



WFWPI OFFICE FOR UN RELATIONS NEWSLETTER

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The Future of Afghanistan - Protecting Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment

By Carolyn Handschin & Marilyn Angelluchi

"Much lies in the balance. The progress. The hope. The dreams of a generation of young Afghan women and girls, boys and men," was the call for solidarity by the UN SG Antonio Guterres in his address to the Security Council on September 16. Safeguarding the very hard-won rights of women and girls, he implored, will be as "we stand as one."

The Afghans are a strong people with a rich cultural heritage who have lived many hardships, and prevailed. As reported by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the threat of violence has only exacerbated the half million already internally displaced due to drought, food scarcity, homelessness, COVID and an overwhelmed health system.

Educating girls to ensure lasting peace

Most worried or even fearful, are the girls and women. Will they be able to continue their education which is a right they only recently won, or will that right be taken away from them again? In 1995 WFWP Afghanistan wanted to send volunteers to create educational and development programs together with local women in Kabul. Because of the danger and lack of freedom for women under the Taliban, it was not possible. They decided instead to establish a school for Afghan refugees in New Delhi, India, the Syed Jamaluddin Afghan School (SJAS).



Vision

Women working together to realize one global family rooted in a culture of sustainable peace.

Mission

Empowering women as peacebuilders and leaders in the family to transform the community, nation and world.

Through education, advocacy, partnership, reconciliation and humanitarian service, WFWPI aims to create an environment of peace and well-being for future generations and people of all races, cultures and religious creeds.

UN NEWSLETTER TEAM

Publisher

Julia H. Moon

Editor in Chief

Carolyn Handschin

Editorial Directors

Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango

Mako Mori

Grace Kellett

This newsletter is published by
Women's Federation for World Peace

International

Office of UN Relations

4 West 43rd Street

New York,

NY 10036, USA

NEW YORK: unoffice@wfwp.org

GENEVA: c.handschin@wfwp.org

VIENNA: m.riehl@wfwp.org

WWW.WFWP.ORG

THE FUTURE OF AFGHANISTAN - PROTECTING GIRLS' EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The school allows both boys and girls to study together and the curriculum with its western influence would not be allowed by the Taliban. The funding from the former government of Afghanistan has now been discontinued. New sources of funding are currently being sought so that these young innocent refugees will not again have their development and dreams interrupted. (website)

The reality now is that the Afghan people are desperate to find stability and security as peace processes are being worked out. Quality education for girls and for boys is a key for the future of the nation. As important is a vibrant and balanced social fabric that allows the benefits of that education to be applied in community building and governance. The experience of WFPW in Afghanistan over decades organizing extensive but interrupted humanitarian programs found that the support most requested were scholarships and educational opportunities for girls. It is not only the



Afghan women, but the whole community who clearly realize the importance of the education of women in ensuring lasting peace.

Youth engagement from abroad

The chaos in Afghanistan began in the middle of a Human Rights Advocacy Internship Program of WFWPI UN Office in Geneva. Impassioned with concern, it was unanimously decided to temporarily shift focus to prepare a statement for the Special Session on Afghanistan of the 48th Human Rights Council. The seriousness was compelling as the interns realized they may have a chance to actually affect a current crisis. Interactive meetings were held with an Afghan school director and former government minister and a set of 8 recommendations were drawn up and submitted to the Council.

“For women to be part of an inclusive and representative government, their rights and dignity must be upheld today.” The focus of youth was highlighted as well. “If young girls and boys are not protected, there will be no one to inherit and build a thriving and innovative Afghanistan tomorrow. Young people hold within the vitality and hope of a better future as well as a memory of today’s reality, and the decisions we make.”



76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly *By Amanda Bradley*



UN Photo/Cia Pak



John Angelillo/Pool Photo

The 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly opened on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, where more than 100 heads of states gathered for the first time during the COVID-19 pandemic. This opening of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly was a particularly significant one, as the world faces an overabundance of unprecedented issues.

During his address to the General Assembly, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres painted a vivid picture of the current state of affairs: “We face the greatest cascade of crises in our lifetime.” The COVID-19 crisis has supersized glaring inequalities that have already been strikingly present within communities across the globe, the climate crisis is plummeting the planet, and regions that have known relative peace are now finding themselves in conflict. Extreme surges of mistrust and misinformation have completely polarized and paralyzed entire societies and human rights are repeatedly threatened.

Guterres addressed how paramount it is for the UN to continue to build itself on its common agendas of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. “To seek a pathway to a better world,” Guterres states, “we must first breach great divides.” Guterres continued by highlighting how, “failure to deliver creates space for some of the darkest impulses of humanity.”

The UNGA’s High-Level Week began on September 20 with the SDG Moment, an annual event held to spotlight the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Moon Jae-in, president of the Republic of Korea, was this year’s special guest, and he anointed and introduced BTS, the sensational K-Pop group, as the country’s special presidential envoys for future generations and culture.

As part of the UNGA76 General Debate speech, BTS applauded young people for their resiliency during the pandemic. Kim Nam-Joon, BTS leader, mentioned how people in their teens and 20s are being referred to as “COVID’s lost generation,” but BTS members Jimin and Jin suggested that it should be renamed as the “welcome generation.” The reason being that “instead of fearing change, this generation welcomes it.”

BTS’s hopeful presence and youthful energy was inevitably the highlight of UNGA76, as they served to be a bridge between the elder generation and the younger generation, which is often a challenge faced by the UN.

The importance of bridging divides, promoting peace and ending conflicts, promoting gender equality, and tackling the generational divide by giving young people a “seat at the table” were key themes of UNGA 76, with world leaders of all regions coming together to realize the undeniable fact that a sense of global cooperation is paramount in tackling any crisis.

The Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) ultimately aims to uplift and empower women as peacebuilders and leaders in the home, in their communities, nations and the world. Through first embracing our identities as daughters, sisters, wives and especially mothers, we begin to see the world and it’s challenges through these eyes and cannot stand idle when there is a member of the family who is suffering. Such women, who prioritizes the needs of her community before herself, become the natural catalyst for much needed healing, unity and harmony and are the bedrock that transforms people, communities and negotiation tables, ultimately creating a future of well-being and peace for entire generations to come.

WFWPI Youth Human Rights Forum 2021

By Srruthi Lekha Raaja Elango



WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Geneva hosted a virtual Youth Human Rights Forum on September 24, 2021. This forum was part of the two-month summer human rights internship organized by the WFWPI Geneva Office. This internship program began on August 2, 2021, hosting three international interns who began their journey with WFWPI researching and advocating various human rights issues. The interns were asked to write individual advocacy papers on their choice of interest within the umbrella of human rights and women's rights. At the end of the internship, the Youth Human Rights Forum was hosted, showcasing and presenting their research to global civil society activists.

The event lasted for 90 minutes, hosting our three interns as speakers, along with experts joining the discussion as commentators. Our first speaker was Ilana Axelrod, who presented on the Women Peace and Security Agenda in Latin America. Her detailed reflection of the women situation rooms and recommendations to better advocacy was well welcomed by everyone. Mrs. Sjejlana Jovic, Team Leader at UNIFIL, appreciated her work and added more recommendations such as the importance of civil society participation in the process. Next, we had Ms. Mary Manukura, who presented her work on gender-based violence in Africa.

Her reflections on how important it is for men to contribute to the fight against gender-based violence received so much support from the audience. Mrs. Carolyn Handschin, Director of WFWPI Offices for UN Relations, added more light on this from her experience in several projects globally.

Finally, we had our final speaker, Ms. Katrine Sietena, who presented on the importance of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) ratification globally. She reflected on how important it is to ratify this treaty, the benefits of CEDAW and why few countries such as the United States, have not ratified it so far. Her in-depth research and excellent presentation skills were applauded by many and the experts who positively added to the discussion. Dr. Shirley Yeung, Associate President of UNESCO Hong Kong, added more suggestions and recommendations on how UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be incorporated into these tasks.

This discussion was then followed by a Q&A session, which received a lot of positive and constructive questions on how to further the research on the issues the young speakers spoke about. Their work showcased the importance of youth empowerment, professional advocacy, global cooperation and much more, inspiring many to actively engage in such crucial issues.

WFWPI Office of UN Relations in Geneva thanked everyone's participation in the event and assured that this is just the beginning. There will be many more internship programs to come, especially the Human Rights Internship, which will be aligned with the Human Rights Council timeline.

Opinion Piece on the United Nations Human Rights Council

By Katriene Sietina

Intern - Human Rights Internship Program, Geneva

UNHRC Statement – 15th Meeting, 48th Regular Session
Human Rights Council

On September 13, 2021, the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) opened its 48th Regular Session. Having attended the 48th Regular Session of the UNHRC, with a general debate on agenda item 3 - Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development – the following is my personal perspective of this meeting and might also include some recommendations on how these sessions could be held in a more effective manner.

I listened to a number of the recorded statements submitted by the UN Member States addressing agenda item 3 and I found that all of the statements made were interesting because they focused on current challenges. Such Regular Sessions of the HRC allow all UN Member States to express their concerns and feasible solutions to the issues at hand. For the purposes of this short article statement, I will focus on the Republic of Korea in particular, and will base my conclusions off of the meeting in general.

The Republic of Korea, mentioned in their address that the persistent issue of human rights violations is frequently the root cause of conflict and violence, and must be addressed in order to maintain long-term peace, sustainable development, and inclusion, which can only be done through a human rights-based strategy. The Republic of Korea then highlighted how the United Nations' three pillars complement one another, resulting in greater UN system-wide cohesion and collaboration. In this regard, positive interaction with the Peacebuilding Commission can greatly improve the Human Rights Council's capacity to carry out its duty of furthering human rights across the world. I found this quite powerful as it addressed the significance of the modern issues at hand and also voiced an urgency to act. This same sense of significance and urgency, resounded in the statements of all the UN Member States who wished to offer their opinions. As a consequence, we quickly continued the session with a different UN Member State addressing the excellencies.

After listening to the majority of the recorded statements, the only conclusion I could draw was that the Human Rights Council is quite overwhelmed with the number of responses they receive; not only from UN Member States, but also from NGOs wishing to share their perspectives or requests with the Council. In my opinion, the UNHRC should be a department that not only considers the brief perspectives of UN Member States and NGOs, but also actively participates in discussions with one another in order to address the world's recurring challenges. Open discussions, in my opinion, should be the most important and fundamental component of the Regular Sessions as they allow participants to actively work on a solution together rather than simply listening to the comments made by UN Member States and NGOs.



Opinion Piece on the United Nations Human Rights Council

By Mary Manukure

Intern - Human Rights Internship Program, Geneva



The situation in Tigray, a region in Ethiopia illustratively, has caused an outcry from both the citizens of Ethiopia in the country and around the world. Various Heads of States and the Human Rights Council have also demonstrated their deepest concerns. Agenda Item 2 on the situation in Tigray comprised master tension and immense systematic killing and sexual violence that continuously created atmospheres of fear and erosion of living conditions that resulted in the forced displacement of the Tigrayan civilian population. Civilian suffering was widespread and impunity has been pervasive.

Regardless of the changing dynamics in the conflict, there were constant multiple and severe reports of alleged gross violations of human rights, humanitarian and refugee law by all parties. Which includes acts of torture, inhuman treatment, mass killings, and others by national forces. Additionally, though there is an implemented and ongoing joint investigation between the OHCHR, the Ethiopian Human Rights Council with the cooperation of the Ethiopian Government, there are still issues of effective accountability, as the Ethiopian Government has spoken against witness evidence from refugees in Sudan. Though its statement portrays the willingness to accept the outcome of the assessment of the evidence gathered through the joint investigation, there is the question of if the government shall also willingly brief the council on the findings of the report when released without any hesitations.

While the concerned States were able to share their statements, some of them were in a hurry to get their message across because of the time-limit. One would argue that, though they are able to be concise and short, the time-limit statement slot for concerned States or parties should be extended or supported with visuals for disabled audiences. Furthermore, since the joint investigation report was not ready during the meeting, detailed and evidentiary issues were not well covered during the session, hence, it would be advisable to make sure that these paramount documents for discussions are ready before every session for transparency and effective accountability through the lenses of the present State. With this in place, States shall be able to ask the relevant questions and offer significant contributions and oral retribution to the State or Government at fault.



A Mother's Love to Embrace the World

By Grace Kellett



In September, the UN Security Council, the main organ of the UN that addresses issues of peace and security, met to discuss issues such as the volatile and increasingly dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, a resurgence in nuclear missile tests coming from both North and South Korea, the conflicts in Yemen, Syria, Sudan and South Sudan, among other conflicts and tensions and the implication of climate change on international security.

One “golden thread” that ran through Ireland’s presidency and will continue through the presidencies of Kenya and Mexico (October and November 2021, respectively), is an emphasis on embracing principles reflected in the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), which so far has been acted upon by inviting more female than male leaders, advisors and stakeholders to consult with or address the Security Council.

It is a central tenet of the WPS agenda, which has been institutionalized by the UN since 2000 through the UNSCR 1325, that a critical reason why peace continues to remain elusive is that women, a vital voice and instrument of creating peaceful societies, are not equally represented at all levels of the peacemaking process.

The significance of women in peace and security is well documented, one has only to research the topic of women, peace and security to find the data on how involving women in all levels of peacemaking only add to the stability of the peace achieved, and in a way that may better provide for the feeling of security on the ground, such as through mechanisms that protect community-level violence or intolerance.

The co-founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her

late husband, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, have also been clear on the role women play in creating a peaceful world. However, there is something unique to the way in which this is seen by Dr. and Rev. Moon, that often does not get emphasized or even acknowledged in the halls of the UN: that it is women who have embraced their unique value and roles often tied to family, as daughters, wives and mothers, that the world needs so acutely.

Since its founding, WFWPI has carried the mission of liberating women by helping women to realize their value, not just in relation to their position in the world, but in being able to recognize how deeply empowering, significant and important their roles as daughters, wives and especially mothers are to the world.

Mothers are often the heartistic pillars and of their families and the most influential person in their children’s lives when they are young. Who is it a child often runs to confess, or when they are hurt? Who can create peace when two siblings are angry at one another? Who can help them to remember in the heat of the moment that love for one another and harmony is more important than rules, or fairness, or revenge or what they want at the moment? A mother. Who does a child go to to be accepted and loved? A mother!

Therefore, we must strive to further elevate the potential of women not only through external means but recognize their invaluable roles as peacemakers in the family and society. Peace starts at home and expands outward. The home is where we practice how to love one another and ourselves, and embracing this enables women, as well as men, to relate with the rest of the world as an extension of their global family.

Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations in Vienna, Austria

By Lilly Gundacker



An Extraordinary General Assembly of the Coalition of Faith-Based Organizations (CFBO) in Austria was held in Vienna on 28th September 2021. First established two years ago, with the support of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), the executive was extended to include various faith-based communities (www.coalitionfb.org). The focus is to become active in Austria in cooperation with the UN in Vienna, with the UNODC (www.unodc.org), especially in areas of law, justice, and prevention.

Dr. Elmar Kuhn, Member of the steering committee of CFBOs (<https://coalitionfb.org/>) gave an introductory address and report quoting H.E. Madeleine Albright and H.E. Ban Ki Moon, stating: "Vienna is a capital city where world religions come together." The Deputy Director of the Cultural Office of the Government of Austria, Dr. Stephan Leitner, said that while Austria is a secular state, as Hans Kueng once said, there is no peace without religious peace and thus the government is grateful for the participation of various faiths.

Dr. Michael Platzer, co-chair of CFBOs, read a congratulatory address by Dr. Thomas Walsh, co-chair of CFBO and chair UPF USA. Mr. Gerhard Weissgrab, President of the Buddhists in Austria stressed the way of the middle and the need for a constant search. Džemal Šibljaković, Director of Islamic Prison Counselling, referred to migration, faith and social media. Bishop Dr. Heinz Lederleitner, Archbishop of the Old Catholic Church stressed the need for values based education.

Dr. Mutasahra from the Koran School stated we need to fight corruption in all religions. A representative of the Syrian Orthodox Church, the first Oriental church in Europe, also spoke to the importance of grassroots religions.

The UN representative from the Civil Society Unit, Mr. Anders Ansen, said they were delighted to see that the CFBO work is expanding. It is appreciated by UNODC. The upcoming conference of State Parties in Egypt, 13 Dec 2021, with over 194 non-government members who are not ECOSOC have registered. ECOSOC members can register until 26 November. UNODC Civil Society office welcomes Stakeholder engagement, particularly faith-based organizations, and believes in this bottom up approach.

Dr. Michael Platzer suggested we should use the UN Days to study together with the UN. CFBOs had 25 webinars in the last year. Mr. Thomas Stelzer, from International Anticorruption Academy (IACA) said they are ethics based and overlap with CFBOs. Corruption is a structural impediment to the Sustainable Development Goals and a cross-cutting issue of the SDGs. Remittances of foreign workers sending money home is much more than official development assistance.

Dr. Afsar Rathor, LIOS-SOIL Organization, Vienna, referred to the significance of ecology and sustainability as a religious responsibility. He said: "The archbishop, and the Imman already said: the two conflict parties have not understood each other's faith, trying to prove which faith is better. The media also plays a role. Religions have the same values: love. Without tolerance, no religious freedom, no freedom of thought, no freedom of conscience."

Dr. Titus Leber, filmmaker and multimedia artist, captures images and film of world heritage spiritual sites and publishes them digitally. He has focused mainly on Buddhist sites, including Such projects have included a Buddhist temple and temples in Indonesia and in the Kingdom of Thailand. However, hisHis new initiative is to promote Africa's unknown cultural heritage. We should not forget South American religions, he said. He suggested a new subject of psycho ecology through media and video games. Spiritual pollution is just as much a problem as the physical environmental pollution.

A Ms. Andrea Jakob and Ms. Ilse Ensfelner, management consultant, were also voted unanimously into the executive. Mr. Peter Haider referred to the World Interfaith Harmony Week focusing on love of neighbours and embracing monotheistic religions and others. With the support of KAICIID, UPF together with partner organizations as ACUNS, IFEMES, WFWP and others, the Interfaith Harmony Week was held at the UN each year, the first week of February, providing a platform for all religious groups, in 2019 with CFBOs with 150-200 participants.

Global Week to #Act4SDGs By Mako Mori

DECADE OF >>> ACTION



The Global Week to #Act4SDGs organized by the UN SDG Action Campaign took place from September 17 to 28, 2021. This year's creative campaign focused on individual actions and driving home the message that we can all be part of the solution, inviting everyone to play their part in turning it around for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Held during the high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly, the campaign has an ambitious target to register one billion actions by 2030.

Giving for Good (GFG) took part in the campaign, initiating five actions that new and younger audiences (many of whom are increasingly conscious of how they live and consume) can take in order to help drive the SDGs. GFG specifically focused on SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, for the main goal of contributing to climate action. The key focus of GFG's campaign was to educate the public on how one can reduce, reuse, reimagine and recycle the clothes in their closets to lower the impact of their carbon footprint. Raising awareness on consumer behaviors has the potential to dramatically shift production in the textile industry (the second largest polluter).

Over the course of five days, GFG introduced five themes, accompanied by an action that individuals were encouraged to take. Day 1 was "REDUCE" and GFG encouraged participants to reduce the number of clothes one has in their closet, using Marie Kondo's "KonMari Method." This simple method of tidying can have serious psychological benefits because our space often reflects the clutter in our minds. A brief 30-second tutorial was created to show the process of this method.

On the second day "REUSE," GFG shared three creative ideas on how old t-shirts, jeans and button-up shirts can be transformed into handy produce bags, a tote bag and stylish pillow covers. Finding new ways to make textiles last, rather than

buying new is a sustainable practice that can shift our mindset to produce less waste.

Day 3 was "REIMAGINE." Oprah Winfrey once said: "If you look at what you have in life, you'll always have more. If you look at what you don't have in life, you'll never have enough." GFG teamed up with Yun-A Johnson, an innovative stylist who empowers women to beautify their homes and closets by creatively using what they already have. By using Yun-A's quick guide to "Find Your Aesthetic Style," anyone can create three new outfits in their closets without spending a penny!

The theme for Day 4 was "RECYCLE." Recycling can simply mean to "use again," which means any time you make a choice to give your clothes a second chance to be worn (rather than letting them end up in the landfill) you are contributing to reducing your carbon footprint. GFG developed a guide with different options on how participants can responsibly recycle their clothes to keep them away from the landfill.

The final theme was to "WATCH & LEARN." GFG challenged individuals to host a watch party with a curated list of environmental documentaries. The recommended documentaries capture the captivating beauty of Mother Earth, as well as guide the audience to reflect deeply on their own consumer behavior that can be not only destructive to ourselves, but the planet as well.

By promoting these five actions, GFG hopes to spark sustainable behavior changes in people that are rooted in their genuine care for the planet and its people. The transformation in behavior that is ultimately going to save the Earth cannot be brought solely by the coercion of laws, but can only be brought by natural submission, from realizing that our happiness is inextricably tied with all of humanity and all of creation.

A Delegation of Parliamentarians from the Transition Government in Mali Hosted by WFWP Austria & UPF Austria

By Renate Amesbauer, Claudia Ditel, Lilly Gundacker



On September 8, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Austria, together with Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the generous support of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) hosted a dinner for a delegation of Parliamentarians from Mali, Africa.

The delegation consisted of five members of the Parliament of Transition and a lady secretary, who attended the 5th World Conference on Speakers of Parliament in the Vienna Austria Centre from September 8 to 10.

The dinner with Parliamentarians was coordinated through the cooperation of Mr. Mamadou Kone, Honorary Consul and Representative for the Chamber of Commerce of Mali to Austria and neighbouring countries.

Ms. Renate Amesbauer, President of WFWP Austria, welcomed the guests and spoke about the history of cooperation with Mr. Kone at side events and conferences at the United Nations (UN) in Vienna. The common topic was the value of education and the importance of strengthening youth and women, to develop a healthy society in each nation.

Mr. Peter Haider, President of UPF Austria and Director of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in Europe and the Middle East (IAPP EUME), introduced UPF and IAPP, which were founded in 2005 and 2016, respectively.

Dr. Maria Riehl, Director of WFWPI Office for UN Relations in Vienna, emphasized the importance of incentivizing the grassroots movement of women in spreading a

culture of peace and friendship among different cultural and religious backgrounds. Dr. Riehl noted that one of the main focuses of WFWPI Vienna's office is the prevention of crime and drug trafficking through education and empowerment.

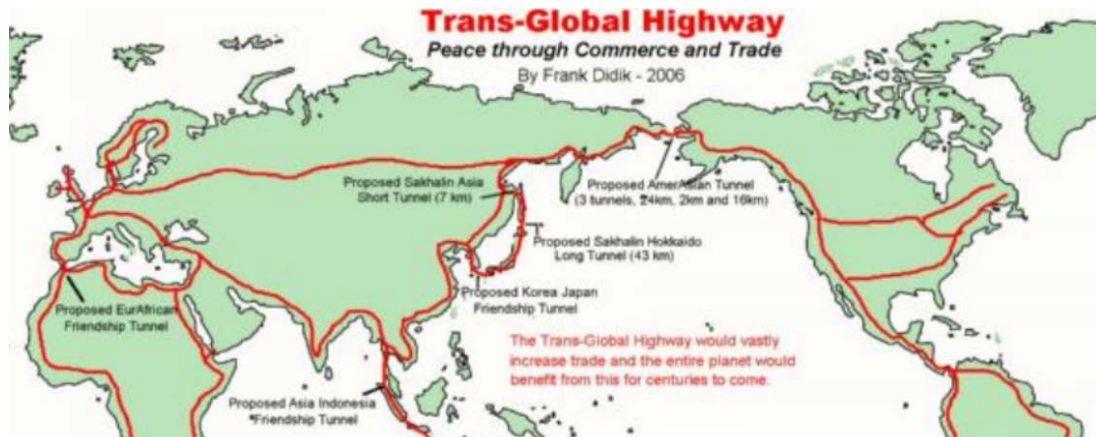
Hon. Assorid Ag Imbarcaquane, the first Vice President of the Transition Parliament, is a Parliamentarian with 30 years of experience. He introduced the other members of the delegation, each of them members of the transition committee. Hon. Imbarcaquane shared about his experiences with the co-founders of WFWPI, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Hon. Imbarcaquane became an Ambassador for Peace in 2010, helped establish IAPP in Mali and even accompanied his President to Korea in 2014 and 2016. He expressed utmost appreciation of the high values emphasized by Rev. Moon, especially valuing the family. Hon. Imbarcaquane shared how in their Parliament, all people from different religious backgrounds work together and "it is not the religion that someone belongs to that is important, but the character of the person."

Mr. Hamidou Trarore, member of the Transformation Committee, has been highly involved in the field of social development since 1976.

Ms. Oumon Sanogo, Secretary of the Parliament, highlighted what Dr. Riehl mentioned prior, namely the crucial role of women's grassroots organizations. Ms. Sanogo explained how Mali tries to uphold inclusivity and women in Mali are involved in peace and reconciliation practices. She also emphasized that women are traditionally peacebuilders and because women are the main victims of conflict, they should be involved in the reconciliation process.

What Global Economic Initiatives Tell Us About the Prospects for Peace

By *Emily Ekshian*



The Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council, collectively known as the P5, are the five members of the 15 member body, which are permanent and have veto power. The P5 comprises China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The council's 15 members regularly meet to assess threats to international security including civil wars, natural disasters, nuclear arms proliferation, and terrorism. Although the P5 focuses efforts on international social, political and security-oriented matters, the countries also exercise mass economic initiatives to help improve their domestic and international flow of trade, economic collaboration and globalization.

In 2013, China launched the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) which is a network of roads, railways and maritime ports that are meant to connect and globalize the eastern hemisphere, spanning three continents, from Asia, Europe to Africa. Similar to the BRI, the Russian Strategy includes expanding pipelines extensions, bases, routes, energy and air defense. Moreover, the United States aims to engage in infrastructural investment in developing countries, most notably in Africa and Southeast Asia. With these investments follow labor outsourcing, where not only will the United States provide jobs in developing nations, but also expand their market internationally. The United Kingdom and France have similar economic development strategies, focusing their efforts on humanitarian assistance to war-stricken nations, such as Syria, Palestine and Armenia, to name a few. With foreign aid deliverance to these nations, the UK and France can then mandate control over specific sectors of the economy such as natural resources, as debt repayment. The P5 members alike, seek to influence the sectors they have a comparative advantage in while globalizing the region. The question that should be given consideration is whether these economic initiatives are aligned with the goals of international peace and security or do these initiatives have ulterior motives?

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and her late husband, Dr. Rev. Sun Myung Moon, co-founders of Women's Federation for World Peace International, have also made efforts towards a more peaceful world by spearheading the Peace Road Initiative for an International Highway project. This highway project proposes a bridge and tunnel complex that would connect Russia and the United States via the Bering Strait, along with the building of a tunnel complex to connect Kyushu Island in Japan with Busan, Korea. The International Peace Highway has been publicly advocated for since 1981 and will inevitably create transnational lines of commerce and will stimulate the inter-ethnic exchange of culture and goods. But Dr. Moon and her husband's true desire is not on physically connecting the world, but on creating means for peace and reconciliation among countries and their people. In this way, the International Peace Highway is an initiative that transcends race, politics, religion, social and economic divides, to focus on connecting the world together, in heart.

Although it is true that the process of constructing these trillion-dollar investment projects across nations requires state-to-state collaboration and necessitates an aspect of inherent peacebuilding and joint state efforts, if the reasons for economic expansions are to accumulate wealth, political or economic influence, can that really lead us to a peaceful world? In the end, what states value the most will be prioritized. Perhaps, we must ask the question, what do we value most? If it is peace, we must be ready to sacrifice our own individual gains for the benefit of the whole.