

The March...



World Citizens'
MARCH

towards political unity of the planet

CCM
Coordination Committee for the March
www.worldcitizensmarch.org



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editorial

After the presentation of the World Citizen's March at the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris on January 14th 2014, given on the occasion of a meeting commemorating « *Albert Camus, a pioneer of World Citizenship* », we are now on our way... towards the political unity of the Planet!

A paradox, given the signs of withdrawal developing everywhere, both between nations and amongst individuals... Fear, caution, adversity, repeated obstacles and worry over the future, these are causes for discouragement around the world. Those who tend to view the current state of things in the world with optimism are few and far apart. Equally few are those who are aware of the considerable changes having occurred across the world over the last hundred years, and of the measures that have to be taken as a result, against the challenges facing us in the third millennium.

True, a number of renowned personalities have attempted to promote the "Manifesto for a Global Democracy" they signed in 2013, and calls for a "Global Governance" are rising within the international community. However, a process to redefine political institutions across the world has now become indispensable; will there be enough influent political leaders capable of initiating it? A reform of the United Nations, its mutation into a federal institution is at the core of this issue. They can rely on us to support this action and bring it to its completion. This is the pledge of the World Citizens March.

This March has a philosophical dimension, brought out in Mr. Margonné Seck's text posted on our site: www.worldcitizensmarch.org. It also contains a more concrete dimension, as shown in the 4 workshops we opened in 2014. Their initial steps are described further in this magazine.

Our work this year will focus on the following points:

- Through the contacts we will be able to establish and the various meetings we will attend, we will endeavour to make our convictions known to our fellow citizens, developing their awareness as citizens of the world, together with the need for them to hasten the modifications to global political structures.

- Simultaneously, we will seek contacts with university, media and political personalities most capable of acting on our behalf, and we will seek the support of all networks and organisations connected to globalisation, especially the World Federalist Movement (*FME - WFM*).

Happy New Year to All !

The CCM
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** Symposium organised by "World Citizens' Assembly" in conjunction with several institutions and organisations sympathetic towards globalism.*

Dialogues... as we go along



A selection of statements and observations made both by those who joined the World Citizens' March in 2014 as friendly supporters or as active militants, and others who have chosen to keep their distance.

M.S. : "This March faces a bright future, simply because the realization of the challenges threatening mankind are not about to disappear: neither is the energy needed to fight them efficiently;"

J.B. : I totally approve of this initiative, even though it still has a utopian side to it: we must learn to live with our dreams... These trace the road ahead of us."

O.A. : "Edgar Morin, author of "The Way" ("The Road Ahead") would be happy to hear this.

A.D.B. : "I shall join your march, but I have serious doubts as to its chances of success, given the greed of the free trade system and the power of world finance: they will not willingly loosen their grip..."

M.G. : "To be sure, the world is now faced with a gradual takeover of its wealth by a supranational oligarchy exerting its power over local political institutions.

P.A. : "You couldn't put it more clearly. However the only way to oppose this would be to set up political institutions able to do so on a global scale.

Ph.D. : "I disagree: sooner or later, political institutions are bound to be infiltrated by financial lobbies... I don't believe in the success of a supranational political institution."

M.J. : "Well, your project is nothing more than the eternal Trotsky fantasy: create a global super-state and eliminate all the others. You know perfectly well that it doesn't work!"

Q.A. : "I don't think you really know what federalism means..."

D.B. : "A communal way of life which would be the same all over the world is a misnomer. The gap is too wide between different living conditions."

B.L. : "We simply wish to point out that nowadays, wherever you are, your life is bound to be affected by events happening in other parts of the world."

J.M. : "I entirely agree with you concerning your views on the present world situation and the challenges facing us. However I find it hard to follow you on your solutions: the divergence is too great between the various opinions and points of view of world leaders. We must satisfy ourselves with the existing tools at our disposal, such as the WTO, the G20 or the UN itself. Putting together a World Federation of Nations amounts to creating just another "contraption", full of jabbering officials."

O.A. : "This is where our opinions differ: we are convinced that efforts to improve the tools at our disposal alone are

bound to fail, and this because of the very antagonisms you mention. Given the gravity of the situation, the need for a more drastic solution has now become evident. Far from setting up a "contraption", what we want is to initiate a "mutation" of the United Nations and adapt it to present times.

A.T.A. : "Initially, I was a friendly supporter, but I chose to become an active militant: the time has come to rewrite the 1945 United Nations Chart so as to be able to establish an efficient global governance and to achieve this with the help of pressure exerted by the citizens of the world on their elected representatives."

J.B.F. : "How naïve you are!; Do you actually believe China would be ready to join this Global Federation?"

B.L. : "Not yet, obviously, but things might change by the end of this century... in fact, they have already begun!"

A.L. : "All the same this movement is working against current trends: protectionism, growing nationalism and regionalism, ethnic regrouping..."

P.A. : " This is where federalism has its uses. State political structures will gain in flexibility: opening borders between countries when they become obsolete, bringing flexibility to territorial changes when necessary, while maintaining the community ties which create unity between nations. Furthermore, federalism makes it easier to regroup nations into larger continental areas.

X.G. : "Why not start with a Federal Europe?"

O.A. : "That's just it, one does not exclude the other. The construction of the European Community has, up to now, been the perfect example of what not to do. But let us not forget that, through the ages, Europe was never able to achieve its political unity, even under papal influence... It is hardly surprising that it should take another few years to become a Federal Europe.

N.P.M. : "You're saying that the political leaders of Nation-States are all held up by their short-term objectives. This sounds a bit excessive.

P.A. : "Quite so, we must not oppose the action taken by elected representatives against the pressure exerted by ordinary citizens; both can converge. However, we must not forget that it is the action of political institutions, not merely the qualities and the dedication of politicians, which set the conditions for "living together."

O.G. : "Then, we all seem to agree. Let us march together toward the political unity of the planet! As for myself, I shall spread the Invitation to join the World Citizen's March toward the Political Unity of the Planet. I consider this move is vital for the future of humankind."



Workshop 1

Global Challenges in the XXIst Century

From the many meetings I have attended since the foundation of the World Citizen's March, one fact stands out: there seems to be a general consensus over the nature and gravity of the challenges humankind is facing today, and over the realization that finding a solution within the boundaries of a nation-state is quite illusory. These challenges can be listed into two categories: recurrent ones, those handed down to us through centuries of history, and new ones, which have sprung up at the start of this third millennium.

Recurrent challenges

- The first of these challenges is the persistence of **regional armed conflicts** across the planet. To be sure, the spread of nuclear weapons represents a vital threat to world peace. However, the growing sophistication of classical weapons, soaring military budgets in numerous states and the general proliferation of classical armaments are the direct causes for repeated regional armed conflicts, often fostered by greater powers. Moreover these conflicts open the way to various forms of terrorism, quick at using the media to manipulate people's minds, especially the younger generation. Not to mention the 50 million refugees generated by them.
- Denegation of **basic human rights** and the systematic use of violence and torture are still major challenges facing humankind today. These practices are still rampant in a large number of countries, and not only dictatorships.
- **Corruption** has gone on through the centuries, but has never been so widespread as today... It brings discredit to political institutions and causes a general loss of confidence of citizens for their leaders. It destroys the meaning of democracy.

New challenges in the XXIst century

- **Global warming** and its threat to humankind have now been recognized as a reality. The Copenhagen talks failed dismally in 2009, but hope returned with the U.S.-China agreement in 2014. The coming meeting in

Paris in 2015 opens the way to new perspectives. But IPCC experts are pessimistic, as nothing certain has been achieved up to date.

It is now an admitted fact that worsening climatic conditions and the destruction of ecosystems are due to human activity, especially "non sustainable" ones, (according to the environmentalist wording). However, the fact that the world population has grown from 2 to 7 billion over less than a hundred years is far from negligible!

- The dwindling of **natural and non-sustainable resources of energy** can no longer be ignored. It makes us reconsider our ongoing habits and seek future ways of using energy, far beyond present debates for and against nuclear energy.
- At the same time, **economic globalization** has destabilized regional economic systems and has simultaneously brought to light unacceptable discrepancies between standards of living in various areas of the world, causing huge refugee movements across the planet. One third of the world population is now living below the poverty line and one million men, women and children suffer chronically from starvation and epidemics.

These are the challenges confronting us today on a planetary scale. Rather than being in denial or trying to forget them, we must have the courage to acknowledge their existence and confront them efficiently. The 197 state leaders of our international institutions may be competent, dedicated and full of merit: however, proof has been made that these institutions: international bodies, intergovernmental organizations such as G6, G8 or G20, or even the United Nations Organization, are unable to deal efficiently with these challenges as a whole. Obviously, this type of political organization, based on the principle of 197 independent, sovereign nations in a 1945-model UN, is obsolete, to say the least.

More relevant information can be found on the Internet site of *The World Citizen's March* www.worldcitizensmarch.org, by reading Roland Guillon's contribution to this workshop entitled "Two Planetary Challenges in the XXIst Century".

Workshop 2

A New United Nations Chart



A dynamic overview of international institutions and their evolution over the last century would result in, briefly, this: First UNO 1, then UNO 2, finally UNO 3.

UNO 1 : the League of Nations

It was founded in 1919 (on January 10th 1920) at the end of World War I. Its purpose was to replace armed conflicts with a system based on consultation, negotiation and arbitration within an institution where decisions are made unanimously.

It soon became powerless under the pressure of totalitarian governments. The result was the breakout of the second world war with its millions of deaths, both civilian and military.

UNO 2 : the present United Nations Organization.

Founded at the end of World War II, it aimed primarily at maintaining world peace and based itself on two principles:

- firstly, resolutions are voted by the Security Council by a qualified majority. The 5 permanent members (countries victorious in WW II) hold veto power over UN resolutions.
- secondly, the principle of state sovereignty is observed; this prevents any binding aspect to UN resolutions.

Simultaneously, the purpose of the United Nations is to foster cooperation between its member states in matters of economy, culture and health.

In actual fact, the United Nations has shown itself powerless over armed conflicts and unable to curb the growth of terrorist movements. Moreover, faced with economic globalization it has no control over economic and financial exchanges across the world, or over mass migrations.

As for intergovernmental institutions such as G6, G8, or G20 they have proven equally helpless.

In short, the 1945 UNO 2 is now clearly obsolete and world stability requires more than an "international community" of 197 independent sovereign states with no strong institutional links.

UNO 3 : A World Federation of Nations

It is now generally understood that the United Nations must now evolve into a strong, supranational institution with sufficient means to deal efficiently with the challenges facing the planet today.

Two possibilities are open to us :

- one: the early globalists' view, which tends to ignore nation-states and proposes to set up a global Constituent Assembly to elaborate a Constitution for a World-State This seems hardly realistic, for two reasons: to begin with, it is difficult to imagine present political leaders massively inflicting hara-kiri upon themselves. Also, it is equally difficult to determine how this Assembly could be set up, by whom, and along which lines elections would be organized. We must therefore start with who we are and what we have, that is, a State system as it is today.
- two : takes its inspiration from the process initiated in 1945, which proved itself satisfactory then, and which led to the writing and the adoption by 50 states of the present "United Nations Chart". In this case, world known political leaders, realizing the need to rethink the structure of the United Nations have decided to set up a work group charged with drafting a project for a "**New United Nations Chart**". As a passing remark, let's suggest that this project should find it appropriate to keep the initial words of the 1945 Chart: "*We, the people of the United Nations...*" as they are. However, the closing words "*in the strength of which the present Chart has been signed by government representatives*" should be carefully avoided, as this time the world citizenship of people is involved, not only their national citizenship. It is important that the project should be ratified by a referendum organized within each State seeking membership of the "**World Federation of Nations**" as it is defined by the new United Nations Chart. It is therefore up to the population of each of the 197 States to decide whether or not to enter the World Federation. Obviously, this entry into the Federation can only be very gradual. However all 197 States will eventually join, as was the case for UNO 2.

This project can only succeed if the populations of member States and their political representatives become fully aware of their rights and their duties as "World Citizens". This shows what task now lies ahead for the "World Citizens' March": to bring people to fully realize the meaning of their world citizenship.



Workshop 3

A Federal Type of Supranational Institution

A number of projects for global institutions, at various degrees of completion, have been initiated since 1945. Two of them, dating back to the 40's, are especially typical of the trends of the times:

- The first, chronologically, was a federalist project for a world constitution, which was published in 1947 in a brief text prefaced by Thomas Mann.
- The second, brought to notice mostly in press articles and minutes of public meetings, never appeared in a written document. It was the project of a globalist movement initiated by Garry Davis and Robert Sarrazac in 1948. Its aim was to set up a world government, but neither its nature nor its structure were clearly outlined.

Neither of these two projects came to completion:

- One was the work of a committee of specialists presenting an unsuspecting population with a fully detailed project for a constitution; however, it had the disadvantage of using highly technical language. It is hardly surprising that it did not materialize.
- The other advocated the suppression of States in favor of a World Government (Cf Garry Davis "One Government, One World"). This presented a double risk: either the rise of an over-powerful State, jeopardizing the idea of democracy; or, inversely, a paralysis of institutions, resulting from the very weight of their competence.

While observing respect for existing States, this future supranational institution will need to draw its inspiration from two principles: the primacy of general interest and the principle of subsidiarity according to which decisions must be made to suit the people's interests: locally for local issues, nationally for national ones and globally for global ones. This new institution, "The World Federation of Nations", is destined to replace the present United Nations.

The World Federation of Nations.

The purpose of the World Federation of Nations is to regroup the totality of the States in the World, which will then become federated States. It will have like existing States, its own territory: the World; and its population; the World's population. A choice will be made for its geographic implantation - a fixed headquarters or a variable one - and for the official language of the federal government.

The Federal State is defined in a **Constitution** which lists its attributions: on the one hand, those related to international matters, on the other, those conditioning the survival of humankind and of the planet. This constitution determines the distribution of competences between the Federal State and its federated Nations;

World institutions, also defined by the Constitution include the following:

- A **Parliament** with legislative power, composed, principally, of an **Assembly** elected by direct universal suffrage, and, optionally, a **Chamber of State Representatives**.

The conditions under which Assembly Members are to be elected must be defined: drawing of constituencies (voting power to be given to each Member State, or to intermediate districts of vote drawn for each continent?), mode of election, number of deputies, term duration.

Similarly, the composition of the Chamber of State Representatives (if there is one) must equally be defined: number of representatives, mode of election, term duration.

- An **Executive** body designated and controlled by the parliament; its composition, term duration and responsibilities must be clearly defined. It will be supported by a federal administrative group, its recruitment, organization and powers to be outlined at a later date.

- **Federal Finances** will dispose of a Budget system, either based on tax contributions, or subsidized by the Federated States.

- Whenever the need arises, the executive body must be able to apply force to implement decisions taken by the Federal Government. A **Federal Police Force** will be set up with its powers and means of intervention clearly outlined.

- A **Court of Justice** to arbitrate and give judgment over conflicts between federated States.

The powers of this Court is to be defined, also the designation and statute of the Judges. The creation of local courts of justice is considered..

- Existing United Nations satellites and **agencies** will naturally be maintained and attached to the new Federal State.

On a number of points needing a wider consensus, Workshop 3 did not consider it necessary to take any decision at this stage; it chose to put forward a few items of reflection for further debate.



Workshop 4

The March, Communication and Promotion

Our priority in 2014 was to set up our site. We opened in January with versions both in French and in English. Our objective is to add a Spanish version and eventually a version in Esperanto.

- As it is today, this site, plus the e-mail address that goes with it, seems to have established a positive reaction with netsurfers who wish to contact us and get any information they need on our launching *“The March of World Citizens toward the Political Unity of the Planet”*.
- It has been suggested that we open our social network site. As our activity is centered around matters of the mind and of opinion, we have chosen to abstain, for the time being, from the game of spontaneous commentary and from exposing our points of view on current events. This position is, of course open to change and we are ready to welcome any sugges-

tion or contribution which could be made on the subject.

- A document entitled *“Invitation to join the World Citizen’s March toward the political unity of the Planet”* was tested on approximately one hundred people during the summer of 2014; it was apparently successful, as it led to a good number of subscriptions to the March. In 2015, we will be publishing our magazine in French, English, Spanish, eventually Esperanto; this will enable us to reach a larger public and, hopefully, bring us more subscriptions.
- The impact of word-to-mouth and direct contact between people should not be ignored. Presentations organized with the help of supporters or militants will make our movement known to the public and raise its interest in the March. Members of the Bureau are ready to respond to any offers in this direction.

To the Reader

You have just read these pages, and you may already have visited our Internet site : www.worldcitizensmarch.org. You should also read “Invitation to join the World Citizen’s March toward the political unity of the Planet”, enclosed in issue N°2 of our Yearly magazine, with its subscription form.

If you wish to offer your commentary on its contents, to take part in one of our workshops, or to organize a debate over the presentation of the World Citizens March, do not hesitate to contact us!

- by e-mail at : contact@worldcitizensmarch.org

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We will answer immediately

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Reading Suggestions

