

Building a world community

mondial

US Edition

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Citizens for Global Solutions

Accountability and justice for the Rohingya

Kate MacSweeney is a Legal/Advocacy Intern with the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.



by Kate MacSweeney

On 11 November 2019, The Gambia formally submitted its case at the International Court of Justice against the government of Myanmar for failing in its obligation to prevent and punish the perpetration of the crime of genocide against the Rohingya people.

The Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority group from Rakhine State in Myanmar, have been the target of indiscriminate killings, rape and sexual

(1) International Court of Justice

As relied upon in the Gambia's application to the ICJ, the facts of the crimes have been extensively documented by independent investigations conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and corroborated by international human rights organizations and other credible sources. These have included reports and statements by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the UN Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, the UN Human Rights Council's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, UNOSAT, as well as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and many other civil society organizations. The accumulation of these sources of information and evidence helps make international judicial remedies more feasible.

Filing the case on behalf of the 57-members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), The Gambia is asking the Court to order measures against Myanmar to cease all ongoing internationally accepted wrongful acts, ensure that persons responsible for the abuses are tried and punished, provide reparations to the victims, guarantee safe and voluntary repatriation, and to provide assurance and guarantees of non-repetition. The ICJ held public hearings on the matter from 10 to 12 December 2019, at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

(2) Argentina's universal jurisdiction

On 14 November 2019, some Latin American human rights groups instituted proceedings in Argentinian tribunals under the principle of universal jurisdiction. This marks the first time since the beginning of the genocide that a case has been made directly against Nobel Laureate Aung Suu Kyi, as well as several other top Myanmar officials. However, the current prospect of Suu Kyi either visiting or being extradited to Argentina is unlikely, and so the potential of any such trial occurring remains unclear.



Secretary-General Guterres and the delegation cross a foot bridge in the Camp 4 Extension in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, July 2018 (UN Photo/KM Asad)

violence, arbitrary detention, torture, beatings, and forced displacement by Myanmar security forces since late 2016.

A UN Human Rights Council-mandated Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar released a report in September 2019, that concluded that Myanmar "continues to harbor genocidal intent" towards the Rohingya.

The ICJ case is one among a number of judicial forums hearing cases involving the long-suffering Rohingya. Two others include a case at the International Criminal Court that has reached the investigation stage, as well as a case in an Argentinian court under that country's universal jurisdiction legislation.

(3) International Criminal Court

Several days after Gambia filed the ICJ suit, the International Criminal Court authorized the opening of an investigation into the situation in Bangladesh and Myanmar following an earlier request from the Office of the Prosecutor. In reaching this decision, the Court heard from many of the alleged victims as well as others speaking on their behalf.

Myanmar is not a party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. However, the Court ruled last year that it did have jurisdiction regarding the crime against humanity of deportation with reference to the Rohingya fleeing to Bangladesh, which is a State Party of the ICC.

While the political and legal challenges faced by those attempting to provide justice for the

Rohingya has at times seemed insurmountable, momentum has been growing over the last few months to end impunity for the atrocities committed against this group.

At an NGO side event December 5 2019 at the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court, a number of speakers pointed to the ethnic violence that is also prevalent in other parts of Myanmar. The Rohingya are only the worst victims in a state where discrimination and internal repression are quite ingrained. Tun Khin, a Rohingya activist who has worked to get the Argentina case to court said "We don't want revenge on the government. We just want our communities to live in peace. Now we can see the wheels of justice finally starting to turn. It feels like peace might be getting closer."



70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions

by René Wadlow



René Wadlow is President of the Association of World Citizens

August 12, 2019 marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions, and the 1977 Protocols Additional are central instruments of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

Today, many WFM program priorities are dedicated to building on and strengthening IHL, with the intention that the rule of law progressively develops to supersede an international system that is based on war.

The 1949 Geneva Conventions were drawn up in light of the violations of earlier humanitarian law during the Second World War. The first Geneva Convention was developed in 1864, the time of the birth of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The aims of the ICRC, as a neutral party in armed conflicts, were the development and universalization of humanitarian law. The ICRC also played a role as an intermediary between victims and States.

The Geneva Conventions have evolved as the nature of armed conflict has evolved. The 1977 Protocols Additional were a response to the war in Vietnam, the greater number of conflicts that could be called

"civil wars," and the greater use of armed militias that were not regular military forces. In the 1977 discussions, there was greater awareness of the conditions for humanitarian norms as they pertained to refugees and internally displaced persons.

Closely related to the Geneva Conventions is a second tradition of international humanitarian law, what may be called "the Hague Tradition" growing out of the Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907. This tradition places its emphasis on banning the use of certain types of weapons. The 1925 Geneva Convention prohibiting the use of poison gas was a direct result of poison gas use in World War I. Since then, there have been treaties banning the use of chemical weapons, land mines and cluster munitions.

There are two other sources or traditions in the development of international humanitarian law. One is respect for human rights provisions as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the subsequent conventions focusing on specific aspects of the Universal Declaration.

While the provisions of the Universal Declaration are to be upheld at all times, there are highly visible and widespread violations during armed conflicts.

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Geneva Conventions – *continued*



The fourth tradition is the development of the 1936 Roerich Peace Pact to protect cultural heritage during armed conflicts. Signed in Washington, D.C. in 1996 this was a Pan-American Union Treaty. Its provisions served as the basis of the 1935 Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Goods. The 1954 Treaty has been progressively enriched by the development of UNESCO's Cultural Heritage sites. In 2017 the International Criminal Court began hearings in the trial of Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi, accused of levelling medieval shrines in Mali that had been designated as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

These traditions of international humanitarian law have been highlighted in a number of UN General Assembly resolutions, for example, the Basic Principles of Protection for Civilian Populations in Time of Armed Conflict, Resolution 2625 (1971).

Thus, the provisions of international humanitarian law are well developed and cover many issues that are likely to arise in armed conflicts. However, two major challenges remain. One is that the provisions of international humanitarian law are not well known, neither by the military nor by possible victims. Education concerning international

humanitarian law is necessary. During the 1969 - 1971 Nigeria - Biafra War, I had been a member of an ICRC working group. This war was the first war among Africans without the involvement of a colonial power. There were many violations during the war, including the use of starvation as military policy. After the end of the war, the need for teaching international humanitarian law was obvious. I helped in the preparation of a text book using African examples that the Red Cross used fairly widely in Africa. The teaching of international humanitarian law in the context of local cultures and values is still a challenge almost fifty years later.

The second and more important challenge is that international humanitarian law is not respected, even when its provisions are known. The current conscious violation of international humanitarian law including some of the oldest provisions - not attacking medical facilities or not shooting prisoners - has been widespread in armed conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and elsewhere. More than preparing handbooks for the military and the militias is needed.

A version of this article originally appeared on the The Transcend: Art and Peace Network.



Save the Date!

World Federalist Movement

2020 Congress: June 3 to 7, Brussels

**Additional program and registration
information will be available later this year at
www.wfm-igp.org.**

The search for world citizens' representation at a global level: the Model United Nations Parliamentary Assembly

by Emilia Ismael and Clara Subirachs



Emilia Ismael and Clara Subirachs are Democracia Global coordinators

During the month of August 2019, an Argentinian NGO, Democracia Global, carried out a Model Parliamentary Assembly of the United Nations, the first in Latin America and one of the first globally.

The Model, aimed at university students in Buenos Aires, sought to simulate the functioning of a Parliamentary Assembly at the United Nations, with its members representing the citizens of the world.

From this forum we seek to highlight two central ideas: that of the Parliamentary Assembly within the United Nations and that of global citizenship. First, there is a clear need to create a body composed of representatives democratically elected by the citizens of each State, to give global solutions to global problems such as environmental preservation, terrorism, and the unequal distribution of resources. In turn, as a result of becoming aware of this, the importance of the second concept, global citizenship, becomes obvious. Global citizenship seeks to lay the foundations for creating citizens who share a common understanding of a globally interconnected world with an urgency and need to solve the problems that concern us all.

The Model UNPA sought to give an idea of these premises, raising awareness about current issues at the global level and their interactions with the local and regional environment, and highlighting the importance of international bodies to solve global problems. In pursuit of these ideas, two approaches were used, through which the key concepts of the activity were presented: the concept of global citizenship and the topic of debate: the care and preservation of the environment. The students were separated into groups of four and tasked with preparing a bill aimed at one of the four parliamentary committees.

On August 21, the first session of debate was held, with the Parliamentary Commissions meeting

simultaneously at the University of Belgrano and the bills of each group discussed. The four commissions were Economy and Finance, Ecosystem Preservation, Justice and Human Rights, and Education for Sustainable Development. Each commission was made up of a President, Vice President, and Coordinators. The role of the



Presidents was occupied by national deputies and a United Nations consultant. Each working group was composed of a spokesperson, two advisors and a press representative. During the committee discussions, the presentation, discussion, and voting of each of the projects was carried out.

The most popular project of each commission, as determined by vote, went to the final debate: a session of the Parliamentary Assembly, in the

The first meeting of the Model United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, organized by Democracia Global, took place at Belgrano University, in Argentina.

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World citizen's representation – *continued*

premises of the Honorable Senate of the Argentine Nation. The projects under discussion proposed the creation of a Global Fund for Energy Transition in



production and transport (Economy and Finance Commission); the reduction of the use of glyphosate in the agricultural industry (Justice and Human Rights Commission); the construction of Sustainable

Schools (Education Commission for Sustainable Development); and the preservation of native forests (Ecosystem Preservation Commission). The Assembly sanctioned this last bill with force of law.

The session was chaired by Federico Pinedo, provisional president of the Senate; Esteban Bullrich, national senator; Fernando Iglesias, national deputy and World Federalist Movement co-president; Cristian Gimenez Corte, parliamentary advisor and consultant to the United Nations; and Rosendo Alsina, Director of Bilateral Relations of the General Directorate of International Relations.

During these meetings, fruitful and interesting debates were held on urgent global issues. The students had the opportunity to live a unique experience in research, legislation, and debate. They were able to understand the importance of creating supranational structures to deal with current issues globally, and knew how to interpret and recognize the concept of Global Citizenship to overcome obstacles and reach a common point. The development of future Models at national, regional, and global levels is key to developing educational initiatives based on the premise of belonging to a global community with common issues and problems.

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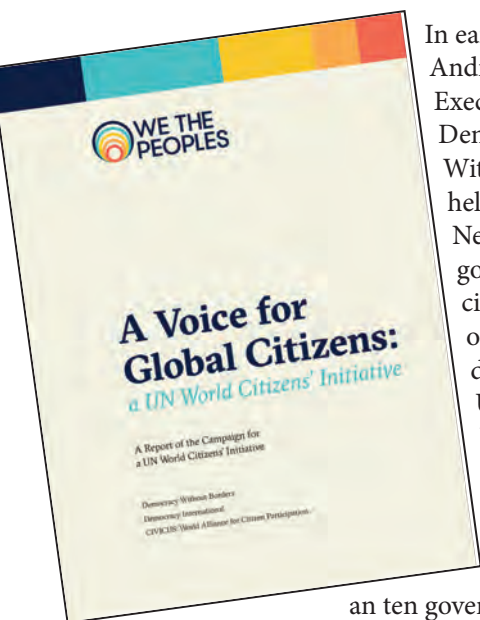
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Update on the Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly and the World Citizens' Initiative



In early November, Andreas Bummel, Executive Director, Democracy Without Borders, held a meeting in New York for governments and civil society organizations to discuss the UNPA and the World Citizens' Initiative (WCI). The Canadian mission hosted

an ten governments were represented. UN75 was also discussed as the 75th anniversary of the United Nations gives momentum to efforts such as WCI and UNPA to democratize the UN specifically and global governance more generally.

The WCI campaign was officially launched the following day with around fifty non-governmental organizations in attendance and Japanese

television coverage, along with a few opinion pieces written. So far, eighty 80 NGOs have endorsed the campaign.

The World Citizen's Initiative is a global civic participation campaign that would allow citizen-launched initiatives to be addressed by UN bodies such as the General Assembly or the Security Council, with the initiative's representatives directly making their case. Such an approach would strengthen the UN's democratic legitimacy and give global citizens a way to feel more connected to the work of the United Nations.

There are already similar mechanisms elsewhere. For example, the European Citizens' Initiative, which was the first transnational direct democracy tool. It provides a model for how the WCI might work.

The WCI proposal is complementary to other efforts to broaden participation and inclusion at the United Nations, such as the work to include major groups and civil society and the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

Both civil society organizations and individuals may join the campaign.

We the Peoples: A Voice for Global Citizens: a UN World Citizens' Initiative

**James Organ and Ben Murphy
Democracy Without Borders,
Democracy International, Civicus:
World Alliance for Citizen
Participation, 2019**

This short report presents a recommendation for the United Nations to create a World Citizens' Initiative (WCI) and includes a suggested legal framework, as well as considering the background of citizens' initiatives.

**Download at
www.worldcitizensinitiative.org**



ICRtoP Update:

Prioritizing Prevention on the Ground and Internationally with the RtoP

by Marijke Kremin

The Annual Secretary-General's report on the Responsibility to Protect, entitled "Lessons Learned for Prevention," set the stage for the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect's (ICRtoP) advocacy and programming work over the recent months. Taking note of Member States' interventions during the UN General Assembly's Debate on the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP, R2P), the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) closely monitored the debate, where UN Security Council veto restraint initiatives, combating hate speech, and addressing root causes of atrocities through

implementing the 2030 Agenda were highlighted as key prevention activities.

On October 31, the ICRtoP hosted a side event to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security along with the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN, Cordaid, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and WO=MEN Dutch Gender Platform. Entitled "Ensuring the Inclusion of Young Women in Conflict and Atrocity Prevention," the panel event recognized the crucial role of young women as prevention actors in their local communities,



Marijke Kremin is a Program Associate at the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect at the WFM-IGP office in New York.

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Update from the ICRtoP – *continued*

underscoring the need to improve young women's access to prevention spaces and engaging with them, rather than acting on their behalf. The panel was opened by ICRtoP's Program Associate, Marijke Kremin, and included women civil society leaders and activists from Afghanistan, Jordan, and the Philippines, who discussed the experiences and struggles of young women in the prevention field in their home contexts, as well as representatives of Germany and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UN-DPPA).

Also, in the context of the annual UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security, there was panel discussion on "The Relevance of Resolution 1325 to the Implementation of Peace in Colombia." The discussion explored how UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent women, peace and security resolutions were used by women in Colombia to, for example, demand participation in peace negotiations and ensure a gender perspective in the subsequent peace agreement. It also considered other examples of women's involvement in peace processes and in

the implementation UNSCR 1325 through National Action Plans.

In December, the ICRtoP Secretariat staff returned to Beirut, Lebanon to facilitate an in-depth training on early warning and early action. Alongside its implementing partner and Steering Committee member, the Permanent Peace Movement (PPM), the training sought to discuss early warning signs of atrocities and early actions members of civil society can take to prevent their occurrence, and how mainstreaming the RtoP can strengthen the work participants are already undertaking.

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is an international security norm. It specifically provides a framework intended to prevent genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing. R2P does not address other serious human security problems such as natural or environmental disasters, climate change or nuclear proliferation. The focus of R2P is deliberately narrow, but with a range of tools for dealing with these particular violations.



COPLA Update

THE COPLA CAMPAIGN Positive forward momentum

by **Camila López Badra**



Camila López Badra is the coordinator of the COPLA Campaign and Executive Director of Democracia Global, a Buenos Aires based WFM Member Organization.

The campaign to establish a Latin American and Caribbean Criminal Court against Transnational Organized Crime (COPLA, for its acronym in Spanish), which began in 2013 in the Argentine NGO Democracia Global, continues to have positive forward momentum. (Previous updates on the campaign can be found at wfmcanada.org/?s=copla)

There have been recent political declarations in support of the proposal in various forums, notably from the Chamber of Deputies from the Republic of Paraguay in May 2019 and the National Group of Parliamentarians for Global Action in Ecuador in June 2019.

Support also came in September, at the opening of the 74th United Nations General Assembly,

where Mauricio Macri, president of Argentina stated "We continue working with the Latin America and the Caribbean governments to achieve the necessary consensus for the creation of a regional legal body capable of confronting this and other types of transnational organized crime."

In October, Fernando Iglesias was invited by the Colombia Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present the COPLA Campaign at the Hemispheric Conference on "Corruption and its potential solutions." Iglesias presented the COPLA campaign at a panel on "International Partners Against Corruption." There was much interest expressed in the proposal.

Some of the points discussed during the presentation were:

- Corruption and organized crime have gained importance and power as a consequence of globalization. Criminal organizations have gained transnational status while the national legal institutions have been unable to adapt to these changes.
- We need to use two major tools to solve these problems, such as international cooperation and regional integration, which should be complementary.
- The COPLA proposal seeks to create a regional organization against organized crime that functions as a complementary body to national justice and focuses on the regional problem of organized crime.
- In order to carry out the campaign, apart from the support of governments, which are the main actors that face corruption, the contribution of civil society in promoting this initiative within each state is necessary.
- Establishing the COPLA campaign is a state policy announced by the President of Argentina before the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2018 and 2019, and by the Vice-president of Argentina in 2017.

In September, Fernando Iglesias and Camila López Badra presented the campaign at the International Association of Prosecutors meeting held in Buenos Aires. As a result, the Latin American Federation of Public

Prosecutors pledged to issue a statement in support of the creation of COPLA in the near future.

Also, a Brazilian Senator recently presented a resolution to create a Parliamentary Front in support of the COPLA Campaign. A presentation in the Brazilian Senate is expected soon. There is also ongoing work to promote the initiative in Ecuador and Chile.

In addition, an academic paper was recently published about COPLA. The article, COPLA: A Transnational Criminal Court for Latin America and the Caribbean, was written by Robert J. Currie and Jacob Leon, of the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University, Canada. It appears in the Nordic Journal of International Law 88 (2019), p587-613.

And finally, on December 3 2019, at the time of international meetings of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, a successful COPLA side event was held at the Argentine Embassy which included diplomats from the Latin American region, as well as civil society representatives and legal experts from around the world.



Argentine President Mauricio Macri speaking at the UN General Assembly, September 2019

Join Our Global Movement

The World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy has Member Organizations (MOs) around the world that are dedicated to spreading the ideas of World Federalism. Currently our MOs are working on diverse issues such as raising support for the International Criminal Court, strengthening the European Constitution, creating a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, and reducing small arms trafficking.

In addition to the WFM Member Organizations and Associate Organizations, WFM-IGP's programs CICC and ICRtoP also have thousands of members around the world. For more information on their members, please visit www.coalitionfortheicc.org and www.responsibilitytoprotect.org.

WFM-IGP also welcomes your individual membership in our global efforts to promote the principles of international democracy, federalism, global governance and human rights.

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by Eric Rosenzweig



This September, I had the pleasure of being one of WFM's five scholars chosen to attend this year's Ventotene International Seminar, a conference on European Federalism and World Federalism run by the Istituto di Studi Federalisti Altiero Spinelli and the Young European Federalists (JEF). As most of the other 25 or so participants were from JEF, WFM's participants provided a global perspective on federalism to the debates and discussions.

the trodden paths of his daily walks around the island, and the warm Italian sea and sun served as a backdrop for our discussions on the nature of federalism and political strategies for a more cooperative world.

Each of the five days were divided into morning and evening sessions, about three hours each. The structure varied, but usually there would be two speakers, splitting the first two-thirds of session, followed by a question time with the audience as a whole or smaller, more concentrated discussions.

Speakers ranged from academics, to politicians, and even a few members of European Parliament (Sylvie Goulard and Mario Monti), who incidentally were almost always my favorites. Topics covered in lectures were very comprehensive, including the theories on federalism, the economy and finances of a federal Europe, peace and security, and more. WFM's own Executive Director, Dr. Tawanda Hondora, came to the island to lead the group in a very enlightening discussion on the political and economic potentials between an African Union and European Union partnership.

I made many friends on the island, some of whom I hope to collaborate with in the near future. It was inspiring to be around other people who enjoy discussing the Eurozone as others do football and for whom potent potables and philosophy is considered a good night out. The experience was informative and invigorating for my own work and goals in the federalist movement, but the narratives brought by the WFM scholars and Dr. Hondora's lecture brought to light an important point: that above all else, in federalism, pluralism matters.

Even in a multinational-European conference, with young participants from all different educational and professional backgrounds, discussions will always be limited echochambers without the voices of the wider cosmopolis. In pluralism we learn the needs of others, their lessons learned from failures and



The conference is held every year on the Italian island of Ventotene. This was the site of Alterio Spinelli's political exile during WWII. Marooned on the island with other democratic activists and intellectuals, Spinelli drafted his "Per un'Europa libera e unita. Progetto d'un manifesto," which after his return to the mainland would become a foundational philosophical document in the creation of the European Union. His grave,

Speakers cover a wide range of topics at the Ventotene seminar, including theories on Federalism, the economy and finances of a Federal Europe, and peace and security.

successes, and the effects that our own limited paradigms and actions have on citizens around the world. Perhaps this is a very progressive, millennial-American notion for me to take away from the experience; but I think my fellow participants from Argentina, Australia, South Africa, and Nepal would back me up on this.

And in this way the Ventotene Seminar's goals and outcomes most definitely align with those of the World Federalist Movement: connecting idealists around the globe for the creation of a cooperative society and the betterment of humankind. And pasta.

It was an honor to be chosen by WFM to attend the seminar. I learned loads about federalism, European politics, and I hope that I was able to contribute something on behalf of the World Federalists to advance the

discussions on what it will take to create a federalist world, and what it should look like. Viva Europa, viva Federalismo!



Proposal: A Comprehensive Approach to a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone

by Tadashi Inuzuka



Tadashi Inuzuka is the WFM-Japan International Committee Chair

There have been various, detailed proposals since the end of the Cold War for a NEA-NWFZ (Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone). At present, the Three-plus-Three Arrangement, including its various modifications, is considered to be a concise and pragmatic structure. In this scheme, Japan, South Korea and North Korea would be the "Intrazonal States" and the US., Russia, and China - nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty with deep ties to the region - would be the "Neighbouring Nuclear Weapon States." The Intrazonal States would form a geographic nuclear weapon free zone and would be required to assume non-nuclear obligations similar to other NWFZ treaties around the world. The Neighbouring Nuclear Weapon States would be required to provide security assurances not to attack the zone with nuclear weapons as parties of the treaty itself rather than of its protocol.

The 2011 Proposal made by Dr. Morton Halperin, Senior Advisor of the Open Society Foundations, was significant in the framework of the shift from scheme-centered arguments to approach-centered arguments. In order to overcome the difficulties towards North Korean denuclearization, he proposed taking the NEA-NWFZ as one of the six

elements for a Comprehensive Agreement. The six elements are: 1) Termination of the State of War 2) Creation of the Permanent Council on Security 3) Mutual Declaration of No Hostile Intent 4) Provisions of Assistance for Nuclear and Other Energy 5) Termination of Sanctions 6) Nuclear Weapons Free Zone.

The Comprehensive Approach to the NEA-NWFZ has been supported by various parties in Japan, including: WFM-Japan, Peace Depot, Nagasaki University Research Center for Nuclear Weapons Abolition (RECNA), ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons). The Korea National Diplomatic Academy is having a conference in December 2019, with an important part of the discussion centered around NEA-NWFZ.

Considering NEA-NWFZ may fundamentally change Japan's foreign policy from Look-East (U.S.) to Look-Around (confidence building with all neighbouring nations), I would like to request WFM to consider NEA-NWFZ as a formal agenda item at the 2020 Brussels Congress. WFM-Japan will start its campaign immediately once we have successfully secured funding from institutions in Japan, and at the same time getting approval from our May 2020 WFM-Japan Congress.



UN2020 Update

by Fergus Watt

Fergus Watt is Executive Director of World Federalist Movement – Canada and Coordinator of the UN2020 Initiative.



The UN2020 Campaign is dedicated to using the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020 as an opportunity to take stock and strengthen the UN system. Across a range of sectors, from human rights to peace, sustainable development, climate change, gender equality, migration and humanitarian issues, there is a widespread recognition that our institutions of global governance are not fit for purpose. And these problems are getting worse, not better.

In partnership with civil society, like-minded governments, and the UN Secretariat, the campaign

to lead and conclude intergovernmental negotiations on a “concise, substantive, forward-looking and unifying declaration” perhaps as early as June 2020.

Member States decided that the UN75 theme shall guide all activities, meetings and conferences organized by the UN in 2020, emphasizing the need to engage civil society and youth in all activities to commemorate the anniversary.

On 24 October the Secretary-General launched the UN Secretariat’s ambitious UN75 program, calling for a series of UN75 “Global Dialogues” on the major challenges we face and the role of global cooperation in addressing them.

Although current political conditions do not bode well for a significant renewal of the UN system by the time of the September 2020 Summit, UN2020 campaigners are calling for the current UN75 activities to launch a much-needed longer term process, one that would lead to institutional modernization and reform. This idea seems to be gathering momentum. In September, over 50 Foreign Ministers attended the launch event of an “Alliance for Multilateralism.” And there are rumours of a renewed global experts process, similar to the Commission on Global Governance of the 1990s.

UN2020 has planned, hosted, or otherwise participated in a range of events over the second half of 2019, at UN headquarters in New York and at various national



UN2020 Information, Organization and Strategy Meeting, November 12th

supports a more effective, people-centered multilateralism.

As the 75th anniversary approaches, activity within the UN2020 campaign and elsewhere has gathered momentum.

In June the General Assembly adopted a “modalities resolution” that decided that the UN shall prepare a Leaders Summit on 21 September 2020 to commemorate its 75th anniversary under the theme “The future we want, the United Nations we need: reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism.” The President of the General Assembly will soon be appointing two co-facilitators

capitals.

On November 12th, a day-long information, organization and strategy meeting was held in New York. Over 80 organizations participated in developing a UN2020 Plan of Action and a division of labour for the year ahead.

Updates, along with links to recent videos and meeting outcome documents, can be found on the UN2020 website (UN2020.org), where there is also a sign up for the email newsletter as well as opportunities to participate in the campaign.



By Monique Cuillerier

The International Criminal Court is currently engaged in ten preliminary examinations, and has eleven situations under investigation.

Preliminary examinations are currently being conducted in Afghanistan, Colombia, Guinea, Iraq/UK, Nigeria, Palestine, the Philippines, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

Following the preliminary examination, the request to open an investigation into the situation in Afghanistan was rejected by the Pre-Trial Chamber in April 2019. The Office of the Prosecutor is currently considering all available legal remedies.

Bangladesh/Myanmar

In November 2019, following a request from the Prosecutor, an investigation into alleged crimes of deportation, persecution, and any other crimes relevant to the Court against the Rohingya people.

At question was whether the Court had jurisdiction over crimes that took place only in part in the territory of a State Party. Myanmar is not a State Party, but Bangladesh is.

Central African Republic (I)

Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo, Aimé Kilolo Musamba, Jean-Jacques Mangenda Kabongo, Fidèle Babala Wandu, and Narcisse Arido, were found guilty of offences against the administration of justice in October 2016 and sentencing took place in September 2018. Later in 2018, Bemba filed an appeal, which was heard in September 2019. The judgement on the appeal will be made in late November 2019.

Central African Republic (II)

The Government of CAR referred this situation in May 2014. The situation focuses on alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed since 1 August 2012, in the context of the conflict between Muslim Séléka and Christian anti-balaka groups.

An arrest warrant was issued in November 2018 for Alfred Yekatom and he was surrendered to the Court on November 17. A further arrest warrant, for Patrice-Edouard Ngaïssona, was issued on 7 December 2018 and he was arrested five days later. The two cases were joined by the Pre-Trial Chamber in February and the confirmation of charges hearing took place in September and October 2019. The judges will now assess whether there is sufficient evidence to continue with the case.

Côte d'Ivoire

The cases of Laurent Gbagbo and Charles Blé Goudé, charged with crimes against humanity allegedly committed in Côte d'Ivoire in 2010 and 2011, were joined in March 2015 and the trial began in January 2016. In January 2019, both were acquitted. In July 2019, the Trial Chamber filed reasons for the acquittal and the Prosecutor will, in response, file a notice of appeal.

The case against Simone Gbagbo remains at the pre-trial stage as she is still not in the custody of the Court.

Darfur, Sudan

The situation in Darfur, Sudan was referred to the Court by the UN Security Council in March 2005.

There are four current cases concerning the situation in Darfur,

Sudan with five suspects -- Ahmad Harun, Ali Kushayb, Omar Hassan Ahmad Al Bashir, Abdallah Banda Abakaer Nourain, and Abdel Raheem Muhammad Hussein -- who all remain at large.

Following the recent political changes in Darfur, the situation regarding Al Bashir in particular may change, as there have been calls from within Sudan to have him turned over to the Court.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

In 2012, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo was convicted and sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment. He has transferred to a prison in DRC in 2015 where he continues to serve his sentence. Implementation of the collective reparations decision continues.

The trial of Bosco Ntaganda began in September 2015 and he was found guilty in July 2019 of 18 counts of war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed in Ituri, DRC between 2002 and 2003. In early November 2019, Ntaganda was sentenced to thirty years imprisonment. An appeal is possible. As well, victims' reparations are still to be considered.

Sylvestre Mudacumura, for whom an arrest warrant was issued in 2012, remains at large.

Georgia

An investigation into crimes allegedly committed in and around South Ossetia, Georgia in 2008 was begun in January 2016 and continues.

Libya

Mahmoud Mustafa Busayf Al-Werfalli, Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi, and Al-Tuhamy Mohamed Khaled are all still at large and, as a result, their cases remain pending.

Kenya

Arrest warrants for Walter Osapiri Barasa, Paul Gicheru and Philip Kipkoech Bett for various offences against the administration of justice remain outstanding.

Mali

Al Hassan Ag Abdoul Aziz Ag Mohamed Ag Mahmoud was surrendered to Court's custody at the end of March 2018. The Pre-Trial Chamber confirmed charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in a confidential decision at the end of September 2019. A redacted version of this decision will be made available at a later date.

Uganda

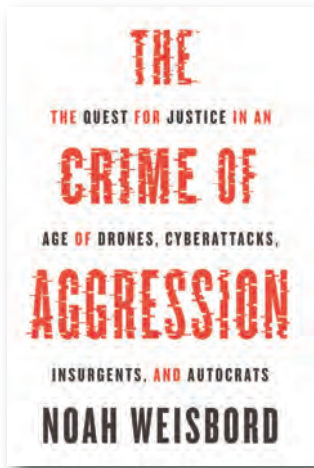
The case against Joseph Kony and Vincent Otti remains pending as they are still at large.

The trial of Dominic Ongwen began in December 2016 and the Defence is currently presenting evidence, which is expected to be completed before the end of the year. Closing arguments are set to begin in March 2020.

Other

In late November, Kiribati acceded to the Rome Statute. It will become the 123rd State Party when the Statute enters into force on February 1st, 2020.

Prior to Kiribati's accession, 122 countries had ratified the Rome Statute -- 33 in Africa, 18 in the Asia-Pacific area, 18 in Eastern Europe, 28 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 25 in Western Europe and other states.



Released earlier this year, Noah Weisbord's well-written new book, *The Crime of Aggression: The Quest for Justice in an Age of Drones, Cyberattacks, Insurgents, and Autocrats*, offers an up close account of the progress that has been made in incorporating and codifying the Crime of Aggression at the International Criminal Court. This book, which is accessible to non-legal experts, sets out how norms of international humanitarian law, including the Crime of Aggression, need to adapt to the evolving changes in the nature of warfare, such as the use of drones and cyber warfare.

As a result of his personal involvement in the development and codification of the Crime of Aggression, Weisbord is able to provide real depth and a behind the scenes perspective. The book considers the history of the crime of aggression and the challenges faced by its champions..

The Crime of Aggression: The Quest for Justice in an Age of Drones, Cyberattacks, Insurgents, and Autocrats
 Noah Weisbord
 Princeton University Press, 2019

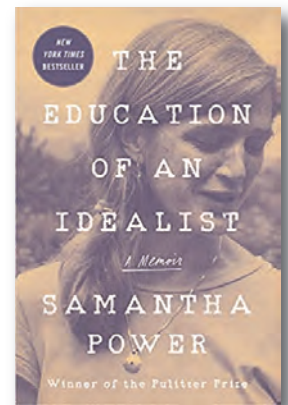
Most will remember Samantha Power as the former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, from 2013 to 2017, under Barack Obama. Power had previously been a Special Assistant to Obama and responsible for multilateral affairs and human rights on the National Security Council.

She previously wrote, *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*, and compiled and edited *Realizing Human Rights: Moving from Inspiration to Impact*; *Chasing the Flame: Sergio Vieira de Mello and the Fight to Save the World*; and *The Unquiet American: Richard Holbrooke in the World*.

This book, a memoir, follows Power through her childhood in Ireland, work as a war correspondent in Bosnia, and academic career to when Barack Obama, then a senator, noticed her critiques of US foreign policy and her following work on his ultimately successful presidential campaign and as part of his administration.

Power is frank and open about her idealism and desire to contribute to the betterment of society.

The Education of an Idealist: A Memoir
 Samantha Power
 Harper Collins, 2019



In this book, Elena Flor traces the evolution of the international monetary system over the last two centuries, from the system based on the gold standard, to that based on a dollar convertible to gold at a fixed exchange rate, to the emergence of the Euro, and the current multi-currency system.

SDR's (Special Drawing Rights) were intended to eventually supplant the role of national currencies in general and the dollar in particular.

An important chapter in the evolution of the system towards a multi-currency structure (currently with three main currencies – dollar, euro, renminbi – and two minor ones – yen and pound) was the process of European monetary unification, to which Elena Flor dedicates a significant part of the book.

Flor also illustrates how the international monetary system is increasingly becoming multi-currency. Countries whose currencies could gain increasing weight in the near future, up to becoming part of the SDR basket, could be Brazil, India and Russia. But there are also new technological developments, such as virtual currencies like bitcoin, that may intersect with SDR's in the future.

Overall, this book provide an interesting look back at how the international monetary system evolved and a speculative consideration of what could come next.

SDR: from Bretton Woods to a world currency
 Elena Flor
 P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2019

The Other Threat to Our Species

by Bill Pearce



Bill Pearce is President of WFM – Canada's Victoria chapter.

While we are reminded daily of the challenges humanity faces coming to terms with global warming, we seem to have lost sight of the other existential crisis our planet is facing -- the risk of nuclear conflagration.

At a minimum, steps must be taken to reduce nuclear risks to a manageable level, while we continue to work towards the total elimination of the danger.

In his latest book, "The Doomsday Machine," Daniel Ellsberg recalls the events of the Cuban Missile Crisis to remind us how miscalculation coupled with poor intelligence can sometimes lead us to the brink of disaster -- even when you have two superpower leaders intent on avoiding military conflict.

Ellsberg was intimately involved in the negotiations that eventually led to a peaceful resolution of the crisis. He also had access to highly classified information including U.S. nuclear war-fighting plans. At that time, the estimate of the number of deaths from a U.S. first strike was 600 million, mostly civilians, and another 100 million from a retaliatory strike from the remnants of Soviet nuclear forces. When Ellsberg asked the Pentagon what would be the count if one included the effects of the firestorms that would be created from the atomic explosions, they doubled the death count, taking the total death count to well over one billion people (or one-third of the global population at the time).

It wasn't until 22 years after the Cuban Missile Crisis when studies enlightened us about the dangers of a nuclear winter. That is when Ellsberg came to the realization that civilization could have ended with the events that occurred in October 1962.

Ellsberg thinks that the very existence of nuclear weapons in the hands of the superpowers poses "intolerable dangers to the survival of civilization."

These days U.S. and NATO forces are equipped with a mixture of conventional and nuclear weapons of every description. Increasingly, force postures are making more likely military scenarios of "limited nuclear war." Although he did not always hold this

view, Ellsberg is now firmly of the belief that a limited first use of nuclear weapons could never stay "limited."

Fortunately, the world now has treaty-based, normative frameworks that allow us to move beyond the nuclear threat. It should be incumbent on all peace-loving nations to ratify the treaty prohibiting the possession and use of nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately most states either possessing nuclear weapons or in alliances under a "security umbrella" of one of the nuclear-armed powers face pressure to conform to nuclear war-fighting doctrines and political orthodoxy.

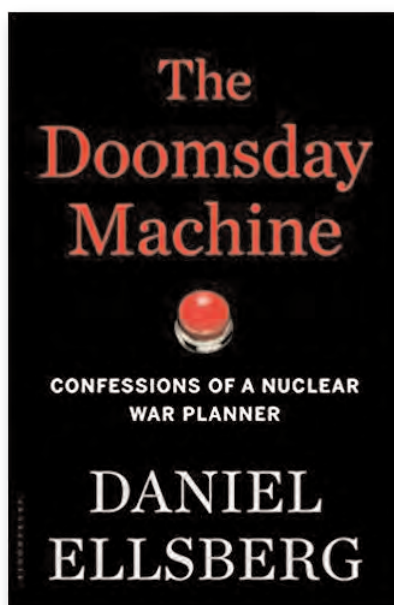
At present we are in the midst of a renewed and very dangerous arms race, one that is heightening the risks of accidental nuclear war. Driven

by these nuclear war-fighting policies of the United States and Russia an unprecedented – and very expensive – nuclear modernization is underway.

What has to happen to reduce tensions and decrease nuclear dangers is, at a minimum, to move to a deterrent-only defence posture. Both sides should declare a "no first use" policy, which should in turn bring about a drastic reduction

to the number of weapons on each side. (Russia and the United States are each now estimated to possess more than 6000 nuclear devices). This also would allow each side to take their weapon systems off of the hair-trigger alert. By so doing they would retain survivable second strike forces, a "deterrent," but one with less likelihood of crossing the tripwire, by accident or miscalculation, to nuclear use and the devastation of human civilization.

NATO should renew arms control discussions with Russia and adopt a no first use policy, which would include the removal of U.S. nuclear weapons now stored in Europe back to the United States.



A longer version of this article can be found at wfmcanada.org/2019/12/the-other-threat/





Citizens for Global Solutions A Message from Executive Director Bob Flax

Star Trek Beams Down to the CGS Annual Meeting

This is an exciting time for our organization. Over the past year we've launched:

- Three programs for adults and students (an online National Book Club, college-based World Citizen Clubs, and high school/college-based Model UNs),
- Three speaker's bureaus (reaching out to college Peace & Justice Studies Programs, religious and spiritual communities, and the general public), and
- Multiple ways to spread our message online and in print (through improvements in our website, a monthly newsletter, a biannual journal, and through social media).

foundation which funds innovative solutions to critical global issues in science and technology, the environment, education and humanitarian concerns. Rod was joined on stage by Tad Daley, attorney and Director of Policy Analysis at Citizens for Global Solutions. A published author, Tad has worked as a political speechwriter, grassroots advocate, visiting scholar, and member of the International Policy Department at the RAND Corporation. As a longtime science fiction aficionado, Tad has appeared on panels at about two dozen science fiction conventions worldwide.

The event was "Star Trek and Human Destiny: From a Federation of Planets to a Federation of Nations," a two-hour conversation between Rod, Tad, and the audience, exploring the philosophy behind Star Trek and the parallels between the interplanetary federation portrayed in the popular TV series and films and the possibility of a world federation here on earth.

Rod spoke about growing up in a Star Trek household: his mother played several roles, most notably Nurse Chapel in the original series; and his father's philosophy of "IDIC" -- Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations. He explained his father didn't have the Enterprise exploring the galaxy to find strange looking creatures, but to find new ideas. He wanted to show that we would "grow by being exposed to a diversity of perspectives." The strength of that diversity was regularly demonstrated by the crew, with Pavel Chekov, a Russian, and Hikaru Kato Sulu, a Japanese man, appearing on TV sets across America while we were in the midst of a cold war with the Soviet Union and not long after fighting a bitter war with the Japanese. Perhaps the most moving cast story involved Lt. Nyota Uhura, played by Nichelle Nichols. After the show's first season, Nichols planned to quit and go back to musical theater. She was approached by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who convinced her to stay, because "for the first time on television, we [people of African descent] will be seen as we should be seen every



L to R: Tad Daley, Shannon Theus, Rod Roddenberry, Bob Flax

However, at our recent Annual Meeting, held November 1-3 at the Aris and Carolyn Anagnos Peace Center in Los Angeles, we boldly went where CGS has not gone before...

Our special guest was Rod Roddenberry, son of the legendary Gene Rodenberry, creator of Star Trek. Not only has Rod followed in his father's footsteps by creating inspiring science fiction productions, but also has established a



day, as intelligent, quality, beautiful people who can sing and dance, yes, but who can go into space, who can be lawyers and teachers, who can be professors -- who are in this day, yet you don't see it on television until now." With that, Nichols decided to stay.

Of course, the conversation did turn to the subject of global government. Not knowing what to expect, I was quite surprised to hear how fully Rod embraced the idea, calling it "ridiculous" that we don't all live together in this way. Judging from the audience applause and the discussion that followed, many were of the same opinion.

Although the details of the United Federation of Planets were never fully fleshed out in the TV and movie series, it did have many elements

that have been proposed for a system of global government, including an executive branch, a Supreme Court, delegates from its members, and a constitution. Many science fiction writers, from H.G. Wells to Isaac Asimov to Becky Chambers, have also told stories with a global government in the backdrop. As so much else in science fiction has come to pass, we hope that a world federation will become a reality, bringing peace and prosperity to the planet.



Due to the strong showing of interest in our work, we are starting a Los Angeles Chapter of CGS, to be led by long-time activists Tom Camarella and Tom Hastings. Contact them at outreach@globalsolutions.org for meeting dates and further information.

Religious Support for Democratic World Federation

by David C. Oughton, Ph.D.

Most religious groups have responded to issues of violence and warfare by teaching their members either some form of pacifism (Jainism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Christian peace churches) or some form of the just war tradition or military jihad (most monotheists). Such teachings have tried to either eliminate participation in wars or set strict limitations for the moral waging of war. But some religious groups and leaders have rejected the idea that warfare is a necessary part of human nature and human history. In order to eliminate the war system and solve humanity's many global problems such as genocide, terrorism, violations of human rights, and environmental degradation due to global warming, some religious groups and leaders have advocated for

the creation of a democratic world federal government that would create just world laws and prosecute individuals who violate them. Violent conflicts would be settled, and global problems could be solved through a nonviolent democratic process. A world constitution would make explicit the powers and limitations of the world federation, the powers and limitations of national governments, and the rights and responsibilities of all citizens of the world.

According to the teachings of the prophet Baha'u'llah (1817-1892) and the Baha'i Universal House of Justice, acceptance of the oneness of humanity is a prerequisite for establishing a world federation. According to Baha'is, every national government will



David Oughton teaches at Saint Louis University. He serves on the national board of Citizens for Global Solutions.

need to give up every claim to make war and should only maintain armaments for purposes of maintaining internal order. Baha'is and many others also believe that the facilitation of a world



democracy would be enhanced by the universal use of a common auxiliary language (such as Esperanto) in addition to the national languages. For Baha'is, the creation of a world democracy would be a necessary condition for what Baha'u'llah called the "Most Great Peace," the spiritual unification of our planet.

Roman Catholic bishops at the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) called for outlawing war by international consent and creating a universal public authority that would safeguard security, justice, and human rights. In their encyclicals, Pope John XXIII, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis have stated that there is an urgent need for a true world political authority that would be regulated by law, observe the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, promote human development, manage globalization, and establish the common good.

Many individuals within religions that lack a central teaching authority have also promoted the goal of a world federation. For example, many liberal Protestant Christians and many Unitarian-Universalists are world federalists. Many people in other religions have emphasized the need for a

global system of enforceable world laws instead of the current international system that is based on unenforceable treaties between nations. At the last Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto in 2018, the Hindu Swami Agnivesh said that instead of spending trillions of dollars on the war system, the peoples of the world need to unite and create a world parliament based on the Earth Constitution. He said that "without a world government, we cannot solve our major world problems." Many Buddhists have been promoting Buddha's goal of relieving suffering for all beings through love, compassion, and nonviolence. The Japanese Buddhist scholar Nikkyo Niwano has said that then the whole world will become one "Buddha-land" and that a world federation should be our blueprint for achieving this goal.

Before the legal and political superstructure of a democratic world federation can be formed, the world's religions have the responsibility of building a firm foundation for it by emphasizing their versions of the Golden Rule, common ethical commandments, "humatriotism" (loyalty to the human family), world citizenship, and stewardship of creation. They need to be committed to interreligious dialogue and cooperation as well as act according to the principles of the Declaration of a Global Ethic and the Charter for Compassion that have been promoted at the Parliaments of the World's Religions. The world's religions need to teach that the nations of the world form an interdependent community which requires a global system of laws and security in order to survive.



Youth Call for Climate Justice

by Christine Leclerc

Christine Leclerc is an associate with the Center for United Nations Constitutional Research's Youth Climate Ambassador Program.



"The sea is rising, and so are we!" chanted some climate ambassadors as we boarded the ferry to Epirus this summer. After a week in Brussels and Corfu, we were ready to establish a global village at Vitsa, Greece. The global village was the site of the Center for United Nations Constitutional Research (CUNCR) 2019 Climate Justice & Democracy Summit.

Youth activists from all continents and the Great Island States brought briefings in international environmental law, human rights, sovereignty, and global governance to bear in the mountain village during deliberations on issues in climate democracy.

At the Summit support for rights of the environment was palpable and is called for in the Epirus Declaration for Climate Democracy, co-authored in the shade of a Plane Tree planted at the center of the square. It also calls for intergenerational justice, global democratic solutions to help address the climate crisis, action to uphold the San Francisco Promise, and a focus on global security.

The Epirus Declaration's call for rights of the environment draws inspiration from Anishinabek Nation Chief Water Commissioner Autumn Peltier



**Participants in CUNCR's 2019
Climate Justice & Democracy
Summit in Vitsa, Greece**

who in 2018 said at the United Nations: "Our water deserves to be treated as human with human rights." Peltier's words echo the sentiments expressed by CUNCR Youth Climate Ambassadors Joyce Najm Mendes and Hanna Cordeiro, who have encouraged me to learn about Sumac Kawsay or buen vivir.

Philosopher and sociologist Raúl Prada Alcoreza describes buen vivir as "satisfaction in achieving the ideal of the community by feeding and nourishing itself through its own production." Buen vivir is oriented more towards sustenance than accumulation. "Not just nutrition in the sense of food consumption," he continues, "but through the equilibrium between the living forces of Nature and the commonwealth of the community." These principles appear in the Bolivian and Ecuadorian constitutions.

I make my home in Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil Waututh homelands in British Columbia and the province of British Columbia has just introduced legislation to uphold the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This law ensures Indigenous people are part of decision-making.

In the Centre for International Governance Innovation's Special Report UNDRIP Implementation: Braiding International, Domestic and Indigenous Laws, Brenda Gunn writes: "At the international level, UNDRIP is necessary in part due to the failure of the general, existing human rights regimes to afford appropriate protection for Indigenous peoples' rights."

If human rights alone do not appropriately reflect the rights of Indigenous peoples, in part because many have been slow to respect Indigenous land rights,

then legislating Indigenous rights and rights of the environment are ways to promote constructive relationships among peoples and with the environment. This has implications for development.

Latin American Center for Social Ecology Senior Research Eduardo Gudynas writes:

"Buen vivir will not stop building bridges, and will not reject the use of Western physics and engineering to build them, but the ones that it will propose may well have different sizes and materials, will be placed in other locations, and certainly will serve local and regional needs and not the needs of global markets."

Climate change currently impacts water security and will continue to do so even as we work to keep global average temperature increase to within 1.5° Celsius this century. "As we consider the challenges that can accompany water scarcity, we need to acknowledge our waters with personhood so we can protect our waters," Peltier reminds us.

Climate justice requires rapid decarbonization for a livable future and new relations to address inequity. Decarbonization helps us mitigate the worst impacts of climate change and new relations help ensure fairness in environmental resource access, use, and development.

The youth who trained with CUNCR this summer came to the program as climate leaders. We continue to work as Youth Climate Ambassadors, building support for intergenerational justice and global democratic, complementary governance to help address the climate crisis.

**Sign on to the
Epirus Declaration
for Climate Democracy today at:
<http://tiny.cc/climatedemocracy>**



David Gallup is
President at
World Service
Authority



World Citizen Clubs

“Being a part of a World Citizen Club helps students have a better understanding of the different issues our world faces today. They have a chance to come up with different solutions and ideas and learn from one another”

Semawit, World Citizen Club Member

World Service Authority (WSA), along with its co-sponsor Citizens for Global Solutions (CGS), is launching World Citizen Clubs on college, university, and high school campuses around the world. The WSA and CGS are nonprofit organizations that promote world citizenship, universal human rights, and global structures of law for a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

What is the World Citizen Club Program?

WSA and CGS encourage students to advance the mission of world peace through world citizenship and world law. The World Citizen Club Program, a grassroots movement, engages teens and young adults in world citizenship education and activism, inspiring students to become world peacemakers.

Individual World Citizen Clubs will endeavor to

1. Advocate and educate
2. Build community
3. Support awareness of and respect for universal rights and world citizenship

Students in World Citizen Clubs will engage in educational, service, and social events and projects that promote world citizenship, world peace, sustainability, and human rights. Clubs will provide students with the opportunity to take local action on global issues.

How to Create a World Citizen Club

Creating a World Citizen Club on campus is a simple process. Students speak with their friends

by David Gallup

and classmates to find potential club members. They find a faculty advisor, draft a club constitution, register their club with World Service Authority, and promote the club at the beginning of each semester during club and student activities fairs. Once the club is launched, students schedule periodic meetings, events and projects to engage club participants and the wider school community in world citizenship activities.

Examples of Club Events and Projects

- Heritage food potluck dinners
- World trivia nights
- Cultural celebrations
- Global music and dance performances
- Environmental advocacy
- Speakers on human rights, international law, and peace issues
- Refugee assistance through food drives and advocacy campaigns
- Film and documentary screenings
- Benefits for students
- Network with experts in the international community
- Interact with students from other parts of the world
- Work on issues that they are passionate about
- Engage academic learning outside the classroom
- Acquire multicultural competencies, a top priority for employers
- Make a difference in their communities and the world.



For More Information:

Visit the Club's website: www.worldcitizenclub.org. Students, faculty and staff will find tools and materials to create a World Citizen Club on their campus. The website includes guides and information such as a 5-page Club Start-Up Guide, which explains the benefits of the club, how to create a club, and suggested events, projects and programs. Sample club constitutions, terms of behavior, brochures, and promotional flyers are also available at the website.

Contact Us:

We look forward to hearing from students who are interested in starting clubs on their campuses. Please email us at info@worldcitizenclub.org.

World Language for World Citizens

by Ron Glossop



Ron Glossop is Professor Emeritus of Philosophical Studies at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE)

From our very beginnings, smaller human communities have been replaced by larger communities. In the 21st century this process is in its final stage, the development of a single community for the planet.



How can we manage this transition with a minimum of violence?

Two very important things in any community are the governance structure and a common language. Developing one larger community may begin with a formal association of smaller ones where each has a veto concerning policies of the new governing group, a confederation like the League of Nations or the United Nations in the 20th century. But sometimes no policy can be adopted to deal with some problems confronting that new group. A middle-of-the-road approach is needed. A democratic federation can be created as was done when Switzerland and the USA were formed. Presently some regional federations are being formed in Europe, Africa, and Latin America, but a democratic global federation is needed for some current global problems such as climate change, modern war, and

growing disparities in wealth. The basic idea of a federation is that problems should be solved by the smallest community that can do it.

A democratic community needs a common oral and written language. In the past, the dominant language of the new larger community often has been imposed by force by one part of that larger community on the rest. That dominant language then became the common language of the new larger community.

But now we need to pursue a different path. The developing global community needs a common logical, neutral, non-national global second language that allows the national languages to continue being used where they are now used. It needs a language whose oral and written forms are totally congruous, a completely phonetic language such as Esperanto with its 28 letters each indicating one and only one sound.

Which language should be adopted as a global second language in order to reconcile the lasting need for cooperative global action while

preserving linguistic diversity? Esperanto, now used by an extensive community of “world citizens” or “mondcivilanoj,” is the way to get linguistic efficiency while preserving linguistic diversity and protecting national languages from dominance by any one national language. (In Esperanto that last letter J in “mondcivilanoj” is pronounced like the letter Y in English. Consequently, in Esperanto the word “yes” is written “jes” but pronounced the same as in English.)

When Zamenhof developed Esperanto in the last part of the 19th century, he was motivated precisely by this aim of providing for linguistic unity while preserving linguistic diversity.

a b c ĉ d e f
g ĝ h ĥ i j ĵ
k l m n o p r
s ŝ t u ŭ v z

Alphabet by Tanja Borzei

Blanche Wiesen Cook Becomes a Member of the CGS National Advisory Committee



Larry Wittner is professor of history emeritus at SUNY/Albany and a member of the CGS Board.

by Larry Wittner

One of the most recent prominent Americans to become a member of the National Advisory Committee of Citizens for Global Solutions is Dr. Blanche Wiesen Cook, Distinguished Professor of History at John Jay College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York.

A well-known scholar, Professor Cook is the author of many articles and numerous books, including *The Declassified Eisenhower* (Doubleday, 1981) and



Crystal Eastman on Women and Revolution (Oxford 1978). Her definitive biography of Eleanor Roosevelt -- *Eleanor Roosevelt. Vol. I: The Early Years, 1884-1933* (Viking 1992), *Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. II: The Defining Years, 1933-1938* (Viking, 1999), and *Eleanor Roosevelt, Vol. III: The War*

Years and After, 1939-1962 (Viking, 2016) -- proved particularly successful. Vol. I received the Los Angeles Times's 1992 Biography Prize and the Lambda Literary Award and was named a Notable Book by the American Library Association and the New York Times. It remained on the New York Times best-seller list for three months. Vol. II was also a national best-seller, was named a New York Times Notable Book, and was listed by the Christian Science Monitor as one of the year's 10 best books. Like its predecessors, Vol. III was named by the New York Times as one of its Notable Books, while National Public Radio hailed it as one of the 10 Best Books of 2016. The trilogy emphasizes the vital importance of Eleanor Roosevelt's work for a peaceful international order, including her central role in bringing the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights to fruition.

Throughout her academic career, Professor Cook has been a prominent figure in the historical

profession. She served as Vice-President for Research of the American Historical Association, as well as Vice-President of the Conference on Peace Research in History (now renamed the Peace History Society), a scholarly affiliate of the American Historical Association. Deeply committed to maintaining the integrity of the federal government's Freedom of Information Act, she was the Co-Founder and Co-Chair of the Freedom of Information and Access Committee of the Organization of American Historians and a Vice-President and Chair of the Fund for Open Information and Accountability (FOIA).

Unlike most academics, Professor Cook has had a substantial public presence. For more than twenty years, she produced and hosted her own program on Pacifica Radio. Originally called *Activists and Agitators*, the program was subsequently renamed *Women and the World* in the 1980s and, later, *Women and the World* in the 1990s. She has also appeared frequently on such television programs as NBC's *Today*, ABC's *Good Morning America*, C-SPAN's *Booknotes*, and the PBS *MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour*. Her writings have been published in the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *The Nation*, and *Newsday*. As a staunch advocate of women's rights, social and economic justice, and a peaceful world, she is a frequent public speaker on these and related topics.

Educated at Hunter College (B.A.) and Johns Hopkins University (M.A. and Ph.D.), Blanche Wiesen Cook has long been an activist, especially in the racial equality, women's liberation, and peace movements. She served for a time as the legislative director of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, produced articles for its magazine, and wrote newspaper articles and book reviews lauding the United Nations. She also worked for years as a consultant for the World Order Models Project, and today is a member of the board of directors of the Peace Action Fund of New York State. She makes an excellent addition to the National Advisory Committee of Citizens for Global Solutions.

Dr. Blanche Wiesen Cook, Distinguished Professor of History at John Jay College and The Graduate Center, City University of New York.



UN2020: Get Involved Now!

by Nancy Dunlavy



Nancy Dunlavy is the Director of the Workable World Trust and president of the Minnesota Chapter of Citizens for Global Solutions

An update on UN2020 and the United Nations' UN75 campaign appears on page 12 of this Mondial issue.

So ... how can individuals, CGS Chapters or globally-engaged organizations and communities participate? I offer some ideas in this article:

Be informed! Take a look at the wealth of information available:

(All can be accessed from <https://globalsolutions.org/cooperation/transform-the-un/>)

UN2020 Initiative: <http://un2020.org/>

UN75: <https://www.un.org/un75>

Together First: <https://together1st.org/>

Sign up for updates and actions from UN2020: <http://un2020.org/updates/>.

Also follow on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/UN2020Initiative/> and Twitter https://twitter.com/_un2020_.

Sign up to support and receive news from Together First (<https://together1st.org/>), a growing movement of global citizens "committed to making the best ideas for global governance a reality." You can also submit a proposal to Together First on how a reform to our global system could be implemented.

Engage with others around the U.S.

The UN2020 Team of Citizens for Global Solutions plans to host monthly Zoom conference calls starting in January, open to

anyone interested in hearing the latest news, sharing ideas for engagement and forming partnerships. To get on the e-list for this opportunity please contact me (Nancy Dunlavy, nancy-cgs@dunlavy.net).

Share the news

CGS plans to provide UN2020 updates as a column in each month's e-newsletter. If you are not already on our e-mail list, go to the bottom of the home page for CGS (<https://globalsolutions.org/>) to sign up. Then, when you receive these notices, please read and share widely!

Take and share the UN75's short survey.

Current URL is beta.un75.online. If the address changes, it can be found in the UN75 toolkit (<https://www.un.org/en/un75/join-conversation>)

Participate in or host social media chats or online discussions. Ideas for implementation are available in the UN75 toolkit: (<https://www.un.org/en/un75/join-conversation>)

Host a local UN75 Global Conversation (or a series of them!) in your community. This can be as simple as a "house party" or as large as a multi-partner series of events open to the entire community. The UN75 Toolkit is a great resource for ideas (<https://www.un.org/en/un75/join-conversation>). Our CGS UN2020 Monthly Zoom conference calls will include an opportunity to share ideas and inspiration.





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Support a peaceful, free, just and sustainable world community

Please join us. The Citizens for Global Solutions Education Fund, formerly the World Federalist Association, has stood for international peace and security since 1947. Our mission is to educate and advocate for a democratic federation of nations with enforceable world law to abolish war and global violence in the resolution of disputes, protect universal human rights and freedoms, and restore and sustain our global environment.

You can reach us by leaving a voicemail at 202-546-3950 (we will call you back), sending an email to outreach@globalsolutions.org, or writing to us at:
Citizens for Global Solutions, 5 Thomas Circle, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

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