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La luz después de la oscuridad, Մթուղթյունից հետո լույս Nach Dunkelheit, Licht Свет после тьмы بعد الظلام والنور A luz depois da escuridão अंधकार के बाद प्रकाश Φως μετά το σκοτάδι 黑暗之後的光明 ליבט נאך פינצטערניש

EDITOR'S NOTE / ÉDITORIAL

FEATURED / À LA UNE

J'ai rêvé d'un magazine
 Politique et spiritualité, effondrement et
 changement climatique

UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES / AGENCES DES NATIONS UNIES

The importance and status of duty
 of care in the UN system

Gender bias in the UN

Le sommet des jeunes activistes
 à l'ONU

FerMUN's 10th edition

WHO / OMS

The WHO Global Mentoring Programme

A UN Volunteer's experience at
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The Dag Hammarskjöld generation

Happy international year of the nurse
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Global health bright spots 2019

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L'union de la presse francophone
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La médecine légale pour consolider
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Meeting the needs of older
 cancer patients

Organisations agiles

ART & CULTURE

Happy anniversary!

WHO Art Gallery

Cap-Vert 4^e partie. Le Pico do Fogo

INTERIM EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Post Tenebras Lux After Darkness, Light

What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger.

If you are holding our magazine in your hands, you are looking at a transformed and improved publication that has been serving people working at international organizations in Geneva since 1949.

Although I have just turned 70, I haven't retired – 70 is the new 20! As the editorial committee, we are committed to you, our readers. We want to showcase articles that are written by those who are just like us, people who work and live here in Geneva. We will keep to this editorial line and publish stories and articles that can only be found on our pages, but we also want to hear from you. Help us shape future themes, write to us with suggestions, send us your ideas on what we should cover, provide us with feedback on what aspects of international Geneva we should show and how best we can enrich your lives. Every suggestion will be reviewed and considered.

Enjoy this issue! Please don't miss us on Instagram and Facebook **@new.special**. And of course you can find all of our issues on our website: www.newspecial.org ■

Serving the people of international organizations in Geneva since 1949

COMITÉ DE RÉDACTION INTÉIMAIRE

Post Tenebras Lux La lumière après l'obscurité

Ce qui ne vous tue pas vous rend plus fort.

Si vous tenez notre magazine entre vos mains, vous pouvez remarquer qu'il s'agit d'une publication transformée et améliorée qui reste au service des fonctionnaires internationaux à Genève et ce, depuis 1949.

Bien que j'aie eu 70 ans, je ne prends pas ma retraite – l'espérance de vie a augmenté et 70 est devenu 20. En tant que comité de rédaction, nous nous engageons envers vous, notre lecteur. Nous voulons apporter une variété d'articles écrits par ceux qui sont comme nous, des gens qui travaillent et vivent à Genève. Bien que nous gardions cette ligne éditoriale et publions des histoires et des articles qui ne peuvent être trouvés que sur nos pages, nous souhaitons avoir de vos nouvelles. Aidez-nous à façonner les thèmes futurs, faites-nous passer des suggestions et des idées de sujets d'articles. Envoyez-nous des commentaires sur les aspects de la Genève internationale que nous devons mettre en évidence et sur la meilleure façon d'améliorer votre vie quotidienne. Chaque suggestion sera examinée et prise en considération.

Profitez de ce numéro dont vous pourrez trouver la version numérique sur notre site www.newspecial.org. Et puis, réagissez, partagez et prêtez-nous votre intelligence sur Instagram et Facebook **@new.special**. ■

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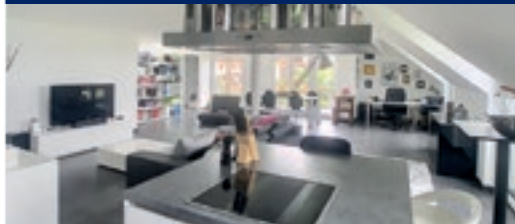
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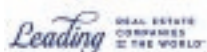


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J'ai rêvé d'un magazine *I dreamt of a magazine*

CHRISTIAN DAVID, UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY OF WRITERS

J'ai rêvé d'un magazine qui servirait de lien entre tous les collègues officiant à Genève pour une cause qui parfois les dépasse mais dont ils restent souvent les modestes chevilles ouvrières.

Un support qui permettrait avec une périodicité régulière, de faire appel à ce ressenti issu du travail sur le terrain, de croiser les expertises afin de nous faire percevoir de nouveaux horizons comme un drone qui photographie la Genève internationale avec sa plus haute résolution d'image.

Un organe de libre expression écrit par celles et ceux qui prolongent leur travail en servant la cause.

Un journal, respectant des principes de déontologie propres à tout organe de presse en complète cohérence avec les principes de l'ONU. En somme, l'exact contre-exemple d'un outil de propagande

I dreamt of a magazine that would unite all staff in Geneva in defending a cause that is sometimes beyond them, but of which they are often the unassuming mainstay.

A magazine which, at regular intervals, would draw on grass root feelings and cross reference them with expert knowledge, allowing us to see new horizons, like a drone flying over international Geneva taking high-resolution photos.

A mouthpiece for freedom of expression in the words of those who work overtime to serve a cause.

A magazine respecting the ethical principles inherent to any publication and in full coherence with United Nations values. The very antithesis of a self-absorbed propaganda machine tailored to the personal

nombriliste réalisé sur mesure pour l'intérêt personnel de quelques caciques plus préoccupés par leur intérêt personnel et leur avidité de pouvoir que de la mission de l'organisation.

Quel bonheur en effet que de rencontrer, puis convaincre des personnes sincères dont le parcours, la spécialité, les convictions profondes méritent une tribune adéquate et qui n'osent pas le faire savoir.

Quel plaisir de travailler en partenariat avec des professionnels officiant parfois à Genève et qui, par leur intelligence et leurs contributions ouvrent tellement de perspectives intéressantes et instillent de nouvelles idées.

Quoi de plus efficace que de mettre en cohérence, parfois même en synergie, des volontés qui ne demandent qu'à se retrouver mais qui ne disposent pas d'une

interests of a few bigshots more focused on their own self-advancement and thirst for power than on the mission of the Organization.

What a joy to meet and then convince sincere persons whose career path, specialist knowledge or deep convictions deserve a fitting platform, but who are too modest to put themselves forward.

What a pleasure to work in partnership with professionals in office in Geneva who, through their intelligence and their contribution, open interesting perspectives and broach new ideas.

What can be more rewarding than ensuring consistency, or even synergy, between willing persons, who want nothing more than to come together, but lack an appropriate



© Jacques Rannou

passerelle adéquate pour rassembler leurs énergies, proposer des initiatives qui portent haut notre image vers le public et nous font sortir de notre zone de confort.

J'ai aussi rêvé de faire perdurer un héritage vieux de 70 années d'archives, de témoignages, de moments de combat de vie et d'espérances, et plusieurs volumes de l'histoire des Nations Unies à Genève.

Suis-je naïf de vouloir lutter pour vouloir construire ce qui l'était déjà?

Suis-je simple d'esprit de vouloir simplement utiliser le meilleur vecteur d'amélioration d'une Idée qui certes ne fonctionne pas toujours bien mais dont on a, pour l'instant pas trouvé mieux.?

Bonnes lectures! ■

channel into which to pour their energy and propose initiatives that raise our public image and take us out of our comfort zone?

I also dreamt of preserving a legacy of 70 years: archives, testimonials, life's battles and hopes and several volumes that tell the story of the United Nations in Geneva.

Am I naïve to want to fight to build something that already was?

Am I a simpleton to want to improve on an idea that, although it doesn't always function as it should, has not, to date, been outclassed?

Enjoy reading! ■



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (right) meets with Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the French President for the Protection of the Planet. 26 August 2015, Paris, France.

© UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Politique, spiritualité, effondrement et changement climatique

Des sagesses spirituelles, parfois religieuses, ont mis en exergue des voies vertueuses alliant savoir-être et prise en compte de l'environnement.

**CHRISTIAN DAVID,
UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY OF WRITERS**

Depuis des temps immémoriaux, des capitales aux coins les plus reculés de la planète, des sagesses spirituelles, parfois religieuses, ont mis en exergue des voies vertueuses alliant savoir-être et prise en compte de l'environnement. Deux questions se posent alors: pourquoi avons-nous oublié, voire ignoré ces valeurs et comment les retrouver?

La présence de Nicolas Hulot à Genève représentait sans conteste, l'affiche de cette double conférence organisée sous l'égide de la fondation Zoein.

Le dialogue entre l'ancien ministre français et son ami le professeur Dominique Bourg constituait le point d'orgue d'une réunion intervenue en premier lieu au Palais des Nations. D. Bourg définissait la thématique du jour en précisant que la spiritualité ne se substitue pas à la réalité mais que les deux doivent fonctionner de concert.

Pendant ces deux conférences, des intermèdes musicaux étaient proposés au public par le duo Zhangomusiq avec Zhang Zhang, premier violon de l'Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo et Leopoldo Giannola à la guitare.



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Sophie Swaton, directrice de la Fondation Zoein présentait le premier livre publié dans la collection: Nouvelles Terres (aux PUF) «L'esprit de la jungle». Cet ouvrage¹ raconte la vie d'Iswan Aswani lequel était le premier invité.

Iswan, guérisseur indonésien et exilé politique en Suisse, évoque son enfance dans une nature alors préservée qui permettait à chaque villageois d'assurer sa subsistance. Le basculement de ce pays est intervenu avec l'exploitation à outrance de l'huile de palme engendrant destruction des forêts primaires, pollution de l'environnement et corruption des politiques avec la complicité des multinationales.

Le deuxième épisode de cette conférence met en présence Catherine Erhard journaliste et François Euwe professeur et jésuite. Ils évoquent l'encyclique «laudato si» datant de 2015 sur «la sauvegarde de la maison commune». François Euwe précise que le monde se trouve dans une période de transition écologique bien sûr mais également théologique. La logique de cette encyclique est que ce qui nous fait exister en tant qu'êtres humains, ce

sont les relations interhumaines et avec la nature. Les questions sociales et environnementales ne peuvent pas être séparées ni opposées. Dans la Bible, l'humain n'apparaît qu'après le processus créateur de l'environnement, en même temps que les animaux. Le postulat de liberté, sans en abuser, doit également bénéficier à toutes les créatures vivantes. Le péché serait alors d'occuper tout l'espace et ne rien laisser à côté. La notion de croître et multiplier doit clairement être adaptée à faire fructifier avec, en perspective, la surpopulation, et la notion qualitative doit se substituer à celle de quantité.

Dominique Bourg et Nicolas Hulot entament alors une conversation complice au cours de laquelle ce dernier cite Edgard Morin «nous sommes technologiquement triomphants mais culturellement défailnants». N. Hulot explique une désynchronisation de la science et de la conscience. Avant la COP 21 de Paris, il avait été chargé d'organiser un sommet des consciences afin de pouvoir concilier modernité et spiritualité. L'idée était que les puissants de ce monde puissent écouter les discours de peuples premiers. Les responsables

agissent dans la majorité des cas en réaction à des problèmes qu'ils doivent gérer dans le bref laps de temps de leur mandat. Il en résulte que la réflexion à long terme n'existe quasiment pas. Le paradoxe est que nous possédons tous les outils. Notre modèle économique a transgressé la raison même de l'économie: les humains sont au service de l'économie et non l'inverse. Une croissance exponentielle ne peut continuer indéfiniment dans un monde fini. Une croissance sélective, voire une décroissance, sont des passages obligés dans une période de transition. On peut piloter la rareté (et c'est le principe de l'économie) mais en aucun cas, gérer la pénurie. Il faudrait constitutionnaliser cette démarche pour éviter que les alternances politiques nous forcent, chaque fois, à revenir en arrière.

A propos de spiritualité politique, N. Hulot constate qu'il y a deux sortes d'humanités: celle qui travaille pour le bien commun est la plus importante mais la moins visible. L'autre humanité accapare et accumule les biens communs. Selon lui, notre intelligence sera peut-être artificielle voire augmentée grâce à la technologie mais c'est plutôt une



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révolution des esprits qui serait nécessaire. Pourra-t-elle émerger avant qu'il ne soit trop tard? Les hommes sauront-ils utiliser leur analyse pour échapper au virtuel et concevoir le réel?

N. Hulot revient maintenant sur la nécessité de mailler nos savoirs et notre technologie avec les peuples premiers. Nos relations sont inexistantes. Un laminoir d'homogénéisation fait disparaître des langues, des savoirs, des cultures et c'est un préjudice incommensurable. Avoir croisé certaines peuplades nous permet de nous rendre compte à quel point nous nous sommes désolidarisés du savoir, de l'avenir, du vivant. Les peuples primitifs ont beaucoup à nous apprendre pour peu que nous soyons disposés à les entendre.

Nicolas Hulot est ensuite l'invité de la Fondation Zoein pour une conférence dans le cadre du festival EXPLORE de l'État de Genève: «Face à l'effondrement du vivant et à l'accélération du changement climatique: quelles perspectives?».

Cette conférence est introduite par le président du Conseil d'État et chargé du département du territoire. Antonio Hodgers mentionne que la cité de Genève continue à mettre en place une stratégie environnementale évoluant au fil des années et, conjointement, à soutenir avec force toutes les initiatives porteuses d'avenir en matière de transition écologique.

Plus que jamais complices, Dominique Bourg et Nicolas Hulot échangent sur ces sombres perspectives. Alliant facilité et sincérité, ce dernier, très à son aise devant l'assemblée, se veut raisonnablement

optimiste. Il revient sur cette révolution des esprits. Il insiste sur l'extraordinaire improbabilité qui a permis que l'exception de la vie se développe sur notre si petite planète.

Il est temps que les interrogations sur le sens, une reconnexion avec la nature soient entreprises. Désormais, il nous importe de prendre conscience où nous allons et de comprendre que tous les chemins ne sont pas praticables. Si nous continuons sur cette voie, la catastrophe est inéluctable et, paradoxalement, les moins responsables seront les premiers impactés. Trois mots doivent guider le 21^e siècle: Le premier est diversité. Si la vie a pu cheminer avec tant de succès, c'est grâce à sa diversité. Le deuxième est humilité: nous sommes des hommes pas des dieux, notre cerveau ne pourra pas résoudre l'équation à la dernière minute. Le dernier mot est sobriété.

Savez-vous que l'agriculture a besoin de 2% d'eau et consomme cependant 60% de l'eau de la planète? Que pour pêcher 3 espèces on va en impacter 180? Qu'on meurt plus d'obésité et de malbouffe que de famine? Bientôt la consommation numérique va dépasser le transport aérien en termes d'impact sur l'effet de serre.

Des notions telles que dignité et solidarité sont totalement liées à l'écologie. Les crises climatiques ajoutent de la misère à la misère. Le monde connecté a donné aux exclus vue directe sur les inclus en générant un sentiment d'humiliation et d'injustice en connaissant les privilèges des uns et en les comparant. Ce système inéquitable est basé sur la compétition, l'exploitation, l'appropriation et la

concentration. Pour construire un monde solidaire, il faudrait transformer le libre échange en juste échange. Avant que la pénurie des matières premières devienne rareté, il faudra que cette accapuration des flux économiques qui échappent aux états soit redéfinie. L'enjeu est universel. Sa foi en l'homme n'est pas naïve. L'homme doit se fixer les limites que possède notre planète.

Nicolas Hulot a assisté à l'assemblée générale des Nations Unies qu'il compare à un théâtre des apparences, ses états membres n'ayant qu'une idée en tête: défendre les intérêts de leur propre pays.

Enfin, il cite Sébastien Bolhert, un neuroscientifique: le cerveau humain n'a pas évolué pendant des années, avec des stimuli limités qui secrètent une hormone du plaisir appelée dopamine: manger, dormir, se reproduire.

Pourtant, à l'époque actuelle, ces excitations neuronales, souvent numériques, sont démultipliées sans fonction stop et n'ont aucune utilité pour l'humanité. Il ressort cependant que la pratique de la connaissance, de la sobriété et de l'altruisme ont la particularité de générer cette dopamine et sont en plus utiles.

Pour conclure faites-vous plaisir en choisissant les bons stimuli et l'humanité se portera mieux! ■

Trois mots doivent nous guider: Diversité, Humilité et Sobriété.

– Nicolas Hulot

1 IwanAsnawi, auteur du premier ouvrage de la collection Nouvelles Terres https://www.puf.com/content/Lesprit_de_la_jungle

Fondation Zoein: <https://zoein.org/>
L'intégralité des interventions au Palais des nations est disponible sur le lien suivant: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL18c3khjJzEWszOitlkcbw61rhFFzvUyl>

La conférence filmée est disponible sur ce lien: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTLdpiOXKIs>

Intervenants: Dominique Bourg: professeur honoraire à l'université de Lausanne, philosophe, tête de la liste «Urgence Ecologie» aux dernières élections européennes.

François Euvé, Jésuite, agrégé de physique, docteur en théologie, rédacteur en chef de la revue Etudes, Professeur de théologie aux Facultés jésuites de Paris – Centre Sèvres;



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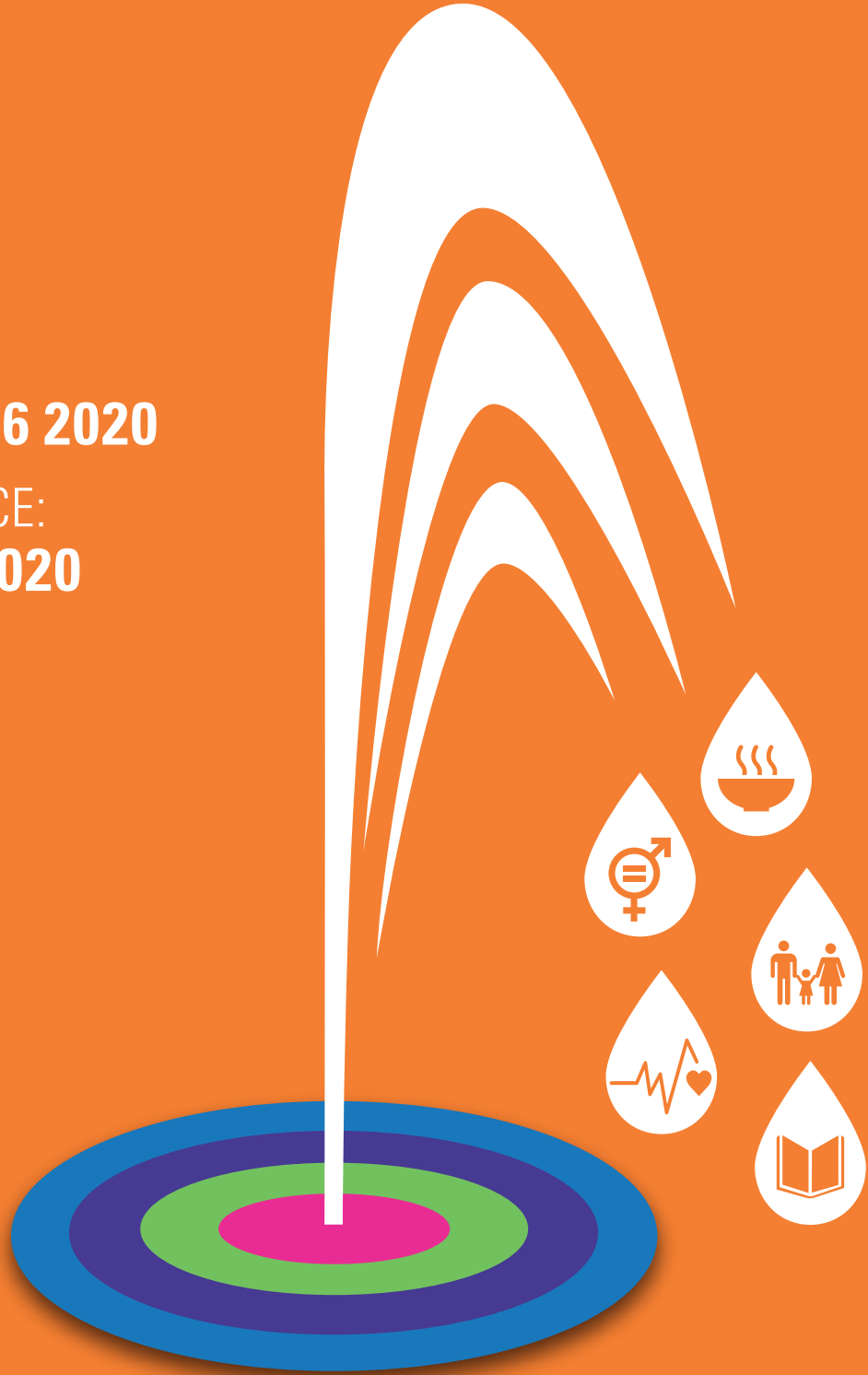
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INDIA



L'Union de la presse francophone en Suisse



ROMAINE JEAN, PRÉSIDENTE DE LA SECTION SUISSE DE L'UPF

Les journalistes de l'espace francophone se retrouvent une fois par année, en Assises, à Yaoundé, Erevan, Hanoï, Conakry, Québec, Abidjan, Bucarest ou Ouagadougou ? À quoi cela sert-il ? À quel besoin répond l'union internationale de la presse francophone, une association reconnue par l'Onu, l'Organisation internationale de la francophonie et l'Unesco, forte de 3000 confrères, éditeurs, bloggeurs, porte-paroles d'organisation à but public, dispersés dans le monde ?

La réponse à ces questions est simple : L'UPF est un exceptionnel forum qui génère échanges débats et réflexions sur le métier d'informer. L'UPF est un lieu unique de défense du droit à l'information. Avec comme référence, la communauté de valeurs, culturelles, sociales, patrimoniales, qui unissent l'espace francophone. L'UPF est l'occasion d'une extraordinaire ouverture vers des confrères de plus de cinquante pays.

La section suisse, que j'ai désormais l'honneur de présider, vient de fêter ses 60 ans ! Elle a été fondée le 27 novembre 1959 par

le Neuchâtelois Claude Bodinier et s'appelait alors l'Association suisse des journalistes de langue française, puis l'Association suisse des journalistes francophones. Elle a régulièrement apporté ses contributions aux activités de l'Union internationale, notamment par le charisme de son ancien président international, Jean-Marie Vodoz, de son responsable pour l'Europe, Daniel Favre ou de son tout récent vice-président Jean-Pierre Molliet.

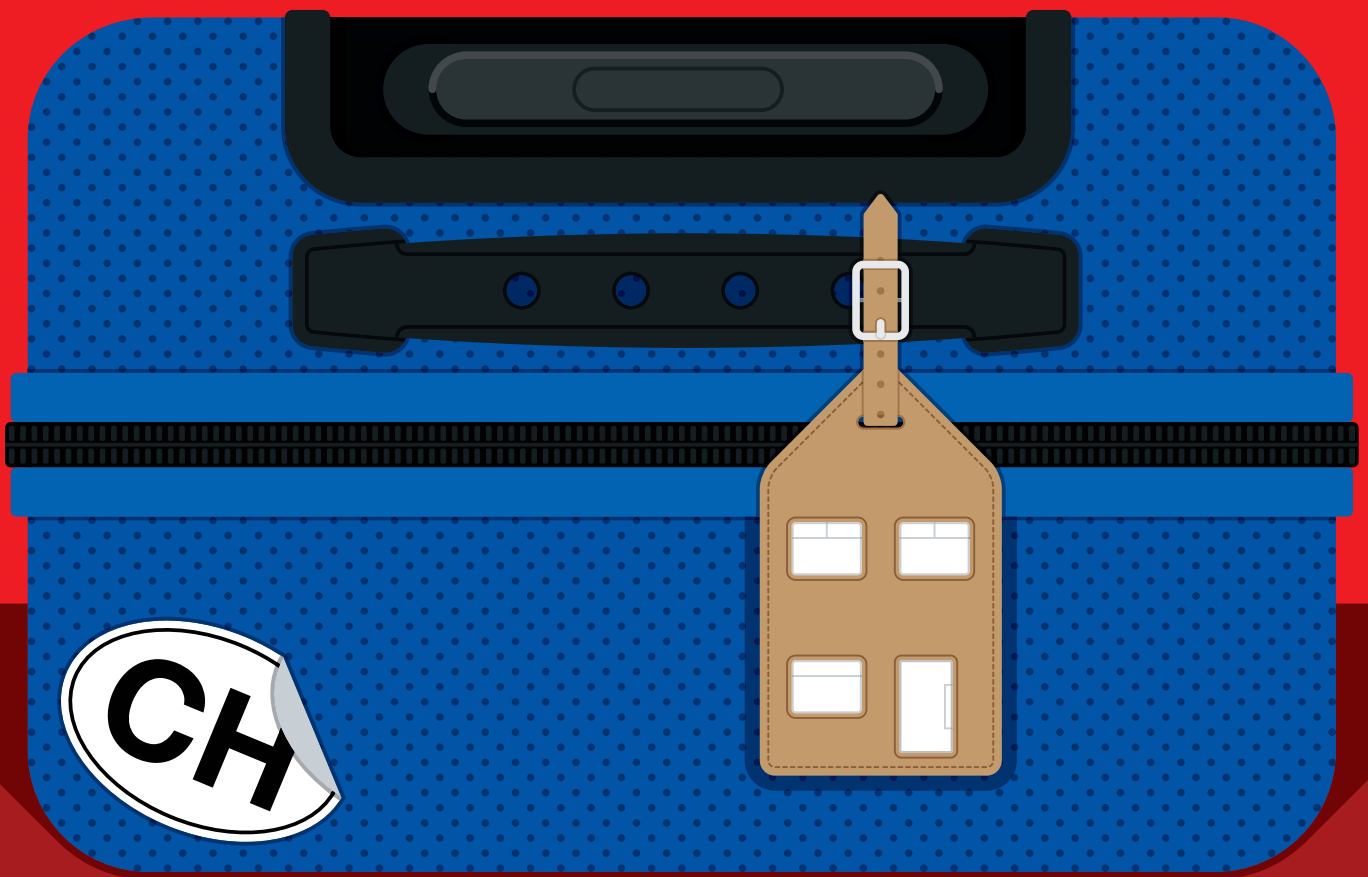
Aujourd'hui, la section suisse repart avec un comité renouvelé. Avec des femmes et des hommes, des seniors et de jeunes plumes prometteuses de la presse romande, et de projets dans les tiroirs. Nous souhaitons favoriser les échanges avec nos confrères du sud. Nous avons tant en commun et tant à nous apporter. Nous souhaitons organiser des événements, notamment en nous rapprochant de la toute nouvelle chaire de la francophonie de l'Université de Genève.

Nous continuerons à nous battre, en Suisse, pour que le français conserve sa juste place à l'école obligatoire, dans les administrations ou le monde des entreprises et ne soit pas remplacé par l'anglais. Nous avons régulièrement participé à la Semaine de

la francophonie et de la langue française. Nous avons aussi collaboré à la présentation de la littérature africaine au Salon du livre de Genève. Et nous éditons chaque mois, une fiche appelée « Défense du français » qui précise le sens des mots employés faussement dans les médias. Les Editions Loisirs et Pédagogie ont réuni 300 de ces termes dans un ouvrage « Petit lexique des belles erreurs de la langue française ».

Les prochaines assises de l'UPF se tiendront du 7 au 9 décembre à Tunisie, en marge du sommet de l'OIF. Nous invitons tous les journalistes francophones, à adhérer à notre association, à participer à nos activités et à faire rayonner l'information libre et indépendante dans l'espace francophone. ■

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The importance and status of duty of care in the UN system

KARINA PEDERSEN, FICSA INTERN AND EVELYN KORTUM, FICSA GENERAL SECRETARY

In 2014, the UN initially established the notion of Duty of Care to apply a framework in which UN Staff personnel were assessed, warned, and protected prior, during, and following their deployment to a high-risk, or non-family, duty station. As part of a multi-phase implementation process, in March of 2016, the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) established a *HCLM Cross Functional Interagency Task Force on Duty of Care in High Risk Environments*, also known as the Task Force, designed to examine Duty of Care deliverables in such work environments.

The implementation of Phase I goals required the production of 13 deliverables for those stationed in high-risk areas. Later, guidelines, also known as action points, were designed to produce the deliverables. To date, these guidelines, or action points of the Task Force, include the UN Strategy on Mental Health and Wellbeing; Duty Station Health Risk Assessment; Pre-deployment guide; UN Living and Working Standards; and training for managers. The Task Force was

guided by the idea of safekeeping stationed personnel's mental, social, and physical health – achieved by supplying the necessary resources based on the principles that encompass all aspects of life in both low and high-risk areas.

A well-functioning Duty of Care framework is important because particularly in high-risk environments or duty stations, it is more likely than not that a UN Staff member could suffer from increased anxiety. This might result in an increased likelihood of heart disease, as well as many other co-morbid chronic, or acute diseases. Not only do poor mental health outcomes directly influence the individual's physical health, but also their work ethic, energy levels, and ability to concentrate in the workplace is affected deleteriously.¹

The UN has not only set out to launch an approach on how to improve mental health conditions of those in high-risk duty stations, but also in lower-risk areas. In this way, the UN Strategy on Mental Health and Well Being (MHS), as a part of the Task Force's Action Points, was developed and is now being operationalized.



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Employing over 105,000 staff globally, the UN system is, technically, considered the size of a small city. Currently, for this amount of staff, only 131 counselors exist to take care of individual staff's mental health needs. This disparity between staff and the number of counselors amounts to 1 counselor to 800 staff members. Not only does this ratio mean long wait times, but it is also a direct reflection upon what needs to be done in the UN system in order to alleviate many of the mental health issues related to staff.

Though initially established as part of the Task Force's objectives, the Working Group for the UN System Strategy on Mental Health and Wellbeing developed a survey of which the results underline the purpose and importance of the Task Force itself. One major finding was a correlation between poor mental health and the number of years working at the UN, which is a worrying statistic. Another such finding was that 49% of all staff reported symptoms of a mental health condition, and 22% reported two. Only 2% of



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these individuals are seeking counseling within the UN system. Moreover, internationally recruited UN Staff were more likely to develop hazardous drinking².

Introduction to some Tools in Development

For those living in high-risk duty stations, the *UN Living and Working Standards* are very important to accurately assess their safety and accommodation needs. Organizations such as UNICEF, UNHCR, and IOM have utilized new *online platforms* launched in 2019, such as the *Humanitarian Booking Hub*, for their staff living in field locations. These services, in accordance with the digital *Quality Assessment Checklist for the Humanitarian Booking Hub*, have not only increased access to services such as travel, accommodation, and health clinics, but also allowed

for a more streamlined process to receiving these services.

Duty Station Health Risk Assessments are currently being developed along Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) risk management framework guidelines to better understand the risks involved in various duty stations. *Health-care plans* for various countries and duty stations are currently being researched for suitability. *Self-assessment tools* have been launched to avoid unnecessary travel in order to determine Mandatory Health Support Elements in various duty stations.

A *how-to* guide has been developed upon examination of various organizations' OSH systems and compiled into a document for use of all other UN Common System Organizations. This *how-to* guide is the first step in this holistic approach to

changing the UN system on the terms of the five Core Principles for a healthier, safer, and more respectful workplace. Although OSH policies have been developed in some organizations, a survey conducted in August of 2019 revealed that only few organizations have OSH policies in place. This number needs to increase rapidly under the auspices of responsible heads of agencies.

Moving forward, it is imperative that the UN Common System continues to expand their OSH Framework and be cognizant of their own responsibilities and their staff needs. Recent International Labor Organization Administrative Tribunal (ILOAT) Judgments are reflective of upholding UN Duty of Care Policies. These judgments state that when an appeal regarding dignity, probation and terminations, harassment

and health and safety are filed, that the Tribunal will now make a greater effort to ensure that rules, procedures, and appropriate measures are in line with the organizations' *Duty of Care standards* developed within the main framework. The Tribunal develops its processes further and relates them to the Duty of Care framework to determine if cases violating these policies will be punished more severely. The ILOAT will continue to recognize the importance of Duty of Care principles, making it imperative that the leadership of agencies and their staff offer support to the implementation of its framework. ■

- 1 <https://www.unspecial.org/2019/09/prevention-is-better-than-burnout/>
- 2 <https://www.un.org/en/healthy-workforce/files/Survey%20Report.pdf>



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Gender bias in the UN

The United Nations may be the leading advocate for equality and human rights, but it falls short in ensuring the rights of its own staff. When examining the parental leave policies set forth by the UN Secretariat, it is evident that there is a definitive presence of gender bias.

SPENCER SMITH¹

Gender bias language and policies that accommodate only those families who follow a traditional structure means that the essential needs of non-traditional families are not met. In a world where family structures are becoming more diverse and less binary, is it not crucial that workplace policies are adapted in tandem?

The UN Secretariat is the front runner of such policies in the whole UN common system, and it is therefore not surprising that the absence of gender-neutral language is common throughout the policies of the United Nations and its agencies.

Categorizing maternity and parental leave on the basis of gender by providing sixteen weeks of leave to the natural mother but only four to the father, reinforces the notion that it is the responsibility of the mother to care for the child, and that the father is only the secondary care provider.

Fathers are thus prevented from having a reasonable amount of time to bond with the child, and the traditional gender roles are perpetuated.

In situations of adoption, mothers and fathers are both limited to eight weeks of parental leave. While some organizations such as UNAIDS, UNESCO, and WHO have already modernized parental leave by offering the same amount of time for adoption as for natural births, there are still many organizations that discriminate against adoptive parents. Although mothers take leave to recover from the physical toll of pregnancy, the parental leave is also needed to establish a connection with the child. Adopted children who often come from very traumatic situations should not be treated any differently than other children by having less bonding time with their new family.

While this bias negatively impacts heterosexual couples and reinforces stereotypical bias, the major impact is on homosexual families where, by gender semantics, both parents have to fulfill the role of the primary or secondary care provider. As current language asserts, only women can be the primary, and only men the secondary. A male same-sex couple will in total be given less leave than a traditional or female same-sex couple, although one of them will actually and naturally be the primary care giver. By structuring parental leave on a traditional family structure, the notion of a patriarchal heteronormative society is reinforced.

UN Globe suggests that “the guiding principles of parental leave policy should be equality, fairness, and non-discrimination” and that the interests of the child should always be placed first. This would seem like common sense, but despite efforts made by a few organizations, overall the majority of policy neglects to ensure that equal opportunity is provided to all employees in the event of raising a child.

To be more inclusive, the United Nations and its agencies need to implement parental leave policies that are categorized on the basis of “primary care” and “secondary care” provider. By determining parental leave in a gender-neutral manner, the needs of diverse family structures are better accommodated for and respected. Organizations such as Bioversity have

already incorporated this into their policy, eliminating all categorizations based on gender.

In doing so, gender equality between staff would also improve, and stereotypical relations and actions would be reduced. It could for instance mean that more men would request flexible working hours to take care of their children, breaking the stigma related to this. It would also help eliminate gender conflicts, parental leave complications, and the likelihood of discrimination lawsuits. By allowing parents to determine who will fulfill the role of primary care provider, the potential burdens of childcare are decreased. When parental

leave is fair and flexible, the most important goal is reachable: ensuring the best interest of the child. ■

This article was edited in partnership with Eva Moller, FAO, Rome.

1 Spencer Smith is former Federation of International Civil Servants' Association Intern in Geneva, Switzerland



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La médecine légale pour consolider la paix en Afrique

Située à l'intersection entre la justice, la sécurité et la réconciliation, la médecine légale est un pilier essentiel de l'état de droit et de la consolidation de la paix. Pourtant, de même que les sciences forensiques, elle est quasiment absente du continent africain.

BRIGITTE PERRIN, UNICE

À titre illustratif, en République centrafricaine, il n'existe qu'un médecin légiste pour 4,5 millions d'habitants. Au Bénin et Togo, ils ne sont que deux à exercer, dans des pays comptant respectivement 7,5 millions d'habitants et 11,5 millions d'habitants¹. Pour y remédier, une formation continue universitaire a vu le jour à Genève. La première volée vient d'obtenir son diplôme.

C'est en automne 2019 qu'une dizaine de professionnels (médecins, magistrats, policiers) provenant du Bénin, du Burundi, du Cameroun, de République centrafricaine, du Rwanda et du Togo ont pris le chemin des auditoriums de l'Université de Genève. Ils y ont suivi quatre semaines de cours sur les outils juridiques, la médecine légale et les sciences forensiques ainsi qu'une semaine de stage dans le cadre du Certificat de formation continue en «Droit, médecine légale et sciences forensique en Afrique», qui vise à renforcer la compréhension et la collaboration entre la police, la justice et la médecine à travers le continent.



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Les participants ont ainsi acquis des notions de base de la médecine légale et compris l'importance des interactions interprofessionnelles. Ce programme de formation est parfaitement en phase avec les Objectifs de développement durable, notamment les Objectifs 3 (droit à l'éducation) et 4 (droit à la santé) ainsi que ceux de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union Africaine (Aspiration 1.10). La formation a été lancée à l'initiative du Dr Ghislain Patrick Lessène,

Directeur du Centre d'études juridiques africaines (CEJA: www.ceja.ch), de Silke Grabherr, Directrice du Centre universitaire romand de médecine légale (CURML: www.curml.ch) et de plusieurs institutions suisses.

Un même but: la recherche de la vérité

Général de police, magistrat de siège, membre du ministère public, médecin: c'était la première fois que ces profession-

nels travaillaient ensemble. Cette pluridisciplinarité n'est pas la règle en Afrique. Les participants ont néanmoins pu constater qu'ils travaillaient, chacun à sa manière, à un même idéal: la santé publique et la recherche de la vérité.

La première conclusion à laquelle sont arrivés les futurs diplômés, c'est qu'il était urgent de créer des unités de médecine légale dans chacun des États. Ils ont donc décidé de fonder l'Association pour le droit et la médecine légale et la science forensique en Afrique (<https://aadmlsf.org/>), afin que tout ce qui a été appris à Genève soit mis en pratique durablement dans leurs pays d'origine. En février 2020, des juges se rendront au Cameroun et en mars, des spécialistes de médecine légale se rendront à la 9^e Conférence de la Société africaine de médecine légale qui se tiendra du 17 au 18 mars à Lomé, Togo, où ils montreront de manière concrète ce qui peut être fait, même avec des ressources limitées.

«Ils ont vu ici à Genève des technologies dernier cri, se réjouit Ghislain Patrick Lessène, et c'est une source d'inspiration extraordinaire pour ces professionnels.

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Le voyage aux multiples visages

Mais en discutant avec les techniciens, on s'est rendu compte que même avec peu, on peut faire beaucoup. Nous allons donc poursuivre la collaboration». Plusieurs techniciens suisses se rendront à cette fin en Afrique, et chercheront des moyens de développer les activités de médecine légale avec du matériel local.

Un lieu, un couteau... et de la collaboration

«Pour moi, le vrai défi c'est de faire de la médecine légale avec les techniques existantes et des connaissances. Il faut revenir à la base, explique Silke Grabherr. On peut faire un très bon examen d'une personne décédée pourvu qu'on ait un lieu pour faire une autopsie. Et un couteau. Un bon médecin légiste doit savoir trouver des réponses dans ces conditions-là. Chaque pays doit choisir les techniques les plus appropriées à son contexte».

Pour la directrice du Centre romand de médecine légale, pour confondre un coupable, il est nécessaire de mobiliser trois métiers: les médecins, les magistrats et les policiers. «Aucun n'est plus important que l'autre, par contre la collaboration entre eux est cruciale. Rien qu'en mettant en place cette collaboration, on peut déjà atteindre de bons résultats».

Ne plus avoir à négocier

«La médecine légale est la discipline de la médecine la plus liée à la politique», remarque encore Silke Grabherr. «Elle ne peut pas résoudre les crises, mais elle peut poser des questions et apporter de bonnes réponses dans un cadre de conflit politique. A l'origine de nombreux conflits, il y a l'incertitude par rapport aux personnes qui ont commis certains crimes, envers qui et comment elles les ont commis. Il est réellement possible de résoudre un conflit en trouvant de vraies réponses à ces vraies questions. En identifiant les victimes des différents crimes, on permet de faire le travail de deuil; et une fois le deuil fait, il est plus facile de pardonner».

Et comment est perçue l'arrivée de la médecine légale en Afrique? «Il y a sans aucun doute des personnes opposées à l'application de la médecine légale en Afrique», regrette Silke Grabherr, «de la part de gens qui ont peut-être eux-mêmes quelque chose à cacher... En utilisant des techniques scientifiques, on peut analyser les situations, et ne plus «négocier» la responsabilité des crimes qui ont été



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commis. La transparence a un rôle absolument central à jouer pour avancer en direction de la paix».

Les participants de la première volée ont été pour la plupart bénéficiaires d'une bourse du Service de la solidarité internationale (SSI) du canton et République de Genève et de la coopération suisse (DDC). Les organisateurs de la formation sont aujourd'hui à la recherche de financements qui leur permettront d'accueillir davantage de participants l'année prochaine et de proposer cette formation alternativement en français et en anglais, de manière à y

impliquer les pays d'Afrique anglophone. «Les ONG ont encore du chemin à faire pour prendre conscience du rôle essentiel de la médecine légale dans les processus de paix. Nous souhaiterions que les pays qui envoient leurs émissaires, eux aussi, essaient d'obtenir des bourses ou s'engagent à financer cette formation», conclut Silke Grabherr. ■

1 Ces chiffres ont été fournis par les ministères de la santé et de la justice du Bénin et du Togo lors d'une mission exploratoire menée en juillet 2017.

Plus d'infos: <https://www.unige.ch/formcont/cours/scforensique-afr>

SIX MOIS POUR ACQUÉRIR LES BASES

Le CAS Droit, Médecine légale et science forensique en Afrique de l'Université de Genève vise un public de médecins et d'acteurs issus du secteur judiciaire et de la société civile dans le continent africain, dans les domaines pertinents à la médecine légale et aux sciences forensiques (magistrats, officiers de police judiciaire, personnel pénitentiaire, juristes, membres d'ONG travaillant dans le domaine de la prévention des violences, notamment).

Bi-continentale, la formation se déroule en quatre phases distinctes.

- 1 Une première phase d'environ deux mois permet aux participants de prendre connaissance du syllabus de la formation et de s'imprégner ainsi des concepts fondamentaux de la médecine légale, des sciences forensiques, du droit international et de la justice pénale internationale.
- 2 La seconde phase, qui se déroule en Suisse, s'articule autour de quatre semaines de cours intensifs animés par des enseignants académiques et des spécialistes. Les cours ont lieu au Centre universitaire romand de médecine légale (CURML) de l'Université de Genève, à l'École des sciences criminelles (ESC) de l'Université de Lausanne et à l'Académie de police de Savatan.
- 3 La troisième phase de la formation est un stage pratique d'une semaine au sein d'institutions suisses reconnues: Ministères publics de Genève et du Canton de Vaud, Hôpitaux universitaires de Genève (HUG), Centre hospitalier universitaire vaudois (CHUV) à Lausanne, l'établissement fermé de Curabilis à Genève, ou encore l'Académie de police de Savatan. Essentiel au transfert des connaissances et compétences dans la pratique, ce stage permet aux participants de s'immerger dans la pratique professionnelle suisse.
- 4 Enfin, le parcours formatif se clôt par la rédaction d'un travail de fin d'études qui consolide les enseignements de la formation et le retour d'expérience du stage.

Le sommet des jeunes activistes à l'ONU

SARAH DIDISHEIM, ÉTUDIANTE CEPV

Une conférence à l'ONU, c'est une fenêtre qui s'ouvre sur le monde et nous semblons toutes et tous en saisir l'importance. Nous ne savons pas grand chose de ce qui nous attend mais le besoin commun de comprendre et de savoir nous anime.

Le mardi 10 décembre au matin, la moyenne d'âge baisse considérablement dans les trains qui mènent à Genève. Les portes des wagons s'ouvrent sur une ribambelle de jeunes étudiant(e)s se rendant toutes et tous au même endroit. Dans les compartiments du train, quelques débats se font entendre, chacune et chacun s'exprime sur ce à quoi elles et ils s'attendent à assister.

Un brouhaha emplit la salle de conférence dans laquelle nous sommes assis. Six jeunes femmes montent sur la scène. la salle est devenue silencieuse. Assises les unes à coté des autres, elles regardent intimidées, les milliers de jeunes étudiants européens venus les écouter.

Dans la salle, le bruit s'estompe, l'attention s'éveille.

Tour à tour, elles vont prendre la parole. Memory Banda, 26 ans, venue du Malawi; Amy et Ella Meek, 14 et 16 ans, venant du Royaume-Uni; Hamangaí Pataxo, 22 ans, brésilienne; Rebecca Kabuo, 25 ans, venue de la République Démocratique du Congo et finalement Nadia Murad, Prix Nobel de la paix 2018, 26 ans et venue d'Irak.

Elles nous expliquent qu'elles militent chacune pour une cause dans leur pays. Certaines ont été violées et torturées, d'autres ont été emprisonnées.

Les unes après les autres, dans leur langue natale, elles parlent, elles dénoncent, elles osent. Aujourd'hui, pour quelques heures, l'ONU appartient aux femmes et à la jeunesse.

Grâce à des discours poignants, chacune nous fait comprendre à sa manière, que nous détenons désormais la responsabilité de l'avenir.

La rage et la détermination de ces femmes émeuvent aux larmes beaucoup d'entre nous. Nous sommes en un sens, et par nos âges, tellement liés à elles, mais leurs actions et leurs vies les rendent si lointaines.



© Antoine Tardy

«Votre amie s'est faite assassinée la semaine passée n'est-ce pas?»

La médiatrice s'adresse à Hamangaí Pataxo dont le visage se ferme immédiatement. Elle acquiesce pleine de rage, les militants se font souvent tuer mais elle continuera!

Je crois qu'à ce moment s'installe dans la salle un sentiment d'humilité extrême, d'admiration et peut être même une légère honte de vivre la vie privilégiée que nous menons.

Certaines militent chaque jour pour le climat, d'autres luttent contre le mariage forcé, contre l'esclavagisme, pour les droits de l'enfant, pour les droits des

peuples autochtones, pour le respect de la démocratie.

Chacune ayant pu partager ses engagements, les questions s'ouvrent maintenant au public.

Les jeunes qui prennent la parole font part de leurs sentiments: ils sont impressionnés et surtout reconnaissants.

La conférence touche à sa fin. La médiatrice nous indique que le temps ne laisse place plus qu'à une seule et dernière question.

Un garçon prend le micro et se lève.

«et nous, qu'est ce qu'on peut faire?» ■

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FerMUN's 10th edition

700 young people from 23 countries gathered at ITU to discuss digital technology and Agenda 2030. One more UN-hosted conference – or an emerging model for decision-making in multilateral bodies?

FREDERIC BALLENEGGER, UPWELLING

“What this generation needs above all is *meaning*. For months, they prepared for these three days of conference. Our 700 young people got access to a world they could not imagine. They now know that they can play a role, and that multilateralism is their gateway.”

This how Florence Baudry, Director of FerMUN, describes the success of its 10th edition. “Our participants number went from 300 to 700 in ten years, but most importantly we went from 5 partner schools to 51. Delegates from all five continents engaged in debates. Meeting people from other horizons is an essential aspect of FerMUN. Because in the end, information technology can still never replace a look and a handshake.”

There are dozens of Model United Nations conferences

around the world. Why is FerMUN such a success? “We adapt the theme of the conference to our host organization”, explains Florence Baudry, “and we try to contribute to its agenda so that the relationship is mutually beneficial.” This year, delegates adopted 32 resolutions on the contribution of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to Agenda 2030. They had the opportunity to discuss, throughout the conference, with experts made available by the International Telecommunication Union. “ITU validated the agenda, which enabled a sound level of mutual appropriation”, says Florence Baudry.

Futurecasters Young Global Visionaries

“This is the fourth time that ITU has hosted the FerMUN event,” confirms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunication Development

Bureau at ITU, “but the first time we have integrated it into a broader youth engagement strategy, the ITU Futurecasters Young Global Visionaries programme. Today’s youth combine a fresh perspective with an intuitive, expert understanding of the power and potential of digital platforms. This unique mix offers us a real chance to finally break through chronic development barriers and old paradigms to effect lasting, transformational change.”

ITU, which uniquely for a UN agency counts some 900 companies and universities as members alongside its 193 Member States, has solid experience in building consensus with a diverse range of partners. The organization believes its model could help lead the way to a more open decision-making process and a wider consultation of stakeholders, as called for by the global 2030 Agenda. “For us, opening ITU’s doors and co-creating solutions with young thinkers is part of a process of open collaboration that is in our DNA”, affirms Doreen Bogdan-Martin.

But what happens to resolutions passed by young delegates? As a novelty this year, they will be sent to UN Headquarters as part

of its 75th anniversary celebration and will also be included in materials submitted to ITU’s governing bodies. Connecting the dots from young people to proposed solutions to multilateral decision-making is the culmination of a process started eight years ago at WMO and WIPO.

Using ICTs to be heard

But why this focus on an audience with no decision-making power in the multilateral arena? “I don’t think that is true anymore,” Doreen Bogdan Martin says. “In an interconnected world, youth can use the power of information and communication technologies to voice their opinion – including through participation in public fora such as the WSIS Forum or, this year, the UN75. We saw recently at the UNGA how powerful these moments can be.” Bogdan-Martin notes that digital technologies can already potentially connect anyone, anywhere, regardless of education, culture, or age, with the entire repository of human knowledge, but believes we still haven’t fully realized the amplitude of this revolution, nor democratized sufficiently so that everyone can benefit. She calls for a more multilingual and more affordable internet: “ICTs can and will help to create



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We see delegates who take their role very seriously and who educate themselves, speak with experts, read academic articles on their topic, so their position can be based on science. It is the trademark of our generation, which no longer believes in ideology but seeks new solutions, based on iron-clad scientific bases, to overcome narrow interests. That's but exemplary, and I wish we'd see this happen more often among negotiators and in the political world in general. Frankly, these young delegates could serve as a model for their elders, sometimes.

– Gessienne Grey

the world we want, if we apply their power with intelligence and care, and guard against the potential for abuse by bad actors.” There is still much to do in terms of extending access to unconnected individuals and communities, and ensuring connectivity is always meaningful, positive and life-enhancing. “And we need to hear the voice of youth to help steer us in the right direction,” she concludes.

Difficult, but not impossible

And the young people themselves, what did they think? For 17-year-old Gessienne Grey, Secretary-General of FerMUN 2020, “the media, the images, the ideas make us feel more involved – and also, convinced that we could do better. We’re often shocked to see how slowly

the multilateral system works; and then, when you find yourself in the front row, you see history repeating itself in front of your very eyes. With MUNs, we have an opportunity to try for ourselves, to see if it is really impossible to make a difference.”

“What we did see is that it is difficult, but not impossible to change things”, Grey recalls. “We see delegates who take their role very seriously and who educate themselves, speak with experts, read academic articles on their topic, so their position can be based on science. It is the trademark of our generation, which no longer believes in ideology but seeks new solutions, based on iron-clad scientific bases, to overcome narrow interests. That’s

but exemplary, and I wish we’d see this happen more often among negotiators and in the political world in general, these young delegates could serve as a model for their elders, sometimes.”

What are the trends for the future? Grey sees “increasingly technical, specific issues, linked to current events, for which innovative and realistic solutions can be developed. In MUNs as in the real world, to solve a problem people tend to create a new organization, but that is not a proper solution. It

is more important to collaborate and consult more.”

Consultations are ubiquitous nowadays, including those taking place in the wake of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. To advance an ambitious agenda like that of the ITU, going from artificial intelligence to machine translation to digital skills, online health and the measurement of climate change, proposals developed, and adhesion expressed, by the young generation at the occasion of FerMUN may be a very strong argument. ■

FerMUN, short for Ferney-Voltaire Model United Nations, is an annual 3-day high school MUN conference, organized by students of the Lycée International de Ferney-Voltaire and its partner schools. It usually taking place in January. www.fermun.org

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From left to right: Jennifer Linkins, Director, a.i. Human Resources Management; Sara Canna, Team Lead, Career Management and Development; Amina Fefe Dia (mentee); Dr. Sylvie Briand (mentor); Dr. Tedros; Sara Cortes Garcia (mentee); Dr. Isabelle Nuttall (mentor); Jennifer Velev (mentee)

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The WHO Global Mentoring Programme

An innovative way to foster peer-to-peer learning, career and personal development

Best practices and recent studies on the future of work trends demonstrate that workplace learning has become a key lever for success in today's professional environments with learning methods increasingly becoming more immediate and experiential.

SARA CANNA, TEAM LEAD, CAREER MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT AT WHO

A new transformational approach is now taking shape. It focuses on investing and building in internal capabilities, developing growth mindsets and behaviours that can enable staff to perform well in their roles, while making learning a democratic opportunity. Mentoring is in line with all these new trends.

Why Mentoring?

Mentoring is now becoming a trend in the UN System Organizations to enhance personal and professional growth. It provides opportunities for real organizational learning through proper channelling of institutional memory. For WHO it is a means to accomplish the ambitious public health goals set in the General Programme of Work N.13 through “a workforce that is fit for purpose, highly competent and cutting edge, motivated, high-performing and empowered.”

An enhanced Global Mentoring Programme was launched in WHO on 19 December 2019 with the presence of Dr. Tedros Ghebreyesus, the Director-General, and it builds on and complements at global level the AFRO and WPRO Regional Mentoring Programmes. Mentoring is now considered in WHO as an organizational wide learning and capacity building effort whose key objective is to enhance career support and development for all staff globally. Mentoring also fosters learning from peers in both technical subjects and more interpersonal subjects (such as personal branding, leadership and management development). In this way, WHO is aiming at promoting a new culture in which expertise is valued over grade.

Creating a true learning organization starts from the top. Dr. Tedros, is leading by example by committing to mentor a selected group of staff with whom he will meet on a regular basis to discuss pre-selected topics of choice.

When was the Programme created?

In WHO the programme was developed in collaboration with the WHO Ombudsman in the context of staff's needs and the Peace Keeping Operations of the UN Secretariat, and offers a flexible and open "matching mechanism" whereby *mentees* identify their best *mentors*. It was first introduced as a Pilot in April 2016 as a critical support initiative to those staff members who participated in the first voluntary global mobility exercise launched in January 2016 – a "high potential" workforce for career moves totalling 71 staff, 43 males and 28 females.

The pilot Programme was then evaluated and the lessons learned informed the revised Global Mentoring Programme and the 2018 and 2019 calls for interest to recruit new mentors. WHO now has a pool of 171 mentors from all Major Offices and duty stations among whom General Service and International Professional Staff, National Professional Officers and retirees.


What are the benefits of mentoring for staff?

Being part of this programme will not only enrich staff members' managerial and leadership skills, but also contribute to the professional growth of other colleagues. WHO staff are encouraged to take responsibility to exchange and share institutional knowledge, best practices and lessons learned. Results can be huge, such as:

- Being part of a more connected workforce and be better prepared to perform one's current or next job (e.g. geographical mobility, promotion to a new role, learning a new skill etc.)
- Receiving objective advice on how to navigate one's professional journey
- Effectively sourcing internal information to help staff be more efficient
- Collaborating and transferring knowledge across the Organization and functions
- Sharpening leadership, coaching and listening skills
- Learning first-hand about other functions within the Organization
- Gaining personal satisfaction in helping someone grow professionally

- Building reputation and gaining more visibility
- Contributing to creating opportunities for learning, collaboration and knowledge sharing.

This initiative is an organizational development undertaking from which other UN organisations can learn. It is going to involve changes in attitude on an organizational and individual level. WHO is now leading the way by encouraging its staff members to serve as a role model by joining together in championing this initiative as a mentor, mentee, or both and make learning a core part of their daily work. ■




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Geneva Health Forum 2020

Improving Access to Health: Learning from the Field

Health systems worldwide are increasingly pressured by dynamic global challenges, and the health needs of vulnerable and neglected populations are changeable and demanding.

DANNY SHEATH,

COORDINATEUR DU GHF 2020, UNIGE

At the same time, technological advances, the digital revolution and the emergence of new actors (or changing roles of existing actors) in the health field, may increase the likelihood of finding innovative solutions to these unprecedented challenges. The continuous assessment of practices based on the best available evidence should be conducted to ensure the effectiveness of health systems, particularly when employing innovative approaches. The importance of operating these health systems in a structured way and with common objectives is widely recognized and is exemplified by the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the United Nations Member States in 2015, which proposed to provide a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. To achieve these objectives a multidisciplinary approach linked to a continuous exchange of information between all health actors is essential.

The idea of providing a suitable platform for good management of health system has led to the creation of a meeting place that can facilitate a wide and free exchange of information, ideas sharing and proposals for new collaborations: the Geneva Health Forum (GHF). The GHF is a global health conference that aims to promote critical reflections and constructive debates on contemporary global health issues, thus influencing and informing policy formulation with experience from the field.

The GHF was created in the 2006, through a collaboration between the Geneva University Hospitals and the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Geneva, and it is now organized with the collaboration and support of 33 partner institutions representing some of the key actors in global health and humanitarian action. We count among these partners five UN organisations; WHO, UNAIDS, UNITAR, ILO, IOM. This forum facilitates the meeting of these actors and many more in the field of Global Health and the

many associations based in Switzerland, and in particular in Geneva.

Geneva is home to the World Health Organization (WHO) and a number of other UN organizations whose work relates to health and humanitarian action, permanent missions of 173 countries with their health attachés, major NGOs dedicated to health, public and private actors, and a powerful network of academic actors which is often named as the “Health Valley” in Switzerland, beyond Geneva.

The original concept of the GHF was defined around the following key objectives:

- To discuss the importance of Universal Health Coverage, exchange experiences and focus on the best way to improve the access to health care with a particular attention to low-income areas.
- To establish a critical and constructive dialogue between global health actors from different sectors including health institutions, academics, policy makers (at national, regional or international levels), civil society and the private sector.
- Promote better consideration of field actions in health policy development and more effective dissemination of public health policies at the field level.
- To contribute to the dynamism of *La Genève Internationale* in the field of health, linking the relevant actors.
- Provide visibility to innovative projects and tools

The GHF has multiple formats to provide the best opportunities for participants to exchange ideas and discuss innovative solutions to complex contemporary health challenges. Our intention is to encourage the active participation of frontline health care workers, facilitate their dialogue with and feedback to policy makers, and help the forging of creative and impactful alliances. We don't rely simply on the three day forum to achieve these aims, but in fact through several meetings that are organized (including recently the GHF Expert Meetings) during the two years between one forum and the next, and the very active interdisciplinary working groups formed out of introductions at the forum, which are consistently producing scientific articles on various global health themes.

On 24th to 26th March 2020 in Geneva the 8th edition of the GHF, faithful to its spirit, will offer the opportunity to have open, constructive and friendly discussions on subjects related to the thematic of *Improving Access to Health: Learning from the Field*, exploring how innovations can improve impact assessments and how to implement learning cycles in global health, to best adapt practices and ultimately improve access to quality healthcare.

New digital tools, growing volumes and better management of big data, and innovative



© HUG

approaches not only feature as a key part of future health systems, but also offer opportunities to facilitate such leaning systems, and indeed they much as there us should be carefully considered and closely monitored, ensuring compliance to ethical and legal standards. Further, we should study our own practices to learn lessons that will improve health system adaptability to rapidly evolving health needs. To achieve this, academics, healthcare practitioners, private sector representatives and policy makers need to be better connected. The GHF strives to facilitate these connections.

Within this overall thematic we will focus on five key tracks through the conference programme. The first three of these tracks were chosen to align with strategic priorities of WHO, emphasising our collaboration with them, but also in an effort to try and harmonise our efforts to have a greater impact. The remaining two tracks are selected firstly to reflect the thematic focus of the previous edition and in recognition of the continually growing momentum of digital health, and lastly to address the dynamic challenges that health systems are facing as a result of various global changes. The tracks are as follows:

- Achieving Universal Health Coverage
- Addressing Health Emergencies
- Promoting Healthier Populations
- Precision Global Health
- Global Change and Health

For the 2020 edition the Country Guest of Honour is India. As such, we will have a focus in India and include the country's experiences and advances in many areas of global health, particularly in the digital health domain. Further, we will welcome two special guest organisations, namely, the International Alliance of Patients' Organization (IAPO)

and the International Council of Nurses (IUCN). Both of these organisations represent key actors and voices in health systems whose roles are likely to change drastically in the coming years, hence we believe it vital to give them this visibility to share their experiences. ICN will also use the occasion as part of their activities to mark 2020 as the year of the nurse and midwife.

We have seen the profile and impact of the Geneva Health Forum growing year on year, establishing itself as a unique and friendly forum, ranging from more traditional conference sessions to more active mechanisms including plenary debates, round table meeting, technical workshops, an innovation fair, and a packed exhibition space. At the next edition we are expecting to welcome between 1500 and 1800 participants from approximately 80 Countries we aim to increase the active participation of the public, involving it as a main actor and not just a spectator of our ambitious programme of events. We would be delighted to welcome you to GHF 2020 on March 24th to 26th at the CIG in Geneva. ■

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IFA and SIOG jointly host a landmark global dialogue on the ageing population with cancer

Meeting the needs of older cancer patients

Age increases cancer risk, and the world's population is rapidly ageing, meaning a steep rise in the number of older people with cancer is inevitable.



ROB STEPNEY, MEDICAL WRITER
– INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF GERIATRIC ONCOLOGY (SIOG)

Though the scale of this impending problem is now recognised, the world's healthcare systems are not yet ready to face it. We must build today systems to cope with the needs of tomorrow.

Hence the crucial importance of the summit held on November 14th 2019 at the United Nations in Geneva, which brought together international delegates for a multi-stakeholder meeting with a primary focus on driving action to promote and advance geriatric oncology in the wider context of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

Aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, the World Health Organization's strategic policy goals, and the forthcoming Decade of Healthy Ageing starting in October 2020, this summit

was jointly hosted by the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and the International Society of Geriatric Oncology (SIOG).

Ensuring older people are not left behind in efforts to achieve UHC

Ageing is not necessarily a burden. It occurs in infinite variety, and much is to be celebrated. But good health is central to the way it is experienced, Dr. Jane Barratt, secretary general of IFA, told the meeting. In the provision of health care, ageism – discrimination against people based on how old they are – is as insidious as racism and sexism and should be equally deplored.

Oncology informed by geriatrics

Systematic exclusion from clinical trials is one important respect in which older people are treated differently, Dr. Hans Wildiers, president of SIOG, said. A striking example is breast cancer: according to a US study, 49% of women

with breast cancer are aged 65 or over, yet this age group comprises only 9% of women enrolled in clinical trials. Older cancer patients often benefit from treatment, and it should not be withheld on grounds of age alone. However, because the risks are greater amongst older people, balancing benefits against potential toxicities requires fine judgment. For all its imperfection, geriatric assessment helps make treatment decisions in the individual patient, Dr. Wildiers argued. All oncologists should be at least in part geriatric oncologists.

Priority areas

Recognizing the need to strengthen primary health care for older patients with cancer, Dr. Martine Extermann presented the SIOG Top Priorities Initiative. This is an expert consensus with potential to guide education, research, and clinical practice, as well as collaboration and partnerships. Dr. Lodovico

Balducci, a founder member of SIOG, issued calls to action.

In broad terms, these were combating ageism, taking account of physiological or functional rather than chronological ageing, educating the medical profession and public about age-appropriate cancer care, providing tumour-specific guidelines for treating older patients, establishing centres of excellence in geriatric oncology, clinical trials specifically in older patients, and establishing databases of older patients not treated in trials to allow rapid learning about efficacy and toxicity.

A further priority is encouragement of multidisciplinary care. Speaking as President of the European Cancer Organization (ECCO), Dr. Philip Poortmans emphasized that the availability of multidisciplinary teams is an essential requirement for quality care.

Collaboration a key to achieving better models of care for older patients

The keynote lecture of Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO Headquarters Leadership Team and Dr. Cherian Varghese, WHO Headquarters, a.i. Director of Non-Communicable Diseases, drew attention to the gap between what older people with cancer actually need and what the health workforce in different countries can provide.

Increasing the quantity and expanding the competencies of the cancer workforce is a priority as we develop systems for comprehensive care. Dr. Swaminathan's address urged the international community to incorporate both pre-service and ongoing training for oncology health professionals since strengthening education will increase awareness and the quality of health services for older people with cancer.

The address underlined that the WHO recognizes that health systems should care for the needs of the ageing population with cancer. This requires research and innovation to ensure that no one is left behind.

The WHO congratulated the organisers on this meeting, considering it a milestone in bringing together stakeholders to develop policy in addressing

the challenges ahead. She concluded that the WHO looks forward to the outcome of this work and continued dialogue to support the needs of older people with cancer.

The IFA-SIOG summit heard presentations from each of the WHO's six global regions, where recurring themes surfaced. One is that population ageing – and its healthcare implications – is not confined to Europe, North America, Japan and Australasia.

Dr. Ravi Mehrotra (CEO of the India Cancer Research Consortium) reported that life expectancy in India is now 67 years for men and higher for women. Dr. Reza Assadi (Mashhad University of Medical Sciences) said that Iran has one of the world's most rapidly ageing populations. Many of the 47 nations in the WHO Africa region face a double burden of communicable and non-communicable disease. Dr. Prebo Barango (of the WHO Intercountry Support Team) told the summit. But, even here, non-communicable diseases – cancers high among them – are now the main cause of death among those aged over sixty years.

A second theme, of course, is limited resources – a problem in all regions but clearly more pressing in some. Additionally, there was acceptance that older

people are more likely to be excluded from care when funding is scarce or facilities disrupted, as they are (as pointed out by Dr. Richard Sullivan of Guys' Hospital Cancer Centre, London, UK) in cases of conflict and mass migration.

Potential in early detection and prevention

On a more positive note, there was consensus that the problem of cancers presenting late in the course of disease – which features particularly in low and middle-income countries – could be addressed by challenging the belief that all tumours are incurable and by reinforcing the message that early diagnosis improves survival.

Presentation with advanced disease probably accounts for much of the difference between a five-year relative survival rate of 35% in Mongolia (a figure cited by Dr. Jigjidsuren Chimburen, of the National Cancer Centre) and 69% in Australia (cited by Dr. Christine Stiles, executive director of Cancer Australia).

A third common theme was the cost-effective nature of prevention. Dr. Erica Wheeler (representing the Pan American Health Organization and WHO), who spoke about Latin America and the Caribbean, estimated that reducing risk factors could cut the projected

2030 cancer toll of 2 million cases in her region by a third. Dr. Wheeler also pointed out that exchange of ideas is not necessarily expensive. There is no reason why the University of the West Indies departments of oncology and gerontology should not collaborate more closely.

A moral obligation

This was one example of the importance – recognised by all participants – of aligning provision of cancer care more closely with the needs of older people. Building a society for all ages is a moral obligation, and we are at a crossroads in that quest, said Dr. Najia Musolino, Chief Executive Officer of SIOG. Summing up, she said that this milestone meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva had contributed to the building of bridges of knowledge and skills. Now is the time to strengthen our capacity to improve the life expectancy and quality of life of all cancer patients, including older people. ■



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A UN Volunteer's experience at WHO Rwanda

ELISABETH WILSON, UN VOLUNTEER FOR WHO

Rwanda is one of the smallest countries in the African mainland. It is bordered by Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. No miracle was expected from that sensitive African country following the genocide against the Tutsi of 1994. After these tragic events, new leadership that the blueprint for society of a model Rwanda would focus on access to education and health for all. Rwanda is now in the pilot seat of Universal Health Coverage in Africa.

Another accomplishment, Rwanda has a 93% vaccination coverage rate. The fourth Population and Housing Census conducted in August 2012 showed that almost 70% of Rwandan population aged 15 years and above were literate.

Rwanda is the beacon of Universal Health Coverage in Africa

The African continent and specifically the WHO Regional Office for Africa (AFRO) located in Brazzaville Congo has a special meaning for my family. My father, a public health and sanitary engineer was amongst the WHO pioneers on the continent. In May 2018, for his 92nd birthday, I decided to honor his legacy and chose to depart as a UN Volunteer. I received an offer I could not decline: join the WHO office in Rwanda.

There is no way to put a one-and-a-half-year experience in 900 words. Working for WHO Rwanda as an international expert in communications was life changing. To begin, I paid my respects to the Rwandan people by visiting the Kigali Genocide Memorial. In this

intimidating place, they pay a dignifying and inspiring tribute to the victims of the genocide. But the Rwandese went above and beyond. The very same memorial also commemorates all genocide victims across history and time, including the Aboriginal peoples of the new world and the Americas.

I soon discovered that the UNVs had played a leading role in the response to the aftermath of 1994 and were dear to the heart of the Rwandans. More than 150 were deployed for resettlement and reintegration activities destined to protect the lives of two million returning refugees. UN Volunteers were also involved in the promotion of human rights in collaboration with the UNAMIR, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.

WHO tightly collaborated with the Ministry of Health.

However, for some Rwandans the UN Agencies and the UN logo are perceived as a symbol of the international community's failure to assist them when it could. Volunteers are captured differently. I was determined to uphold the UNV motto "We are an inspiration in action". Civil society, villagers, local businesses, the police and farmers always welcome us with confidence and trust.

I lived in the Kacyiru Sector, a friendly residential area behind the KN7 avenue. The road stretches from Kigali Heights commercial center all the way down to President Kagame's strictly guarded offices, Kigali Public Library, the Kacyiru hospital and the Rwanda National Police Head



I asked Commander Patience Mwiseneza. Maybe you can put a good word for me in my hierarchy, he answered. I contacted the Rwanda Police Spokesperson to praise Commander Mwiseneza. My message was shared throughout the police services. One day, Patience called me from South Sudan. He had become a UN Blue Helmet.

In my area, two family-run groceries were on my way back home. I had a preference for Seth and his wife Odette. At first, they took me for a privileged international UN staff. The moment they understood I was a UN Volunteer, my life changed radically. My five-year-old son became friends with theirs without and I had credit whenever needed without me asking anything. I had credit whenever needed; Odette rapidly became "auntie Odette"

Quarters. I had to report my presence to the District police. The young commander of my Sector received me with amenity. He personally came to assess the security of my apartment and instructed modifications to the landlord. I was impressed by his professionalism. What can I do to make a difference in your life, had

for my son as she waited for the school bus to greet him with a lollipop or a juice. Neighbor watch and solidarity mean a lot in Rwanda.

An on-going outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was declared three months after my arrival, on 1st August 2018. Uganda, South Sudan and Rwanda became priority one countries based on proximity, insecurity and high population across the border. I was attached to the WHO EVD team which collaborated hand in hand with the Rwanda Ministry of Health and partners. My realization of the greatness of this small African country came occurred when I visited the Rubavu Ebola Treatment Center of Gisenyi in the northern province.

The city overlooks the magnificent Kivu lake. It is Rwanda's biggest beach resort and border city. Gisenyi has two borders with Goma in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the "Petite Barrière" and the "Grande Barrière". The Rwandan government estimates that 80,000 people cross between Goma DRC and Gisenyi each day.

Walking on the shoreline I realized the accomplishments of this rising nation and the key role of WHO in action. So far, no Ebola cases have crossed the Rwandan borders. How is it possible? The stability of the government, their unique health model and the trust and sense of responsibility of the Rwandan citizens have allowed the country to remain Ebola free, a story that should inspire African as well as non-African nations. ■

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The Dag Hammarskjöld generation

I define myself as one of the children of the Hammarskjöld generation. I was born in Leopoldville, Belgian-Congo during the very political turmoil that claimed his life.



Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, facing the UN Secretariat, New York

© Elisabeth Wilson

ELISABETH WILSON, UN VOLUNTEER FOR WHO

The bond with WHO, the Scandinavians, and the Swedish Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld started during the African independencies. The political and humanitarian crisis that ravaged the wealthy Belgian-Congo led the 20-year-old United Nations and its dynamic Secretary-General to intervene.

“Welcome, Dag Hammarskjöld, to the most impossible job on this earth.” With these ominously prophetic words, Trygve Lie, the first Secretary-General of the United Nations, greeted his successor at Idlewild airport in New York on April 9, 1953.

In his function, Dag Hammarskjöld interacted with a wide range of people, from world leaders and top government officials to refugees and victims of war and disaster. He was there for voiceless men, women and children. Charisma is a feeble word to explain Hammarskjöld’s public impact. In some inexplicable way, he entered the imagination of ordinary people all over the world and contrived to convey a simplified but powerful image of what he was trying to do. He had a devastating quiet temper that he used for his unique style, the soft diplomacy. His honesty and integrity were absolute. He regarded his consuming job as UN Secretary-General as a priceless gift. He saw himself as the guardian of the flame of the United Nations Charter and apostle of the cause of international peace.

During the African independencies, Haiti was the only non-European independent country (1804) with African ancestry that had produced more educators, engineers, nurses, teachers and medical doctors than its own administration could absorb. Despite racial segregation, most of them graduated from American universities and were bilingual. Our father, Arnold Wilson, graduated in public health engineering and sanitation from Johns Hopkins university (Maryland). Hammarskjöld in his effort to create a new international elite and wisely intervene in the traumatized Belgian-Congo, saw the Haitians as an opportunity not to be missed. Created upon Dag Hammarskjöld’s demand, the WHO contingent of Haitian experts deployed in the Belgian Congo outnumbered the rest. My father was recruited for this very first WHO mission in Africa. Along with other fellow countrymen, they travelled from Haiti to the Congo in the same airplane. Two hundred years after being shipped to the new world as slaves and vile merchandise, Haitians were returning to Africa as free educated men, with suits, ties and PhDs to help their long-lost brothers.

Our father rarely talked about this historical trip back to Africa as he could not find the words to explain the vivid emotion they all felt when landing at Leopoldville’s airport. He once revealed to me that they all knelt and embraced in tears and absolute silence the tarmac of their motherland.

From a small Caribbean island that would soon turn into a ruthless dictatorship, to being part of the international community, Haitians knew that Hammarskjöld had forever changed their lives.

As free colored men, living in a prejudiced world, they were keenly aware that only the United Nations was able to provide equal chances to non-European professionals. For the first time, colored people stood side by side as equals with Europeans. Few do know that Hammarskjöld’s closest bodyguards were Haitians. Their loyalty was legendary. They would die without hesitation for him, and they did in the crash of his DC-6 airplane en route to Ndola, ex-Rhodesia.

Hammarskjöld often met with United Nations staff. He came to Belgian-Congo to visit the WHO special contingent and assess the gravity of the humanitarian crisis. This fourth trip was his last. The surviving Haitians of the Congo crisis were the last to have seen Dag Hammarskjöld alive – before he took his DC-6 airplane, en route to cease-fire negotiations, avoid the secession of Belgian-ruled Katanga province and stop foreign intervention in the Congo.

The Belgian-Congo, which was receiving Soviet aid, had the world’s richest uranium resources. Mining firms feared their concessions would be jeopardized if Katanga’s bid for independence was not recognized. The KGB, the CIA and MI6 were all active in



© Elisabeth Wilson

His name is Dag



Arnauld Wilson during a WHO reception in Belgian-Congo

the country as they sought to secure their countries' interests. Hammarskjöld's intervention would have also caused lucrative arms contracts to abort.

Shortly after his death, Belgian-Congo plunged into an unprecedented crisis. The WHO and UN personnel, family and children were evacuated to Geneva. Dag Hammarskjöld posthumously, saved our lives. The blue helmets, the UN moral force for peace, that he had recently created, were the ones who evacuated us to Switzerland. Without them we would have vanished from the surface of the earth.

It was also in Geneva that Hammarskjöld's body was identified by a UN delegation including the Director-General of the time. Mr. Roger Fontana, a family friend, was part of this delegation. I met him when he was President of the WHO association of former staff members. He told me about this least known dimension of Hammarskjöld's tragic destiny.

After the Belgian-Congo mission, our father was sent to the WHO Regional Office in Brazzaville (AFRO). I grew up in the Cité du Djoué, WHO residential area and headquarters, where I returned as a UN Volunteer for WHO Rwanda. My house was facing the WHO building. From the rooftop of our house I could observe the magnificent WHO flag floating above the diplomatic entrance. I never forgot the sorrow and feeling of devastation of the WHO/AFRO Haitian family when discussing Hammarskjöld's tragic and suspicious death. I sometimes

saw my parents sob when talking about him, as if they had lost a family member. Indeed, Dag Hammarskjöld was one of us. Our sadness about his mysterious death, and our admiration for his achievements and vision are infinite. It is after him that I named my only son Dag.

In 1996, I was recruited by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat in New-York. I walked with emotion on the footsteps of Dag Hammarskjöld, took the corridors he took, walked in the gardens that inspired him, visited the place of meditation he created for busy diplomats, entered the Security Council Chamber and General Assembly room where he took an oath as the second Secretary-General of the United Nations and defended the smaller nations. When Nikita Khrushchev unceremoniously claimed his resignation, Dag Hammarskjöld answered: "It is not the Soviet Union or indeed any other Big Powers which need the United Nations for their protection. It is all the others (...). I shall remain in my post during the term of office as a servant of the Organization in the interest of all those other nations as long as they wish me to do so".

During his tenure as Secretary-General of the United Nations between 1953 and 1961, Dag Hammarskjöld was dubbed as more General than Secretary due to his hands-on leadership style. His stringent intellectual discipline enabled him to think through problems in advance, Hammarskjöld was usually several steps

ahead of the people he was dealing with. In negotiations he was particularly skillful at breaking an impasse between leaders bogged down in conflict. He also had a phenomenal memory. One of his hobbies was to translate difficult authors— St. John Pierce, Djuna Barnes, Martin Buber — from English, French or German into Swedish. This extremely intelligent man was also extremely shy. Nonetheless, he understood the power of communication and communicating with the world. The first press conferences and dialogue with the media, concerts and UN cultural events were launched by him. He gave a soul to the UN Secretariat. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to him posthumously "in gratitude for all he did, for what he achieved, for what he fought for: to create peace and goodwill among nations and men". The United Nations General Assembly always starts on September, which is the month that his remains arrived in New York.

In 2001, speaking in Hammarskjöld's hometown, Uppsala, the seventh Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, simply said. "There can be no better rule of thumb for a Secretary-General, as he approaches each new challenge or crisis, than to ask himself, 'How would Hammarskjöld have handled this?'" ■



© Christine Mckenby/WHO

Happy international year of the nurse and the midwife!

WHO invites you to join in celebrating the world's 22 million nurses and two million midwives who together make up half of the global health workforce.

SONALI REDDY - COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, WHO

They provide vital health care services in every country and have been doing so for centuries. Midwifery is one of the world's earliest professions; and this year, 2020, we mark the bicentenary of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

Nurses and midwives are the cornerstone of strong, resilient health systems. They are often, the first and only point of care in their communities. They prescribe life-saving drugs, administer vaccines, provide family planning advice, and assure expert care during childbirth. Without them, millions of mothers and children have no one to diagnose illnesses, dispense treatment, or assist at births. In many areas, there simply aren't enough nurses and midwives to do all this work effectively. Even where they are present, many lack the training, equipment and medical supplies to deliver the basic health services we all need to live healthy lives.

2020 is the year to change this

Recognizing the critical contribution both professions make to global health, the World Health Assembly has declared 2020 as the *International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife*.

We are just ten years away from the Sustainable Development Goals deadline. If the world is to meet its target of providing "Health for All", national governments must scale up investments in nurses, midwives and all our health professionals.

Throughout 2020, WHO and partners¹ want to draw attention to the greater role that nurses, and midwives can play as part of multi-disciplinary health care teams, providing high quality, patient-centred health care. It is also an opportunity to advocate for gender equality in the health sector. This includes addressing discrimination toward nurses and midwives, which inhibits access to decent conditions of work, their career progression and access to

leadership positions. It is an opportunity to show, particularly the youth, that nursing and midwifery are exciting career options to aspire towards. WHO and partners are supporting governments to ensure that nurses and midwives get the education, training, jobs, opportunities, dignity and the respect they deserve.

In April, WHO will launch the State of the World's Nursing Report 2020. The groundbreaking report, will inform policy dialogue and policy change in countries. It will present state-of-the-art evidence and data, making the case for increased investment in training, regulation and jobs creation for the nursing workforce. It will be followed in 2021 with a parallel report on midwives.

By developing and strengthening nursing and midwifery workforces, countries can improve their chance of ensuring everyone can obtain the health care they need – rapidly, cost-effectively and to a high standard of quality. Further, investing in health worker jobs not only expands access to health care, but also promotes economic development and gender equality through the creation of employment opportunities, as particularly relevant for women and girls.

The year-long global focus on nurses and midwives is a unique opportunity to get involved and demonstrate broad public and political support for more and better supported health workers. WHO invites individuals and organizations to use the campaign materials below to help raise awareness.

As a result of united advocacy efforts, our goal is for governments and health leaders to prioritise nursing and midwifery through policy change and commitments.

Let's give our nurses and midwives the support they deserve! ■

1 UNFPA, Nursing Now, International Council of Nurses, International Confederation of Midwives

For more information on the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife, visit <https://www.who.int/campaigns/year-of-the-nurse-and-the-midwife-2020>

An invitation from the WIPO Ethics Office

Ethics & new technology: the case for responsible innovation

A WIPO public lecture on ethics by Professor Jeroen van den Hoven
Thursday 27 February 2020, 10.30 a.m. – 12.00 a.m.
Languages: English/French (simultaneous interpretation)
WIPO, 34 Chemin des Colombettes, 1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Ethics as a driver of innovation? New technological developments in areas like big data, robotics, block chain and artificial intelligence (AI), create opportunities, and also raise ethical challenges. Ethics, especially as it was traditionally practiced, could easily be mistaken for an impediment to innovation, and as putting a brake on certain directions of technological process. When our most deeply held values such as privacy, transparency, safety, security, trust, autonomy and well-being are at stake, ingenious new solutions are most needed.

On Thursday 27 February 2020, renowned Dutch Professor Jeroen van den Hoven will share his views how pro-actively addressing moral dilemmas early on can provide long-term benefits for companies, citizens and society at large.

The lecture is open to all: Members of the diplomatic community, staff of the United Nations and Specialized Agencies, NGO's with consultative status to WIPO and the UN, the academic community, interested citizens.

Attendance is free of charge, registration is required
To register please send an e-mail to publiclecture@wipo.int
Please note that seats will be allotted on a first come, first served basis.

About Professor Jeroen van den Hoven

Jeroen van den Hoven is university professor and full professor of Ethics and Technology at the Delft University of Technology and scientific director of the Delft Design for Values Institute. He is the founding and former scientific director of 4TU Centre for Ethics and Technology (2007-2013) and the founder, and until 2016, Programme Chair, of the program of the Dutch Research Council on Responsible Innovation. He serves as a permanent member of the European Group on Ethics (EGE) of the European Commission.

Awards, honors and distinctions: In 2009, he won the World Technology Award for Ethics as well as the IFIP prize for ICT and Society for his work on Ethics and ICT. In 2017 he was knighted in the Order of the Lion of The Netherlands.

Professor van den Hoven has published extensively. Recent publications are *Designing in Ethics* (Van den Hoven, Miller & Pogge eds., Cambridge University Press, 2017) and *Evil Online* (Cocking & Van den Hoven, Blackwell, 2018). He is also editor in chief of the periodical *Ethics and Information Technology*.

For a recent interview with Professor van den Hoven by Ms. Sarah Jordan, Deputy Editor of UN Special, see: <https://www.unspecial.org/2019/12/world-intellectual-property-organization-wipo-public-lecture-on-ethics/>



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Global health bright spots 2019

Despite serious challenges, there's been plenty of good global health news in 2019. These are just a few of the brightest spots.

FARAH DAKHLALLAH AND MATTHEW TAYLOR, WHO

Ensuring health for all

World leaders from 193 countries adopted the broadest-ever set of health commitments globally. The political declaration on universal health coverage aims to ensure that everyone, everywhere can access quality healthcare, and that no one is pushed into poverty by health costs.

With WHO support Greece, India, Kenya and the Philippines took decisive steps towards expanding health coverage in 2019.

Egypt is defying worrying global trends relating to Hepatitis C — with 57 million people screened

and one million treated between October 2018 and April 2019.

More women and children are surviving childbirth than ever before thanks to improved access to affordable, quality health services.

Diabetics in low and middle-income countries will soon have better and more affordable access to treatment thanks to the launch of a WHO pilot programme to prequalify insulin.

WHO has also prequalified its first biosimilar medicine to increase worldwide access to life-saving breast cancer treatment.

The fight against polio has achieved a major milestone for



WHO/S. Torfinn

humanity with the eradication of the second of three strains of wild poliovirus worldwide.

Although malaria still kills over 400,000 people each year, pregnant women and children in sub-Saharan Africa are better protected, Algeria and Argentina are officially declared malaria-free, and the world's first malaria vaccine has been piloted in Ghana, Kenya and Malawi.

The Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the WHO have launched a dedicated funding vehicle to accelerate global action against Antimicrobial Resistance, the AMR Multi-Partner Trust Fund.

By 2023, WHO aims to ensure that one billion more people benefit from universal health coverage.

Protecting from emergencies

In 2019, substantial gains were made in responding to the world's second largest Ebola epidemic on record in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The spread of Ebola has slowed within DRC, and the virus has not taken root in neighbouring countries. WHO prequalified an Ebola vaccine in record time, and landmark advances were made in care and treatment.

WHO also supported vaccination campaigns for children across the country as DRC battled the world's most severe measles outbreak.

WHO investigated 440 events and responded to 51 emergencies in 40 countries and territories in 2019 — including the Rohingya crisis, cyclone Idai in Mozambique, and conflict and disease outbreaks in Yemen, Syria, Nigeria and South Sudan. We also responded to floods in Iran and an earthquake in Albania, as well as supported Sudan in responding to six different outbreaks, including yellow fever.

New insect birth control techniques are offering opportunities to control mosquito-borne diseases such as Chikungunya, Dengue and Zika.

By 2023, WHO aims to ensure that one billion more people are better protected from health emergencies.

Enabling healthier populations

We are witnessing a powerful shift in the global tobacco epidemic, as the number of males using tobacco begins to decline worldwide for the first time. WHO projects that there will be five million fewer male tobacco users globally by 2025.

The international food and beverage industry has committed to align with the WHO target to eliminate industrially produced trans fat from the global food supply by 2023.

The UN Climate Conference COP25 marked five key actions to tackle the health risks of climate change. This included the launch of the Clean Air Fund and more than 50 countries and 80 cities signing up to WHO's Air Quality Guidelines through the Clean Air Initiative.

Healthcare providers and policymakers can now refer to new WHO guidelines on adopting a

healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of dementia.

WHO is working to ensure that one billion more people are enjoying better health and well-being by 2023.

A fit-for-purpose WHO

In 2019, WHO announced the most wide-ranging reforms in the Organization's history. Our goal is clear: a modern WHO that works seamlessly to make a measurable impact for people's health.

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the wider United Nations reform agenda, the 13th General Programme of Work (2019–2023) guides our work over the next five years to promote health, keep the world safe and serve the vulnerable. ■

Organisations agiles



Quelle est la structure la plus efficace pour coaguler une idée et permettre sa réalisation par la suite?

JEAN-LUC LA PLANETA, UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY OF WRITERS

De nombreuses structures fonctionnent sur un principe pyramidal: un chef à la tête puis des couches de commandement jusqu'aux plus humbles niveaux d'exécutions.

Ce modèle présente des avantages certains mais il est aussi très souvent lent, bureaucratique, déshumanisant et démotivant sur le long terme. De plus les responsabilités se diluent avec le nombre de niveaux, ce qui crée des prises de décisions parfois nuisibles à l'ensemble au profit de minorités. Enfin si le sommet est décapité, tout le reste risque un effondrement fatal.

Nous pouvons généralement faire l'une de ces deux expériences dans la plupart des sociétés aujourd'hui:

- Les besoins de l'individu sont niés au profit du collectif
- Les besoins du collectif sont niés au profit de l'individu

Et s'il y avait une troisième voie? Un chemin où le collectif nourrit

l'individu et inversement de façon juste et équilibrée. Une symbiose plutôt que des formes d'exploitations ou de parasitages. Un système organique offrant une grande solidité, de la souplesse et de la résilience. Favorisant aussi bien les intentions du collectif que de l'ensemble de son écosystème: individu, noyau familial, environnement.

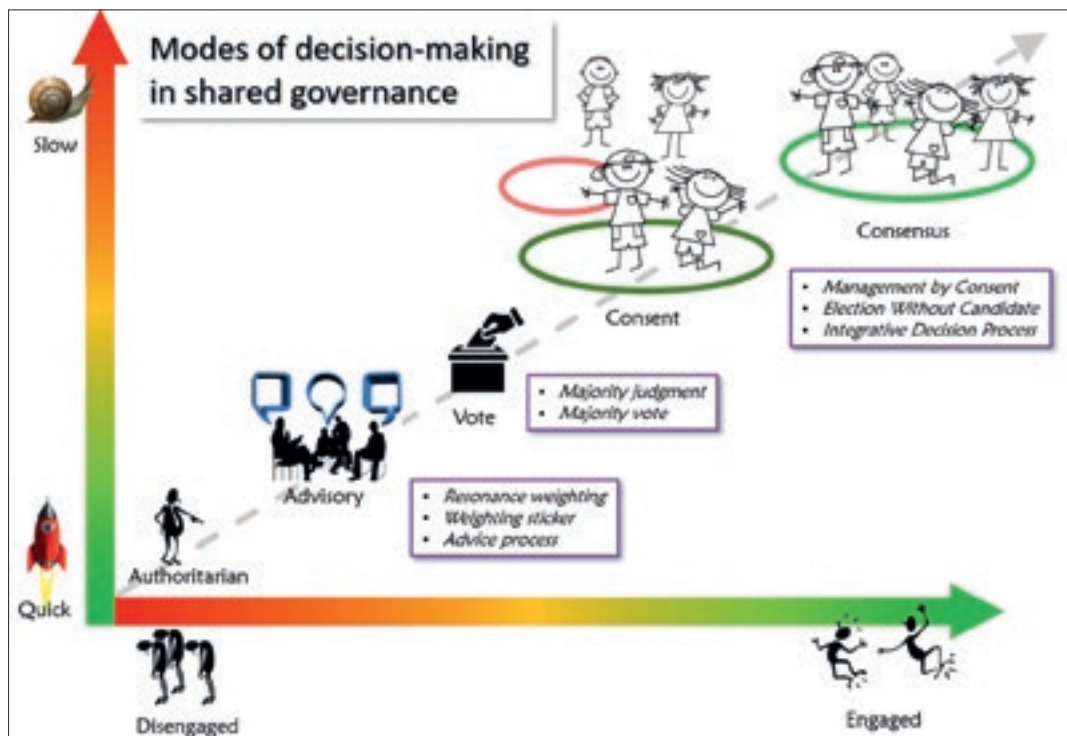
Parmi ces modèles qui tendent vers une durabilité saine et motivante on trouve les concepts de gouvernance partagée et organisation agile. Basée sur l'entraide, l'ouverture, la transparence et la considération des émotions comme des moteurs puissants de résolution et de créativité. On parle alors, dans l'ordre d'apparition historique, de Sociocratie (Gerard

«Dans tout projet collectif il y a un rêve original».

Endenburg, 1970), Holocratie (Brian Robertson, 2008), Organisation Opale (Frédéric Laloux, 2015), Modèle Z (Instant Z, 2016) pour ne citer qu'eux.

Décider au plus près du terrain
En raccourcissant les circuits de prises de décisions, plus besoin d'attendre l'approbation de toute la hiérarchie pour agir. Les personnes en charge sont légitimées par une cellule locale et fonctionnent ainsi au plus près du terrain. Leurs représentants bénéficient alors d'un très bon leadership car élus sur des compétences reconnues.

On favorise le consentement (personne n'est contre) ou le consensus (tout le monde est d'accord) pour prendre les décisions importantes. Bien sûr, dans certains cas, il est nécessaire de prendre une décision rapide mais avec le risque de ne pas avoir une adhésion



massive. A contrario une décision par consensus peut s'enliser si les objections sont trop nombreuses à traiter. Tout est alors question de bon sens et de gestion du temps. Voir l'illustration jointe montrant différents outils selon leur degré d'engagement et vitesse d'application.

Transparence et vérité

Un autre élément fondateur est la transparence. Pour que toutes les informations soient accessibles à tous, qu'il s'agisse des budgets, des difficultés, des réussites ou des actions en cours, des outils de suivi régulièrement à jour seront mis à disposition.

L'accès à l'information est d'une importance stratégique pour soutenir l'émergence de l'Intelligence Collective.

Quotient émotionnel

Cette approche positive de la résolution de tensions s'appuie notamment sur le Processus de Décision Intégratif (PDI),

la communication non violente de Marshall Rosenberg (CNV) ou les processus dits de «cercles restauratifs» initiés par Dominic Barter dans les favelas de Rio de Janeiro dans les années 1990. La prise en compte des émotions et sentiments deviennent des leviers puissants pour traiter toutes les objections qui pourraient ralentir ou bloquer les processus.

Finies les «réunionites»

Pour éviter de perdre du temps, les réunions sont spécifiques selon l'objectif du moment: opérationnelles, structurelles, de régulation, de stratégie, de sens... Chacune traite un aspect de façon ciblée avec un facilitateur qui utilise des outils spécifiques. Par exemple, pour définir les objectifs prioritaires sur les six prochains mois, une réunion stratégique peut s'appuyer sur un «jugement majoritaire», un mode de scrutin mis au point par deux chercheurs du Centre National de la Recherche

Scientifique (CNRS), Michel Balinski et Rida Laraki. La réunion de triage quant à elle permettra de partager ou collecter de l'information, définir et attribuer des actions sur un temps donné. Des outils comme «les six chapeaux de Bono» aideront à booster une réunion de créativité pour sortir d'une impasse.

Qui fait quoi

Les rôles sont clairement définis au sein de cercles fonctionnels eux mêmes connectés aux autres selon des règles faciles à comprendre. Les rôles sont bien distincts de l'individu et contiennent les missions, des indicateurs, des éléments de redevabilité, des check-lists, et le domaine de souveraineté, c'est-à-dire qu'est-ce qui est sous sa responsabilité exclusive pour éviter autant que possible les phénomènes d'ingérences ou de micromanagement.

Il est possible aujourd'hui de concilier performance et

harmonie personnelle, compétitivité et respect de l'humain. Commençons par apprivoiser les outils de gouvernance à l'échelle d'un service ou d'une association. Leur efficacité naturelle portera ses fruits jusqu'au plus haut niveau de la société car chacun rêve de pouvoir assurer sa subsistance dans un cadre épanouissant. ■

Conférence «Reinventig Organisations» de Frédéric LALOUX: version française: <https://youtu.be/NZKqPoQiaDE>

English version: <https://youtu.be/gcS04BI2sbk>

Modalité d'une «Election sans candidat»: http://www.sociocratie.net/Theorie/Presentation_Election.php

Faites l'expérience du jugement majoritaire en ligne: <https://lechoixcommun.fr/>

Happy anniversary!



The very first edition of *Ex Tempore* – typed on A4 paper in a plastic Migros folder!



Alfred de Zayas presenting volume 30 of the journal *Ex Tempore*.

30th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Society of Writers (UNSW) and presentation of its annual journal, Ex Tempore.

SARAH JORDAN, UNITED NATIONS SOCIETY OF WRITERS

It was with great pleasure that I attended the annual UNSW literary evening on January 24. The freezing fog that had persisted the whole of a somewhat miserable Friday vanished as I crossed the threshold into the warm and welcoming home of Editor-in-chief and Co-founder Alfred de Zayas and his wife, Carla Edelenbos, Vice-President of UNSW. From then on, till I left some three or four hours later, I enjoyed United Nations moments as they can and, indeed, should, be: courteous, convivial and conscious of the world around us.

The only cloud over the proceedings was the announcement of the passing of long-time Society member, Claude Citon, former Editor-in-chief of *UN Special*, who was an active member of UNSW and present at its first literary evening 30 years ago... and at almost all of those held annually since. As Alfred de Zayas said in his welcoming words though, Claude would not have wanted us be sad, but to rejoice in his life and particularly on this occasion. In homage to him, Society member and published author, United Nations retiree Marie-José Astre read a text he had penned in 2012, a text that was uncannily prophetic of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), only launched in 2015.

The evening continued with readings in English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese... undeniably multicultural, but also multi-genre, with authors reading extracts from essays, novels, thrillers, poems and even a short theatre piece. Some of the readings were taken from the Society's annual journal, *Ex Tempore*, but others were brand new – a taste of texts that may go on to be published in volume 31 in December 2020.

As the United Nations celebrates its 75 years, the Society takes inspiration from it and, keen to guarantee its own perennity, welcomes new members who love literature and/or writing, seeking an outlet for their imagination and creativity. The annual membership fee is just Sfr 40. ■

For further details: www.extempore.ch



© Ex Tempore

Marie-José Astre pays homage to Claude Citon as she reads his text from *Ex Tempore* volume 24.



© Ex Tempore

A good time was had by all!

Existential Rhyme



ALFRED DE ZAYAS

Why have friends so young departed,
leaving hopes and projects that they started,
symphonies begun and then undone?
Why this absence of *Eleison*?

How is it that I have so long survived?
By grace – not virtue – have I thrived.
How many lives await me? Nine like cats?
Serene adventures in exotic habitats?

To think I could have died so long ago,
so many close calls, touch and go.
I could have gone, my worries would have ended,
works, objectives, vanities left unattended...

I could have died a child, an adolescent,
young adult, mature professional – and now senescent...
Embolisms, dual pneumonias, road collisions,
any could have sealed my missions and ambitions...

Much that was would not have been,
inspiring concerts heard, impressive rainbows seen,
few heartaches suffered, prizes won or lost,
the summits climbed and rivers crossed.

Existence after trauma is indeed rebirth,
a second chance to kiss the native earth,
to take perspective from what lies behind,
revise priorities to foster what is good and kind.

Now I perceive familiar things as truly awesome:
Pine cones, apple trees, a cherry blossom...
Simple things so wondrously complex: a leaf,
a blade of grass, hibiscus petals quite beyond belief.

I live in gratitude for all these bonus years,
reborn each morning, savouring the joys and tears
with optimism, cultivating friendship, settling strife,
so keenly conscious of this daily gift of life.

Beholden for the bounties of extended time,
I sing the sights, the sounds, the smells in existential rhyme,
devoting time for building bridges, climbing mountain crests,
still laughing at my new infatuations, whims and quests...

I revel in the funny details of each day and night,
seize *carpe diem*, *carpe noctem* with delight.
I know no *taedium vitae* – so much to discover still,
each day a new epiphany – by Heaven's will.





© WHO/KOSTENKO Kateryna

WHO Art Gallery

Art for the staff's sake!

In October 2019, the WHO Art Gallery opened its doors to visitors – hanging works from anyone connected with the organization in any way and at any level of artistic ability.

KEVIN CRAMPTON

Organizer Kevin Crampton, a self-confessed nerd from the IT department, describes the background to the initiative and the over-riding philosophy of keeping the whole thing enjoyable, whimsical and above all fun.

So, maybe you have had the opportunity to get yourself along to the WHO library already and maybe you haven't. Don't worry, I won't judge – modern life is busy and full of unreasonable demands (did I buy enough aubergine this week to make that quiche, is the car making those odd noises again, did I leave the iron on this morning?) Amid the chaos of everyday existence, I do encourage you to drop in for the soothing balm of artwork and maybe you'll enjoy it a little more if you hear about how it came into existence.

The gallery is a little community-led initiative, dreamed

up over caffeinated beverages in the WHO Ritazza coffee bar, when a group of friends remarked just how much artistic talent lay undiscovered and unknown around the house and how it'd be great to create a place where that could be brought together and celebrated in the spirit of getting to know our colleagues better. I guess we were just very nosy about what our workmates do in their spare time. Fast forward a few weeks from that fateful session and yours truly seemed to have picked up the job of running the whole show kit and kaboodle, with a trusted team of motivated chums and only my rudimentary skills in project management to guide me (that and a steady supply of coffee and chocolate). Truth is that I am a lousy project manager (just ask my boss) but my curiosity outweighed my incompetence in this instance and I really wanted to make this happen.



© WHO/KOSTENKO Kateryna



© WHO/KOSTENKO Kateryna

Our first ground rule was that we didn't want to constrain the sorts of work we might receive by linking the gallery to a public health theme; we wanted to attract as many different people as possible at all different levels of artistic accomplishment. The spirit of the gallery was to bring some talent together and uncover a new side to the individuals that sit beside us or pass us in the corridor each day.

The gallery was therefore aligned with one of the principles of WHO's Value Charter – that of, 'people caring about people'. We usually understand this (rightly so) in terms of our public health mission but we also chose to understand it in terms of caring for, supporting and encouraging one another in our workplace. In short, the gallery was to be about the people behind the works, their stories and motivation as much as about the works themselves. I was ready to hang a

confusing scrawl of crayon on the wall if it told me something new about someone I interact with every day!

The gallery launched with much fanfare and canapés and fizzy wine, with performances from the UN Choir in Geneva, from the wonderfully-talented singer Chiara and with a video message from WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros. One part of the Director-General's message really chimed with me – he said that we should always approach and understand one another as "whole people" – people who try to make sense of their world through the science and numbers that form our everyday work but also through artistic expression, the power of appealing to our emotions.

I'm getting a bit tangled, aren't I? I'm an even worse writer than a project manager; all I mean is that we wanted, with this gallery, to stay true to

that original coffee-inspired moment of creating a place where we could appreciate one another a bit more fully, a feel-good space to celebrate our people and all they achieve.

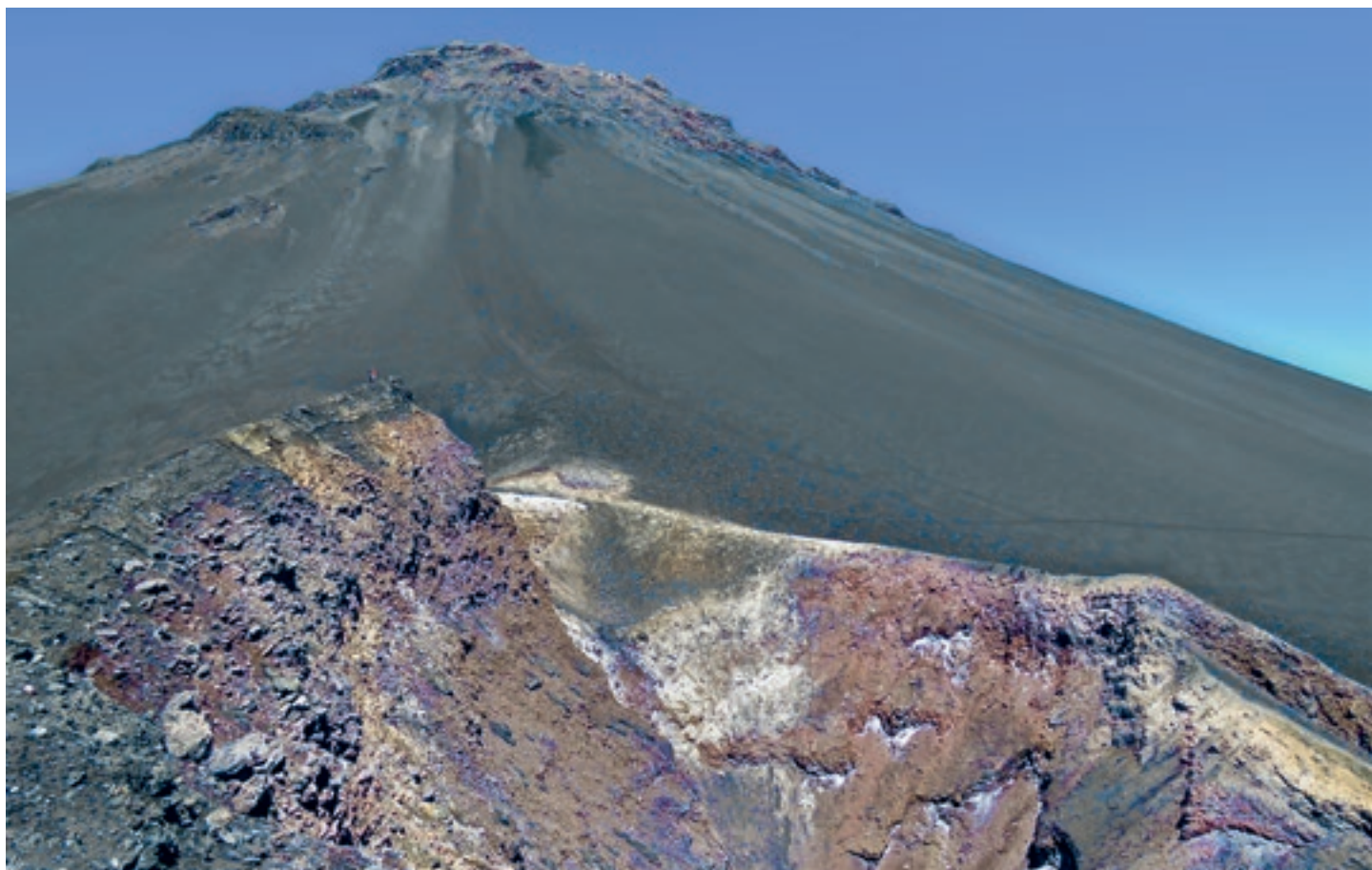
I am immensely proud and honoured to work at the WHO; there's only one world and we're the health organization for that world – it's a real privilege to work at such an internationally-recognised place with such life-affirming goals and it attracts, naturally, some pretty special people. This gallery then is about them, the artists are our stars and it was the proof that all our hard work had paid off to see so many smiles as people toured the exhibition with cries of:

"Well, I never knew she painted!" or, "I had no idea he was that talented." or, "Did Kevin really submit that crayon sketch? It's an... interesting... 'work'".

The gallery was created to make those moments happen. It's a little snapshot of the work that was generously loaned to us to capture a side to our people that we rarely see.

I hope you will make time to visit (and I hope you did buy enough aubergine and didn't leave the iron on) and when you do, I hope you discover your own little moments of unexpected, pleasurable revelation and see the people behind the works, the committed men and women of the World Health Organization visually telling us their stories and making sense of their world. ■

The WHO Art Gallery is hung in the WHO library and will remain on exhibition until June 2020. If Kevin gets his act together, there will be a fresh selection of works around March of next year.



Constellé de roches ocres, rouges et jaunes, le cratère du Petit Pico a vomi sa lave durant l'hiver 2014-2015.

© Claude Maillard

Cap-Vert 4/4

Le Pico do Fogo

Il a donné son nom à l'île sur laquelle il se trouvait. D'abord, elle s'est appelée São Filipe, mais avec la fureur de son volcan, on lui a préféré le nom de Fogo («feu») après l'éruption de 1785. On a cependant conservé São Filipe comme dénomination pour sa capitale.

CLAUDE MAILLARD

On ne voit que lui en atterrissant à Fogo, petite île de 25 km de diamètre dans le sud du Cap-Vert (voir le numéro d'*UN Special* de décembre-janvier 2019). Aux allures d'un gigantesque terril, le Pico est le dernier volcan actif du pays. Ses pentes tapissées de basalte témoignent de ses réveils: 28 en 500 ans. La dernière éruption qui remonte à 2014 a anéanti deux villages où vivaient 1700 habitants.

La noirceur de la région volcanique contraste avec les maisons colorées de São Filipe. Le Pico, symbole de l'île, est le point culminant de tout l'archipel. Aux alentours, le climat y est particulièrement chaud pendant toute l'année;

seules les soirées y sont plus fraîches. Au fur et à mesure que l'on monte en altitude, le terrain contient de plus en plus de roches noires, conséquence d'une intense activité volcanique. Le Pico do Fogo semble avoir beaucoup influencé le caractère des gens de l'île qui ont la réputation d'être aussi orgueilleux que lui et dotés d'une forte personnalité. Ses colères et ses grondements sont compris et acceptés de la population, qui le respecte beaucoup. Le volcan est une divinité positive pour la fertilité qu'il apporte. Tout pousse sur la lave! Raisins et café (classé au 3^e rang des meilleurs cafés du monde) sont cultivés au pied du volcan dont la partie nord est recouverte de verdure. La principale activité économique



© Claude Maillard

L'éruption qui a débuté le 23 novembre 2014 a quasiment rayé de la carte les villages de Portela et de Bangaeira.

locale est l'agriculture. Sans irrigation, mais grâce aux nuages retenus sur les hauteurs et qui délivrent une pluie salvatrice, on cultive des légumes, des noix de cajou, du tamarin, des pommes, des grenades, des cacahuètes... L'élevage de chèvres, d'ânes et de vaches est même possible.

Mais en raison de la menace qu'il représente, le Pico est à la fois néfaste et représente également un réel danger pour la population qui vit à ses pieds.

Le cri du volcan

De São Filipe où nous avons passé la nuit, la route serpente à flanc de coteau au milieu des cultures. Après avoir traversé les villages de Monte Larga, Achada Furna puis Cabeça do Fundao, notre guide Cesar (Allibert trekking*) nous prévient: «attention, vous allez atterrir sur une autre planète». Effectivement, au détour d'un virage, nous nous retrouvons

projetés sur Mars! Au milieu d'un désert formé de coulées de lave se dresse le majestueux Pico. Pas un arbre, seulement de la roche volcanique à perte de vue. Le spectacle est grandiose, l'extase est totale. L'endroit est calme, il règne un silence impressionnant, tout semble serein. Pourtant, le «monstre», qui n'est en sommeil que depuis 4 ans, est bien sous pression et il est prêt à se remettre en colère.

La route s'arrête là, submergée sous la lave qui atteint par endroit 30 mètres de hauteur. C'est à pied que nous allons poursuivre notre chemin et évoluer dès à présent et les jours suivants dans cet univers minéral. Paradis pour géologues et vulcanologues, il peut également s'identifier à un enfer sur lequel règne Vulcain, le dieu romain du feu et des volcans.

De la dizaine d'îles qui forment le Cap-Vert, seule Fogo a été le

siège d'éruptions depuis la fin du XV^e siècle. L'île est composée d'un unique et imposant volcan dont la base repose à 3 km de fond. L'édifice est dissymétrique avec un sommet décalé vers l'Est, de sorte que la moitié orientale est la plus pentue. Une caldera d'effondrement de 8 km de diamètre, nommée Cha, entoure la zone centrale où se dresse un énorme cône, le Pico Novo, pourvu d'un cratère large de 500 m et profond de 180 m. La caldera canalise les coulées de lave sur le versant Est où se trouvent de nombreux cônes de scories. De nombreuses éruptions sont mentionnées depuis 1500, celle de 1785 ayant été importante puisque l'île de Maio, distante de 150 km, a été recouverte par 23 cm de cendres. En 1951, une coulée a parcouru 6 km avant de se jeter dans la mer, tandis qu'une autre localisée dans le nord a menacé le village de Cha das Caldeiras. En avril-mai 1995,

par une fissure ouverte au pied sud-ouest du Pico, s'est épanchée une coulée de lave basaltique très fluide qui a buté sur la paroi ouest de la caldera puis a changé de direction, détruisant le hameau de Bangaeira. De fortes explosions stromboliennes ont construit un nouveau cône à l'extrémité supérieure de la fissure.

Et donc en 2014, au soir du 23 novembre, peu après 20 heures, le Pico do Fogo entre en éruption et des coulées de lave s'écoulent dans la caldera de Cha das Caldeiras. C'est l'une des plus importantes éruptions dans l'histoire de Fogo. Les villages de Portela et de Bangaeira ont quasiment été rayés de la carte; il ne reste que quelques maisons. Dans sa course dévastatrice, la lave a englouti routes, églises, écoles, coopérative vinicole (alors que les cuves étaient pleines à craquer de jus de raisin), restaurants, bars, et n'a laissé aucune



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C'est tout schuss, dans une épaisse couche de cendres et de scories, que se fera la descente du Pico de Fogo.



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Pour atteindre le sommet du Pico do Fogo qui culmine à 2829 m, le dénivelé est impressionnant.

chance aux bâtiments. Même les bureaux du Parc naturel inaugurés 6 mois plus tôt ont été entièrement détruits.

La totalité des habitants a été évacuée et heureusement il n'y a eu ni mort, ni blessé. Mais c'est toute l'économie locale qui a été emportée. Aujourd'hui, petit à petit, en réels guerriers, 400 habitants sont revenus et reconstruisent, mais le gouvernement ne semble pas décidé à les aider, bien au contraire. C'est ainsi que Marisa, à force de persévérance et de ténacité, en dépit des nombreux soucis administratifs, a rebâti son hôtel «Casamarisa» détruit en 2014. Native de Cha das Caldeiras elle ne pouvait pas s'imaginer aller vivre ailleurs...

A l'assaut du «monstre»

La nuit a été bonne chez Marisa qui nous a accueillis très

chaleureusement, avec sourire et bienveillance, dans son nouvel établissement. Disposé autour d'un beau jardin, ce petit havre de paix est magnifique et malgré les conditions, les chambres sont très confortables (avec vue sur le volcan!) et le restaurant, spacieux, saura combler le randonneur le plus exigeant. Comme l'hôtel est construit sur une couche de lave de 16 mètres d'épaisseur à peine refroidie, on sent bien la chaleur remonter par le sol. Le lieu est idéal comme point de départ des randonnées et de l'ascension du Pico.

La veille, après une petite halte chez Micoli et Mauricio (qui ont tout perdu lors de la dernière éruption et qui ont monté un bistrot dans lequel ils proposent d'excellentes spécialités locales), nous avons fait l'ascension jusqu'au sommet du

Petit Pico. Cendres et scories résultant de l'explosion de 2014 tapissent le sol et une forte odeur de soufre se fait sentir. Eventré de tous les côtés, le cratère noirci constellé de roches ocre, rouges et jaunes est impressionnant. A ses pieds, la lave toute fraîche recouvre une grande partie de la plaine.

Plus dure sera l'escalade du Pico do Fogo qui culmine à 2829 m. Après une marche d'approche de 2 km et assistés par Mario, un guide qui vit à Cha das Caldeiras, nous pourrons attaquer la montée. Le dénivelé est effrayant et dans la cendre, la progression est pénible. A l'approche du sommet, au milieu de rochers et d'éboulis, le sentier deviendra piégeux et tout faux pas sera proscrit, sous peine de chutes qui pourraient virer au drame. Le souffle devient court

et finalement, après 4 heures d'ascension, le cratère dont la dernière éruption remonte à 1951 est en vue. Importunés par de fortes rafales de vent qui pourraient nous faire perdre l'équilibre, nous devons écourter la pause au sommet. Et c'est tout schuss, dans l'épaisse couche de cendres et de scories, que nous dévalerons la pente pour rejoindre la caldera. Nous pourrons ainsi profiter de la soirée pour récupérer de notre éprouvante mais extraordinaire journée... et séjour dans ce merveilleux archipel du Cap-Vert. ■

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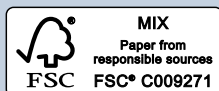
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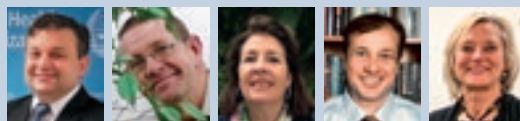
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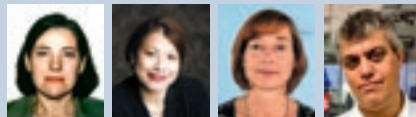
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