

UN Special

FEATURED / À LA UNE

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ALEXANDER MEJIA

Editor-in-chief/Rédacteur en chef

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What does it mean to exist for seven decades? It depends on in what context you ask, but when it pertains to a publication, it means a lot of time. *UN Special* was created in October 1949, when the United Nations was only four years old and when Europe was just recovering from the scourge of war. It has survived trials and tribulations, changes of administration, economic turmoil and editorial challenges. It continues to appear month after month, year after year because of the loyalty of the volunteers that write and put together the content, as well as the support of the advertisers that pay for the printing and distribution. And most important than anything else, *UN Special* is indeed special because of you, the UN staff members and diplomats that read it. Without all of these enabling factors, we would not be around anymore. So here it is, the edition that commemorates exactly 70 years since we first appeared at the Palais des Nations. We hope you enjoy it.

In it you will find an interview with our new UNOG Director-General Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, who shared with us her inspirations and views on multilateralism in Geneva.

Other topics include interviews with Mr. Adama Dieng, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide, and with Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Director of the FAO Liaison Office, who discussed with us the importance of FAO's work.

Finally, we hope our readers will enjoy our travel stories, be they about Switzerland to discover the 26 Cantons or abroad in Cape Verde.

Happy reading! ■

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

Qu'est-ce que cela signifie d'exister pendant 7 décennies? Cela dépend du contexte dans lequel vous posez la question, mais quand il s'agit d'une publication, cela signifie beaucoup de temps. *UN Special* a été créé en octobre 1949, alors que les Nations Unies n'avaient que quatre ans et que l'Europe se remettait à peine du fléau de la guerre. Elle a survécu à des épreuves et des tribulations, à des changements d'administration, à des bouleversements économiques et à des défis éditoriaux. Il continue de paraître mois après mois, année après année, grâce à la fidélité des bénévoles qui rédigent et assemblent le contenu, ainsi qu'à l'appui des annonceurs qui paient l'impression et la distribution. Et le plus important, c'est que *UN Special* est vraiment spécial grâce à vous, les membres du personnel de l'ONU et les diplomates qui l'ont lu. Sans tous ces facteurs favorables, nous ne serions plus là. La voici donc, l'édition qui commémore exactement 70 ans depuis notre première apparition au Palais des Nations. Nous espérons que vous l'apprécierez.

Dans cette édition, vous trouverez également un entretien avec notre nouvelle Directrice générale de l'ONUG, M^{me} Tatiana Valovaya, qui nous fait part de sa vision du multilatéralisme à Genève.

Mentionnons aussi les entretiens avec M. Adama Dieng, Conseiller spécial du Secrétaire général de l'ONU pour la prévention du génocide, et avec M^{me} Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, Directrice du Bureau de liaison de la FAO.

Enfin, nous espérons que nos lecteurs apprécieront les récits de voyage que ce soit en Suisse ou à l'étranger pour découvrir le Cap-Vert.

Bonne lecture! ■

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



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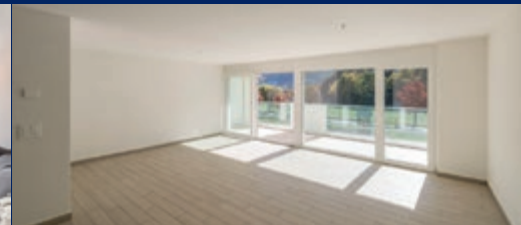
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A magazine for changing times

**ALEX MEJIA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF,
SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR**

When a few colleagues decided to create a magazine in October 1949, one might wonder what exactly was on their minds. Amongst their objectives must have been to create an entity that would become part of the institutional memory of the United Nations in Geneva, and which would endure through the changing times that characterize life at the *Palais des Nations*. And, perhaps more importantly, those founders of the magazine must have wanted to create a record of the evolving priorities and lifestyles of staff from one decade to another.

And endure the magazine did. And a record it became. And it is certainly one of the most important sources of the institutional memory of our professional life at the Palais. But it also covers important aspects of the life of all UN staff in Geneva, outside the Palais and specially at WHO, the other founding partner of our magazine. And, it goes even further beyond those territories, as it also reflects what the diplomatic missions in this town are about. So, it slowly but surely became more than the magazine of the UN staff in this city. The *UN Special* is like one of those family photo albums of yesteryear. Do you remember

them? They are definitely better than the myriad of digital pictures that you can store in your phone or computer, because they carry a feeling and sentiment that can only be expressed when you touch the paper. These pages are unique and are also about the future. It is so, because the path ahead has been on the minds of every UN staff member and diplomat since the very creation of our Organization. We are about the future. We are tasked with the historic post-war mandate of making this world better: with lasting peace, better standards of life, more equality, and enduring disarmament. If you analyse the news that our founding colleagues read every day in 1949, it was about rebuilding Europe with the Marshall Plan; the shaping of the new multilateral architecture; and the international striving to avoid repeating the mistakes of our Organization's predecessor, the League of Nations. Those colleagues were embedded in the central institution that would become the guardian of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted the previous year, in 1948. They were also observing the fluid scenario in Palestine after the creation of the State of Israel: a fragile situation that endures to this day. Our colleagues were all about the future; indeed, this

magazine serves not only as a record, but is imbued with that visionary spirit. To preserve our history, to debate the issues of the day, and to express our visions and aspirations for tomorrow.

The names of the *UN Special* founders are almost forgotten today, so it is indeed fitting to remember them: Mr. R. J. Spector, Mr. G. Lambert-Lamond, Mr. P. Luent, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. R. Nivelles, Mr. W. Bielkine and Ms. J. Spencer. And the first Editor-in-Chief, Mr. R. J. Spector, managed to build the foundation of what was to become the central ethos of our magazine: a combination of volunteer work and editorial professionalism that makes this publication worth reading. The first Director-General of UNOG, Mr. Włodzimierz Moderow, also decided to support the creation of a staff magazine at that time. He also instilled the beginnings of a tradition that has ensued throughout the seven decades of our existence: a positive and respectful relationship between the Staff Association and the Administration. And that carries value, because sometimes we have been at loggerheads and in conflict, but never lost sight of the fact that we are to exemplify the highest standards of the International Civil Service. It is only fair to say that *UN Special* has contributed to

MESSAGES DE BIENVENUE

Genève, le 13 octobre 1949.

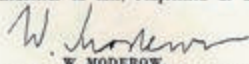
Monsieur le Rédacteur en chef,

C'est avec un réel plaisir que j'accueille le premier numéro de votre Bulletin dont vous saurez faire, j'en suis convaincu, une publication vivante et intéressante.

Cette heureuse initiative sans, entre autres avantages, celui de créer un lien spirituel entre tous ceux et toutes celles qui se consacrent à la même tâche et de permettre en même temps l'éclosion de talents littéraires insoupçonnés qui, sans ce moyen d'expression, resteraient peut-être ignorés.

Que ce Bulletin soit le premier d'une longue série, tel est le souhait que je forme pour ce reflet - en marge de l'Administration - de la vie du personnel de notre Office européen.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Rédacteur en chef, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.



W. MODEROW,
Directeur de l'Office européen des Nations Unies,
Représentant le Secrétaire-Général.

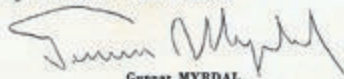
Geneva, October 17, 1949.

To the Chief Editor

Dear Sir,

It is with great satisfaction that I learn about your initiative to create a bulletin for the Geneva staff of the United Nations, similar to the "Secretariat News" at Headquarters.

Let me express my heartiest wishes for the success of your paper which, I am sure, might become a precious link of comradeship and information for all of us in the European Office who are working for the United Nations in Geneva.



Gunnar MYRDAL
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe

MESSAGES DE BIENVENUE (suite)

Genève, le 17 octobre 1949.

Monsieur le Rédacteur en chef et cher ami,

Le Comité du Personnel se félicite de voir paraître ce premier numéro tant attendu d'un Bulletin du Secrétariat des Nations Unies à Genève.

J'espère que ce Bulletin restera toujours à la fois utile et agréable à lire et encouragera les talents divers qui abondent au sein du Secrétariat, tout en maintenant un lien étroit entre les fonctionnaires des Nations Unies et leurs collègues de Lake Success et des institutions spécialisées à Genève et ailleurs.

Il est d'une importance primordiale que ces fonctionnaires soient informés de leurs activités respectives dans tous les domaines et j'exprime l'espoir que les représentants de toutes ces organisations vous enverront régulièrement leurs contributions.

Plus tard, enfin, je souhaite vivement que le succès du Bulletin permette de le publier sous une forme plus attrayante encore et d'en faire l'organe commun de tous les fonctionnaires internationaux à Genève, déjà unis par l'intermédiaire de leurs représentants au sein du Comité de coordination de leurs associations respectives.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Rédacteur en chef et cher ami, l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus cordiaux.



G. LAMBERT-LAMOND
Président du Comité du Personnel
de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève.

maintain that level of interaction, even when we thought that a previous DG did not deserve our civility. I can assure you that when you browse through our archives, you will understand that UN staff at the Palais do indeed represent diplomacy at its best.

In light of this celebration of the *UN Special* legacy, allow me to add an interesting fact of our long and productive life. From the beginning, the 'business model' that our founding fathers conceived has prevailed, and this publication doesn't cost the staff associations that created it anything at all, and not the UNOG administration either. Many people are unaware of the fact that, in other organizations, staff receive financial support to undertake an endeavour such as this one. All work here is voluntary, and all the money that it takes to design, print, and distribute our magazine is raised by selling advertising. That advertising is yet another testament to our value: that every

single month, those private sector entities decide to invest their money once again in the *UN Special*. Indeed, as they continue to do so more and more, we manage to contribute funds to the budget of the UNOG Staff Association and the WHO Staff Association.

Another interesting fact is that in the 100th edition in 1960, you could read that Secretaries had no easier time in finding reasonably priced accommodation in Geneva than they do today. And in the 300th edition in 1974, staff were in turmoil over the salaries' purchasing power of salaries, and work stopped for a day as a protest. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? For the 500th edition in September 1992, special arrangements were made to commemorate that milestone edition, by having 35,000 copies printed and distributed unprecedently to UN duty stations outside Geneva. And it saw the contributions of the late Secretary-General Boutros

Boutros-Ghali as well as those of the late Director-General of WHO Mr. Hiroshi Nakajima, and late UNOG Director-General Antoine Blanca, congratulating the magazine on that anniversary.

That is what *UN Special* is all about, to provide international civil servants in Geneva with information of special and general interest, with a forum in which to speak out openly on subjects we care about and to support the struggle for salaries and work conditions.

Back in 1959, upon publication of the 10th anniversary edition of the *UN Special*, the editor of the very first edition Mr. Spector remembered that he could not have imagined what *UN Special* would have looked like 10 years into the future. Now, after 70 years and some 790 editions, it is our turn to do the same. So, here is to the next 70 years of UN staff news and views. ■

THE X7



BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE

The 70 years of UN Special's exceptional partnership must continue



Editorial letter on WHO joining UN Special – 1950

DR GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO, DEPUTY EDITOR

I used to think the year 2020 was so far away that I couldn't imagine reaching it. But time flies when you are having fun! What I can imagine though is what our colleagues would have thought and said 70 years ago had they known that the magazine would be so successful and still around today.

Yes, the magazine has been around for 70 years. What started as UNOG's magazine quickly brought on WHO to make it broader, engage other agencies and present Geneva as the center of international cooperation and development. UN agencies are often criticized for working in silos and lacking coherence between their activities, either at global, regional or country levels. When it comes to *UN Special*, the partnership between the staff associations of UNOG and WHO has been an unprecedented experience. I often reflect on what *UN Special's* success factor is. It seems

to me that three elements undeniably contribute to it. The magazine has always been put together by volunteer members who are staff in Geneva. The magazine is focused on topics and issues relevant to staff. The magazine includes contributors, the majority of whom are in Geneva.

As we celebrate the magazine's 70th anniversary, I cannot not share with you my most memorable moment. It was when the magazine was shortlisted for the UN Secretary-General's Awards in the category of "Staff Volunteerism" in 2015. The application was submitted by Evelina Rioukhina from UNOG on behalf of the magazine and supported by the Coordinating Council. The WHO Staff Committee and the President gave moral support. The competition was fierce with initiatives and projects from all around the world. You can imagine our joy when we got the word that we had been shortlisted and invited to a special ceremony



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Cover of UN Special being shortlisted for the UN Secretary-General's award

with Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson on 23 October 2015. This event was even more remarkable because it took place on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which is also the eve of *UN Special's* birthday. This characteristic is indeed what

makes *UN Special* special. By complete coincidence, I had to be in New York City for a meeting organized by Unicef on that day. My colleagues at the meeting very kindly let me slip away for a couple of hours to attend the ceremony. Many of the members of the Editorial Board were able to watch the live ceremony from Geneva. We were also requested to provide names and some visual supports. We selected photos to represent Geneva staff who have marked *UN Special* by their volunteerism (myself, Evelina Rioukhina, Editorial Board/Committee Member, former Deputy Editor-in-Chief; Ian Richards, UNOG, former Editorial Board member and contributor; Oleksandr Svirchevskyy, UNECE, web editor; Christian David, UNOG, former Editor-in-Chief (2007–2013); Sarah Jordan, UNOG, Editorial Committee member; Marie-José Astre,

UNOG, Editorial Committee member; Solange Behoteguy, UNOG Editorial Committee member; Alex Meja, Editorial Committee member; and Laurence Vercammen, WHO, former Editor-in-Chief, 2014). Over 100 impressive entries were submitted, each exemplifying the dedication and passion of our staff members and their commitment to the values of the UN Charter. We at *UN Special* were highly privileged and fortunate that our project was presented on such a prestigious occasion in the presence of the Secretary-General.

On this 70th anniversary of *UN Special*, I urge you all to keep to the spirit of these Awards and the dedication of all those who have worked tirelessly to put together this magazine over all these years. Let's remind ourselves, those involved in the magazine's production and our readers, that *UN Special*

magazine was initiated by a group of colleagues as a staff bulletin, which later turned into a staff magazine. Until now, *UN Special* has functioned under the authority of the UNOG Coordinating Council and the WHO Staff Association. It differs from all other professional magazines and draws its strength from the fact that it is written for staff members by staff members. None of these are professional journalists or writers, but all are united through their passion.

If you are reading this magazine and you are a staff member at UNOG or WHO, you too can help celebrate the 70th anniversary. It is simple. Call or email your Staff Council or Staff Association. Tell them to work hard to ensure that magazine is there for you for a long time. Tell them you think the exceptional partnership must continue! ■



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Interview with UNOG Director-General Ms. Tatiana Valovaya

What drives UNOG's new DG

UN Special speaks to the new UNOG Director-General on the people that inspired her, her role in the transformation of the Soviet Union, and the future of multilateralism in Geneva.



IAN RICHARDS, UNCTAD

I walked into the Director-General's office. Unlike a previous visit and of what I had heard from many colleagues, the air-conditioning was off.

"I had to turn it off, she replied. People were complaining. For me, the colder the better."

This might seem normal for someone who grew up and spent much of her life in Moscow, even if her years in Brussels, of which more later, were to shape her life path.

Tatiana Valovaya spent her childhood in the Soviet capital where both parents worked late every day. Something she thought normal until she and her sister went to play with the kids next door. Her mother was a professor of economics, her father the deputy editor of Pravda, at the time

"publishing revolutionary articles that could have cost him his career," while also writing books on history. When it came to university, she first wanted to be a chemist, but then decided to follow in her parents' footsteps and study microeconomics and finance. She chose the department of international economic relations, a faculty in which she was one of three girls in 30 students. Following undergraduate studies, she progressed to a PhD in which she focused on the European monetary system, and published a book predicting "another wave of monetary integration in Europe". Describing herself as a "big supporter of European integration," those views went against prevailing Soviet orthodoxy at the time but set the scene for much of her career.

A regular op-ed contributor, she decided to pursue a media career full time, landing a job in 1984 at *The Economic Gazette*, a weekly that she described as being a cross between of *The Economist* and *Financial Times*. One year later, perestroika was set in motion. It was an exciting time to be writing. "We were publishing revolutionary articles. We could publish almost anything."

And the magazine, she believes, was having an influence on the country's direction. Colleagues left for jobs in government, and soon she was tapped by a contributor who had just been appointed Soviet ambassador to the then European Community. Would he join her in Brussels?

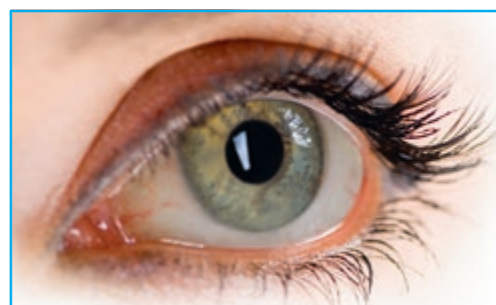
Yes, she replied. And after an interview at the foreign

ministry, found herself in charge of economic and monetary integration matters, as well as press attaché; there were only four staff.

Once again Valovaya was a woman in a minority, one of the first female diplomats in the Soviet foreign service. But she didn't have time to be fazed. Things were moving fast, both at home and in Brussels. That period saw European monetary union, the energy charter, and in 1994, the Treaty of Maastricht.

Yet it also held bitter-sweet memories. "It was while at the Maastricht talks, at the same time the European Union was created, that I found out about the break-up of the Soviet Union."

Now a member of the Russian mission she nevertheless



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worked closely with her counterparts from the newly independent countries, encouraged by an EU that favoured a similar regional community to its East. This was to become the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Looking back over that period I asked Valovaya if the reforms her home country went through could have been done differently.

No, she replied, "they were the only possible way to do them. They were difficult times, but everyone felt the benefits, which were not just economic. You could write what you want, read what you want and travel abroad."

Valovaya eventually left Brussels, and after a writing a doctoral thesis, and then a book on the lessons the CIS could learn from European economic and monetary integration, was asked by the Russian president

to work on Eurasian integration.

What started as a fledgling Eurasian Economic Community in 2000, led to a union in 2015, with, mirroring the EU, a commission to run it. She was duly made a commissioner with responsibility for economic integration and new members. Having been there from the start, she remains proud of what the union has achieved. A single market in goods and services for one. But it also meant, for example, that Kyrgyz workers could now work legally in Russia, unlike before, "with full rights. They were not afraid of the authorities anymore."

It was while there that she started working more closely with the UN, taking part in meetings in New York and Geneva, cooperating with UNC-TAD and developing reports on the sustainable development goals.

And what does she make of her

new job, running the UN office in Geneva, at a time when Geneva's role as a host city is being called into question?

"I don't think Geneva is under threat. It is unique in the quality and expertise it can provide. There are lots of NGOs and research institutions. We need to use international Geneva much more. But we have to be more competitive and provide better services." And the threat to multilateralism?

"Multilateralism is not disappearing! There is more demand for it than ever. We now see companies bigger than small member states and operating outside national systems. We are seeing a change in the social and economic order that happens every 200 years. We need rules."

"But we need to find forms of multilateralism acceptable to all member states. Climate change is a good example:

those most affected are least to blame."

With one of her largest portfolios being the 850 million dollar renovation and construction works for the Palais, I asked how she would ensure proper management of the project.

"I am dealing with decisions that have already been taken. I have inherited a half-year delay. It is important that we finish within budget and on time. We need transparent discussions."

Before closing, I asked her how she intends to deal with reports of harassment at the office, given that Secretary-General Antonio Guterres had made it one of his priorities.

"Staff should know that they can be absolutely secure," she replied, "and I will continue with zero tolerance."

"I will be tough on this matter." ■

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La Fête des Vignerons

Perennity in a time of climate change

Too bad if you missed it... the next edition will take place in 20 to 25 years... or will it?

SARAH JORDAN, DEPUTY EDITOR

This summer in Switzerland, THE event not to miss was undoubtedly the Fête des Vignerons, which took place from 18 July to 11 August in Vevey. This celebration has been organized in Vevey by the Confrérie des Vignerons (Society of Winegrowers) for more than two centuries, and the 2019 edition was certainly one of superlatives: 25 shows, 20,000 spectators for each in a specially built arena, a cast of 5,500, the majority of whom were local people – non-professionals and unpaid – and a total of a million visitors to the town of Vevey.

The festival, which celebrates winegrowers and their traditions, was, in 2016, the first, and to this date, the only Swiss event to be inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. The festival was first held in 1797 and this 2019 edition was the twelfth. This frequency, roughly every 20 to 25 years, explains why it

is often referred to as a once in a generation, or even a once in a lifetime, experience.

The text in the photograph below is an excerpt from a *UN Special* article published in 1955 – describing the festival that took place that year. What struck me on reading it was how similar it sounds to the festival I saw. I had not yet been born then and our magazine was just six years old. Two festivals have been held since then, in 1977 and 1999. They are always held in an odd year,



and no more than five can be organized in one century. Each one is different, but the themes, like the process of winemaking, are the same, year after year, generation after generation.

I was lucky enough to attend the opening performance this year, during which the Confrérie's *Abbé-Président* crowned the best winegrowers, including for the very first time in more than two hundred years, a woman. But winegrowing is still a male-dominated profession and the overall winegrower king of 2019 was a man, Jean-Daniel Berthet. Next time, in the 2040s, if there is a next time, maybe it will be a queen, as we shall see in the unfolding story below.

The show dramatizes a year

in the life of a vineyard. It takes the form of a dialogue between a young girl, Julie, and her grandfather, who initiates her to the art of winemaking. Twenty scenes, or *tableaux*, starting and ending with the grape harvest, describe the hard physical work involved in cultivating the vine and the social lives of those who work in and around the vineyards (playing the Swiss card game Jass; a wedding; the Fair of Saint Martin – an ancestral autumn fair during which the winemakers received their pay and made merry). Permeating all of this, is Mother Nature, as in so many ancestral celebrations the world over. The perennity of the seasons, the lake and water in general and the cosmos with the sun, the moon and the stars were the backdrop for

And while we are on the subject of perennity...

Un Special magazine is celebrating its 70th birthday – as Deputy Editor and a contributor for the last decade or so, I, of course, wish our staff magazine many happy returns. Three score years and ten is a good innings for a magazine run by volunteers. However, *Un Special* is threatened on at least two counts. Firstly, traditional print journalism, faced with digital media, is in decline and secondly, the world of advertising is so dominated by GAFA (Google, Apple, Facebook, and Amazon) and their acolytes that those who used to pay for advertisements in print publications are no longer doing so – threatening the existence of print-based advertiser-financed publications such as this. There is a lot less at stake than with the climate, of course, but we will have to adapt.



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the different *tableaux* and the colourful costumes took their inspiration from previous editions and from the traditional attire of the cantons of Vaud and Fribourg. Animals, insects and birds joined in the fun, including a dragonfly, who hovered over the arena below. This was the first Fête

des Vignerons of the digital era and the 800 m2 arena floor on which the company performed was made up of 3,200 LED screens – the biggest assembly of LED screens ever. There was rousing Swiss music too, of course – an orchestra, 850 singers in different choirs, soloists and traditional songs,

including the *Ranz des Vaches*, first sung at the festival one hundred years ago, in 1819.

My first and probably only Fête des Vignerons was a memorable experience – as can be seen from Véronique Magnin’s photos, reproduced here. It was grandiose and yet very easy to relate to – timeless, perennial. However, the omnipresence of nature in the story, indeed the omnipresence of nature in our human story, did cause me to ponder.

According to the Swiss Office Fédéral de Météorologie et de Climatologie, temperatures in the last 150 years have risen more in the northern Alps than in the southern Alps and twice as fast in Switzerland as in the rest of the world. This is because land-locked Switzerland has no sea to cool the build-up of heat. In a worst case scenario, by 2060,

Switzerland could be as hot as a Mediterranean country in summer (+4.5 degrees overall) with less rain, more violent storms and heatwaves that are longer and more intense than those we have experienced in the last few years. In winter, there would be less snow and fewer icy days. Not only winegrowers, but anyone who works in agriculture would be challenged by such changes. Everyone living here would be. And everyone living elsewhere too. Climate change is now mainstream. Let’s hope that the United Nations can garner the momentum needed worldwide to cut carbon emissions before it is too late. And then our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy their generation’s Fête des Vignerons. ■

And if you did miss the festival, the DVD is available at: www.fdvshop.ch



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Have we come from the four corners of the earth?

When the ambition to do something is simply not enough

The Fair Internship Initiative (FII) is an intern-run network of global action groups strategically active in important UN hubs – Geneva, New York, Nairobi, Vienna, Copenhagen, Bonn and Bangkok. Since 2015 FII activists have been advocating for accessible, fair and quality internships across the United Nations system.

BY FAIR INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE

We've come from the four corners of the earth with the ambition to do something. Today, however, our future is not certain: the effects of climate change have left us with a sense of immediacy and necessity we had not previously felt. As we enter boardrooms or work in the field while adorned with the iconic blue and white emblem of the United Nations, we carry with us both the trepidation and hopes of all young people from across all nations.

Today, our world is the youngest it's ever been. Frequently referred to as the 'leaders of today,' many of us still emerge from university faced with the challenge of how to become such leaders, weighed down with student loan debt and a youth unemployment rate that is now 3x that of older generations. The internship

has become necessity rather than just opportune choice; it is no coincidence the number of interns within the UN Secretariat rose from 1,500 (2006-2007) to almost 4,500 (2009-2010) just two years after the global economic crisis. Four out of every five UN interns remain unpaid, with the same number unable to afford their UN internship without economic support from their families. Statistically, while 90% of the global population of young people (24 and below) reside in developing nations, yet less than one third of UN interns are from these regions. Furthermore, 64% of UN interns are from high-income countries and over 80% rely on financial support from their families to afford their internship.

We've come from the four corners of the earth, for some at great cost and sacrifice, with

the ambition to do something, but many of us have come to the realization that ambition is simply not enough. The ability to afford the pursuit of our ambitions has become a necessity, as working full-time and unpaid has become normalized within the UN system and across the world. This is reflected by the statistics which show that the number of interns has increased globally by over 70% in the last 40 years.

One of the four global UN headquarters is Nairobi, Kenya, home to the community of Dandora, which houses the city's largest legal dumpsite. In Dandora, young people have taken it upon themselves to make the changes they want to see in their community. These young people have banded together to transform their neighborhood through

improving community waste management systems, sorting recyclables, creating jobs and curating safe spaces for other young people to be creative. They have created innovative ways to develop public spaces by holding musical concerts and football tournaments. In a period of six years, crime has been reduced by over 70% and young people have become active participants in their community's security and waste management. When some of the youth of Dandora were asked whether they'd be willing to work for the UN, every young person raised their hand. When asked whether they'd be able to afford to do so despite being unpaid for at least three months, no hands were left raised.

The achievement of the sustainable development goals by 2030 will require the



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investment in the capacity of every young person: our success will depend on our ability to include all young people, such as those from Dandora. The inclusive participation of youth who face the challenges encompassed by the SDGs in daily life, not just those who can afford to study them, will be crucial in meeting the 2030 Agenda. We all possess ambition, but not all of us possess the financial capacity to adequately pursue our ambitions, in this case, the cost of the UN internship. In the case of Dai Manju, a young woman from Central China, who was only able to attend school due to a clerical bank error, she became a business owner with over 1,000 employees. Our investment in the capacity of every young person will mean the widespread prioritization of the contribution and voices, ideas and opinions of young people, providing every one of us the

equal chance of participation within education, development initiatives, governance, and the United Nations.

Many of us came from one corner of the earth with the ambition to do something, holding an internship that was primarily a process of learning the challenges of the young people we seek to help. Around one out of every seven people globally lives in an informal settlement, often in extreme poverty, and most cannot afford a UN internship. Faced with the challenge of combatting poverty, it has been a realization for many UN interns that there are young people who would do better than ourselves if they had been able to afford to fulfill our positions, as they have lived the lives we seek to understand. As the United Nations, if instead we invested in and prioritized the voice of such youth from low socio-economic

backgrounds who reside in the communities we seek to develop, our ability to innovate and devise the necessary solutions for the provision of future, would inevitably proliferate.

In the words of Antonio Guterres,
"It is time... for leaders to listen and show that they care, about their own people and about the global stability and solidarity on which we all depend. And it is time for the United Nations to do the same: to recognize its shortcomings, and to reform the way it works. This Organization is the cornerstone of multilateralism and has contributed to decades of relative peace. But the challenges are now surpassing our ability to respond. The UN must be ready to change."

To Antonio Guterres: allow us to come from all corners of the world equally, so we can

tap into the strength of our diversity and harness the collective ambition and capacity of the youth of the world to effect necessary change. Let us reform the UN to meet the needs of today and invest in all young people in order to ensure the greatest capacity of our organization in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Encourage member states to see the need to prioritize the people who are underrepresented due to financial constraints and give them every opportunity to sit at our desks. Let it be our goal as the United Nations to provide an internship programme representative of our Charter that is free from financial exclusion, one that cultivates innovation and values the input of all young people. ■



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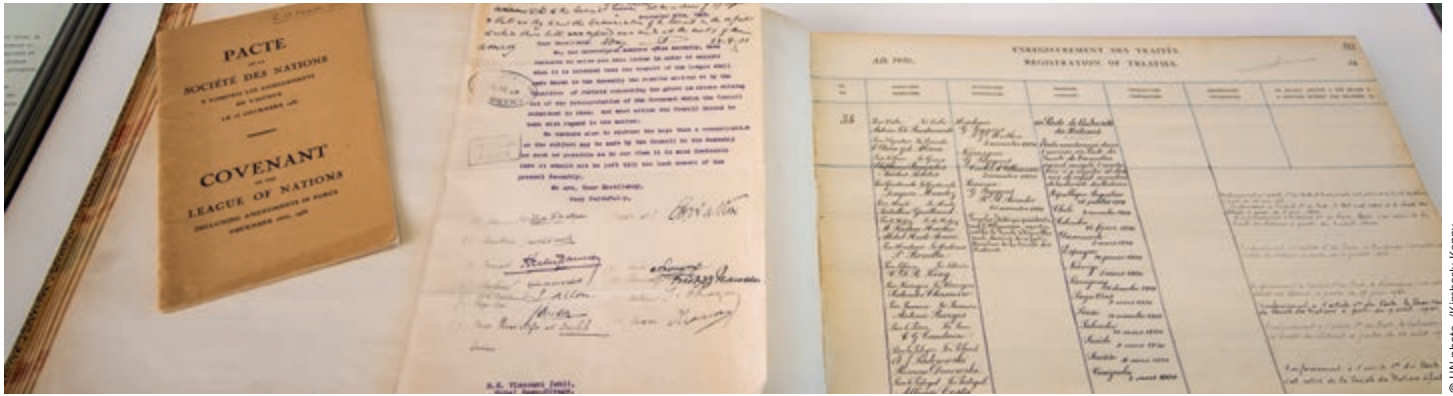
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100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva

Celebrating the past and present, looking to the future

STEFAN VUKOTIĆ¹, UNOG

Why are UN Geneva and its partners celebrating an organization established a century ago and that no longer exists? What is the League of Nations' legacy for the United Nations and for Geneva? Can we learn lessons from the multilateralism of the past to strengthen the multilateralism of the future? Did you know that the international civil service was born 100 years ago?

This year and the next are the years to celebrate multilateralism. Despite all the criticism

and seemingly shifting political climate, the global multilateral system, headed by the United Nations, is more needed than ever and is making a notable impact. Over the past 10 years, Millennium Goals have been achieved and Agenda 2030 has become virtually universally accepted and implemented from Alaska to Australia, poverty has been reduced more in the past 50 years than in the previous 500, and virtually all countries in the world are on the same page with issues such as climate action. The General Assembly also voted

in the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace, which was marked for the first time on 24 April 2019. Next year the UN celebrates its 75th anniversary, a testimony to the endurance of modern multilateralism. In Geneva, an additional milestone is being celebrated. One hundred years ago, this modern form of multilateralism was born with the establishment of the League of Nations in this city. The League was the first global organization tasked to ensure lasting peace through the participation

and collaboration of all the countries in the world and is hence the predecessor of the United Nations. This organization turned Geneva into the world's smallest metropolis as it is often called, and it is the main reason that Geneva is to this day a key centre of multilateralism. Whereas New York is the centre of the UN decision-making processes, it is sometimes called the dining room whereas Geneva plays the role of the kitchen. Virtually all entities of the UN system are represented in Geneva or even have their headquarters

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here, there are hundreds of related institutions and civil society organizations, and a huge number of private enterprises and intellectual institutions. This 'eco-system' of Geneva is unique in the world and it has contributed to the oft-repeated phrase that every person on Earth is touched in any 24-hour period in one way or another by the activities and decisions from Geneva. And this all started 100 years ago with the establishment of the League of Nations and the International Labour Organization, an organization that celebrates the incredible milestone of 100 years of work this year. This was also the time when the international civil service was introduced, and these predecessors of ours worked under rules and regulations not dissimilar to our own, which have largely been modeled after the League's experience.

This makes it more obvious what it is that we are celebrating. We are celebrating the birth of modern multilateralism and its evolution from the initial steps to the current vast network of global cooperation that encompasses all spheres of human life. We are also celebrating the fact that Geneva has a unique role in this process. Finally, we are celebrating our shared history and the evolution of the international civil service. The celebration takes place between 24 April 2019 (International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace) and 15 November 2020 (the 100th anniversary of the 1st Assembly of the League of Nations).

The way we are celebrating the 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva also reflects the diversity of stakeholders that comprise the global system of cooperation. Just as Member

States are no longer the sole players calling the shots in international relations and are leveraging the assistance of civil society, academia, the private sector, and even individuals, so we follow suite. The United Nations Office at Geneva, with the UN Library Geneva in the lead, has established a working cooperation to coordinate the celebrations. The stakeholders involved range from Permanent Missions of Member States to the academic community to private foundations to local authorities and many others in Geneva and beyond.

We are all joining forces, with the invaluable participation of various Palais des Nations departments and offices, to host events, exhibitions, academic seminars, publish articles, books, and online content, and bring to light the lessons of the past that can help us plan multilateral action of

tomorrow. Environmental protection? We can learn from the League's work on reducing the pollution of the sea. Refugees? Fridtjof Nansen established the predecessor of the UNHCR in Geneva under the auspices of the League, and the Library holds his Office's Nobel Peace Prize for that work in its archival collection. Vaccination and medicine standards? Check, the League's Health Organization was the basis for the WHO. Heritage protection? UNESCO grew directly out of the League's intellectual cooperation bodies. Better working conditions? ILO started working on those 100 years ago and has been successful in it ever since. And the list goes on.

To recall this fascinating history as a way to get inspired for the future, we are looking at the treasure trove that is the UN Library Geneva's Archives, where the institutional memory



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of the organization is meticulously preserved and made available for researchers, whether they be diplomats and delegates or academics and journalists. The Library is a surviving part of the League, having been established in 1919 as the instrument of international understanding and going strong for 100 years. It changed its name to the UN Library Geneva in 1946, and the following year the League of Nations Museum was opened, renamed United Nations at Geneva Museum in 2016. The entire League of Nations Archives are hosted at the Library, and they are currently being digitized to be made available through a dedicated platform globally (check out more about the Total Digital Access to the League of Nations Archives (LONTAD) project here: lontad-project.unog.ch). This unique and invaluable collection offers a constant source of inspiration, both for the staff and delegates and for external researchers. Initial seeds of virtually every SDG can be found here. Ideas such as an European union, collective security, safe passage for refugees, equal access to the job market for men and women, economic aid and development cooperation as a way to lasting peace, all of the ideas that are

even today seen as progressive have been dealt with by the League of Nations, who has laid foundations for the work of the United Nations today. And there are so many lessons to be found in its history, both about how to do things and how not to do things. The ultimate failure of the League to prevent the outbreak of the Second World War should serve as a warning to us today, just as much as its tremendous achievements and legacies in the areas listed above are a cause for optimism.

To highlight this shared history of the world, UN Geneva and partners have set a long period of 20 months to commemorate various key dates and bring to light key topics from the League's history with the greatest relevance for the UN's present and future. Starting with the screening of a documentary and a discussion with the academic community on the evolution of multilateralism to commemorate the first International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace (24 April), the programme for 2019 has already seen a dozen or so events and library talks, launched several exhibitions, and contributed to a number of publications. A dedicated hashtag #Multilateralism100 is being widely used

in Switzerland and abroad. A few seminal books have been launched, a huge academic conference held in Lisbon, and a major discussion took place at the University of Geneva, gathering top UN management and Swiss leadership. The newly launched podcast of the UN Library Geneva, "The Next Page", already has several episodes devoted to multilateralism and its evolution and will have more. The highlight of the year will likely be the upcoming exhibition at the Museum, scheduled for 8 October 2019. Fittingly entitled "100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva," it is a massive effort to showcase the evolution of multilateralism over the past century in the areas ranging from disarmament to health and living standards, development to refugees' protection, and human rights to education. It will also have a special section dedicated to 'multilateralism in action' which will highlight the work of international civil servants and how it is the people that make multilateralism happen. The exhibition has been done in partnership with the Martin Bodmer Foundation and the ICRC, who in turn are hosting their own exhibitions and all three are co-publishing a book/catalogue for the three exhibitions.

This and the coming year have much more in store, focusing primarily on the outlook for the future. We will celebrate the central role of Geneva together with the local authorities, we will look at how history as a discipline can help the policy-making of the future, and we will celebrate the evolution and growth of multilateralism under the UN on its 75th anniversary and the role of youth in this process. The help of staff will be crucial for this and everyone is encouraged to participate.

To keep track of what is planned, get involved, and learn more about multilateralism, check out the dedicated website multilateralism100.unog.ch. There, you will also find contact details for the coordination team and we highly encourage all staff to get involved and propose activities. 100 Years of Multilateralism in Geneva celebrates first and foremost the first century of the international civil service, which keeps the multilateral machine running. Stay tuned, multilateralism is just gearing up for the next 100 years. ■

¹ Stefan Vukotic is Secretary of Centenary Coordination Committee and is Chief at Archives Management Unit of the Institutional Memory Section, UN Library Geneva, UNOG

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Interview

The new UN strategy against hate speech

Interview with Adama Dieng, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the Prevention of Genocide and focal point for the implementation of the Strategy and Plan of Action against hate speech.



© UN Photo/Ariana Lindquist

CATHERINE FIANKAN-BOKONGA

Mr. Dieng is a former board member of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance and a former registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

In January, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, established a Working Group composed of 13 United Nations entities. He asked you to lead this Group to develop an umbrella UN system-wide Strategy and global Plan of Action to address hate speech.

Could you tell us why this is an important moment for the UN?

It is the first time that the United Nations has come together to address a phenomenon that is dangerously spreading like a bushfire in all parts of the world in ways never seen before.

Could you give us some concrete measures that will be taken?

The UN Strategy and Plan of Action sets out 13 commitments that the UN will implement, globally and at the national level, to address hate speech. This includes tackling the root causes of hate speech, building the capacities of the United Nations staff, maximizing the use of technology and education, leveraging partnerships – including with social media companies – and supporting Member States in the field of capacity

building and policy development to address hate speech.

Would you like to highlight one specific aspect?

Yes. I would like to highlight the enhanced engagement with technology companies called for in the Strategy and Plan of Action. We believe that social media should promote the values of tolerance, non-discrimination, pluralism, and freedom of opinion and expression.

Obviously, it is something that the United Nations cannot do on its own.

This is not an easy task, and certainly not something that the UN can do on its own. The Strategy represents the UN's commitment to step up its action to address and counter hate speech wherever it may occur, but we need Member States, civil society, including media, the private sector and every individual to join us in this endeavour to be successful. We all have a role to play.

What challenges do you expect in the implementation?

The UN has an important role here in convening the relevant actors and raising awareness globally on what could and should be done to tackle hate speech. We must also keep in mind that hate speech represents a grey area. Only the most serious forms of hate speech, those which

amount to incitement to hostility, discrimination or violence – or incitement to genocide – are prohibited under international law.

Could you be more precise?

Many times, language that we find hateful is protected under the right of freedom of expression. We need to make sure that these rights are upheld as we work towards addressing hate speech. This is one of the principles of the Strategy – the UN promotes more speech – positive and alternative speech – as the key means to address hate speech. This is because even if not illegal, hate speech is still harmful. In addition, if left unaddressed, hate speech can easily escalate into incitement and actual violence, including atrocity crimes. By addressing hate speech early on, by understanding and tackling the drivers and root causes thereof and by countering it with alternative and counter narratives, we can limit the potential harmful impact of hate speech.

Could you tell more about the anatomy of hate speech?

At the United Nations, we understand the term hate speech as any kind of communication in speech, writing or behaviour, that attacks or uses pejorative or discriminatory language with reference to a person or a group on the basis of who they are, based

on their religion, ethnicity, nationality, race, colour, descent, gender or other forms of identity. This is often rooted in, and generates intolerance and hatred and, in certain contexts, can be demeaning and divisive.

How does it lead to genocide, atrocity crimes, armed conflict or terrorism?

Hate speech is one of the warning signs and risk factors of genocide and other atrocity crimes, namely crimes against humanity and war crimes. These international crimes are rarely something that happen overnight. They are processes that develop over time with identifiable risk factors that when not addressed or mitigated may lead to the commission of these crimes. Addressing hate speech is therefore also of critical importance in the prevention of atrocity crimes. If we address hate speech and we build the values of inclusion, peace and respect for diversity, we are actively and concretely contributing to atrocity prevention.

What is the most effective and powerful tool to fight hate speech?

Education is an essential element. It addresses the root causes of hate speech. This is the reason why the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development will play a fundamental role. In particular SDG 4, which includes the promotion of the values and skills of Global Citizenship Education.

What can every person do to combat hate speech?

We all have a role to play. So many of us are connected on internet and social media today. Let us use this as a tool for spreading information and knowledge, not hate and division. We all also have a role to play in speaking up against hate speech, even when we are not the targets of it. It is important to stand in solidarity with those that are the targets of hate speech, to empower their voices. States also have a responsibility to protect those that are the targets of hate speech.

Many victims of hate speech are from discriminated groups. They may feel powerless to change the status quo. How would you encourage them to keep fighting?

The State has the primary responsibility to protect populations from discrimination, as part of fundamental human rights protection – this includes, of course, protecting them from incitement to hostility,

discrimination and violence – and incitement to genocide. Other actors can also play an important role, in particular civil society including the media and religious actors to support groups that are particularly targeted and speak out against hate speech or incitement against them.

What is the next step?

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres has requested holding a global Ministerial level conference on prevention and education as soon as possible, with a focus on hate speech. We are working closely with our colleagues, especially UNESCO, to plan this upcoming conference. ■

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INTERVIEW

Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett Director of FAO Liaison Office

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**ALEX MEJIA, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, UNITAR,
SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR**

Ms. Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett from Guyana is the Director of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva. We met her to introduce her to our readers and to discuss the importance of FAO's work and the impact of using the world's natural resources more responsibly.

You were appointed Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO) Liaison Office in Geneva in 2017. Before that, you had an impressive political career back home in Guyana. Tell us about yourself before joining the UN?

First of all, thank you for this interview. I started my working life as a schoolteacher, then I managed a programme addressing the social, economic and infrastructural need of indigenous communities for 7 years. In 2001, I was appointed Minister of Amerindian Affairs (Amerindian and indigenous is used interchangeably in Guyana) and then in 2008 Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade. I spent 7 years each in both portfolios while also serving as Member of Parliament. In 2015 I joined FAO; the first 2 years I was Coordinator for Parliamentary Alliances, and in 2017 I came to this current post.

Quite an impressive career. As you just mentioned, you have occupied ministerial positions in two key portfolios – indigenous people, and foreign affairs and trade. Moreover, you were the youngest and the first woman to occupy these positions in both portfolios. How do you see the role of youth and women in politics?

I was 27 when I entered the Parliament

and appointed Minister. There was a lot of trepidation but I believe that great enthusiasm and energy balanced with the experience of older colleagues made a great difference. Half of the world's population are women and another 42% of the world's population are persons under 25 years old. In regions such as Africa and South Asia, up to half of the population are under 25. I think that if we use the combined skills and strengths of these women and youth in all facets of development, including decision-making, the world would be richer, better and stronger. There has been some progress for women in politics, but when you look at the statistics of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, we still only have 24% of women in our parliaments. This must be increased in order to benefit from the full range of skills and perspectives of women, and more so, to ensure gender equality.

Can you tell us a bit more about the work of the FAO Liaison Office in Geneva? What are the biggest challenges ahead for FAO?

The liaison office is in Geneva for more than 50 years and we focus mainly on three areas:

Firstly, we bring the decisions of our governing bodies, our technical expertise and the general work of the organization to the inter-agency mechanisms in Geneva. There are quite a lot of inter-agency activities and a large number of UN Organizations and others here in Geneva.

Secondly, FAO is known for its knowledge products. We are present in over 130 countries, so our information reach is greater.



The FAO Geneva team

© FAO Geneva

We produce several global reports, such as the yearly global report on the state of food security and nutrition in the world, in addition to many other studies. We bring that information to the member states, UN Organizations and others that are based here because it could help them in their decision-making and advocacy. We started a series called the "Geneva Agriculture Trade Talks" where we share the outcomes of our work in agriculture and trade with the member states in a neutral manner. This has proven to be very useful.

Thirdly, the office also serves as focal point for 15 countries with Permanent Missions in Geneva but without representation in Rome.

Regarding the challenges for FAO, this is reflected in our main goal – Ending hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security for all. For a few decades there was a decline in the number of hungry people in the world but as of 2015 hunger is on the rise again. Today we have about 820 million hungry people. This is due to an increase in conflicts, climate change and economic setbacks. On the other side of the malnutrition equation is obesity. While hunger is concentrated in certain parts of the world, obesity is increasing in all regions, triggering increased economic and health costs and affecting quality of life.

In terms of Climate Change – the greatest challenge of our time – the agriculture sector alone absorbs 23% of all damage

and loss from natural disasters. This is very high. In 2018, the cost associated with natural disasters was \$131 billion. When you juxtapose that on the commitment of \$100 billion by 2020 in relation to the Paris Agreement, you see the urgent need for these resources in order to be more prepared and resilient. At the current rate, we won't be able to reach SDG 2 (ending hunger and malnutrition) but we believe that this is still possible if we end conflicts, do more with less, reduce food waste, invest in rural development and youth, among others.

FAO together with IFAD launched the UN Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028 last May in Rome. Tell us more about the importance of this decade?

More than 80% of the food we consume is produced by family farmers, yet many of them rank as poor. So, this decade will highlight their immense contributions to food security and development as a whole and will also instigate governments and the international community to work on policies and programmes that could improve the lives of our family farmers, especially in the face of an increasing world population where more food will be needed. A Geneva launch of the Decade will be held on the 3rd October.

On 16 October, the world will celebrate World Food Day; this year the theme will be "Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World" How does FAO Geneva plan to commemorate this day and what messages would you like to give to our readers for this important day?

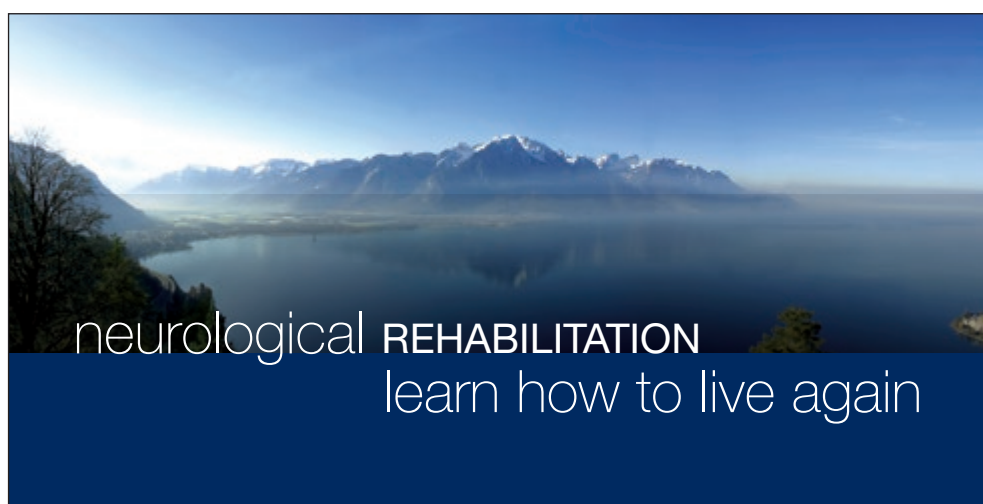
More than 820 million people still go to bed hungry, while on the other hand 2.2 billion people are overweight, of which 1/3 are obese. Last year, 40 million of our children under five were found to be overweight. In every region of the world obesity is increasing. The theme for this year's World Food Day is "Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World" because we want to focus on both issues of hunger and healthy diets. In Geneva, we are teaming up with the Swiss Government and Partage to have an exhibition at Cornavin train station to bring this message to the public: Eat healthy. We are also collaborating with Eldora in a campaign to serve "healthy diets" in the Palais des Nations during the week of the 16th October. In some cases, people buy unhealthy food because this is all they can afford, but in many cases it is

a choice. In both cases, we must change to healthy sustainable diets, in order to lead an active and healthy lifestyle and make a greater contribution for a better world. If we don't pay attention to eating healthily, we will pay more in health bills and suffer a decline in our quality of life. We are what we eat.

To conclude, what motivates you in your everyday work at the Palais? And what advice would you give to young people interested in working for the United Nations?

I was always interested in the work of the UN. I became more attracted to it in my previous portfolio where I was the primary interlocutor for my Government with the

UN. There were times where I criticised the UN as well, but in my opinion, this is the one organization in our world that is indispensable. We need the UN! While the fruits of the multilateral process can be slow to ripen, their sustainability and legitimacy transcend generations. Every day when I wake up, I think about the contribution that I can make now, as part of the UN, even if small. I would tell a young person that the UN is a force for good. If you get an opportunity to work for it, grab it with both hands because you have thousands of other UN staff working all over the world making positive changes every day in people's lives, sometimes at the risk of their own lives, for a better world. You can be one too. ■



Neurological rehabilitation is fundamental to ensure a smooth return to everyday life. Nestled in an idyllic green setting above Montreux, Clinique Valmont is a unique state-of-the-art establishment dedicated to rehabilitation for patients suffering from neurological diseases such as strokes, multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer or Parkinson.

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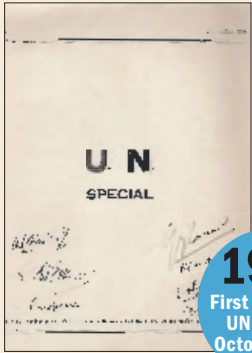
An expert team of neuropsychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, coaches and dieticians work in coordination with leading physicians. Clinique Valmont is equipped with a 1,500 square meter ultra-modern technical platform including two fitness rooms, a large heated indoor swimming pool and the most recent training devices.



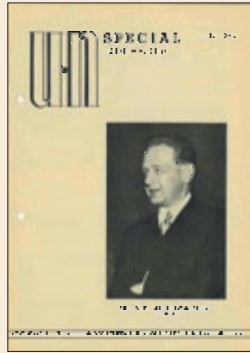
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UN Special

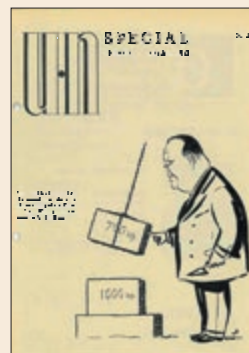


1949
First edition of
UN Special
October 1949



April 1953

Cover with the then new Secretary-General the late Dag Hammarskjöld who later died in a plane crash in 1961.



June 1950

A caricature of the late Trygve Lie who was the first UN Secretary-General laying the foundation stone of a new wing of Palais des Nations.



May 1968

The World Health Organization celebrating their 20th anniversary



January 1989

The late US President George Bush on the cover (this issue contains an article written by George Bush himself when he was still Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN).



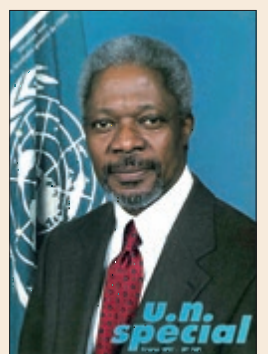
September 1992

For the 500th edition, 35,000 copies were printed and distributed unprecedently to UN duty stations outside Geneva.



1999

50th Anniversary of UN Special



February 1997

Cover with the late Kofi Annan when he was appointed UN Secretary-General.

70 YEARS

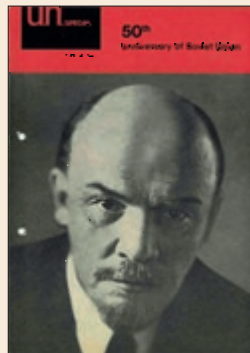
FOUNDED IN 1949

1949-2019



June 1971

Housing in Geneva: the difficulty in finding reasonably priced accommodation is not recent.



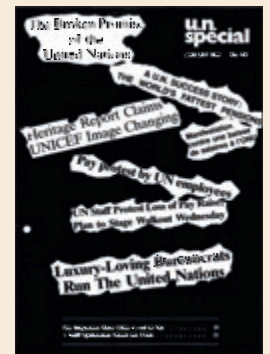
December 1972

UN Special celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Union with Vladimir Lenin on the cover.



October 1981

Cover with the late Kurt Waldheim who was the fourth UN Secretary-General.



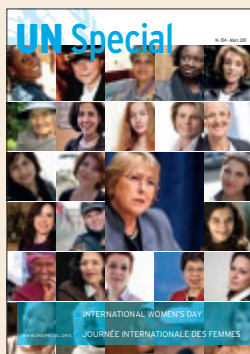
January 1985

The UN Special, always committed to supporting the struggle for salaries and work conditions.



September 2003

The UN targeted by attacks in August 2003 in Baghdad, in which the then Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello and his 21 colleagues were killed.



March 2011

Celebration of International Women's Day



January 2018

UN Special committed to humanitarian causes, here a cover with the famous World Press awarded photo of photojournalist Massimo Sestini.



June 2019

In 2019 we celebrate the Centenary of the International Labour Organization. Here with ILO Director-General Guy Ryder on the cover.

Perseverance, determination and success

Promotion of multilingualism in Africa

Inaugural staff collaboration and interpreter training to achieve the common objective of multilingualism.

JOY CADOGAN, UNECA

WITH INPUT FROM UNOG AND UNON

Accreditation testing of freelance interpreters is routine within the UN, with tests administered by its main offices once annually on average. However, this particular initiative to promote multilingualism through the training and accreditation of young graduates in Africa was unique in a sense, and special to the 22 trainers and five evaluators from four duty stations who were resolute and steadfast in their quest to ensure that freelance interpreters in Africa, the large majority of whom were self-taught, were made booth-ready to service UN events. A few had completed short-term English-French training conducted by the Organization internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), but still needed coaching on UN style and techniques.

The two-year journey started early in 2017, when 12 English and French freelancers in Addis Ababa approached the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) seeking their inclusion on the roster. With no staff interpreters on board to conduct testing, UNECA requested assistance from the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) to evaluate the new freelancers, and from

the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) to review the 13 freelancers who were already on the roster. Both offices accepted the challenge and readily dispatched two teams of three English and French booth staff to undertake these exercises.

UNOG's evaluation of the new freelancers did not produce the expected results. Only two of the 12 freelancers passed the screening test. However, all hope was not lost as the evaluation team recognized the potential of many of the freelancers, and opined that with training and coaching, many of them would have had a different outcome.

Based on a robust demand for English and French interpretation in Addis Ababa, UNECA acceded to UNOG's recommendation, and in conjunction with the United Nations Office at Vienna (UNOV), the first training of 12 English and French freelance interpreters took place in Addis Ababa in January 2018. Four UNOV English and French booth staff tutored freelancers during two one-week segments. Since UNOG's team already had the experience of screening many of these young freelancers months before, they returned to Addis Ababa to conduct their

evaluation. Again, the results were not as expected as only one of the 12 passed.

All hope was still not lost. Interpretation staff at UNECA, UNOG, UNON, UNOV, and the Pan-African masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation (PAMCIT) put their heads together and developed a comprehensive proposal for longer-term training. They also expanded its scope to include young graduates from the entire continent. PAMCIT recommended many of its graduates who had completed their two-year Master's degree in Interpretation at PAMCIT universities, but still needed some fine-tuning before being booth-ready.

Twenty-two staff from UNOG, UNON and UNOV volunteered to participate in the English and French training, which was conducted in two in-person phases at UNON, and during a seven-week online coaching period early in 2019. Eight UNON staff delivered the face-to-face training, whilst seven staff members from UNOG and seven from UNOV sacrificed lunch breaks, weekends, and spare time to select training material, and to review and provide individual feedback to the trainees, whom they coached via Google Classroom and Skype.

The conclusion of this nine-week English and French training coincided with the timing of UNON's May 2019 Accreditation Test. UNON sought the collaboration of United Nations

Headquarters (UNHQ) to use Vidruiter to remotely test 21 candidates (out of a total of 50 candidates) in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, many of whom were from as far off as Morocco and Senegal.

As part of the UN outreach programme to target young graduates, this Accreditation Test netted two Arabic, three English, nine French and one Spanish newly-accredited UN interpreters from six countries in Africa to the roster that is shared among duty stations.

As this training momentum built up, self-taught Arabic freelancers in Addis Ababa remained uneasy. They too started lobbying UNECA for treatment equal to that of their English and French colleagues. Viewing this request primarily as a move to lower its travel costs for Arabic interpreters, whom UNECA occasionally relies on to service its main statutory meetings, UNECA again accepted.

The net was cast and 38 Arabic freelancers from seven countries on the continent applied for training. The willingness and cooperative spirit of their English and French colleagues prevailed again among UNOG's Arabic booth staff. Nine staff readily volunteered to spearhead this exercise to train six shortlisted freelancers. Since the majority of the shortlisted candidates hailed from Cairo, Egypt, it was deemed logical to conduct the training there in three segments from July 28 – August 22.



Week 2 – Arabic training in Cairo with UNOG staff interpreters Carole Akiki, Riham Youssef



Trainees in Nairobi with UNON's staff



Addis Ababa training by UNOV staff interpreter, Gillian Curry

Within the framework of a Memorandum of Understanding between the UN and Universities on Cooperation in Training of Candidates for Competitive Language Examinations, the American University in Cairo (AUC) was approached to host this first training course for Arabic interpreters in Africa. Without hesitation, AUC agreed to make its facilities available to UNOG's Arabic booth staff on completion of their one-month online coaching. In this way, the six shortlisted freelancers

in Google Classroom replicated the English and French training. The collaborative manner in which AUC, UNECA, UNOG and UNON organized this training is testimony to how joint future work can yield tangible results. Accreditation testing of these candidates was conducted remotely on September 20.

The thrust to promote multilingualism is alive and well in Africa! Support for interpretation training from the main

offices remains invaluable. Collaboration among duty stations is unsurpassed, and technology was the primary tool to connect trainers, administrative and technical staff, and freelancers in 10 cities on three continents to bring this monumental task to fruition.

Team spirit over the two years has remained at an all-time high. Many staff ditched their interpretation hats and switched gears to put their administrative, project

management, training, and IT skills into action. The training and testing of young freelancers in Africa has just gained momentum. Given the need for more interpreters, the road ahead will be long and challenging with the complexities and variances in each country such as opportunities to put interpretation skills into practice in live-session scenarios, and the varying levels of freelancers' capability prior to training. Although time differences on the continent did not act as a deterrent, the quality of internet connectivity did. Nonetheless, what undoubtedly remains unchallenged is the commitment of staff across the five duty stations to promote multilingualism through interpretation service as a core value of the United Nations.

Kudos to the entire team! ■

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SIG

Interview with the President of the World Federation of the Deaf Sign Languages at UN Geneva

**REBECCA EDGINGTON, DCM
INTERNATIONAL SIGN FOCAL POINT,
UNOG.**

Dr. Joseph Murray, President of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) was in Geneva on 19 September to take part in the celebration of the International Day of Sign Languages (IDSL), held on 19 September at the United Nations Office at Geneva, in advance of the designated day, which is the 23rd. The 2nd IDSL was a flurry of fast-moving hands as so many representatives from different parts of the Deaf community came to share their sign languages with UN staff, experts and delegates. The day started with a pop-up sign language café, then guided tours in sign languages, a high-level panel debate organized by Brazil and sponsored by Israel on Sign Language Rights for All and finally a moving theatre performance by Deaf students entitled “To Sign is Human”. UN Geneva is grateful for the support of the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Finland and France, as well as of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), and the Swiss Federation of the Deaf.

Dr. Murray, could you please tell us about the WFD?

The WFD is an International NGO representing the human rights of 70 million people globally through our network of National Associations of Deaf people from 125 countries, which makes us the world’s largest global uni-disability NGO. Our mission is to promote the human rights of deaf

people and full, quality and equal access to all spheres of life, including self-determination, sign language, education, employment and community life. WFD has a consultative status in the United Nations and is a founding member of International Disability Alliance (IDA).

Since the CRPD committee started its work, sign language interpreters have been recruited by UN Geneva for CRPD and other meetings mandated to be accessible. This year DCM provided 277 interpreter days of sign language. The interpreters worked in teams of 2 or 3, sometimes with several sign language teams in parallel. How has this changed your participation in meetings and the UN’s work in general?

Knowing there are International Sign and/or national sign language interpreters available allows deaf people to simply attend events as needed. Earlier, our process would be that we would identify an event of interest, then spend a large amount of time, and sometimes funds, securing sign language interpreters to ensure basic access to what was being said. Oftimes we were not successful, and even when we were successful, this involved a lot of extra resources on the part of deaf people and their organizations, all for basic access to content.

Now we can identify events that we wish to attend, particularly treaty body sessions, knowing they will have sign language interpreters in place. This increased access pays



Dr. Joseph Murray, President of the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD)

off in greater participation by stakeholders in the UN’s human rights processes and thus furthers the UN’s mission.

Deaf people still need to work to organize and fund interpreting access to information that is not part of an official public agenda, such as meetings with treaty body members or UN personnel. If I were to ask for an improvement, it would be to have a sign language interpreter booking system in place for meetings with UN personnel. This is the necessary next step to ensure the United Nations is transparent and accessible to all stakeholders.

How would you assess the impact of sign language interpretation in the meeting room and on the webcast?

For those on site, meeting interpreters are a huge plus. Having access to events on the webcast makes United Nations events accessible on an equal basis to all people. We know these webcasts have been viewed by deaf people who follow treaty body proceedings about their

country, and this increased awareness and information has promoted greater awareness of their human rights, which in turn informs their advocacy efforts on national and international levels. For those watching via the webcast, it is a plus to have Deaf interpreters with a more natural language use.

Do you consider that increased use and visibility of sign languages at the UN is an important part of achieving the SDGs and making sure no-one is left behind?

Absolutely! This is a living example of effective SDG implementation. When we include all, in this case including deaf people, in decision making processes, we all benefit through stronger outcomes. The UNOG’s commitment to access models for other countries the importance of using interpreters for high level political meetings and making their political processes and programmes accessible for all people.

Could you explain why sign language interpretation is better



Swiss Federation of Deaf President, Dr. Tatjana Binggeli

than captioning for participants who are deaf?

Would you prefer to listen to live proceedings that are happening around you or read a transcript of it taking place around you while you sit in silence? The answer is obvious for those who use spoken languages and should be equally obvious for those who use signed languages.

There is one difference: those who can listen and read the transcript at the same time, something not available to deaf people.

Captioning is an access tool that is widely used and should continue to be used. But does not capture the natural way a language is used in live settings: the affect, the emotional aspects of how language is being used,

the speaker's tone, and other aspects of the natural prosody that provide so much meaning does not come through in captioning.

You are here in Geneva to participate in the IDSL and a panel discussion on Sign Language Rights for All. What would you like to see the UN do to promote sign language rights?

We would like to see all UN meetings, forums, and events be fully accessible to any deaf person who wishes to participate, both via sign language interpreting in national sign languages and in International Sign but also in providing language concordant services by having staff, including deaf staff, who are able to use sign languages directly with deaf people who attend UN meetings and events.

The United Nations passed Resolution 72/161 for the recognition of sign languages. This

recognition should be followed with the development of opportunities for the promotion of sign languages as a natural part of the United Nations activities. This includes awareness raising activities such as UNOG's excellent celebrations of IDSL but also policies that enable the employment of deaf people who use sign languages at the UN and training for staff to be able to use sign languages as a part of their daily work. ■

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Young UN

A cross-UN movement for change

Young UN: Agents for Change is a global network working towards a shared vision of a UN that fully embodies the principles it stands for. Initiated by young people to catalyse system change, Young UN projects are open to all colleagues with a fresh and open mind-set.

**SIMON BETTIGHOFER, RUTH BLACKSHAW,
KATINKA KOKE**

The UN has a bold and inspiring mandate. While human rights, development and peace and security remain as relevant as ever, and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive and challenging blueprint for action, how the UN delivers on its mandate must evolve. A variety of efforts have already been introduced to tackle shortcomings in one way or another: UN reforms have been initiated, various organizations are undergoing transformation processes, and innovation units are being created by many.

When Young UN: Agents for Change (Young UN) started as an informal network in 2016, there were many high-level conversations and processes around the need for reform and change in the UN system. But there was little discussion at the working level of what needs to change now in order to maximise the potential of all UN system employees. Young UN sought to create such a platform to drive change from the ground up.

Today, Young UN is a global network of more than 1,200 members, working in 100+ countries across the UN system. In Geneva, the network has around 300 members working in various UN organizations. Young UN is completely inclusive, being open to all staff categories and contract types, including consultants and interns, and has no age limit.

Young UN recognises that there are many common challenges across the UN system (for example, regarding inter-agency collaboration and information sharing, use of technology, human resources practices and more). Network members are proactive in addressing these challenges and aim to transform the UN system to live by the principles it stands for, including integrity, transparency, gender equality



SDG Hacks workshop on zero waste in Palais des Nations, Geneva.

or environmental sustainability. The network works on the basis that innovation should be part of everyone’s job and is cultivating a change-maker mind-set and a culture of open collaboration, innovation and continuous adaptation in the UN. Young UN has three functions: crowd-sourcing ideas and feedback across the UN system; piloting new approaches; driving a movement for cultural and mind-set change in the UN system. The UN reform agenda is therefore of significant interest and relevance and a process in which Young UN is eager to be an active shaper of change.

At the request of Under-Secretary-General Jens Wandel, Special Advisor to

the Secretary-General on UN Reforms, Young UN has provided ‘temperature checks’ on UN reforms across the three pillars, as well as how reforms are being communicated, collecting views from its members. These two word clouds show responses on how respondents experience reforms versus what reforms they want to see in the UN.

Young UN members were grateful to be consulted and many encouraged Mr. Wandel to be bold and ambitious with the reforms. Many themes already covered in other parts of the survey were again stressed by respondents as in critical need of Mr. Wandel’s attention – including human resources (especially the need to

April 2019 Temperature Check

UN current reforms as experienced by respondents



What respondents want to see from UN reforms





SDG Anonymous event in Library, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

end unpaid internships and precarious contracts) and IT, accountability, culture change and participatory processes. The need for “not just information but also participation” was stressed by several. Young UN sees huge potential in gathering ideas from employees on an ongoing basis regarding challenges and solutions. The network tries to lead by example how it wants the UN to work: decentralised, no fixed hierarchies, project teams that gather and disperse according to needs.

Members influence change by:

Starting a conversation about the challenges the UN faces and possible solutions. Recently in Geneva, for example, in collaboration with the Geneva Environment Lab and the UN Geneva Knowledge and Learning Commons, Young UN started SDG Anonymous – a series to collectively develop ideas for how all of us can become more SDG aware and supportive in our daily lives. Subsequently, a ‘SDG Hacks’ workshop on zero waste was held to continue momentum at the personal and organizational level.

Leading by example, by piloting practical changes and sharing our experiences. In Geneva, Young UN recently started ‘Coworking Wednesdays’ – a coworking initiative at the UN for one day per week. It can be easy to feel out of touch with colleagues in the same building, let alone in different parts of the UN system. This pilot which has been running since March 2019 is an opportunity to bring network members old and new together, and to test flexible working that will soon be rolled out at the Palais des Nations.

Advocating change, by bringing fresh ideas to key decision-makers. For example, the network has crowdsourced inputs from the network for the high-level committees on management and

programmes, on topics from the future of work and the future of the UN workforce to mainstreaming innovation in UN system management. Young UN has also provided ideas to the UN reform streams and conducted rapid ‘temperature checks’ to gather perspectives on the implementation of the reforms. This advocacy role is carried out at both the global, regional and entity level. Recently in Geneva, the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth met with Young UN members to discuss ideas from how to engage young people in the UN’s work in novel ways, to creative approaches to mobilise resources. Young UN has a seat on the high-level committee

for implementation of the Youth Strategy – another opportunity to advocate change.

The network keeps growing and many exciting projects are in the works, piloting innovation time (ongoing) and next steps for SDG Anonymous and climate action in the UN system. It is a great time to get involved and there is much work to do! If you work for the UN system in any capacity and are interested in getting involved, do join the network! ■

More info: www.young-un.org/join
young.un.info@gmail.com



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Mix&Mash à la Brasserie des Halles de l'île.


Mix & Mash

Un afterwork festif sur le thème de la santé aux HUG le 29 octobre prochain.

ALEXANDRE CARETTE, ONUG/UNIS


Un thème lié à la Genève internationale, un verre de bienvenue, de la musique par le UN Jazz band et des organisations internationales et genevoises qui présentent leur travail, le tout dans une ambiance décontractée, c'est le cocktail des Mix&Mash organisés depuis maintenant trois ans par le Service de l'Information des Nations Unies à Genève en coopération avec le Centre d'accueil de la Genève internationale (CAGI) et la Brasserie des Halles de l'île.

L'idée originale, prônée par l'ancien Directeur général de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève, était de voir la Genève internationale et locale se rencontrer et ainsi décloisonner ces mondes qui semblaient si éloignés l'un de l'autre. Même si à ses débuts, l'événement était principalement fréquenté par des fonctionnaires internationaux, au fil des éditions, le public s'est élargi. Le pari est réussi avec des centaines de personnes qui se retrouvent à chaque édition.



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Mix&Mash sur le thème du patrimoine au CAGI.

Depuis le premier Mix&Mash, plus d'une centaine d'organisations internationales et associations locales ont eu l'occasion d'échanger avec le public et de présenter leur travail. La plupart du temps, l'afterwork a lieu à la Brasserie des Halles de l'île, un lieu central de la vie festive genevoise. Les différents événements ont couvert des domaines

très différents comme la liberté de la presse, les réfugiés, l'égalité homme-femme, ou la lutte contre le réchauffement climatique. De temps à autre, le Mix&Mash déménage en fonction du thème. Le dernier, en juin, sur le thème du patrimoine a été accueilli par le CAGI à son siège, une villa classée avec son très beau jardin. Un autre s'est

tenu au Musée d'art moderne et contemporain (MAMCO) sur le thème de l'art et des droits de l'homme.

Le prochain Mix&Mash sur le thème de l'accès à la santé se déroulera donc aux Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève le 29 octobre. Les HUG ont accepté de s'associer aux Nations Unies pour un événement exceptionnel, toujours dans un esprit de rencontre et d'échange entre la Genève internationale et la Genève locale. Ce Mix&Mash viendra clôturer la journée «Cœur, vaisseaux, cerveau» dédiée à l'information et à la prévention avec des ateliers interactifs et des tests de dépistage. On se retrouvera à partir de 18h30 dans une ambiance plus festive au 10^e étage du bâtiment principal, avec une vue imprenable sur la ville. Des représentants des HUG mais aussi de l'Organisation

mondiale de la santé seront présents pour échanger avec le public. Tous les ingrédients qui font le succès du Mix and Mash depuis ses débuts seront au rendez-vous: animation musicale, verre de bienvenu et ambiance décontractée.

N'hésitez pas à pousser les portes de l'hôpital, le Mix&Mash est un événement ouvert à tous. Vous êtes invités à vous rendre au hall d'accueil principal des HUG dès 18h30: Rue Gabrielle-Perret-Gentil 4, 1205 Genève; le parcours sera fléché jusqu'à la salle du 10^e étage. ■

Pour toute information sur la journée «Cœur, vaisseaux, cerveau»: www.hug-ge.ch/evenement/journee-cvc

Pour l'information relative au Mix&Mash et aux événements organisés par le Service de l'informations des Nations Unies à Genève: www.unog.ch

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Genève et le multilatéralisme

A l'occasion de 100^e anniversaire du multilatéralisme, la Directrice générale de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève, Tatiana Valovaya, s'est rendue à l'Université de Genève pour fêter l'événement en présence du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères suisse, Ignazio Cassis, des autorités cantonales et locales. Nous partageons avec vous leurs interventions sur Genève et le multilatéralisme.



Madame Tatiana Valovaya et Monsieur Ignazio Cassis

Monsieur le Conseiller Fédéral,
Monsieur Le Recteur,
Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Je suis très heureuse d'être aujourd'hui avec vous toutes et tous à cet important événement. Le fait que cet événement soit organisé à l'Université de Genève est tout à fait à propos. Les jeunes générations ont en effet un rôle essentiel à jouer afin de réaffirmer la pertinence du multilatéralisme et du droit international pour promouvoir l'objectif commun d'une paix durable.

Cette année marque le centenaire de la Conférence de Paix de Paris, entérinant la fin de la Grande Guerre et la naissance du multilatéralisme moderne. Celui-ci a ouvert la voie au développement du système international tel que nous le connaissons aujourd'hui et constitua un véritable tournant dans l'Histoire.

En effet, la création de la Société des Nations incarnait à la fois la vision ambitieuse d'une gestion nouvelle des relations internationales et une réponse concrète aux défaillances de la politique des

grandes puissances. Son but n'était rien de moins que de sauvegarder la paix universelle.

En dépit de l'échec que certains voient ou retiennent d'elle, la Société des Nations a posé les fondations de ce que l'Organisation des Nations Unies entend aujourd'hui.

Du désarmement à la protection des minorités et des réfugiés, en passant par la justice internationale, la coopération intellectuelle et la réglementation du travail; l'héritage de la Société des Nations a permis d'amorcer l'avènement du multilatéralisme contemporain fondé sur les règles du droit international.

C'est peut-être parce qu'elle a été si souvent le centre de l'histoire du multilatéralisme que Genève est aussi le centre de la mémoire. En effet, les archives historiques de la Société des Nations, soit plus de 15 millions de pages inscrites au Registre «Mémoire du Monde» de l'UNESCO, sont conservées au Palais des Nations et actuellement en cours de numérisation. Elles attestent de l'immense engagement de nos prédécesseurs à œuvrer pour le multilatéralisme. ■

Excellences,
Mesdames et Messieurs,

Dans un monde de plus en plus polarisé, fragmenté et confronté à de multiples défis, qu'il s'agisse des conflits, de la faim, des crises humanitaires, des changements climatiques ou du terrorisme, le multilatéralisme est une évidence tant les enjeux globaux requièrent des réponses globales.

Cependant, nombreux sont ceux qui pensent que le multilatéralisme est en crise et est attaqué. Pour ma part, je pense plutôt que le système multilatéral tel que nous le connaissons est en période de grande transition vers un nouveau type de gouvernance globale.

Ce nouveau multilatéralisme sera certainement plus en réseau et multidimensionnel, avec une participation accrue de nouveaux acteurs, une coopération étroite entre les organisations internationales et régionales, y compris les banques de développement.

Puisque les gouvernements et les organismes internationaux ne peuvent y arriver seuls, ce nouveau multilatéralisme devra être inclusif, ancre dans des partenariats avec le monde des affaires, la société civile, les parlements, le milieu universitaire et le monde de la

philanthropie, en n'oubliant aucune partie prenante comme les jeunes.

Afin d'être véritablement efficace, ce nouveau multilatéralisme devra également être basé sur la solidarité et la justice. Ceci correspond parfaitement à l'esprit de l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable, notre feuille de route commune pour créer un monde globalement durable; socialement équitable; écologiquement sûr; économiquement prospère; et surtout inclusif.

De part son histoire et sa construction politique, la Suisse constitue un excellent exemple de ce nouveau multilatéralisme basé sur les principes de solidarité, d'inclusivité et de justice.

Cette ambition se manifeste aussi clairement au sein de la Genève Internationale qui est un catalyseur dont les effets sont quantifiables: chaque personne sur la planète est, de près ou de loin, touchée par les décisions qui y sont prises. Nous avons à Genève les outils inscrivant le multilatéralisme au cœur de notre action. Soutenu par la plateforme essentielle qu'est la Genève Internationale et avec le concours de toutes les bonnes volontés dont celles de la jeunesse, il ne fait aucun doute que le multilatéralisme sera toujours célébré dans cent ans. ■

Cent ans de multilatéralisme: Confédération, Canton et Ville réaffirment le rôle de Genève comme centre de gouvernance mondiale

DÉPARTEMENT FÉDÉRAL DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES

Pour souligner l'importance de la Genève internationale et son rôle de plateforme pour les questions d'avenir, le Conseiller fédéral, Ignazio Cassis, a signé avec le président du Conseil d'État genevois, Antonio Hodgers, et le Conseiller administratif de la ville de Genève, Sami Kanaan, une déclaration commune. Celle-ci renouvelle l'engagement des autorités fédérales, cantonales et communales en faveur du centre de gouvernance globale sur les rives du Léman et marque le centième anniversaire du travail multilatéral à Genève. La signature a été accompagnée par la publication d'un volume contenant les plus importants documents diplomatiques suisses liés à la création de la Société des Nations, il y a un siècle.

Le multilatéralisme moderne est né avec la création, en 1919, de la Société des Nations, voulue par le traité de Versailles à la fin de la Première Guerre mondiale. L'attribution de son siège à Genève a marqué l'essor de la Genève internationale, après la création de la Croix-Rouge et d'autres sociétés de portée internationale.

«L'histoire nous apprend que le dialogue entre les Etats est le seul moyen d'éviter les grandes tragédies qui touchent l'humanité», a relevé lors de la cérémonie de signature le conseiller fédéral, Ignazio Cassis, ajoutant que la recherche inlassable du consensus et le respect de l'Etat de droit sont «inscrits dans l'ADN» suisse. Ces caractéristiques de la Suisse, avec sa neutralité, ont contribué, il y a un siècle, au choix de Genève comme siège de la Société des Nations.

Aujourd'hui, 40 organisations internationales, les représentants diplomatiques de 179 Etats et des centaines d'ONG travaillent ensemble depuis Genève à la construction d'un monde plus sûr et prospère. Ils le font aussi avec l'appui du secteur privé et du monde académique. La communauté internationale, qui compte quelques 43000 personnes, génère pour l'Arc lémanique des retombées économiques importantes, soit près de 1% du PIB suisse.

Avec la signature d'une déclaration

conjointe, les autorités suisses et genevoises renouvellent leur engagement à maintenir et développer la Genève internationale. «C'est pour souligner cette collaboration que dorénavant il y aura une prise de parole commune, pour résonner d'une seule voix, au nom de l'Etat hôte», a expliqué le Conseiller fédéral Cassis lors de la cérémonie de signature, à laquelle la nouvelle directrice générale de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève Tatiana Valovaya était également conviée.

Le rôle de Genève en tant que plateforme de réfléchir sur l'avenir peut ainsi être renforcé. Le Conseil fédéral, le Canton et la Ville de Genève avaient posé un jalon important dans cette direction avec la création en février 2019 de la fondation Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA). Le rôle de cette dernière est



Messieurs Antonio Hodgers, Ignazio Cassis et Sami Kanaan

d'anticiper les tendances sociétales engendrées par les nouvelles technologies, dans l'optique de développer davantage de synergies entre science et diplomatie. ■



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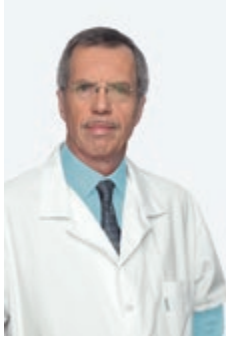
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World Stroke Day – 29 October 2019

Recognizing the signs and taking immediate action



Interview with Dr. Julien Bogousslavsky, a Swiss Medical Association (FMH) Specialist in Neurology at Clinique Valmont in Glion sur Montreux (Switzerland) and Chief Medical Officer of GSMN Neurocentre, specialized in the treatment of brain and nervous system diseases.

A cerebrovascular accident or stroke can strike anyone, at any time.

It occurs when blood flow to a part of the brain is interrupted either by obstruction or the rupture of a blood vessel. Because the brain no longer receives enough oxygen, some of its functions (movement, speech, sight) cease to function. It is important to take immediate action. Indeed, the faster blood circulation is restored, the less nerve cells are damaged and the better the prognosis. This is why it is important to recognize stroke symptoms.

Dr. Bogousslavsky, can you tell us what the warning signs of a stroke are?

A stroke does not produce warning signs as such. We refer more to risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, cholesterol, smoking and sleep apnea. Nonetheless, it is important to note that half of all stroke victims first have a minor stroke, referred to as a transient attack. Because these attacks are short and last only a few minutes, they are commonly neglected once the symptoms have gone. Recognition of these warning signs is important as one third of such attacks are followed by a stroke.

What are the symptoms and how do you recognize them?

Precursory symptoms include dizziness and sudden loss of balance, loss of strength and/or sensitivity in an arm, a leg, half of the face or all of one side of the body, sudden difficulty in finding words or expressing them (sentences or words are incomprehensible), the sudden loss of vision on one side or a reduced visual field.

What should you do when you detect one or more of these symptoms?

You must seek immediate medical attention. These symptoms indicate a medical emergency requiring urgent care. In stroke cases, medical treatment is very limited in time. This is why a quick diagnosis is essential to limit, as much as possible, potential brain damage or neurological after-effects.

Over fifty percent of stroke victims have to learn to live with these after-effects.

Can you explain what they are?

There are many. These include difficulty in speaking or writing, a partial or complete paralysis of one half of the body, memory disorders, behavioral changes or a sensation of extreme fatigue.

The extent of damage really depends on the size and region of the brain that was deprived of oxygen.

Neurological rehabilitation is an integral part of post-stroke treatment. What are the recommended therapies?

Post-stroke rehabilitation

covers four main specialty fields. Speech therapy deals with language, speech and swallowing disorders. Neuropsychology treats cognitive disorders in general (memory, attention, and so forth.). Physiotherapy includes walking rehabilitation and occupational therapy works on upper limb (hand or arm) rehabilitation, balance and the ability to write, among other things. It is not uncommon for stroke victims to be deprived of certain “basic” functions and to have to relearn how to walk, speak, write or swallow. Therapists are there to teach these victims how to cope better with their disability and enable them to regain as much independence as possible in their daily life activities. ■

www.cliniquevalmont.ch

Jeunes Reporters à l'ONU

Comment atteindre l'égalité homme-femme au travail

AYA BRUNNER, KAREN MBEDE

Trois oratrices, Adrienne Cruz, Pauline Mamie et Wendy Paratian, abordent, lors de la conférence de presse des Jeunes Reporters à l'ONU du 13 mars 2019, le sujet de l'égalité hommes-femmes au travail. Le chemin est encore long pour atteindre une réelle égalité des sexes.

Les femmes luttent depuis de nombreuses années afin d'obtenir l'égalité des sexes. Elles ont milité pour plusieurs causes dont l'égalité hommes-femmes au travail. Malgré l'adoption de nouvelles lois, celles-ci ne sont pas toujours appliquées à ce jour. En effet, il est très courant qu'à compétence et à poste égaux, une femme gagne moins qu'un homme. Les femmes et les hommes sont victimes de plusieurs discriminations au travail, telles que la discrimination à l'emploi ou la discrimination salariale, qui touche beaucoup plus les

femmes. Il est donc important que la société entière lutte pour l'égalité des sexes pour les générations futures.

L'un des plus grands combats des femmes a été le droit de vote. En Suisse, les femmes ont obtenu le droit de vote en 1971, donc 123 ans après les hommes. Cette victoire a été un pas décisif pour atteindre l'égalité des sexes. Quelques années après, de nombreuses lois ont fait leur apparition, notamment la loi fédérale sur l'égalité hommes femmes, qui est entrée en vigueur le 1^{er} juillet 1996. La LEg a pour but de promouvoir l'égalité des sexes et de supprimer les discriminations qui touchent les femmes au travail. Bien que la société et la justice aient fait un grand pas, l'égalité réelle n'est toujours pas atteinte.

En Suisse, une femme perçoit très souvent un salaire inférieur à celui d'un homme pour un

travail égal. Une femme gagne en moyenne 14,6% de moins dans le privé et 12,5% dans le public, bien que les chiffres avaient baissé, ils restent toujours élevés. Et cela plus particulièrement dans les postes à haute responsabilité, une femme gagne à ce niveau 18,5% de moins qu'un homme.

Au niveau européen, l'Islande est de nouveau entrée dans l'histoire en 2018 en imposant aux entreprises de plus de 25 salariés d'obtenir une certification qui prouve qu'à travail égal, femmes et hommes sont payés la même chose. Les entreprises qui ne s'acquittent pas de cette taxe se verront payer une amende allant jusqu'à 50000 couronnes (442 CHF) par jour. Selon l'article de Marie Charrel parue dans «Le Monde» le 5 janvier 2018, avec cette loi, «le pays conserve sa place de pays le plus égalitaire au monde». À ce jour, cette méthode qui peut

paraître drastique reste néanmoins le seul moyen efficace de faire respecter l'égalité salariale dans tous les secteurs. La Suisse, pour combattre ces inégalités, a opté le 24 septembre 2018 pour un système similaire à celui de l'Islande mais beaucoup moins contraignant pour les entreprises, qui consiste à demander plus de transparence aux grandes entreprises (+ de 100 employés), notamment en faisant une analyse salariale tous les 4 ans qui sera vérifiée par un tiers.

Comme l'indique Boris Busslinger dans son article dans *Le Temps* paru le 24 septembre 2018, nous sommes encore loin d'une pénalité quelconque en cas de non-respect des lois, mais venant de la Suisse qui a tendance à être «très bornée et traditionnelle» quand il s'agit de la lutte des femmes, nous pouvons donc apprécier ce petit pas. ■

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Se former aux ODD: un défi à la fois crucial et complexe

Le 27 septembre, l'Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement (ISE) de l'Université de Genève a fêté ses 10 ans. Dix ans pendant lesquels la notion de développement durable comme la nécessité de se former sur ces thématiques ont évolué de manière spectaculaire.

BRIGITTE PERRIN, UNIGE

Le rôle de la formation en matière d'environnement est aujourd'hui de donner sens à un assemblage de savoirs interdisciplinaires.

On entre dans l'Institut des Sciences de l'Environnement (ISE) comme dans une goutte d'eau: murs et ascenseurs sont transparents, la lumière s'y glisse avec malice et nous accompagne jusque dans le bureau de Géraldine Pflieger, directrice de l'Institut depuis 2017. La ferme poignée de main de cette experte renommée en gouvernance de l'eau et du sol, titulaire de la Chaire UNESCO en Hydropolitique de l'Université de Genève, donne le ton: la formation aux Sciences de l'environnement est tenue de main ferme à l'Université de Genève. Il le faut, car le temps presse.

Depuis 2009, quand l'ISE a été créé par le rectorat pour répondre aux grands défis environnementaux de notre époque, tant au plan de la recherche et de l'enseignement que du service à la Cité, l'institut a délivré plus de 240 diplômes de formation continue et près de 400 Masters, a achevé plus de 60 projets de recherche et soutenu 58 doctorats.

Sélectionner le savoir, les données et les connaissances de manière intégrative

Pendant ce temps-là, le cadre des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD) était créé, négocié et adopté (il y a tout juste quatre ans) par les 193 pays membres des Nations Unies. «Le principal challenge de la formation aux ODD, c'est de pouvoir sélectionner le savoir, les données et les connaissances dans une approche intégrative, sans se noyer. Le champ de connaissance est tellement vaste que le maîtriser dans sa totalité est presque impossible car les acteurs qui doivent mettre en œuvre ces objectifs ne sont pas des super-ordinateurs», constate Géraldine Pflieger. Pour elle, dans un contexte académique, le fonctionnement en silo ne comporte pas que des risques: «Nous avons besoin des chercheurs dans leur silo, car ils travaillent dans la profondeur de leur domaine. C'est le rôle de l'Université d'avoir une recherche disciplinaire à la pointe, puis de donner sens à un assemblage de savoirs interdisciplinaires.»

La collaboration de l'ISE avec les organisations internationales à Genève fait partie de l'ADN de l'institut, et c'est par



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dizaines que des partenariats ont vu le jour au fil des ans avec le GRID, UN Environnement, l'OMM, la création du Geneva Water Hub, etc. Ces partenariats nourrissent bien sûr la recherche, mais également les formations initiales et continues de l'UNIGE, dans lesquelles les experts des deux mondes ont l'occasion de confronter leurs vues et pratiques.

«La multiplication des plateformes et interfaces de formation et de transfert de savoir autour des ODD nous obligera tous, collaborateurs des OI et chercheurs, à faire un tri. Car le temps à disposition est limité»,

remarque la professeure. Pour le futur, elle souligne la nécessité de produire un savoir qui réponde aux attentes du politique. Mais aussi de développer l'esprit critique et de repenser les politiques publiques de façon scientifiquement fondée, afin de contrer la désinformation sur les questions environnementales, tout comme leurs implications sociales. C'est le second défi que tente de relever l'Institut.

«La science comme les organisations internationales sont contestées»

«Aujourd'hui, la science tout comme les organisations

Les formations continues de l'ISE

Diplômantes

- Certificat de formation continue (CAS) en développement durable: Horizon 2030
- CAS Management de l'énergie
- CAS Geomatics for a Sustainable Environment
- CAS Water Governance: Frameworks and Negotiations
- Maîtrise d'études avancées (MAS) en urbanisme – et ses différents CAS (Thèmes et échelles de l'urbanisme, Projet d'urbanisme et planification spatiale, Information géographique en urbanisme, Urbanisme opérationnel et opérateurs urbains)

Qualifiantes

- Global Environmental Policy Programme – Strategic Sustainability Leadership

- Session Mobiliser la pensée systémique pour devenir acteur de la transition
- Session Valorisation de la géothermie: le rôle clé des réseaux de chaleur
- Cycle de formation Développement durable et Grand Genève. A la rencontre des scientifiques et des acteurs de terrain.
- Cycle de conférence Energie-Environnement
- Journée Études des problèmes de l'énergie
- International Water Law and the Law of Transboundary Aquifers (distance learning course) (2019)
- Droit international de l'eau douce (formation en ligne) (2019)

internationales sont contestées, regrette Géraldine Pflieger. Nous vivons une époque conduite par une post-vérité où la limite entre le vrai et le faux est brouillée et où tout ce que font les institutions est interrogé.» La solution, pour l'ISE, pourrait bien être dans le lien avec la société civile. Il s'agira de travailler sur plus de collaboration avec celle-ci, de créer des instruments de coproduction et de transfert réciproque du savoir entre la science et le politique. Des initiatives de ce type sont déjà en cours, comme l'initiative GE-En-Vie, un réseau thématique sur l'environnement regroupant l'État de Genève (DT), l'Université de Genève (ISE) et la HES-SO Genève (HEPIA), qui vise à développer un outil d'aide à la décision stratégique pour aider l'État dans sa mission de préservation et de gestion de l'environnement. «Des méthodologies poussées de collecte et d'analyse de données permettront de croiser les différentes dimensions des ODD et d'atteindre ces objectifs de manière simultanée, au lieu de vouloir ouvrir une boîte après l'autre», se réjouit la directrice.

La formation continue: raccourcir la boucle entre la science et la pratique

L'Université de Genève a intégré l'approche du développement durable très tôt avec la création d'un Certificat de formation continue (CAS) en développement durable il y a déjà plus de quinze ans, puis toute une série de formations continues diplômantes ou qualifiantes. Ces formations sont destinées à des praticiens et acteurs qui souhaitent s'ouvrir à des thématiques nouvelles, se spécialiser dans un domaine, élargir leur spectre disciplinaire ou simplement découvrir de nouveaux outils. Le portefeuille de formations continues de l'ISE colle à ses cinq thématiques de recherche:

la biodiversité, le climat, l'eau, l'énergie, les villes et territoires. «Il s'agit de raccourcir la boucle de passage entre la science et la pratique, de rendre intelligibles les masses de données que l'on possède aujourd'hui, notamment parfois à l'aide du storytelling».

Apprendre à divulguer le savoir à un public large, de manière didactique

«Notre grand défi pour demain, en tant qu'institution de formation, ce sera d'arriver à élever les consciences aux problématiques environnementales à l'échelle planétaire, pas seulement à Genève et dans son écosystème», relève Géraldine Pflieger. «Pour ce faire, nos étudiants et chercheurs doivent apprendre à divulguer leur savoir de manière didactique afin d'éclairer et d'alimenter le débat au niveau mondial.» Pour cette spécialiste de la régulation des ressources naturelles partagées, il s'agira d'ici dix ans d'avoir créé les bons instruments de coproduction et de transfert du savoir entre la science et le politique. Ensuite, il faudra prendre en compte le nombre de personnes à former, qui va nécessairement augmenter, ici comme ailleurs. Enfin, le marché du travail sera toujours plus à la recherche de compétences dans ces domaines d'étude, car nous devons résoudre de plus en plus de crises et de problèmes liés à notre environnement. Géraldine Pflieger compte beaucoup sur la formation à distance pour aller porter la connaissance vers les publics marginalisés, peu éduqués, et qui seront fortement impactés par le changement environnemental. ■

Toutes les formations de l'ISE sur <https://www.unige.ch/environnement/fr/>



Géraldine Pflieger

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CATALOGUE STREAMS 2019

8 October "Leading Differently: How Seismic Shifts in the Commercial World Shape International Organizations" with Professor Howard Yu, from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

9 October "Interactive lecture - UN Spanish Language Week", room 12.30 to 2 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

17 October "UN Geneva Dragons' Den challenge", from 12.30 to 2.30 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

4 November "The UN Global Compact Partnership Skills Workshop", from 1.00 p.m. to 2.30 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

19 November "Cooperative Excellence Cycle 4th session", with the Human Resources Management Service from 12.30 to 2 p.m., at the Library Events Room (B.135).

TO BE INFORMED ABOUT OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

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#Commons

À vos agendas • Save the date

SARAH BENCHERIF, UNITAR



Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) 1–8 November

Celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, the GIFF continues to shake up the codes. A pioneer in the Swiss audio-visual scene, the Festival has positioned itself as a true platform for innovation, relentlessly seeking to transcend genres and disciplines by combining cinema, television and digital technology. This convergence is also illustrated by the 2019 kaleidoscopic poster.

For 10 days, the GIFF will showcase a program featuring films, TV series and digital arts. As part of its 25th edition, the GIFF will feature French Canadian film director, screenwriter, producer and actor Xavier Dolan, the most fascinating cinema personality of his generation. An award-winning virtuoso, Xavier Dolan will receive a brand-new prize given by the Festival for the very first time, the Geneva Award.

A full retrospective of his movies will support this tribute: an opportunity for all to appreciate the fascinating career of a prolific and visionary artist who delights audiences with his boldness, his talent when it comes to transcribing the most extreme emotions, and his sophisticated and clever lyricism.

An exceptional masterclass on Saturday, November 9, during which Xavier Dolan will have the opportunity to present his work and talk with festival-goers. Not to be missed!

Informations
<https://www.giff.ch/en/>



Autumn of Japanese Culture 1 September – 1 December

This is an annual event not to be missed by all lovers of Japanese culture. This 20th edition includes around 30 events in line with traditional and contemporary Japanese culture: concerts, exhibitions, screenings, interactive activities, martial arts, cosplay, etc. These events take place throughout the autumn in the cantons of Geneva, Vaud and Valais.

Informations
https://www.geneve.ch.emb-japan.go.jp/acj_2019/programme.htm

Festival JazzContreBand 2019 1–29 October

The JazzContreBand festival is back! Discover the programme for this 23rd edition: 70 concerts, 3 masterclasses in 28 locations on both sides of the Franco-Swiss border.

Informations
<https://jazzcontreband.com/>

ANIMATOU International Animation Film Festival in Geneva

4–12 October
This festival is dedicated to bringing the best of Swiss and international animation to spectators of all ages and promoting an awareness of art films rarely screened in commercial cinemas. This year, Poland is selected for their high quality of production for a special programme.

Informations
<http://animatou.com/>

Geneva Brass Festival – Festival de cuivres de Genève 9–13 October

This event allows the Geneva public to discover or rediscover the brass each year. In the form of brass bands, world music, jazz, classical, baroque, electro, the brass bands resonate in Geneva during these few days of the festival.

Informations
<http://www.genevabrassfestival.ch/en/>

The Comédie de Genève “Para” by David Van Reybroeck/Raven Ruëll 10–14 October

Walking in a soldier's shoes. The play tells the story of a soldier enrolled in 1992 in an international peacekeeping operation in Somalia – and who was not prepared for the mission he was entrusted with.

Informations
<https://www.comedie.ch>

“Aida” – Grand Théâtre de Genève 11–22 October

“Aida” the legendary opera of Giuseppe Verdi in co-production with English National Opera London and Houston Grand Opera, sung in Italian with surtitles in French and English

Informations
<https://www.gtg.ch/aida/>

**International Labour
Organization 'Open Day'
15 October**

This is an historic first! The ILO invites you, in collaboration with the Foundation for Geneva, to discover its 100 years of action on the ground but also to dialogue together on the future of the world of work. Through various fun and interactive activities, visitors will be able to discover the past, present and future of the world of work. The Open Day will include encounters with a robot, an experience of virtual reality and an invitation to share your own vision of the future of work.

Informations

<https://www.fondationpourgeneve.ch/web/oit2019/>

**World Food Day
16 October**

The FAO Liaison Office in Geneva is planning to organize a sensitization event around the need for sustainable diets. This event will take place on October 16th at Gare Cornavin, and will be orchestrated in coordination with local and international actors.

Informations

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

**Geneva Peace Week 2019
4–8 November**

Geneva Peace Week offers an opportunity to connect and highlight the work of peace-building actors and to expand the space for building peace and resolving conflict through dialogue and negotiation.

Informations

<https://www.genevapeaceweek.ch/>



© Olivier Borgognon

FAITES VOUS DU BIEN!

LES 20 KM DE GENÈVE BY GENÈVE AÉROPORT FONT ESCALE À L'ONU

Envolez-vous pour les 20 km de Genève by Genève Aéroport le **dimanche 3 novembre 2019** !

Choisissez votre format entre les deux distances proposées: 20 km Solo, Duo ou Trio ou 10 km Course, Walking, Nordic Walking.

Suite au succès rencontré ces deux dernières années, rejoignez cet automne plusieurs milliers de participants qui se rassembleront sur le Quai du Mont-Blanc pour participer à la troisième édition.

UN PARCOURS À TRAVERS L'ONU

Après avoir effectué le premier kilomètre au bord du Lac Léman, les coureurs auront le privilège de franchir les grilles du Palais des Nations, ouvertes spécialement pour l'événement! Un moment exclusif pour découvrir autrement la Genève Internationale.

Le tracé sur la rive droite traverse ensuite la campagne Genevoise, revêtue de ses premières couleurs automnales, avant de plonger vers la rade. Les coureurs termineront leur effort au bord du Lac face au Jet d'Eau.

LES FORMATS DE COURSE

Pour ceux qui voulaient partager les 20 km, deux autres formules en Duo ou Trio sont au menu. Une façon conviviale de se répartir la distance et de relever le défi à plusieurs.

Pour les adeptes des plus courtes distances, un format 10 km a été créé en 2019 avec plusieurs catégories; un format course et deux formats marche et marche nordique.

LES 20KM DE GENÈVE BY GENÈVE AÉROPORT SOUTIENNENT LE RÉSEAU CANCER DU SEIN

Nous sommes fiers d'annoncer que le Réseau Cancer du Sein est à nouveau cette année notre partenaire caritatif.

Le cancer du sein touche 1 femme sur 8. Dans le canton de Genève, plus de 450 femmes sont diagnostiquées chaque année. Près de 8000 femmes confrontées au cancer du sein vivent dans notre canton. Avec leur entourage, elles représentent plus de 15% de la population. Grâce aux progrès thérapeutiques, le taux de survie est élevé, mais les femmes concernées continuent à vivre avec des effets adverses des traitements durant plusieurs années. De plus, le cancer du sein a des impacts conséquents sur les différentes sphères de la vie personnelle, sociale et professionnelle.

– Lors de votre inscription aux 20 km de Genève by Genève Aéroport – faites un don au Réseau Cancer du Sein.

– Si vous participez aux 10 km Walking, rejoignez la Marche rose. Vous pouvez indiquer votre présence sur votre formulaire d'inscription. Le jour de la course, rendez-vous devant la tente rose située au départ de la course, avec une touche de rose! La Marche rose s'adresse à toutes-tous: aux femmes concernées, à leurs proches, à toute personne qui souhaite apporter un soutien à cette cause.

Informations

Les informations et inscriptions sont disponibles sur www.20kmgenevaeeroport.ch.



© Carla Edelembos

La Suisse inconnue, à la découverte des 26 cantons

Neuchâtel: Cornaux

*Une série de 26 impressions des lieux
plutôt inconnus – loin du tourisme*

CARLA EDELEMBOS, EX HCDH

En quittant le train à Cornaux, je me demande si je me suis trompée. La gare est à quelques centaines de mètres du village, dans une zone agro-industrielle, avec un grand Landi et des silos, pas vraiment un but de voyage! Mais aussitôt la route traversée, le charme du bourg m'a pris, avec ses rues longées par des maisons sobres, plusieurs entre elles datant du 16^e siècle. Tout ici respire le calme, comme il n'y a jamais eu d'événement perturbant dans son histoire.

Après un premier petit tour pendant lequel j'essaie en vain d'ouvrir une des portes du temple, je me décide pour le menu du jour du restaurant du Soleil, qui se trouve en face. Cornaux étant proche de la frontière linguistique, j'entends

autour de moi autant de l'allemand que du français. Sur la terrasse, je mange un étonnant goulash de poulet, très bon, et au dessert j'ose demander au patron si jamais il y a moyen de voire le temple à l'intérieur. Après un coup de téléphone, il m'assure que la personne qui a la clé va venir pour m'ouvrir. Ça, c'est du service!

Le temple en question date du 14^e siècle, avec expansions du 16^e siècle et des restaurations au 19^e et 20^e siècle. Le gardien des clés, un vrai Corbanetsch qui fut jadis membre du conseil municipal et du conseil de paroisse, m'explique que dans l'année 1500 une riche famille avait construit une chapelle privée au côté sud de l'église, la chapelle Clottu. Même si elle était adossée au temple, l'accès se faisait de l'extérieur et exclusivement la famille avait le droit de l'utiliser! C'est seulement à la fin du 19^{ième} siècle que cette prérogative prit fin

et maintenant la chapelle fait partie intégrale du temple.

Malheureusement, depuis que le pasteur n'habite plus dans la maison à côté, le temple reste fermé la plupart du temps. Fait curieux: le mobilier du temple – les bancs et l'orgue – appartient à la paroisse, mais le bâtiment à la commune! C'est rare que des cultes réguliers sont encore célébrés ici, ce sont surtout des services funèbres ou des mariages qui y sont accueillis.

Cornaux se situe entre le lac de Neuchâtel et celui de Bienne. Mais ce n'est qu'en grim pant dans les vignobles, que je trouve un point de vue depuis lequel j'arrive à apercevoir ces 2 lacs. Autrement, rien n'indique la présence de ces deux bassins touristiques, et Cornaux passe inaperçu pour les touristes qui s'y baladent. Le vignoble, où dansent des papillons de couleurs vives et diverses, donne le cru de Cornaux, qui est cultivé



© Carina Edelebos



par le seul viticulteur du village, Serge Divernois. Il pratique la culture intégrée, et même si la superficie du vignoble n'est pas grande (4.5 hectares, exclusivement sur le territoire de Cornaux) il réussit à cultiver 4 cépages qui donnent 9 vins différents, parmi lesquels la spécialité neuchâteloise, le non-filtré, issue du chasselas. La cave n'étant ouverte que le vendredi soir, je suis contente de voir que le magasin du village, qui sert aussi de bureau de poste, vend des produits locaux, y compris heureusement des bouteilles du cru de Cornaux, que je dégusterai avec beaucoup de plaisir dès mon retour à la maison.

Dans la Rue des Fontaines, je découvre une petite terrasse couverte, avec deux armoires pleines de livres, une petite table et deux chaises. C'est le lieu idéal pour s'arrêter et lire un bouquin! Ces «livres en balade» permettent aux

habitants d'échanger des livres librement. Les armoires ont été peintes par des enfants de l'école et par une artiste locale. Regarder ces dessins donne tout de suite envie de commencer à lire!

Il fait chaud le jour de ma visite, et avant de partir je bois une bière sur la terrasse de l'autre restaurant du village, l'Auberge du Vignoble. Point de vignoble en vue, même s'il n'est pas loin, mais la petite terrasse agréable est au centre du vieux bourg et l'endroit parfait pour s'imprégner du calme des lieux.

Une dame me dit que si Cornaux m'a plu, je devrais absolument revenir en décembre – c'est le moment où les habitants illuminent toutes les maisons avec des décorations de Noël, et l'effet est assuré d'être splendide. Rendez-vous d'ores et déjà pris! ■



Depuis Genève, prenez le train pour Neuchâtel, et ensuite le train régional direction de Bienne. Durée du trajet une bonne heure et demie.

CAP-VERT 1/4

Beauté volcanique

Née de la passion de trois guides de haute montagne, Allibert Trekking conçoit et organise des randonnées, trekkings et expéditions dans le monde entier depuis plus de 40 ans. Leur catalogue propose plus de 1600 voyages, tous plus attrayants les uns que les autres. Pour tous fanatiques d'aventures, toujours assoiffés d'explorations, le plus dur restera à faire, choisir la bonne destination.*



Formé lors de l'éruption de 1951, l'imposant cône volcanique du Pico de Fogo culmine à 2829 m de haut.

TEXTE & PHOTOS CLAUDE MAILLARD

Un périple au Cap-Vert, riche en découvertes, qui conjuguera plaisir de la randonnée et rencontre des populations nous fera découvrir les îles les plus emblématiques de cet archipel volcanique fascinant. Santo Antao, île phare du trek au Cap-Vert, à la nature exubérante et aux villages accueillants. Sao Vicente, désert s'élançant vers la mer, avec Mindelo, ville d'artistes. Brava l'authentique, paradis botanique posé sur l'océan. Fogo, île-volcan avec sa caldeira et son pico central... C'est parti pour deux semaines d'aventures dans cet éden perdu au milieu de l'océan Atlantique, terre de contrastes à la nature flamboyante et sauvage, au plus proche d'une population extrêmement hospitalière et chaleureuse qui fait de son pays un endroit à la douceur de vivre exceptionnelle.

Isolé au milieu de l'Atlantique

Sur la route maritime entre

l'Afrique et l'Amérique du Sud, s'égrène un chapelet d'îles aux paysages époustouflants où rivalisent minéral et cultures tropicales. Des îles baignées d'une culture créole originale et chaleureuse, le Cap Vert. L'archipel, qui a emprunté son nom à la presqu'île du Cap Vert située sur le rivage atlantique du Sénégal, est à 500 km des côtes africaines. Avec les îles des Açores, de Madère et des Canaries, le Cap-Vert compose la Macaronésie. Selon la légende, Dieu créa le monde et jeta la poignée de terre restante dans l'Atlantique, ce qui donna naissance aux îles isolées du Cap-Vert. D'un point de vue plus scientifique, la dizaine d'îles du Cap-Vert dont 9 sont habitées, se sont formées par une succession d'épisodes volcaniques. Celles situées à l'ouest, plus jeunes, comme Fogo, Brava, Santiago et Santo Antao conservent un relief tourmenté, au contraire des îles de l'est, les plus anciennes, qui ont été aplanies par les éléments.



Ces maisons colorées perdues dans la montagne font partie du paysage familier du Cap-Vert.

Particulièrement exposées au vent, elles sont divisées en deux groupes répartis suivant leur position face aux alizés. Au nord, les îles Barlavento (au vent) comprennent Santo Antao, Sao Vicente, Santa Luzia, Branco, Raso, Sao Nicolau, Sal et Boa Vista. Les îles Sotavento (sous le vent) au sud regroupent Maio, Santiago, Fogo et Brava.

De leur découverte à nos jours

L'histoire de la découverte des îles du Cap-Vert est très controversée de nos jours, et il est très difficile de dire exactement quels sont les premiers arrivants. Les Portugais la revendiquent en affirmant que c'est Diogo Gomes et Antonio de Noli qui, en 1460, accostent dans les îles du Cap-Vert, alors inhabitées. Toutefois, les historiens s'accordent à dire qu'au XII^e siècle, bien avant l'arrivée des Portugais, des navigateurs arabes ou grecs connaissent ces îles repérées par les géographes arabes. Le marin

vénitien Alvise Ca'da Mosto, d'après ses écrits, est arrivé sur les lieux en 1456. Mais des historiens, dont Antonio Carreira, sont sûrs que des Africains, plus précisément des pêcheurs sénégalais venus des côtes situées en face de l'archipel, ont occupé les terres pendant quelques temps. Officiellement c'est la version portugaise qui a été retenue et dans le premier temps de la colonisation, seules les îles de Santiago et de Fogo sont exploitées et peuplées. Deux années plus tard, des colons portugais originaires d'Algarve et d'Alentejo débarquent et fondent la ville de Ribeira Grande (l'actuelle Cidade Velha) qui deviendra la première capitale du Cap-Vert. Ils amènent avec eux des esclaves provenant d'Afrique de l'Ouest. L'archipel devient alors une escale idéale pour les navires participant au commerce triangulaire, traite négrière menée au moyen d'échanges entre l'Europe, l'Afrique et les Amériques. La



De nature extrêmement sociale et chaleureuse, la population du Cap-Vert est très accueillante.



Sur leurs frêles esquifs, ces pêcheurs artisanaux bravent un océan irascible pour rapporter thons, murènes et daurades.



Pour les amateurs de randonnée, les îles de Brava, Fogo et surtout Santo Antao sont le paradis.



La baie de Mindelo, sur l'île de Sao Vicente, est magnifique.

distribution d'esclaves noirs aux colonies du Nouveau Monde sera assurée, ainsi que l'approvisionnement de l'Europe en produits de ces colonies et la fourniture à l'Afrique des produits européens et américains. L'abolition de la traite des esclaves ne prendra fin qu'en 1866.

Afin de permettre l'accélération de la colonisation, une charte royale accordera le droit de commerce avec la côte occidentale de l'Afrique et en 1494, le Cap-Vert deviendra domaine de la couronne portugaise. Une longue et meurtrière période de sécheresse mettra à mal la prospérité du Cap-Vert, provoquant famine sur famine,

tuant des dizaines de milliers d'habitants. Les Capverdiens commencent à émigrer en Nouvelle-Angleterre, mouvement favorisé par la présence abondante de baleines dans les eaux de l'archipel. En effet, dès 1810, des baleiniers du Massachusetts et de Rhode Island recrutent leurs équipages dans les îles de Brava et de Fogo. Beaucoup finirent par s'installer de l'autre côté de l'Atlantique à la recherche d'une vie meilleure. Et aujourd'hui, on recense 400 000 Capverdiens expatriés aux Etats-Unis.

Ingénieur agronome qui a fait ses études supérieures à Lisbonne, Amilcar Cabral

fonde en 1956 le Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée-Bissau et des îles du Cap-Vert (PAIGC). S'en suivent de longs conflits armés, le dictateur portugais Salazar n'étant pas enclin à abandonner ses colonies. En avril 1972, l'ONU reconnaît le PAIGC comme unique représentant des peuples de Guinée-Bissau et du Cap-Vert. Trois années plus tard, après que le général Marcelo Caetano, représentant le gouvernement fasciste de Salazar, soit renversé, le Cap-Vert accède à l'indépendance. Compagnon de lutte d'Amilcar Cabral, Aristides Pereira en deviendra le premier président et c'est la création de l'Escudo, la monnaie nationale. Suite à un coup d'Etat en Guinée-Bissau, le Cap-Vert coupera toutes relations avec cet Etat. Le PAIGC, qui sera rebaptisé PAICV, remporte les nouvelles élections législatives en 1985 avant d'être détrôné en 1991 par le parti d'opposition, le Mouvement pour la démocratie (MPD). Antonio Mascarenhas Monteiro prendra alors le pouvoir et restera à la tête du pays pendant 10 ans avant que le PAICV ne reprenne le dessus. Pedro Pires est élu Président de la République, poste qu'il conservera jusqu'en 2011, date

à laquelle Jorge Carlos Fonseca, Président actuel du Cap-Vert, prendra ses fonctions.

En route pour l'Aventure

Après une escale à Lisbonne, l'arrivée à l'aéroport de Mindelo sur l'île de Sao Vicente se fera après 3 h45 de vol. Capitale culturelle et musicale de l'île, aux accents du Brésil, d'Afrique et du Portugal, Mindelo est la 2^e ville du pays (derrière la capitale capverdienne Praia) et sa baie fait partie du «club» des plus belles baies du monde. Demain, c'est en bateau que nous rejoindrons Porto Novo dans le sud de l'île de Santo Antao située plus au nord. Nous débuterons notre aventure au Cap-Vert à travers des champs de lave et de scories avant d'atteindre le vaste cirque de Ribeira das Patas parmi une nature spectaculaire, grandiose et rude. ■

Suite de l'aventure à vivre dans le prochain numéro du *UN Special*

* Allibert Trekking
www.allibert-trekking.com
 Contact France: +33 4 76 45 50 50
 Contact Suisse: +41 22 519 03 23

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
sarah.bencherif@unitar.org
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

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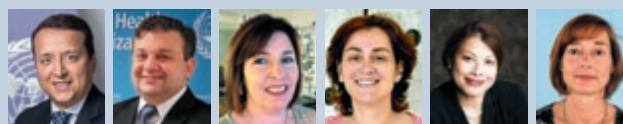
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Graphisme / Design

Atelier Schnegg+ – Michel Schnegg
Rue du Simplon 5, CH-1207 Genève
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www.atelier-schnegg.ch

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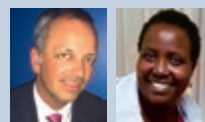
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C.F.P. SA
42, quai Gustave-Ador
1207 Genève
Tél.: 022 700 98 00
Fax: 022 700 90 55
e-mail: cspbarbara@bluewin.ch



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