

A letter from the Executive Director, William Pace



Bill Pace, Executive Director, WFM-IGP

Photo credit: WFM-IGP

Inside this issue:

The challenging relationship between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court	2
A World Federalist Movement for the 21st Century	3
Peacebuilding Commission Update	4-5
Global Democracy—from utopia to necessity	6-7
RtoP and the ICC: Complementarity in Prevention, Assistance and Response	8
The global campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly continues on all continents	9
ICC First Verdict: Thomas Lubanga Dyilo	10
Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World	11
The Recognition of the Palestinian State at the United Nations	12
Rio +20	13
Developments within the Small Five Group	14
Donor Spotlight: Karl Fossum	15

As we approach our 26th Congress, our peace movement has much to be proud of and much to look forward to. Our Member and Associated Organizations continue to underpin our global membership movement. WFM-IGP works with literally thousands of partner NGOs throughout the world in our goals of surrounding war with law and justice and democratic international governance. This is the difference in our work since 1994, since the end of the “Cold War” and since small and middle power democracies began to create new structures for peace in partnership with national and global civil society.

The same principles for achieving peace need to be applied to addressing poverty, protection of the environment, safeguarding against international financial disasters, and advancing universal human rights. We hope Winnipeg will help us advance our goal from the Buenos Aires Council of establishing more regional “**Democracia Global**” hubs for our work promoting international democracy, and that we can devise strategies to bring hundreds of NGOs

in partnership in this endeavor.

Timely issues were raised at the 2011 Council meeting hosted in Washington, DC, which reflected a shift away from an emphasis on internal governance with significant importance instead placed on larger questions of the direction and focus of the movement. Discussion was raised regarding WFM’s capacity to enhance the level of support for WFM’s mission from both the global south and from younger participants. There was also the continued call to raise global awareness on

a series of important issues highlighted in the resolutions, which further developed the conversations on NPT, UNPA, and issues of global environmental and global economic governance.

The 2012 Congress Meeting has been scheduled to take place at the University of Winnipeg, MB, Canada, 9-13 July 2012. We hope representatives from each and every Member and Associated Organization will be able to attend. We hope to be able to continue the discourse on the movement’s objectives at our XXVI Congress meeting this summer.

The Challenging Relationship Between the United Nations and the International Criminal Court: A Window of Opportunity?

By Jelena Pia-Comella, *IS Secretariat*

Last year, while the Arab Spring Revolutions brought some hope for the peoples of Egypt, Libya and Tunisia, many outstanding issues are yet to be addressed and new challenges have indeed emerged. At the national level, the establishment of a social justice order, the promotion of gender equality and the restoration of the judicial and legal systems remain to be implemented properly. At the international level, not only the legitimacy of the United Nations Security Council and the independence of the International Criminal Court have been and continue to be questioned but also their relationship has been tested more than ever before.

The unprecedented adoption of Security Council resolution 1970 on Libya did show great leadership in protecting civilians in situa-

tions of armed conflicts and in attempting to end impunity. That same leadership however, faded away when it came to fund the referral itself and when it came to deal with the ongoing Syrian crisis. It is this dual contradictory behavior from the international community that has put the legitimacy of the Security Council and the independence of the Court at stake.

It is the failure of the Security Council to refer the Syrian situation or other situations of ongoing grave conflicts to the Court that has deepened the confusion about the relationship between the two institutions and their respective mandates. The Security Council with its power to refer plays a unique role in ending impunity, but its political nature and the use of the veto from the P5 lead to selectivity and at the end, do expose the Court. The SC members and the international community as a whole have to demand meaningful reforms for the Security Council's working methods, in particular and most urgently, reforms that have the P5 refrain from the use of their veto in situations of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

It is the Assembly of States Parties' rhetoric

around the adoption of the Court's 2012 budget that tested the consistency from Security Council members which are also States Parties to refer situations to the ICC. Indeed, soon after the referral of Libya to the Court, those same SC member states which are states parties to the ICC did not step-up to their funding responsibilities by asking a zero-growth policy on a budget that primarily increased because of the very Libyan referral. One can understand this position under the current global economic and financial situations. However, even during this economic turmoil, the international community has to find innovative ways to fund its responsibilities, be it for development aid or international justice. The populations in situation countries and in particular in the MENA region place a great deal of confidence in the United Nations and the International Criminal Court. When they see that during last fall's G20 summit the international community was ready and willing to mobilize to end the financial crises and advocated for adequate funding for the International Monetary Fund, why would they not expect that same level of commitment to secure adequate funding for the International Criminal Court to end impunity and bring them justice?

To bring justice to all affected populations and to restore the legitimacy of both institutions, member states of the Security Council ought to clearly communicate their motivations on why they refer one situation to the Court and not others; states parties to the Rome Statute ought to step-up to their funding responsibilities and provide the Court with a predictable, sustainable and multiyear assessed core funding.



"States parties to the Rome Statute ought to step-up to their funding responsibilities and provide the Court with a predictable, sustainable and multiyear assessed core funding."

A World Federalist Movement for the 21st Century

By Fernando Iglesias,

Democracia Global

From the end of the Second World War on, the work of the World Federalist Movement has been decisive in many of the main developments towards a fairer, more pacific and more united world. In direct correlation with the international situation during the Cold War, our movement has played a crucial role in the creation and enforcement of the United Nations and the European Union. The fall of the Berlin Wall induced an international climate appropriate for the creation of the International Criminal Court. Additionally, the movement's structure (offices, organizations, etc.) reflects the world of the second half of the twentieth century.

Yet, the first decade of the twenty-first century has shown an amazing amount of changes in the technological, economic and political fields. On one hand, the needs of an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world are leading many different forms of regional integration to flourish. On the other hand, the worsening of climate change, nuclear proliferation and financial instability in the form of global crises that affect the lives of billions of human beings and menace against the continuity of human civilization as we know it, are showing the insufficiencies and limitations of the existing national/international order. Finally, the emergence of the BRICS is moving the

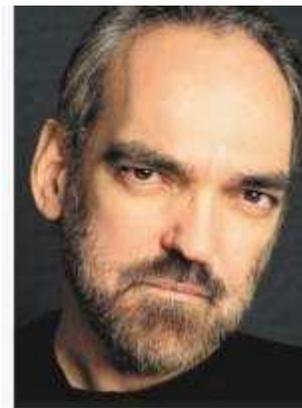
center of gravity of economy and politics from the North Atlantic Ocean to the South and the East of the world.

Our movement and its current structure are not well prepared to achieve the goals for which it has been created within this fast changing new scenario. Regional integration and a world parliament able to promote global common goods and to manage economic, ecological and security crises are the two basic objectives during the next decades. They provide the only means through which to face the great challenges that globalization poses to human civilization.

In this sense, we need to link our past, present and future, conserving our best principles and adapting our structure and campaigns to the reality and the challenges of the future. The strengthening of the ICC, the empowerment of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the promotion of regional integration all over the world and the creation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) are the four campaigns that should comprise our core activities. None of them makes complete sense in isolation. None of them could be impartial, and operate with equality and accuracy without the others. Our structure and, particularly, the priorities of our fundraising system and spending, must consider the necessary connection

and mutual reinforcement of these four campaigns. In addition, we cannot continue to speak as a world movement with all of our offices and most organizations concentrated in the first world. Neither can we campaign in favor of the regionalization of the UN Security Council while we have a biased composition of our own Executive Committee.

A balanced empowerment of these four campaigns, the adaptation of our budget to them, the creation of offices in the South and the East of the world, and the reform of the structure of the Executive Committee towards one that reflects an equilibrium, are the basic tools for adapting WFM to the exigencies of our high objectives and the future of the world. The resolutions made during the past two councils (Buenos Aires 2010 and Washington 2011) have meant two important steps towards this direction. Let's continue to talk about them in Winnipeg.



Fernando Iglesias,
Photo Credit: Alejandra Lopez

"We cannot continue to speak as a world movement with all of our offices and most organizations concentrated in the first world."



PBC Update

Formed in 2005, the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is an intergovernmental advisory body mandated to assist post-conflict countries in their transition to lasting peace and sustainable development. Along with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the PBC represents a central element of the UN's peacebuilding architecture.

By Justine Brouillaud,

IS Secretariat

Recent Challenges

In the Spring and Summer of 2011, as the PBC moved on from its first comprehensive review, the Commission faced numerous challenges in its agenda countries.

West Africa

Unrest in the West Africa region, particularly the violent election crisis in Cote d'Ivoire, affected the region and bordering countries profoundly. As violence threatened to trickle over the border between Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia, and as hundreds of thousands of refugees entered Liberia's bordering towns and villages, the country was forced to grapple with an increasingly dire situation and a sluggish response from the international community in terms of immediate assistance and funding. Despite these challenges, the effect of a productive and ongoing dialogue on the UN's approach to peacebuilding, spurred by the 2010 review of the PBC, was evident in the UN's response to the crisis. The PBC's work in Liberia continued on as planned in the wake of the crisis, preparing for the country's Presidential elections in October 2011 and emphasizing the rule of law, justice and security sector reform (SSR) in its ongoing engagement for peacebuilding with the

government of Liberia. As the country recovered from a tense summer, Presidential elections gave rise to escalating tensions in the country. On 11 October, Liberian general elections were held, in which incumbent President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of the Unity Party gained 43.9% of the vote, just shy of the absolute majority required to win. Opposition candidate, Winston Tubman of Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) received 32.7%, forcing the country into a run-off election. Despite the notable calm and high voter turnout experienced in the first round of elections, by the second round, conditions had changed dramatically. After Tubman alleged that the first round of elections had been rigged by Sirleaf's party, he called on his party members to boycott the run-off. The result was a low 38% voter turnout in which Sirleaf won 90.7% of the vote, amidst unrest that left at least two CDC protestors dead and several wounded on 7 November. In the weeks following her contested win, President Sirleaf has made an effort to reach out to the opposition and to address the violence that occurred as a result of the elections. To this end, Sirleaf has appointed fellow 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Leymah Gbowee to head a National

Peace and Reconciliation Initiative to assess the election violence between national police and CDC supporters.

Colored by tensions in the region, the situation in the Republic of Guinea, the PBC's newest agenda country, escalated to violence in the summer months of 2011. An attempt on the life of the country's first democratically elected President, Alpha Condé, occurred in July, when armed men (linked to former President Sekouba Konate of the 2010 transitional government) launched an attack on the President's residence. Investigations into the attack are still ongoing and the PBC issued a rare press statement condemning the attack. Political tensions in Guinea continued to escalate over the summer months. Most recently, after two opposition demonstrators were killed, forty were injured and over three hundred were arrested by state security forces at a protest for electoral reform held in late September in anticipation of elections on 29 December this year, President Condé called for a reconciliatory dialogue with the opposition. The PBC continues to

"Despite these challenges, the effect of a productive and ongoing dialogue on the UN's approach to peacebuilding...was evident in the UN's response to crisis."

(Continued from page 4)

reconciliatory dialogue with the opposition. The PBC continues to monitor the peacebuilding process in Guinea, emphasizing preparations for a peaceful election season later this year.

Across the West Africa region the PBC, along with the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has stepped up its involvement in the fight against transnational illicit drug trafficking and organized crime. Stemming from early efforts in PBC agenda country, Guinea-Bissau, the West Africa Coast Initiative (WACI) is expanding its reach, and now has a presence in four pilot countries: Guinea-Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In the coming months, another PBC country, Guinea, is to be accepted into the WACI program. For its part, the PBC has integrated a regional perspective on drug trafficking and related challenges in its approach and has held a number of thematic meetings on the topic of combating organized crime and illicit trafficking in the region

to explore the topic further. *Central and East Africa*

PBC agenda countries Central African Republic and Burundi faced ongoing threats to security in Spring and Summer 2011. In CAR, tensions remained high as the threat of random violence perpetrated by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued to plague outlying areas. In September 2011, CAR dealt with further violence from within, as rebels from Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP) and former rebels of the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR) came to blows, killing 50, (after recently reaching separate peace agreements with the government of CAR) over the control of diamond mines. As new peace agreements between the government and rebel groups were reached, the PBC has focused its efforts in the country on further implementing the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) program that is integral to CAR's peacebuilding priority plan.

A major challenge the PBC faced this year, has been in

assisting Burundi in overcoming a recent attack on a pro-government bar outside the capital, Bujumbura. As armed men, allegedly loyal to Burundi's leading rebel group, National Liberation Forces (FNL) stormed the bar, over 40 civilians were killed and many were left wounded. This incident, the worst attack the country has seen in over a year, evidences escalating political tension in Burundi and warns of the possible resurgence of the violent civil war that ended with a fragile peace agreement in 2005. As Burundi's government seeks to investigate this latest attack and bring perpetrators to justice, it is the PBC's duty to assist and monitor the process as well as keep ongoing peacebuilding activities in the country on track.

For its part, WFM-IGP's project on the PBC, "Together for a Better Peace" will continue to monitor these developments in the coming months and advocate for an open and dynamic dialogue on the future of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and the broader issues of conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

"It is the PBC's duty to assist and monitor the process as well as keep ongoing peacebuilding activities in the country on track."



**UNITED NATIONS
PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION**



Global Democracy: From Utopia to Necessity

By Joan Marc Simon,

Union of European Federalists

The US and the EU are going separate ways. And contrary to what it may seem, the room for political maneuver is smaller in the US than it is in the EU, despite the fact that the toolbox in the hands of the former is richer than the one in the hands of the latter.

Indeed, the US has a federal budget and a treasury, federal bonds and federal taxes and a more integrated market and political governance. Meanwhile, the EU only has the monetary leg at the European level and other budgetary and economic legs at national level. However, politically the US finds itself in a narrowing corridor that is effectively handicapping the country's chances of successfully tackling the crisis.

The Obama administration wants to reduce the deficit and trigger growth but with the Republicans blocking any tax-increase in Congress the only fiscal measure to reduce the deficit is cutting expenses. This is why, before the impossibility of using effective fiscal policy to fight deficit and reduce debt—cutting welfare will help figures look better but it will cost more in the mid/long-term—the only way to stimulate the economy is the old strategy of use-and-abuse of US monetary policy, i.e. printing money and making the rest of the world pay for it. The US Federal Reserve has kept the interest rate at low rates (0.25%) to inject liquidity in the economy and

stimulate demand in the hope that this will trigger growth with which it can reduce unemployment and deficit. So far, the success has been rather moderate (1.3% growth) and the Obama administration knows very well that they can't continue fueling the world economy for long. The Triffin dilemma according to which the country providing liquidity to the world cannot keep the value of the reserves¹ is once again very relevant to understand the nature of the problem and predict further developments. The current US expansionary monetary policy is damaging the reserves in dollars of its creditors whilst it continues to increase the US deficit. The fact that world reserves in Euros are on the rise shows that despite the problems in the eurozone² there is a growing tendency to move away from the dollar as a reserve currency. Moreover with the decline of the US economy the policy of having the American debt financed by the rest of the world will become increasingly untenable.

Arguably, the US economic policy is a result of the internal political circumstances. This doesn't mean that Obama's economic choice is the best one; it's just the only one possible. The flaw of this false form of Keynesianism is that as long as poor and middle-classes lose social benefits and unemployment stays high the injection of money will not reactivate the domestic demand nor is it succeeding

in increasing external demand either. Hence the US is turning to the EU to ask for help to stimulate demand³, but Europe is against any expansive measures before deficit is under control. Indeed, Germany has been very vocal against expansionary monetary policy and the resignations of German representatives in the ECB reiterate this approach.⁴

One must bear in mind that the effects of expansionary monetary policy in Europe are very different from those in the US. Since the 70s the rest of the world has been financing US deficit thanks to the fact that the Federal Reserve could afford to print money without generating inflation or bringing down the currency value. The EU cannot do that. If the EU follows an expansionary monetary policy the Euro will go down and inflation will soar and it is not clear that the EU is in a situation of generating growth to compensate the increasing prices. Therefore, although it is understandable that Obama is putting pressure on the EU to gear up the European economy, it is equally understandable that the EU doesn't want to go along the US lines.

How to marry the US and the EU monetary and economic policies? The only room for maneuver lies at European level. The creation of European federal state is the only



Joan Marc Simon

Photo credit:
www.thenewfederalist.eu

“The creation of the United States of Europe can be the solution that can match the needs of both the EU and the US.”

Continued on page 7 

(Continued from page 6)

way to raise global demand by generating supranational income (taxing speculative capital transactions,⁵ EU project bonds⁶...) and placing better value-for-money investments.

The creation of the United States of Europe⁷ can be the solution that can match the needs of both the EU and the US in the short/mid term. However, as much as Europeans and the rest of the world can benefit from it, the truth is that it will not be able to solve the Triffin dilemma nor will it guarantee the adequate distribution of food, energy and materials among the peoples of

the world.

The closer we get to the creation of some sort of United States of Europe the clearer it is that this alone will not suffice; if a better world is to emerge from the crisis a radical reform of world governance is needed. Indeed, the solution to the economic problem will need to be political; sooner or later the people of the world will need to sit down around the same table to agree on the size of the cake we have to share—it is for sure smaller than what we thought it was some time ago—and decide

how we want to share it. World democracy is quickly moving from the stage of utopia to the stage of necessity.

¹http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/center/mm/eng/mm_sc_03.htm

² <http://bruxelles.blogs.liberation.fr/coulisses/2011/10/la-part-de-leuro-dans-les-r%C3%A9serves-de-change-mondiales-progresse.html>

³<http://euobserver.com/19/113853>

⁴<http://www.neurope.eu/article/second-german-resigns-ech>

⁵<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-09-28/eu-proposes-financial-transactions-tax-to-start-in-2014.html>

⁶ <http://www.mfe.it/site/>

⁷<http://www.spinelligroup.eu/2011/01/16/the-spinelli-group-%C2%AB-towards-the-united-states-of-europe-%C2%BB/>

Join the World Federalist Movement as an Individual Member!

In October 2010, the World Federalist Movement launched the Individual Membership (IMO) Program. The IMO program invites individual supporters of WFM, who reside in countries where no Member or Associated Organization exists, to join the WFM Secretariat directly as a member. We welcome your individual membership in its global efforts advance the global promise of peace and towards building a safer and more just world.

Advantages of membership include:

- A link to an active global network of organizations, scholars and activists
- Information on efforts toward global democracy, human rights, sustainable development, peace and conflict resolution around the world.
- Our semiannual newsletter, action updates, and other informational mailings.
- The opportunity to work with key leaders and organizations within WFM on joint projects.
- Invitations to WFM events including the quadrennial Congress and annual Council meetings.

To join WFM as an Individual Member, please contact the Membership and Communications Officer, Devon Allison Giordano: allison@wfm-igp.org



Photo credit: www.responsibilitytoprotect.org

RtoP and the ICC: Complementarity in Prevention, Assistance and Response

By Evan Cinq-Mars,

Social Media Coordinator, ICRtoP

The Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) and the International Criminal Court (ICC) are two interconnected initiatives that seek to bring more order to the way in which the world responds to genocide and mass atrocity. At their core, however, the RtoP and the ICC are complementary in seeking to *prevent* these crimes from occurring altogether.

Their complementarity begins with both emphasizing the primary responsibilities of states. RtoP bestows the primary responsibility to protect civilians from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing—the four ‘RtoP crimes’—to the state. Similarly, the Rome Statute of the ICC provides that it is the primary responsibility of national authorities to investigate and prosecute *individuals* responsible for the commission of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

However, as we have witnessed in countless situations, some states fail to uphold their responsibilities. In instances where states are *willing* but *unable* to protect populations, the second pillar of RtoP—international assistance and capacity-building—provides that the United Nations (UN), its Members, regional organizations, and civil society have a role to play in ensuring that those states receive the assistance necessary to assume their RtoP. Similarly, the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC adopted a resolution at the May-June 2010 Review Conference which premised that the Court and its members should provide the tools needed to assist states who were *willing* but *unable* to fulfill their Statute responsibilities. RtoP and the ICC are thus complementary in providing for international assistance to ensure states uphold their primary responsibilities.

RtoP and the ICC are also

complementary in instances where states are found both *unable* and *unwilling* to meet these responsibilities. The Rome Statute provides that when a state is found unable or unwilling to prosecute individuals responsible for the commission of Statute crimes, it will ensure situations are investigated, warrants are issued, and those in its custody are prosecuted. Similarly, when a state is found unable and unwilling to uphold its responsibility to protect civilians, the norm provides that the responsibility to protect those civilians yields to the UN and its Member States in cooperation with regional organizations.

As the recent cases of Libya and Côte d'Ivoire have demonstrated, the Court is firmly engrained under RtoP's third pillar—timely and decisive response—as a tool used to respond to situations where mass atrocity is threatened or has occurred. In response to the situation in Libya, on 26 February, the UN Security Council (UNSC) passed Resolution 1970, in which it referred the case to the ICC. The investigation resulted in the indictments of Muammar Gaddafi, his son, Saif Gaddafi, and former intelligence chief, Abdullah Senussi, and the ICC is currently engaged with Libya's National Transitional Council on the issue of Saif's trial. In response to the post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire, on 4 October the ICC exercised its jurisdiction in the country by authorizing an investigation into allegations of crimes against humanity committed by all parties to the conflict. On 30 November, the former President of Côte d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, was transferred to the Court and will stand trial for his involvement in alleged crimes against humanity.

The ICC however, while a powerful deterrent mechanism, may not be enough to halt *ongoing* mass atrocities. In both Libya and Côte d'Ivoire, a wider array of measures became necessary to protect populations, including the use of force. A similar script is being played out in Syria, where the UN has catalogued a campaign of crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Assad regime, and estimates that 4,000 civilians have been killed. In addition to a range of stronger measures, calls have been made, including by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay and civil society groups, for the UNSC to refer Syria to the ICC. Once again, the international community must *react* to protect civilians from ongoing atrocities. Only when tangible steps are taken to *prevent* these crimes from occurring altogether will this cycle of atrocity and reaction be broken.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon put forth two such measures in his January 2009 report, *Implementing the Responsibility to Protect*, by urging Member States to ratify the ICC's Statute and implement national legislation against atrocity crimes. Taking these steps will ensure that states meet their primary responsibility of protecting civilians by criminalizing the four RtoP crimes under their international obligations *and* their domestic laws, and may work to prevent their occurrence altogether.

For more information on joining the ICRtoP, as either an affiliated NGO or an individual, please see the following link:

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org>



Photo credit: European Parliament

By Andreas Bummel,

Committee for a Democratic UN

The call for the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly has remained strong in the course of the last twelve months. The European Parliament called on the European Union's foreign ministers to promote the case of a UNPA at the UN General Assembly. According to a resolution that the parliament passed in June 2011, the new global body would serve the purpose "to increase the democratic character, the democratic accountability and the transparency of global governance and to allow for better citizen participation in the activities of the UN."

In Germany around forty civil society organizations and 160 leading individuals from all walks of life addressed an open letter to the chancellor and the foreign minister, urging them to pay attention to the European Parliament's request. In a much-noticed speech, the leader of the Australian Greens voiced support for the creation of a global parliament. As his party controls the balance of power in the Australian Senate, this position was

widely debated. The topic of a UNPA was also raised in the Parliament of New Zealand in the run up to the elections of November 2011. In India, the campaign for a UNPA reached a new level when the number of parliamentarians who support the cause exceeded forty in December, including one union minister and several former government members. In the same month, the Parliament of the South American community Mercosur declared its endorsement of "the creation of a Parliamentary Assembly within the United Nations, with the goal of strengthening the effectivity, transparency, representation, plurality and legitimacy of the institutions that are part of the UN system." The creation of a UNPA was also a subject of an interpellation in the Parliament of South Africa. In Kenya, several meetings were held in December to prepare for the creation of a "Kenya Parliamentary Caucus of the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly." This caucus would be the first formal parliamentary group devoted to the establishment of a UNPA. Aside from these high-

The Global Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly Continues on all Continents

lights, the campaign celebrated securing its 1,000th parliamentary endorsement in 2011, with around 800 such supporters still serving their constituencies as elected officials in over 100 countries. An important step was made when in October 2011 the first member of the United States Congress expressed support.

The objective of the campaign is to create a group of like-minded governments. This would be a vital step towards getting the establishment of a UNPA onto the agenda at the UN. All in all, however, governments have remained inactive and cautious. Still, it needs to be stressed that by now the campaign is at least taken seriously by most. The campaign's Secretariat was able to establish communication with several foreign ministers and informal briefings were held at the departmental or ambassadorial level.

One of the main issues that emerged in such talks was that a UN Parliamentary Assembly is not regarded as a priority in the overall reform agenda and that the establishment of such a body in any case would require financial commitments that are not feasible in these times of harsh budgetary restraints.

The campaign argues that what is required is a thorough political and technical assessment of the concept of a UNPA, something that has not been commissioned by any government or agency yet. The assembly, for example, could emerge gradually from a smaller structure. The Global Public Policy Committees suggested in the report of the panel on UN-Civil Society Relations in 2004 or the Global Parliamentary Group proposed by the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization in the same year could constitute reasonable starting points.

"The campaign celebrated securing its 1,000th parliamentary endorsement in 2011."

ICC First Verdict: Thomas Lubanga Dyilo



Thomas Lubanga

Photo credit: <http://vorige.nrc.nl/>

Compiled by Matthew Cannock
from CICC Press Releases

On 14 March 2012, Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was found guilty of having committed the war crimes of enlisting and conscripting children under the age of 15 years and using them to participate actively in hostilities in Ituri, a district in the eastern province of the DRC between September 2002 and August 2003 in the International Criminal Court's first landmark trial. Lubanga's defence has the right to appeal the guilty verdict.

The Lubanga trial is a milestone for the Rome Statute—the ICC's founding treaty—which entered into force only ten years ago. The Lubanga case was the ICC's first case and is one of the few international criminal cases in history to charge an individ-

ual with acts of enlistment and conscription of child soldiers. As such, the trial has done much to highlight the gravity of the crime of using child soldiers and has helped to bring the issue into international focus. During the proceedings, ten former child soldiers testified, as did a number of expert witnesses.

The trial is also noteworthy as the first instance of victim participation in an international criminal trial, with a total of 129 victims authorized by judges to participate through seven legal representatives. Reparations to victims for harm suffered may now be ordered by the ICC judges, which would be another groundbreaking first in international criminal jurisdictions.

Andre Kito, the Coordinator of the DRC Coalition for the ICC warmly welcomed the conviction of Thomas Lubanga Dyilo: "Victims and civil society in the DRC are celebrating the victory of justice and the promotion of human dignity...Our national coalition congratulates the Congolese government on its willingness and cooperation with the ICC, as demonstrated through the referral of the DRC situation and the subsequent transfer of Lubanga to the Court," Kito added that the case had a "real impact on government policy

worldwide."

In its decision, the Chamber also found that the Office of the Prosecutor should not have delegated its investigative responsibilities to intermediaries—people who facilitated contact or provided a link between the OTP and witnesses in the case—a circumstance which had led to some evidence being unreliable. This experience has highlighted the need for a comprehensive strategy on intermediaries. In this respect the Court has produced draft guidelines on the use and protection of intermediaries and on which NGO members of the Coalition for the ICC have provided input and suggestions. The guidelines are pending adoption.

However, some members of civil society have criticised the length of time taken between Mr. Lubanga's arrest in 2006 and the present verdict. Observers have also expressed concerns that Mr. Lubanga was charged only with enlisting and conscripting child soldiers and that other charges relating to gender and sexual violence, such as rape, were not included in the case. Also, another suspect in the DRC situation, Bosco Ntaganda, remains unpursued. In this regard, Andre Kito encouraged the DRC government to arrest Ntaganda: "we encourage the DRC government to maintain its commitment to and cooperation with the Court by implementing the outstanding ICC arrest war-

rant for Bosco Ntaganda, as well as enhancing the complementarity of the Rome Statute system at the national level."

Sentencing is to take place on another date so that any additional evidence or information that might impact upon its duration can be taken into consideration by the judges. The time that Lubanga has already served in detention will be taken into account.



Transforming the United Nations System: Designs for a Workable World

By Joseph Schwartzberg

Citizens for Global Solutions

I have recently completed writing a 600 or so page book, whose rather ambitious title appears above. The nineteen chapters of this work will be incorporated into my newly created website, “U.N. Reform: Designs for a Workable World,” over the coming months. Commercial publication will take longer for economic reasons.

A basic premise of the book is that the **design** of decision-making institutions has an important bearing on the legitimacy of the decisions they reach. Good decision-making requires **compromise**. It must consider the views and capabilities of both shareholders (those who possess essential economic and technical resources) and stakeholders (those affected by major policy decisions). Future decision-making systems will also have to be seen to be **inclusive**, involving representatives of the **people** (not just of states) in the allocation of decision-making power. With these ideas in mind, I have devised numerous simple mathematical formulae for **weighted voting** in decision-making agencies within the UN system and have also proposed ways by which the many expert voices of **civil society** (non-governmental agencies) can also be systematically heard and weighed.

It is not my primary intention to prescribe global policies on such issues as climate change,

sustainable development, human rights, migration, population growth and so forth. Rather, my position is that good decision-making systems will, in the fullness of time, be able to arrive at policies that will promote the good of our planet, rather than the interests of individual groups who happen to be militarily and/or economically powerful.

In addition to an introductory chapter, the book has three principal parts. The first, entitled “**The State of the Earth**,” seeks to diagnose the health of our planet. It explores the changing nature of national sov-



Photo credit: Claudio Munoz

<http://tompegram.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/UN.jpg>

ereignty; discusses the sources and global distribution of political power; analyzes a number of global problems (e.g., ethnic conflict, militarism, economic divides, human rights, state failure, and environmental stress); and documents the burgeoning of regional and multi-state organizations.

Maintaining the medical analogy, part two, the heart of the work, offers numerous

“**Prescriptions**” for dealing with the problems discussed in part one. It provides historical overviews of how UN agencies have evolved in their efforts to deal with those problems and for each problem suggests, in considerable detail, one or more needed reforms. For the UN General Assembly, for example, it suggests replacing the present one nation - one vote regime with a system that takes into consideration not only sovereignty, but also population and contributions to the UN budget. For the Security Council it critiques competing expansion proposals and offers an original pro-

posal for universal, weighted representation with twelve regional seats (of which up to four would be held by individual nations). A similar regionally based proposal is put forward for ECOSOC. Proposals for peacekeeping and peace-building include the establishment of a standing, all-volunteer, elite, internationally recruited UN Peace Corps; the creation of a complementary UN Administrative Reserve Corps (UNARC)

and an Academy at which UNARC reservists would be trained. Other recommendations relate to enhancing UN revenues, recruitment of UN staff, strengthening human rights agencies, making better use of global judiciary bodies (both regional and topical), providing more dependable voices for civil society organizations, and dealing with the global ecosystem. Though my recommendations are generally quite specific, I never rule out the prospect that other and better ideas might be devised. Rather, my intention is to demonstrate that viable—even if imperfect—solution(s) to pressing global problems do, in fact, exist. In so doing, I hope that my ideas will serve as catalysts for further debate and ultimately for action.

Part three, “**Moving Forward**,” discusses how to get from where we are to where we ought to be. It anticipates that the journey will be long and arduous and that it will increasingly have to engage elements of civil society in addition to governments. I see no obvious sequencing of reform initiatives and can envision numerous paths forward. But time is of the essence; and the mustering of human will to tackle pressing problems is essential.

The Recognition of the Palestinian State at the United Nations

By Lucio Levi, *Union of European Federalists*

The proposal on the agenda of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly that Palestine should be recognized as a state and therefore entitled to membership has moved the hearts and minds of the world public opinion. The two-state proposal is as old as the State of Israel itself and dates back to the 1947 UN partition plan. But today, though the whole international community, including the Israeli government, agrees to this solution in principle, actually achieving it remains elusive. On the one hand, the Palestinians demand that Israel should return to pre-1967 borders, evacuate its settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and allow the repatriation of refugees; on the other, Israel keeps building settlements and security walls. It cannot be ignored that Israel is obsessed by terrorism—understandably, as Hamas, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since the evacuation of Israeli settlements ordered by Sharon, still calls for Israel's destruction. Moreover, Hamas does not support the Palestinian National Authority's application for UN membership. In fact the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) speaks for only part of the Palestinian people and therein lies its real weakness.

There is however a new issue that complicates Israeli-Palestinian relations: namely that the Palestinians are not willing to recognize Israel's right to exist as a "Jewish" State. The Palestinian minority in Israel who make up 20 percent of the total population see this emphasis on Jewish identity as discriminatory, a view reinforced by a bill recently approved by the Israeli Parliament which prohibits even the commemoration of the "catastrophe of 1948" – the name the Palestinians give to the events that led to the birth of the State of Israel – and also "allows courts to revoke the citizenship of anyone

convicted of spying, treason or aiding its enemies".

The use of religion or ethnic values to strengthen the cohesion of a state is an old formula. It was the doctrine that every "nation" should have its own state, thus merging state and nationhood, which led in the recent past to so many of Europe's misfortunes and resulted in the two World Wars. It contradicts the concept of the democratic state, namely that it should represent all citizens regardless of their religious or ethnic affiliation.

All this demonstrates the difficulties which must be overcome if the problem of the Israeli-Palestinian coexistence is to be solved.

Moreover, with the Arab spring, the decline of US influence and the political irrelevance of the EU on the world stage, the situation in the Middle-East has become more unstable. Israel, encircled by a hostile Arab world and two non-Arab powerful countries – Turkey and Iran – is increasingly isolated. Turkey, which broke off its relations with Israel after the accident of the Turkish flotilla trying to violate the blockade of Gaza in 2010, is seeking leadership of the Arab awakening and offering itself as a model for democratic transition. Iran, which is promoting its own nuclear program, declares that it seeks the destruction of the state of Israel. All these factors push Israel towards seeking security exclusively in military force.

Another aspect of the emerging new international order in the Middle-East is the Palestinian request at the UN to be recognized as a state in its own right. Although supported by a wide majority in the General Assembly, this move risks to be blocked by the US veto in the Security Council. President Sarkozy's proposal that Palestine could be granted observer status at the General Assembly is more realistic since it avoids the American veto. It

could be considered as an intermediate stage on the way of full membership. Israeli-Palestinian peaceful coexistence primarily requires a European intermediary force under the aegis of the UN, similar to the 2006 intervention in Lebanon, but under a single European command in accordance with the "permanent structured co-operation" provision in the Lisbon Treaty. This enables a group of EU member states to put in place a rapid reaction force with authority to act as an arbiter between the contending parties, to stop new Israeli settlements in Palestinian areas and to safeguard the security of the whole region.

To be effective, such military intervention needs to be accompanied by a diplomatic initiative to establish a Conference on Security and Co-operation in the Middle-East with the aim of reducing armaments, creating a denuclearized zone in the region and developing economic, technological and cultural co-operation. As in today's world nation-states acting alone can no longer provide a sufficient basis to ensure economic development or even political independence, it is vital to start an integration process in this region with a "hard core" made up of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. Introducing the principle of federation as the basis of relations between states in the Middle-East can succeed and endure provided it is complemented by a framework of security linked to the prospect of economic and social development.

A strengthened EU could offer a suitable model in both respects. The starting point could be a "Water, Energy and Infrastructures Community" along the lines proposed by Jacques Delors when he was President of the European Commission. His inspiration was led to the European Coal and Steel Community which aimed to place strategic resources such as coal and steel under a common authority, thereby starting a process which would make new wars impossible.

European unification is a still unaccomplished process and could still fail if the Monetary Union were to disintegrate, but it has prevented the outbreak of armed conflicts within EU borders. This is the reason why European federalists are committed to building a federal core within the EU that could show the rest of the world how to federate a region covered by several states. The main historical achievement of the EU is that its evolution toward a federal arrangement is living proof that in this narrowing world a multinational community that reconciles unity with diversity has become a reality. It is a matter of the clearest common sense.

Today, 63 years after the birth of the State of Israel, a comparison can be made between the Arab spring and the successful pacification between France and Germany with a return of democracy in Europe after the two World Wars. Israel is no longer the only democratic country of Middle-East. Now the peoples of the region are choosing democracy, the pacification of the region has become possible.

Rio +20

By Madhu Nair, *IS Secretariat*

The upcoming UN conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro. The conference marks a major effort by member states to continue identifying the key issues that the international community faces to achieve sustainable development, the goal developed during the original 1992 Rio Conference and its 2002 review. Notably, the Rio+20 organizers have cited two central themes for this year's conference:

- 1) The role of green economies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- 2) Questions surrounding the potential institutional framework for sustainable development

In terms of what Rio+20 means for WFM, this conference reiterates the fact that our current environmental governance approach has failed to achieve any sort of lasting result in reducing global environmental degradation. Such failures cannot continue and a major discussion point during Rio+20 must be a major reform of the current environmental governance system, a call that has been iterated by WFM. Environmental governance reform has been discussed in previous Congress Commission reports and WFM has strongly urged for the creation of a UN Environmental Agency and an International Environmental Court to deal with global environ-

mental emergencies and disputes.

The major problem that we face in proposing such environmental governance reform is achieving full input and participation from the international community, particularly the Global South. Past efforts to establish global environmental organizations have oftentimes been planned and implemented by the Global North, with little input from the developing world. Although well-intentioned in their purposes, such environmental organizations will undoubtedly carry their biases as they better represent the interests of the developed world. However, we must realize that major environmental issues affect the poorest nations the worst because they lack the resources and capacity to deal with the problem alone. The developing world's inability to adequately confront the issue compounds the problem globally as the international community is unfortunately beginning to realize today. There needs to be an added emphasis in the developing world of the vastly developing market for "green technology". Reforming our current environmental governance regime also emphasizes the added incentive for the developing world to tap into the potential gains of this emerging market as a means to combat rising poverty levels. The need to include the developing world's insight and input to such environmental governance reform is absolutely necessary to grasp



the whole picture and begin the process for this change.

The establishment of a UN Environmental Agency and International Environmental Court must seek to not only better include the developing world but also better respond to global environmental concerns. The UN Environmental Agency needs to embody WFM ideals for a democratic assembly and implement an equal voting practice of one vote per member country. This practice, instead of the traditional weighted voting practices of the World Bank and IMF, will avoid the ongoing criticism that the present system only favors wealthier, more developed nations.

In relation to the ongoing discussions before Rio, the leadership of both organizations must be able to respond to inquiries from member nations for assistance in adapting "greener" technologies, as well as appropriately figuring out how to allot the necessary manpower; much like the World Bank does, to provide analytical and advisory services both in environmental projects. There will also need to be further debate on how

implementation concerns will be addressed in the International Environmental Court as it juggles sovereignty issues regarding the enforcement of settlements in international environmental disputes between member states.

Of course, the proposals for such reforms appear lofty, but such ideas cannot be immediately dismissed because the current system has failed to achieve the objectives from the 1992 Rio Summit. A further failure to consider reforming the system can potentially worsen the problem of environmental degradation that our generation and future ones will undoubtedly continue to face in the 21st century.

Check out more on Rio at:

The International Institute for Sustainable Development

<http://www.iisd.org/search/?q=Rio+20>

Rio Conference Homepage

<http://www.unccd2012.org/rio20/index.html>

Developments within the Small Five Group

Since 2008, the Small Five Group (S5) has advocated for Security Council reform. As a working group within the United Nations, the S5 commends itself for take specific approaches to Security Council reform. Comprised of Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Singapore and Switzerland, the S5 has presented various reports in recent years to the UN General Assembly. In regards to the Security Council's relationship with the General Assembly, the S5 report calls for greater transparency and communication between the two bodies. Currently, the General Assembly and Security Council's relationship is strained, as many member states feel that their opinions are not fairly expressed within the Security Council.

By Mie Hansen, *Center for UN Reform Education*

On 4 April 2012 the S5 presented a draft resolution on improving the working methods of the Security Council. At the meeting the S5 called for the General Assembly to take a stand to on the issue and suggested 16 May as a possible date for a vote.

The Ambassador of Switzerland opened the meeting with a Statement of the S5 presenting the draft resolution and the objectives of the S5 for advocating for an improvement in the working methods of the Security Council. Improved working methods of the Security Council would benefit both the Council itself and the wider UN membership, the S5 said. It would create a better un-

derstanding in the general membership of the Council's decisions and ensure better interaction between the Council and the other main bodies of the UN. A better interaction between the Council and the wider membership would result in better decisions and therefore in more efficient and effective work of the Council. Its actions would be better prepared, better understood, politically better supported and thus better implemented. The S5 stressed that the draft respects the competencies and roles of the General Assembly and the Security Council and recognizes the Security Council as master of its own procedures and working methods. The S5 also said that the draft is without prejudice to decisions on comprehensive Security Council reform but unlike the comprehensive reform the draft resolution does not require

Charter amendments.

The Center for UN Reform Education is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit policy research organization. Founded in 1978, the mission of the Center is to encourage, generate and sustain discussion of various specific proposals to reform and restructure the United Nations through its website. To read the remainder of this article, and to find out more about the S5, and other topics pertaining to United Nations Reform, please visit **t h e C e n t e r f o r U N :** <http://www.centerforunreform.org/node>.



Independent information and analysis on proposals to strengthen the United Nations

Register for the XXVI WFM Congress Today!

Every four to six years, the World Federalist Movement hosts a Congress Meeting, in order to provide an in-depth evaluation of the direction of the Movement in the International Arena. This upcoming summer, Congress will be hosted 9-13 July 2012 at the University of Winnipeg. For more information, please visit www.wfm-igp.org or e mail the Senior Membership and Communications Officer: allison@wfm-igp.org

World Federalist Movement

708 Third Avenue, 24th Floor
 New York, NY 10017 USA
 Phone: 646-465-8534 Fax: 1-212-599-1332



Edited by Valerie Doescher, Devon Allison Giordano and Jelena Pia-Comella.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/worldfederalist>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/worldfederalist>

www.wfm-igp.org

HOW TO SUPPORT WFM

- I wish to learn more about the World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy. Please send me more information.
- I wish to become a supporter and make a donation to WFM-IGP. Enclosed is a check for:
- My organization would like to find out more about becoming an affiliate of WFM-IGP.

Name: _____

\$ _____

Address: _____

Phone/Fax: _____ Email: _____

Return to: WFM-IGP, 708 3rd Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10017, USA

Donor Spotlight: Dr. Karl Fossum



Karl Fossum

Photo Credit: Karl Fossum

The World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy (WFM-IGP) works in partnership with indi-

viduals and institutions from around the globe in its mission of advancing human security, international justice, the prevention of armed conflict, and the protection of civilians through the development of democratic institutions. Dr. Karl Fossum of New York has been a longtime donor to WFM-IGP and has been committed to supporting global justice, the environment, and other nonprofit causes for more than fifty years. Dr. Fossum first became involved with world federalism at age 17 when he joined En Verden, a partner organization of WFM-IGP in Norway. He now sits on the board of Citizens for Global Solutions and the Center for War/Peace Studies. According to Dr. Fossum, “I have long

been impressed with the work of WFM-IGP and Bill Pace. The International Criminal Court is so important, and the emerging Responsibility to Protect norm is also becoming central to the peace and justice movement. WFM-IGP is at the forefront of this movement and is tackling the most pressing issues.”

WFM-IGP is deeply appreciative of the generous support provided by Dr. Fossum and all of the many partners from around the world. If you would like more information about how you can support WFM-IGP efforts, please contact Mr. Danny Rees by phone at +1.646.465.8527, via email at rees@wfm-igp.org, or visit the WFM-IGP website at www.wfm-igp.org/site/donate.