ainsi le nombre de fonctionnaires qui se retrouveraient dans le nouveau bâtiment. Et ainsi, au lieu d'avoir des espaces de travail ouverts à perte de vue, l'on pourrait prévoir des bureaux partagés. A-t-on vraiment besoin de quitter le bâtiment Wilson, qui de tout temps, a été le symbole de la défense des droits de l'homme dans la Genève internationale? Je pense que comme notre Administration a déjà fait montre d'une grande créativité dans l'interprétation de la Résolution 70/248, elle pourra en faire de même pour prévoir un Palais des Nations où il fera bon travailler et pour ne pas faire tourner un projet, qui se veut être une bénédiction, en une véritable malédiction dont devraient souffrir des générations à venir de fonctionnaires. ■



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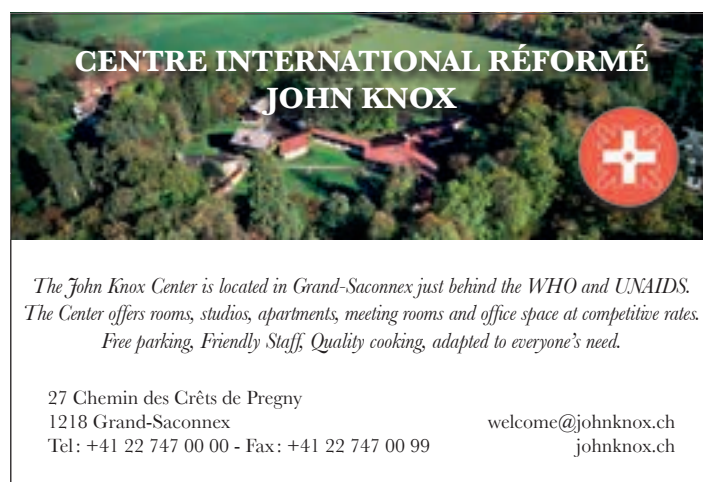
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The human race Exhibition by Oliviero Toscani

*Geneva will have the
pleasure to welcome on
September an exhibition
“La razza umana” by
Oliviero Toscani, a hymn
of tolerance face to
the difference*

KAYLOIS HENRY, OHCHR

When we first met with photographer Oliviero Toscani to discuss a possible photo event, we were already familiar with his work. Toscani had exhibited a series of photos of indigenous people in Guatemala, which were sponsored by the UN Human Rights Office. He is also the creative mind behind the most prominent United Colors of Benetton campaigns.

His work immediately brought to mind Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.”

Yet how can we all be equal when we appear and look so different? Toscani’s exhibition, which takes place in Palais des Nations starting mid-September and later to the front of Lac Lemman, explores this idea in photographic form.

“La Razza Umana” features a series of portraits, showing humanity in all its glorious differences: sex, dress, race, adornments. These differences appear intractable, making each one unique and seemingly separate from each other.

Yet, look again; in the very repetition of the portraits we begin to see patterns and similarities.

The UN Human Rights Office sponsors this exhibition. The Office operates from the universal ideals that rights are part of human DNA, received at birth, much like eye colour, hair type or height. With treaties and independent experts, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and his staff push the idea that all rights are for all, no matter how different we appear to be on the surface, and that there is much more that unites us than divides us.

Human rights are not a reward for good behaviour, said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein. “They are not country-specific, or particular to a certain era or social group. They are inalienable entitlements of all people, at all times and in all places – people of every colour, from every race and ethnic group.”

Our differences define us, make us uniquely who we are. But differences can also unite us by showing how, despite variances, we are the same, all uniquely human.

La Razza Umana takes place 13 to 30 September in the Exhibition Gallery of Palais des Nations, as well as from 30 September to 31 October along Quai Wilson by Lac Lemman. ■



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Sami Kanaan, Conseiller administratif de la Ville de Genève

Prendre soin de la mosaïque genevoise

«Genève est une mosaïque et comme toutes les mosaïques, c'est beau, complexe et fragile. Il faut prendre soin de chacune des petites pièces qui la compose.»



PROPOS RECUEILLIS PAR MARIE-JOSÉ ASTRE-DÉMOULIN, UNOG

La rencontre avec Monsieur Kanaan* a lieu par hasard, à la sortie d'une représentation au théâtre de l'Orangerie à Genève. Alors qu'il repart du Parc La Grange à bicyclette, nous entamons une conversation à bâtons rompus. Les propos du Magistrat sont en partie relatés ci-dessous, avec son aimable autorisation.

SAMI KANAAN Le multiculturel est une chose complexe qu'il faut chérir et faire attention à ne pas se contenter de dire qu'il existe. Ça demande des efforts. A Genève, nous avons la diversité des origines, des âges, de statuts. La culture et le sport sont des outils qu'on peut utiliser pour créer des liens.

Nous avons de nombreuses catégories de population «internationales», auxquelles nous avons l'habitude de nous référer sous des dénominations différentes. Depuis les immigrés

qui sont arrivés ici pour des raisons de difficultés dans leur propre pays, jusqu'aux expatriés qui appartiennent à la catégorie du secteur privé en passant par ce que nous appelons ici «les internationaux»

et qui sont les membres du personnel des organisations internationales. Il faut d'ailleurs souligner le fait qu'il existe un spectre de statuts très large pour ces derniers et que tous ne gagnent pas des fortunes!

Education / Enseignement

Notre défi est de proposer des activités pour ces groupes, respectivement des activités où chacun et chacune peut trouver sa place, afin de contribuer à leur intégration.

A Genève, c'est bien connu, il est fréquent que les nouveaux arrivants aient des difficultés à s'adapter mais qu'après, ils veulent rester –un article est d'ailleurs paru dans la Tribune de Genève fin juillet sur le sujet! Moi-même je suis arrivé à Genève il y a 25 ans pour faire mes études, sans avoir décidé si j'y resterais ou pas et j'y suis toujours, avec bonheur!

Il est vrai qu'il n'est pas facile de trouver comment ça fonctionne. Avoir un contact humain avec un inconnu dans un bar ou un parc n'est pas chose courante ici. Ça prend du temps de faire connaissance mais après on est fidèle et on a le cœur grand ouvert.

Au fond, c'est peut-être là que réside le paradoxe de cette ville: vouloir être internationale mais ne pas aimer le changement. Il faut dire aussi que l'aspect un peu «village» et paisible de Genève est aussi l'un de ses avantages.

Côté activités, nous offrons une large palette de possibilités afin de toucher tous les publics. En

été avec *Musiques en été, Ciné transat ou les aubes musicales*. En septembre, le festival de la *Bâtie* propose de multiples performances et œuvres théâtrales ou encore en février, *Antigel* permet de voir des spectacles dans des lieux insolites: déchetterie, lieu de transport public, hangars, dans les champs, etc.

On se soucie des langues et on essaie de faire du sur titrage, au moins en anglais, aussi souvent que possible. La Nouvelle Comédie, qui se situera dans l'ancienne gare des Eaux vives, se veut une scène européenne et produira des spectacles en collaboration avec des troupes venues d'un peu partout en Europe et dans le monde.

Nous avons également créé des sorties «afterwork» au Musée d'art et d'histoire,, avec notamment un concept de Speed dating avec des œuvres – chacune d'entre elles étant présentée pendant 3 minutes.¹

L'Opéra des Nations a été une occasion de se faire remarquer par le personnel des Organisations internationales. Nous étions curieux de voir si des spectateurs iraient dans cette salle alors qu'ils ne seraient pas allés au Grand théâtre, et c'est le cas. Certaines discussions sont en cours afin de voir s'il serait possible de

conserver cette salle mais c'est compliqué car le parc est normalement non constructible et qu'il faut évaluer qui peut financer cette structure à plus long terme.

Monsieur Moller, Directeur général de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève, est très ouvert et très dynamique. Il a par exemple permis l'accès au Parc du Palais des Nations pour l'entraînement à la course de l'Escalade. Cette initiative a été très appréciée des Genevois qui adorent pouvoir entrer dans l'ONU!

Monsieur Kanaan, y a-t-il un message que vous voulez adresser aux «internationaux»?

Bienvenue, on vous aime. Il y a plein de choses à faire. La Genève locale peut parfois donner l'impression de montrer un côté enfant gâté car elle considère votre présence comme un acquis et puis... on n'est pas toujours très doués pour exprimer nos sentiments mais je vous le dis, vous êtes bienvenus!

Et surtout, n'hésitez pas à nous adresser vos critiques et suggestions par le biais de notre site Internet. <http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture>. ■

1 <http://institutions.ville-geneve.ch/fr/mah/expositions-evenements/evenements/afterworks/>

For more information in English about the offering in Geneva for culture and sports <http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/english> <http://www.ville-geneve.ch/themes/culture/english/>

* Monsieur Kanaan est Conseiller administratif de la Ville de Genève en charge du Département de la culture et du sport



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Depuis la nuit des temps c'est la même effervescence autour des puits sahariens

Tchad (2^e partie)

L'Ennedi, un éden au Sahara

*L'Ennedi se mérite!
Grand comme la Suisse,
le massif situé au Nord-
Est du Tchad est en effet
à plus de 1200 kilomètres
de N'Djamena (voir
le numéro précédent
d'UN Special) et demande
quatre journées de pistes
défoncées pour
y parvenir.*

CLAUDE MAILLARD, OMS

Capitale du Tchad, N'Djamena est également une région divisée en dix arrondissements municipaux administrés par un statut particulier. Munis de notre ordre de mission établi par le Ministère tchadien du Tourisme, obligatoire pour se rendre dans l'Ennedi, nous quittons la ville. Slalomant entre les nids de poule, au milieu d'une circulation chaotique, nous progressons vers la région de Hadjer-Lamis proche du lac Tchad. Très vite le bitume laisse place à une piste poussiéreuse tracée à travers le Sahel. Nous traversons la région de Barh El Gazel où nous sommes confrontés à un petit souci mécanique qui nous impose un arrêt à Moussoro. L'accueil y est plutôt hostile, l'étranger n'étant pas le bienvenu! La nuit tombe et nous devons pourtant bivouaquer dans les environs. Nous resterons sur nos gardes...

Au fil des kilomètres, de rares villages surgissent à l'horizon, implantés là où l'on trouve de l'eau. Un désert de sable uniformément plat a remplacé la steppe et ses acacias où, en dépit de leurs longues épines acérées, il fait bon s'y reposer à l'ombre. Ici, la température dépasse les 50°C, boire est fondamental et les puits sont pris d'assaut. Une grosse effervescence

régne autour des cavités qui renferment le précieux liquide à une centaine de mètres de profondeur. Depuis la nuit des temps c'est le même rituel. Sagement regroupés, les troupeaux patientent pendant que les hommes, au moyen d'outres, puisent l'eau avant de la déverser dans des abreuvoirs. Suivant l'animal, le tarif varie de 200 francs CFA pour un zébu, la moitié pour un dromadaire à gratuit pour un âne. La prochaine étape aura pour nom Kalaït, appelée dans le passé Oum-Chalouba, citée peuplée de nomades Gaidats et Borogats, véritables guerriers sahéliens du désert tchadien. En 1987, la région a été meurtrie par plusieurs mois de bombardements opposant les forces françaises à l'armée libyenne au cours de la fameuse Opération Epervier. Nous avons atteint l'Ennedi, deuxième plus grande région du Tchad, mais sommes encore loin, très loin de notre but.

Paysages d'une beauté sauvage à couper le souffle

L'Ennedi ne se décrit pas. Il se vit intensément! Les amateurs de sensations fortes ne seront pas déçus par le dépaysement total qu'offre cette région frontalière avec le Soudan. Quasiment hermétique au tourisme, elle a su garder tout de son authenticité. Ce vaste et magnifique massif recèle



Elimé, l'un des quatorze lacs d'Ounianga Séir inscrits au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO

des trésors géologiques et archéologiques innombrables. Composé de tassilis de grès sculptés selon les caprices des vents et des anciens oueds, l'Ennedi est inlassablement parcouru par les nomades, qui mènent

d'une guelta à l'autre leurs troupeaux de dromadaires et de chèvres brouter l'herbe jaune poussant à la moindre goutte de pluie. Ces bergers perpétuent une tradition plurimillénaire de pastoralisme, gravée et peinte sur les parois des grottes, à l'époque où ici les pâturages étaient gras et verts et aujourd'hui disparus suite à l'assèchement du climat.

environnement désertique chaud et hyperaride où les précipitations sont inférieures à 2 mm par an.

Un vent de sable s'est levé et la nuit a été froide. Réveillés par les hurlements aigus d'une meute de chacals, nous nous apprêtons à repartir quand notre guide Oussmane nous prévient que des mines, vestiges des différentes guerres, sont disséminées un peu partout et qu'il vaut mieux ne pas trop s'éloigner de la piste: rassurant!

A mi-chemin, au détour d'un cordon de dunes, surgit le cirque de Teguedeï qui abrite un lac entouré d'une palmeraie. Réputée dans toute la région, l'oasis de Teguedeï regroupe les deux richesses du désert, les palmiers dattiers et le sel. De tout temps elles ont fait l'objet d'intenses

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Parmi ces trésors, les lacs d'Ounianga qui sont inscrits au Patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO depuis 2013. Le site, situé dans la dépression de Mourdi proche du Tibesti, abrite dix-huit lacs répartis dans deux zones distantes d'une soixantaine de kilomètres. Deux journées de 4X4 à travers les dunes du Sahara sont encore nécessaires pour pouvoir profiter de ces écrans de verdure surprenants dans cet



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Dattes et sel font la richesse de la palmeraie de Teguedeï

trafics caravaniers et de ce fait contribué à préserver le lien social entre toutes les petites communautés nomades disséminées dans ce désert. Récolté par les femmes, le sel, très pur, d'un blanc éclatant, est réservé à la consommation alimentaire. Il n'y a pas si longtemps, il valait son poids en or et encore aujourd'hui il sert de monnaie d'échange.

Ounianga, oasis de fraîcheur

Le nom d'Ounianga vient de la tribu des Ounia, d'anciens esclaves chargés d'exploiter les salines et les palmeraies de la région pour le compte de leurs maîtres. A leur émancipation, empressés de suivre le mode de vie nomade, ils ont déserté les lieux où ils ne reviennent qu'en été pour la cueillette des dattes.

Essentiellement alimentés par la nappe phréatique fossile, créée lorsque le climat de la zone n'était pas désertique, et qui affleure à cet endroit, les lacs d'Ounianga forment un paysage tout à fait exceptionnel de plus de 60 000 hectares au milieu du Sahara.

Divisés en deux groupes (Ounianga Sérir et Ounianga Kébir), ces lacs aux eaux salées, hypersalées ou douces, constituent une mosaïque de couleurs diverses, bleu nuit, vert jade et rouge pourpre entourés par

des palmeraies, des dunes ou des formations gréseuses très spectaculaires.

Du haut de la falaise où nous avons dressé notre campement, la vue sur le lac Elimé, le plus vaste du Sahara, est grandiose. Très typique avec ses trois îles déchiquetées qui se mirent dans ses eaux limpides, il constitue l'un des quatorze lacs Ounianga Sérir.

Sur le rivage, dans le village où s'éparpillent, en forme de barques renversées, quelques cases constituées de nattes en palme de doum tressées, Ayouma s'occupe d'un jardin extraordinaire et totalement inattendu dans un désert.

Grâce à un ingénieux système d'irrigation, il y cultive en quantité les meilleures aubergines, tomates et pastèques de toute la région, fort utile et indispensable pour nourrir ses 2 femmes et ses 12 enfants!

Coupé en deux parties, l'une aux eaux d'un vert intense, l'autre d'un rouge violacé, le lac Katam fait partie des quatre lacs Ounianga Kébir. Très salé, il produit une écume blanche qui tapisse ses berges couvertes d'un beau sable orange, qui s'envole au moindre souffle. Un vrai régal pour les photographes...

Pressés par le Festival International des Cultures Sahariennes qui s'ouvre à Fada, 300 kilomètres plus au Sud, nous devons quitter à regret ces oasis de fraîcheur pour retrouver la fournaise du désert. Les abords de la piste sont jonchés d'épaves de blindés calcinés, de canons et d'obus de mortiers. Difficile d'imaginer que ces lieux emplis de sérénité furent le théâtre, il n'y a pas si longtemps, de violents combats!

(40 000 à 2 millions d'années), témoignant que nous ne sommes pas les premiers à passer la nuit dans ces lieux magiques! ■

Suite de l'aventure organisée par l'association «Terre de Partages» (www.terredepartages.com) à découvrir dans le prochain numéro du UN Special

Le soleil se couche à l'horizon, c'est l'heure où les cathédrales de roches aux formes étranges, étonnantes et envoûtantes se parent de leurs plus belles teintes dorées. C'est le moment d'installer le bivouac parmi des outils de pierre (bifaces, bolas, choppers, meules, grattoirs), fragments de bracelets éparpillés sur le sol et datant du Paléolithique

Ils ne font pas toujours partie du voyage
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Welcome to the Club International de Tennis (CIT)

Sports and culture in the heart of international Geneva.

An Interview with Ahmed Laouyane, CIT President and Alexis Duborgel, Junior Development and Competition

UN SPECIAL, UNOG

At the recent Interagency Games (IAG) held in Malaga, Spain, the UNOG tennis team won the gold medal. Many of the players on the team and on the teams of other Geneva-based organizations are CIT members. They claim that the CIT is a special club. What makes it so special?

AHMED LAOUYANE UNOG can be proud that its team brought back the gold medal for tennis, which it has on many previous occasions. The CIT is special as it is one of the oldest tennis clubs in Geneva and one of the oldest “organizations” of international Geneva. It has a unique history. It was established in 1937 by staff members of the League of Nations and the ILO on the “Campagne Rigot” that had been provided by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. The CIT is also special because it has always promoted the values of internationalism. It represents a perfect symbiosis, through the promotion of sport, cultural values and mutual respect, between the Geneva and Swiss communities and the international civil servants and diplomats based in Geneva. At the recent International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, Sec-

retary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that **“Sport is a unique and powerful tool for promoting dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of every member of the human family... It fosters tolerance, mutual understanding and peace... It empowers, inspires and unites.”** The CIT provides an excellent illustration of the Secretary-General’s statement.

Can you tell us a little about the CIT’s historical relationship with the UN?

A.L. The CIT has always had a special affiliation with the United Nations. The UN symbols are part of its logo and its Statutes specifically mention the promotion of UN values. This strong relationship has been maintained since the establishment of the UN system. The UN has consistently emphasized the importance of the CIT for the Geneva international community. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. purchased and donated the Campagne Rigot property (the CIT’s original location) to be used for scientific, cultural and sports activities, so as to “prevent any speculation” in relation to the land in the vicinity of the international organizations, to allow for the “not for profit” operation of the institutions located on it, including the CIT, and to ensure that the structure of the park and the facilities were not changed. After the Second World War, the UN, as successor of the League of Nations, became the trustee of the CIT. In 2001, the UN decided “not to object” to the construction of the Ecole Sismondi on the Campagne Rigot since an agreement with

the Etat de Genève, under the auspices of the Swiss Confederation, provided for “a durable solution” to preserve the CIT. It was in recognition of this special relationship with international Geneva that the Geneva authorities voted to invest 3 million Swiss francs from public funds for the construction of new facilities for the CIT on its current site in Pregny-Chambésy, which is leased to it by the UN.

What about its future relationship with the UN?

A.L. As the UN moves forward with its Strategic Heritage Plan to preserve the value of the historic buildings it took over from the League of Nations, the CIT believes that its long-standing contribution to the development of ties between the local and international communities through sport is an important part of that heritage. We are confident that the CIT will continue to exist on its present site so that it may continue to promote sports and international understanding, as well as the values of the United Nations, according to the letter and the spirit of the Rockefeller deed.

We understand that you represent the growing junior movement at the CIT. Can you tell us what the CIT can offer the international community this summer?

ALEXIS DUBORGEL This summer will be exciting as we are launching new weekly summer camps for junior tennis. These will start on 4 July for four weeks. We are focusing on developing junior players and providing children’s clinics and other teaching programmes throughout the summer and the autumn. The CIT

has six fantastic clay courts, two of them permanently covered. A newly-appointed tennis professor will provide tennis lessons for all ages.

We also offer other skills development activities and group lessons and organize formal and informal tennis competitions. A “blind date round-robin doubles tournament” takes place every Thursday evening from 6 p.m. onwards, which is open to members and non-members.

Considering the work schedules of staff at international organizations, we have, in addition to regular membership, created new “Early Bird” and “Night Owl” arrangements allowing play between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and from 7 p.m. until 10 p.m. on week-days for CHF 200 throughout the summer season.

We are working with the UN Golf Club to offer introductory golf activities at the CIT and to set up a practice area for seasoned golfers. A demonstration of the facilities was held on 19 June. On 26 June, the CIT marked the celebration of its 79th anniversary with an “Open Day” for tennis and golf. Preparations are already under way for the 80th anniversary next year.

The CIT is proud of its “Tie Break” restaurant with free parking and a magnificent terrace facing the courts. It provides a practical and pleasant venue for busy staff with a reasonably priced “plat du jour” that is served rapidly. There are Mexican and international specialties on the menu and plenty of salads for sports enthusiasts.

Why not come and see our facilities and become a member of our historic club? ■

Tribute to Gordon Martin

The UN community in Geneva is mourning the loss of one of its most respected colleagues, Gordon Martin, OBE. Gordon died on July 26, aged 89.



IMOGEN FOULKES

Many journalists dine out on their adventurous careers: a war zone here, a humanitarian crisis there. Gordon Martin tended to be quieter than many on that front, but in fact he had one of the most adventurous and illustrious careers of all. Starting with Reuters in the 1950's, he moved on to the BBC, the Daily Telegraph, and finally Vatican Radio here at the UN in Geneva. He reported from Rome to Cairo, with Madagascar, Bolivia and Cuba in between. Seeming not to notice that he had reached the age of retirement, he went off to Afghanistan to cover the conflict there.

I first got to know him when I took up my position as the BBC's Geneva Correspondent 12 years ago. Gordon was

already a fixture in the UN press corps, and it didn't take me long to notice that whenever he raised his hand at press briefings a hush would fall on Salle III. His wealth of diplomatic knowledge and his unfailing ability to spot the inconsistencies or contradictions coming from whichever UN official or 'peace' negotiating diplomat was speaking at the time, made Gordon's perspective invaluable. His manner too was a lesson to us all: unfailingly polite, his tone even to those viewed as despots or human rights abusers was respectful and measured. But his questions were incisive, and he regularly got the answers the rest of us had been wishing for.

In later years, Gordon did not join the rest of us, rushing to

keep up with new technology, let alone the monstrous rise of social media. He rarely if ever used email, did not own a mobile phone, and tapped out his stories on an old Remington typewriter. His journalistic techniques should be a salutary reminder to all of us: asking questions and talking to sources were his daily habit.

In a quiet rebuttal of what some admiringly call 'citizen journalism' Gordon defended our profession, telling a BBC colleague "It's still up to the correspondent to decide what is relevant and what is just nonsense. And it's up to the listener to decide whether he is getting an accurate picture or whether it's just chatter." And luckily for all those who listened to Gordon, his instinct for nonsense was impeccable.

Gordon only retired very recently, and his absence at press briefings is still felt. In the last couple of years aged slowed his walk to Salle III, but his journalistic mind remained razor sharp, and we feel the lack of those famously incisive questions keenly.

But more than (just) the huge respect he earned, Gordon was loved by his colleagues in the press corps. Always charming, always ready with a smile and a kind word or a bit of advice, he was held in enormous affection by all of us. A 'gentleman of the press' in the true sense of those words, he will be greatly missed. ■

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

Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à :

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

Write to us!

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

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

Now, put pen to paper!

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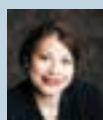
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