Les objectifs du développement durable – The sustainable development goals

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Les objectifs du développement durable
Un scenario pour demain

La pauvreté frappe toutes les parties du globe. Son impact varie selon les régions, mais elle n’en demeure pas moins cruelle.

Même dans les pays à haut revenu elle frappe chaque jour de nouveaux citoyens qui basculent sous le seuil de pauvreté. Elle s’accompagne de son lot d’humiliations et de privations. La perte d’estime de soi cause parfois des dégâts irréversibles et complique toute chance de réinsertion sociale.

La pauvreté constitue l’axe central autour duquel s’articulent les objectifs du millénaire pour le développement (OMDs) afin de bâtir un monde sans laissés-pour-compte.

Les progrès accomplis à ce jour au travers des OMDs sont significatifs, mais restent insuffisants pour gommer complètement et de manière structurelle toutes les inégalités. Avec l’adoption des objectifs du développement durable, les leaders mondiaux renforceront leur engagement pour accélérer leur réalisation. Ils disposent cependant d’une latitude et d’une marge de manœuvre de plus en plus réduites.

Il nous reste à présent à écrire la seconde partie du scénario. Nous savons qu’au cinéma, la frontière entre fiction et réalité est parfois très mince mais dans le cas présent, aucun effet d’optique ne pourra magnifier l’image et chaque résultat sera mesuré. Parions cependant que dans la suite de ce scénario, la réalité dépassera la fiction, et que les résultats surpasseront nos espérances.

Revue des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l’Organisation mondiale de la Santé

The sustainable development goals
A scenario for tomorrow

Poverty affects all parts of the globe. Its impact varies across regions; however, it is no less cruel to any region.

Even in high-income countries, poverty impacts new citizens every day who fall under the poverty line, which comes with its share of humiliation and deprivation. The loss of self-esteem sometimes causes irreversible damage and makes any chance of rehabilitation difficult.

Poverty is the focal point of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), whose purpose is to build a world with no-one left behind.

Progress to date to achieve the MDGs is significant, but still insufficient to completely eradicate all structural inequalities. With the adoption of the sustainable development goals, world leaders will reinforce their commitment to accelerate their achievement. However, their freedom of action and flexibility are increasingly reduced.

We now have to write the second part of the scenario. In the movies, the boundary between fiction and reality is sometimes very thin; yet in the present script, no visual effect can magnify the image as the outcomes will be measured.

We can bet, however, that during this scenario, the reality will exceed the fiction and that the results will exceed our expectations.
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There are many fires raging around the world today – political turmoil, bloodshed, public health emergencies and human rights abuses. But there also burns a flame of hope – encouraging progress in the global drive to improve the lives of the world’s poorest through the Millennium Development Goals. Adopted by world leaders in the year 2000, the MDGs are an ambitious 15-year roadmap to fight poverty, hunger and disease, protect the environment and expand education, basic health and women’s empowerment.

... We mark “a milestone on the journey: we are now 500 days from the conclusion of the MDGs.

Quietly yet cumulatively, against the predictions of cynics, the MDGs have helped unite, inspire and transform “.

“Global poverty has been cut in half. More girls are in school. More families have better access to improved water sources. More mothers are surviving child birth and more children are living healthier lives. We are making huge inroads in fighting malaria, tuberculosis and other killer diseases.

I have met many individuals who owe their survival to this campaign. Yet millions still struggle against extreme poverty and inequality. Too many communities have no proper sanitation. Too many families are still being left behind. And our world faces the clear and present danger of climate change.

Now is the time for MDG Momentum. The ideas and inspiration of young people will be especially critical in this effort and their role must grow even more. That is why I will mark the 500-day MDG moment at United Nations Headquarters with education advocate Malala Yousafzai and 500 young people.

Action in four areas can help fuel progress:

First: making strategic investments in health, education, energy and sanitation, with a special focus on empowering women and girls, which boosts results across the board.

Second: focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable countries, communities and social groups that have the toughest road to progress despite their best efforts.

Third: keeping our financial promises. These are difficult budgetary times. But budgets should never be balanced on the backs of society’s weakest individuals.

Fourth: deepening cooperation among governments, civil society, the private sector and other networks around the world that have helped make the MDGs the most successful global anti-poverty push in history.

The challenges are daunting. Yet we have many more tools at our disposal than at the turn of the millennium – from the expanding reach of technology to the growing understanding of what works and what does not.

Action now will save lives, build a solid foundation for sustainable development far beyond 2015 and help lay the groundwork for lasting peace and human dignity.

We have 500 days to accelerate MDG action. Let’s make every day count”. ■

Malala Yousafzai has been awarded 2014 Nobel Peace prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education. On 10 October 2014, in his congratulations statement, Mr. Ban Ki-moon hailed her as the Great Champion for Children.
A global commitment to stop the Ebola virus

During a short visit to Geneva in early October, the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took time out of his busy schedule to visit WHO for an update on efforts to contain the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa.

VERONICA RIEMER
COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER FOR THE WHO STAFF ASSOCIATION

The UN having recently established the first-ever UN emergency health mission, known as the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), the Secretary-General was keen to speak with WHO specialists leading the response to this unprecedented outbreak of a deadly disease.

The Secretary-General’s visit started with a briefing in the Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC), where the WHO Director-General Margaret Chan and senior staff presented a situation update and outlined the plan for the next 90 days. Then, addressing a packed Executive Board room, the Secretary-General expressed his appreciation of Dr. Chan’s strong leadership and the dedicated work of staff in Geneva and those on the front line during this time of crisis.

“You have my deepest admiration, all of you,” he said. “My colleagues of WHO, I only seem to meet with you here in Geneva during times of crisis. It was H1N1 last time; this time we’re here to discuss Ebola… But the world can work together in this response, and together we must stop Ebola – now.”

World’s first “health-keeping” mission

The Secretary-General was joined by the Special Envoy on Ebola, and former WHO staff member, Dr. David Nabarro who will work closely with the Secretary-General’s Special Representative Anthony Banbury (seconded from OCHA), the operational director of UNMEER. Based in Accra, Ghana, UNMEER was created following ground-breaking discussions in the UN Security Council and the General Assembly. The Mission will harness the capabilities and competencies of all the relevant United Nations agencies, governments and international partners under one integrated response to this unprecedented Ebola outbreak.

“UNMEER will ensure a rapid, effective and efficient response to the crisis,” said the Secretary-General. “This Mission is a testament to the global commitment of all governments in all regions to contain and eliminate the virus from further devastating communities in West Africa.”

Next Steps

WHO will be responsible for overall health strategy and advice within the Mission, while other UN agencies will act in their area of expertise. WHO Assistant Directors-General Dr. Bruce Aylward and Dr. Keiji Fukuda outlined the Mission’s critical activities, and described a 60-day target to find and isolate cases and safely bury bodies, in order to turn the curve of rapid transmission. This approach is intended to ensure essential services, prevent the further spread to neighboring countries, and preserve economic stability in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As part of the broader Ebola response, the UNMEER team will also be investigating access to new vaccines and medicines and will be driving the research agenda. WHO considers the accelerated evaluation of all Ebola vaccines with clinical grade material as a high priority, given the public health need for safe and effective Ebola treatments. Experts attending a WHO meeting at the end of September have already concluded that two candidate vaccines have clinical-grade vials available for phase 1 pre-licensure clinical trials.

Join the response

As he closed his address, the Secretary General appealed to all UN staff to join the Ebola response. He explained that all skills are required for this surge by the Organization, from administrative support at Headquarters to specialist support in the field. A number of key functions (at the field level) will be posted on the WHO job vacancy site. If you are interested in supporting the Ebola response, and are available for a minimum deployment period of 3 months, visit the WHO job vacancy page and submit your application.
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UN Special invited Mr. Vasilyev, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECE1, to answer the questions on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 Agenda.

**EVELINA RIOUKHINA**

**WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF CRISTIAN OLAREAN AND MATTHEW FONSECA**

**UN Special**: After the MDGs, we have a new set of goals, the SDGs, appearing on the UN agenda. Is this a step forward? I do think it is a step forward. It is a sign of maturity of the sustainable development agenda, of greater universal acceptance of the sustainable development vision and commitment to it. It is also a sign of consolidation of the UN agenda. Around 2000, when Member States engaged in the debates on the Millennium Declaration and MDGs, and during the first 10 years after the 1992 Earth summit in Rio, many felt that the UN still had “two agendas” – a “sustainable development” one, which was the outcome of Rio, and a more traditional “development” agenda which at that time was still dominated by the thinking of the 70s or 80s – of the “rich North” and the “poor South”. One should not forget that prior to Rio, and even at Rio in June 1992, the concept of sustainable development was not yet universally embraced by all. We live in a very different world now. Some fundamental geopolitical and economic shifts took place over the decades after Rio. MDGs have played a crucial role and still continue to play an important role by laying the ground for the SDGs. However, a growing commitment by all countries, by all stakeholders to a truly universal, visionary and transformative sustainable development agenda, with robust SDGs, is, in my firm belief, a long awaited step towards the “Future we Want”, a clear sign of greater maturity of the Organization and its member States to collectively address “as One” present and future challenges.

You mentioned the time prior to the Rio Conference. Tell us about yourself and your previous working experience with sustainable development. Were you the member of a Government delegation? Was it different to represent the Government or to represent the UN? When did you join the United Nations?

My involvement in sustainable development started in the late 1980s when I was serving at the Permanent Mission of the USSR to the UN in New York and was a negotiator for my Government on environmental and sustainable development issues. Then sustainable development, sparked by the Brundtland Commission Report, was a rather new concept for the UN, member States and us, the New York delegates. In those days, sustainable development was still very far from universal political acceptance. While many found sustainable development as a vision, a promise to address economic, social and environmental concerns of the current and future generations, many countries felt that commitment to sustainability would force them to sacrifice their economic growth and other priorities to solve global environmental
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problems, which had not been created by them. As we were negotiating towards Rio, sustainable development was still a very young, fragile concept and the use of this term was exercised with a lot of caution.

Only after Agenda 21 was adopted, and the General Assembly decided to set up a Commission on Sustainable Development under ECOSOC, there was a moment of “cautious acceptance”. So, coming back to “maturity”, the world had progressed a lot from those days, but it took us two decades to make it happen and to finally start setting concrete and measurable sustainable development goals and targets.

On your last question, just a few months before the Rio Conference took place, my term with the Permanent Mission ended and I was offered by the UN a consultancy and later a short, fixed-term assignment with the Secretariat of the Rio Conference. I focused on institutional issues and the elaboration of proposals for the possible functions and modus operandi of the Commission on Sustainable Development. This might be hard to believe but for me the transition from my government responsibilities to the work for the UN was rather smooth and easy. In the late 1980s USSR was “outside” ideological debates between the North and the South, which were dominating throughout the Rio preparatory process, and my main instructions were to “build bridges” and to “make Rio happen”. The USSR positions on most of the issues discussed in PrepCom were neutral and were perceived as such by the negotiating partners. So putting on the neutral “hat” of a UN Secretariat official was rather natural.

What was the atmosphere then, around Rio Conference, prior to Rio and after? What were the expectations then, more than 25 years ago? It was a very enthusiastic period, which was full of hope and expectations. There were expectations of major geo-political and economic changes, the world was coming to the end of the Cold War, new technologies were coming into fore; new economic models were explored. At the same time, the world recognized that there are new major long-term challenges, which have to be tackled – climate change is just one example – and that such challenges require global solutions. Rio was seen as the Forum which could bring the world together, not only East and West, but also North and South in addressing these common challenges. Rio also marked a very important change in the way the UN worked. For the first time various non-governmental constituencies and stakeholders – the private sector, women, youth, academia – or, using the Agenda 21 terminology, “Major Groups” – became recognised agents of change and partners for action. In many ways at Rio, UN stopped being an almost exclusive domain of government officials and diplomats.

Your contribution is recognized by many. Do you agree with the concept that an individual can make a difference, can bring change, by personal example even in such a large Organization like the United Nations or UNECE? Well, thank you, but let’s not exaggerate my personal role or contribution. Whatever I managed to achieve or tried to achieve was always a result of collective efforts and commitment. Speaking more generally, while individual leadership, creativity and even passion are often important, any success always depends on joint efforts, good team work and mutual trust. In a way, I was always privileged throughout my career to be part of very committed people and colleagues, whether at times we negotiated Agenda 21, when we were setting up the CSD² or now in the UNECE.

What is the role of communication in relation to post-2015, in the UNECE? How do you see the role of communication; to focus on working diligently or to put more effort on communicating what we do?

We must do both – carry out a mission, deliver results and communicate the importance of our work – at political level as well as to the people. Unfortunately, communication and outreach are not part of staff culture and practice at the UN. It is a reality and a challenge we must recognize and address. We usually fail to translate the significance of UN work, especially when it is technical in nature, in simple messages reaching the hearts and minds of ordinary people. However something must be done about it.

Take for example the work undertaken by UNECE. In general, except for technical experts, UNECE’s work is off the radar screens of most people. At the same time most of the people and businesses in our region and beyond benefit of our products and services on a daily basis. They see them when they cross a road, buckle up their seat belt, buy groceries or fill in custom forms, and they do not realize that these products and services have something to do with the UN or UNECE. The same goes for our work in environment, water
management, forests, housing, innovation, public-private partnerships, sustainable energy – which aims at making life better and business simpler. We need to be more pro-active and creative in communicating it. We had some successes in the past – take for example the Forests for Fashion event which brought together around our joint work with FAO the worlds of arts, science, fashion and business and which was broadly reported in the media. However such successes are rather an exception. Of course such successes require enormous effort, creativity, teamwork and diplomacy from our staff to make it happen.

Talking about the Post-2015 Development Agenda again, the challenge is to relate it to people. To make sure that people understand its relevance. That this agenda is being designed to make a real positive difference in their lives, their communities and countries. At the same time people should feel that they “own” it and consider themselves as actors in its implementation.

Arguably, the Post-2015 Agenda, built around universal and transformative SDGs, is even more relevant for the UNECE region than the MDGs. UNECE work is directly related to many of the proposed SDGs, for example in such areas as cities, water, forests, transport and energy. UNECE also does some unique work in measuring sustainable development, which would be critical for the accountability framework under the Post-2015 Agenda, and has already developed some very relevant accountability mechanisms to measure performance in such areas as environment, housing, innovation and sustainable forest management.

The Acting Director-General of UNOG put forward the concept of “perception change”. How do you apply this concept to UNECE or how do you think it could be applied?

I think this is a brilliant initiative. Somehow, in the public eye, UN is usually associated with either New York or with its work in the field, like for example peace-keeping missions or areas of humanitarian emergencies. At the same time, it is in Geneva where many of the practical results are delivered, whether its groundbreaking agreements to address most complex conflict situations, or development of products and services, which impact daily lives of people, or protecting people’s rights, freedoms or health. Geneva, very often translates recommendations and resolutions developed elsewhere into tangible results making a real difference on the ground. UNECE is an important player here along with many other partner organizations and agencies of the Geneva family. This initiative definitively will help UNECE to better communicate the results of our work and to strengthen partnerships with UNOG and other organizations both within and beyond the UN system.

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1 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
2 Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)
A fast-moving epidemic full of tragic surprises

Ebola now hits large cities and slums

The Ebola epidemic that is ravaging parts of West Africa is a fast-moving event with many unprecedented dimensions. This is the largest, most severe and most complex Ebola epidemic in the nearly four-decade history of the disease.

The number of cases and deaths to date far exceeds those from all the past outbreaks combined. The number of surprises delivered by the epidemic is likewise unprecedented. It is large and tragic. Prior to the current epidemic, the Ebola virus had never before entered a capital city with more than just a handful of cases. This time, all capital cities in the three hardest-hit countries have experienced large and explosive outbreaks.

The virus never before entered a community like West Point, in Monrovia, Liberia. West Point is West Africa’s largest and most notorious slum: more than 70,000 people crowded together on a peninsula, with no running water, sanitation or garbage collection. The number of Ebola deaths in that slum will likely never be known, as bodies have simply been thrown into the two nearby rivers.

The current outbreak marks the first time that the virus has spread to a new country via a symptomatic air traveller, as happened in Lagos, Nigeria, on July 20.
The epidemiological pattern seen in Guinea is unusual. Just when the outbreak looks like it is coming under control, sudden and unexpected flare-ups occur, again giving the virus a new breath of life.

The “hidden caseload” phenomenon has never been seen before in any previous Ebola outbreak. As soon as a new treatment facility is opened, it immediately fills to overflowing with patients, many of whom were not previously identified.

**Hitting health workers hard**

Never before has the Ebola virus affected so many health care workers. In the typical past pattern, amplification of infections in a health care facility was the first signal of an outbreak. After Ebola was identified as the causative agent, protective measures were introduced and cases in health care workers virtually ceased. In this outbreak, infections in health care workers account for nearly 8% of total reported cases – an astonishing figure for this virus.

The total number of health care workers affected at all outbreak sites, as of 16 September, is 318, of whom 151 have died. Prior to the start of the epidemic, the three hardest-hit countries had only one or two doctors to serve a population of nearly 100,000 people. Every single loss of a doctor or nurse diminishes the response capacity significantly.

The current exponential increase in the number of cases is unique.

The duration of the outbreak is unique. Even the largest previous Ebola outbreaks generally ended within 2 to 5 months. In the current outbreak, the Ebola virus has been circulating for at least 9 months, with no early end to the outbreak in sight.

**More misery for fragile economies**

The final – and perhaps most significant – surprise is the magnitude of negative consequences for the fragile economies of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, countries that had only just begun to recover from years of civil conflict. These consequences have been translated into more misery and hardship for populations that are already deeply impoverished and have been further severely traumatized by the outbreak.

In these countries, the outbreak is taking a quantifiable toll on national revenues, continuity of business activities, inflation, and prices of goods and services, including critical health services and food, and levels of household income.

In many areas, hunger has become an even greater fear than the virus. For example, the fertile fields of Lofa County, once Liberia’s breadbasket, now lie fallow. In that county alone, nearly 170 farmers and their family members have died from Ebola.

The Chief of the African Development Bank described the situation in stark terms. “Revenues are down. Foreign exchange levels are down. Markets are not functioning.

Airlines and ships are not coming in. Development projects are being cancelled. Business people have pulled out.”

Then, September 17, the World Bank quantified what is likely to happen. The Bank’s economists estimate the medium-term impact could reduce outputs by 2.3 percentage points of GDP in Guinea, 11.7 percentage points in Liberia and 8.9 percentage points in Sierra Leone.

The Bank concluded that the Ebola outbreak could deal a potentially “catastrophic blow” to economies in the three countries.
Health and Post-2015 Development Agenda

What does it mean to WHO and UN staff?

*It’s official! We have less than a year before the old Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) become history and the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) become the overall umbrella for development.*

GARRY ASLANYAN, WHO

The latest input into the post-2015 process from the UN Open Working Group includes 17 goals (goal 3 being: “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”) and 169 targets. By way of comparison, the current MDGs include 8 goals and 21 targets.

Political pragmatism of United Nations Member States may threaten to sideline the scientific evidence in the final stages of UN negotiations for the SDGs. For example, goals and targets related to climate change will likely consume a lot of energy and create battles between various interests. Issues such as whether to include an explicit two degrees Celsius limit or dates for when carbon emissions should be arrested and reduced will clearly be areas of major drama.

The proposed health related goals and targets to be reached “by 2030” are presented quite differently in the SDGs outcome document compared to the MDGs, which had explicit health goals focused either on certain diseases (HIV, TB, malaria) or on population groups (children, mothers). The current targets include: “end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children” (target 3.2); “achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all” (3.8); “achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all” (6.1); “ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services” (7.1) and so on. Clearly all of these are shared visions of WHO and other UN agencies.

The current SDGs may seem overwhelming and trying to do too much. To many observers who have written on this issue, including some WHO staff members, the SDGs seem aspirational and hard to achieve. For example if we look at target 3.2 – to “end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children,” and target 3.3 – to “end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria”, it isn’t clear whether these targets mean a full elimination of certain deaths or diseases, or if they will be given a more flexible treatment. The exact definitions will only become clear once a comprehensive indicator framework...
will be in place. Similarly, WHO is a strong supporter of publicly financed universal coverage of health in all countries, but target 3.8 – “achieve universal health coverage”, may be difficult to measure if there is no clear metric of what package of services we are talking about. Therefore WHO is working on the development of indicators that may help as the Member States move to discussing how the SDGs will be measured. Discussions about a comprehensive framework are expected to begin in 2015.

In the process of achieving the MDGs, WHO worked hard to integrate with other UN agencies at various levels and to underline the fact that health is integral to sustainable development and that it should be more explicitly linked with economic and social development. It is important that the SDGs on health continue not to be isolated but linked to the other sixteen goals.

Substantial new financing was mobilized and deployed for global health to achieve the health related MDGs. If the SDGs are to finish the “unfinished health MDGs agenda”, and to be expanded to noncommunicable diseases and injuries, their success is conditional to new finances. In recent years, WHO and other UN agencies suffered from financial instability due to the global economic crisis and various reform processes. Certainly the countries who sign the SDGs will increasingly be able to fund health programmes themselves through economic growth. But WHO and other UN agencies will continue to be expected to play a role in assisting them in achieving these goals, especially as there will continue to be large populations living in poverty that will require donor/technical support. Similarly, fragile and low income states will continue to require financial and technical aid up until 2030.

But who is best placed to tell us what this may mean to us than the WHO staff themselves. In an effort to collect some reactions and input, I have spoken with colleagues at WHO. Below are some of their thoughts.

“My impression is that the health goal, as it stands today, is quite strong and comprehensive. However, some sub-goals are more specific than others, and the level of ambition also seems to vary. Overall, I think the SDGs will help WHO take forward several of its leadership priorities but they may also put a further strain on the Organization. At this point, it is not clear how the SDGs will be financed, and whether WHO may be given more funding to lead on SDG 3”, says Zsófia Szilagyi, Technical Officer, Global Malaria Programme, World Health Organization.

Patrick Zuber, President of the WHO Staff Association, notes: “SDGs will play an important part in helping focus global health efforts. Tremendous progress has been accomplished over the past 15 years thanks to the MDGs. There is now an increasing sense that priorities become less a matter of low versus higher income countries and are more related to the disparities of access to health services within countries. We now need to adjust successful public health interventions and place more emphasis on inter-sectorial efforts to make universal access a reality”.

To sum up, WHO and other UN agencies will need to transform in the next 11 months. The key issue will be to figure out what needs to be done to translate the ambitions of this document into action. The SDGs, if they are accepted as proposed, can be as influential as the MDGs, but only if they are more prioritized and better measured. WHO and other UN agencies and their staff will continue to play a central role in health and development for at least the next 15 years.
The Pearl will Shine!

Swearing-in ceremony of Mr. Christian Friis Bach, UNECE Executive Secretary and United Nations Under-Secretary-General

Mr. Christian Friis Bach takes the Oath of Office as Executive Secretary of the UNECE and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations in front of the Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. This is not only a rare and unique event, but also a unique candidate – Mr. Bach is the youngest Under-Secretary-General appointed to an organization in the UN Office in Geneva.

The moment of the Oath is solemn – left hand placed on the Charter of the United Nations, right hand raised in the air, Mr. Bach is facing the Secretary-General, the two standing in front of the Flag of the United Nations. The Secretary-General swears him in. The Oath is signed. Mr. Bach becomes the 13th leader of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the organization which was described by the Acting Director-General Mr. Michael Møller in his recent interview to our magazine UN Special as an “undiscovered pearl” (read UNS 742, pp5-6. Being Acting Director-General of UNOG, Mr. Møller also acted from April through August 2014 as the Executive Secretary of the UNECE).

“For more than 60 years UNECE has helped countries to convene and cooperate, even under the most difficult circumstances during the cold war, with positive impacts on the life of ordinary citizens... For over 60 years UNECE has shown how global goals and policy discussions can be turned into practical standards or guidelines that can be used by countries all over the world. It is turning Sustainable Development into global public goods”, notes Mr. Bach in his address. “The vision behind UNECE dates back to 1947 and is a simple one, but a strong one. By helping countries to cooperate on a number of very concrete issues we build peace and progress. It is a vision that has worked for Europe for decades. But it is still a vision that is needed also within the ECE region where we see turmoil and tensions rising once again”.

Mr. Bach strongly believes in this vision. He concludes his speech with the words: “UN Economic Commission for Europe is indeed an undiscovered pearl”. But as our staff representative, Elizabeth James, said at our Town Hall meeting recently, “we have now begun to polish the pearl. Let me promise, Secretary-General, that the pearl will shine upon the UN and continue to create strong results for our member States and for citizens all over the world”.

In the background of the ceremony stands the UNECE Road Safety Poster with the slogan “We drive by the rules”. This poster is signed during the ceremony, both by the Secretary-General and the Executive Secretary. The poster is symbolic, it appeals for driving by the rules, be it leading a vehicle or an organisation. By signing the poster the Executive Secretary takes up another important commitment – to drive safely, but also to drive by the rules. The Secretary-General underlines that Mr. Bach is a good driver. He is giving Mr. Bach his full trust and freedom to choose the lane or to adapt the speed; the most important being to drive into the same direction and to never cross the yellow line. We are also confident that we are in the hands of a good driver. This Ceremony, once again, gave us the assurance that, while driving our big UNECE vehicle, the rules will be respected!

Mr. Bach will be the guest of one of the up-coming UN Special issues. In the meantime read his recent interview for Geneva International.

1 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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The Millennium Development Goals were framed as a “global partnership for development”, quite an all-encompassing concept. They were meant to support fair trade and debt relief, increase aid, provide access to affordable essential medicines and encourage technology transfer in order to reduce world poverty. Other development initiatives of the new century had a less sophisticated label; they were simply “catalytic”. A specific idea was going to get huge mileage for the proponents, their donors and the people in greatest need.

By mid-2013, luminaries gathered on invitation by the UN Secretary-General to provide a high-level report on the post-2015 agenda. They made sure we would not be mistaken one more time. Their very articulated report about Sustainable Development Goals has a very high and laudable ambition; to end extreme poverty in all its forms irreversibly. They also referred to one characteristic of the process; it ought to be “transformative”.

Get your vocabulary right!

Global initiatives attract attention from very diverse communities. Politicians and donors are key players to ensure that a new set of ideas gets long term visibility and support.
English and American language dictionaries both identify “transformative” (or transformational) as the adjective to the verb “transform”. Transform is defined as describing various aspects of making or undergoing marked change – in composition or structure; in the outward form or appearance of; in character or condition. Examples abound of how the adjective is used: “the transformative power of the PC”, “a transformative session”, “existentially transformative”, “such transformative labor”, “transformative technologies”, “a transformative era”, “a transformative mental process”, “our duties are tough, relentless and transformative”, “messages (…) in hard practice transformative” and even more extreme “death (…) as a significant transformative event”.

Remarkable words are tokens for effective communication. They provide a rallying point for those who use them. A 2014 candidate to a senior United Nations position will necessarily have “transformative” ideas. Likewise, an engineer looking for new funding to support a water drilling project or an agricultural development plan will make sure that the proposal clearly explains how they will “transform” the sector or the way of doing business. Focus on key words may sound ironic or a little superficial at first, yet it is part of conveying ideas and demonstrating that one is familiar with a particular movement or set of ideas.

In the context of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, the project is to embrace further the Millennium Declaration of September 2000 towards a “more peaceful, prosperous and just world”. Millennium Development Goals can be linked to objective improvements along the lines that were proposed. A credible case can be made that having identified those common goals was effective in moving many people towards better education, economic conditions and health indicators. Yet, so much remains to be done. For collective successes to materialize, the common spirit needs to be supported by clear facts, credible strategies and political commitment. They also require aspirational elements that appeal to the largest number of people.

The 2013 report was meant to define the contours of the post-2015 agenda. Its main purpose appears to take the better part of human aspirations such as growing, caring, breaking new grounds, promoting harmony and finding peace. It suggests a vision that in our “shared humanity” we are closer to making those a reality because we now have means to beat the Babel tower of malediction thanks, in great parts, to amazing progress of information technologies. To materialize this vision requires to consistently apply the values of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility, all broadly accepted within the United Nations.

Such ambitious aims will definitely require some transformation of humanity. It implies that a United Nations process can catalyze incredible shifts of perspective down to each individual. Replace in particular the pre-eminence of productivity, profit and individual gratification with some degree of frugality, disdain for wars, link between production and consumption with a greater care for environment.

As the Millennium Development Goals have in great part materialized, there is value to believe in those transformative ideas. We all know that extremism, greed and xenophobia have always been part of human history. Setting the bar higher for 2030 is a legitimate way to sustain hope. A diverse world that masters destructive aspects of human societies definitely requires transformative global political objectives and actions.
Les OMD ne seront pas atteints par les Nations Unies mais par la jeunesse

Les OMD: le combat des jeunes

HOLGER POSTULART1, BÉATRICE FALGA2, ÉDITÉ PAR OMAR BAWA, FONDATEUR DE GOODWALL.ORG

« C’est par hasard que je suis tombé sur les OMD » confie Bertrand Delbao Boukar, étudiant venu du Tchad à Genève, qui sourit en se rappelant du moment où il aperçut un rapport de l’ONU sur les Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement (OMD) à l’écran d’un ami étudiant, en 2006. Toutefois, il ignorait que sa lecture allait être décisive : elle allait changer sa vie et celle des jeunes de son quartier de Gassi au Tchad.

Nous avons rencontré ce jeune homme dans les locaux de « Goodwall », le réseau social qui incite aux bonnes actions, à Genève. Le choix du lieu n’est pas un hasard, car ce sont des jeunes de 20 à 24 ans qui ont créé cette entreprise sociale et la dirigent afin de contribuer à la réalisation des OMD. Ainsi, c’est à travers la description de Bertrand sur les conditions de vie des jeunes de sa commune, que ressort l’importance des OMD et comme le mentionne Bertrand, le « hasard » d’en entendre parler prédomine. Ces objectifs primordiaux, ainsi que des plans d’action destinés spécifiquement aux jeunes, devraient pourtant faire partie de chaque cursus scolaire, dans chaque pays du monde. La description de ces objectifs se trouve facilement sur internet, mais il faut déjà avoir l’idée et la motivation de les chercher...

Aujourd’hui, 18% de la population mondiale est âgée de 15 à 24 ans, tranche d’âge définissant « la jeunesse ». La vaste majorité de ces jeunes vivent dans des pays en voie de développement et presque 45% d’entre eux connaissent la pauvreté. Selon l’estimation du Département des Affaires Économiques et Sociales des Nations Unies, les jeunes sont les personnes les plus vulnérables de toutes celles ciblées par les OMD. Ils sont trop souvent défavorisés, privés d’éducation, d’information et de droits de base. Souvent, les plans nationaux de développement ne considèrent pas la jeunesse et ses besoins.

Ainsi, la mission principale de cette décennie est de sensibiliser les jeunes, nos futurs dirigeants, aux enjeux contemporains, reflétés particulièrement par les OMD.

Cette sensibilisation est entreprise par l’ONU, notamment à travers la participation de jeunes membres de la division du Jeune Groupe de Défense des intérêts (Young Advocacy Group) de la Première Initiative Mondiale de l’Éducation (Global Education First Initiative), à la Consultation thématique sur l’Education des Nations-Unies Post-2015 à Dakar, Sénégal. Cette participation a permis aux jeunes d’apporter leur point de vue sur la situation et les défis contemporains, et de partager leurs initiatives pour contribuer à la réalisation des OMD. Cependant, nous pouvons noter que les jeunes présents viennent pour la majorité de pays en voie de développement (Sierra Leone, Liban…) ou en crise, et non des pays considérés comme « développés », qui ne sont toutefois pas immunisés contre la réalisation des OMD.

De même, la sensibilisation des jeunes aux OMD est une démarche entreprise par le site « TakingITGlobal », en collaboration avec le Réseau Mondial d’Action de la Jeunesse (Global Youth Action Network, GYAN), qui a pour but d’inspirer, informer et impliquer les jeunes dans la réalisation des Objectifs du Millénaire pour le Développement. TakingITGlobal dispose en outre d’une Campagne régionale du Millénaire, composée de jeunes éditeurs ayant pour rôle de répandre les actions contribuant à la réalisation des OMD entreprises par les jeunes, à travers le monde.

Bertrand Boukar, aujourd’hui âgé de 29 ans, fait partie de ces jeunes ayant déjà pris action pour un monde meilleur. Cependant, il faudrait plus : un mouvement global des jeunes pour que leur combat puisse être couronné de succès.

« L’esprit d’initiative des jeunes dans mon pays laisse à désirer » affirme Bertrand concernant la motivation de la génération des jeunes dans son pays. « Ils s’attendent à ce que les adultes... »
et le gouvernement résolvent leurs problèmes». Face à cette léthargie, le jeune homme, lui, a décidé de s’engager pour le bien commun dans son pays dès l’âge de 17 ans. L’élément déclencheur de cette force de volonté a été le projet du PNUD au Tchad, ayant pour but de former les jeunes aux défis mondiaux tels que le SIDA ou les maladies sexuellement transmissibles.

Toutefois, son projet le plus remarquable appelé « Un ballon – Un talent », initié en 2010 et toujours en cours d’exécution, est la création d’un centre de formation de football dans la capitale N’Djamena, dans le quartier défavorisé de Gassi. Tout a commencé avec l’organisation d’un tournoi de football afin d’unir les jeunes et les sortir de la rue. Ce projet a attiré l’attention d’autres communes et de la fédération nationale de football. Finalement, la FIFA s’est engagée pour récolter les fonds et le matériel nécessaires. Grâce à ce partenariat, le projet a évolué et n’est plus uniquement sportif. En effet, en faisant partie de ce centre, les jeunes sont tenus de s’instruire: lorsqu’ils ne sont pas sur le terrain, ils doivent suivre le chemin de l’école et étudier! Ceci démontre comment la démarche individuelle d’un jeune peut participer à la réalisation des OMD: assurer l’éducation primaire des jeunes les incite à poursuivre des études secondaires, et par la même occasion, leur permettre un accès plus aisé à un emploi et des revenus, réduit l’extrême pauvreté.

En effet, d’après les chiffres de l’UNESCO, 20% des jeunes des pays en voie de développement n’achèvent pas le cursus primaire, augmentant les chiffres du chômage et la précarité parmi les jeunes en âge de travailler. Le manque de qualification et d’éducation de ces jeunes est dévastateur, notamment chez les jeunes défavorisés, autant en milieu urbain que rural.

Parallèlement, l’activisme des jeunes pour les OMD est intrinsèquement lié à l’éducation, qui se doit d’instruire cette jeunesse aux défis mondiaux. Ainsi, il s’agit de réunir des « champions », tels que Bertrand Delhao Boukar, afin que le travail de fourmi effectué par chacun se reflète dans le travail de tous pour former un activisme multiplicateur, systématique, étendu et solidaire. Le soutien des gouvernements est aussi primordial que celui de la société civile. La jeunesse – le fer de lance de la Nation – a besoin d’outils mis à sa disposition pour faire face aux enjeux contemporains et à leur éventuelle résolution.

La solidarité est clé face à ces enjeux: une collaboration entre les « jeunes leaders africains », les « jeunes leaders européens » et ceux des autres continents est nécessaire, car le chemin est long et semé d’embûches.

Toutefois, au-delà des Nations Unies et du cursus scolaire, la sensibilisation aux OMD est aussi la responsabilité des parents, qui ont le pouvoir d’implanter une force de conviction chez les jeunes, si celle-ci ne se développe pas toute seule. Dès qu’une once d’incertitude vient s’immiscer en soi, résister aux difficultés devient ardu, mais pour reprendre les termes clôturant le discours de Bertrand Boukar: « Qu’il pleuve ou qu’il neige, je mènerai le combat jusqu’au bout ».  

1 Directeur général Global Alliance against Female Genital Mutilation  
2 Étudiante en deuxième année en économie, politique et études internationales à l’université de Warwick

Noël comme nulle part ailleurs...
Beauty on the streets

Sleeping rough on the streets is not where you would usually find a beauty queen, but “Miss England” Carina Tyrell is not your normal beauty queen.

Final year Cambridge University student doctor and former intern at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Carina is on a mission to raise awareness of homelessness in the UK. Currently working at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge, she is President of the University’s Global Health Society and has been working with the homeless for the last three years. With fellow medical students, she has been giving teaching sessions, providing information and directing them to health services.

But Carina wanted to take it one step further and understand what it would be like to be homeless, share this experience with others, and use her Miss England title to raise awareness about what it means to be homeless. “There are misunderstandings and stigma attached with homelessness” she explained. “Many are homeless through unfortunate circumstances and the demographics show that more females and a younger population who are not necessarily alcohol and drug dependent are without a permanent place to live. It is thanks to the Miss England title that I have been able to have my voice heard”.

Carina is not only helping with homeless charities in Cambridge, but is also working on a national scale with the children’s charity Coram. The charity helps children in the UK and abroad by providing legal services, adoption services, life education, counselling, and support for the homeless. They estimate that in the UK 80,000 young people experience homelessness every year. With the help
of friends and family Carina raised £8,000 for Coram, which was donated with funds raised by other contestants in the Miss England final, making a total of £50,000. This was donated to Coram through the Miss World charity, Beauty with a Purpose, a charity for disadvantaged children around the world.

**Internship at WHO**

During the summer of 2014, Carina worked as a WHO intern with the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. She assisted with investigations into the prevalence and causes of serious infections in newborn infants in Africa and Asia, in the hope of finding data which will enable the development of better treatments to reduce the burden of disease and the infant mortality rate.

“Through this opportunity I was able to appreciate WHO’s role in shaping the health research agenda and setting norms and standards based on evidence” she explained. “I found the international collaboration and global networking of such an organization stimulating. My time at WHO was informative, enjoyable and motivating. The factual knowledge I gained from my project, along with the understanding of evidence-based research, drug development, governance, collaboration and diplomacy, will hopefully stand me in good stead for working in global health in the future”.

**Why become Miss England?**

So why did a medical student put herself forward for a beauty contest. “Growing up, my main goal in life has been to help those who are less fortunate than myself. The Miss England and Miss World competitions are about looking for a role model and providing young women with opportunities, and a platform to pursue their goals and dreams. I saw an opportunity and decided I could use such a title to promote health, take advantage of networking with charities across the UK and hopefully the world, and try and help people on a larger scale”.

“I see this period as Miss England as an opportunity to develop my medical career further and to help people on a scale that I could not previously have imagined possible. I am determined to use this title to make a positive difference and for it to assist me in working in global health in the future”. Once qualified, Carina’s ambition is to work on the public health front-line in the world’s poorest countries or in disaster zones with an international medical charity.

Carina is the daughter of retired physicist Mark Tyrell, who helped build the Large Hadron Collider at CERN, and retired WHO staff member Sue Block Tyrell. She was born in Geneva and educated at the La Châtaigneraie International School.

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“The degree of civilization of a society is measured by the plight of its poorest citizens, not the number of skyscrapers”

— Nikki Gemmel
The Monk, the Teenager and the Engineer

“Youngsters for Zanskar” is an NGO created by Thalia Johner y Cruz, a 16 year old student at the International School of Geneva, born in New York City to a Swiss father and a Colombian mother.

CHANTAL STREIJFFERT GARON, WHO

With the technical guidance of Chewang Norphel, alias Ice-Man, a visionary 79 year old retired civil engineer from the Zanskar region, creator of artificial glaciers that capture and channel precious snowmelt that otherwise would be wasted, the NGO is funding the construction of a water channel to bring glacier water to the village of Stongdey, in Zanskar (India), one of the most isolated Himalayan communities in the world.

Thalia, how did you come to know about Zanskar?

Moved by Geshe Lobsang Yonten’s work, a Tibetan Buddhist monk, who has dedicated his life to providing elementary and secondary education to the children of Zanskar, his native region, my mother invited him to our house. Geshela stayed with us for a week. To help him with his educational project, I organized an awareness campaign in Geneva and raised CHF 1,500 for him. Talking with Geshela, I learned about the threat to the Tibetan Buddhist culture in Zanskar, caused by tourism, governmental policies, and environmental damage. Their traditional way of life, subsistence agriculture, is particularly threatened by the scarcity of water. Their only source of water is the glacier melt, since precipitation is almost non-existent, and climate change has reduced it significantly.

What is your project about?

My project is to build a water channel that will direct glacier melt which at the moment is falling towards an uninhabited part of the valley, towards the village of Stongdey. This will significantly improve the amount of water available to the 130 families living there, and permit their crops to produce enough food for the long 8-months winter during which the valley’s only road is snowed in. At the moment, given that they can only sow and harvest in the short 4 months period between June and September, any shortage or late glacier melt means not enough food to last all winter. So I went with Mr. Norphel, the engineer, Geshela, the monk, and my family, in the summer of 2013 all the way up the mountain pass at 5,490 m, to see where and how the channel could be built and at what cost. Then, together with Norphel and Geshela, I presented the proposal in a village meeting, and committed to finance the construction, and obtained the commitment of the families to work in the construction and its maintenance in the future.

That’s a quite ambitious project for a teenager. Who else is involved besides yourself?

It did not start that ambitious. I thought it would be much easier than it turned out to be. But I’m glad I was naive, otherwise, I probably would have never started doing this. Aside from the technical assistance of Mr. Norphel, I formed an executive committee in Stongdey that also includes the mayor and two village leaders (aside from Norphel and I) to keep the village involved in every aspect of the project and make sure we get their input and to coordinate their contribution to the construction.
How is the project funded?
The funding is all coming from my NGO “Youngster for Zanskar”. So far, I have raised USD 12,800 of the total USD 17,000 required. I have been fortunate to count on the support from students and teachers at the International School of Geneva and on people working in Geneva-based companies, all of whom have helped me fundraise or have donated money. My campaign on Kickstarter (a crowd funding platform) will hopefully complete the funding (scheduled to be active in a month or so).

How will the construction of the artificial glacier be undertaken? How long will it take? A small excavating machine and an operator were hired by Mr. Norphel and came all the way from Leh (some 500 km away from Stongdey) in late June, when the road opened. The machine had to build a small dirt road all the way from the village to the top of the pass as it went along, and once up there, excavate a 1 km long by 1 meter wide channel around the 1 square km catchment area. The construction of the artificial glacier should be completed by next summer.

What has been the life of the people of Stongdey until now and what will this bring to the community?
This used to be, until around 15 years ago, before the road arrived there, a subsistence agricultural community of about 400 people. The arrival of the road, and with it, tourism and government intervention, has changed not only the way they see themselves but also the way they live. Many more people visit the area now, so the demand on the scarce resources of water and food is not sustainable. Both tourists, the army garrison, and increasingly the locals, have to buy food brought in by truck from very distant places. The village went from being self-sufficient, to increasingly dependent on subsidies and imported food and other goods.

An Indian film maker is following the project very closely and is actually filming the whole experience. How did you get to know Anshu? What is he bringing to the project? Mr. Srivastava is a friend of Mr. Norphel, and upon hearing of the project, he proposed to me to make a 1-hour documentary on it. I hope his documentary will raise awareness of the problems climate change and what we consider to be progress in the West are posing to small communities like Stongdey.

“I have a special affinity for the mountains. Many of my projects have led me through the Himalayas. Very dear to my heart is my latest film on Mr Chewang Norphel, Kang-Ri: The Song of the glaciers celebrating the indomitable spirit of Ladakh’s IceMan, a 79 year old retired engineer who is waging his own one-man battle against global warming. It is the story of creating glaciers in wilderness and his dream of perpetuating the ethos of his land for the future generations. His ingenuity and deep devotion to his people have been an inspiration for me, so when I heard about Thalia’s project, I felt compelled to do whatever I could to carry Mr Norphel’s work to a larger audience. Twenty-two years after my first film, every new film is still a leap of faith, posing new challenges. The single imperative is that the story must be inspirational. Thalia’s project definitely falls within this category.”

For more information: Sopan Productions (sopanproductions@yahoo.co.in). Anshu is also on LinkedIn and Facebook.

© Thalia Johner y Cruz (3 pictures) Anshu Srivastava, the film-maker with Chewang Norphel, the engineer

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For more information: Zanskar Project www.facebook.com/pages/Zanskar-Project/1401810063402464?sk=info

For more information: Sopan Productions (sopanproductions@yahoo.co.in). Anshu is also on LinkedIn and Facebook.
Il n’y a pas de plan(ète) B

Alors que l’échéance des objectifs du Millénaire pour le développement des Nations unies approche, et que l’on prépare l’agenda post-2015, le WWF, l’une des principales ONG internationales de protection de la nature, a publié récemment son nouvel « indice planète vivante1 ».

OLIVIER BORIE


Le WWF estime que nous utilisons aujourd’hui globalement l’équivalent d’une planète et demie par année. Nous en entailmons les « réserves » en abattant, par exemple, plus d’arbres qu’il n’en pousse, ou en pêchant plus de poissons qu’il n’en naît. La biodiversité continue, quant à elle, à décliner.

Nos moyens techniques, combinés à de l’énergie en abondance, nous ont permis de démultiplier l’échelle de notre présence et de nos impacts, au point de dépasser le seuil de renouvellement des écosystèmes.

Parallèlement, nos émissions de CO2, liées principalement à la combustion d’énergies fossiles et à la conversion des terres, ne cessent d’augmenter, alors qu’elles excédent déjà la capacité de notre planète à les absorber, contribuant ainsi au réchauffement climatique. Nos ressources diminuent, la pollution augmente et la population mondiale grandit, certes moins vite qu’avant.

Les inégalités de richesses et de consommation entre pays sont considérables. L’empreinte écologique par habitant des pays aux revenus les plus élevés est souvent aussi la plus importante. Plus que la démographie, ce sont les modes de répartition et de consommation qu’il faut revoir. Or, si les...
conditions de vie de beaucoup ont progressé, une part importante de l’humanité continue à vivre dans la pauvreté. Il faudrait pouvoir atteindre un développement humain élevé tout en affichant une empreinte écologique soutenable.

C’est dans ce contexte que la Suisse, un pays qui n’a pas toujours été une terre d’immigration, s’apprête à voter prochainement pour ou contre une initiative populaire visant à limiter la croissance de sa population afin de ne pas dépasser un niveau qui soit incompatible avec la préservation durable des ressources naturelles. On peut s’interroger si ce n’est pas un peu tard, étant donné que son empreinte écologique se situe déjà aux alentours de 5 planètes, et que son taux de fécondité est en dessous du taux de renouvellement.

Les défis du développement sont multiples, mais la préservation de l’environnement n’est pas un luxe, loin s’en faut. La biosphère se concentre sur une fine couche à la surface de la terre. Les écosystèmes soutiennent les sociétés, les économies et notre prospérité. La dégradation de leurs services affecte généralement plus fortement les populations pauvres qui en dépendent souvent plus directement pour leur survie. Pas de quoi s’étonner si l’espoir de meilleures conditions de vie pousse des millions de personnes à émigrer. C’est un phénomène naturel qui concerne, ne l’oublions pas, également les habitants de pays développés. En 2013, on estimait le nombre de migrants, sans compter les réfugiés, à environ 232 millions. Ce chiffre serait très certainement plus élevé si des barrières, réglementaires et physiques, ne se dressaient pas un peu partout.

Des solutions pour un développement durable existent. Dans son rapport « Planète vivante », le WWF propose plusieurs pistes. Il suggère notamment de :
- Réorienter les flux financiers par une valorisation de la nature, une prise en compte des coûts environnementaux et sociaux, un soutien et la récompense de la conservation, de la gestion durable des ressources et de l’innovation
- Consommer plus raisonnablement ; le bien-être et le bonheur passent en partie, mais pas seulement par la consommation
- Produire mieux, réduire les intrants et les déchets, tenir compte des cycles de vie des produits, développer la production d’énergies renouvelables
- Préserver le capital naturel et restaurer les écosystèmes endommagés
- Instaurer une gouvernance équitable des ressources notamment à travers une mesure de la réussite dépassant le seul PIB

On pourrait compléter cette liste avec des notions comme l’intégrité et la transparence. Le coût humain et environnemental de la corruption et des détournements se chiffre non seulement en milliards, mais leur effet perversicape la confiance nécessaire à la construction d’une société saine.

Nous pouvons donner à chacun les moyens de vivre et s’épanouir, pas juste survivre, sans que ce soit forcément au détriment des autres, ni de la planète qui nous accueille et que nous devons maintenir dans le meilleur état d’habitabilité possible. Les signes positifs annoncés récemment concernant la couche d’ozone, et qui sont le fruit de l’action concertée des Etats pour la restaurer, nous rappellent justement les bénéfices de la coopération internationale. A chacun de nous d’œuvrer en faveur d’un équilibre afin d’éviter une compétition fratricide pour des ressources que nous sommes destinés à partager.

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1 http://www.wwf.fr/vous_informer/rapport_planete_vivante_2014/
By MAHMOUD HAMMOUD

In 2000, 189 Member States came together in New York to create what they labelled the “Post 2015 Development Agenda”, which was designed to abolish extreme poverty and hunger, actualize gender equality in rights, duties, and education, bolster sustainable economic and environmental development, and combat fatal diseases. The Agenda also included a desire to improve generalized healthcare for women after childbirth which would prompt an increase in the health of both mothers and babies. Furthermore, the Agenda’s objectives would establish world collaborations for sustainable development including sustainable consumption and production, and the creation of a predictable commercial and financial system that is open and supported by a framework of basic rules free from discrimination.

While the endeavors of the Post 2015 Agenda embrace the spirit of human rights, they do not explicitly express them. Today, experts unanimously include various or all human rights in the Post 2015 Agenda. Amnesty International, for example, insists that human rights are the main key to development and asserts that Post 2015 efforts have little meaning when governments are not inquisitively questioned about their human rights registers.

In an attempt to properly implement the Post 2015 Agenda plans, developmental experts from more than 60 UN and international organizational agencies are leading the works. Their primary goal is to establish a realistic envisionment for the Post 2015 Agenda era. This will require the members to engage all of the stakeholders and actors from the field in the global multidimensional dialogue. This workgroup has found that to succeed, the discussion must include national consultations and open discourse among its members, including national organizations working on development as well as representatives of governmental and non-governmental agencies, women’s associations, organizations representing youth, and organizations representing persons with special needs.

Think tanks also raise awareness through campaigns thus including specific target groups such as academic milieu and the private sector. The plethora of available social media also plays an important role here, as the social media networking system is open and depletes the notion of discrimination, allowing access of information to a range of people from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The workgroup has been actively reaching out to its stakeholders through various platforms and these efforts include such mediums as social media, workshops, and e-discussion, among others. Global dialogue has

Before any dialogue about a development agenda is formed there must be lasting peace. This lasting peace, and the continuance of this peace, must remain the focal point of concern for the international authority of the UN Resolutions.

Between 2014 and 2015: Centuries of Hopes and Aspirations

ما بين 2014 و2015: قرون من الآمال والطموحات...
been promoted to include all stakeholders leading to the creation of a roadmap for "the future we want." If I could use this space to voice my generation's opinion, I would affirm that before any dialogue about a development agenda is formed there must be lasting peace. This lasting peace, and the continuance of this peace, must remain the focal point of concern for the international authority of the UN Resolution.

The media of the latter are not only the means by which we express our opinions, but also the means by which we influence others. And if we are to influence others, we must first be able to express our thoughts clearly and succinctly. This is why I believe that the media are important in our lives. They help us to think and reason about important issues, and they help us to make decisions that affect our lives. But what is the nature of the media? How do they work? And how can we use them effectively?

The media are important because they are powerful. They have the ability to shape public opinion and influence political outcomes. They can also be used to spread ideas and values, and to promote social change. But the media are not just a tool for individuals or organizations; they are also a tool for governments and other institutions. The media are a means by which governments can communicate their policies and programs, and they are also a means by which they can control the flow of information and suppress dissent.

In addition, the media are important because they are a source of information. They provide us with news and information about events that are happening around the world, and they help us to understand the world around us. But the media are not always accurate or unbiased. They can be influenced by political pressures, and they can be used to spread misinformation and propaganda.

Finally, the media are important because they are a medium for creative expression. They provide a platform for artists, writers, and other creative thinkers to express themselves and to share their ideas with others. But the media are not just a tool for creative expression; they are also a tool for social change. They can be used to bring attention to important issues, and to inspire action.

In conclusion, the media are an important part of our lives. They are powerful, informative, and creative. But they are also complex and challenging. We must be aware of their potential and their limitations, and we must use them wisely and effectively. Only then can we ensure that the media serve the interests of all of us, and not just the interests of the powerful.
What now with the Sustainable Development Goals?

The creation of a new and more realistic post-2015 agenda to replace the Millennium Development Goals is already happening, with Geneva in the forefront. But how will the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) be implemented and what can they do that is more effective – and different?

When the United Nations first announced its Millennium Development Goals in September 2000, the international community launched itself on a journey that was incredibly ambitious. The eight MDGs included key issues such as reducing child mortality rates, ensuring primary education for all, and promoting environmental sustainability by 2015. While significant progress has been achieved in some areas, limited improvements and failure have characterised others.

Even if considered primarily symbolic, the 2015 deadline gave the impression that the world was seeking to fully “eradicate extreme hunger and poverty” or “protect the vulnerable.” It was also a top-down initiative that did not sufficiently involve grassroots and was poorly explained to the public-at-large.

While most governments have committed themselves, their intentions are often self-serving. Certain African countries, on the other hand, have enthusiastically embraced the need for change with initiatives aimed at developing greener economies.

Some critics argue that much of the MDGs’ alleged “progress” is wishful thinking now that 2015 is almost here. Whether because of war, disaster, epidemics, human rights repression, economic deprivation or state-condoned corruption, crisis-affected civilians are by no means less vulnerable. Corrupt regimes, guerrilla movements, political thugs and criminal trafficking networks still seek to impose their own selfish interests.

While some UN agencies are reluctant to question...
government claims, others, notably the UNHCR\(^2\), have not held back. Such candidness will prove decisive for the SDGs to succeed. The UN’s 2014 Millennium Development Report maintains that “extreme poverty” has been reduced by half with over 700 million people “removed” from such conditions since 1990. But change is often difficult to measure: statistics can be manipulated, particularly if governments wish to be seen in a positive light. On-the-ground advances can also be interpreted broadly.

The harsh truth is that while some countries have moved ahead decisively, others have not. For someone in a Nairobi shanty-town, a Brazilian favela or a Kabul slum, the news that they are no longer living in “extreme” poverty may come as a surprise. Diverse factors are constantly coming into play: inflation, environmental devastation, unemployment… The struggle for survival continues.

Another MDG objective is to improve basic health care. Indeed, 3.3 million malaria deaths, 90% of them children, and 22 million from tuberculosis have been prevented in recent years. HIV/AIDS, however, has yet to be averted. Matters become more nebulous beyond the graphs and statistics.

More children in 2014 are undoubtedly able to go to primary school. Worldwide, an estimated 133 million young people cannot read or write. According to Oxfam, if trends persist, over half the developing countries will not be able to offer complete primary school education by 2015.

What the MDGs have achieved, however, is direction. By highlighting the planet’s most critical concerns, such as climate change or the need for greener economies, the MDGs have provided clear indicators for action. They have also shown that change can only happen with more inclusive and bottom-up approaches.

As a result of the 2012 Rio+20 summit, the SDGs are expected to assume the MDGs. Designed to be “action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate,” these consist of 17 goals and 164 targets. They also strive to be cross-cutting, politically realistic and environmentally friendly with an emphasis on “we the peoples,” not “we the states.”

For the SDGs to work, they need to involve all players, whether governments, civil society, private sector, military, academia, but, above all, ordinary human beings. As Deborah Vorhies of the Geneva-based Global Social Observatory points out, it is time to “break the silos.” The private sector also needs to be roped in, given that this may prove to be the only way to pay for the SDGs.

The media, too, should have a crucial role to promote awareness as well as to monitor. There has to be more innovative and creative thinking with the media “convened” by the UN to discuss a possible role for engaging with the planet’s unprecedented challenges, including pressure on governments to keep their promises.

Furthermore, with the Millennium Institute expected to move to Switzerland, the SDG process may be based out of “International Geneva” given its exceptional focus as a global hub for humanitarian, environmental, climate change, mediation, new technology and financial imperatives. ■

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\(^1\) Edward Girardet is a journalist, editor and author. A former foreign correspondent covering humanitarian crises, wars and environmental issues for The Christian Science Monitor and American Public Television, he is now based in Geneva where he is editor of Le News as well as The Essential Edge.

\(^2\) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Tracer une nouvelle voie pour la nutrition

D’ici à 2050, la population mondiale devrait atteindre les 9 milliards d’habitants et tous auront besoin d’avoir accès à des aliments nutritifs pour mener une vie saine et productive. Pourtant, actuellement, le système alimentaire mondial ne parvient pas à offrir une alimentation saine à la moitié des habitants de la planète. La malnutrition est en cause dans 45% des cas de décès chez l’enfant. Elle a une incidence majeure sur la morbidité, la réussite scolaire, la productivité au travail ainsi que sur les dépenses de santé. En Afrique et en Asie, on estime que la malnutrition fait perdre chaque année 11% du PIB.

Il est essentiel de saluer le rôle de chef de file de la FAO, du PAM et de la FIDA qui font de l’association de la nutrition et de la sécurité alimentaire une priorité pour les nouveaux Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD). Les nouveaux objectifs pour le Programme de développement pour l’après 2015 s’inscrivent dans la lignée du défi «zéro faim» (Zero Hunger Challenge) du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies qui envisage un monde, de notre vivant, où personne ne connaîtrait la faim ni la malnutrition. Nous sommes persuadés qu’il est possible d’y parvenir, mais redresser le système alimentaire mondial ne sera pas chose aisée. Dans un monde toujours plus interconnecté, ceci ne sera possible qu’à travers un effort collectif global regroupant les gouvernements, la société civile et les entreprises.

Un autre exemple illustre bien l’avantage de travailler avec les petites et moyennes entreprises (PME). Grâce à notre programme «Marketplace for Nutritious Foods» (Marché des Aliments nutritifs), GAIN propose des produits nutritifs et abordables sur les marchés en aidant des entreprises locales en Afrique de l’Est à développer des produits qui répondent aux besoins nutritionnels des consommateurs les plus pauvres; par exemple, la vente de lait pasteurisé ou d’abats de poulet, riches en protéine, à des prix abordables et en petites quantités, ou encore un autre exemple, l’accès à des technologies de séchage permettant de conserver les fruits et légumes frais plus longtemps.

Nous savons qu’il n’est pas toujours simple de rassembler les gouvernements, la société civile et les entreprises. Plus de douze années d’expérience dans la promotion d’actions collectives nous ont appris que les partenariats ne fonctionnent que lorsqu’il existe des structures claires, des méthodes de travail transparentes et un système de mesure des performances.

La prochaine CIN2 offre l’immense opportunité de pouvoir faire figurer la nutrition en bonne place sur l’ordre du jour. Elle doit aussi permettre aux gouvernements de véritablement harmoniser leurs programmes pour renforcer les efforts en matière de nutrition dans leurs pays respectifs. Il est également important de reconnaître le rôle des acteurs non-Étatiques afin qu’ils puissent contribuer, en partenariat avec les gouvernements, à relever le défi «zéro faim» de notre vivant.


Marc Van Ameringen, Directeur exécutif GAIN


Pour plus d’information: www.gainhealth.org
Reflections on peace in Geneva

EVELINA RIOUKHINA

Reflections on peace, and namely, “Reflections at the United Nations” is the title of the newly published book, in which Mr. Tokayev, former Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the UNOG, Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General to the Conference on Disarmament, shares his reflections, highlighting the importance of Geneva as a centre for international diplomacy.

The book features key speeches and articles, as well as interviews which Mr. Tokayev gave during his tenure, and underscores his efforts at strengthening the role of the Organization and of International Geneva. It also tells the recent history of the Palais des Nations through the multitude of meetings he was part of in his time as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Mr. Tokayev, today the Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, personally came to the launching of the book, held in the Kazakh room, at the Palais. The event was addressed by Mr. Møller, Acting Director-General, UNOG and H.E. Mr. Fasel, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UNOG.

Reflections on peace, this time within Geneva International, were also featured by a significant Inauguration Ceremony on the same day. Peace reflections “got” their official Home next to the Palais – the Maison de la Paix – within the building of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID). The Inauguration of the Maison de la Paix was hosted by the Swiss and Geneva authorities: Mr. Buzkhalter, the Swiss President, together with Mr. Longchamps, Geneva State President and Ms. Salerno, Geneva City Councillor.

The Maison de la Paix, along with the IHEID, also houses the Small Arms Survey (SAS), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), the Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), and other organizations active in the field of peace and sustainable development, such as the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Interpeace.

The Maison de la Paix, a new landmark building in International Geneva, is not only a place of reflections on peace. It is also a place for meeting and action in the field of peace and security. The Maison de la Paix will highlight the role of Geneva as centre of peace, and might become the main place of such reflections along with the Palais des Nations. Both buildings of reflections are close to one another – they are just 500 m apart. This closeness, direct and symbolic, will reinforce the role of Geneva international in the key area – peace and security. This closeness will allow bringing new synergies in the reflections on peace and will contribute to the joint search for innovative solutions.
The man with a wild heart

“Es lo mejor que le puede ocurrir a un tipo, Ambrosio -dice Santiago-. Creer en lo que dice, gustarle lo que hace.”

Mario Vargas Llosa, Conversación en la Catedral

NATASHA DE FRANCISCO

El Agustino, a district in the northern part of the Peruvian capital, Lima. An urban landscape typical for many big cities of Latin America with smog and dust curling over the busy highways full of cars, busses, lorries honking their way through, up and down the roads. After a few minutes of gazing at ubiquitous vehicles, a tired eye would inevitably revert to the horizon line and would filter through the dust veil a chain of distant hills with bright colourful squares of houses scattered all over. They look like notes on the lines of a score – jazzy, groovy, rocky – perfectly marrying with the tunes of AGUSTIROCK rock festival that made this place a popular musical Mecca since the 1980s. The first row of the houses located on one of the hills bears a monumental banner “Sin zancudo no hay dengue” (“No mosquitos, no dengue”).

In 2005, the city of Lima was hit by its first dengue fever

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epidemic, which affected mostly the northern districts of the city. The outbreak was then successfully contained through preventive interventions jointly developed by doctors, local administrations and social grassroots organizations.

The year 2009 brought another challenge – Tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. It struck El Agustino together with two other populous districts – Victoria and San Juan de Lurigancho. And again a team of health specialists came up with an innovative approach to prevent and control TB in large cities. A TB-Zero Plan based on a strategic alliance between the Health Directorate, the District Municipality of Victoria and the Association of people affected by TB (ASET-La Victoria) – a unique combination of social-oriented, humanised treatment and epidemiological interventions – was key to reducing TB incidence rates and default from treatment.

These are just a few cases among myriads of similar examples of how a joint cooperative response could help save human lives. Behind all these efforts there has always been one person whose charisma, experience and dedication became legendary and powerful enough to attract the attention even of the most resistant individuals.

Dr. Luis Alberto Fuentes Tafur – "el hombre con un corazón bárbaro" – "a man with a wild heart". He grew up in a village and attended a rural school – always in contact with nature, absorbing the essence of rural life, sharing daily joys and sorrows with his indigenous community. These times and the environment shaped his strong spirit of solidarity with his people.

After having graduated from the Main National University of San Marcos in Lima, he chose to get back to his "grassroots", to his community, where he knew his help was most needed. He spent almost 17 years in the rural areas of north-eastern Peru promoting health and education among rural communities and fighting various epidemics widespread among the indigenous populations and most marginalised groups of the region including: cholera, dengue, bartonellosis, malaria, yellow fever, hepatitis B, and rabies.

Later, when in 2003 he moved to Lima invited by the Ministry of Health to head the Department of Community Participation as well as the establishment of the Human Rights Unit under the Health Promotion Department, his provincial experience helped him a great deal. “From my brothers – indigenous people and peasants like me – I learnt that the best way to manage is by encouraging participation, educating, sharing, setting examples, being honest and supportive. And what is most important is to know and demand your rights”, asserts Dr. Fuentes Tafur and proudly wears his “double hat” of a civil society activist and a public health manager, Director General of the DISA IV Lima Este.

He knows what he is talking about; he likes people and likes what he does. But for that, he says, you need to have “a wild heart”.

In his white medical gown walking through the long corridors of the National Hospital “Hipolito Unanue”, Dr. Fuentes Tafur seems a white-clad captain inspecting the decks of a large ship.

The maternity unit is one of the most moving places in the hospital. Behind a thick glass one can see nurses weighing newborns – tiny, pink, wrinkled, warm, and screaming. It is hazy and a bit steamy inside because of the little lives breathing in unison in their little world that they yet have to discover.

Some visitors wipe away a fugitive tear – just because it feels good, just because they sense love and care in every corner, in every move, in every smile, in every wild heart beat...

He notices that and says: “Well, this means we will have to work better so that next time you cry more!…”

Special thanks for biographical notes to Gabriela Fuentes Garrido, social communicator, daughter of Dr. Fuentes Tafur, and to Dr. Adrian Díaz and Dr. Miguel Davila from the WHO office in Peru for technical and logistic support.
Museomix: le musée à la carte!

N’avez-vous jamais imaginé pouvoir «remixer» un musée? Changer l’agencement de vieilles salles, présenter les sculptures classiques sous un format novateur, ou passer une nuit au musée en créant des liens nouveaux entre des collections et des objets d’époques et de tendances différentes?

NATASHA DE FRANCISCO
C’est désormais possible avec MUSEOMIX. Museomix est un «marathon créatif» qui se situe au carrefour de la médiation culturelle, de la culture numérique et de l’innovation collective.

En d’autres termes, c’est quand dans un espace créatif comme un musée se réunissent à peu près 50 «museomixeurs» – individus ayant le rôle de médiateurs, développeurs, bloggeurs, artisans, spécialistes en électronique, graphistes, communicants, bricoleurs.

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scientifiques, muséographes, etc. – pour transformer les espaces existants en un terrain d’expérimentation.

Le concept du Museomix est assez récent. Il a été fondé en France en 2011 et depuis sa création il a déjà été testé à l’échelle nationale et internationale par huit musées. Il a réuni près de 700 participants qui sont à l’origine de 68 prototypes.

Pour la première fois Museomix arrive en Suisse. Cette initiative est d’autant plus symbolique qu’elle sera accueillie par le Musée d’Art et d’Histoire de Genève (MAH), à la veille de son agrandissement et de sa rénovation au moment où des changements et de nouvelles idées seront mis à l’honneur. L’appel à candidature a été lancé le 11 juin 2014 et a recueilli un vif succès : le MAH a reçu 115 dossiers de candidats extrêmement créatifs prêts à remixer le musée.

Sans aucun doute, ce rendez-vous promet d’être un événement créatif et original. Chaque année Museomix est organisé simultanément dans différents pays, mobilisant des muséomixeurs de tous bords qui travaillent ensemble pendant trois jours, sur place ou virtuellement au-delà des frontières. Outre Genève, cette année Museomix sera organisé également dans sept autres musées situés dans trois pays différents : le Canada (Montréal), la France (Saint-Étienne, Paris, Nantes, Lille et Arles), et le Royaume-Uni (Derby).

Pour son premier Museomix, le MAH accueillera les 7, 8 et 9 novembre six groupes de huit experts passionnés de culture et de nouvelles technologies disposant de près de 7000 m² de surface d’exposition comme terrain d’expérimentation.

Les six groupes se pencheront sur les thématiques suivantes :
1. Le musée, de l’encyclopédisme à l’individu : la visite à la carte
2. Le musée lieu de vie, de l’extérieur à l’intérieur
3. Le musée hors les murs ?
4. Créer du lien : de l’individu à l’encyclopédisme
5. Les expériences d’immersion
6. De la grande histoire à l’histoire individuelle

Les salles Palatines (dédiées aux expositions temporaires du MAH) leur seront entièrement consacrées devenant ainsi leur espace de travail de 8h30 à 23 h ou minuit. L’ensemble des collections leur sera également accessible, des beaux-arts à l’archéologie en passant par les arts appliqués.


Qui sait… Peut-être qu’un des prototypes Museomix révolutionnera totalement l’avenir du MAH ?

Venez découvrir ce laboratoire en ébullition et partager l’esprit d’innovation et de créativité des muséomixeurs!

Liens utiles :
Le site internet de Museomix : www.museomix.com
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Blog : www.blog.mahgeneve.ch

INFORMATIONS SUR LES HORAIRES DU MUSÉE
Visites commentées
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Samedi 8 novembre
A 11 h, 15 h, 16 H et 17 H
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Testez vous-même ces inventions (MAH)
Dimanche 9 novembre
A 16 h, discours de Sami Kanaan, Maire de la Ville de Genève, et visites guidées
Mardi 11 novembre
De 11 h à 18 h, Visite libre
Après avoir traversé la région du Velay depuis le Puy-en-Velay (voir le numéro précédent du UN Special), le Chemin de Stevenson va nous permettre de découvrir le Gévaudan, le Mont Lozère et les Cévennes, jusqu’à Alès.

TEXTE & PHOTOS CLAUDE MAILLARD
Quand on part faire un chemin comme celui de Stevenson, on ne sait pas toujours vraiment pourquoi. Mais quand on en revient, on n’a qu’une idée en tête, celle de repartir. Afin de retrouver les vraies valeurs de la vie, à notre époque bruyante et déboussolée, le désir de partir, à son rythme, est trop fort. Sur le chemin, nous sommes tous pareils. Il n’y a plus de barrières, de rang social, de priorités qui tiennent. C’est le chemin de l’humanité. Le randonneur part de coutume le sac à dos bien rempli. Mais il apprend bien vite à se délester du superflu! En route, les contacts sont faciles et les rencontres authentiques, vraies.

«Un véritable ami est ce que l’on peut trouver de mieux dans nos voyages. Heureux celui qui en trouve plusieurs. Nous voyageons pour les trouver. Ils sont le sens et la récompense de la vie» écrivait Robert Louis Stevenson en 1879. Et, 135 ans plus tard, c’est toujours pareil, nous faisons vraiment de fabuleuses rencontres sur le chemin. Merci Monsieur Stevenson pour tout ce bonheur que vous nous donnez.

Mais, raconter une telle expérience, exprimer un tel bonheur, éprouver un tel amour n’est pas facile. Le mieux est vraiment de le vivre…

Sur les traces de la bête du Gévaudan
Seulement 16 km nous séparent de notre prochaine étape au Cheylard-l’Evêque où nous arrivons transis après avoir essayé des giboulées de grêle et de pluie glacée. Nous sommes à 1200 mètres et la neige est annoncée sur les sommets. Le bourg, dominé par une chapelle, ne compte qu’une soixantaine d’habitants et un gîte d’étape, le Refuge du Moure, de bonne réputation, mais à l’accueil glacial (comme le temps !) depuis le changement de propriétaires. Heureusement, Géraldine en cuisine et Nathalie ses propriétaires. Nous nous résignons !

Quant à Camille, venue de son lointain Vietnam, grâce à sa bonne humeur, à son éternel sourire et à sa joie de vivre, elle nous fera souvent oublier les petits bobos occasionnés par les kilomètres parcourus !

**Notre-Dame-des-Neiges**

Située en Ardèche, proche de la Bastide-Puylaurent, aux limites de la Lozère, près de la source de l’Allier, l’abbaye Notre-Dame-des-Neiges, fondée en 1850, est un havre de paix, d’où nous allons sans regret pour croquer la beauté des prés et des bois. L’hiver y est long et rude, mais le printemps et l’été sont propices au temps et l’été sont propices au temps et l’été sont propices au temps et à l’été sont propices au temps et à la contemplation en compagnie des moines cisterciens, dits trappistes. Une chapelle est dédiée à Édouard de Foucauld qui fut moine à l’abbaye en 1880. L’été suivant, longue de 29 km va nous conduire à St-Jean-du-Boly où Dominique et Noël vont nous accueillir à « La Combette », leur gîte d’étape où nous serons reçus comme des princes (www.lacombe.com). Nous en avions bien besoin car la Burle, ce vent polaire qui vient du nord, ne nous a pas lâchés du matin et, en début d’après-midi, une erreur de parcours fera faire 6 km de plus !

Le passage du Gévaudan au mont Lozère va se faire sous le soleil et nous apercevons au loin le sommet de Finiels, point culminant du Chemin de Stevenson avec ses 1699 m. Le début d’ascension, très raide, se déroule en sous-bois. Par la suite, le sentier se débouche sur un vaste plateau herbeux où il faut impérativement suivre les montjoies, hauts blocs de granit qui jalonnent le parcours. Certaines de ces montjoies, ornées de croix de Malte, marquaient les limites des propriétés que les chevaliers de Malte de l’ordre de St-Jean-de-Jérusalem possédaient sur le mont Lozère. Du sommet, la vue à 360° est spectaculaire et s’étend à l’infini. 800 mètres en contrebas se niche le Pont-de-Montvert que nous atteignons à la fin du jour.

Après la pause de midi savourée au Signal du Bougès qui domine de ses 1421 m le Parc national des Cévennes, alors que le chemin serpentait au milieu d’une forêt de châtaigniers, notre périple va brutalement s’arrêter alors que nous devinions Florac au fond de la vallée. Bernard, mon compagnon de route, vient de se faire un claquage et, c’est en grimaçant qu’il va parcourir les 3 kilomètres qui nous séparent de notre gîte. Autant dire que le lendemain, il lui sera impossible de faire les 31 km qui devaient nous emmener jusqu’à St-Germain-de-Calberte. 3 jours d’Alès, terme du voyage, c’est l’abandon, mais sans trop d’amertume, car pluie et brouillard ont débarqué dans la région. Battus mais pas abattus, nous reviendrons plus tard terminer cette formidable aventure sur le Chemin de Stevenson, sujet d’un nouvel article dans un prochain numéro du UN Special.

La région est très appréciée par les amateurs de vieilles voitures

Après le Signal du Bougès, descente sur Florac
Challenge Terre de Partages
Foulées de la Soie, Indonésie 2015

L’été prochain, en Indonésie, participez à l’une des plus fantastiques aventures de la course à pied: les Foulées de la Soie, dont c’est le 20e anniversaire.

TEXTE & PHOTOS CLAUDE MAILLARD
Du 5 au 17 août 2015 se dérouleront les Foulées de la Soie, course à pied créée par Jean-Claude Le Cornec, passionné de sport et amoureux des voyages. Également athlète de haut niveau, il participa à plusieurs compétitions « extrêmes » dont le Marathon des Sables, la Trans Atlas, le Paris-Gao-Dakar et la traversée des États-Unis par la fameuse Route 66 qu’il remporta en 1995.

Les Foulées de la Soie disputées en 7 étapes sont ouvertes à tous, quel que soient les performances. Comme de coutume, deux courses sont organisées en parallèle, une pour coureurs (environ 110 km) et une pour marcheurs (environ 60 km), avec deux classements distincts.

Après avoir été organisées en Chine, en Inde, puis au Laos, cette 20e édition des Foulées de la Soie aura lieu en Indonésie, sur les îles de Java (5 étapes) et de Bali (2 étapes).

« Si courir ou marcher était notre seul but, nous passerions à côté de moments inoubliables ». Telle est la devise de Jean-Claude Le Cornec.

Sport et culture seront au quotidien du programme des Foulées de la Soie. La volonté du fondateur et organisateur de l’épreuve est de favoriser les contacts et les échanges entre coureurs et marcheurs, mais aussi avec la population des régions traversées.

Visites de sites touristiques, rencontres avec des personnalités locales, partage avec les minorités qui se joignent aux concurrents, c’est à travers ce programme innovant que chaque année, depuis 20 ans, s’articule cette formidable aventure.
Cette formule originale et unique en son genre permet à l’ensemble des participants de mettre leur capacité physique à l’épreuve tout en gardant un œil ouvert et attentif sur les aspects historiques, culturels et humains des contrées parcourues. En 2015, les concurrents fouleront une nouvelle fois les sites touristiques les plus prestigieux de la planète, dont les temples de Prambanan et de Borobudur, classés au Patrimoine mondial de l’Humanité par l’UNESCO. D’autres étapes, aux tracés alternant chemins roulants ou plus techniques, permettront d’approcher le volcan Merapi, de découvrir le site de Pindul ou d’arpenter les extraordinaires rizières en terrasses de Bali.

Pour organiser une telle course dans des conditions optimales, Jean-Claude Le Cornec s’est entouré d’une fidèle équipe dont celle du service médical FIDELIA (médecin, infirmier, kiné-ostéopathe) qui assure la sécurité pendant l’événement. Spécialistes du chronométrage, des classements, des liaisons radio et du WEB (qui rédige quotidiennement un reportage afin de pouvoir suivre l’étape sur Internet) font également partie du groupe d’organisateurs, tout comme un photographe et un caméraman chargés de concevoir un DVD retraçant ces Foulées de la Soie.

**Challenge Terre de Partages**


En plus du classement officiel des Foulées de la Soie, un classement avec remise de prix et de trophées sera établi pour les fonctionnaires internationaux (meilleurs coureurs et marcheurs, catégories hommes et femmes).

Un minimum de 40 engagés est nécessaire pour pouvoir organiser le Challenge Terre de Partages. Si ce nombre n’est pas atteint, il n’y aura pas de classement spécifique pour les fonctionnaires internationaux. Attention, le nombre de places est limité à 80 concurrents.

Avant et après la course, plusieurs articles seront publiés dans la revue *UN Special* (présentation des Foulées de la Soie, liste des engagés, compte rendu de la course, etc.). Avec la participation des organisateurs des Foulées de la Soie et du Challenge Terre de Partages, ainsi que des partenaires et des journalistes, une rencontre sera organisée à Genève avant le départ pour l’Indonésie.

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www.sdpo.com
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Sport 2000 Ségny
(creatsport.diffusion@wanadoo.fr)
Conseil de coordination de l’ONUG
Offres pour ses membres cotisants

En réponse aux résultats du sondage mené en 2013 sur les services intéressant les fonctionnaires du Palais des Nations et en attendant la mise en place de ces services, le Conseil de coordination a négocié plusieurs offres attrayantes avec différentes entités basées à Genève.

PRISCA CHAOUI
Ces offres se déclinent comme suit:
• Manor: un bon de réduction de 10% par membre à faire valoir avant le 31 décembre 2014. De plus, il est désormais possible de bénéficier d’une réduction de 10% sur les achats chez Manor en commandant des bons cadeaux auprès du Conseil (un bon d’une valeur de 100 francs vous coûte ainsi seulement 90 francs).
• Payot: un bon de réduction de 10% par membre à faire valoir avant le 31 juillet 2015 (valable chez Payot Chantepoulet et Cornavin).
• Pharmacie populaire: une réduction permanente de 10% sur tous les produits en vente hors ordonnance/promotion dans toutes les officines de la Pharmacie populaire à Genève. Cette offre est cumulable avec l’offre de 5% dont bénéficient les détenteurs d’une carte de fidélité de la Pharmacie populaire.
• Europcar: 16% de réduction sur le prix avantageux déjà accordé aux fonctionnaires de l’ONU (code à retirer auprès du Conseil).
• MyColorPhone: 10% sur les réparations d’iPhone et sur les autres services fournis (http://mycolorphone.com/).
• LémanPneu: réductions allant de 20 à 60% selon les marques (vente de pneus neufs et d’occasion, jantes, montage et équilibrage, gardiennage, alignement, mécanique freins).
• Curves fitness: exonération des frais de dossier s’élevant à 249 francs pour un abonnement annuel (valable chez Curves Meyrin, Terrassière et Plan-les-Ouates).
• Gidor (salon de coiffure mixte): un bon de réduction de 10% par membre à faire valoir avant le 30 juin 2015 (valable chez Gidor-Gare Cornavin).
• Aesthetics-Clinics: réduction de 10% sur les traitements laser et première consultation gratuite avec la cosmétologue (http://www.aesthetics-ge.ch).

Ces offres, et d’autres à venir, sont valables pour tous les membres cotisant au Conseil de coordination sur présentation de leur carte de membre du Conseil.


Pour seulement 10 francs par mois, vous pourrez bénéficier de toutes ces offres.

Pour toute information complémentaire, merci d’appeler le 0229173614 ou d’envoyer un courriel à coord_council@unog.ch
This annual festival celebrates the defeat of the surprise attack by troops sent by Charles Emmanuel I, Duke of Savoy during the night of 11-12 December, 1602. It is held in Geneva on the weekend closest to 12 December.

The Escalade took place less than 40 years after the religious massacres that gave Geneva its famous annual holiday – the Jeûne genevois (see UN Special September 2014) and, not surprisingly, the Catholic/Protestant animosity prevalent in the region in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries also played a fundamental role in this event. The Catholic Duke of Savoy coveted the wealth of Geneva – an independent city-state at that time – and was keen to crush the Protestants there. Pope Clement VIII supported the Duke and showed this by appointing François de Sales, Catholic bishop of Geneva in 1602. (The latter had been active in re-Catholicising the French Chablais region around Thonon-les-Bains).

On what was considered to be the darkest night of the year, the Duke of Savoy’s forces launched their attack on the city-state of Geneva with an army of 2,000 or so mercenaries. A commando group was to scale the city wall, open the city gate and let the rest of the troops in. However, the night guard, Isaac Mercier, raised the alarm and roused the people of Geneva, who fought alongside the town militia, to defeat the Duke’s army.

Legend has it that Catherine Cheynel, married to Pierre Royaume (“Mère Royaume”), mother of 14 children, poured a large cauldron of hot soup from her home just above the city gate over the ascending attackers. This is the origin of the chocolate “marmite” (cooking pot), countless versions of which will soon be invading the shelves of Migros and the Coop. Filled with vegetables and sweets made of marzipan and wrapped in the Geneva colours of red and gold, these replicas will be vigorously smashed to smithereens in schools, offices and other public places celebrating the Escalade in and around Geneva to the words of “Ainsi périssent les ennemis de la République!” (So perish the enemies of the Republic!)

Other traditions include mulled wine, vegetable soup and children in costumes singing the Escalade anthem “Cé qu’e l’ainô”, written in Franco-Provençal, in return for alms, and a fancy dress high school parade which ends in the central square of the old town after walking through the “rues basses” to the plaine of Plainpalais and back.

You may have also heard of or even be taking part in the Course de l’Escalade – the Escalade Race – the thirty-seventh edition of which will take place the weekend before the Escalade itself – on 5 and 6 December. This highly popular sporting event takes place every year in the old town on the first Saturday of December. Last year, almost 25,000 runners participated. The race is for everyone – from beginners to famous international runners, children and adults alike. Many international organizations, including UNOG, register teams. Distances vary from 2 kms to 8 kms and take place in the narrow streets of the old town with their finishing line in the Parc des Bastions. An 8km-race for walkers and Nordic walkers is also scheduled. The highlight of the day is the “marmite” race, a 3.4 km unranked run, where the competition resides in wearing the most eccentric costume.

The events of these 2 consecutive weekends are lively and colourful for habitually staid Geneva. They also promise a lot of fun for the whole family before the ski season offers new distractions. ■

Further details:
The Escalade
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%27Escalade

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The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

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