

UN Special

Human Rights

TIME TO SAVE UNIVERSAL MULTILATERALISM

N°781 - JULY-AUGUST
2018

UN P.20

Distance interpreting and its challenges

WHO P.26

Health emergency communication: best practices?

UN P.30

Where will the ICSC stop? 3rd salary scale for GS Bangkok



Think
Healthcare
Without



BORDERS

Supplemental health insurance for
UN, ILO and WHO staff members



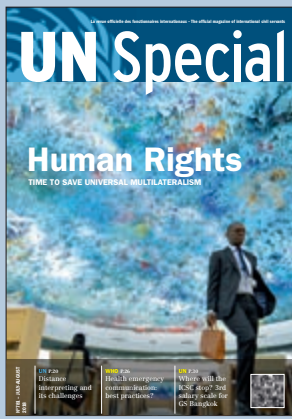
For subscription,
contact GPAFI
www.gpafi.com

New attractive conditions
for WHO members

International
Health Insurance
www.uniqa.ch

Think





ALEXANDER MEJIA

Rédacteur en chef / Editor-in-chief

ÉDITORIAL / EDITOR'S NOTE

FEATURED / À LA UNE

USA. The lone wolf 5
 It is time to save universal multilateralism! 8
 Another perspective on human rights. Equal citizenship rights 10
 How smart are the sanctions targeting Syria? 12
 An enforceable human rights treaty for victims of abuses by transnational business 16

UNITED NATIONS / NATIONS UNIES

Are peace and reconciliation possible through education and public policy? 18
 Distance interpreting and its challenges 20
 A third salary scale for General Service staff in Bangkok. Where will ICSC stop? 30
 The biography of a UN retiree 31

GLOBAL AFFAIRS / AFFAIRE GLOBALES

The impact of autonomy and artificial intelligence on strategic stability 32
 Audiatur et altera pars 46

WHO / OMS

Using technology to tame an outbreak 22
 For emergency communications trainees, the worst case is the best practice 26
 Walk the Talk. The "Health for All" challenge accepted 34
 Statement from more than 200 women at the UNAIDS Secretariat 36

YOUNG REPORTERS / JEUNES REPORTERS

Comment aider les réfugiés ? 29

ART & CULTURE

Discover the Montreux Riviera 37
 Experience UN Port! 38
 Musical magic 40
 Sur les volcans du monde (2/3) 42
 A camp for all seasons 45

3 When we decided to focus on Human Rights for the summer edition of our magazine, we did it with the certitude that finding solutions to human suffering remains one of the highest aspirations of the citizens of the Member States we serve. Regardless of national origin, race, gender or faith, there is universality in the quest for dignity and freedom. And we, at the UN in Geneva, are at the heart of this quest as it is here that the Human Rights Council operates. From that perspective, we offer you several articles and insights on this pressing topic that we hope you find relevant.

For other substantive reading, you will find in this edition some articles from WHO, on the use of technology to tame outbreaks or on how to train emergency health communicators. Other contributions are relevant to UN staff, especially the one on the problematic establishment of a tertiary salary scale. You will also read pieces from our external contributors, one from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy about the impact of artificial intelligence on strategic stability and another one from a young reporter on how to help refugees.

Finally, for those of you who have decided to stay in beautiful Switzerland and prefer to discover the many things to do here during the summer season, we hope you will enjoy reading about UN Port in Geneva, summer music festivals, the Montreux Riviera, or activity camps for children. We also invite you to read our second instalment of travel stories about volcanoes.

Happy reading and we wish you a beautiful summer. ■

Lorsque nous avons décidé de nous focaliser sur les droits de l'homme dans l'édition d'été de notre magazine, nous l'avons fait avec la conviction que trouver des solutions à la souffrance humaine reste l'une des aspirations les plus élevées des citoyens des États membres que nous servons. La quête de dignité et de liberté est universelle, sans distinction de nationalité, de couleur, de sexe ou de religion. Et nous, à l'ONU à Genève, sommes au cœur de cette quête, car c'est ici que se déroule le Conseil des droits de l'homme. Dans cette optique, nous vous proposons plusieurs articles sur ce sujet brûlant que nous espérons pertinents pour vous.

Pour d'autres lectures de fond, vous trouverez des articles de l'OMS sur l'utilisation de la technologie pour maîtriser les épidémies ou sur la formation en communication en situation d'urgence. D'autres articles sont en rapport avec le personnel de l'ONU, dont celui sur la problématique d'un barème de salaire tertiaire. Vous lirez aussi des articles de nos collaborateurs externes, dont un du Geneva Centre for Security Policy sur l'impact de l'intelligence artificielle sur la stabilité stratégique et un autre d'un jeune reporter sur la manière d'aider les réfugiés.

Enfin, pour ceux d'entre vous qui ont décidé de rester dans la belle Suisse et préfèrent découvrir la multitude de choses à faire en été, nous espérons que vous apprécierez lire sur le Port des Nations Unies à Genève, les festivals de musique d'été, la Riviera de Montreux ou les camps d'activités pour enfants. Nous vous invitons également à lire notre deuxième volet de récits de voyage sur les volcans.

Bonne lecture et nous vous souhaitons un bel été. ■

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

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



C-Class «new generation» High level of comfort with technical innovation.

With unique diplomatic conditions also available for staff members.
Contact your Diplomatic Sales expert to customize your own C-Class.

From CHF 36'900.-*
3-Year Warranty & 10-Year Free Servicing

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



GROUPE CHEVALLEY | *Your Diplomatic Centers in Geneva & Nyon.*
For more information: www.andre-chevalley.ch/mercedes-diplomatic

CAROUGE - COINTRIN - NYON

*Mercedes-Benz C-Class 180 Sedan, 1.595 cc, (115kW/156 PS). Fuel consumption combined 6.9 l/100. CO₂ emissions combined 157g/km, CO₂ efficiency G. Net diplomatic price is calculated Custom duty & VAT excl., with: - 29.5% diplomatic discount + delivery fee. Contact your Diplomatic Sales expert to check all other vehicles available with those conditions. Offer applicable on any Mercedes-Benz C-Class (sedan or estate), valid until 30.08.2018 with delivery no later than 31.12.2018. This price includes the following equipment: metallic paint finish, Avantgarde exterior and interior, 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission, Thematic climate control, Parking package, reversing camera, electrically folding exterior mirrors, self-dimming interior mirror, LED High Performance headlamps, Interior Light package, Audio 20 GPS with 7-inch high-resolution display, DAB digital radio, 16:9 format navigation display with 10.25-inch instrument cluster, SD card-based navigation.



© UN Photo/Eliana Okic

The United States of America

The lone wolf

After a complicated impasse, the United States has announced its withdrawal from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

ANNA KOZ, KSU¹

The current administration, under President Trump, has shown extreme disapproval over the direction of the Council for the past year, so it comes as no surprise that they have pulled out. The United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, described the Human Rights Council as a “hypocritical and self-serving” body that “makes a mockery of human rights” and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called the Council a “poor defender of human rights”. While this decision was expected, the question remains – what tipped the scales?

In 2006, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) replaced the UN Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) after the original Commission was criticized for allowing countries with poor human rights histories to become member states. Initially, the Bush administration boycotted the Council for many of the same reasons as President Trump’s administration today. During this time, the UN Ambassador John

Bolton expressed similar concerns. Bolton, who remains in the current administration today as National Security Advisor, counselled Bush not to join UNCHR. In 2009, and with a re-election in 2012, the Obama administration reversed this decision and re-joined the Council. The then US Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, stated that this decision was based on the idea “that working from within, we can make the Council a more effective forum to promote and protect human rights”. The President Trump administration has now gone back to Bush-era thinking, by making good on their threats and leaving the Council despite persistent criticism in Washington, urging them to work with the Council to reform from the inside.

So why has the President Trump administration become disillusioned with the UNHRC? Those in the current administration would argue that the problems that plagued the original Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) still exist today. Various media outlets reported that several human rights groups voiced complaints after the election of China, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Vietnam in 2013. Each of these nations seemingly had issues with human rights violations at the time. The council is currently addressing pressing issues, such as the alleged repression



© UN Photo/Mark Garten

13 April 2018. Security Council Considers Threats to Peace and Security, Situation in the Middle East. Vassily Nebenzia, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, and Nikki R. Haley, Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN, speak prior to the Security Council meeting on threats to international peace and security in relation to the situation in the Middle East, specifically Syria.

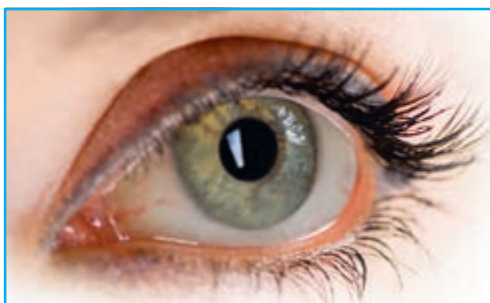
of citizens in Venezuela and has added states such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has been accused of violating human rights. Haley expressed concern that resolutions were passed against Israel but none were considered for Venezuela. As of now, Israel is the only country that has a permanent standing agenda item for its treatment of Palestinians.

On the other hand, many have spoken out on behalf of the UNHRC stating that although these problems exist within the Council, they do not make it unneeded. United Kingdom Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, said that the US decision was “regrettable” and while the UNHRC needs reforms it is “crucial to holding states to account”. Some, such as the UN Director of Human Rights, Louis Charbonneau, have defended the Council stating that it “has done some very good work, highlighting human rights abuses around the world, scrutinizing and bringing facts to light which enable us to hold these countries to account”. A commission of inquiry was set up for war-torn Syria, which has “been

working for the last seven years uncovering ghastly abuses and reporting publicly on them”. In Myanmar, fact-finding missions were created “where we’ve seen ethnic cleansing on a scale that is mind-boggling”. The Council’s current President and Slovenian Ambassador Vojislav Šuc commented that the UNHRC is the only body “responding to human rights issues and situations worldwide”. In most people’s opinion, however, it is not the specific efficacy of the Council that matters, but the idea represented behind the Council. Which is why the US decision to leave has been received badly. The UNHRC is ultimately the only group we have that could be effective against human rights violations on a global scale

Haley has stated that the US is leaving the UNHRC not only because of the failure of the Council, but because of its permanent agenda item on Israel. In May 2018, the UNHRC voted to investigate the shooting of Palestinian protestors during The Great March of Return by Israeli snipers on the Gaza strip. The US and Australia cast votes

not to investigate and the Israeli Ambassador in Geneva objected as well stating that the Council was “spreading lies against Israel”. Despite their reasons, the decision to leave was clouded by recent criticism towards President Trump’s immigration policies. The practice was marketed as a deterrent from illegally immigrating, by separating children from their families if caught. Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, called for President Trump to cease the child separation policy stating that “the thought that any state would seek to deter parents by inflicting such abuse on children is unconscionable”. In response to this, Richard Gowen, a fellow at New York University’s Center on International Cooperation, said that the recent issue of President Trump’s administration’s policies and al-Hussein’s rebuke of them crowd the current issue. “I don’t think [the withdrawal] is linked to Prince Zeid’s criticism of US immigration policies”, continuing that the High Commissioner is technically separate from the Council. However, that “the timing looks just awful for Nikki Haley and Secretary



optometry - contact lenses - eyewear - instruments

LINDEGGER
maîtres opticiens

Cours de Rive 15, Geneva - 022 735 29 11

Pompeo”. After a national outcry, an executive order was issued by President Trump to end the contentious immigration policies on 20 June 2018, but few believe that this is a permanent solution. The High Commissioner’s criticism was not the only voice in the UNHRC denouncing US policies. Before the US left the Council, a report was to be issued on policies revolving around poverty in the US. The report stated that “The policies pursued over the past year seem deliberately designed to remove basic protections from the poorest.”

Opinions around the world range from positive to outright condemnation, but the majority seem to agree that while the UNHRC has plenty to reform, leaving it changes nothing. Human rights groups such as Human Rights First, Save the Children, and CARE advised Pompeo that this action would “make it more difficult to advance human rights priorities and protect victims of abuse around the world”. Rep Eliot Engel, who is the highest ranking Democratic member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, supported the claim that the HRC has been using its time and resources to question Israel’s legitimacy as

a sovereign state, “but the way to deal with this challenge is to remain engaged and work with partners to push for change” and that “by withdrawing from the Council, we lose our leverage and allow the Council’s bad actions to follow their worst impulses unchecked – including running rampant over Israel”. Some have criticized President Trump’s administration’s stance on human rights such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), stating that the administration was leading a “concerted aggressive effort to basic human rights”. New York Human Rights Watch condemned the US decision to leave and described President Trump’s human rights policies as “one-dimensional”. Of course, his decision was not without supporters. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu supported the measure praising the USA’s “courageous decision” and Republican Senator Lindsay Graham of South Carolina approved as well. A common trend among President Trump’s actions lately has pointed to yet another reason behind the decision. After pulling out of the Paris climate agreement and the Iran nuclear deal, Al Jazeera points out that his actions reflect a “rejection of multilateral engagement”. This refusal to

cooperate with other countries could lead to a reduction in America’s ability to function on the world stage.

In this time of accountability, it is vital that a global platform exists to hold countries liable for their actions. While in desperate need of reform, the UNHRC still remains the only global platform where countries are able to work together. Rather than trying to destroy it and start from the ground up, efforts should be made to unite the global community and fix the system that exists. In the words of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan: “It has been said that arguing against globalization is like arguing against the laws of gravity.” That reasoning may well apply to this situation. Instead of withdrawing from a global body, perhaps the US should embrace the frustrations that globalisation and multilateralism sometimes bring along and stop believing that they can work on global issues alone... for such a stance goes against the law of diplomatic gravity... ■

1 KSU is the acronym of Kennesaw State University in the US. For more information, please visit <http://www.kennesaw.edu/>



CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
 CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
 UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA
 UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA
TAKE TIME TO BUILD YOUR FUTURE WITH US
300+ CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMMES
 CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
 CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
 CONTINUING EDUCATION CONTINUING EDUCATION
 UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA **www.unige.ch/formcont**



UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE

It is time to save universal multilateralism!

The 38th session of the Human Rights Council proved to be a memorable edition for various reasons, and Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, who ends his mandate in August, delivered a final powerful speech at the Palais des Nations.



Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, High Commissioner for Human Rights at the 38th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council. 18 June 2018.

If States deny systemic or emergency human rights violations occurring in their territories, why cannot international independent monitoring and investigations initiatives take place on the ground?

We must all remember the *raison d'être* of the UN: to protect peace, rights, justice and social progress, counting on the cooperation of countries worldwide. All States and international civil servants must work together, for all people, for all human rights and peace. We must remember the one-of-a-kind nature of the Council as an international early warning system to identify worsening crises around the globe and protect human rights. We must also remember, most of all, the countless human rights victims and defenders that have lost their lives, livelihoods and dignity.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights appealed to all Member States “to do more, to speak louder and work harder for the common purpose and for universal human rights law, to better our chances for a global peace.” In his words, “true patriotism consists in viewing every State and humanity as a whole”. Although this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and progress has been made for millions of human rights holders worldwide, there are still paramount challenges in the human rights arena.

“When leaders undermine human rights, and human rights law, this is in no way an act of patriotism. They are eroding the structures which can ensure the safety of their people – pitching their societies backwards into violence, destruction, exploitation and disaster. They are recreating the rule of brute force and exploitation – within countries and between them. True patriotism consists in viewing every State, and humanity as a whole, as a community of mutual responsibility, with shared needs and goals. True patriotism consists of the work of creating tolerant communities, which can live in peace”, he added. ■

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR

This was the last session to be presided over by the outgoing United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. His Opening Statement and update on the global human rights situation received a standing ovation. In it, he mentioned that for this session, the first-ever OHCHR human rights report on Kashmir had been submitted as well as another report on the human rights situation in Venezuela. He highlighted the urgent need to address past and ongoing human rights violations and abuses and to deliver justice for all people in Kashmir and the failure of Venezuelan authorities to hold perpetrators of serious human rights violations accountable.

It was a session which focused on one of the most debated topics in recent month: the global migrant and refugee crisis worldwide, as millions of people flee from their home countries and seek protection abroad or across borders. To stir even more interest, the decision of the United States to withdraw from the Human Rights Council halfway through its current term left the filling of the vacancy to members of the United Nations General Assembly through direct and secret ballot. In addition, at least five new mandate holders were appointed during this session.

In the words of the President of the Human Rights Council, Ambassador Vojislav Šuc (Slovenia), “In times when the value and

strength of multilateralism and human rights are being challenged on a daily basis, it is essential that we uphold a strong and vibrant Council recognizing it as a central part of the United Nations for the 21st century.”

In his Opening Statement, the High Commissioner for Human Rights warned about a global tendency to question the universality of human rights and the United Nations mandate. He reminded listeners that some primary questions must be asked and answered before this tendency turns into an uncontrollable plague.

Why are most countries around the world still members of the United Nations (193 to be exact)?

Why is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights the most translated document in the world?

Does not a tendency towards chauvinism and nationalism exclude universality, tolerance and diversity?

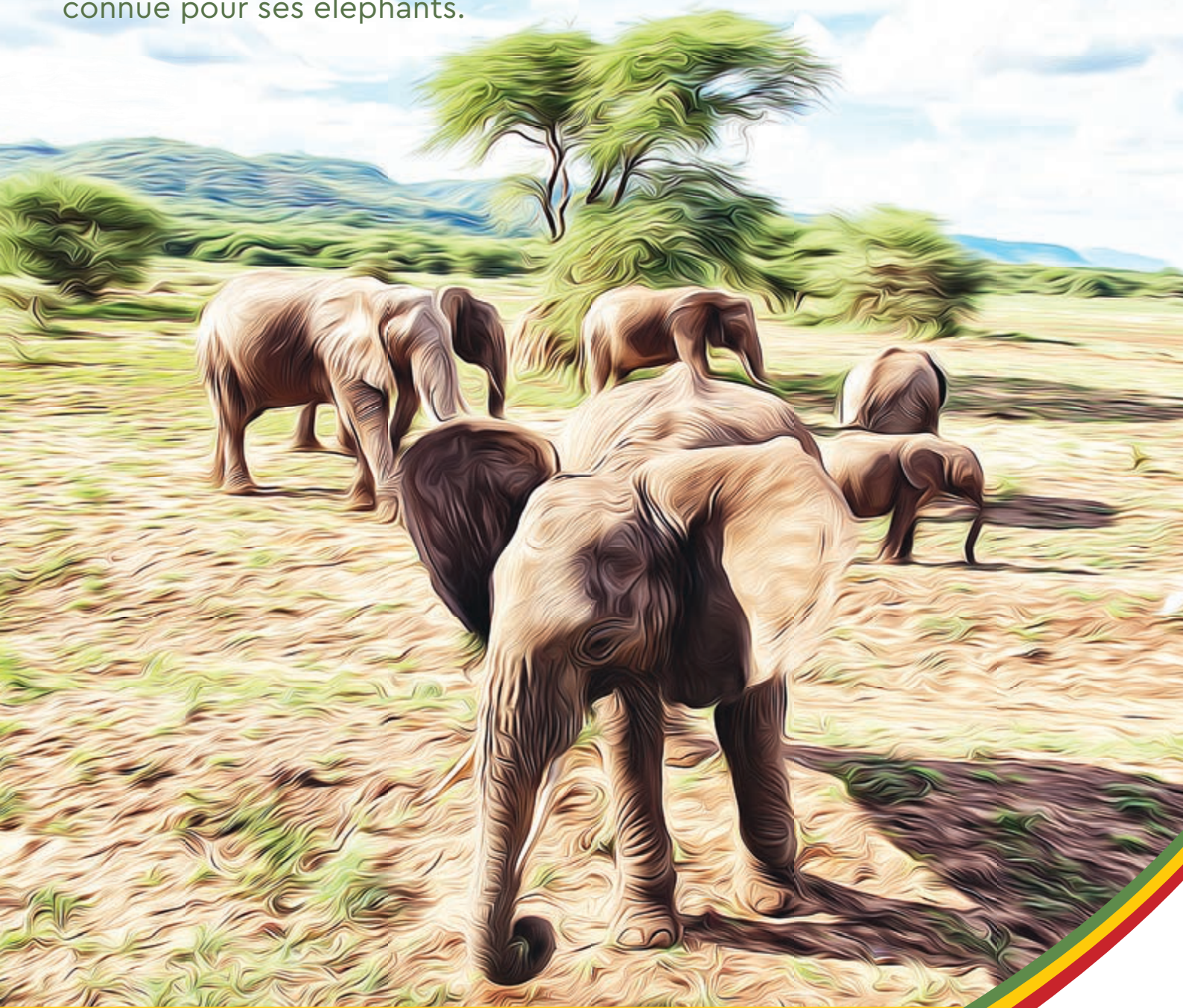
Why is sovereignty used as a shield when faced with grave human suffering and crises without borders that need solutions?

Why are human rights officers, experts and defenders consistently targeted and denied the possibility to better work with States in line with the commitments that the States themselves have made?

NOUVEAU

DÉCOUVREZ L'AFRIQUE AU DÉPART DE GENÈVE.

KENYA | Safari dans la réserve nationale du Masai Mara connue pour ses éléphants.



Avec trois départs par semaine, Ethiopian Airlines vous propose des vols directs depuis Genève à destination de l'Afrique à bord du B787 Dreamliner.

www.ethiopianairlines.com

GENÈVE
AÉROPORT

Ethiopian
የኢትዮጵያ
THE NEW SPIRIT OF AFRICA



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Another perspective on human rights

Equal citizenship rights

One of the least debated topics of human rights is of particular relevance today because citizenship rights are understood and applied in many different ways depending on national legal frameworks and different interpretations of international legal instruments.

AMBASSADOR MARIE-THÉRÈSE PICTET-ALTHANN¹

I recently participated in a high level conference at the *Palais des Nations* on “Religions, creeds and/or other value systems: joining forces to enhance equal citizenship rights”, convened by the “Geneva centre for human rights advancement and global dialogue”. One of the most important panels of the conference was the one on “Equal Citizenship rights and vulnerable, disadvantaged, discriminated social segments: the case-study of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons”, and I was encouraged to join the deliberations and represent the Sovereign Order of Malta as a speaker.

By definition, refugees and migrants have not been included within the classical legal definitions of citizenship. It is therefore essential to review these concepts in the light of today and tomorrow’s rapidly evolving situations. Permanent resettlement, with the future possibility of being granted citizenship, is one of the durable solutions in response to global displacement flows and governance, founded in human rights.

Today the barrier to attaining citizenship is one of the most powerful instruments of exclusion; however, religion’s positive concept of belonging

to a community can be used to create a new paradigm for citizenship – one that is based on one’s contribution to society rather than on one’s origins. In Working Paper 4.10. Dr. Azza Karam, says, “in many ways belonging to a faith community is a form of citizenship albeit of/ to a faith tradition and herein lies a fundamental tension between citizenship understood as being part of secular nation-state and citizenship of a faith community which transcends nation state borders to become in many ways a quintessentially transnational phenomenon”.

With regard to refugees and migrants, this means that they should be fully respected in their own traditions and belief so as to allow them to keep their culture enshrined in their first religious citizenship while opening up to their new national citizenship.

An insightful report from the Institute of Development Studies in 2010, entitled “Citizenship and Displacement”, demonstrates how the millions of displaced people today parallel this transboundary conception of citizenship, by challenging the “state-nation-territory triad”. Refugees for example have left their territory, but can still be citizens of their country of origin. IDPs remain in the territory but may not be considered or consider themselves

as citizens anymore. Globalization increases flows of people, displacements are longer, and more and more people are becoming stateless; these trends in turn challenge the idea that citizenship rests on belonging to a particular group, to a nation.

Faced with these different situations and flows, states create varying layers and stages of citizenship with more or fewer rights. The report argues that rights and citizenship would be a way to, quote “bridge divides between different forms of displacement”.

Also, equal citizenship rights would reaffirm Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that “all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” as well as Article 15 that “everyone has the right to a nationality” and “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality”.

There is, therefore, an ethical component that goes beyond the legal rules and jurisdictions that define citizenship. We should recall that citizenship is first and foremost about duties and rights. The Working Papers, from 4.1. to 4.10., presenting different religions’ perspectives remind us that the two are inseparable.

And undoubtedly, they are at the core of integration. Whatever their situation, all displaced persons, especially if they have little hope of returning to their respective countries of origin in the near future, are losing part of their identity and creating a new one. Yet, without rights, these populations have no incentive to integrate in their countries of arrival. As long as, they are not treated as full members of the community, they cannot participate in it. Here, Monsignor Robert Vitillo, in Working Paper 4.1. reminds us that it is also the host community that is losing out on the enrichment that comes with diversity. On the other hand, obtaining these rights comes with obligations to fully respect the legal order and jurisdiction of the host country.

As we know, the balance between these two dimensions may be fragile but is necessary so as to ensure peaceful cohabitation between host and displaced communities. **Equal citizenship rights are crucial for migrants, refugees and IDPs, but are also beneficial for societies and States.** Refugees are future members of their new community. They bethink their tradition and roots and are looking for a cultural environment they can call home. The sooner they obtain rights, the better they will be integrated.

However, we should understand that formal granting of citizenship may not be followed by equality in practice. For example, one important cause of displacement is ethnic and religious conflicts within countries, often based on the fact

that religious minorities are persecuted and do not enjoy the same rights in reality. Therefore, ensuring that citizens have equal rights, without distinction of religion, within their countries can prevent such movements.

Ways to achieve this would be a better inter- and intra-religious dialogue together with faith literacy in order to prevent hatred, in addition to improving the implementation of equal citizenship rights. The successful integration of a diversity of communities depends largely on cooperation between national and local authorities and civil society.

Another area in which we must ensure that equality exists in practice is between women and men, girls and boys. Women and girls must be given the same chance to participate in their host communities, in all aspects of life, especially in terms of right to education, right to work and right to healthcare. So as to enable them to exercise these rights, the international community must constantly strive to identify and address the additional challenges that women and girls face when they are displaced.

The lack of citizenship undermines human dignity and human development potential, which is why we must

join forces to call on States to respect their obligations under international law.

Equal citizenship is a crucial contribution to a well-functioning society and the full enjoyment of human rights. One guiding principle to enhance equal citizenship rights is the assertion that citizenship must be founded in the human rights of all displaced persons, in particular, the freedom of religion and belief and expression.

Indeed, because religion is often a reason for displacement, religious leaders have a responsibility to unite and harness the power of religion as a peace-building instrument.

As I have mentioned before, religious leaders can intensify their efforts in dialogue and education to combat intolerance and hate speech through responsibility sharing with state and local authorities and civil society. In a world where individualization is increasing, and social coherence is decreasing, religion strengthens the sense of commitment to the community and can be a powerful tool for social cohesion.

Most importantly, the contributions of different religious leaders to the present discussion through the working papers, illustrate the extent to which

all religions are founded on common values of love for one another, compassion, protection and assistance to the poor and the “traveler” and the ultimate goal of advancing the wellbeing of mankind.

Because more and more people are expected to move in the 21st century, as a result of conflicts, climate change, inequality, development and many other reasons, religious leaders of all faiths are ready to support states to tackle the issue of equal citizenship rights, the core elements of which are health, work, education, housing and justice, so as to ensure that sustainable and durable solutions are created to integrate future flows of migrants, refugees and IDPs.

In conclusion, I make the following recommendations to our readers:

- Continue to advocate for displaced persons in negotiations on the Global Compacts, by promoting equal citizenship rights as a sustainable solution and guiding states accordingly.
- Disseminate a “positive narrative of solidarity towards migrants, asylum seekers and refugees” as Pope Francis called for in the document: Responding to Refugees and Migrants: Twenty Action Points, which was submitted by the Holy See for the

consultations on the two Compacts.

- Refrain from using the word “minorities” with regard to refugees, migrants and IDPs.
- Devote particular attention to whether women and girls have the same rights as men in theory and in practice.
- Be aware that gaps in equal citizenship rights exist both at the international and the national level and that our focus should be on both to ensure that all displaced persons, whatever their situation, refugees, migrants or IDPs, can enjoy their human rights and live their lives in dignity wherever they are.

The Sovereign Order of Malta is a lay/religious institution with a long experience in caring for refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons by providing both material and spiritual assistance. Present in 120 countries worldwide, we witness daily the challenges they are confronted within all aspects of their lives. We will remain engaged with this particular sight on the human rights portfolio, to bring to fruition equal citizenship rights for the over 60 million displaced persons across the globe. ■

1 Her Excellency Ambassador Marie-Thérèse Pictet-Althann is Permanent Observer of the Sovereign Order of Malta to the United Nations in Geneva

NEW DIPLOMATIC SALES ON ALL MODELS*

ATRA AUTOMOBILES GENÈVE SA
 Chemin Delay 23
 1214 Vernier
 022 979 20 00
 www.atra.ch

GARAGE DU NOUVEAU SALON SA
 Route de Ferney 185
 1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
 022 798 71 32
 www.nouveau-salon.ch

25% discount for all legitimization card holders*

mazda

* voir conditions Garage.

How smart are the sanctions targeting Syria?

The question arises as to the sequence of events necessary to alleviate sufferings and to taper off some of the most egregious consequences of the unilateral coercive measures (UCMs) on Syrian people.

AMBASSADOR IDRIS JAZAIRY*

When imposed by the Security Council, the economic and financial measures taken against a State or against a person, whether corporate or individual is referred to as a “sanction”. Increasingly after the disasters caused by its comprehensive sanctions in Haiti and Iraq, the Council has renounced this type of sanction and has focused on “smart” sanctions in the sense of exercising pressure on a government while avoiding undue sufferings on innocent civilians. It also activates periodic review mechanisms and even, in some cases, appeals procedures.

When imposed outside the Security Council, such measures are called “unilateral coercive measures” or UCMs. They also claim to intend to spare ordinary people. However, the accumulation of packets of superimposed trade measures blended with across-the-board financial constraints reintroduce comprehensive measures through the back door while making ineffective the very humanitarian exceptions, which have been allowed by source countries. The UCMs when put in place tend to lack

flexibility or adaptability to evolving circumstances. They tend therefore to be a blunt and often ineffective tool to pressure the political leadership of targeted countries to change policies source countries find to be objectionable.

This was the general conclusion I drew from a recent visit to Syria, a pilot country in the Middle-East whose gross domestic product (GDP) had been growing at a spectacular rate until 2011, that was a food exporter and an active industrial producer based on small and medium enterprise, a country where Muslims, Maronites, Greek Orthodox and other denominations lived in total harmony. Then came the onslaught of violence, progressively engulfing Iraq and Syria while UCMs imposed on the latter over the past decades by one source country were intensified and applied by a larger number of countries or group of countries.

The impact of this dire situation has been devastating on ordinary people. Without it being possible to ascribe the share of their sufferings, obviously the largest, that can be ascribed to the armed conflict and that which is a consequence of the UCMs, I have found that the latter have clearly compounded the former. There is indeed a degree of contradiction between my findings about the adverse impact of the “restrictive measures” (as UCMs are called in the European Union) on the civilian population in Syria and the decision taken by the EU, after I made these

findings public, to extend these measures, unchanged, until 1 June 2019 out of a proclaimed concern for the very same civilian population. This is a vivid expression of what one would call at best “tough love”. The text of this decision refers to “restrictive measures against the regime and those who support it”. Yet as in most similar cases, it is ordinary people and not the elites that bear the brunt of the impact of UCMs unless they target individuals. Those that target corporations affect both the elites who own them but also the workers whose livelihood is thereby put at jeopardy.

The shortcomings of UCMs in Syria are those featured above for UCMs in general; worse, they are a basket case of UCMs that have gone badly wrong through their unintended consequences. Not only is Syria suffering from the consequences of conflict and of an embargo but also from a ground blockade as much of its border posts with neighbouring countries continue to be out of the control of the authorities despite the change in the military balance on the ground in favour of the latter.

It is no surprise therefore that as the country emerges from a devastating conflict which adds international rivalries played out by proxy, on top of internal strife, and which is confronted by a barrier of UCMs which do not help, the GDP of Syria has been reduced by two thirds since 2011. Scarcity begot inflation that reached 48% in 2016 with the price of food items



© UNHCR/Suzann Schulman

Displaced by fighting, families try to make a life among badly damaged buildings in Syria's war-torn Aleppo.

ballooning at eight times its pre-crisis level. Ordinary people of whom 48% became unemployed because of the situation, and half of those still employed earning a fixed salary, were cruelly affected. But that was not the end of the story. From 45 to a US \$ in 2010, the Syrian lira sank to 510 per \$ in 2017 as 32% of Syrians became food

insecure with imported wheat and fodder becoming entirely unaffordable or simply unavailable because of the blockage of transfers. To the Syrians should be added several hundred thousand Palestinians living in camps across Syria that were destroyed depriving those refugees from shelter and livelihoods.

In Security Council resolution 2254 (2015), there was unanimous expression of “the gravest concern at the continued sufferings of the Syrian people” and at “the dire humanitarian situation” prevailing in Syria. The question arises therefore as to the sequence of events necessary to alleviate these sufferings and to taper off

some of the most egregious consequences of the UCMs on people. Should humanitarian progress be made conditional on reaching a given political stage in the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 on the Road Map for the Peace Process... or could such action be viewed as preambular “confidence building measures” under operational paragraph 10 of the said resolution?

One can question the view that humanitarian measures are contingent on political development

Perhaps the solution would lie in broadening the space for consensus for a comprehensive humanitarianist approach that would address and reconcile concerns on all sides.

The humanitarian map of Syria has changed quite dramatically west of the Euphrates

POUR LA PREMIÈRE FOIS À GENÈVE, APRÈS 65 MILLIONS D'ANNÉES, ILS SONT DE RETOUR !

DÉJÀ PLUS DE 9 MILLIONS DE SPECTATEURS À TRAVERS LE MONDE

PRÉSENTÉ PAR GLOBAL CREATURES EN ASSOCIATION AVEC BBC STUDIOS

WALKING WITH DINOSAURS
LE SPECTACLE LIVE

LE PLUS GRAND ET PLUS SPECTACULAIRE SHOW DE DINOSAURES

19 - 23 SEPTEMBRE 2018
ARENA GENEVE

opus abc ticketcorner.ch coop LeMatin lfm LA RADIO BBC

Walking with Dinosaurs is a trademark of the British Broadcasting Corporation and is used under license. WWD logo © BBC 2017. The BBC is a trademark of the British Broadcasting Corporation and is used under license. BBC logo © BBC 1996

September 2018 - June 2019

MEIG MASTER OF ADVANCED STUDIES EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

info@meig.ch
www.meig.ch

**Better Knowledge
Better Skills
Better Governance**

Apply now !

Take over an executive function in an international environment!

- ▶ A unique learning experience at the University of Geneva in cooperation with the United Nations office at Geneva
- ▶ A programme designed for graduates and professionals
- ▶ 8 modules | 3 days a week | internship, professional project or thesis
- ▶ Programme to be achieved in 1 or 2 years
- ▶ Possibility to participate in individual modules

CENTRE D'ÉTUDES JURIDIQUES EUROPÉENNES
Centre d'excellence Jean Monnet
Université de Genève

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE
GLOBAL STUDIES INSTITUTE

UN GENEVA

UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE



This young Syrian refugee, shown here talking with a neighbour, fled Homs and now lives with her three sons in a dark, damp one-room garage originally intended to be a shop, in an alleyway with other similar shelters, in Ghazieh, Saida, Lebanon.

as charted by Security Council resolution 2332: there remain practically no “hard-to-reach”-category of people or even “cross-line” humanitarian access to be required by donors as the major regrouping of armed groups is taking place in Afrin which is accessible from Turkey and a similar situation prevails on Syria’s southern borders.

Donors who joined in expressing concern for the humanitarian situation of the population of Western Ghouta and Douma now have an opportunity to assist the civilian population in this area without risking denial of access. The Syrian Government should be called upon to provide immediate access. That should be done as a matter of urgency.

Then there might be donor interest in reducing the food deprivation of the population. The Governor of the Central Bank has indicated that UCMs have led to freezing about 700,000\$ of its assets. One simple and quick solution would consist in letting the resources be unfrozen exclusively for the import of food grain or fodder.

A third option would consist in reviewing the action necessary to make humanitarian

exemptions effective. Source countries have included such exceptions in their legislation but long licensing and transfer hoops and hurdles make them currently ineffective. It is suggested that source and target countries could engage on a case-by-case approach with respect to supplies included in humanitarian exceptions, to make them effective.

Finally, a review of the current measures having the most egregious human rights impact on ordinary citizens could be undertaken by all stakeholders with a view to lifting them progressively.

This was the view that my Mandate supported in connection with the long-standing UCMs imposed by one source country against the Sudan. Through acceptance of the source and target country to engage with the Independent Expert on the Sudan, Mr. Aristide Non-onsi and with my Mandate, restrictive measures were gradually lifted over a period of 15 months until they were finally eliminated in October 2017. Though the situation in Syria which has become a crisis of international proportions, is more complex, the same step-by-step approach needs to be followed through quiet

diplomacy and mutual accommodation, in close coordination, of course, with the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Syria, but without passing judgement on the position of stakeholders and being guided only by our collective obligation to the respect of two fundamental international principles of international law: proportionality and the ban on collective punishment.

Finding a humanitarian solution to the crisis in Syria would have an added benefit for source countries: to reduce the pressure for migration of the 6 million Syrians and of several hundred thousand Palestinians who are currently living as internally displaced, for half of the working population which is currently unemployed, for those that can no more eke out a living from their fixed salaries... No barrier, no ocean will stop those who flee from misery.

This is another case where compassion and self-interest point in the same direction: either make sanctions smarter if one must in the shorter term or do away with them in the medium term as called for by so many General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions. ■

1 Ambassador Idriss Jazairy is UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on the adverse human rights impact of unilateral coercive measures and the Executive Director of the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue.



Le plaisir
de conduire

A side-profile photograph of a dark blue BMW 7 Series sedan parked on a cobblestone driveway. The car is illuminated by warm, golden light from a building with large windows in the background. The license plate reads '19 4315'.

**EN AVANCE SUR SON
TEMPS DEPUIS 40 ANS.**
LA BMW SÉRIE 7. L'INNOVATION PAR TRADITION.

Emil Frey SA Genève-Acacias
1227 Genève-Acacias
www.bmw-efsa-geneve.ch

An enforceable human rights treaty for victims of abuses by transnational business

For many decades, the international community has continuously struggled for the effective protection of human rights from abuses by transnational businesses.



AMBASSADOR LUIS GALLEGOS¹

Nonetheless, the realm of the business sector has been kept far away from a human rights dimension due to geopolitical and ideological motivations.

The lack of an international framework on this issue is the result of a permanent resistance and push back from a school of thought promoting “voluntary” guidelines for business enterprises and not enforceable international rules. Such notion has prevailed for certain actors which assume that an international legally binding framework on this matter will affect the business model of “their” enterprises.

I do not believe so. I think that these entities, whose activities have been traditionally regulated by national legislations, and now span the globe, are very much sophisticated and understand that the respect for human rights is a primary objective. They recognise that their consumer base is concerned on how their purchase preferences would negatively impact on the full enjoyment of human rights. Therefore, businesses are aware that

the number of their customers would be reduced if their decisions do not respect human beings. Hence, sustaining such extreme position of non-compliance by proclaiming that investments and development will be affected by respecting human rights, leaves aside the current global trend which hints the opposite.

A good example are the international negotiations on environment and climate change. Forty or some years back, we proposed to the international community the need of protecting our ecosystem. Against this proposal, the same actors above mentioned raised the same concern. For them, the planet will replenish, and those attributes should be used for economic development rather than being condemned to poverty and hunger. However, a generational change has taught us that “we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children” confirming that environment is important. I doubt that today any company or business in the world will not want to go “green”.

Personally, I began this road in 1975. My doctoral thesis was focused on how national legislations of States will not be capable of dealing with the international phenomenon of transnational businesses and the extraterritorial nature of their activities. Something was already clear in 1975, there was a need to set up international regulation to put in order the international activities of business entities that do not have any national loyalties. There was a need to fill legal gaps back then, and there is still a need now.

Some years later, when I was expert of the UN Committee against Torture, I had the opportunity of meeting the UNSG’s Special Representative for Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, who invited me to be part of his Advisory Board aimed at moving forward on this thematic. I had the opportunity to share this task with the Ex-Secretary General Kofi Annan, Ex-High Commissioner Mary Robinson, Kishore Mahbubani from the Lee Kwan Yew School of Public Policy of the University of Singapore, and

others. As part of this process, I participated in consultations in Denmark, India, Austria, among other countries.

John presented his report to the Human Rights Council in 2011 and formulated what we call now the “Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework” and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In brief it is composed of three pillars:

- The State duty to protect human rights
- The corporate responsibility to respect human rights
- Access to remedy for victims of business-related abuses.

My interest is in the third pillar, the REMEDY FOR VICTIMS of business-related human rights abuses.

There is no doubt that this is an important effort on the issue of business and human rights; however, this is not necessarily the last step on the ladder. The content of these principles was prepared by experts, and while not negotiated by States, it was adopted by the Human Rights Council through a Resolution,

which considers the possibility of “any further development on this issue”.

In this regard and recalling the experiences of victims of the Bhopal disaster, the collapse of the Bangladeshi garment factory and many others, Ecuador proposed a resolution in the Human Rights Council after attempting protracted negotiations with other interested parties to consider the adoption of an “enforceable treaty of transnational and other business enterprises and human rights”. The refusal to reach such agreement made it necessary to table the now well-known Resolution 26/9.

The Human Rights Council approved this Resolution creating an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group that has met for three sessions and negotiates the adoption of a treaty on the protection of

victims of violations of human rights by business enterprises. subject.

This is one step towards the evolution from voluntary commitments to an enforceable Convention in the realm of human rights, with the possibility of further Optional Protocols that will provide States with the necessary tools to advance in the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, with special attention to accountability and redress. ■

1 His Excellency Ambassador Luis Gallegos is the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in Geneva

I had honour to Chair the WG that elaborated the Convention on Human Rights for Persons with Disabilities. I learned that the States can change from radical opposition, to be active Party of a treaty.

The United States and the European Union did not at the beginning of negotiations of this Convention. Now they are amongst the 176 members of the UN that have signed or ratified the CRPD. I feel very honoured that it is the most successful human rights treaty and the first of this century. We have lead the international community to take disability as a world issue and benefited more than four billion people with disabilities.

We had a chance of changing the lives of billions of people, and that is what we did. The CRPD is a testimony to what we can do in the United Nations, and a testimony for to face current crisis of multilateralism in international relations.



I'm a Migros owner.

Lawrence N.

Migros is a cooperative, owned and shared by more than two million people: people just like you.
migros.ch/proprietaires

MIGROS
M comme Meilleur.

Fr. 10.- off your next purchase when you spend Fr. 50.- !
Valid: from 6.7 to 24.8.2018

MIGROS

VOUCHER

PURCHASE FR. 10.-

from Fr. 50.- on purchase

Offer valid from 6.7 to 24.8.2018 in all your Geneva, Nyon and Gland Migros supermarkets on presentation of this voucher. Please do not forget to show your Cumulus card! Only one voucher per purchase will be accepted. This offer cannot be combined with any other vouchers. Service provision, Oh! Box products, recycling fees, E-loading, telephone cards, gift cards or concert and show tickets are not included in this offer.



7 613347 793664

Are peace and reconciliation possible through education and public policy?

The 8th Annual Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy, held in May and June of 2018, convened leaders from 23 nations to build capacity for UN Sustainable Development Goal #16, addressing peace, justice, and strong institutions the world over.

JESSICA HANEY, UNITAR

The year 2016 saw at least 560,000 lives¹ snuffed out violently across the world – from headline-grabbing wars such as those in Syria and Yemen, to localized conflicts, to homicides. This tip-of-the-iceberg number actually pales in comparison, however, to the hundreds of millions of lives either ended or cataclysmically altered from the effects of violent conflict. According to the latest figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the number of people forced to flee their homes last year rose to a whopping 68.5 million. Around the world, nearly one person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution.

And still, while displacement is one of the most widespread and immediate effects of violence, it remains only one brutal symptom among many. It would seem a daunting feat to attempt to chart even the clearest marks of violence on the global population, from life to life to life: to count all of the indirect deaths, the life-altering injuries, and the myriad forms of crippling social and economic hardships

engendered by conflict. These cascading effects on health, education, environment, industry, vital political institutions, and self-sufficiency spiral down through people and communities for years, often generations. These effects are not all numerable, nor even traceable; but even those that are – were they tallied and presented as one colossal whole – would surely defy imagination.

No one reading these pages needs reminding that the United Nations was founded as a response to just such horrors as these. And though the good and vital work of the UN has no doubt, over the decades, saved more lives than we can trace, we are keenly aware of how much there remains to do. The numbers above – incomplete as they are – and the headlines, leave us in no doubt of the challenges before us.

Our work as the UN of course takes the form of peacekeeping operations, of diplomatic interventions, and of holding perpetrators of abuse accountable to the global community. But it also takes the form of preventive education and

institution-building: from the grassroots to the halls of power, and everywhere in between. The UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) has taken such capacity-building activities as its mission since 1963. It continues to offer training programmes for governments, civil society, businesses, students, and the global population at large, all with the aim of equipping States, groups, and individuals with a greater capacity to bring the lofty ideals of the Charter firmly into to their own communities.

In May and June 2018, UNITAR co-hosted the 8th Annual Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy (GILPP), with just this aim in mind. The four-day summit was held at the *Palais des Nations* and the *Centre International de Conférences Genève* (CICG), and convened 91 public leaders from 23 nations to build capacity for UN Sustainable Development Goal #16, addressing peace, justice, and strong institutions.

GILPP was established in 2010 by Global Hope Network International (GHNI), a Geneva-based NGO in Special Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The organization was founded by retired U.S. Senator Harold Jones to “bring help and hope to the hidden and the hurting”, and works to foster sustainable development and peacebuilding programmes in communities across Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. Now in partnership with UNITAR, GILPP trains leaders and policy makers on critical

contemporary global issues, equipping them to return to their countries and help fight for positive transformation in the public sphere. The Annual Conference looks towards the creation of improved public policy in nations and locales around the globe: policy driven by compassion and that seeks the wellbeing of those left furthest behind.

The GILPP curriculum revolves around the four strategic areas of leadership, economics, public policy, and culture. The conference is designed to be a non-confrontational forum for leaders from emerging nations to discuss the best methods to guide their countries towards peace and prosperity. At the event on 30 May, the Director of UNITAR’s Division for People and Social Inclusion welcomed the delegates to the *Palais des Nations*, and fourteen other speakers took the podium over the course of the conference to discuss policymaking, mediation, ongoing regional crises, and various peacebuilding projects and examples from around the world. His Excellency Tamrat Layne, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, delivered a keynote address. GILPP delegates were chosen based on their positions of leadership and personal experiences working to build peace in their countries, and breakout sessions also allowed them to share their valuable insights with each other.

GILPP maintains four core objectives: to empower leaders to return to their nations with transformational ideas for



Delegates to the Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy at the Palais des Nations, 30 May 2018.



Working session of the 2018 Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy.

© UNITAR – SDP

© UNITAR – SDP

shaping public policy, as well as with more effective strategies for implementing those policies; to foster fruitful relationships amongst leaders; to provide leaders with ongoing access to a virtual community that shares resources on public policy and leadership development; and to offer leaders consulting support from staff and experts introduced during the conference. By convening delegates and speakers from diverse backgrounds, nations, and cultures, the conference provides leaders with a wealth of knowledge, enabling them to serve as catalysts for change in their nations and communities.

Sweeping problems often seem to beg for sweeping solutions. And sometimes, epidemics of violence and death can indeed be stopped in their tracks with grand interventions. We need those, at every time and in

every place that they stand a chance of success.

But fostering a long-term trend of peace in the world must also rely on the agonizingly slow drop of changing hearts and minds, and then institutions, one victory at a time, from the ground up. Without this incremental work – which delves into the nooks and crannies of a global population to address capacities missing or institutions gone awry – sustainable peace can never be. But sprinkle enough drops in the bucket, and perhaps one day we could suddenly find ourselves baffled and overwhelmed by a tidal wave of peace. We must look towards this reality; we must *make* it our reality, whatever the odds and the statistics and the cynicism borne of suffering may otherwise tempt us to believe. We must build up minds through

sound education and build up institutions through sound policy. This work is how abstract ideals such as peace and reconciliation may be rendered concrete.

The Charter of the United Nations was created first and foremost with peace in mind, and declares as much in its first fantastical words: “We the peoples of the United Nations [are] determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. Our ongoing quest is for the soaring ideals of the Charter to filter down into the

day-in-day-out existence of more and more people everywhere. Peace will be won or lost on this myriad of infinitely small yet infinitely far-reaching battlegrounds. May we never let up our advance. ■

1 This figure is taken from the December 2017 report of the Small Arms Survey at the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, in Geneva.

The 9th Annual Geneva Institute for Leadership and Public Policy will be held from 18 to 21 June, 2019, and will explore the theme of National Transformation through Poverty Alleviation. Applications for delegates, observers, and students will be accepted beginning in October 2018. For additional information, please email GILPP@ghni.org.

VISION LASER, UNE NOUVELLE MANIÈRE DE VOIR LA VIE!

-15% 15TH ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL OFFER

www.visionlaser.ch
Place de la Gare 1 | 1225 Chêne-Bourg, Genève | +41 (0)22 860 80 60

Distance interpreting and its challenges

“Distance interpreting” is trying to make its way into the conference interpreting profession, but it is far from succeeding, given the current state of available technologies.

PRISCA CHAOUI, UNOG

We met Professor Kilian Seeber (professor at the University of Geneva and director of the Interpreting Department) who shed some light on this type of interpretation.

Prof. Seeber, together with your team of researchers at the University of Geneva’s Faculty of Translation and Interpreting, you carried out a study on distance interpreting. Please tell us more about the study and its main findings.

Our latest study was carried out during the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ in Rio. With over 400 multilingual press conferences, interviews and media briefings scattered across 12 cities located up to 4000 km from each other, flying interpreters from venue to venue was impracticable. Consequently, simultaneous interpretation was provided by a team of 31 professional conference interpreters from a distance interpreting hub in Rio. In this type of distance interpreting, called video remote interpreting, interpreters see one or more distant speakers

on a video screen but have no direct view of other participants at the event. Previous research on video remote interpreting in more traditional conference settings, such as the meetings regularly held at the UN, showed that although professional conference interpreters are able to provide the same quality in a remote setting, they perceive this to come at a cost. As these studies were unable to quantify this cost using traditional physiological indicators for stress and fatigue, we wanted to explore the extent to which interpreters’ expectations might influence their experience of and attitude towards video remote interpreting; indeed, the study yielded some interesting results. Before the event many interpreters, most of whom had previous experience with remote interpreting, expressed serious misgivings about working in this modality in general. However, the quality of the technical setup, the equipment and the technicians eventually met or exceeded their expectations. The study suggests that the importance professional interpreters attach to working conditions extends far beyond the technical setup of the workspace and includes many aspects related to team work: being able to jointly prepare for assignments and to consult with team members is viewed by many interpreters as a means to offset some of the limitations inherent to the remote interpreting environment. It is not surprising, therefore, that professional interpreters generally prefer working in a hub-to-venue

setup, like the one we studied, allowing for direct human interaction with their colleagues, rather than a home-to-venue setup, where every interpreter would work from a different location. These results appear to be in contrast with the recent flurry of online providers marketing conference interpreting services by interpreters working from home.

Do you think these different distance interpreting modes will find their way into the world of multilateral diplomacy at the UN and in other multilingual international organizations?

In order to answer this question, it is important to clarify the terminology and distinguish between different types of distance interpreting. In videoconference interpreting, for example, interpreters have a direct view of most participants at a conference, while select speakers are connected using video technology. We know that this already happens regularly at international conferences, including at international organizations like the UN, for example when participants only have a very short contribution to make to an event or are unable to attend in person. According to a recent AIC survey, professional conference interpreters encounter this type of distance interpreting about seven times a year and the average videoconference lasts less than an hour. In video remote interpreting, on the other hand, interpreters have no direct view of any of the conference participants other than select speakers they



© FTI/UNIGE

Kilian Seeber, Director of the interpretation department at the Faculty of Translation and Interpreting (FTI) of University of Geneva.

see using video technology. This type of distance interpreting, which includes the setup we studied in Rio, is not nearly as frequent as videoconference interpreting. The same survey indicates that interpreters currently work in this setup no more than three times a year, but with an increasing frequency. Unlike videoconference interpreting, video remote interpreting is much more complex to implement technically, especially in a true multilingual environment such as the UN with its six working languages. As soon as interpretation is provided by a team, rather than a single interpreter, teamwork-related factors such as the ones highlighted in our

study come into play. These are not easily transferred into cyberspace and current attempts to do so appear to be unsatisfactory.

Are there certain conditions that need to be met in order to allow conference interpreters to work in distance interpreting settings, and if so, what are they?

Technically speaking, distance interpreting, including video remote interpreting, has been feasible for some time. This does not mean, however, that we fully understand all the implications that it has on the well-being of the interpreter. It stands to reason that any loss of signal, in other words, auditory or visual information the

interpreter would have access to in an ordinary conference environment, has to be compensated for. When the distance interpreting set-up does not meet that standard, for example, by providing inadequate picture and sound quality, or simply insufficient auditory and visual information, this gap will inevitably have to be filled by the interpreter. Although we do not yet have agreed-upon standards for distance interpreting, it should go without saying that all ISO standards relating to sound and image in simultaneous interpreting apply. Additionally, our current understanding is that visual information plays a crucial role in interpreting and that multiple screens with different views of the meeting room should be made available to interpreters. Furthermore, all interpreters should be in the same physical location, in a so-called hub, rather than working from individual locations, so as to allow them to engage in effective teamwork. We must not forget, however, that multilingual conferences like those organized by the UN often last several days, not just a few minutes or hours. Again, the long-term effects of video remote interpreting on interpreters' well-being are still largely unknown.

You are the director of the Interpreting Department and run one of the world's most

reputable training programs for conference interpreters. Many of your graduates work for the United Nations and its specialized agencies. Are you planning on adding distance interpreting to the curriculum in order to better prepare students for what some say is the inevitable future of conferences?

Our classrooms have long become high-tech environments and many learning scenarios actually emulate some of the aforementioned distance interpreting setups.

However, one of the characterizing features of FTI's interpreter training program is our research-based approach. Given the scant empirical data available on different distance interpreting modes and their cognitive implications for interpreters, training efforts for distance interpreting currently cannot meet that standard. This is one of the reasons we keep advocating for more systematic and objective research into distance interpreting: on the one hand it seems plausible to assume that interpreters will be affected by any major change to their interaction with an event (or with fellow interpreters), while on the other hand, it is difficult to teach something that, given the state of current research, we do not fully understand. ■

**APRÈS L'EFFORT, LE RÉCONFORT!
RECEVEZ 20% DE RÉDUCTION SUR VOTRE SÉJOUR!**

ENTRÉE ILLIMITÉE AUX BAINS THERMAUX & SPA
(jacuzzi, hammam, sauna, tépidarium)

Mentionnez le code: **UNG2018**

Offre Valable jusqu'au 15 décembre 2018

Pour un séjour minimum de 2 nuits



THERMES PARC – VAL-D'ILLIEZ – SWITZERLAND

WELLNESS – SPA – RESTAURANT – RÉSIDENCES

Thermes Parc – Les Bains de Val-d'Illicz
Route des Crettex 2, 1873 Val-d'Illicz
T +41 24 476 80 40, www.thermes-parc.com



Dr. Mazhar, Surveillance and Outbreak Officer, examines Hosnin, 8, who recovered from diphtheria.



Basel Karo and Khadimul Anam Mazhar examine alerts on EWARS dashboard in WHO office.

Using technology to tame an outbreak

The first case of diphtheria, a highly infectious disease, was reported in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh in November 2017. The disease quickly spiraled to 150 suspected cases a day.

RIMA MARROUCH, WHO EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Taming the outbreak has been a combined effort of international organizations, nongovernmental organizations and government agencies. One of their key tools has been the World Health Organization's (WHO's) Early Warning, Alert and Response System.

In a room without windows at the WHO office in the town of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, a group of epidemiologists sits around an oval table, eyes glued to their laptop screens. As they do every Monday, they are sifting through disease alerts submitted via the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS), a disease surveillance system developed by WHO.

Each week dozens of disease alerts come in from 170 health facilities spread across Rohingya camps as well as the general

population. Diseases reported include measles, acute watery diarrhoea, mumps and diphtheria. Each alert is reviewed, verified and assessed and, if more evidence is needed, a team is sent out to investigate.

Why diphtheria?

For the past few months the epidemiologists working with EWARS have been largely focussed on diphtheria. "The first suspected case of diphtheria was reported in Balukhali camp on 8 November, 2017," recalls Dr. Khadimul Anam Mazhar who has witnessed the diphtheria outbreak unfold in Cox's Bazar, "Then when diphtheria patients were documented in multiple facilities in higher numbers, an outbreak was declared."

When Mazhar studied historical diphtheria cases back in medical school, he never expected to see a diphtheria case in real life, not to mention a large-scale

outbreak. "It was something you would only read about," he says. Until November 2017, diphtheria was not a common disease in Bangladesh, thanks to high immunization coverage. "Diphtheria is a dangerous disease because it is highly infectious and it is spread by droplets. If the patients sneeze or cough, then you could get infected," says Mazhar.

"Although we have very high immunization coverage, immunity to the disease starts to decrease five years after taking the vaccine. So, without a regular booster, everyone is susceptible."

Before seeing the disease outbreak, he witnessed the waves of thousands of tired, hungry and scared families with children crossing into Cox's Bazar after fleeing Myanmar. In just a few months, the numbers have grown to one million displaced people. This constitutes one of the largest population movements in recent history. "Their immunization coverage was really poor. We don't have any data if they received the vaccines or not," says Mazhar.

The diphtheria outbreak spread across 14 camps across

approximately 5000 acres of undeveloped forest land. From more than 150 suspected cases reported daily, the numbers have now decreased to 20 cases per day. According to Mazhar, establishing diphtheria treatment centres with patient isolation was crucial to fighting the outbreak. Another critical tool is contact tracing, which allows officials to track the spread of the disease.

"We followed each patient and provided preventive medicines and vaccines to their family members. This helped in containing the outbreak," he says. But all of this wouldn't be possible without the correct data. "EWARS is the main platform for disease surveillance here. All the health services must report to EWARS so we can get an idea of the latest numbers, geographical location and population affected at the end of the day and plan our action accordingly," he says.

EWARS' dashboard was introduced into Cox's Bazar in January, allowing health workers to introduce the information via laptops and cell phones. "This feels like luxury. Before January, all the alerts were submitted in hard copy so we used to



A child in Cox's Bazar observing his mother talking to Dr. Mazhar.



Mazhar inspecting the medicine taken by Halima, 25, who, with her son, recovered from diphtheria.

have to go through more than 150 paper reports and enter them into the system on a daily basis," says Dr. Uzzal Roy, one of the doctors who has been working with EWARS since it was introduced in September.

The strength of EWARS is that it can work even when doctors and health workers are in remote areas, using their

smart phones to enter data even when they are offline. The information, which is gathered on the spot, is updated when the device is connected to an internet network.

WHO developed EWARS to detect disease outbreaks in humanitarian and emergency settings and has been used around the world in countries including

Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji and South Sudan. It is designed and operated by local people to benefit communities at risk. Despite great efforts and long hours of work put in by many doctors and health-workers like Dr. Mazhar, the health sector is heavily underfunded. The international humanitarian community's joint response plan released in March

called for US\$ 113 million for the health sector. So far less than 12% of that plan has been funded. Unless necessary funding is secured soon, life-saving health services, including disease surveillance, vaccination, diagnostics and treatment for 1.3 million people – Rohingya refugees and host communities – living in Cox's Bazar are under serious threat. ■

#BFF
Best friends forever!
sgpa.ch

SPA
GENÈVE

150 ANS

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN GENEVA

STUDY IN SWITZERLAND

Bachelor and Master programs in:

- Business Administration
- International Relations
- Media and Communication
- Computer Science

NEW BSc (Hons) in Business Management with Plymouth University (UK)

- A program with a global perspective
- European and American accreditations
- Multicultural student and faculty body
- Exchange and study abroad programs
- A not-for-profit foundation of higher education

ICC · Rte de Pré-Bois 20 · 1215 Geneva 15 · Switzerland
Tel.: +41(0)22 710 71 10/12 · Fax: +41(0)22 710 71 11
Email: info@iun.ch

www.iun.ch

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY...

The Human Rights Council

Is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States which are elected by the UN General Assembly. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The Council adopted the Universal Periodic Review mechanism to assess the human rights situations in all United Nations Member States, the Advisory Committee which serves as the Council's "think tank" providing it with expertise and advice on thematic human rights issues and the Complaint Procedure which allows individuals and organizations to bring human rights violations to the attention of the Council.

The Human Rights Council also works with the UN Special Procedures established by the former Commission on Human Rights and now assumed by the Council. These are made up of special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups that monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on thematic issues or human rights situations in specific countries.



**UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

Conventi
of people
co

The United Nations Human Rights Council is created by the General Assembly and established in Geneva.

2006

The International Criminal Court is created by ratification of "The Rome Statute" by 60 countries, thereby entering into force for those countries.

2002

United Nations creates the International Criminal Court and adopts the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

1998

The U.N. creates the position of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

1994

The World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna adopts the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action.

1993

The U.N. General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1989

1976

Apartheid is recognized as a "crime against humanity" by the U.N. General Assembly.

The first "Truth Commission" addresses human rights abuses. Since then, approximately 20 Truth Commissions have been established.

The United Nations Fight for Human Rights

on the rights
with disabilities
comes into force.

2008

1942

During WWII the Allied United Nations issue a declaration "to preserve human rights and justice in our own lands as well as in other lands."

1944

The Commission to Study the Organization of Peace issues report, "International Safeguard of Human Rights", calling for a Commission on Human Rights.

1945

The United Nations is founded to promote world peace and human rights.

1946

U.N. Commission on Human Rights is created (superseded by the U.N. Human Rights Council in 2006).

1947

First international human rights instrument, American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, is adopted.

1948

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is signed.

1965

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

1966

The U.N. adopts the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

1968

The U.N. General Assembly proclaims 1968 to be the International Year for Human Rights.

1974

"Commission" investigates by a government. Approximately 40 Truth Commissions have been established.

TIMELINE





For emergency communications trainees, the worst case is the best practice

LINDSAY MACKENZIE, WHO¹

The Emergency Communications officers had been dispatched to support routine health messaging before a major international football championship. They had just arrived, but they could already sense that something was off.

The border guards were unusually tense, looming clouds threatened heavy rain, and radio talk shows were inundated with rumours and calls for protests.

Soon after settling in, their fears were confirmed. Unexpected outbreaks of both Zika virus disease and cholera were occurring, just as the international crowds were arriving.

Adding to the complexity, the Government was yet to make an announcement about either outbreak.

Luckily for the deployees, the situation was a simulation. The 50 participants were taking part in the World Health

Organization's Emergency Communications Network (ECN) training in Nairobi, Kenya.

Building a trained & trusted cohort of emergency health communicators

At a time when growing numbers of people around the world need humanitarian assistance and disease outbreaks are a continual global threat, the systems needed to respond are under unprecedented strain. One of the resources in short supply are field response staff – specialists who, at a moment's notice, can take their skills to some of the world's most vulnerable locations.

The ECN training is one of the many ways that WHO is working to build a health reserve workforce. The training aims to create a trained, trusted and tested cohort of communicators in WHO, in Ministries of Health, and in partner organizations to strengthen the response to public health emergencies.

"In the past twelve months, WHO has responded to 50 emergencies in 47 countries. Effective communication in emergencies can save lives and communication coordination with partners is a critical part of our response. ECN participants practice with Ministries of Health & partners in a simulated emergency with increasing complexities so that they can save lives in real emergencies."

– Vismita Gupta-Smith, WHO
Communication Capacity Building Lead

On 27 April 2018, WHO concluded its sixth ECN training. The focus was on building emergency communication capacity across the WHO Region of Africa. Ministries of Health from 18 priority African countries took part, in addition to communications officers from WHO offices in 27 countries and two partner agencies.

This year, the training was co-funded and co-facilitated by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



© Lindsay Mecklinzite



© Lindsay Mecklinzite

“Participating as funders, collaborating on the planning, and providing facilitators and materials for the 2018 ECN training with WHO was a natural step in our long-running partnership. At CDC, we understand that disease knows no boundaries and can spread from isolated villages to city settings in a matter of hours. Collaborating with WHO in this training allows us to help other countries increase

their ability to respond to health threats on their own.”

– Donda Hansen, Associate Director for Communication (Acting), US CDC, Center for Global Health and 2014 ECN Alumni

Nearly 230 communication officers have completed the training since 2013. ECN alumni have been deployed to provide communications assistance during health emergencies worldwide, including in response to conflicts in Iraq, Syria and

Yemen, the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, Ebola outbreaks in West Africa, the recent refugee influx in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh and most recently in the Ebola outbreak in Democratic Republic of Congo.

“ECN training familiarized me to the emergency procedures and broadened my global perspective. It also enabled me to network with internationally

respected communication experts. It was a challenging training that helps me communicate in health emergencies and humanitarian crises currently taking place in Yemen.”

– Sadeq Hasan, WHO Communications Officer, Yemen and 2015 ECN Alumni

Learning through realistic experiences

The training is designed to give participants a realistic

Les Grands Interprètes

Saison 2018 – 2019

Abonnement de 8 concerts au Victoria Hall

Mercredi 26 septembre

Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo
Kazuki Yamada *direction* | Maxim Vengerov *violan*

Mardi 30 octobre

Murray Perahia *piano*

Vendredi 14 décembre

Grigory Sokolov* *piano*

Samedi 12 janvier

Daniel Barenboim *piano*

Mercredi 6 février

Beatrice Rana *piano*

Lundi 4 mars

Maurizio Pollini *piano*

Vendredi 12 avril

Sinfonieorchester Basel | MDR Rundfunkchor
Christina Landshamer *soprano* | Markus Eiche *baryton*
Marek Janowski *direction*

Samedi 11 mai

Orquesta de Cadaqués

Jaime Martín *direction* | Pablo Sáinz Villegas *guitare*

Abonnez-vous
dès maintenant!
022 322 22 40
www.caecilia.ch

Concerts hors abonnement

Lundi 3 septembre

Orchestre Philharmonique de Saint-Pétersbourg*

Yuri Temirkanov *direction*

Sergei Redkin *piano*

(ouverture billetterie le 7 mai)

Jeudi 10 janvier

Orchestre du Théâtre Mariinsky

Valery Gergiev *direction*

Vendredi 1^{er} mars

Philharmonia Orchestra

Esa-Pekka Salonen *direction*

Nelson Goerner *piano*

*Concert caritatif pour la
Fondation Dr Henri Dubois-Ferrière Dinu Lipatti*

Samedi 16 mars

Martha Argerich

Stephen Kovacevich *pianos*

*Avec le soutien exclusif
de la Fondation Neva



Ouverture billetterie le 3 septembre 2018
Agence Caecilia | +41 22 322 22 40 | www.grandsinterpretes.ch



© Lindsay Mackenzie



© Lindsay Mackenzie

experience of an emergency. Trainers use adult learning techniques, including role plays, to maximize learning in a stressful yet safe space.

This year the scenario was built around rapidly developing disease outbreaks during an international football championship in a fictitious African country, Zambre, which faces a range of security, developmental and public health challenges.

During the five-day exercise, participants learned communications principles and tools in theory sessions delivered by facilitators from WHO, US CDC, and The Warning Project and collaborated to provide communication responses to the health emergencies in Zambre. Participants were required to take part in simulated interactions with government officials, hospital directors, and partner organizations, as well as meeting affected communities and developing communications materials about the response.

Trainers also acted as mentors, and played a range of roles, from radio talk show hosts to affected community members to partners and donors.

“ECN is one of the most intense experiences I’ve been through, both as a participant in the first training in 2013 and now again in 2018 as a trainer, mentor and facilitator. The beauty of it is that it did not feel like being on the other side: you learn as much as your team members by establishing bonds of trust and exchange in the midst of a compelling scenario. You need a supporting team in an emergency and this is what we created in Zambre”.

– Cristiana Salvi, External Relations Manager, WHO Regional Office for Europe and 2013 ECN Alumni

Ready for the real thing

Most trainees enjoyed the challenges and said they feel better prepared to communicate quickly and appropriately during health emergencies in the future.

The material and the experience are valuable, but so too are relationships formed during the intense training sessions.

In Kenya, Wycliffe Matini from the Ministry of Health has organized press briefings and communications campaigns in response to the discovery of circulating polio vaccine virus in Nairobi.

“The ECN training came at an opportune time when Kenya was preparing to respond to a polio event. The training helped me upgrade a wide range of communication skills, but I wish to Linespecially mention the media practice during ECN training. I started using these skills immediately. As a result I could communicate better with the media and this resulted in better coverage for our polio response unlike in the past.”

– Wycliffe Matini, Ministry of Health Kenya and 2018 ECN Alumni

Participants from ECN AFRO 2018 are already putting their training into action in the response to the ongoing outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo., ECN-trained communicators are supporting the response from WHO country office and Ministry of Health.

“As communication officers in DRC, ECN was a tremendous training that equipped me to respond to numerous requests for information from media & the public. This training gave me the 360 degree view of communication response in an emergency like this. I am glad that Henri Mbiya, my

counterpart in the Ministry of Health also received ECN training. This connection has been critical to our work together.” Eugene Kabambi WHO Country Office for DRC and ECN 2013 and 2018 Alumni

As ECN graduates continue to be deployed in emergencies, the training will continue to evolve, integrating new approaches and build partnerships to create a workforce of excellence that saves lives in emergencies. ■

1 Lindsay Mackenzie is Communication Officer, WHO Emergencies Program

Comment aider les réfugiés?

DANIEL ROMANAZZI¹

L'immigration est un phénomène en pleine expansion depuis quelques dizaines d'années. Elle touche principalement les régions voisines des pays d'origine des réfugiés. En 2016, 65,6 millions de personnes ont fui des conflits dans le monde d'après le Haut-commissariat aux réfugiés des Nations unies. «Qu'est-ce qu'un réfugié?», «Comment fonctionne un camp de réfugiés?», c'est pour tenter de répondre à ces différentes questions qu'a été organisée une conférence à l'ONU à Genève, le 24 janvier dernier, sur la situation des déplacés dans le monde.

Catherine Fegli, du service de l'information des Nations Unies à Genève a rappelé qu'un réfugié est une personne qui fuit et qu'un camp de réfugiés est une zone provisoire dans laquelle des personnes peuvent vivre en toute sécurité.

Julia Gouyou Beauchamps Secrétaire au Haut-Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés (HCR), a expliqué qu'un déplacé est une personne qui passe une frontière, qui veut fuir son pays d'origine pour un autre plus sûr. Le pays qui accueille les personnes déplacées est le principal responsable de leur situation car c'est lui qui doit assurer que les personnes ayant besoin d'aide vivent dans de bonnes conditions. Puis, l'ONU peut financer les camps et leur apporter le nécessaire notamment en eau, nourriture, abri et soins médicaux. La population locale peut aussi participer à leur accueil.

Un camp est la «moins pire des solutions». Au fil du temps, il se transforme en petite ville très difficile à gérer. Les médecins responsables de l'organisation de ces camps doivent souvent faire avec les moyens du bord. Les réfugiés y restent en moyenne 17 ans, cela signifie que certains y sont nés, y ont vécu et y sont morts. Il faut par ailleurs éviter d'établir ces camps dans des zones inondables, où se produisent des séismes ou là où il pourrait manquer d'eau.

Charles-Antoine Hofmann, Conseiller principal de l'Initiative de communication et engagement communautaire au Bureau des programmes d'urgence de l'UNICEF, a expliqué que l'organisation travaille indistinctement pour tout le monde en tenant compte

du contexte et de l'urgence des besoins. L'UNICEF veille ainsi à la santé de chacun et à l'accès à l'éducation. M. Hofmann a donné l'exemple du Bangladesh, où 80 pour cent des réfugiés sont des femmes et des enfants, et où le nombre de réfugiés a doublé entre 2005 et 2015. 73% des déplacés sont par ailleurs illettrés, 77% n'ont pas accès à l'information, 62% n'ont pas l'occasion de parler aux associations et 85% ont comme langue principale le Rohingya. La communication est un défi important à relever pour les réfugiés. Au Yémen, les statistiques de l'UNICEF montrent que 60% des personnes pensent que les associations ne répondent pas à leurs priorités.

Coralie Lechelle et Naoufel Dridi de Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) ont partagé leur expérience sur le terrain. Coralie Lechelle a participé à plusieurs interventions notamment en Tchétchénie, au Yémen, en République démocratique du Congo ou encore en Angola tandis que

Naoufel Dridi a effectué de nombreuses missions sur le terrain notamment en Irak et au Nigeria. Selon eux, les besoins les plus importants sont l'accès à la nourriture, aux soins médicaux et aux vaccins. Rester enfermé dans des camps engendre beaucoup de conflits internes et de persécutions, a-t-il expliqué. Les voyages pour aller dans les différents camps sont risqués. Par ailleurs, les enfants de moins de 5 ans sont en danger, car ils sont les plus touchés par les maladies et souffrent pour la plupart de malnutrition grave. Dans la région de Ngala, au Nigeria, beaucoup de ces personnes ont des problèmes de nutrition et d'autres soucis liés à l'hygiène.

Pour toutes ces raisons, il est indispensable d'aider les réfugiés en les accueillant, en leur offrant un abri sécurisé, de la nourriture et des soins médicaux. ■

¹ Daniel Romanazzi a 17 ans et est étudiant de l'École de Commerce Nicolas-Bouvier de Genève.



MAISON de la LITERIE®
Summer Sales

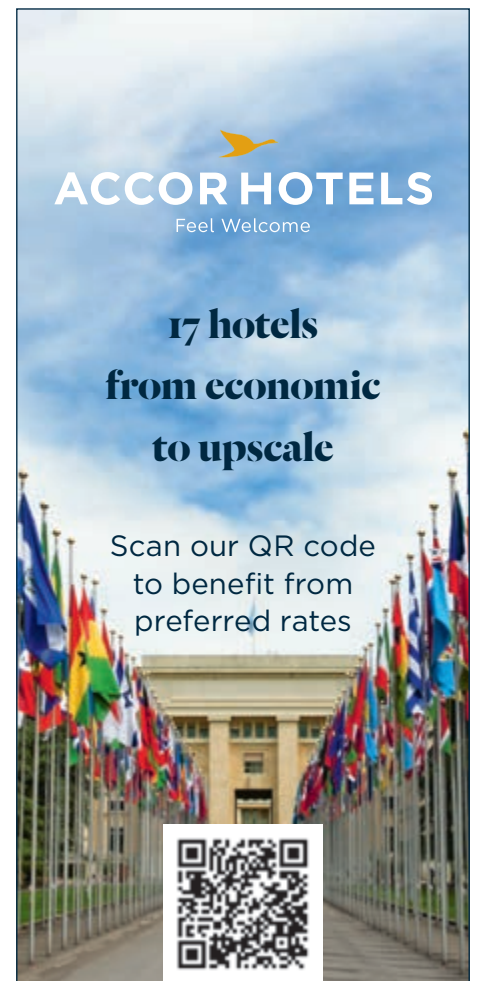
FYLD
Le lit Belge.be

Tax free for diplomats.

Discover our wide range of beds and sofa beds

Your partner for all major bedding brands


Genève
Rue de la Servette 67 – Tél. 022 734 24 34
Tram 14, arrêt Poterie
www.mdl-literie-geneve.ch



ACCOR HOTELS
Feel Welcome

17 hotels
from economic
to upscale

Scan our QR code to benefit from preferred rates



A third salary scale for General Service staff in Bangkok

Where will ICSC stop?

**CHARUWAN TINTUKASIRI,
PRESIDENT STAFF UNION ESCAP**

In March 2012, Bangkok became one of the first duty stations to establish a secondary scale for locally recruited staff as a result of the comprehensive salary survey conducted jointly by OHRM and ICSC specialists in June 2011. The survey was conducted under the old ICSC methodology and its 2006 salary survey manual. Despite the fact that there was no provision for secondary scale in the methodology then in force, the secondary scale was promulgated by OHRM with the worst gap as negative as -41.4 per cent, and the staff hired on the secondary scale ended up being paid almost half the salary of others doing the same work. Among others, the provision for secondary scale was for the first time included in the revised ICSC methodology and its 2013 salary survey manual, applicable for post-2012 salary surveys. There was, therefore, clearly a mixed application of the two methodologies to a great extent by the specialists in conducting the 2011 salary survey, which was contested by Staff but to no avail.

Since 2012, the trend has continued with several duty stations subject to secondary scales, with some examples even worse than the case of Bangkok. The implementation of a secondary scale is a blatant violation of the universal right to equal pay for equal work – one of the rights that the UN system is mandated to protect.

Changes in the revised ICSC methodology, among many others, included increase in the weighting of national civil service in the list of comparators, benefits and allowances quantification methods, and establishment of a secondary scale even when there was a marginal difference in the marginal negative survey result. The methodology, over time, has been artificially manipulated to place downward pressure on salaries, and has thus moved away from the original alignment with the Flemming Principle. It seems clear that there is decreasing interest of Management to ensure transparency and a fair process, and increasing interest in cost savings through the survey. Contested surveys have been upheld, even when technical shortcomings and errors are clear.

In Bangkok, the 2016 comprehensive salary survey further resulted in the threat of a tertiary salary scale, a result that did not receive the support of Management in most, if not all, Bangkok-based UN organizations. The decision to establish a multiple scale in Bangkok would clearly (a) not be the best interest of the Organization or of its staff, as indicated hereinafter; (b) be based on survey results which are evidently flawed (with GS staff salaries decreasing and NO staff salaries increasing, in the same survey); (c) not reflect the labour market or cost of living trends of Thailand as evidenced by the

positive survey results of all renowned compensation survey companies between 2011 and 2016.

Given the current trends, Bangkok's results could be just the tip of the iceberg. It is foreseen that the implementation of tertiary salary scale will be spreading to many other duty stations as it happened in 2012. In 2018, further erosion of the methodology is expected, with the GA requesting ICSC to further increase the weighting of national civil service organizations in the list of comparators and other ICSC-introduced provisions. Staff members across the UN system have protested the actions of ICSC, and the decisions taken in establishing multiple scales.

While Management has upheld that there are no impacts on the existing staff, some of the documented impacts in Bangkok include:

- Frozen salaries for the existing GS staff (on the primary scale, probably for their entire career, and for others, probably about 12 years). In addition, the inter-agency transfer of such existing GS staff resulted in them being paid the lower scale.
- Resulting reduction of pension and medical insurance benefits over time.
- Increasing job insecurity. The Global Service Delivery Model and budgetary pressure will result in cuts in posts, and the staff on the primary

scale are vulnerable as they will become targets, being much more expensive than new hires.

- A hostile work environment, due to the feeling of unfairness between colleagues.
- Reputational risk for the Organization.
- Difficulty in delivering on our mandates as the UN is no longer a competitive employer.

ICSC will further review its methodology for determination of local staff salaries during 2018. The Organization is at a critical juncture and Staff, therefore, should:

1. Request full details on the process for ICSC review of the local salary survey.
2. Have full participation of staff representatives (including technical representation and intervention) in the review of the methodology by ICSC).
3. Conduct objective and formal assessment of the current methodology as a basis for its revision.
4. Remove the provision for secondary and multiple scales, as a violation of human right
5. Re-affirm the intent of the Flemming principle. ■

The biography of a UN retiree

Does determination lead to success?



FR. B. S. NYENZI, RETIRED WMO

It is always interesting to hear about what people have done in their life, especially those things that contribute to the betterment of humanity. It is not that people always do good things, but in a lifetime, some contributions may yield positive results contributing to the wellbeing of the human race.

Dr. Buruhani Salum Nyenzi, a retired World Meteorological Organization (WMO) employee, has written an autobiography entitled, “Is Determination a Source of Success?”, in which he describes his long journey from elementary school to his career, and the responsibilities that he carried out during his time at various institutions until his retirement. Those institutions that he served, just to mention a few, include the Tanzania Meteorological Agency, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Southern African Development Community Drought Monitoring Centre (today, Climate Services Centre), the East African Meteorological Department, the

IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre and others.

The autobiography, introduced here in a personal capacity, recounts the story of a person who grew up in a village, but through his hard work and determination, studied until he was able to excel in different areas of life. This book is an inspirational and motivational asset particularly to young people because it shows them that it is through commitment and determination at each stage of life, and with hard work that one can excel and overcome obstacles and hurdles along the way. The autobiography shows that one should always know that the future can be better than the present and that it is the individual who has the power to make it happen. Through this kind of determination, Dr. Nyenzi, with all the bottlenecks and difficulties that he endured, managed to achieve a successful end to his working career and life. His dedication in carrying out responsibilities entrusted to him should be followed as an example. The autobiography shows clearly that with determination one can succeed and achieve one’s set goals.

One of his final achievements as an employee of WMO – which was his last employer before he formally retired – was the coordination of the Third World Climate Conference. This conference was successfully organized at the end of 2009 and led to the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) sought

to enable climate adaptation and climate risk management through the incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction products into policy and practice at all levels. The full implementation of the GFCS will require broad collaboration and partnerships. National and local government agencies, civil society, the private sector, as well as universities and research institutions must contribute to the success of GFCS, supported by the entire United Nations System, including key technical support from various programmes at the World Meteorological Organization,

the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other organizations contributing to the Climate Knowledge component of” United Nations system delivering as one” initiative.

For this article, I would like to thank my former colleague Federico Galati, currently working for the World Meteorological Organization, for his inputs. So, our personal message today is “You can succeed with determination!” ■

The views expressed in the book are of Dr. Nyenzi’s own, and do not necessarily represent the views of the quoted sources or mentioned entities.

170 ans
1848-2018

Dépannage 24h./24h.
Curage
Recyclage
Vidange fosse
Colonne
Station de pompage
Contrôle caméra

AMOUDRUZ S.A.

23 b. rue Eugène Marziano 1227 Acacias Tél. 022 329 05 24

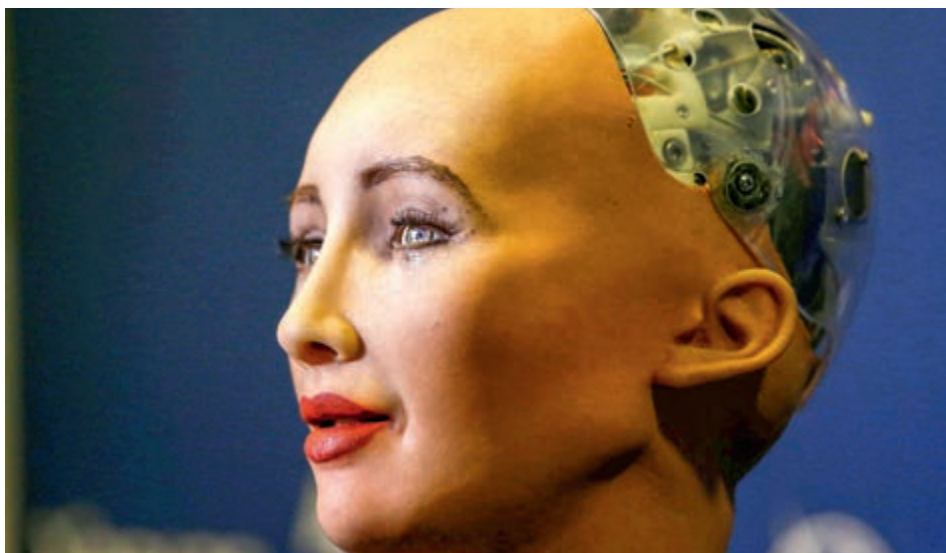
The impact of autonomy and artificial intelligence on strategic stability

DR. JEAN-MARC RICKLI¹

Shortly after President Trump's surprising electoral victory, Mark Zuckerberg stated that it is a "pretty crazy idea" to think that Facebook had an impact on the Presidential election since "voters make decisions based on their lived experience."² A year later, he backtracked and admitted that "after the election, I made a comment that I thought the idea of misinformation on Facebook changed the outcome of the election was a crazy idea. Calling that crazy was dismissive and I regret it. [...] This is too important an issue to be dismissive."³ Before testifying before Congress for the Cambridge Analytica scandal last April, the Facebook CEO then stated: "this was a major breach of trust, and I'm really sorry this happened [...] our responsibility now is to make sure this doesn't happen again."⁴

Mark Zuckerberg's comments echo the observation put forth by the UN Secretary General in his newly published Disarmament Agenda that "the pace of technological development and dissemination is challenging governmental regulatory framework and multilateral processes."⁵ In the case of the Cambridge Analytica-Facebook scandal, one can even add that pivotal private actors of the digital economy can also be overtaken by the way their own technology can be used by malicious actors. The recommendation of the Disarmament Agenda that there "needs to be broader consideration of the impacts of introducing autonomy and artificial intelligence into other military systems, and how effective governance and risk mitigation can be achieved" is timely and deserves special attention.⁶

Artificial intelligence has profound consequences for any human activities including those that involve the use of force and violence. The issue of the weaponization of artificial intelligence has been a matter of concern for the United Nations since 2014. The regulation or the ban of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) have been the core of the discussions held at the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) first through informal meetings of



Sophia, a robot integrating the latest technologies and artificial intelligence developed by Hanson Robotics is pictured during a presentation at the "AI for Good" Global Summit at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland June 7, 2017.

© REUTERS/Denis Balibouse

experts until 2016 and through a group of governmental experts since 2017. Though the discussions within the CCW have been very important in raising awareness on the role of autonomy in future warfare, they have mainly been discussed through the prism of the adequacy of LAWS with international humanitarian law (IHL). A quasi-consensus has emerged that future autonomous weapons systems should abide by the principle of meaningful human control that is that humans and not computers or algorithms should ultimately remain in control of, and thus morally responsible for, decision to use lethal military force. Yet, no agreement has been reached on either a ban or a limitation of the developments of these weapons.

While numerous articles have been written about the conformity of LAWS to IHL as well as about the ethical dilemmas that such weapons pose, discussions of the strategic impacts of these weapons has only started to emerge.⁷ Three issues can be highlighted.

Firstly, artificial intelligence relies on algorithms that are easily replicable and therefore facilitate proliferation. While developing the algorithm take some time,

once it is operational, it can be very quickly and easily copied and replicated as algorithms are lines of code. Unlike nuclear weapons, the international community should be prepared to face a very rapid proliferation of AI-related technologies both horizontally, across states and vertically to non-state actors. Curbing proliferation will be made difficult as this technology is dual-use by nature and mostly developed by the private and commercial sectors.

Secondly, scalability and speed are key characteristics of artificial intelligence and these allow for new types of strategies to emerge. In particular, swarming which relies on overwhelming and saturating the adversary's defence system by synchronizing a series of simultaneous and concentrated attacks have started to appear on the battlefield.⁸ For instance, ISIS mounted high-definition cameras under drones to improve intelligence and acquire situational awareness. They also mounted makeshift 40mm grenade to drop them on Iraqi positions. ISIS air capability had significant tactical impact as they allegedly killed up to 30 Iraqi soldiers per week during the battle of Mosul in 2017.⁹ ISIS' drones use did not involve artificial intelligence. However, a Chinese company, broke the world record

information flying thanks to an AI-assisted swarm of 1374 drones over the City wall of Xi'An last April. If this technology falls into the hands of malicious actors, this could have catastrophic consequences if weaponised swarm of drones are then used against civilians for instance. Swarming of autonomous malware would also have disruptive impact on cyber security and represent a key challenge for the protection of critical infrastructure.

Thirdly, based on the experience of the cyber domain, swarmlbot in the form of distributed denial of service attack (DDoS) which involves multiple electronic devices that overload a website server with log in request and bring it down, give an advantage to the offensive over defence. If swarming gives the same advantage in the physical world, then the entire international strategic stability might be jeopardized. Currently, with nuclear deterrence, states perceive an advantage to the defense and therefore refrain from attacking first. A systemic defensive advantage provides international strategic stability. If the offensive has the advantage then, deterrence no longer works and pre-emption becomes the

best way to defend yourself. Pre-emption, however, is a violation of article 2(4) of the UN Charter as it implies attacking before being attacked.¹⁰ Thus, full autonomy in weapons systems has the potential to completely upset international strategic stability as well as international law.

The impact of LAWS on international security has the potential of being very destabilizing for the international system be it because it can upset the strategic balance and favor an offensive defense posture favoring pre-emptive strategies or because these technologies could be used beyond their intended limitations shall they fall into the hands of non-state actors or terrorist organizations. Moreover with the rapid pace of current technological developments that could be exacerbated in the case of an arms race, one cannot guarantee that their original intended limitations will be respected in the future. It follows that the international community should be very careful when considering the development of LAWS and avoid contributing to create a situation where a return to the situation ex-ante will be very difficult or even impossible. ■

Staff College in Doha as well as at the Institute of International and Civil Security at Khalifa University in Abu Dhabi. Dr. Rickli received his PhD and MPhil in International Relations from the University of Oxford, UK, where he was also a Berrow scholar at Lincoln College. He has published three books and several academic articles. His forthcoming book published by Georgetown University Press and co-written with Dr. Andreas Krieg is entitled: *Surrogate Warfare, a Mode of War for the 21st Century*.

- 2 Sam Levin (2017). "Mark Zuckerberg : I Regret Ridiculing Fears over Facebook's Effect on Elections," The Guardian, 28 September, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/sep/27/mark-zuckerberg-facebook-2016-election-fake-news>
- 3 Sam Levin (2017). "Mark Zuckerberg : I Regret Ridiculing Fears over Facebook's Effect on Elections," The Guardian, 28 September, <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/sep/27/mark-zuckerberg-facebook-2016-election-fake-news>
- 4 Casey Newton (2018). "Mark Zuckerberg Apologises for the Cambridge Analytica Scandal," The Verge, 21 March, <https://www.theverge.com/2018/3/21/17150158/mark-zuckerberg-cnn-interview-cambridge-analytica>
- 5 Office for Disarmament Affairs. *Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*. New York: United Nations, 2018, p. 51.
- 6 Office for Disarmament Affairs. *Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*. New York: United Nations, 2018, p. 55
- 7 Jürgen Altman and Frank Sauer. *Autonomous Weapons Systems and Strategic Stability*. Survival, Vol. 59, issue 5, 2017, pp.117-142 and Jean-Marc Rickli. "The Impact of Autonomous Weapons Systems on International Security and Strategic Stability," in Ladetto, Quentin, *Defence Future Technologies: What We See on the Horizon*. Thun: Armasuisse, 2017, pp. 61-64. https://deftech.ch/What-We-See-On-The-Horizon/armasuisseW%2BT_Defence-Future-Technologies-What-We-See-On-The-Horizon-2017_HD.pdf
- 8 Paul Scharré P. *Robotics on the Battlefield Part II: The Coming Swarm*, Washington, Center for a New American Security, October 2014
- 9 Pablo Chovil. "Air Superiority under 2000 Feet: Lessons from Waging Drone Warfare against ISIL", War on the Rock, 11 May 2018, <https://warontherocks.com/2018/05/air-superiority-under-2000-feet-lessons-from-waging-drone-warfare-against-isil/>
- 10 Some interpretations of customary law allow for a limited right to pre-emptive self defense based on interpretation of art. 51 of the UN Charter when an attack is imminent and inevitable.

The Business School that changes your career



BACHELOR / MASTER / MBA



World-class degrees
Excellence recognized
Employability focused
Innovative curriculum

IFM UNIVERSITY
INSTITUTE OF FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Tel. 0223222580 - www.ifm.ch/english

1 Dr. Jean-Marc Rickli is the Head of Global Risk and Resilience at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) in Geneva, Switzerland. He is also a research fellow at King's College London and a senior advisor for the AI (Artificial Intelligence) Initiative at the Future Society at Harvard Kennedy School. He is the co-chair of the NATO Partnership for Peace Consortium Working Group on Emerging Security Challenges and an expert on autonomous weapons systems within the framework of the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. In addition, he is also a non-resident fellow in modern warfare and security at TRENDS Research and Advisory in Abu Dhabi and an advisor at Gulf State Analytics in Washington. Prior to these appointments, Dr. Rickli was an assistant professor at the Department of Defence Studies of King's College London and at the Joint Command and



LYCÉE TÖPFFER

Fondé en 1954

PRIMAIRE - SECONDAIRE - BACCALAURÉAT

dès 9 ans EXTERNAT-INTERNAT





- Programmes officiels genevois et français • Cadre familial et international
- Nombreuses activités (excursions, sports, robotique, ...)

COURS D'ÉTÉ du 9 au 27 juillet 2018

• Cours intensifs de langues • Mise à niveau en français et math

Année scolaire 2018-2019 rentrée le 30 août 2018

21, avenue Eugène-Pittard • 1206 Genève • T 022 703 51 20 www.lycee-topffer.ch

Walk the Talk

The “Health for All” challenge accepted

Across five different locations in Geneva, stretching from the Place des Nations all the way to Bains des Pâquis, close to 4,000 participants from over 100 countries broke a sweat and enjoyed the company of friends and family at the first ever World Health Organization “Walk the Talk: The Health for All Challenge.”

JASON LIGOT & VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

Held on 20 May 2018, the eve of the 71st World Health Assembly, this free walk/run was open to people of all ages and abilities, and held over three distances (3, 5 and 8 kilometres). These interconnected routes sought to build a bridge between the “international” and the “local” Geneva communities to raise awareness of the work of WHO and other global health agencies based in the city. At the same time it served as the launch of a global movement to promote health – in particular physical activity.

“This year we decided to take our ‘Walk the Talk’ campaign to the streets to promote health for all,” said Dr. Tedros, WHO Director-General. “It was great to see people from different countries, of all ages, being physically active and learning more about public health and the work that we do. It was a wonderful way to bring people together ahead of this year’s World Health Assembly.” In welcoming many health ministers, Dr. Tedros called on all countries to promote physical activity for the mental and physical well-being of their citizens.

Leading from the starting line at the Place des Nations was special guest, the Olympic and World Champion long distance runner Haile Gebrselassie, who was enthusiastic about taking part in this first-ever event.

He said: “I support WHO’s mission to promote healthy lives for all people, and I believe countries can do so much to make it easy for their citizens to be more physically active to improve their health. This can result in so many gains for a person’s own health, as well as the growth and well-being of their communities.”

Haile was the first to complete the entire 8 kilometre route in less than 30 minutes. Other special guests included stateswoman, former first lady of Mozambique and co-founder of The Elders, Graça Machel, former President of Chile Dr. Michelle Bachelet, the new Chair of the Board of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and 2017 Nobel Prize winner for chemistry Jacques Dubochet, from Switzerland.

Joining forces with WHO were the Ville and Canton of Geneva,



© Chris Black, WHO

the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, the United Nations Office at Geneva, and a number of Permanent Missions hosting stands with activities and free gifts. Dynamic warm-up sessions were led by the band “United Colors Of Dance’n Drums”, playing east and west African music, the Thai Mission ran a dynamic kick boxing class, and the Netherlands Mission with an energetic Zumba class for all ages. The United States Mission and Services industriels de Genève (SIG) provided water for participants.

Later, the Indian Mission led a mass yoga session at the Place des Nations. Indian Health Minister, Jagat Prakash Nadda, from whose country the ancient practice originated, spoke of its huge growth in popularity and reminded the crowd that the United Nations has proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga.

WHO volunteers were present to support the different locations, guide participants along the route, distribute food, water and souvenirs, and help maintain a safe, fun and lively atmosphere.



Key facts

- An estimated 1500-2000 people visited us at Bains des Pâquis. (Estimates based on our 'where are you from map', on which people placed a pin as well as the large quantity of merchandise we gave away).
- People who came to the Bains des Pâquis site represented over 100 different countries. About one third of the people were youth (under 25).
- The interns, led by Frankie and Dina, participated in an amazing rowing challenge at the Bains des Pâquis, involving a total of 84 people, who collectively rowed almost 18,000 metres.

Multiple academic, civil society and health promotion organizations provided strong support, including the Graduate Institute, the University of Geneva, the Alliance for Health Promotion, the NCD Alliance, World Heart Federation and International Union for Cancer Control, the Generation Games, the UN Foundation and the World Anti-Doping Agency.

Apart from providing a tour of some of Geneva's most well-known landmarks, the different locations also highlighted WHO's priorities:

- Promoting health (Place des Nations);
- Universal Health Coverage (WHO);
- Responding to health emergencies (Jardin Botanique);
- Global health diplomacy and advocacy (Villa Barton); and,
- Delivering impact at country level (Bain des Paquis).

To raise awareness of global health issues, participants were asked a series of questions at each location. Outdoor sports and other fun activities were also set-up, including a rowing

challenge at Bains des Pâquis where 84 participants rowed a total of 18,000 metres.

Dr. Tedros closed the event and encouraged everyone to continue "walking the talk" and support WHO's mission of promoting health, keeping the world safe, and serving the vulnerable. He also endorsed the event to be an annual one as part of opening the health assembly and invited everyone to the 2019 edition. ■


Sauan - the art of Japanese dining

Seasonal Kaiseki - sushi menus

Sushi & sashimi with first quality products



四季の寿司懐石



SAUAN

Quai Gustave Ador 1, 1207 Genève
 022 736 68 02 www.sauan.ch
 Located in front of the English Garden, Parking of Rive

5 June 2018

Statement from more than 200 women at the UNAIDS Secretariat regarding recent press coverage

We, the undersigned women from the UNAIDS Secretariat, write in response to the recent articles in the media, which quote a UNAIDS staff member as having said that the organization had allowed a “sexist culture where women are more window dressing than actually recognized for their performance” and that there is “an expectation to trade sexual favors for promotions and other advancements”.

We categorically reject this portrayal as it does not represent our experience of working at UNAIDS and diminishes and discredits us as professionals and our many years of dedicated service.

We strongly believe that no one person can speak of our individual experiences or our values – especially without our collaboration and consent. We represent a diversity of culture, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, HIV status and expertise. We are united by our commitment to the AIDS response, women’s empowerment and the right to live free from violence and harassment.

We support and stand by all people who have experienced sexual harassment. We are active and committed participants in the process of change at UNAIDS to ensure an inclusive environment with

zero tolerance for all forms of harassment.

We stand in solidarity with the AIDS response – one of the most remarkable responses to an epidemic in modern history. We are proud to work for UNAIDS and the people we serve through our work, bringing hope, dignity and health to millions around the world. ■

Signed by 253 women (and counting) from UNAIDS Offices across the world from every level and every continent

ADEA, Maria Cristina; AIYASANON, Siriporn; ALEMSEGED, Tseday; ALI OUAHIDO, Aïssa; ALYBEKOVA, Nurzat; AMMASSARI, Savina; ANDREEVA, Vladanka; BADINI YENDIFIMBA, Helene; BAJAJ, Shailza; BANYA, Grace; BARBIER, Barbara; BARBIER, Isabelle; BASTIEN, Sophie; BATIUK, Mariana Soledad; BAUERLE, Cheryl; BAZIMA, Marta; BEKE-WILSON, Sylvia; BENDAUD, Victoria; BENJARATTANAPORN, Patchara; BETANCES JULIAN, Bethania; BETTENHAUSEN, Orawan S; BETTS, Heidi; BHADRA, Rupa; BILGER, Catherine; BILLE, Gloria; BLACKSHAW, Ruth; BOCCARDI, Andrea; BOKAZHANOVA, Aliya; BOONTO, Krittayawan; BORROMEO, Maria Elena Filio; BRACAMONTE BARDALEZ, Patricia; BRAGA ORILLARD, Georgiana; BREZZO, Clarisa Del Valle; BRUTSCH, Aline; BUHAIN, Editha; BURMASHOVA, Inna; CABAL, Luisa; CARTY, Lisa; Catherine SPRING; CAZADE, Valerie; CHIKUKWA, Pepukai; CISSE DIALLO, Aïssata; COLEMAN, Rosalind Lucy; COLLARD, Veronique; CONTEH, Margaret; CORAO CASTES, Alejandra; COULIBALY EPSE SARASSORO, Ramata; DAOUDA, Sylvie; DAVTYAN, Marine; DAYUPAY, Arminda; DE BARROS, Daniela; DHAKAL, Narmada; DHINGRA, Nandini Kapoor; DIADHIUO KEITA, Sophie; DIALLO, Yayé Kanny; DIOURY, Rokhaya; DLAMINI, Thembisile; DOLORES, Yordana; DY, Josephine; EDUI MOKA, Ounfanatt; EL HAJJI, Hind; EMOND, Marie-Odile; ENGEL, Marie; FAYE, Mame Awa; FOWLDS, Emma; FRESCURA, Luisa; GAHONGAYIRE, Berthilde; GANDE, Elizabeth; GIGER-LACASSAGNE, Andrea; GININDZA, Thandiwe; GOUIRAN, Nathalie; GOUWS, Eleanor; GOVENDER, Kreeneshni; GUICHARD, Anne-Claire; GUPTA, Rekha; HABI, Aïssatou Clemence; HALL, Samantha Naomi; HASSAN ABDALGALLIL, Hind; HOFMANN, Regan; HOU, Anнемarie; HTWE, Yin Myint; IBRAHIM MAIGA, Ramatou; IBRAHIM, Yasmine;

ILYENKOVA, VERA; IONASCU, Gabriela; JACOBI, Jantine; JACOBS, Marjolein; JAMEGARM, Neda; JIMENEZ, MARISA; JONAZI, Evelyn; KABA, Aïssatou; KAMERHE, Constance; KARTSEVA, Irina; KENYI, Margaret Kwaje; KHAN, Fahmida; KHAN, Saima; KINI TRAORE, Dié Minata; KINKELA, Mampuya; KIRAGU GIKONYO, Karusa; KIRYUSHINA, Elena; KIWANGO, Eva Kona; KOBEL, Wiebke; KOECH, Moreen; KOLOMIETS, Snizhana; KONGIN, Harriet Cheron; KOUAME, Isabelle; KOYALTA, Donato; KUKU-WINYI, Joyce; LAIBON, Ruth; LANVERS, Monique; LIU, Jie; LOGOSE, Tausi; LOPEZ DE KHALEK, Regina; MAAGHOP Elvira; MABOUDOU, Akouavi; MAGAGULA, Isabel; MAHY, Mary; MAINA, Irene; MAKASA, Yvonne Chieshe; MAKOKHA, Jacqueline; MAKSUDOVA, Charoskhon; MANOVA, Manoela; MANSURKHODJAEVA, Zarina; MAPONDERA, Dorcas; MARCLAY SANGER, Corinne; MARINI NYAMUNGU, Natalie; MARKOVA, Elena; MARSH, Kimberly; MARTIN, Cedriann; MARTINEZ DE MIRANDA, Celina; MASMOUDI, Soumaya; MATHABATHE, Nkhensani; MATTANA, Vinciane; MAXI, Yanick; MAZZOLARI DELAUNAY, Cinzia; MELEDJE, Chanin; MENGESHA, Rahel Gettu; METRAL, Sophie; MIRKOVIC, Danijela; MMELESI, Mpho; MOLNAR, Marie; MONGONOU, Virginie; MOPANE, Brigitte; MOUNKORO, Biahan; MUKASA MONICO, Sophia; MULANGA TSHIDIBI, Claire; MUMTAZ, Mia; MUNYANEZA, Julienne; MURAMA, Roseline; MUSEMINALI KOBUSINGYE, Rosemary; NAKKU, Sarah; NANUSHYAN, Lena; NASSIF, Elani; NAZAROVA, Elisaveta; NDANGA, Seraphin; NDAYISHIMIYE, Francoise; NDMIRA NSABIMANA, Felicite; NDOW, Sirra; NEGONGA, Selma; NGUYEN, Thi Bich Hue; NGUYEN, Thi Phuong Mai; NICOL, Catherine; NILAMBUR KOVILAKAM, Jyothi; NKOMESHYA, Mavis; NOVACHUK, Marina; NTHATCHO, Caroline; OGBANG, Doris;

OGBONNA, Ngozi; O’LEARY, Susan; OLIVEIRA SOARES REHDER, Claudia; OLWANDE, Caroline; ONGPIN, Patricia; ORHAN, Souad; OUATTARA, Aminata; PADILLA ZARATE, Nora; PEGURRI, Elisabetta; PEME MANFOULA MATSOUNGOU, Augustine; PIANFETTI, Chris; PLAMADEALA, Svetlana; POIRIER, Thérèse; POLESANA, Michela; PORTOCARRERO, Diana; QUENUM, Brigitte; QUINTOS, Lourdes; RAM, Renata; RAMAROSON, Mianko; RAMOS, Maria Lourdes Virginia C.; RAWAT, Ranjana; RAY, Katherine; REDDY, Amala; RIAD, Nada; RIDGARD, Natalie; SACALIUC, Stela; SAHLE MOHAMMED, Annette; SALEH, Maha; SALEM MOHAMED, Fatoum; SALEM, Simone; SANDE, Amakobe Caroline; SANDOVAL, Celeste; SANDRASAGREN, Devendri; SANGUINETI BAZO, Giannina G.; SANTANA RAPOSO, Theremilza Cristina; SARGSYAN, Naira; SARYBAEVA, Meerim; SCHUEPP Nadine; SEBHATU, Senait; SECTOR, Charlotte; SEDAY, Mary Ann; SEDLETSKAYA, Angela; SEMENCHENKO, Marina; SEMINI, Iris; SHAKARISHVILI, Ani; SHITTU, Olabisi; SIMMONS, Caroline; SINHA, Dipanwita; SMITH, Sally; SOBERS, Melissa; SOZI, Catherine; STEVENS, Erva Jean; SUN, Yue; SUPREYAPORN, Prapapan; SY KAGNASSY, Dado; TACK, Inge Valerie; TALL, Tata Fatoumata; TARABORRELLI, Marcella; TAVANXHI, Nertila; TEAME, Simret; TESFAMICAEL TEKIE, Senait; THIPJUMROON, Nantawan; THYS, Margaret; TODOROVIC, Ljiljana; TSEHAIU, Medhin; TSEMO, Sihaka; TURIMBALI, Marie Josee; UTHMAN, Idayat; UWINEZA, Jacqueline; VAN GULIK, Henriette; VELASQUEZ, Claudia; VIITANIEMI, Eina; VON ZINKERNAGEL, Deborah; WAGAN, Hege; WAHYUNIAR, Lely; WANGCHUMTONG, Nisarar; WEI, Ran; WIDEN, Elis Kartina; WIN HTIN, Khin Cho; WYND, Shona; YAKUSIK, Anna; ZAMPAS, Christina; ZHOU, Kai; ZITONGO, Brigitte; ZITTERBART, Myriam; ZWANDOR, Aiti.

Discover the Montreux Riviera

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

Less than an hour by train from Geneva, nestled between steep hills and the lakeside, Montreux is well-known for its mild microclimate, its July jazz festival and its offshore, medieval island castle, Château de Chillon. But lesser known, and situated only 1,000 metres directly above Montreux, is the village of Les Avants. Once one of Switzerland's first ski resorts, (it hosted the first Ice Hockey European Championship in 1910), it's a wonderful place to visit in both summer and winter.

During April and May, the meadows above the village bloom with carpets of white narcissi flowers and through the summer months, the region is a hiker's paradise, with trails leading up to the impressive Col de Jaman. It is now an established and popular hike destination for members of the International Ski Club of Geneva (SCIG). Hike Leader Diana Korka has been leading groups through the Préalpes vaudoises for many years, along routes that alternate between forests and fields of narcissi in full bloom with stunning views of the Montreux Riviera.

Diana describes the hike as "moderate" in difficulty with no particular challenges. From the village, hikers take the historic Belle Époque funicular railway which climbs at a 54% gradient to a height of 184 m above Les Avants to Sonloup. From here the walk alternates between woodland and meadows, and the views change constantly. "Le Molard, our highest point of the walk, at 1752 m, offers a 360 degree view from les Dents du Midi, passing Rochers de Naye, Dent de Jaman, le



Molésou, les Pleiades and all the way down to Vevey, Montreux and the Lac Léman" she explained. "The fields of narcissi give a wonderful fragrance and a little touch of magic – the fields are white, as if it had snowed, only that it's not snow, it's just thousands of beautiful white flowers. We're so lucky to still be able to see this today".

The path offers a real learning experience too, as signs are placed periodically explaining the geology, flora and fauna of the area.

Taking the example of the many large towns in the South of France (such as Nice), for many years Montreux held a Narcissus Festival during the month of May to celebrate this "Spring snow". The first festival took place in 1897 during Belle Époque period, to encourage tourists to visit and stay in the region. Over the years the celebrations have included floral float parades through the streets, concerts, ballets and of course a firework display over the lake. Today, the flowers are protected, but the history of



A wonderful place to visit in both summer and winter.

© Diana Korka, SCIG

the festival is illustrated with exhibitions in Montreux, La Tour-de-Peilz and Vevey where a folkloric market offers traditional wares associated with the event.

Come the winter months, Les Avants transforms into a different white wonderland and becomes a playground for toboggan enthusiasts. From December to March – snow conditions permitting – the road from Sonloup to Les Avants is closed to local traffic and becomes a 2.5 km sledge run; open daily between 9.00 and 11.30 and again between 13.30 and 16.30. The funicular takes people up to the start of the run where they can sledge all the way down to Les Avants railways station below. (Some evenings the road is open for night sledding too).

From Easter to end of October; the Geneva International Ski Club organises hikes and other outings (bicycle tours, rafting, via ferrata, trail running...) on Saturdays, Sundays, as well as some longer outings (Easter, Ascension, Whitsun and Jeûne genevois). The outings are

mostly in the mountains and are led by volunteer leaders.¹

If you want to discover more about the Montreux Riviera, note in your calendar the dates for the next Fête des Vignerons from 18 July to 11 August 2019. This festival takes place every twenty years in Switzerland's oldest wine-growing regions at the famed UNESCO site, the Lavaux.

Organized since the 18th century by the Brotherhood of Winegrowers, it is a tribute to all generations of winemakers. Plans are underway to build an auditorium on the Place du Marché, Vevey which will seat 20,000 spectators, 4,000 more than in previous editions of the historic festival. Visitors can expect a theatrical celebration of the traditions of local wine growing through the ages². ■

1 To receive the latest information on these summer activities you can sign up to the mailing list at: genevaoutings@scig.ch or visit the website at www.scig.ch

2 Details can be found here: www.montreuxriviera.com/fr/P10180/fete-des-vignerons



© Tiffany Louk

Experience UN Port!

On the shores of Lake Léman, across from the Jardin Botanique, lies a place that will take your breath away, in more ways than one. I give you UN Port – a sweet getaway that, while conveniently located down the street from work, transports you to a relaxing paradise.

TIFFANY LOUK

I initially learned about UN Port during my first week working as an intern at CLM. I was attending a specialized writing course on blogging (Write, Edit, Publish) when one of the students highlighted the location in her writing. Upon seeing the beautiful pictures, I resolved to go, but little did I know what a regular treat it would become.

Being from Iowa, a landlocked region of the United States, I was eager to visit the beach and take a swim in the lake. I'll never forget how the clear, frigid water stole the breath from my lungs and made my brain buzz – it was exhilarating! In retrospect I could have

probably staved off my zeal until June. But Port UN is about so much more than swimming in the lake. I've seen it bring a diverse array of people together in so many different contexts: children laughing and yelling as they paddled together during a birthday party, newcomers to Geneva greeting each other at a Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) concert, interns celebrating a bachelorette party, UN employees getting a reprieve from work and taking advantage of the lunch specials, families enjoying the diverse activities available for both sport and relaxation. In fact, it's a place whose fantastic setting and comfortable atmosphere have the unique ability to effortlessly facilitate meetings of both new and old acquaintances.

Accessing UN Port, which costs 100 fr. for an annual subscription or a 5 fr. daily fee (2 fr. for weekday restaurant-goers), is the simple part. What's not so simple is deciding what to do once you're there! UN Port is



endowed with a beach, port, restaurant, and endless options for activities. From sailing to paddle-boarding, windsurfing to badminton, and *pétanque* to table tennis, UN Port has everything one could want to experience this Summer.

Point in check, on my second visit to UN Port I resolved to try paddle-boarding, for the first time in my life. After having watched children and adults swiftly and serenely make their way around the lake, I thought it would be straightforward to pick up. In fact it took me about five tumbles into the lake before I realized it was a bit more technical than it looked. Whether you prefer to jump in like me and experience the lake firsthand, or you'd rather recline and enjoy the fantastic view of Mont Blanc from a *chaise longue*, UN Port is the place to be. Or, if you prefer more organized activities, UN Port also has you covered, offering evening courses in yoga, paddle-board yoga, windsurfing, and sailing.

Thanks to Sylvain and his team, several improvements have been made to the facilities to better serve patrons this season. The grass has been replanted with an automatic sprinkler system to keep it thick and supple. The children's paddling pool, complete with pool, playground, and water bucket that empties its contents onto its enthusiastic fans below, has been completely redone. The water is now filtered and the area is surrounded by new artificial grass to insulate the little ones from falls. The metal railing surrounding the restaurant has been cut down so as to not impinge upon the already excellent view of the lake and its surrounding mountains. The concert area has been redone, as have the stone walkways around the facilities.

UN Port isn't finished at all with self-improvement. At the moment the team, headed by Sylvain, is working on several projects to continue to make this an enjoyable and accessible

getaway. The boat moorings now include foam boards, insulating the boats from the dock and preventing scratches. Furthermore, the solarium, where I myself have spent many an enjoyable afternoon sunbathing, is in the process of being refinished with new boards while a further extension of the dock is also being contemplated. Another project currently in the works is the addition of a 200-square-metre pontoon providing six new boat spaces, sunbathing space, paddle board storage, a slide, and generally easier access to the water where the stairs currently enter the lake.

When you've tired of lakeside sports, the restaurant has a variety of options to enjoy, and at a reasonable cost. The lunch-time special features a daily three-course meal for CHF 20 Monday – Friday. I can personally attest to the quality of the weekday lunch both as a meal and also as an excellent option to enjoy a little getaway during

the workweek with colleagues and friends. Furthermore, on Sunday the restaurant offers a brunch for CHF 45 for adults and CHF 15 for children.

In conclusion, what strikes me the most about UN Port is that no matter who shows up at the gate, be it UN employees, small children and families, busy professionals, or interns, pursuing leisure activity, time to relax, or a revitalizing meal, all can expect to find themselves greeted with a warm welcome and excellent service. In all honesty, my only disappointment about UN Port is that I have a mere 10 weeks to enjoy this place. *Alors, profitez-en bien!* ■

For further details: <http://unport.org/>



© Fabrice Nassisi

Musical magic

Summer music festivals are very much part of Swiss culture and the Geneva/Terre Sainte region is particularly fortunate with a huge range of musical performances to suit every taste.

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

The ninth production of “Les Variations Musicales de Tannay”, a festival of classical concerts, takes place once again in August in the stunning grounds of the chateau of this lakeside village, an idyllic setting for a gala of this kind. Concert-goers can mingle, admire the view and enjoy a variety of refreshments within the picturesque park overlooking the lake and mountains, before entering a large marquee holding up to 550 spectators. Founded by the current Mayor of Tannay, Serge Schmidt, a former journalist, the latter said that the festival has become a summer highlight for not only music lovers, but also for many of the invited musicians who have performed over the past eight years. In talking about the setting, Serge was naturally very enthusiastic. “Debussy said music was an outdoor art! This is certainly

true given the beautiful grounds of the chateau, where our event is held”.

This year’s programme runs from 17 to 26 August, and as previously, much attention and effort has been made to offer the highest standard of performances. The festival welcomes not only recognised international soloists but also talented young musicians. The programme includes performances from Gvantsa and Khatia Buniatishvili, a sister duo playing piano; Isabelle Faust, who plays the violin with the Akademie für Alte Musik de Berlin; Renaud Capuçon playing violon and Gérard Caussé playing viola; Nadège Rochat playing cello and Nikolai Lugansky playing piano. These are just some of the most talented artists to be heard in Tannay this summer. In addition, the chamber orchestra, I Cameristi



© Fabrice Nassisi



© Fabrice Nassisi

Violinist Renaud Capuçon



© Fabrice Nassisi

della Scala from Milan, will be performing on the final evening with pianist, Sergei Babayan.

For the first time, the Tannay festival has linked up this year with the Visions du Réel film festival in Nyon, to stage a film preview of Japanese composer Ryuichi Sakamoto. Formerly a young star of Japanese techno-pop, he is also a world-renowned and award-winning film composer. The film observes Ryuichi Sakamoto, who, after surviving a serious illness, resumes his artistic and creative approach with renewed energy. The evolution of his music coincides with the events of his life after Fukushima, when Sakamoto became an emblematic figure of the Japanese movement against nuclear energy.

On the afternoon of the final Saturday, the festival hosts a

free concert specifically for families with children and this year there is a performance of Tchaïkovski's Nutcracker by the Chamber Orchestra of Geneva. It will be presented by theatre, cinema and television actor Anne Durand. Refreshments are offered to children accompanied by their parents and free places for the concert are available on a first come, first served basis. ■

More information about the festival, the full programme and the ticket office can be found at this site: <https://www.musicales-tannay.ch/>

Les Variations Musicales de Tannay Programme 2018

FRIDAY 17 AUGUST

Khatia et Gvantsa Buniatishvili

SATURDAY 18 AUGUST

Cappella Gabetta (at the Golf Club de Bonmont, Cheserex)

SUNDAY 19 AUGUST

Isabelle Faust & l'Akademie für Alte Musik from Berlin

TUESDAY 21 AUGUST

Renaud Capuçon & Gérard Caussé

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST

Ryuichi Sakamoto: Coda

THURSDAY 23 AUGUST

Nikolaï Lugansky

FRIDAY 24 AUGUST

Nadège Rochat & the Festival Orchestra

SATURDAY 25 AUGUST

Nutcracker – Concert for families at 5 p.m. (Entry free).

SUNDAY 26 AUGUST 2018

Cameristi della Scala & Sergei Babayan



Avec ses 80 geysers, El Tatio (Chili) est la troisième plus grande zone géothermale au monde.

© Claude Maillard

Sur les volcans du monde 2/3

Les éruptions volcaniques donnent naissance à des croyances populaires où se mêlent terreurs superstitieuses et légendes fantastiques. Il est vrai que certaines éruptions peuvent être catastrophiques au point de faire disparaître des civilisations.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

L'histoire a connu des éruptions de volcans monstrueuses et aux conséquences terribles.

En 1815, l'explosion du mont Tambora, l'un des plus hauts sommets de l'archipel indonésien, est l'une des plus importantes jamais enregistrées par l'Homme. D'une intensité de 7 sur l'indice d'explosivité volcanique qui compte 8 échelons, l'éruption du Tambora, qui est toujours actif, a été si violente qu'elle a été entendue sur l'île de Sumatra à près de 2000 km de là. Cette catastrophe a causé la mort d'environ 71 000 personnes. Toujours en Indonésie, le Krakatoa qui explosa en 1883 a créé un tsunami dont les vagues atteignaient 40 mètres de haut, tuant 35 000 personnes.

L'éruption du Pinatubo aux Philippines en 1991 a créé une colonne de cendres qui monta jusqu'à 35 km dans l'atmosphère. Elle a également rejeté des millions de tonnes de dioxyde de soufre et d'autres particules dans l'air qui ont été répartis dans le monde entier, causant une baisse des températures mondiales d'environ 0,5 °C au cours de l'année suivante. Au Guatemala, l'éruption du Santa Maria en 1902 a été l'une des plus grandes du XX^e siècle, laissant un cratère de plus de 1,5 km de large sur le flanc de la montagne.

La liste des éruptions volcaniques qui ont ébranlé la Terre est longue, à commencer par celle du Vésuve en l'an 79 qui fit 30 000 victimes. Bien avant, l'île grecque de Santorin



© Claude Maillard

Coulée de lave sur le volcan Pacaya qui domine la capitale du Guatemala du haut de ses 2552 m.

a été quasiment détruite par une gigantesque explosion. Plus récemment, les éruptions de la Montagne Pelée en Martinique qui fit 27 000 victimes en 1902 et celle du Mont Saint Helens en 1980 dans le nord-ouest des Etats-Unis restent dans les mémoires, tout comme celle du volcan islandais Eyjafjallajökull qui perturbera fortement le trafic aérien en 2010.

Le ventre de la Terre

Un volcan est un ensemble géologique terrestre ou sous-marin qui résulte de la montée d'un magma puis de son éruption. Ce magma provient de la fusion partielle du manteau terrestre, couche intermédiaire entre le noyau de notre planète et la croûte terrestre, partie superficielle et solide du matériau dont est faite la Terre. La croûte continentale qui forme, comme son nom l'indique, les continents, est essentiellement de nature granitique et présente

une épaisseur moyenne de 30 km. La croûte océanique qui se trouve sous les océans se compose pour sa part de roches basaltiques et affiche une épaisseur moyenne de 6 km. Quant au noyau, le cœur de notre planète qui représente 15% de son volume, il se distingue en deux parties. Le noyau interne, d'une masse très dure, essentiellement métallique composé de 80% d'alliages de fer et 20% de nickel. D'un volume beaucoup plus important, le noyau externe est liquide, constitué d'une énorme quantité de métal en fusion dans la température est estimée à 4000 degrés.

Le manteau terrestre représente un peu plus de 80% du volume de la Terre et environ 65% de sa masse. Il est constitué d'un agrégat de cristaux d'olivine, de pyroxène et d'autres composants basiques.

Comme les séismes, la grande majorité des volcans se répartit

à la frontière des plaques tectoniques qui forment, telle des pièces d'un gigantesque puzzle, la lithosphère. On en recense 12 dont les principales sont les plaques pacifique, eurasiennne, africaine, antarctique, indo-australienne, nord- et sud-américaine. Elles glissent, s'écartent, se chevauchent, s'entrechoquent sous l'effet des courants de convection qui animent le manteau terrestre. C'est par ces cicatrices que le magma, trois fois plus léger que la roche alentour, tend à remonter des profondeurs, poussé par des gaz, des composés volatils, de vapeur d'eau, de dioxyde de carbone, de soufre... pressés de s'échapper. Quand le magma arrive enfin à la surface, c'est l'éruption.

L'éruption volcanique peut se manifester, de manière plus ou moins combinée, par des émissions de lave, par des émanations ou des explosions de gaz, par des projections de téphras

(matières solides et liquides expulsées par les gaz), par des phénomènes hydromagmatiques (geysers). Les laves refroidies et les retombées de téphras constituent des roches éruptives qui peuvent s'accumuler et atteindre des milliers de mètres d'épaisseur formant ainsi des montagnes ou des îles. Selon la nature des matériaux, le type d'éruption, la fréquence d'éruption et l'orogénèse (ensemble des processus de formation des montagnes), les volcans prennent des formes variées, la plus typique étant celle d'une montagne conique couronnée par un cratère ou une caldeira.

Volcanisme effusif ou explosif

On distingue essentiellement deux types de volcan: les effusifs qui se caractérisent par des éruptions pondérées, produisant de longues coulées de lave plus ou moins fluide. Ce volcanisme fait peu de victimes contrairement à celui de type



© Claude Maillard

L'île de Lanzarote aux Canaries fortement marquée par un volcanisme récent datant du XIX^e siècle.

explosif. Lors de l'éruption d'un volcan explosif, du magma très visqueux remonte lentement vers la surface et se refroidit à la sortie de la cheminée, formant une masse de roches qu'on appelle le dôme. Des gaz sont éjectés sous la pression du magma et cela provoque de violentes explosions de blocs et de gaz brûlants appelés nuées ardentes.

Il existe un autre type de volcanisme explosif nommé hydro-magmatique, celui qui donne naissance aux geysers. Le magma, d'une température de 1200 °C, remonte par des fissures et croise sur son chemin une source ou une rivière souterraine. Il transforme l'eau en vapeur qui se retrouve prisonnière, mais qui, sous l'effet de la compression, va s'échapper à forte pression pour former des geysers. Les plus actifs de la planète sont situés au Chili (El Tatio), en Islande (Strokkur et Geysir d'où vient le nom de geyser), en Nouvelle-Zélande (Pohutu), en Russie (Velikan) et dans le parc national de Yellowstone (Etats-Unis) où le

plus grand geyser au monde, le Steamboat, projette de l'eau jusqu'à 90 m de hauteur.

Si la répartition des volcans sur la planète se fait essentiellement aux frontières des plaques tectoniques (volcanisme de dorsale et de zone de subduction), d'autres naissent à l'intérieur des plaques, comme le volcanisme de point chaud. Le volcanisme de zone de subduction lié à l'enfoncement d'une plaque sous l'autre va former les chaînons de volcans que nous connaissons le mieux. Le volcanisme de dorsale nous est révélé par l'exploration des fonds océaniques, mais aussi par le cas particulier de l'Islande qui est carrément assise sur la dorsale de l'Atlantique nord et qui constitue un laboratoire à ciel ouvert pour les volcanologues. Certaines hypothèses proposent, qu'en plus, il y aurait un point chaud sous l'Islande. En géologie, un point chaud est une zone de formation de magma située au sein du manteau terrestre et à partir de laquelle remonte une colonne de roches anormalement

chaudes. Les points chauds sont stationnaires, alors que la plaque tectonique au-dessus d'eux bouge. Ils peuvent fonctionner pendant plusieurs millions d'années pour former plusieurs volcans en chapelet. Les îles d'Hawaii nées d'un point chaud en sont le plus parfait exemple avec actuellement le volcan Kilauea, l'un des plus actifs et étudiés au monde, qui déverse sans discontinuer son fleuve de lave à 1200 °C dans l'océan Pacifique. ■

(Suite du récit dans le prochain numéro de *UN Special*).

A camp for all seasons

Activity camps in Switzerland offer children an unforgettable outdoor experience. The lakes and mountains in the Swiss Alps region are an adventure playground in both summer and winter.

VERONICA RIEMER, WHO

In addition to the outdoor pursuits, camps offer a wonderful environment for developing skills, knowledge and understanding in sport, as well as improving language and team work skills and appreciation of diverse cultures. If you are a working parent, camps are one of the best ways to keep the kids busy, physically active, happy and entertained in the school holidays with the added bonus of being away from the digital world with an opportunity to making new friends and playmates for the rest of the year. Many parents report that their child has also gained self-confidence through tackling activities that pushed them outside of their comfort zone, and the kids gain a stronger sense of personal pride and self-reliance with their new found abilities.

Conor D'cruz, a former professional squash player, is the founder of MSM camps in Geneva, which offers sport activities for kids aged 4 to 16 years during the Geneva/Vaud school holidays. After his playing career came to an end, he decided to take a coaching course to qualify him for teaching roles with adults and kids, and at the same time worked with squash clubs in the region on developing their sports programmes.

He noticed a gap in the market for multisport camps for children, so decided to open his own. Starting with racquet sports and ball games, he then decided to widen the choice of activities by taking kids to the many fabulous locations in the region where they could experience the great outdoors. From here the camps really took off...

The camps are divided into three categories – Minis (4-6 years), Kids (7-10 years) and Adrenaline (11-16 years) with each camp offering age-appropriate activities such as archery, bowling, fencing, kayak, rafting, swimming, sledging and of course squash among many more. “We impress on the kids to go at their own pace, but give them the encouragement to overcome their fears when faced with a new activity” explained Conor. “In this way their learn more sport and social skills while integrating and enjoying the company of new friends”. Every effort is made to ensure all the children are involved and work as a team. “Sometimes we have kids who do not speak either English or French, but kids always find a way of communicating”. The programmes are always evolving and changing to keep them fresh and interesting. “Families come back year after year because we

constantly change the activities and upgrade our equipment” he confirmed.

Conor receives enormous personal satisfaction from his work with children, specifically with those who do not do enough sport in their daily lives and sometimes feel they are not good enough. “It is great to see them joining in and being part of the group, building their confidence and creating a team atmosphere. I love to see kids discover new activities, make new friends and in the long run take up a new sport that they first tried with us. Not only does it improve their health, but also their relationships with other kids and their families”.

During the summer 2017 for the first time, Conor was able to offer three places to a family resident in Switzerland as refugees. “It always saddens me that some kids can't go to camp, because there is the price barrier and I really wanted to give something back to the community” explained Conor. He contacted the Facebook group in Chambésy and was introduced to a mother with a boy and girl who were keen to take part. Conor met the kids and then discovered that they had a younger brother, so not wanting to exclude him, the two places became three! “They

totally integrated with all the other campers and loved it so much they have asked if they could come back, which I am of course happy to confirm. Eventually I would like to raise funds to offer more places as I am limited in what I can offer myself”.

So what is on the programme this summer? Conor explained that he has invested in new equipment to be able to do biathlon activities (with laser guns and running), more archery and more games and prizes to win. He clarified that prizes are not just given to winners, but also to children who show kindness to others or help a smaller child, which creates a special atmosphere between the age groups.

A number of parents working at WHO have enrolled their children in MSM Camps over the past years and speak enthusiastically about the friendly atmosphere. One parent, whose son has been going to MSM camps for many years (summer and winter), says he loves all the different kinds of sport/fun activities and outings proposed. “He particularly enjoyed a new and exciting experience – indoor skydiving! They also visited the Cailler Chocolate Museum in Broc near Gruyères and went to the zoo in Berne” she enthused” and whenever he goes to MSM



© Ivan Mazzacotto

Conor D'cruz with MSM Campers

Camp, I know for sure he will have fun!”

“My son and daughter have both done the camps and enjoyed them greatly” said Sona Bari. My nephew who

lives in Stockholm has also joined them! They really liked Conor and his team, the activities (which got them nice and tired!), and there was a good mix of Anglophone and Francophone children. And the best

part for me? Pick up and drop off at WHO!”

Another faithful client is Ellen Egan whose three children started going to MSM camps with Conor nearly 10 years

ago. “I was very impressed with the variety of age-appropriate activities and really appreciated how the staff were both able to relate to the children and keep things fun, while keeping everyone safe and on-track with the activities. I have recommended these camps to several friends and always received positive feedback from those whose children attended”.

In addition to the day camps, and in order to encourage children to take up more physical activity and discover more sports, Conor has created a programme which takes place during the school term for children 3 to 16 years old. Activities are different from those offered at school but nevertheless make up part of the school sports curriculum. ■

For more details, log on to: www.msmlcamps.com

GLOBAL AFFAIRS / AFFAIRES GLOBALES

Audiatur et altera pars

ALFRED DE ZAYAS

*Audiatur et altera pars*¹ is more than just a principle of penal law, more than a mere procedural rule, more than dialectics. It is a fundamental methodology necessary for every scholarly, scientific, political, journalistic activity, applicable to politicians, historians, sociologists, psychologists, psychologists, mathematicians or even physicists. It is impossible to arrive at an understanding of the nature of things and developments, to reveal the root causes of phenomena, unless the researcher or observer takes all pertinent factors into account in a dispassionate, objective manner, *sine ira et studio*². It is impossible to understand Marxism,

Communism, Trotskyism, Fascism, Nazism, Maoism, Trumpism unless one listens to all the arguments on all sides and accepts that there is good in the bad and bad in the good. *A priori* demonization of the adversary renders negotiation futile. Moreover, it is important to proactively uncover the facts, and attempt to grasp their context and implications, to listen to the spectrum of views – the plausible and the improbable ones. What is crucial is neutrality in evaluating both facts and opinion. There are explicable reasons why reasonable people may be drawn toward what we would consider abhorrent philosophies or movements. Simple explanations

and pejorative labels invariably prove unhelpful. And we must beware of shortcuts, popular neologisms, appeals to the emotions, brazen and subliminal intellectual dishonesty. *Audiatur et altera pars* is a fundamental instrument of fairness, a concrete demonstration of respect for the humanity of others, an acknowledgement that there is a human right to truth, which requires honest truth-seeking and not dogmatism. Indeed, *audiatur et altera pars* should be recognized as rule of ethics and civilized existence, because refusal to listen to others reveals an undemocratic bearing of arrogance, bad faith, insolence, intransigence, even aggression in deliberate contravention

of the universal principles of equality, justice and human dignity. ■

1 all sides must be listened to

2 without hate or zeal (Tacitus, *Annals* 1,1)

Message du rédacteur en chef

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

N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis. Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

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

Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

Adressez vos commentaires à:

Alex Mejia, rédacteur en chef – UN Special
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Suisse
Par courrier électronique: alex.mejia@unitar.org

Message from the editor-in-chief

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

Write to us!

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

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

Now, put pen to paper!

Send your thoughts to:

Alex Mejia, Editor-in-chief – UN Special
Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
By email: alex.mejia@unitar.org

UN Special

UN Special

Palais des Nations, bureau C507
1211 Genève 10
sbencherif@unog.ch
www.unspecial.org

In New York: office AB-0829

Alex Mejia

Rédacteur en chef/Editor-in-chief

Garry Aslanyan

Rédacteur adjoint/Deputy Editor

Sarah Jordan

Rédacteur adjoint/Deputy Editor

Sarah Bencherif

Coordinatrice éditoriale/Editorial Coordinator

Catherine Peck-Arif

Trésorier/Treasurer

Éditeur / Publisher

Publicité / Advertising

CEP S.A.

Quai Gustave-Ador 42, 1207 Genève
T. +41 22 700 98 00 – F. +41 22 700 90 55
cepbarbara@bluewin.ch

Imprimé sur du papier certifié FSC.

Tirage: 10 500 exemplaires

La revue officielle des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé.
The official magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization

Les opinions exprimées dans UNS sont celles des auteurs, et non forcément celles de l'ONU, de l'OMS ou de ses agences spécialisées. La parution de ce magazine dépend uniquement du support financier de la publicité prise en charge par une régie.

The opinions in UNS are those of the authors, not necessarily those of the United Nations, the WHO or its specialized agencies. The publication of this magazine relies solely on the financial support of its advertisers.

Impression / Printer

Imprimerie du Moléson SA

Route du Nant d'Avril 107 - 1217 Meyrin - T. +41 22 782 50 82
Rue des Mouettes 12 - 1227 Carouge - T. +41 22 307 26 10
www.molesonimpressions.ch

Graphisme / Design

Atelier Schnegg+ - Michel Schnegg
Rue du Simplon 5, CH-1207 Genève
T. +41 22 344 72 90 - F. +41 22 340 24 11
www.atelier-schnegg.ch

Composition du bureau de rédaction

Composition of the Editorial Board



Alexander Mejia



Garry Aslanyan



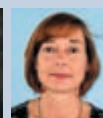
Sarah Jordan



Prisca Chaoui



Gemma Vestal



Veronica Riemer

Contributeurs réguliers

Regular contributors



Marie-José
Astre-Démoulin



Solange
Behoteguy



Evelina
Rioukhina



Oleksandr
Svirchevsky

Site internet

Website

Présidents des associations du personnel

Staff association presidents



Ian Richards,
UNOG



Marina Appiah,
WHO

Appelez le **022 700 98 00** pour toute
réservation publicitaire dans **UN SPECIAL**

C.E.P. SA
42, quai Gustave-Ador
1207 Genève
Tél.: 022 700 98 00
Fax: 022 700 90 55
e-mail: cepbarbara@bluewin.ch



Régie publicitaire exclusive **UN SPECIAL**

Editeur & Régie Publicitaire de Revues
Institutionnelles et Corporate

SDA BOCCONI MASTER & EXECUTIVE MASTER PROGRAMS

GOVERNMENT, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NGOS



EMMIO strives towards a new generation of global leaders able to effectively navigate the challenges of modern international organizations and positively impact the world.

GRETA NASI
EMMIO Director

SDABOCCONI.IT/EMMIO

EMMIO

EXECUTIVE MASTER IN MANAGEMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

9 MONTHS PART-TIME

TIME TO STEER INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGES

EMMIO's immersive learning experience will allow you to:

- Unlock your true leadership potential
- Boost your skills on core managerial tools and techniques
- Leverage your professional experience and benefit from powerful peer-to-peer learning

KEY FEATURES

- Tailored on Int'l Organization-specific management systems and tools
- International network of Senior IO and NGO professionals
- For mid and senior level professionals with 10+ years of work experience on average.



MPA is a laboratory where participants use their experiences to elaborate new and creative solutions to public challenges, while shaping international, national and local level governance.

ALEXANDER M. HIEDEMANN
MPA Director

SDABOCCONI.IT/MPA

MPA

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

1-YEAR FULL-TIME

SMART SOLUTIONS TO PUBLIC CHALLENGES

MPA's full-fledged learning model and global approach will:

- Provide you with the skills and tools required of a 'glocal', contemporary public manager
- Equip you for an independent, transparent and flexible approach to public management
- Link you with a network of decision-makers and leaders of governmental institutions, international organizations and NGOs

KEY FEATURES

- Resident and visiting faculty with vast international experience
- Focused on strengthening skills in Public Policy and Administration towards further managerial and leadership responsibilities
- For int'l post-graduate students and young professionals with 4+ years of work experience on average

#6 EUROPEAN
B-SCHOOLS
Financial Times (EU)

#7 BEST INTERNATIONAL
B-SCHOOLS
Bloomberg Businessweek
(NON US MBA Programs)

SDA Bocconi School of Management has been a leading institution in management training for over 40 years. The School's mission is to help individuals, companies and institutions grow by promoting managerial culture, knowledge and innovation. Choosing to study at SDA Bocconi in Milano means choosing Italy's entrepreneurial, industrial and financial capital - a gateway to Europe with a wealth of connections and opportunities.



Bocconi
School of Management

MILANO | ITALY

SDA Bocconi