

Montreux+75 Declaration:
A Statement of the UEF and WFM on Acting in Unison

In Montreux, in 1947, European Federalists and World Federalists decided to carry out their activities through separate organizations and pursue different political goals. Now, the time is ripe for them to join forces.

The return of power politics. The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the USSR did not represent the end of history. New players emerged, such as China, India, Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia, who have taken center stage in international politics. The countries previously called the “Third World” have been developing rapidly and stake their claims to the collective governance of the planet. Russia and the US are trying to delay their relative decline as much as they can. The worldwide balance of power is evolving irreversibly from the unipolarity of the immediate post-Cold War era towards a fragmented multipolarity. Despite significant progress made over the last decades, the European Union is still uncertain about its future and its role in the world.

In the twenty-first century, ethno-populism has emerged as a dangerous ideology that fosters intolerance and hatred. When used by great powers to justify war and the potential use of nuclear weapons it can prove catastrophic. A second mortal threat weighs on the future of humanity: the ecological collapse of the biosphere. It is a ticking bomb that national governments are unable to defuse.

Russia’s aggression against Ukraine marks a significant moment in world politics. The era of optimism, opened by the Helsinki process and the Reagan-Gorbachev agreement aiming at strategic arms limitation, has come to an end. National power politics has returned and international cooperation is replaced by the threat or the use of war as a means to solve international disputes. The current war in Ukraine has created a worldwide food and energy crisis, which threatens already fragile post-COVID-lockdown economies. In addition military budgets absorb financial resource at the expense of the investments necessary to promote the transition from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, digital transformation and so forth.

In this potentially unstable international environment, great powers should strive to develop a federal and inclusive system focused on the resolution of the major common problems faced by humanity, particularly the environment.

The European Union and world federalism. If EU governments seize the historical moment and the urgency of the present situation, the European Parliament's request of May 4th, 2022 should lead to a European Convention for the reform of the EU Treaties. European and World federalists will support the proposal to move towards a European Federation with its own defense, its own budget and democratic government. The European Union could thus become a stronger power in international politics.

The EU should promote peace between nations, human rights and democracy. A good and essential start should be efforts to reform the UN, to strengthen its role as a guarantor of peace, the fight against poverty, the quest for justice and sustainable development of the planet. Reform of the UN is needed to transform it into the cradle of a future democratic world government. The EU, with its own experience in fostering peace and cooperation through the creation of supranational federal institutions, will have a key role to play in that regard. Ideally the EU will evolve into an open federation based on values and rules, with a strong and independent foreign policy. Rather than

encouraging a confrontational model based on an opposition between “us” and “them”, the EU should actively promote peace, cooperation, and stability amongst all international actors. To do so, it will need to become the driving force behind the desire for peace, universal disarmament and sustainable development.

The Union of Federalists. The Montreux Declaration reads: “The world federalists are convinced that the establishment of a world federal government is the crucial problem of our time”. We reiterate this statement. We affirm the principle that relations between states must be governed by universally agreed common rules and not by force of arms. Humanity is the new political subject of the twenty-first century. The emergence of a global civil society and the consolidation of its voice and influence should be reinforced at world level. It must be the citizens of the world who decide the future of the Planet.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Montreux Declaration is an opportunity to take a first step in this direction. Joint action should be taken between European and World Federalists in order to open a worldwide debate on the future of global democracy.