



**WORLD  
FORUM**  
- **NORMANDY** -  
**FOR PEACE**

**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
EDITION



**THE ESSENTIALS**

1 AND 2 OCTOBER 2020



PREVENTING  
WAR:  
**RESPONDING  
TO NEW  
THREATS**



RÉGION  
**NORMANDIE**



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## A note to readers

This document is a compilation of summaries of the speeches given at the third edition of the Normandy World Peace Forum. The remarks made during this event do not represent the Normandy Region and do not reflect its position in any way. The summaries are not scientific articles. They include different points of view and key information from each event.

**The Normandy World Peace Forum was held in Abbaye aux Dames on 1 and 2 October 2020 on the theme of “Preventing war: responding to new threats”.** Encouraging reflection and discussions, this annual event focuses on the future by providing geopolitical experts and representatives of governments, the academic world and civil society with an opportunity to debate.

Because of the pandemic, the Forum was held in unprecedented circumstances and many people could not attend. This year, more than any other, we wanted to provide you with a publication which would allow you to immerse yourself in the atmosphere of this third edition.

**Summaries of the conferences, the debates, the interviews and the key events at the Forum have been compiled to help you to feel as if you attended this event, organised by the Normandy Region.**

The Normandy World Peace Forum in a few figures:



**6,000** visitors and audience members, including 3,400 young people, who enjoyed conferences and debates, exhibitions, workshops and the other key events of this edition



**122** panellists from 34 countries attended in person or via video, 30 partners contributed to debates or were present in the Village for Peace, sharing a single objective: raising awareness about how to prevent conflict and build peace



**85,000** views of the videos broadcast live on the Normandy for Peace and Normandy Region Facebook pages

We hope you enjoy reading this document and look forward to seeing you next year!

The Normandy Region

*Watch the recordings of the Forum's plenary conferences and find out the latest news from Normandy for Peace throughout the year on [normandiepourlapaix.fr/en](https://normandiepourlapaix.fr/en)*

# CONTENTS

BARBARA HENDRICKS PAYS TRIBUTE TO MEDICAL STAFF..... 6

OPENING SPEECH OF HERVÉ MORIN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE NORMANDY REGION, FORMER FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE.....7 - 11

P.12

## THE PLENARY CONFERENCES

### 1. REASONS FOR ANGER:

THE SOCIAL, DEMOCRATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES  
FACING PEACE.....14 - 21

ON THE SPOT ..... 22

### 2. WOMEN AND PEACE-BUILDING:

ELLE AT THE NORMANDY WORLD PEACE FORUM ..... 23 - 28

ON THE SPOT ..... 29

### 3. TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS:

FOR BETTER OR FOR WAR?..... 32 - 36

ON THE SPOT ..... 37

P.38

## THE DEBATES

### IMAGINING TOMORROW'S WORLD

**AFTER THE PANDEMIC:** THE POST COVID-19 WORLD?..... 40 - 42

**AMAZONIA:** A GLOBAL ISSUE ..... 43 - 45

**FREEDOM** IN A TIME OF CRISIS ..... 46 - 48

### **GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL RESPONSES:**

WHAT SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE? ..... 49 - 51

**WATER DIPLOMACY:** SHARING BLUE GOLD..... 52 - 54

## RECONSIDERING THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE

### THE EU ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE:

WHAT RESULTS? ..... 55 - 57

**CHILDHOOD** IN CONFLICT ..... 58 - 60

**WHICH FUTURE** FOR MULTILATERALISM AND THE UN? ..... 61 - 63

### THE SAHEL: REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR PEACE

AND SECURITY? ..... 64 - 66

**WHAT IS AN ALLIANCE** WORTH TODAY? ..... 67 - 69

## EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS

**ETHIOPIA**, A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR AFRICA? ..... 70 - 72

**(IM)BALANCED** GLOBAL ECONOMIES ..... 73 - 75

**THE MIDDLE EAST**: REBUILDING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES ..... 76 - 78

**RESTORING** TRUST? ..... 79 - 81

**ASIAN DYNAMICS** IN A TIME OF CRISIS ..... 82 - 84

## THE EVENING EVENTS

### SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY “THE CAVE”

Revealing **a subterranean story** ..... 85 - 87

### LITERARY EVENING | WRITERS AND PEACE

Writing **for peace** ..... 88 - 89

## ACHIEVEMENTS

Parliamentarians **for Peace** ..... 90

### THE NORMANDY INDEX

to assess the threats **to peace and democracy**  
**around the world** ..... 91

### FREEDOM PRIZE

on behalf of **Loujain Al-Hathloul and all her sisters** ..... 92 - 93

In a nutshell ..... 94

Acknowledgements ..... 95



# BARBARA HENDRICKS

## & HER BLUES BAND

### THE ROAD TO FREEDOM

IN TRIBUTE TO THE MOBILIZED NORMAN HEALTH WORKERS  
DURING THE COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS



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#### CONCERT

## AN EMOTIONAL OPENING EVENT

The third edition of the Normandy World Peace Forum was an emotional one. There was real emotion at being able to meet up (while ensuring compliance with strict health and safety requirements) after months of lockdown. There was real emotion at being able to discuss peace and the current state of the world, just a few days after fighting began in Nagorno-Karabakh. And there was real emotion at being able to welcome even more young people than in previous editions while encouraging them to take action and to get involved.

### Barbara Hendricks pays tribute to medical staff

The 2020 Normandy World Peace Forum opened on 30 September with an emotionally charged concert. After the concert began with the opening act Strange O'Clock, a local group from Coutances, Barbara Hendricks and her Blues Band put on a thrilling show in Abbaye aux Dames for medical staff from Normandy.

This concert was organised for medical staff involved in the fight against Covid-19 and was an opportunity to pay tribute to their brave service throughout this pandemic. In their honour, the world-famous singer sang "The Road to Freedom". The brilliance of Barbara Hendricks and her musicians transported the concert-goers to the United States of the 1950s and 60s, to the heart of the struggle for civil rights.

Among the blues songs which were performed and the excerpts from speeches by activists which were quoted by the artist, the lyrics of one song were particularly striking: "keep your eyes on the prize, hold on". A powerful message for all medical staff.

**HERVÉ MORIN,**  
PRESIDENT OF THE NORMANDY REGION,  
FORMER FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Ladies and gentlemen, ministers, ambassadors and presidents, thank you all for being here, despite the current circumstances in which we find ourselves. Normandy for Peace was created four years ago and I must say that opening this event always evokes real emotion.

## An emotionally charged Forum

There is the emotion of knowing that we will address some of the most serious issues facing mankind during this two-day event: life, death, self-sacrifice, the disruption of the natural order of things, displaced populations, violations of human and women's rights, threats to democracy.

I am moved to see so many young faces here in this room. Normally, we welcome veterans who spend time with students from our region, but the remaining eyewitnesses of the events of 6 June cannot be with us today because of the risk to their health. I am sure that they were willing to brave the danger of the virus: after landing on Omaha and Utah in a hail of machine-gun fire and surviving, this virus must seem an unlikely threat. In any case, we are thinking of them and their families.

But many young people have come



here today. Thank you to the teams of teachers and head teachers for their commitment throughout the year to developing educational programmes inspired by this Normandy World Peace Forum. Normandy for Peace is an event which is particularly focused on the younger generations. You are its custodians.

***“You are the successors to our veterans, those young men who were not much older than you when they came to our beaches on a June morning in 1944 to liberate our country and to restore European democracy.”***

Although thousands died, many were lucky enough to survive, to recount their comrades' extraordinary bravery and to share a message

both of freedom and, perhaps even more importantly, a message of responsibility. Just like the flame of resistance, you must ensure that the flame of the heroes of 1944 is never extinguished.

## Collaboration at the heart of Normandy for Peace

I am moved and proud to be able to speak on this occasion. I was elected as President of the reunified Normandy Region just over five years ago; my colleague and friend François-Xavier Priollaud and I had the crazy idea of creating a world forum which would be a key event, focusing on security, stability and sustainable development. I would really like to thank him in front of you all. We have succeeded thanks to his energy and his intelligence; François-Xavier, thank you so much for everything you have done.

I wanted Normandy for Peace to contribute to this fight and it certainly has; we can be proud of that fact. Every year, our Forum becomes bigger, stronger, more intense and

more global, with more guests, more workshops and more debates. I would also like to thank all of our media partners who have been closely involved in this two-day programme.

We wanted to make progress towards peace, following in the footsteps of great Normans who were driven by questions of democracy and freedom, including Tocqueville, whose words are still so modern today, Bernardin de Saint-Pierre and his treaty of perpetual peace, Aristide Briand, the pilgrim of peace, and Pierre Mendès-France, who rejected colonialism. We, in turn, have paved the way so that future generations will be able to continue on the same path.

***“Ladies and gentlemen, there is no time to waste when it comes to building peace.”***

Even this year, despite the pandemic, Normandy for Peace is still here. We have adapted to the rules currently in force and as François-Xavier Priollaud and Frédérique Bedos have said, nothing would have caused us to cancel this event.

I would therefore like to thank the organisers. Thank you to all of the people who have made this programme possible; in particular, I would like to thank two great academics, Nicole Gnesotto and Bertrand Badie, who have shared their learned thoughts with us as we developed this project. Thank you for your work, despite these very unusual circumstances.

Lastly, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to thank the Forum’s hundred officials, many of whom are volunteers and who contribute to the success of this event. In particular, I would like to





thank the Europe and International Department, led by Julie Miclot. When I left the Normandy Region's headquarters yesterday at 11.30pm, I could see that their offices were lit up and that they were still in the process of organising this event, so I must thank the Region's teams and all of the departments which have provided support. Really, thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will have noticed that this year's theme focuses on new threats, including climatic, social and technological threats; these negative external factors contribute to growth which often disregards both mankind and the environment.

***“This focus on threats reflects our initial and unchanging objective: to understand war to better build peace.”***

## **The far-reaching consequences of climate change**

A few words, if I may, on one of the subjects on which we are going to focus: environmental threats. As we know, the climate threat is a crucial

issue and a cause which is particularly close to Nicolas Hulot's heart. It has become a truism. Donald Trump is probably the only global leader who does not acknowledge it; it is almost as if the visor of his cap prevents him from seeing what the future holds. I would like to let my dear friends Nicolas Hulot and Yann Arthus-Bertrand know that the Normandy Region is fully committed to this issue and has created a regional Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This regional initiative includes the finest researchers and academics in our region; they will deliver their conclusions and findings in December and we will then develop policies which are tailored to our region.

Violent climatic phenomena, diminishing water resources, desertification and climate catastrophes all result in human tragedies. Ladies and gentlemen, since 2008, it is estimated that an average of 25 million people have been displaced every year as a result of climatic events; this is two to three times the number of displaced persons caused by armed conflicts and violence. Displacement linked to global warming is three times more common than displacement caused by wars and crises. This is equivalent, ladies and gentlemen, to a third of France's population having to leave their homes every year.

I would like to add that the people who suffer because of climate change are the least responsible for it because they are often also the poorest. Half of the population living in what are described as low-lying coastal areas, those at risk of being flooded in the short term, live in the poorest countries in the world.

**“Women, children and indigenous groups are forced to leave their homes, the places in which they live: this is the human cost and the profound injustice of climate change.”**

These climate-displaced persons are experiencing and will continue to experience a new hell on earth. Of course, they lose their security but they are also cut off from their culture, their land and sometimes their civilisation.

Forced to flee by the planet’s changing climate, these marginalised populations must find a new place in which to live while facing overwhelmingly hostile reactions from their new neighbours. This can lead to internal and civil conflict, if it occurs within a single country, or international conflict, if climate refugees have had to cross borders. Although these may initially begin as civil wars, they draw in both neighbouring states and major powers. We very quickly move from local to regional and from regional to international, from displacement for climate reasons to military conflicts and even ethnic persecution. This is what the future of our planet currently holds.

Although there are many reasons for its current situation, Darfur is a good example: grazing land is becoming desert, wells are drying up, and pastoralist societies are forced to move and to compete with other farming communities for access to and control of the remaining grazing land and water points.

Ladies and gentlemen, in addition to the fight against global warming and compliance with the Paris agreements, there is a pressing

obligation to preserve and to protect multilateralism. There is also a particular issue which must be resolved quickly: ensuring that the status of climate refugees is recognised around the world and by the United Nations, since it is inevitable that there will be several hundred million of them by 2050. The Geneva Convention does not consider environmentally displaced persons, if I may use that expression, to be asylum seekers because nobody is persecuting them but we must quickly respond to this legal void which prevents these newly displaced persons from being welcomed with dignity and within a legal framework.

**“Efforts to protect the environment are also efforts to ensure peace.”**

## **Social balance, a breeding ground for peace**

The example of environmental threats shows that security in the traditional sense is not enough to guarantee peace. I am convinced, and let me remind you that I am talking to you as



the former French Minister of Defence, that military spending, which is increasing significantly, is not the best way forward, with nations spending so much on weapons in an attempt to ensure their tranquillity and security.

***“Security must be interlinked with sustainable development, health and respect for age-old social structures, all of which contribute to stability.”***

We must encourage countries to invest in knowledge, to lead the fight against ignorance rather than focusing on nuclear weapons and to fight for schools and universities rather than military camps.

We must remember this number: 1% of global military spending is spent on development, a mere 20 billion dollars or so. 20 billion dollars, I saw this morning, is double Niger’s GDP and it is equivalent to Mali’s GDP.

When discussing stability and security in the Sahel, it is easy to see that although France’s military presence was vital to avert a tragedy in 2013, the same presence prevents the development of a model which would ensure that inhabitants have access to education, healthcare and security, requiring minimum protection. This would be the best choice and the best way to ensure the balance of these nations and their ability to embark upon development and prosperity. This should therefore be a central issue, addressed by the United Nations: countries could reduce military spending by a small amount to invest it in development and the entire world would be much better off. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the message I wanted to share with you this morning.

## **Women: victims of war, builders of peace**

I would just like to conclude by speaking about women’s lives, a subject which will be one of the highlights of our debates. Given the rise of internal and civil conflicts, tens and probably hundreds of thousands of women are victims of these wars, although sometimes invisible and often silent. It was important for us to shine a spotlight on women’s lives and I am thrilled that the winner of the Freedom Prize is, once again, a woman who campaigns for human rights.

***“Women are victims but they also help to change laws and constitutions.”***

It is widely acknowledged that Tunisia’s survival is linked to the central role played by women in Tunisian society.

As such, I would like to conclude by addressing a short message of friendship and fraternity to a man who attended this two-day event of debates and discussions last year: Denis Mukwege, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2018 and a staunch defender of women’s rights. Because he has raised awareness of the threats to women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, his life is now at risk as well. Denis, we support you and your fight.

And with these words, ladies and gentlemen, I will now leave you to enjoy the debates and the discussions of this event. Long live Normandy, of course, long live France, long live peace and security and long live democracy which is so severely threatened today. Thank you.



# THE PLENARY CONFERENCES

**1.**

## **REASONS FOR ANGER:**

THE SOCIAL, DEMOCRATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING PEACE

**14 - 21**

**2.**

## **WOMEN AND PEACE-BUILDING,**

*ELLE* AT THE NORMANDY WORLD PEACE FORUM

**23 - 28**

**3.**

## **TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS:**

FOR BETTER OR FOR WAR?

**32 - 38**

# REASONS FOR ANGER:

## THE SOCIAL, DEMOCRATIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES FACING PEACE

1<sup>st</sup> conference | Thursday, October 1 | 9.30am • 12.45pm | Salle plénière



Denis Cheissoux and Pascal Perrineau

## Citizens want change!

**The first conference at the Normandy World Peace Forum, featuring various speakers and round tables, focused on a central idea: the idea of the need for profound change which, if not instigated by governments, must be brought about by civil society.**

**After a video message from António Guterres<sup>1</sup>**, Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Bertrand Badie set the tone for the morning during his speech. *“In particular, I would like to address the students who will create tomorrow’s world: do not hold back, everything must be changed! Peace used to be the responsibility of governments. This is no longer the case. Today, it is mankind’s responsibility.”* The professor emeritus at Sciences Po suggested a more

current definition of peace, once considered to be the period between two wars: *“a social order or a way of ordering humanity.”* In his view, the essence of the dialectic of war and peace no longer lies in strategy but in the suffering which dictates our international relations and drives the world’s agenda. This suffering includes food insecurity, environmental insecurity and economic insecurity, all of which lead to poverty or individual insecurity in the face of oppression

<sup>1</sup> Watch the video on [normandiepourlapaix.fr/en](http://normandiepourlapaix.fr/en)



***“The world is no longer dictated by politics but by social issues. Cannons cannot do anything to failing societies. A policy of peace can only be built on the restoration of social justice and a new international humanism.”***

Bertrand Badie

and dictatorship. In fact, peace presupposes human solidarity, which must be set against the challenges posed by social suffering, which creates fear.

## The causes of disorder

Picking up on the subject of human suffering, Niagalé Bagayoko discussed the situation in Africa, which is affected by more than just jihadism. She detailed self-defence movements, community-based militias and popular uprisings. In her view, this multidimensional violence should lead to a reassessment of

### CONFERENCE OPENING :

- **Hervé Morin**, President of Normandy Region, former Defence Minister, France

### OPENING (VIDEO) :

- **António Guterres**, Secretary-General of the United Nations

### MODERATORS :

- **Denis Cheissoux**, Journalist, France Inter
- **Frédérique Bedos**, Producer, Director, Founder of the Humble Heroes Project NGO
- **François-Xavier Priollaud**, Vice-President of Normandy Region

### SPEAKERS :

- **Antonio Oposa Jr.**, Leader of the Normandy Chair for Peace, lawyer for environmental rights
- **Bertrand Badie**, University Professor, Sciences Po
- **Enrico Letta**, Dean of the Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po Paris ; Former Prime Minister of Italy (2013-2014) ; President of Jacques Delors Institute
- **Pascal Perrineau**, Politist and professor (Sciences Po), former CEO of the CEVIPOF
- **Niagalé Bagayoko**, President - African Security Sector Network
- **Arnaud Fontanet**, Professor - Institut Pasteur / Cnam
- **Jane Goodall**, Dame of the British Empire (DBE), Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute & UN Messenger of Peace through video in the presence of **Galitt Kenan**, Director of the Jane Goodall Institute France
- **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**, Photographer, Director and President of the GoodPlanet Foundation
- **Nicolas Hulot**, Honorary President, Nicolas Hulot Foundation
- **Louise Mushikiwabo**, Secretary general of La Francophonie
- **David Boyd**, United Nations Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment

post-colonial governance, which is seen as lacking when it comes to education, development, urbanisation and more. She also mentioned local systems which are totally outside the control of governments in the region. Together with the pressure on natural resources, these tensions generate

large-scale migratory phenomena: there are one million people displaced in Burkina Faso alone. The president of the African Security Sector Network said that she feels that *“the priority in Africa is to import security.”* Louise Mushikiwabo, Secretary-General of La Francophonie, spoke of turbulence around the world. This organisation counts fifty-four governments and nations as full members and thirty-four governments and nations as observers (including some in Africa) which all share the French language. She said that citizens no longer feel that they are being listened to and know how to make clever use of digital technology to express their discontent: *“in the most remote corners of the Francophone world, people know how to communicate this anger. We need to sit down and listen to these citizens and explain how to engage in a dialogue with them.”*



Louise Mushikiwabo

## The pandemic: a catalyst

When asked what the pandemic has revealed about our behaviour,



Frédérique Bedos and François-Xavier Priollaud

Arnaud Fontanet replied that Covid-19 has *“simultaneously shown the worst and the best of human beings.”* The worst has been seen with national selfishness regarding masks and testing and the best has been demonstrated by incredibly committed medical staff and remarkable individual solidarity. The professor at the Pasteur Institute recommended a preventative approach with better coordination across Europe, particularly when it comes to testing. He also emphasised the need to oblige countries to declare health crises as soon as they break out, as has been the case since SARS<sup>2</sup>, given that time is key when it comes to limiting a virus’ spread. Galitt Kenan said that the destruction



Galitt Kenan

<sup>2</sup> Infectious lung disease which first appeared in China in November 2002

of forests and natural areas at a frightening rate creates the perfect conditions for zoonoses to develop. Scientists estimate that 60 to 70% of the viruses which affect humans are linked to wildlife. Dr Jane Goodall agreed with this in a video message. The audience was impressed by this anthropologist, renowned for her wisdom and her tenacious approach to defending animals.

## Defenders of the earth who “take action”

The contributions of Nicolas Hulot and Yann Arthus-Bertrand were

welcomed by the audience with long applause. Cleverly combining passion and reasoning, Nicolas Hulot analysed the reasons behind international anger. “The situation has changed: globalisation has connected the world but has not created any real bonds. Technology has helped everyone to learn about inequalities and to realise that their opportunities and their quality of life largely depend on where they are born and the family in which they grow up. In addition to the suffering which has been previously mentioned, I will cite another issue: humiliation.”



Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Nicolas Hulot

## Messages to the younger generations

Both Yann Arthus-Bertrand and Nicolas Hulot urged the young people in attendance not to resign themselves, despite the scope of the challenges which face them. The two men encouraged young people to “take action” and “to commit” to making the world a better place and, in a way, to make up for the “excesses” of previous generations, for which they admit responsibility. Nicolas Hulot humbly advised them to consider the word “freedom”; its meaning is often distorted as “an absence of rules and limits”. Yet, etymologically, freedom

is the rule we set for ourselves. *“Our society conditions us to be tempted by a certain number of rather futile desires which make us disregard the beauty and the essentials of our lives. I have children who are your age and, while I understand your generation’s attachment to screens, I encourage you not to spend most of your time in front of them. Understand how to resist this society of consumerism and addiction, take control and do not let others manipulate you into compulsive consumer spending.”*



Nicolas Hulot

Nicolas Hulot said that he believes that the climate crisis is an injustice and a humiliation too many for tens of millions of people every year. They are suffering the consequences of a phenomenon which they have not caused, in a world in which 1% of the richest people have double the wealth of 92% of the global population.

*“The time has come to accept our responsibilities.”* Yann Arthus-Bertrand responded by highlighting society’s growing concern about the climate *“which will never go back to how it was before”*, according to scientists. This situation worries people of all ages who are searching for direction. Despite this situation,

***“I am one of those who has lived through the tyranny of growth and who made the world what it has become. I would like to apologise to younger generations for this.”***

Yann Arthus-Bertrand

***“It is unacceptable to learn that a bottle of Coca-Cola can be delivered to a remote village but not malaria treatment. Choosing cooperation rather than predation is no longer an option in a world in which inequalities are visible and growing. No one can hope to live in peace as long as these inequalities persist.”***

Nicolas Hulot

the activist photographer advocated a focus on the striatum, a part of the brain which pushes us to “always want more”. He encouraged everyone to take action, because “action makes you happy”. Citizen activism can reduce the causes of climate change by up to 30%. Although this is a significant statistic, Yann Arthus-Bertrand asked Nicolas Hulot why it is so difficult for politicians to transform “words into action”. The former French Minister for the Ecological Transition and Solidarity mentioned the contradictory pressures under which



Yann Arthus-Bertrand

decision-makers find themselves. *“It is very difficult to focus on two things at once: recognising the urgency of the moment and anticipating issues in some ten or twenty years’ time. When you try to concentrate on both, you end up confused.”* Today, the difficulty of the democratic exercise lies in putting decisions into practice. *“We know what to do, but we do not know how to do it, we do not have a method.”* He recommended the principle of “irreversibility” to avoid backtracking and the principle of “progressiveness” to organise this change and to ensure that no one is left behind. *“When I was a minister, we banned the use of neonicotinoids, pesticides which kill bees. It is one thing to ban a product, it is another to worry about the social consequences of this ban on certain agricultural sectors. However, since nothing has been done to find alternatives, we are at an impasse three years later, particularly when it comes to the beetroot industry.”* Nicolas Hulot finished by lamenting the fact that lobbies and financial and economic bodies are decimating the power conferred on the political sphere by democratic principles.

## Analysis of social anger

Pascal Perrineau made a rather worrying observation: democracy seems to be reaching the end of the road, as demonstrated by the record abstention rates observed at each election. *“The opponents who continue to invest in political parties are no longer there to govern but rather to say no to the system as it is today. This global phenomenon is fuelling waves of populism.”* This change also affects social movements which are

less regulated and more explosive than in the past. Agreeing with Antonio Gramsci’s definition that *“a crisis occurs when the old world dies and the new world hesitates to be born”*, he described the emergence of “monsters” between these two stages, monsters which attack democratic rule and the rule of law, even in Europe. The Sciences Po professor referred to a tag by the Gilet Jaune movement in France: *“we do not want to talk any more”*. But how can we envisage a new peaceful world without talking? This reinforces the old idea that democracy is incompatible with any form of representation by politicians.

***“The suffering mentioned this morning can bring about both good and bad things.”***

Pascal Perrineau



Pascal Perrineau

In Pascal Perrineau’s view, the workers and employees who were involved in the industrial era (which is in the process of disappearing) have the feeling of being left behind today. This leads to political dissent. The political scientist predicted three scenarios

to “put an end to the crisis”. The first would be a return to authoritarian regimes. In France, one person in three approves of the idea of a strong and fortuitous man who comes to power without any elections or the support of the French parliament, an outcome which is particularly popular among young people. The second would be a technocratic society, able to run a country in place of governments which have proved themselves incapable of managing the world’s complexity. The third,

which he strongly supports, would involve “*democratising democracy*” or, in other words, coming up with a new and more “participatory” kind of governance which goes beyond mere “consultative” democracy.

## An Erasmus scheme for young people

Enrico Letta mentioned the intolerable gulf between “our institutions 1.0 and our personal and professional lives 5.0”. He said that although he believes

## Advocating for a climate of change

**Antonio Oposa, holder of the Normandy Chair for Peace, is a pioneering activist barrister who works in Asia and specialises in environmental rights. Originally from the Philippines, he became a world-renowned figure after winning the first case against his government on behalf of future generations.**

*“We will have peace on Earth when we have peace with the Earth. The things which make our lives comfortable today will make us unhappy tomorrow*



*because of their scarcity: the water and electricity we waste, the materials we consume to excess, the unnecessary journeys we make. What we are seeing now is climate change. But what we need is a climate of change. Firstly, let us act locally. Let us create food gardens which will meet our food needs and absorb CO2. This will connect us to other humans, nature and ourselves. Then let us share our roads to help people to travel, reducing the role of cars. Let us create pools to collect water too. The environment is everyone’s responsibility. There can be no conflict between nature and business, because the nature of business must be the business of nature.”*

that our lives are better today than they were yesterday, protest is the result of the anguish of uncertainty and change and the inability of leaders to decide on a clear course of action in this globalised world. The former Italian Prime Minister reminded the audience that the European Union has survived 2020 and its health crisis thanks to its recovery plan, which must be an opportunity to come up with new paradigms. He also announced the forthcoming launch of the world's largest exercise in participatory democracy with a Europe-wide citizens' consultation on EU governance. The president of the Institut Jacques Delors also mentioned his work to create an Erasmus scheme for all young people, which was met with applause.

***“Today, only students from the most privileged families have the opportunity to go abroad. We know that this provides a very useful experience for their CVs and their understanding of the world. We are campaigning to create a compulsory Erasmus scheme lasting a few months and for all young people aged 15, 16 and 17, funded by the European Union. This would also be a great step forward from a democratic point of view.”***

Enrico Letta



## WALK THE GLOBAL WALK: young people joining forces to tackle climate change

The 2019-2020 edition of Walk The Global Walk officially came to an end on Thursday 1 October during the Normandy World Peace Forum. After a year learning about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in class, 341 secondary school students from Normandy met up in Caen to demonstrate their involvement by taking part in this walk which departed from the Forum. Since 2017, Walk The Global Walk has encouraged young people from Europe to take an active role in developing a culture of peace and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly with regard to climate change. In Normandy, this initiative which encourages the involvement of local young people is supported by the regional council and is overseen by the international Institute for Human Rights and peace.

ON THE **SPOT**

*“We have plenty to say”*

**Bastien Cohin, 20 years old, is a 4<sup>th</sup> year medical student at the University of Caen. He shared his impressions of the plenary conference which opened the Normandy World Peace Forum and which emphasised the role of young people.**

***Why did you come to the Forum and to this conference in particular?***

“I came to the Forum with a group of friends who are also studying medicine because the theme of the conference is relevant to our studies. There is an obvious link between health and peace. We are also part of a student organisation, ANEMF1, which focuses on social issues, global health and solidarity. Lastly, we are from Normandy so it seemed sensible to come to a local event with an international scope.”

***Whose speech most impressed you this morning?***

“Rather than any one speech in particular, I liked the general tone of the conference with regard to young people: “you are the leaders of tomorrow and however complex the geopolitical, environmental and climate challenges may be, you have plenty to say and you must not be afraid to speak out.” In practice, what can we do? I liked the idea of “continuous democracy” for bringing about change.”

***In the future, you are probably going to become a doctor. How do you hope to be able to change things from a professional viewpoint?***

“It is difficult to imagine but I would like my professional behaviour to reflect my values and the changing world. I am aware of the socio-economic



**Medical student Bastien Cohin was interviewed as he left the plenary conference on “the social, democratic and environmental challenges facing peace” which he attended.**

inequalities when it comes to access to healthcare, for example, which must be tackled. Although I do not have enough knowledge or experience to discuss Covid-19 from an epidemiological point of view, I can see that this global pandemic will be a catalyst for profound change for our world.”

# WOMEN AND PEACE-BUILDING

## ELLE AT THE NORMANDY WORLD PEACE FORUM

2<sup>nd</sup> conference | Thursday, October 1 | 2.00pm • 5.00pm | Salle plénière



Laurence Fischer (from behind), Ghada Hatem-Gantzer, Caroline Six and Céline Bardet

## Women as peacemakers

**Although *Normandy for Peace* has addressed the multiple facets of women's role in conflicts, this was the first time that the Forum organised an extended session focusing entirely on women and peace. The discussions provided original angles, offering new and thought-provoking perspectives. All of the speakers were in agreement with one another and this conference featured powerful, poignant and striking personal accounts.**

**Although they are always portrayed as victims of war**, women are also key players in peace processes. This was the subject of the conference's first round table, inspired by Hajer Sharief. From Syria, the young woman explained how she became an "activist for peace" after working as a medical student with people who were wounded during the Syrian revolution<sup>1</sup>. Having founded her

own NGO Together We Build It, she provides training courses in about thirty cities in Libya to encourage women to take an active role in decision-making, an area which has been dominated by men. ***"We fight against the stereotypes which suggest that war, peace and power***

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 2011, the ongoing armed conflict in Syria was initially a peaceful movement, inspired by the Arab Spring, before it was suppressed by Bashar al-Assad's regime, despite international protests.

*are subjects for men.*” Hajer Sharief said that she believes that women should be more involved in high-level talks and encourages citizens to move from the role of “kind” observer to that of an active participant in the development of peace. *“It is no longer acceptable to keep out of things and to stay quiet. When it comes to our planet and the challenges it face, everyone’s voice must be heard. We are all responsible.”* Betty Bigombe confirmed this point of view as she shared her experience of the peace process in South Sudan. However, she emphasised that *“peace is not the end*



*of war”*, stressing that peace must be built by women, because they have a particular view on the subject and because they play a positive role in society. She also mentioned Rwanda as an example, “which experienced a total rebirth after the genocide” because of women. Critical of UN Resolution 1325<sup>2</sup> (laudable in theory but insufficient in practice), Betty Oyella Bigombe attacked the lack of resources for women who work for peace.

## Rape as a weapon of war

An excerpt of the film *Woman* by Anastasia Mikova and Yann Arthus-Bertrand was shown ahead of the next round table discussion. The audience watched and listened to the personal accounts of abused and raped women who have lived through wars and conflicts around the world. Caroline Six emphasises the bravery of these victims who dare to speak out at the risk of suffering “a second punishment”. In addition to the barbaric nature of the physical acts to which they are subjected, they are often forced to live with the shame of being rejected by their family or

<sup>2</sup> Resolution 1325 calls upon member states to take special measures to protect women and girls from violence in armed conflicts and to support their participation in peace negotiations in order to find long-term solutions.

### OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH:

- **Hervé Morin**, President of the Normandy Region
- **Yann Arthus-Bertrand**, photographer, film-maker, president of the GoodPlanet Foundation. Director of the film *Woman*

### MODERATORS:

- **Florence Besson**, editor-in-chief for diversification at ELLE magazine
- **Aude Le Gentil**, journalist at ELLE magazine
- **Caroline Six**, journalist at ELLE magazine

### SPEAKERS:

- **Fanny Benedetti**, executive director of UN Women France
- **Hajer Sharief**, co-founder of Together We Build It
- **Céline Bardet**, lawyer and international criminal investigator, specialising in justice and security
- **Laurence Fischer**, French ambassador for sport
- **Ghada Hatem-Gantzer**, president of La Maison des Femmes de Saint-Denis
- **Marie Leroy**, climate expert at CARE France
- **Delphine O**, ambassador, Secretary-General of the Generation Equality Forum
- **Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim**, president of the Association for Indigenous Women and Peoples of Chad (AFPAT)
- **Barbara Hendricks**, Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **Betty Oyella Bigombe**, Special Envoy to the Uganda Government on the South Sudan Peace Process

community. How can we break this vicious circle when we know that silence ensures that these terrible acts continue? The Elle journalist took this opportunity to contradict the idea that rape has always been a tool with which to create collateral damage in war.

***“In reality, it was at the end of the 1990s that people began talking about rape as a weapon of war. Why? Because this abuse, committed in Bosnia and in the Democratic Republic of Congo, became widespread, was perpetrated with extreme violence and was planned by military leaders as part of a political strategy.”***

Caroline Six

In Bosnia, what can only be described as “rape camps” were set up. More recently, ISIS has used manuals to enslave Yazidi women. In Burma, rape has been used as a weapon of ethnic cleansing against more than 50,000 women. In Rwanda, ten times as many women were affected. And there is no end in sight. Sexual slavery is an extremely effective tactic with which to decimate a society and the UN identified 19 situations of concern in 2018. The purpose of these rapes is to destroy women’s genitalia; when

this does not occur, women are often impregnated by their abusers and are left to deal with the consequences.

## Recovery and resilience

Three women from different backgrounds, all of whom help women who have been raped, were given the opportunity to speak. Ghada Hatem-Gantzer, a gynaecologist who specialises in reconstructive surgery and female genital mutilation, founded La Maison des Femmes de Seine-Saint-Denis, a model when it comes to providing care for victims of sexual violence. *“Rape is a weapon which is used to destroy intimacy, whether it happens during a war or in our homes. It destroys self-esteem and makes individuals feel as if they are empty, dirty, humiliated and condemned to silence. We must work at an international level, as our organisation does; indeed, we welcome migrants who have experienced this terrible abuse. But we must not forget about national efforts,”* Ghada Hatem-Gantzer noted, explaining the complex nature of victim support. *“At La Maison des Femmes, we take care of women’s bodies but we also take care of their minds: psychologists and psychiatrists help them to deal with trauma, particularly dissociation. We also offer art therapy activities including dance and drama to encourage women to express themselves verbally and*



*with their bodies.*” Laurence Fisher, a former karate champion and a French ambassador for sport, has become closely involved with this cause. She said that she believes that *“since the body is a vehicle for the trauma, the body can also be a vehicle for reconstruction through sport.”* She emphasised her support for La Maison des Femmes and confirmed the positive impact of the implemented initiatives *“which are part of a holistic and multi-disciplinary environment”*. Céline Bardet gave her view as a barrister. She founded the NGO We are not Weapons of War to raise awareness of the issue of rape as a weapon of war, to provide legal expertise with which to tackle impunity and to support victims. She stressed the difficulty of providing “proof”, emphasising that this is often the victim’s “word”; internationally, the number of complainants who reach the end of the legal process is infinitesimal. All three women agreed to join together to raise public awareness of the issue of recovery and their commitment to fight against this scourge, which must no longer be an inevitability.

## When women become leaders

This conference also provided an opportunity to discuss how females can lead efforts to build peace by focusing on the issue of global warming, the impact of which particularly affects women. In addition to Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim’s speech

***“Countries in the south are hard hit by the impact of climate change when they are least responsible for it.”***

Marie Leroy



(see opposite), the subject was discussed by Delphine O who was thrilled that the little-known subject of “gender and climate” was the focus here. Although women are the first to be affected by food insecurity, they are also collateral victims of it. After a catastrophe caused by climate change, the number of forced marriages increases considerably because impoverished families need new income. Today, in developing countries, 60 to 80% of agricultural production is carried out by women, but they receive only 10% of agricultural income.

Marie Leroy, climate expert for CARE France said that women are better placed to find solutions because they are eye witnesses to the damage being done to the natural world. But they are hampered by a lack of financial resources and training and their absence from decision-making processes, both at international and local levels.

## Barbara Hendricks’ commitment

Barbara Hendricks, a world-renowned singer and staunch defender of refugees, concluded the conference with a message of hope. As a Lifetime Goodwill Ambassador of the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, she has lost close friends who have died while defending human rights. For 35 years, she has fought for them and the refugees she has met; these people prevent her from giving up. 80% of refugees are women and children. One woman in particular changed her forever. Barbara Hendricks was in Tanzania after the Rwandan genocide, visiting a centre for malnourished children. There was a mother sitting on the floor, breastfeeding her baby while her other young child was dying by her side. *“This mother knew that one of her children was going to die as she continued to feed the other child to save him. Just like her, despite the horror of the situation, we do not have the right to lose hope.”* When asked about the impact of Covid-19 on humanitarian aid, Barbara Hendricks explained that the pandemic has exacerbated the situation for refugees, particularly young girls who are the victims of discrimination and cannot access education. When asked to address the younger members of the audience, her tone was particularly motivational. *“You must act so that you are not dependent on others, you have the power and the courage to do so. I am counting on you to rectify the mistakes of my generation and the generations before us. Our society needs you, as women. Be strong and fight to make it happen.”*

***“As a citizen, I am an agent of my own freedom. I want to tell all the young women who are listening to me today that freedom is won by each and every generation.”***

Barbara Hendricks



Barbara Hendricks

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **500,000** women were raped in Rwanda during the genocide in 1994
- ▶ **70%** of non-combatant victims in recent conflicts have been women and children
- ▶ Just **5%** of peace process signatories in the last thirty years were women
- ▶ **35%.** This is the success rate of a peace negotiation led or supported by women, according to one study by the *International Peace Institute* over 20 years

## HINDOU OUMAROU IBRAHIM

PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND PEOPLES OF CHAD (AFPAT)

# And the audience rose for a standing ovation!

**She stepped onto the stage in her shimmering dress, a proud representative of her culture and her country. From her very first words, the audience realised the magnitude of what was happening. Her scathing yet undeniable speech hit home.**

*“Climate change affects my people’s everyday lives. In just a few weeks, temperatures of 50°C lead to torrential rain which floods our towns and villages so that we have to travel from one house to another in canoes! But the hardest part comes afterwards when we suffer from food insecurity. Where I live, there is no electricity, there are no shops, no pharmacies. The bush is our supermarket! We live*

*in forests, the savannah and on small islands. Living in harmony with nature for thousands of years has helped us to develop age-old knowledge and skills. We do not have smartphones to find out what the weather will be like. But my grandmother can always correctly predict the weather by observing the movements of birds, the behaviour of oxen or the position of the stars. We may not have doctorates but we are experts when it comes to this earth. And this knowledge is very valuable for humanity’s survival! The women in my community are heroines because they manage to find food and drink, despite it all. To help them, we need empathy, we need people to understand what we are going through, to put themselves in our shoes and to take action to make renewable energy accessible. Pity will not solve the problem; instead, you must take action by working with communities like mine who have the knowledge to put an end to this crisis. Indigenous peoples’ knowledge protects more than 80% of the world’s biodiversity! Do not forget that the food at the supermarket comes from the earth which gives us everything. The earth is respected by my people and must be respected by all peoples around the world if we are to put an end to global warming.”*



## ON THE SPOT

### *“An inspiring conference”*

**Carine Gendron, 35 years old, is a receptionist at the Omaha Beach Memorial Museum. She recounted the plenary conference on women and peace-building, reminding us how emotionally and intellectually stimulating this type of event can be.**

***What encouraged you to attend the Forum today and to choose this conference on “Women and peace-building”?***

“I am originally from Quebec and I was a cultural facilitator in a former life, working with secondary school students to raise awareness of depression. I am particularly interested in everything personal and this element was omnipresent during this conference. My work also taught me about the history of the Second World War. Today, this subject is at the heart of what I do. This Forum was therefore an educational opportunity for me, both personally and professionally. I have learned lots of things. I feel like the time I spent here was like a day of continuous professional development!”

***Whose speech most impressed you this morning?***

“Paradoxically, I was most moved by a man. It was when Yann Arthus-Bertrand was talking about his mother and how important she has been to him throughout his life. It was such an enthusiastic and genuine tribute to the role of women. I was also very moved by Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim and her speech, which I really liked. She reminded us that as Westerners, we must stop trying to impose our way of doing things on other people, including when it comes to international aid. We would do better to listen to the people involved so that we can provide them with what they need. I was also



**Carine Gendron, a receptionist, answered our questions after attending the plenary conference on “Women and Peace”.**

incredibly impressed by the work of La Maison des Femmes. In short, it was an excellent conference...”

***Fundamentally, what will you take away from this conference?***

“I was moved throughout the conference. There were many poignant and enlightening personal accounts, particularly those from victims of war rape. Nevertheless, I was most struck by the positivity of the messages shared during this conference. I am not an activist or a feminist but it was a pleasure to witness the incredible work of these women who encouraged us to get involved. I was inspired by how motivated the speakers were.”

# TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTIONS: FOR BETTER OR FOR WAR?

3<sup>rd</sup> conference | Friday, October 2 | 9.30am • 12.45pm | Salle plénière



Dominique Nora, Frédéric Bordry, and Gabriela Ilian Ramos Patino

## A marriage of convenience

**Big data, artificial intelligence, facial recognition, cyberspace... technologies widen the field of possibilities, which leads to question their use for peaceful or military purposes. The speakers analysed this multi-faceted issue from a geopolitical, ethical and judicial perspective.**

**Nicole Gnesotto** was invited to explain the fundamentals of this third conference. *“In previous conferences we have focused on social, health and environmental suffering. Today, we are going to take a step back, focusing on the hopes raised by scientific and technological progress and the ways in which they can be used to wage war.”* Since the dawn of time, every technology has demonstrated its ambivalence. But with the emergence of artificial intelligence, can we still say that the value of technologies depends on the use we make of them and that

humans still control technological innovation? The CNAM professor developed the idea that technologies for use in war have paradoxically been the drivers behind extraordinary and positive innovations, including penicillin and GPS. Nuclear weapons are also the subject of debate. While there is agreement that they are potentially monstrous, since they can destroy humanity in its entirety, some people praise the deterrence they provide. These people see them as “excellent” weapons because they prevent war. Digital technology and the information technology revolution

are creating a new and fifth theatre of war: “cyberspace”. The difficulty in the future is not so much about the ethical control of technologies, but the control of the ways in which they interconnect. This highlights two underlying issues: their governance and their impact on democracy.

**“Technologies are neutral. The difference lies in the use that humans make of them.”**

Nicole Gnesotto



## The digital world and justice

Dominique Nora, the moderator, asked Christiane Feral-Schuhl about the new relationship between technology and human rights from a legal point of view. The President of the national Council of Bar organizations responded by mentioning the widespread adoption of video hearings, an appealing technological development which she nevertheless warned against: *“Digital technologies can obviously perform a number of administrative tasks. On the other hand, it is important to maintain the*

### CONFERENCE OPENING:

- **Hervé Morin**, President of Normandy Region, former Defence Minister, France
- **Gérard Araud**, Columnist - Le Point and France Inter

### MODERATORS:

- **Dominique Nora**, Managing Editor - L’Obs
- **Frédérique Bedos**, Producer, Director, Founder of the Humble Heroes Project NGO
- **François-Xavier Priollaud**, Vice-President of Normandy Region

### SPEAKERS:

- **Nicole Gnesotto**, Professor - CNAM, leader of the Chaire Europe, Vice President of Jacques Delors Institute
- **Christiane Feral-Schuhl**, President of the national Council of Bar organizations
- **Jean-Marc Vigilant**, Director of the War School
- **Jean-Louis Gergorin**, Professor at Political Sciences, Former Vice-President of EADS, former Head of the Center of analysis and prevision of Quai d’Orsay
- **Marija Pejcinovic Buric**, Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- **Izumi Nakamitsu**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- **Frédéric Bordry**, CERN - Director of Accelerators and Technology
- **Gabriela Ilian Ramos Patino**, Assistant-Director General for Social and Human Sciences - UNESCO
- **Salman Shaikh**, Founder & CEO - The Shaikh Group
- **Catherine Morin-Dessailly**, President of the Senate Culture, Education and Communications Committee
- **Thomas Friang**, CEO of the Institute Open Diplomacy
- **Véronique Roger-Lacan**, French Ambassador - UNESCO
- **Frédéric de Saint-Sernin**, Deputy General manager, ACTED and former French secretary of state for regional development
- **Anilore Banon**, Sculptor specialized in monumental works
- **Youssef Mejri**, Tunisian witness, was a child during the revolution

*human element of access to judges. The digitisation of a process affects the search for truth because the human dimension, which is perceptible during face-to-face encounters, is*

*lost in remote situations.*” When it comes to open data, she said that although the possibility of accessing all judicial decisions is interesting, she continues to have some reservations, both regarding algorithms and “robot judges”<sup>1</sup>. This raises the question of digital sovereignty within a society where, in Christiane Feral-Schuhl’s view, *“security and freedom are too often set against one another.”*

## Defence 3.0

General Jean-Marc Vigilant shared his personal experience of the military use of new technologies: *“In addition to hybrid security challenges, which blur the line between war and peace, there is also the question of the balance of power.”* He also explained that the military space is no longer limited to sea, land and air: it also involves exo-atmospheric space, cyberspace and the world of information. *“These intangible areas involve risks but simultaneously offer opportunities. The escalation observed in these grey areas could easily lead to high-intensity conflict. We must prepare for it.”* Jean-Louis Gergorin explained that digital technologies can change



Jean-Marc Vigilant

<sup>1</sup> In Estonia, an algorithm can issue a judgment for damages up to €7,000. This is currently impossible in France because it has been enshrined in the French Justice Reform Act that a decision cannot be based 100% on an algorithm.



Jean-Louis Gergorin

the balance of power in two ways. Firstly, by computer intrusion which can be used to intimidate or to neutralise facilities. Western countries are increasingly falling victim to these time bombs. A country can also threaten another nation by announcing that it is able to cut off its electricity supply, as was seen during the war in Ukraine in 2015 and 2016. Secondly, by strategies of influence by means of the manipulation of digital information, as practised by some authoritarian countries.

***“A country which is dissatisfied with the attitude of another country no longer sends a diplomatic message: it organises a cyberattack!”***

Jean-Louis Gergorin

## Fiction serving as inspiration for reality

The author of the book *Cyber : la guerre permanente* (Cyber: the permanent war) explained that *“in this uncertain world, the only certainty is that we will be surprised. To prepare for this, we must rely on innovation.”* The French Ministry of the Armed Forces has therefore set up an agency for defence innovation. It aims to attract start-ups and encourage them to take an interest in this field. The

question is so important that since September 2020, the French Air Force has been renamed the Air and Space Force. This same agency is inspired by science fiction authors: many years ago, some of them imagined events which are now occurring in today's cyberspace. Jean-Louis Gergorin explained to an amazed audience that malicious acts involving "ransomware" have increased eightfold over the last three years. Cybercriminal mafia groups have been identified in eastern countries but are "protected" by "a major authoritarian country which can control them". The speaker concluded: *"the matter is therefore geopolitical because the Internet is the only global infrastructure which has no organisation to regulate its security"*.

## Science and ethics

After the video messages from Marija Pejcinovic Buric and Izumi Nakamitsu<sup>2</sup>, Frédéric Bordry addressed the relationship between science and ethics. At the beginning of his speech, he noted that the European Centre for Nuclear Research (CERN) was founded after the Second World War as a Europe-wide organisation which was designed to share fundamental research on physics and high energy. He pointed out that the Internet was invented at CERN, proof that science is developing innovative technologies which are changing the world. He went on to explain that large-scale scientific projects are capable of bringing every country together because science is a universal language. And, as the audience applauded, he encouraged the students who were present to get involved in these various areas.

<sup>2</sup> Can be found on the website [normandiepourlapaix.fr/en](http://normandiepourlapaix.fr/en)

***"I encourage all young people to focus on technology and science because there is a real need."***

Frédéric Bordry



Gabriela Ilian Ramos Patino shared Frédéric Bordry's optimism. She emphasised her belief in the potential of artificial intelligence (AI), as long as rules surrounding ethics and transparency are developed to ensure that AI is compatible with human rights and human dignity. However, when these new technologies are in the hands of only a few powerful people, where is the cultural diversity and variety? Yet regulation always lags behind innovation. Unfortunately, it is rather frowned upon because it is considered to be coercive, like the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)<sup>3</sup> adopted by the European Union.

## Projects at the service of peace

The conference was also an opportunity to highlight men and women who work for peace. By

<sup>3</sup> The General Data Protection Regulation was created to ensure that organisations which process the personal information of individual citizens are held accountable.

founding The Shaikh Group, Salman Shaikh has been able to carry out important mediation work between representatives of different communities in war zones (Syria, Iraq). Catherine Morin-Dessailly and Thomas Friang presented the results of the Parliamentarians for Peace programme (see inset). Véronique Roger-Lacan clarified UNESCO's democratic ideal, announcing plans to create a forum for education, culture and science; this was met with a round of applause. Lastly, the Normandy World Peace Forum paid tribute to the seven Acted workers who were assassinated in Niger in August 2020. Frédéric de Saint-Sernin, the NGO's deputy managing director, recounted this appalling event. Hervé Morin, who sat on stage alongside him, paid tribute to *"the young men and women who, driven by generosity and empathy, chose to work to help others in parts of the world where they were often the last ones to reach out to people."* People who wanted to do the best and died for it.



## CONTEXT

- ▶ **200** companies around the world produce 67% of all technology and 80% of artificial intelligence technology is owned by a single company.
- ▶ **5 200** billion. According to the UN, this is how much organised cybercrime will be worth between 2020 and 2025.
- ▶ **+6,6%** China's military budget – the 2nd biggest in the world – continues to increase in 2020, with a significant proportion focused on the development of artificial intelligence, further nuclear capacity and even a space station.

## AMERICAN ELECTION

# And the winner is...

**As a prelude to this conference, Gérard Araud analysed the American election, due to be held on 3 November 2020. Enlightening.**

By the time you read this, you will know who the new President of the United States is. Gérard Araud's speech, one month before Election Day, was therefore particularly interesting. The former French ambassador to the United States began by explaining that this is the most important election since Franklin Roosevelt's election in 1932. *"Never in an American election have we seen two candidates who represent two such antagonistic points of view. The America which triumphs will inevitably influence the security of our country and our daily lives."* He then analysed the two possible scenarios.

### **SCENARIO 1: four more years for Donald Trump**

*"If Donald Trump wins, this will reinforce his sense of omnipotence. He is a president who is indifferent to alliances and values, who only understands dominant relations and establishes them in the most brutal way. If he is re-elected, he will start a trade war. There is no question of him working with the European Union, which is worse than China in his view." What will Europeans do in response to this situation? "As a diplomat and a Frenchman, this possibility does not fill me with optimism. If Trump is elected, the situation will be extremely chaotic and even totally unpredictable, given the man he is and the world in which we live."*

### **SCENARIO 2: the alternative choice**

Second possibility: Joe Biden's victory.



Gérard Araud assured the audience that this would result in a more civilised discourse, marked by *"an outpouring of sentimental platitudes"* and by a president who *"will heal wounded egos and embrace everyone"* to celebrate the return of the America we love. *"Despite this, America will no longer do the globe's dirty work because it no longer wants to be the world's policeman: the public does not support costly military interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan any more"*, he warned. If our old continent goes up in flames, it will be up to Europeans to deal with the situation, with the risk of not realising that we are entering a world in which strength is everything. *"Joe Biden's victory would clearly be in the interest both of France and the rest of the world"*, concluded the former ambassador, who believes that France and its citizens will have their say and their role to play for the future of the world.

# Draw me freedom!

The Forum highlighted the international programme **Child Rights in Action**, active in sixty countries around the world. The programme encourages children who have experienced war and conflict to speak out about their experiences and to become peace activists. One of these children, 15-year-old Youssef Mejri, was invited to the Normandy World Peace Forum. He recounted his experience in his own words in front of audience members who were particularly impressed by the teenager's maturity. *"I was six when the Tunisian revolution began. I remember that schools were closed. Sometimes I heard gunshots. There was a curfew. We were scared to go out. It was my birthday on 10 January 2011. I was expecting a party, but we didn't have one. I was sad because I did not understand why. Twice, I came close to suicide bomber attacks. There is a sense of anxiety, but it does not last because life goes on. Since the revolution, I have seen an increasing number of Islamists who have a very radical view of Islam which I do not share and which seems dangerous to me. Tunisia is a moderate Muslim country and should not change. As part of a Child Rights*



*in Action workshop, I drew a picture of the situation in my country. It shows the outline of Tunisia, which wants to move towards the sun and towards freedom but is held back by handcuffs and increasing poverty. Despite these problems, we have established a democratic system. Despite everything, our country is doing the best since the Arab Spring."*



## Shoot for the stars!

Normandy for Peace highlighted the VITAE project, organised by Anilore Banon. Highly symbolic and particularly original, it plans to send a sculpture to the moon, featuring a million handprints.

## ON THE SPOT

*“It gave me a feeling of hope”*

**Marie-Madeleine Hiram, 69 years old, is now retired, having previously worked as a teacher. She sees the Forum as a way to better understand how our societies are changing and also as a way to show her commitment to a better world.**

***What encouraged you to attend the Forum?***

“I attended the Forum last year and I am very pleased to be back again this year. Yesterday, because there were no more places left, I followed the event on Facebook. Today, I was able to attend the third and final conference. I really enjoy listening to intelligent people who help me to understand the ins and outs of the world we live in and who help us to consider how we function globally. It gave me a feeling of hope because I feel that things are being done.”

***Whose speech most impressed you during the conferences you attended?***

“I was moved by the words of 15-year-old Youssef Mejri, who lived through the Tunisian revolution in 2011 and who explained what it was like at the time as a child. I was impressed by his strength, his clear thinking and his enthusiasm. I was also very interested in the discussion between Jean-Marc Vigilant and Jean-Louis Gergorin which was particularly relevant to the subject of the conference.”

***It is clear that you personally feel very strongly about this Forum. Why?***

“I could not have agreed more when Yann Arthus-Bertrand apologised to young people for leaving the planet in such a state! Although he has been criticised a lot, I also admire Nicolas Hulot’s work and, more broadly, people



Marie-Madeleine Hiram, who is retired, shared her thoughts about the Forum after attending the conference on “Technological revolutions: for better or for war?”

who try to ensure that their values and their work are aligned. From a personal viewpoint, I take an active role, I give money to charities and I try not to be selfish. It is my duty as a responsible adult to encourage humanity, respect for others and for the environment.”



# THE DEBATES

## | IMAGINING TOMORROW'S WORLD

**AFTER THE PANDEMIC:  
THE POST COVID-19 WORLD?**  
40 - 42

**AMAZONIA:  
A GLOBAL ISSUE**  
43 - 45

**FREEDOM  
IN A TIME OF CRISIS**  
46 - 48

**GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL  
RESPONSES:  
WHAT SOLUTIONS FOR THE  
CLIMATE?**  
49 - 51

**WATER DIPLOMACY:  
SHARING BLUE GOLD**  
52 - 54

## RECONSIDERING THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE

**THE EU ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL SCENE:  
WHAT RESULTS?**

**55 - 57**

**CHILDHOOD  
IN CONFLICT**

**58 - 60**

**WHICH FUTURE  
FOR MULTILATERALISM AND  
THE UN?**

**61 - 63**

**THE SAHEL:  
REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR  
PEACE AND SECURITY**

**64 - 66**

**WHAT IS AN ALLIANCE  
WORTH TODAY?**

**67 - 69**

## EXPLORING INTERNATIONAL DIVISIONS

**ETHIOPIA,  
A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR  
AFRICA?**

**70 - 72**

**(IM)BALANCED  
GLOBAL ECONOMIES**

**73 - 75**

**THE MIDDLE EAST:  
REBUILDING IN UNCERTAIN  
TIMES**

**76 - 78**

**RESTORING  
TRUST?**

**79 - 81**

**ASIAN DYNAMICS  
IN A TIME OF CRISIS**

**82 - 84**

# AFTER THE PANDEMIC: THE POST COVID-19 WORLD

Imagining tomorrow's world | Thursday, October 1 | 5.30pm • 7.00pm | Salle Or



Rémy Ourdan, Nicole Gnesotto, Marc Sémo and Bruno Tertrais

## A rather sombre overview

**From a geopolitical viewpoint**, no-one or nearly no-one will benefit from coronavirus: all of the speakers at this debate agreed on this. Nicole Gnesotto said that she sees Covid-19 as the catalyst for unbearable imbalances. This observation is supported by statistics. **“1% of the world’s population owns as much as the remaining 99%. A single country,**

**the USA, is responsible for more than 60% of the world’s military spending. Finally, global public development aid amounts to 100 billion a year, while 1,200 billion is spent on weapons. The situation is totally topsy-turvy!”** she exclaimed, in front of speakers and an audience who were in agreement with her. The CNAM professor said that she hoped that the pandemic brings about profound change to avoid the risk of a future catastrophe, which, she stressed out, could be caused by more than just the climate, mentioning the possibility of an incident affecting the Internet around the world. Lastly, mentioning the 95% drop in demand for international trade during lockdown, she called for an extensive reform of globalisation. Adopting an assertive tone, the vice president of the Institut Jacques Delors<sup>1</sup> concluded by outlining two

MODERATOR:

**Marc Sémo**, journalist, *Le Monde*

SPEAKERS:

**Nicole Gnesotto**, professor at CNAM, holder of the European Chair, vice president of the Institut Jacques Delors

**George Gray Molina**, Head of Strategy and Chief Economist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

**Robert Malley**, president of the International Crisis Group

**Rémy Ourdan**, journalist, *Le Monde*

**Bruno Tertrais**, deputy director of the Foundation for Strategic Research, senior fellow at the Institut Montaigne

<sup>1</sup> A European think tank founded by Jacques Delors in 1996 at the end of his presidency of the European Commission; its analysis and proposals are intended for European decision-makers and citizens.

**“Today, globalisation has just one objective: the consumer. But consumers are fed up with consumption and want to be seen as citizens.”**

Nicole Gnesotto

strategies, either *“to restore the world as it was before, which will inexorably lead to social cataclysm”* or *“to reform our societies by giving citizens the opportunity to reconsider and to influence the issues.”*

## Live from the UN

George Gray Molina drew on his experience at the UN to discuss the impact of Covid-19 on world poverty. He estimated that 400 million people will lose their jobs because of the virus and that malnutrition will continue to increase. In his view, given that this is neither the first nor the last global pandemic, the resultant crisis is a reminder of the urgent need for more structured and well-developed medical services, better social security and an international minimum wage.

However, this is hampered by an economic recession with developing countries facing crippling debts and the public’s ever-increasing mistrust of governments. This international phenomenon has been exacerbated by a lockdown affecting four billion citizens. Picking up on comments about international withdrawal and the rise of nationalism, he pointed out that the Great Depression of the 1930s eventually led to the Second World War. However, efforts are being made by the United Nations to improve education and to encourage the ecological transition around the world, which led to him saying that there are two UNs. There is the political institution of the United Nations and the Security Council and there is a more operational institution which works on the ground, taking action to improve solidarity, health and human rights. *“Progress is never linear and happens during crises”* he concluded.

## From words to action

As a journalist specialising in this subject, Rémy Ourdan provided an overview of the impact of Covid-19

## Did you say “anthropological change”?

Unlike the great epidemics of the past which public opinion accepted as inevitable, the debate highlighted a possible “anthropological change” in the wake of the Covid-19 crisis. While everyone has forgotten the Hong Kong flu of 1969, which caused as many deaths in France as coronavirus, the idea of a deadly

pandemic now seems intolerable; this bodes well for a long-lasting and international awareness of the importance of human life. We will find out whether our societies are anthropologically prepared for this change.

on armed conflicts and human rights. He pointed out that the call for an international ceasefire at the beginning of lockdown by António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was approved by 70 countries. However, none of the main countries concerned (all of which have an active military presence) agreed to this ceasefire, including the United States, Russia and Syria. The UN leader acknowledged “a gulf between words and actions”. Rémy Ourdan concluded that *“epidemics do not stop wars but they allow countries, especially autocratic ones, to try to ratchet up political and even military tensions.”* With regard to human rights, his analysis was sadly comparable, leading him to fear that *“the post-Covid world will be the same as the one before and perhaps even slightly worse.”* Robert Malley echoed this sentiment, saying that the political response has fallen short in view of the scale of the societal challenges we face. *“This virus, by definition, transcends borders and thus requires international cooperation. However,*

***“The list of countries whose authoritarian and dictatorial regimes have used border closures and the pandemic to increase pressure on their opponents and independent media is staggering.”***

Rémy Ourdan

*from populism in Europe to President Trump’s attitude in the United States and Brexit, we are witnessing the contrary.”* After a question from the audience, the speakers concluded the debate by commenting on the multiple impacts of Covid-19 on France and Europe with regard to air traffic, changes in professional practices and interpersonal relations. This overview of the situation had a rather sombre tone.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **36.2** million cases of Covid-19 (as of October 2020)
- ▶ **1.05** million people have died as a result of the pandemic (as of October 2020)
- ▶ **5.2%**, the drop in GDP in 2020 according to the World Bank, amounting to the deepest recession since the Second World War
- ▶ **68%** of people in France say that they are “worried” about Covid-19’s effects on themselves or their relatives, six months after the start of lockdown

# AMAZONIA: A GLOBAL ISSUE

Imagining tomorrow's world | Thursday, October 1 | 5.30pm • 7.00pm | Salle Nacre



Gert-Peter Bruch, Céline Cousteau and Emilie Gaillard

## You need to breathe!

**A worthy successor to her grandfather**, the explorer Jacques-Yves Cousteau, Céline Cousteau has made a name for herself as a politically engaged documentary maker. Images were at the centre of this debate with the projection of slides and commentary from the director of the film *Tribes on the Edge*. Later, there was a showing of the trailer for the film *Terra Libre* by Gert-Peter Bruch which tells the story of thirty years of resistance by the world's indigenous peoples, along with a video link-up with Cacique

### MODERATOR:

**Gert-Peter Bruch**, President of the NGO "Planète Amazone"

### SPEAKERS:

**Cacique Ninawa**, Huni Kui people

**Emilie Gaillard**, Member of Normandy Chair for Peace, Professor in environmental law and Human Rights

**François-Michel Le Tourneau**, Geographer, director of research at the CNRS (CNRS/ University of Arizona iGLOBES Joint International Research Uni

**Céline Cousteau**, Environmental activist and documentarian

Ninawa in the Brazilian Amazon, where he lives with his Huni Kui people. *"It is sometimes said that my films give a voice to the voiceless. I do not agree. These men and women have a loud voice which we do not listen to or hear because they are far away and because they do not have the same platforms as us."* Céline Cousteau explained the reasons for her involvement and the reality of indigenous peoples' lives. *"They are not there in the forest wearing feathers to look pretty. They are people who exist in the political sphere and who have an understanding of the issues we face."*

***"The Amazon gives us roughly 20% of the oxygen we breathe. Where there are indigenous peoples, there is no deforestation. They are the guardians of an ecosystem which allows us to breathe."***

Céline Cousteau

The director recounted her meeting with Beto Marubo, who decided to leave his village in the Amazon at the age of 17 in an attempt to understand the Western world and to defend his brothers and sisters. She explained that she invited him to her home in New York and that they went to the United Nations headquarters so that he could speak out to defend his people. Céline Cousteau lamented the fact that the UN gave him just three short minutes to defend a cause which concerns every single one of us. She also mentioned that she launched an impact campaign with young people from Beto's village; together, in two years, they managed to communicate with more than 7,000 students from forty different countries via Skype. *"We have seen that it is possible to raise public awareness without necessarily having to travel."*

## The importance of relaying information

Echoing Céline Cousteau's message, Gert-Peter Bruch mentioned what he sees as the vital importance of relaying information. He believes that the public is now ready to listen to this. When Raoni Metuktire asked him to act as his spokesperson in Europe, Gert-Peter Bruch noticed that some media focused solely on a folkloric image of Cacique Raoni as an "indigenous chief". Real change occurred on the day when the ambassador of the preservation of the forest appeared on French TV channel TF1's evening news and was given ten minutes' air time to share his message. His aim was to bring together all the indigenous peoples around the world. After various difficulties, a meeting with sixty or so leaders

from different communities was organised. This group has produced a statement which goes beyond mere intentions and contains tangible and realistic proposals, including the project to ensure the recognition of forests as sanctuaries, which is soon to be launched worldwide. This indigenous vision of environmental protection also aims to protect vulnerable populations from ethnocide by acknowledging the Amazon rainforest's "sacred character".

## Legal protection of the natural world

Antonio Oposa was the first holder of the Normandy Chair for Peace, created in 2019<sup>1</sup>. After ten years of legal battles, this Filipino lawyer embarked on the first court case "on behalf of future generations" in 1993. Emilie Gaillard referred to his fight to explain the legal options available to protect the environment and to ensure sustainable development. Legal processes can be launched at a regional, national or international level, as has happened in Colombia, where 80% of the Amazon is now classified as an "indigenous reserve" or a "natural park". New types of protection are emerging, combining protection for indigenous peoples and protection for the natural world. Legal protection in the Amazon and elsewhere also involves analysing the international conventions which have been ratified by various countries. For example, a convention on biological diversity has just been signed in Minamata,

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<sup>1</sup> Created in 2019 by the Normandy Region, the French National Centre for Scientific Research and the University of Caen Normandy, this chair focuses on climate justice and the rights of future generations, the protection of indigenous peoples, education, the environment and sustainable development.

Japan, which was subjected to serious mercury pollution after the Second World War. *“In Johannesburg, I saw with my own eyes a gold mine which generates an astronomical amount of pollution and kills the environment,”* Emilie Gaillard recounted.

***“Just as crimes against humanity are acknowledged, crimes against the environment should be acknowledged on behalf of future generations. The terms “ecocrime” and “ecocide” are increasingly common.”***

Emilie Gaillard

She went on to say that, ultimately, this is a fight to *“have the right to be born in a forest which is not permanently damaged, with*

*surrounding waters which are not polluted.”* UNESCO is developing the Man and the Biosphere programme, a programme with which the Normandy Chair for Peace has links. Cacique Ninawa was the final person to speak; he answered a question from the audience on the need to take action regarding the Congo Basin as well. *“In my tribe, our elders teach us that the forest is one and the same. It has a single spirit, it has a single objective. We cannot look at the forests as separate elements. I am therefore worried for the Amazon forest, but also for the forests in the Congo, Europe and North America. We are all linked to all of these forests.”*

## Cacique Ninawa’s heartfelt appeal

*“The Amazon is crying out for help. Scientists say that forest fires are the result of environmental impacts, but I am talking about crimes against the Amazon, particularly in the Pantanal region where animals are being burned alive. We do not know what can be done to contain this situation. There have been lots of studies, but nothing is changing. We are trying to prevent the destruction of the forests as much as we can so that we can protect the sovereignty of indigenous peoples and preserve our knowledge. I am thinking of local medicine*



*which still exists, for example. During international forums, we talk about trade, international trade, money. But there is no mention of an international bill to defend human lives in the forest and the natural world.”*

# FREEDOM IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Imagining tomorrow's world | Friday, October 2 | 2.30pm • 4.00pm | Salle Or



## Exploiting the pandemic

**As the speakers discussed** the effect of lockdown on individual freedoms on 2 October 2020, they were unaware that a new lockdown would soon be imposed in France and across Europe. Proof, if it were needed, of the importance of this debate which began with a contribution from Pauline Adès-Mével. She explained that Reporters Without Borders created Tracker 19, inspired by coronavirus and by Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates the right to

access information and ideas. Its objective was to count the number of abuses against journalists and press freedom during the pandemic. The results were enlightening: almost half of the countries in the UN have put pressure on journalists. Verbal attacks, arbitrary detentions, withdrawal of accreditation: on every continent, authoritarian regimes have tried to exploit the pandemic to the detriment of press freedom.

### Freedom of the press: a collateral victim

Dunja Mijatovic said that the pandemic is a threat both to people's health and to people's civil liberties. Before the virus emerged, democracy was in decline all over the world, particularly with regard to freedom of assembly. While she said that she understood the shock caused by the death of more than 100,000 European citizens and the unprecedented nature

MODERATOR:

**Lucas Menget**, Deputy Editor - France Info

SPEAKERS:

**Dunja Mijatovic (video)**, Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

**Pauline Adès-Mével**, Editor-in-chief of Reporters Without Borders

**Megha Rajagopalan (London)**, International correspondent, BuzzFeed News

**Valerie Hopkins (Budapest)**, Financial Times' South-East Europe correspondent

**“Governments have justified their attitude by emphasising the need to avoid panic. Journalists have been “encouraged” not to provide too much information about the virus when it displeased those in power and not to incite citizens to disobey governmental directives. Dissenting voices have been prevented from speaking out, particularly journalists, and the media has come under significant pressure.”**

Pauline Adès-Mével

of the situation, she advocated “a better balance between the public interest and respect for individuals’ rights.” The Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe also acknowledged that she has had the opportunity to tackle freedom-destroying legislation, decrees and decisions which have restricted the work of journalists, human rights defenders and politicians. “Access to information is, in a way, a collateral victim of the actions of some governments in response to the pandemic.” Valerie Hopkins recounted her experience as correspondent for the Financial Times for South-East Europe, confirming a democratic decline in Hungary. She explained that Hungary’s parliament has “taken advantage” of the state of emergency and the Prime Minister’s extensive powers to introduce

coercive measures: putting an end to transgender people’s right to change their names, destroying documents which have been classified as defence secrets (and which are particularly compromising for the government in power), putting pressure on journalists and more. The government’s strategy is “to spread fear and doubt among the country’s citizens and to use the health system for political purposes.”

## Digital distortion

Megha Rajagopalan discussed the coordinated sharing of “fake news” on vaccines, treatments, social distancing, the use of masks and other events in the public sphere. This global phenomenon distorts the search for truth, creates confusion and harms the credibility of those who want to provide genuine information. Authoritarian regimes are taking advantage of this, including China, where whistle-blower doctors in Wuhan were arrested at the very beginning of the pandemic.

**“Human rights violations of individuals’ privacy in the name of “national security” are systematic in some countries as soon as there is a crisis.”**

Megha Rajagopalan

BuzzFeed News’ international correspondent shared her worries about biometric surveillance for reasons of public health. In her view, various tools, including facial recognition and contact tracing, would have been seen “as a violation of privacy before coronavirus, whereas they are now perceived as being

*justified because of the pandemic.*” Without necessarily questioning their legitimacy, in view of the current pandemic, she discussed their possible use after this crisis in another context. Pauline Adès-Mével remarked that *“this pandemic has led to other crises and has given some states the opportunity to engage in practices which previously have not been allowed. Surveillance, tracing and arbitrary arrests have become more common in the wake of Covid-19”*. She noted that Europe, home to the second major outbreak of the pandemic, has also witnessed this phenomenon. In addition to Hungary, there have been arrests in Serbia and Kosovo. *“The EU has also been a hotbed of pressure for journalists and although there are worse examples, journalists have been prevented from working, physically at times.”*

## The vulnerability of the weakest

The moderator Lucas Menget asked whether, in addition to press freedom, the pandemic has had an impact on other individual freedoms, particularly with regard to the most vulnerable populations. Dunja Mijatovic explained that the Council of Europe understood the risks of lockdown for people whose rights were already at risk before the pandemic: minorities, the elderly, vulnerable communities and so on. *“We have asked governments to be particularly vigilant when it comes to these people.”* She also mentioned the fear which undermines the protection of human rights in Europe and exacerbates the weaknesses of our systems. Indeed, she lamented *“a lack of bravery and drive among politicians to protect them”*. She would like citizens to contact their

parliamentarians and for them to be more proactive about this issue, in the same way as international organisations. She concluded by paying tribute to the journalists who inform us about the threats we face and who continue to do their jobs despite the difficulties, including the closure of international borders during the first lockdown.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **90** of 193 UN member countries violated the right to information during the first wave of the virus, according to Reporters Without Borders’ Tracker 19
- ▶ **2** million messages posted on Twitter between 20 January and 10 February 2020 (7% of the total number over this period) spread conspiracy theories about coronavirus
- ▶ **5** press freedom “predators” are listed on the Reporters Without Borders website. They are the leaders of Egypt (Abdel Fattah Al-Sissià), China (Xi Jinping), Turkey (Recep Tayyip Erdogan), Thailand (Prayut Chan-o-cha) and Venezuela (Nicolas Maduro)

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES, LOCAL RESPONSES: WHAT SOLUTIONS FOR THE CLIMATE?

Imagining tomorrow's world | Friday, October 2 | 2.30pm • 4.00pm | Salle Nacre



Xavier Cadoret, Rémi Barroux, Benoit Laignel and Linda Duffy (via videoconference)

## Thinking global, acting local

**Gunn Marit Helgesen** explained in the introduction to this debate that in view of the climate emergency, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are becoming more of a focus at a local level than at a global level. According to UN estimates, half of the targets can be achieved. Local and

### MODERATOR:

**Rémi Barroux**, Le Monde journalist specialising in world news

### SPEAKERS:

**Benoit Laignel**, professor, Co-President of the Norman Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

**Xavier Cadoret**, president of the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe

**Gunn Marit Helgesen (Norway)**, president of the Chamber of Regions of the Council of Europe

**Linda Duffy (Norway)**, head of section for societal development and transverse coordination at the Viken regional mayors' office

regional authorities have a role to play in the management of these crises because their elected representatives have a closer relationship with citizens and can set an example to raise public awareness. Much progress has been made over the last five years. The president of the Chamber of Regions of the Council of Europe referred to the work of this institution, which recommends imposing environmental restrictions on public procedures, taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and raising awareness among the younger generations. *“Over the last few years, we have seen that young people can be passionate about this issue and that they are willing to get involved. We hope that we can really give our young people the tools they need to contribute to sustainable development.”*

The decentralisation of skills and resources is also a prerequisite if national and global changes are to occur at a local level.

## Mitigation and adaptation

Benoît Laignel mentioned the only Sustainable Development Goal which directly concerns “climate change” but specified that it has very strong links with the other SDGs. To this end, he differentiated between “mitigation” and “adaptation”. The former is implemented at all levels, from an individual level to a national level, involving cities and regions. Adaptation must be implemented in response to a region’s specificities. The professor at the University of Rouen Normandy said that he believes that there is a need to prioritise. With regard to the rising waters in Normandy, for example, coastal erosion will be exacerbated by rising sea levels. The worst solution would be to leave things as they are: disasters will occur and they will become increasingly intense and frequent. Another possibility would be to create dykes everywhere, something that would be difficult to implement and which would lead to the coastline being blighted by huge amounts

***“In response to the inaction of some countries following COP 21, which had been enthusiastically welcomed in 2015, I quote Laurent Fabius who spoke of people “waiting and seeing” and even “sleepwalking” with regard to climate change.”***

Benoît Laignel

of concrete. The third option would be to accept the flooding of some parts of the region while protecting others, something the Netherlands is currently doing. *“Why is mitigation important? Mitigation makes adaptation easier,”* he explained.

## A local voice

Xavier Cadoret, who has been the mayor of Saint-Gérand-le-Puy (Allier, France) since 1991, responded to Rémi Barroux, the moderator, who wondered whether elected representatives find it difficult to take necessary but unpopular climate measures, given the urgency of their mandate. *“I do not think so. I joined the Council of Europe and I represent 150,000 European local and regional communities in 47 countries. Having talked with national elected representatives, parliamentarians, local elected representatives and the opposition, we have a very practical idea of the work which needs to be undertaken. The first thing we have learned is that for a measure to be accepted, people must be involved at a local level. However, as soon as there is a crisis, there is a strong trend towards recentralisation.”* To this end, he has witnessed *“a disparity between national activity and local understanding of the issues.”* He also acknowledged that local and regional elected representatives must be imaginative and must not always wait for national, European or global approval to experiment with new ideas. The elected representative raised the question of skills, which are fundamental for optimal implementation, especially for elected representatives from rural areas. *“If there is a dilution of skills in every community, it will be*

*much more difficult to question existing situations and to launch new initiatives.”*

## The Norwegian example

Linda Duffy recounted her experience of working for the mayors’ office in the Viken region in south-eastern Norway. This entity was created in 2020, after the country’s territorial reform. It now brings together 51 local councils, representing 23.4% of the Norwegian population. The objective was to address development issues in terms of the SDGs. *“As a first step, we brought together the knowledge and tools with which to build an organisation which encourages joint learning,”* explained Linda Duffy, who is responsible for coordinating and implementing sustainable development in the region. Elected representatives, organisations, companies, young people, representatives of national and regional authorities and an assembly of local councils worked together on the project. A local and regional planning strategy (which is compulsory for all regions and most local councils in Norway) has been established, identifying priority projects and the means with which they can be achieved. The differences between local authorities were analysed as were the challenges faced by each city. As important as it is, economic development must now take climate change into account and climate change must be the ultimate priority for all projects. *“We will not be able to avoid conflicts but we cannot allow official decisions to be at odds with the sustainable development strategies we have established,”* Linda Duffy concluded, confirming the idea that we should “think global, act local”.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **17.** The number of Sustainable Development Goals that the 193 member states of the UN have set themselves for sustainable development by 2030, known as Agenda 2030. The 13th SDG aims to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”.
- ▶ **+0.79°C.** The increase in the global average air and water temperature for the decade from 2001 to 2010, compared to the period from 1850 to 1900. It should be noted that 2014 to 2018 were the hottest years ever recorded...
- ▶ **3.7** mm/year. This is the satellite-observed average increase in sea level from 1993 to 2018, primarily caused by ice melting.

# WATER DIPLOMACY: SHARING BLUE GOLD

Imagining tomorrow's world | Thursday, October 1 | 5.30pm • 7pm | Salle Guillaume



Mirna Jammal and Franck Galland

## An issue of power and political will

**Efforts to ensure international water security**, the role of diplomacy in avoiding conflict and tensions surrounding this crucial resource were key issues during this debate. Via a video link from Rome, Gilbert Fossoun Hounbo emphasised his sincere desire for there to be equitable access to quality water for everyone, ensuring the security and well-being of all

### OPENING KEYNOTE SPEECH:

**Gilbert F. Hounbo**, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and chair of UN-Water

### MODERATOR:

**Mirna Jammal**, journalist, France 24

### SPEAKERS:

**Franck Galland**, associate researcher at the Foundation for Strategic Research,

**Nicolas Imbert**, executive director of Green Cross France and Territoires

**Guillaume Merere**, project manager within the Water and Sanitation division at the AFD

**Éric Tardieu**, Secretary-General of the International Network of Basin Organisations

people, both in terms of sustainable development and individual equality. But unfortunately, reality is different: *“The situation is very alarming in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, particularly in China.”* The president of IFAD also pointed out that water scarcity affects women and girls more than men and exacerbates gender inequalities with implications for health, education and poverty. He also emphasised the inextricable link between water, global warming and food insecurity, given that 70% of freshwater is used for agriculture and more than 60% of the food consumed in the world today is produced using rainwater. Consequently, when drought becomes more common, it endangers the world's poorest people, 80% of whom live in rural areas where the issue of access to drinking water is particularly acute. The future is increasingly worrying as the demand

for water is expected to increase significantly due to population growth, consumption patterns and climate change. *“We need to ensure resilient management of water resources, combined with the promotion of soil and water conservation and the use of drought-resistant varieties,”* Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo said. Referring to the current situation, he reminded the audience that every country has encouraged hand-washing as a precaution against Covid-19, as if access to soap and water were automatic. Yet more than 2 billion people do not have access to clean running water. This statistic shows why water can be a source of conflict between countries.

***“If nothing is done between now and 2025, just over 8 billion people will eventually experience an absolute water shortage. Two thirds of the world’s population will live in water-stressed conditions.”***

Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo

## The geopolitics of water

In response to the issue of cross-border water mentioned by other speakers, Franck Galland discussed the various regions around the world where a shortage of water is most acute. *“Unfortunately, these areas are hard hit by very intense civil wars and conflicts.”* He mentioned “the thirst line”<sup>1</sup> and its litany of armed conflicts and clashes. He explained that, essentially, anyone who has water holds power, as has been seen

with ISIS, which systematically took the Baath and Tabqa dams on the Euphrates as hostages, and with Saddam Hussein, who did the same with the dams on the Tigris. Electrical infrastructure has been deliberately destroyed because neither water nor sanitation can be managed without electricity. In addition to political instability, the population is growing exponentially, as can be seen in Egypt, where there will be 20 million additional inhabitants within 10 years in a country where 98% of the food supply depends on the Nile. *“The water deficit in Iran, which was already 100 million m<sup>3</sup> per year in 1979, is 90 times higher today. Just 35% of arable land is cultivated because of a lack of water,”* he continued, mentioning India, Pakistan and China as well. This harsh observation was chilling. *“As you can see, this thirst line is incredibly worrying. We can see why in 2016, for the first time, the United Nations Security Council took up the issue with 69 heads of state and government, meeting to address the subject of “water, peace and security”.*

## A resource to be shared

Picking up on the title of the debate, Eric Tardieu criticised the expression “blue gold”; in his view, it no longer works in the current situation because water is not a mineral resource which can be stockpiled indefinitely like oil. Indeed, water is very expensive to transport. He encouraged the sharing of this resource, since 40% of the world’s population lives in an area where a watershed is shared by at least two countries. Utopia, you say? The Secretary-General of

<sup>1</sup> It stretches from the Strait of Gibraltar to north-east China and the Russian Far East, through North Africa, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia.

the International Network of Basin Organisations mentioned the Aral Sea<sup>2</sup> as an example, given that it was managed by political consensus.

***“International law can encourage parties to commit to methods, cooperation and dialogue and to move towards a “hydro-diplomacy” which works when proactive policy is implemented.”***

Eric Tardieu

Nicolas Imbert expressed reservations about this proposed expression because it seems to provide support for the idea that this issue only concerns states. Yet it actually relates to conflicts about water within countries themselves or between companies and governments. As such, he advocated a paradigm shift with a new system which expressly involves multiple stakeholders. He recommended inviting companies, regions, civil society organisations, government representatives and international bodies to the table, as was the case during the water-focused event in Madrid organised by Green Cross France & Territoires<sup>3</sup>. Guillaume Merere detailed the work of the French Development Agency and the need to prioritise a conventional and sustainable system of water distribution rather than an emergency system: not only would this be a long-term solution, it would also be more cost-effective. Alternative and

temporary solutions were the subject of audience questions, with some solutions proving to be counter-productive in the long term. For example, the desalination of sea water creates brine, a substance which is difficult to treat in ecosystems. This was a further illustration of the complexity of this essential issue which will have to be resolved “at all costs”.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **More than 2 billion** people do not have access to clean running water in their homes
- ▶ **2.6** million people die every year from diseases caused by unclean water
- ▶ **7** wars have been directly linked to water since 1945, in addition to myriad conflicts
- ▶ **3,600** international, bi-national and multilateral treaties related to water issues are in force and 300 of them address the quantities of shared resources

<sup>2</sup> A saltwater lake in Central Asia between Kazakhstan in the north and Uzbekistan in the south. Fed by two main tributaries, its watershed is shared by 6 countries. It has more than 17,000 glaciers which cover an area of approximately 1,549,000 square kilometres.

<sup>3</sup> Organised in honour of COP 25 in Madrid on the theme “Resilience and the scarcity of natural resources – focus on water-related topics”. 8 specific proposals for political decision-makers were submitted to UN organisations.

# THE EU ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE: WHAT RESULTS?

Reconsidering those who work for peace | Thursday, October 1 | 5.30pm • 7.00pm | Auditorium



Serge Stroobants (via videoconference), Alain Le Roy, Xavier Chemisseur and Jean-Christophe Bas

## European multilateralism in a bipolar world

**The European Union's place on the international scene** in terms of its work to develop peace is a relatively recent question, in Alain Le Roy's view. The former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) emphasised that the EU was first

created for economic cooperation, thereby putting criticism in this area into context. Nevertheless, he pointed out that in terms of humanitarian aid, the European Union and its member states are by far the world's largest donor.

### MODERATOR:

**Xavier Chemisseur**, Editor-in-Chief FRANCE 24

### SPEAKERS:

**Elena Lazarou**, Policy Analyst, European Parliamentary Research Service

**Serge Stroobants**, Director Europe and MENA Region - Institute for Economics and Peace

**Monika Nogaj**, Unit Head, external policy, European Parliamentary Research Service

**Alain Le Roy**, French Ambassador, former assistant Secretary General at the United Nations

**Jean-Christophe Bas**, CEO of the Dialogue of Civilizations Institute

***“When it comes to helping Syrian refugees, for example, Europe has spent more than €10 billion. It is also the world's leading humanitarian player in terms of development aid, providing nearly 70% of the international budget.”***

Alain Le Roy

He acknowledged that the Old Continent, the world's second largest economy, must weigh in to prevent the world being ruled by the United States and China. This raises the question of multilateralism which Alain Le Roy defined as: *“organising international relations to counteract the idea that might is right.”* However, this dynamic is hampered by intergovernmental policy which is decided in Brussels by a unanimous vote of member states, something which sometimes leads to situations of stalemate. Monika Nogaj continued on the subject, stating that the European Union does not limit its international work to peacekeeping missions and human rights and acts in a much broader way. Elena Lazarou discussed the risk of a bipolar world requiring a different kind of multilateralism. Moreover, she said that she believes that the world's current bipolarity is not so different from the situation during the Cold War. This was a matter of debate. For Jean-Christophe Bas, the European Union is at a turning point in its history since it was not originally intended to play a role as a world power, while Serge Stroobants wondered if the evolution of multilateralism represents a challenge or a utopia.

## The impact of Covid-19 on Europe and the world

In her role as a political analyst for the European Parliament Research Service, Elena Lazarou recounted a study on the impact of coronavirus. It emerged that the pandemic, just like climate change, is a source of mistrust and that conflicts are becoming significantly more widespread today than in the 2010s. In addition, she has observed

an acceleration of phenomena which affect inequality and poverty, leaving Europe to respond to immeasurable challenges. However, she stressed that with the European initiative to fund research for a vaccine and its work to provide humanitarian assistance to Venezuela, in coordination with a number of other organisations, Europe is participating in international cooperation. *“The European Union is a multilateral organisation. It knows what multilateralism is and it recognises the need for consensus.”* This point of view was shared by Alain Le Roy: *“the European Union works in a perfectly multilateral way. It is the quintessence of multilateralism.”* He expanded on his remarks by pointing out that the European Union is now taking a much stronger and more united stance towards China, with a mantra which is repeated by all Europeans: *“China is a very important partner when it comes to major global issues, but it is also an economic competitor and a systemic rival.”* Lastly, he pointed out that Europe had been united since 1999, by means of the Treaty of Amsterdam, and that it had exerted its influence to encourage stability in the Balkans. Europe wants to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030, encouraging other countries to do the same, and is a leader on many strategic issues, such as cyberattacks. On this subject, Serge Stroobants emphasised that it is necessary to differentiate between the threat posed and the proposed response. *“The problem of cyberattacks is a global problem which requires a global response, as cyberspace transcends borders and states’ abilities to deal with this scourge.”*

## Is Europe still desirable?

Jean-Christophe Bas said that the European continent today represents a tiny part of the world's population. It is contracting, getting older and becoming less economically powerful.

***“On the international scene, we are not in a very good position. We must therefore be able to govern by virtue, with competition which helps to stimulate, cooperation which helps to strengthen and solidarity which helps to unite.”***

Jean-Christophe Bas

He also stressed that Europe is the most peaceful region in the world and that it inspires countries which are not yet part of the European Union. These countries want to become members to improve their level of socio-economic development. Alain Le Roy responded with a focus on the economic aspect, reminding the audience of the value of the European currency in central banks' reserves and specifying that the African Union's structure is based on the European model. Elena Lazarou shared Latin America's view of the European Union: it sees European trade as a desirable way of working with neighbours for greater prosperity, which is known as “soft power”, a new and more peaceful type of power.



## CONTEXT

- ▶ **22%.** The European Union's share of the world's gross domestic product (GDP)
- ▶ **€29,000.** The gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in the European Union, far behind the United States (€53,000) but well ahead of China (€9,500)
- ▶ **94%.** The percentage of Europeans who say that the environment is important to them, according to the Eurobarometer survey in December 2019

# CHILDHOOD IN CONFLICT

Reconsidering those who work for peace | Friday, October 2 | 4.30pm • 6.00pm | Salle Nacre



Christel Rocheteau, Paolo Artini, Valériane Gauthier, Yara Baker and Jonathan Levy

## Children speak the truth

**Killed, injured, abducted, raped, exploited:** millions of children today are affected by the wars and conflicts which rage around the world. Christel Rocheteau, managing director of La Voix de l'Enfant and chief executive of SOS Enfants, confirmed these

### MODERATOR:

**Valériane Gauthier**, Journalist-Presenter France 24

### SPEAKERS:

**Jonathan Levy**, Psychopedagogue. Initiatives & Change - pedagogical manager and scientific & program director at CRIA (Child Rights in Action)

**Jasminko Halilovic (Sarajevo)**, Founder of the War Childhood Museum

**Christel Rocheteau**, Chief executive of SOS Enfants and managing director of La Voix de l'Enfant

**Paolo Artini**, Representative for France and Monaco, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

**Yara Baker**, Kurdish witness from Syria who lived as a refugee in Turkey and Afghanistan

abuses in the areas of the world in which these charities work. Jonathan Levy develops and leads training schemes in the educational and social work sectors and for inter-governmental organisations and NGOs. He explained the traumas suffered by these children and the intense efforts which are required to help them to rebuild. According to data from the NGO Save the Children, more than 415 million children live in a conflict zone, a figure which has doubled since 1995. Behind these statistics are the faces and words of young boys and girls such as Yara Baker, a Kurdish Syrian who is now 14 years old and was 5 when war broke out in her country. She told her story: *"It happened suddenly. I did not understand at all, I did not know what was happening, I was very scared. Together with my parents,*

*my brother and my sister, we fled to Turkey, taking a very dangerous route. We stayed there for two years. We experienced racism and harassment. Our neighbours made fun of us. We never went out because it was too dangerous. My sister and I were not allowed to go to school because we did not have passports or money. We stayed at home all the time and were bored.”* After refusing to talk about the discrimination to which she and her family were subjected *“because it is still too difficult to talk about”*, she agreed to carry on with her account of her family’s exodus. *“We went back to Syria for six months but the war continued and we had to go back to Turkey again, to Istanbul. We were allowed to go to school, but it was very violent: we were hit, we were shouted at all the time, we went home crying...”*

***“France welcomed us in 2016 but we thought we would still be mistreated there. But once we arrived here and saw with our own eyes how things were, we felt reassured.”***

Yara Baker



Yara Baker

## The work of the United Nations

The United Nations identifies six categories of crimes against children in armed conflict: the recruitment or use of child soldiers, their killing or maiming, rape and other sexual violence against children, abduction, attacks on schools and hospitals and denial of humanitarian access to children. Paolo Artini, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said that there are 80 million forcibly displaced persons around the world, more than 50% of whom are children. He pointed out that there are generations of refugees growing up in camps or in cities far from their homes because these crises last for years. He also confirmed that persecution affects the most vulnerable people, particularly children. In addition to the difficulty of finding a safe place to live, child refugees can find that access to education is disrupted or made impossible and may also be unable to access healthcare. Paolo Artini said that, in general, it is even more difficult for girls for reasons which are often cultural, particularly in terms of access to education, and that the UN is working to improve this.

## An original initiative, combining remembrance and resilience

Jasminko Halilovic is the founder and director of the War Childhood Museum, the only museum in the world exclusively dedicated to presenting the experiences of children who have lived through wars. It received the Council of Europe Museum Prize in 2018. After

explaining the idea behind the project, which has involved collecting nearly a thousand accounts, he said that *“the experience of a war-affected childhood is very complex and varies from one victim to another, even among siblings living under the same roof.”* The museum has a long-term focus: it aims to explain historical facts with videos of the victims and with items which demonstrate individual and collective histories. *“After the opening of the museum in 2018, we started an international programme with Libyan refugee children in Lebanon. We also opened our first international office to document the trauma and the resilience of children who have been victims of war.”* Since then, the museum has grown. It has become an international institution which documents and shares experiences and has transformed into a resource centre.

***“With the War Childhood Museum, we wanted to change the way we look at children: no longer seeing them just as victims and showing their resilience and creativity instead.”***

Jasminko Halilovic

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **170,000** serious violations committed against children in conflict have been documented by the UN since 2010
- ▶ **1** in 5 children lived in a conflict zone in 2019, the highest figure in 20 years
- ▶ **2** million children cannot go to school in Yemen alone and 500,000 have dropped out of school since the conflict intensified in March 2015

# WHICH FUTURE FOR MULTILATERALISM AND THE UN?

Reconsidering those who work for peace | Friday, October 2 | 2.30pm • 4.00pm | Salle Guillaume



Bertrand Badie



Rahma Sophia Rachdi



Youssef Mahmoud

## An unwritten script

**The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth**, Jayathma Wickramanayake, encourages young people in Sri Lanka to become more involved in politics. In a video message, she said that the United Nations is celebrating its seventy-fifth anniversary in a year of unprecedented global crisis. She added that the pandemic highlights the importance of multilateralism and the need to enhance cooperation across borders and generations. In her view, a joint response to this

### MODERATOR:

**Rahma Sophia Rachdi**, Journalist, United States Press Agency

### SPEAKERS:

**Pierre Haski**, Editor - Column «Géopolitique», France Inter

**Bertrand Badie**, University Professor, Sciences Po

**Jayathma Wickramanayake**, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth

**Youssef Mahmoud**, Senior Adviser - International Peace Institute

global health emergency is essential to respond to new challenges and to rebuild our communities after the pandemic. She related the results of the UN's online consultation: 87% of participants believe that international cooperation is essential to overcome current challenges and 74% consider that the United Nations plays a major role in addressing these global challenges. As part of her role, she campaigns for *“greater participation among young people and women in processes which give them a voice so as to evolve from multilateralism to a multi-stakeholder approach and to make the United Nations more innovative, inclusive and inspiring.”* In his speech, Bertrand Badie highlighted a contradiction: the world has never been more in need of multilateralism but has never been more paralysed. He explained that *“invisible multilateralism”* is much more effective and efficient than *“visible*

multilateralism". Like the French sociologist Emile Durkheim, to whom he referred, he believes that there can be no *"viable society without social ties and without the daily development of a sense of solidarity."* The professor at Sciences Po also distinguished between "French-style multilateralism", which is part of global solidarity, and "American-style multilateralism", which involves creating institutional links between different states, believing that the latter has prevailed over the former.

## Denouncing Chinese pressure

Pierre Haski recounted a scene which attests to "an upside-down world" at the World Economic Forum in 2017. During his inauguration, Donald Trump raised his fist and was threatening at the exact same time that Xi Jinping reassured thousands of participants at the Davos forum of China's willingness to maintain free trade and multilateralism. In his view, this unbelievable situation demonstrated just how much the long-standing international order since 1945 has been turned on its head.



Pierre Haski

***"The Sino-American rivalry not only paralyses the Security Council, it also paralyses international cooperation to an increasing extent, forcing each country to choose a side, as in the Cold War."***

Pierre Haski

The journalist for France Inter said that China has decided to "play the UN card" in a significant way because, as a nation, it is both the largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping forces and now leads the largest number of its organisations. In his view, this strategy of influence was seen during the emergence of the coronavirus. This resulted in the neutralisation of the World Health Organisation (WHO) whilst China hesitated. The journalist explained that, unlike during the SARS crisis in 2003, the WHO did not have the ability to confront China in January 2020 and to force it, as it did seventeen years earlier, to acknowledge the existence of human transmission of the virus as early as December 2019, as the country's whistle-blowing doctors had done. He stated that the WHO is being overshadowed by the influence of a powerful country through its political intermediaries and the disengagement of the American government. He criticised the UN Security Council for failing to take the necessary steps on this occasion, despite taking a strong stance during the Ebola pandemic in the name of international cooperation.

## Three scenarios for the UN

Youssef Mahmoud suggested three different scenarios with regard to the

United Nations' future in the medium and long term. The first scenario, which, in his view, promises a better future, involves reformed states which are open to multilateralism and which help the UN to evolve, ensuring the institution's position at the heart of global governance, which would bring about a rapprochement with the United States. The second scenario would be a continued status quo, with the United Nations caught between two major powers and with its recommendations being questioned or ignored with impunity. The third scenario, which would be the worst of all in the opinion of this senior advisor at the International Peace Institute, would see America incapable of reforming itself with an à la carte approach to multilateralism which would reign supreme and which would lead to the United Nations being unable to prevent conflicts between states and being unable to manage wars.

***“Although I don’t want to rule out any option, my inveterate optimism leads me to believe that the UN, despite its flaws and its shortcomings, can overcome the current crisis.”***

Youssef Mahmoud

He believes that there is the possibility of finding other solutions and maintaining a dialogue regarding global governance. Bertrand Badie reacted by saying that although he hopes positive outcome, he sees two obstacles. Firstly, he is convinced that no international institution can genuinely be reformed today because of legal issues. Most importantly of all,

he asked who would have a strategic interest in reforming the UN system. Pierre Haski said that he sees major cities as having the ability to influence certain international agendas, such as the Paris climate agreement, which is likely to have an international impact. This idea could be explored to get around stalemate situations, including the right to veto of the UN Security Council's members, which is used more systematically by some than others.

## CONTEXT

▶ **50** countries signed a charter on 26 June 1945 which gave rise to the United Nations to “guarantee lasting peace around the world”. The United Nations is celebrating its 75th birthday in 2020 and now has 193 member states.

▶ **120,000** UN peacekeepers are involved in peacekeeping operations in war zones around the world.

▶ **3** billion dollars: the UN's total budget in 2020 which is funded by its members, based on assessments of each country's ability to pay, gross national income and population size.

# THE SAHEL: REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Reconsidering those who work for peace | Friday, October 2 | 4.30pm • 6.00pm | Auditorium



Isabelle Ioannides (via videoconference), Alain Le Roy, Niagalé Bagayoko, Moussa Mara and Emmanuel Dupuy

## Searching for solutions

**When discussing the Sahel in terms of the “G5”<sup>1</sup>** (namely Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad), it should be noted that this area is home to about 30% of Africa’s population and covers more than 5 million square kilometres. Terrorism is not the only reason for the international community’s involvement in this region, where war has inflicted real suffering: 13,000 civilians have

MODERATOR:

**Emmanuel Dupuy**, President, Institut prospective et sécurité en Europe

SPEAKERS:

**Niagalé Bagayoko**, President - African Security Sector Network

**Moussa Mara**, Mali’s former Prime Minister, Member of Parliament

**Alain Le Roy**, French Ambassador, former assistant Secretary General at the United Nations

**Annadif Khadir Mahamat Saleh**, Special Representative and chief of the Minusma

**Isabelle Ioannides**, Policy Analyst, European Parliamentary Research Service

been killed since 2012 in the Sahel-Saharan region, in addition to 3,000 Malian soldiers, 160 United Nations peacekeepers and 45 French soldiers. Furthermore, population displacement in the region affects more than 1 million people and 4 to 5 million people do not have enough food to eat: these statistics make it easier to understand the importance of the debate. Why have organisations been unable to anticipate or respond to this threat? Niagalé Bagayoko answered by saying that there has been a collective failure.

**“The multidimensional crisis we face in the Sahel is a challenge to existing international conflict management frameworks.”**

Niagalé Bagayoko

<sup>1</sup> The G5 Sahel is an institutional framework for the co-ordination of regional co-operation in development policies and security matters in West Africa

After an explanation of how the G5 was created, the president of the African Security Sector Network expressed support for the idea that there must be a reappraisal of existing organisations. These organisations, which have focused on the military aspect, no longer help to respond to insecurity, in her view. In addition to jihadists, the region is plagued with self-defence structures, community-based militias, criminal groups and rebel units, while Mali is struggling with an uprising.



Niagalé Bagayoko

## Fewer organisations, more proposals

Annadif Khadir Mahamat Saleh believes that, before talking about the symptoms, we must analyse the causes of this imbalanced war, which has its roots in the absence or the weakness of governments across the Sahel-Saharan region. Although he agreed that the presence of the international community is important, he said that regional initiatives were vital to defeat terrorism. Moussa Mara questioned the effectiveness of the G5 Sahel and declared a preference

for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)<sup>2</sup> because *“it understands the challenges facing the Sahel and is developing a strategy to improve security.”* He advocated a rationalisation of organisations. *“If our heads of state attended all the summits of all these organisations, they would not have time to govern our countries!”* he joked. Lastly, the former Prime Minister of Mali pointed out that terrorists in the Sahel are driven primarily by financial issues. *“A survey of prisoners showed that 40% of them joined a terrorist group to receive a salary and less than 10% do so because of ideology or religious fanaticism.”* Isabelle Ioannides said that she thinks that efforts should focus on more than just security in the Sahel, including development and governance, and emphasised the connections between these three areas. The public policy analyst for the European Parliament Research Service explained the European Union’s position on this issue. Firstly, she reminded the audience that Europe and its member states have allocated €8 billion over the last six years to this region. She went on to say that governance efforts must be strengthened and more must be done to encourage justice and dialogue, highlighting the absence of relations between governments and civil societies. Alain Le Roy acknowledged that despite everything that has been done, the situation remains very difficult, particularly from a military stance. In his view, it is not the issue of hybrid forces<sup>3</sup> which is vital but rather the issues of funding and training

<sup>2</sup> ECOWAS is an intergovernmental organisation which brings together 15 West African states with the aim of promoting economic and political co-operation.

<sup>3</sup> With two chains of command, one from the African Union and the other from the United Nations

African armies. Although Covid-19 has “been relatively kind” to this region, its economic impact is significant: lockdowns, a drop in the price of oil, a fall in exports, a paralysed tourism sector, etc. The ambassador and former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN declared that this issue will be on the agenda at a summit scheduled for May 2021 with all African, European and international partners.

## More justice and virtuous policies

Niagalé Bagayoko said that she was disturbed by the behaviour of defence forces, which has caused mistrust among ordinary people. She mentioned accusations concerning certain units, documented both by the United Nations and by human rights organisations. She called for the chains of command to be able to determine responsibility and for justice to be done. *“The ability of defence and security forces to respect human rights is just as important as their ability to fight.”* Annadif Khadir Mahamat Saleh agreed with this: *“our defence and security tools need to be reformed, but they cannot be reformed without political will. Our armies must be educated to be a means of protection rather than a tool of persecution.”* Moussa Mara picked up on this question of political will and said that he hopes that the Malian transition will pave the way for a break with previous practices *“which have created a real gulf between the people and political leaders.”* His concluding message was unequivocal: *“until this gulf is reduced, nothing will be possible in education, health or defence and security. We assume that those in power want to get things back on track. We are not going to*

*give them carte blanche but we are going to support them and make sure that this transition paves the way for real change.”*



***“We are witnessing a breach of trust between the people and the elite in Mali, but this is the case almost everywhere. Corruption leads to inefficiency, beginning with the security sector. The solution lies in exemplary behaviour, honesty and the virtuous management of public funds.”***

Moussa Mara

# WHAT IS AN ALLIANCE WORTH TODAY?

Reconsidering those who work for peace | Friday, October 2 | 4.30pm • 6.00pm | Salle Guillaume



## From the beginning of NATO to today's alliance...

**Nicole Gnesotto** introduced this debate by focusing on the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) relations with Europe. She explained that when it was created in 1949 at the end of the Second World War, the North Atlantic Alliance was a military alliance of countries which were willing to defend themselves against

a potential threat, embodied by the Soviet Union at the time. NATO's next mission was to ensure the United States' political control of Germany. Gradually, this second mission was extended to the whole of Europe. This strategy was reflected on the ground by the presence of combined divisions of German, American, Italian and French soldiers. This American presence sent a strong message to Moscow, since an attack on Europe would have been seen as an offensive against the United States. This system disappeared in 1990 when the Soviet Union collapsed. The North Atlantic Alliance, which had lost the military focus behind its creation, retained its political dimension until 2010, in Nicole Gnesotto's view.

### MODERATOR:

**Jean-Pierre Guéno**, writer and historian

### SPEAKERS:

**Nicole Gnesotto**, professor at CNAM, holder of the European Chair, vice-president of the Institut Jacques Delors

**Stéfanie von Hlatky**, professor, director of the Centre for International and Defence Policy, Queen's University

**Camille Grand**, Assistant Secretary-General for Defence Investment for NATO

**Pierre Vimont**, senior fellow at Carnegie Europe

*“The Americans were obsessed with preventing Europeans from establishing an autonomous European defence and, to that end, keeping them within NATO. This strategy was left in tatters when Donald Trump was elected: he does not care about Europe’s political evolution and its security.”*

**“Today, we find ourselves within an alliance with the biggest army in the world but whose power is useless, both militarily and politically. The immediate consequences can be seen in Turkey, for example.”**

Nicole Gnesotto



## Infamous differences

Stéphanie von Hlatky focused on Covid-19, explaining that NATO funds scientific research and develops partnerships on a global scale, as part of the North Atlantic Alliance’s approach to collective security. In view of the pandemic, she said that she believes that the armed forces must now concentrate on a different

way of protecting soldiers, “*focusing more on health risks rather than on improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan.*” In her view, this new approach is consistent with the outlook of the North Atlantic Alliance, which has stated that it wants to play more of a role in improving human security. She criticised the French President, Emmanuel Macron, for his speech on the subject: “*the French president said that NATO is brain dead. It should be pointed out that NATO’s longevity is quite remarkable and it has demonstrated a proven ability to survive international crises and changes since 1949.*” Camille Grand commented that the North Atlantic Alliance finds itself in a complicated situation: it must adapt to an environment of persistent instability which requires “*reinvention*”. “*Is NATO the ultimate regional security alliance in the face of threats or is it an entity which is meant to expand its reach and manage crises as it has done in the past?*” he asked. NATO’s Assistant Secretary-General for Defence Investment explained that his organisation “*really gets its hands dirty*”, citing cybersecurity and technology as examples. Pierre Vimont said that he thinks that NATO does useful work and that the North Atlantic Alliance remains a remarkable military tool: “*in trying to force it to tackle all issues, NATO is in danger of losing some of its identity. Health and health security is the focus of the World Health Organisation, just as the future of democracies is primarily a matter for the United Nations.*” He picked up on the question of the position of Europe and the United States within NATO. He suggested that ramifications affecting Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other

countries could turn the NATO of tomorrow into a Western alliance against the rest of the world, a possibility which would be at odds with what France and a number of European countries want. *“This is the real geopolitical debate for NATO over the coming years,”* he declared. He concluded his remarks by explaining that traditional multilateralism has come to an end and that Europe is finding it difficult to choose sides.

***“Multilateralism has been broken, buffeted and jostled on all sides by new powers which no longer respect the rule of law, countries’ sovereignty, the non-use of force and international conventions. Today we live in a world in which major global powers act unilaterally and however they please.”***

Pierre Vimont

## NATO 2030

The future of the North Atlantic Alliance, which is currently under consideration with a view to 2030, was raised by many speakers. Camille Grand recommended *“focusing on more than just the short term”* and encouraged people *“to challenge existing ideas to open the debate and to look for solutions.”* Nicole Gnesotto said that if NATO’s *“only task is to protect soldiers from Covid, we must ask ourselves what purpose the Alliance serves.”* She acknowledged that this organisation must reinvent itself but warned that it is difficult to look ten years ahead when the world

is changing every six months. The CNAM professor and the holder of the European Chair asked: *“When we talk about the West, are we talking about Europeans and Americans? Do we have common interests?”* She encouraged Europeans to enter this debate: *“the aim is not to confront the United States, the largest democracy in the world, nor to build a rebel alliance. The aim is to build an autonomous European Union which is capable of defending its interests on its own, if necessary, when they differ from others’ interests.”*

## CONTEXT

▶ **30** countries are members of NATO. With the exception of Canada and the United States, every country is located in Europe (including Turkey, which extends from Eastern Europe to Asia Minor).

▶ **€2.37** billion: NATO’s budget is calculated based on a cost-sharing formula.

▶ **2020:** the year when NATO’s most recent member, North Macedonia, joined.

# ETHIOPIA, A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR AFRICA?

Exploring international divisions | Friday, October 2 | 2.30pm • 4.00pm | Auditorium



Laëtitia Bader (via videoconference), Abdeta Beyene, Henok Teferra Shawl, René Lefort and Olivier Caslin

## A strategic position

**While there was consensus in some debates**, this was not the case during this debate, which gave rise to contradictory analysis and pronouncements. A preliminary question arose: why dedicate a discussion to Ethiopia when there are 63 countries in Africa? Firstly, because of the country's current affairs. Ethiopia's Prime Minister,

MODERATOR:

**Olivier Caslin**, journalist at Jeune Afrique

SPEAKERS:

**René Lefort**, independent researcher, specialising in the Horn of Africa

**Laëtitia Bader**, Horn of Africa director at Human Rights Watch

**Abdeta Beyene**, executive director of the Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation

**Henok Teferra Shawl**, Ethiopian ambassador to France

Abiy Ahmed, was awarded the 100<sup>th</sup> Nobel Peace Prize in 2019, something which encouraged a tremendous sense of hope. Secondly because of its strategic position in the Horn of Africa, a peninsula in the east of the continent; Ethiopia is both the heart of this region and its main political and economic power. Lastly, this large country with 109 million inhabitants has been the cradle of humanity since the discovery of Lucy in 1974. Henok Teferra Shawl pointed out that Ethiopia is an old nation. The Ethiopian ambassador to France also said that although his country has suffered because of the Covid-19 pandemic, along with so many others, it should see economic growth of an estimated 7.2% in 2020. He explained that, thanks to the reforms undertaken in

the last two years, his country has managed persistent macro-economic difficulties and has made progress on the major project of the Renaissance Dam<sup>1</sup>. *“We are a very old country which has changed from a feudal system in the form of an empire to an absolute monarchy. We have tried communism, then an authoritarian regime and finally committed ourselves to democracy, which we are learning about,”* said Ethiopia’s ambassador to France, emphasising that this regime involves judicial institutions, civil society, independent media and officials acting within the framework of the law.

***“Ethiopia will achieve food security for the first time in its history. For an Ethiopian like me, this is a great source of pride.”***

Henok Teferra Shawl

### Sharp criticism

René Lefort provided contrasting analysis of the situation in Ethiopia. *“The Ethiopian ambassador tells us that his country is paving the way for democracy. That is not what I have observed over the last 18 months in the international press which has been critical of the regime and is worried about a shift towards authoritarianism.”* The independent researcher mentioned *“a chaotic justice system”*, a parliament *“made up entirely of politicians who belonged to former and similar political parties which do not deliberate”* and a *“fragmentation of power and authority which makes the situation*

<sup>1</sup> The largest hydroelectric dam in Africa; its construction is scheduled to begin in 2022. The project is causing tensions with Sudan and Egypt which are downstream and which fear a reduced water flow and increased silt deposits.



*extremely difficult to overcome.”* Henok Teferra Shawl responded to this, saying that *“Ethiopia does not seek authoritarianism; rather, it seeks to ensure that the state’s authority is respected within a democratic framework. To do so, the state must be separated from the party. It is absolutely false to say that we are trying to perpetuate the party-state when we are trying to do just the opposite.”* He explained *“that the past should not be confused with the present, recognising both the negatives and the positives of the way in which the country was previously run.”* Abdet Beyene put this criticism into perspective by emphasising that Ethiopia is in the midst of transition, change and reform. After providing a recap of the history of Ethiopia’s politics, the executive director of the Centre for Dialogue, Research and Cooperation explained that fundamental changes *“always create winners and losers, with the winners wanting to consolidate their power.”* He acknowledged contradictions. *“Federal institutions have resolved some problems while worsening others.”* He also emphasised cross-border issues between states in the region which may pose a challenge for a process which is well under

way. *“The previous regime tried to create institutions based on an understanding of our contradictions. Conversely, the current leadership is trying to involve Ethiopia by standardising society.”* Lastly, he stressed Ethiopia’s geopolitical role. *“We are peacemakers in the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan and also in Somalia. We cannot afford to fail because all of our neighbours are small countries, such as Djibouti, and they are counting on us to consolidate peace in the region.”*

### The half-empty or half-full glass

In Laëtitia Bader’s view, Ethiopia raised the hopes of many Eritreans in 2018, but the reality has been quite different. She acknowledged *“an extremely complex reality”* and, as a first step, positive reforms and important commitments, including the release of thousands of political prisoners. But she blamed the government for forcing thousands of displaced people to return to their homes and conflict zones since 2019. She described *“a worsening situation when it comes to human rights and a very worrying security policy.”*



Laëtitia Bader

In particular, she mentioned the assassination of the singer Hachalu Hundessa<sup>2</sup>.

***“The government has failed to deliver on its promise to conduct credible investigations and to keep its commitments regarding a peace commission, with recurrent intercommunity violence in Ethiopia.”***

Laëtitia Bader

When asked about this last point, the ambassador explained that this violence is perpetrated by political stakeholders who seek to cause chaos in his country. According to him, the Ethiopian population lives in peace and harmony. With regard to the Peace and Reconciliation Commission, he stressed out that it involves *“the most independent people there are.”* Lastly, with regard to the assassination of the singer Hachalu Hundessa, he stated that it was the act of *“organised people from other places who want to create a civil war between ethnic groups.”* René Lefort concluded that the discussion had become *“a stand-off because we do not have the same views, even when it comes to the facts”* and said that *“talking about a shift towards authoritarianism is not incompatible with the idea of a weakened state. It is precisely the opposite, because a weakened state seeks to strengthen itself by a shift to authoritarianism.”* One thing is certain: the current situation in Ethiopia is a matter of debate!

<sup>2</sup> Politically engaged Ethiopian singer who was killed on 29 June 2020 and whose assassination sparked protests which left 239 people dead amidst ethnic tensions.

# (IM)BALANCED GLOBAL ECONOMIES

Exploring international divisions | Friday, October 2 | 4.30pm • 6.00pm | Salle Or



Virginie Robert



Sylvie Bermann



Bertrand Badré

## The search for a vaccine to resolve the economic crisis

**Although all of the debates** at the Normandy World Peace Forum focus on current affairs, some debates cover more current topics than others. This was one of them, since it raised the question of the pandemic's impact on the world order. *"Borders were closed, logistics production chains were*

### MODERATOR:

**Virginie Robert**, Chief of the international Service at Les Echos

### SPEAKERS:

**Jason Furman**, Professor of Practice at Harvard University, former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers during the Barack Obama presidency

**Sylvie Bermann**, France Ambassador – President of the boards of directors of the Institution of Higher National Defense Studies

**Bertrand Badré**, CEO and Founder of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital

**Yaroslav Lissovolik**, Senior Managing Director & Head of Analytical Directorate, Sberbank

*reassessed, countries had to intervene in a very significant way and financial aid was provided to try to minimise the economic consequences of this pandemic. Should the imbalances created by this crisis be reduced or should we try to create something new?"* the moderator Virginie Robert asked. For Bertrand Badré, Covid-19 has quickly raised awareness of how our economies function, in view of climate and social challenges. *"This pandemic must be an opportunity to do the work which has been ignored during previous financial crises and to refocus our economies to ensure truly sustainable development."* Jason Furman focused on the scarcity of demand and the need to encourage a recovery which will involve producing and consuming in a different way, noting that *"11 to 12 million people have lost their*

*jobs in the United States because of the pandemic. It is vital to provide training for tomorrow's roles but we do not necessarily know how to do this properly.*" Yaroslav Lissovolik provided his views as managing director and chief analytical officer of the Russian bank Sberbank. *"The G20 shows that efforts to combat this crisis are still not sufficiently co-ordinated between different countries and global institutions."* He believes that the European Union could take the lead in these joint efforts, suggesting that the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank<sup>1</sup> and the World Trade Organisation, which are currently lacking in global governance, could join forces. He advocated an international framework to prepare for and to anticipate any possible new crisis, focusing on how to establish this "safety net".

## The solution of regional development banks<sup>2</sup>

Co-operation can also be regional, as explained by the speakers, who cited the example of the Inter-American Development Bank, Latin America's largest regional development bank. This was an opportunity to clarify that the resources of regional development banks are comparable, if not superior, to those of the World Bank and that regional institutions can carry more weight than international organisations. Yaroslav Lissovolik said that interactions between regional co-operation institutions create new opportunities for co-operation and more possibilities for economic diplomacy. Responding to the other

<sup>1</sup> The World Bank is an international financial institution which provides leveraged loans to developing countries for investment projects.

<sup>2</sup> Institutions which play a similar role to that of the World Bank, but with a regional focus.

speakers, Sylvie Bermann said that although a lot can be done at a regional level, it is not clear that the situation can be resolved in this way.

***"If countries are not willing to co-operate, nothing will happen. We are witnessing a return to the antagonistic behaviour of the major powers and it is very difficult to overcome this."***

Sylvie Bermann

The diplomat mentioned the fact that in the United States, as in other countries, due to a lack of state resources, institutions are founded with the help of voluntary contributions. She mentioned the example of the World Health Organisation: although it used to receive 80% compulsory contributions and 20% voluntary contributions, the opposite is true today. Although individual donors provide significant financial support, as seen with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, they focus their contributions in areas which interest them and which are not necessarily key priorities. Bertrand Badré said that the difficulty lies in mobilising governments to tackle issues which do not reflect their geopolitical or short-term interests. He explained that the relationship between regional banks and the World Bank can sometimes be complicated. In his view, they must work together because they are all parts of the same system.

## Refocusing the debate on the human aspect

The unprecedented economic imbalances caused by the pandemic

**“I have heard regional development banks say that the World Bank seems to think that it is Snow White and that they are the seven dwarves.”**

Bertrand Badré

have affected emerging countries, particularly because of the way in which the flow of money from emigrants to their native countries has slowed down. Jason Furman said that he believes that this is one of the most important aspects of the current crisis because it affects the poorest people. *“Emigration has been very affected by the restrictions in various countries whose development has depended significantly on this system of money transfer. According to World Bank estimates, the shortfall amounts to \$100 billion.”* Should we be prepared to live in a poorer world? In response to this question, the Harvard Kennedy School professor explained that the crisis is affecting every country around the world and that it is exacerbated by a lack of co-ordinated response. Although Africa has been relatively unaffected when compared to other continents in terms of the impact on people’s health, it is suffering the economic consequences of this global disorder: a huge drop in emigrants’ incomes, a trade crisis and the relocation of economic activities. The debate’s speakers were cautious as to whether the crisis is accentuating tensions surrounding identity: *“when there is an economic crisis, there are inevitably inequalities, social movements and a tendency to withdraw. However, it is unreasonable to say that this is the end of globalisation because this pandemic*

*will not lead to comprehensive relocation,”* Sylvie Bermann warned. In the absence of a “vaccination” for the economic system, the debate ended with a discussion of the Covid-19 vaccine. Although the speakers had no doubts concerning its efficacy, *“thanks to truly global research, the likes of which has never been seen in the history of mankind”*, they questioned whether it would be available for those in need. This issue is soon to become front-page news.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **23** billion dollars have been committed by the World Bank in 2019
- ▶ **40%** of current account deficits and surpluses around the world were excessive in 2019, according to the International Monetary Fund
- ▶ **55%** of global production and demand comes from 6 countries which have been among those most rapidly and severely affected by the pandemic: China, South Korea, Italy, Japan, the United States and Germany

# THE MIDDLE EAST: REBUILDING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Exploring international divisions | Friday, October 2 | 4.30pm • 6.00pm | Salle Azur



Grégory Rayko, Salman Shaikh and Farouk Atig

## Giving the local population the keys to rebuild

**Invited to explain** the role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Zena Ali-Ahmad began by stating that *“the Middle East has always been a region of great unrest and conflict.”* The Resident Representative in Iraq explained that this programme helps to strengthen a fragile peace through

### MODERATOR:

**Grégory Rayko**, Head of the International section, The Conversation France

### SPEAKERS:

**Zena Ali-Ahmad (Baghdad)**, Resident Representative – United Nations Development Programme Iraq

**Farouk Atig**, Journalist specialized in Jihadist networks

**Salman Shaikh**, Founder & CEO - The Shaikh Group

various initiatives, including the return and reintegration of families who have had to flee. *“In 2016, when this aid was launched, the country had 6.7 million IDPs who had been forced to flee because of the war against ISIS. Today, more than 4.7 million of these Iraqis have returned to their homes thanks to UNDP and donor support.”* Twenty-seven partners work with the government to rehabilitate the country’s infrastructure, from water to electricity and the construction of decent shelter. *“We also work towards food self-sufficiency by supporting local agriculture. This reappropriation is complex because the people imprisoned by ISIS no longer feel connected to the land which they used to work. To this end, we make*

*significant efforts to integrate these communities into the social fabric.”*

## Including the population in the process to rebuild

Salman Shaikh confirmed the need to involve representatives of local populations to build peace in the Middle East. He drew on his organisation’s experience; for the last ten years, it has been involved in most of the conflicts in this region of the world: Palestine, Israel, Lebanon and Iraq. In his view, in Syria, the UN made the mistake at the end of 2011 and in 2012 of concentrating too much on dialogue between Bashar al-Assad’s regime and the opposition, when the latter was not sufficiently organised, despite the international community’s efforts.

**“Syrians tell us that they need a process which involves more people and which gives everyone the opportunity to express their views about the reforms which their society needs.”**

Salman Shaikh

Emphasising his opposition to Bashar al-Assad *“who does not deserve to govern the country”*, Salman Shaikh said that, in a Syria which has been divided into different areas controlled by different administrations, he believes that *“the only way to overcome these difficulties is to support international law and standards.”* To this end, he repeated that governments are strictly forbidden to attack their own people and stressed that citizens have the right to express how their country is rebuilt.

## The viability of Iraq and Syria in question

Farouk Atig also said that he believes that *“the solution cannot come from extra-territorial or foreign entities, and that it is time to entrust the Iraqis and Syrians with the keys to rebuild their respective countries.”* As for the viability of these two neighbouring states, *“[his] heart wants to say yes, but his head says no.”* Focusing on Syria, the senior reporter explained that the country is fragmented and that there are now three different Syrias. The first in the south, with the capital Damascus and Alawite Shi’ite governance, the second in the north-west, under Turkish influence, with nearly 3 million people who rejected Bashar al-Assad’s regime, and the third with a Kurdish and Arab majority who fought to liberate the country from jihadi influence.

**“We must remember the violence and abuses of Bashar al-Assad, a man whom the French Minister of Foreign Affairs said did not deserve to be on earth, back in 2012.”**

Farouk Atig

In Zena Ali-Ahmad’s view, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq are viable, although the breakdown of the social contract between citizens and governments is an additional obstacle. She also advocated the recognition of victims *“because reconciliation is not possible without justice.”* Salman Shaikh said that he also believes a solution is possible because *“these are proud people and major civilisations”*. On hearing these remarks, Farouk



Zena Ali-Ahmad

Atig modified his initial remarks on the viability of the Iraqi and Syrian states and clarified his thoughts: *“I have more confidence in Iraq because, despite the scars of war, there has not been the same extensive loss of life as in Syria, at least not in the last ten years. I just think that things are going to be particularly complicated and that the solution is internal. It is the responsibility of the oppressed to judge those who have been complicit in atrocious crimes. If this preliminary work is not done, there can be no viability.”*

### A cancer called ISIS

The conversation then focused on ISIS, which was compared *“to a cancer which has spread across this region of the world and which has metastasised significantly”*. Farouk Atig pointed out that these “organisations” have thrived because of the absence of a central government. *“Just look at*

*how the city of Mosul was taken by the Islamic State in fourteen hours. However, this city was controlled by Shi’ite militiamen sent by Baghdad who inflicted racketeering, rape and robbery on the predominantly Sunni people. The exasperation of the local population facilitated ISIS’ arrival.”* Grégory Rayko refocused the debate on rebuilding and the role of external powers. All of the speakers agreed that there is a disengagement of the United States, China and Russia. Instead of these struggles for influence, they called for the support of the international community, which, in their view, must help people to take their destiny into their own hands by giving them the keys to rebuild.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **380,000** people have been killed in Syria since the beginning of the conflict in 2011, including more than 115,000 civilians, 22,000 of them children.
- ▶ **\$400** billion: the cost of the destruction in Syria, according to UN estimates.
- ▶ **\$4,000** billion. The overall cost to the United States of the war in Iraq, including medical costs and financial support for veterans.

# RESTORING TRUST?

Exploring international divisions | Thursday, October 1 | 5.30pm • 7.00pm | Salle Azur



Marc van der Woude, Françoise Mélonio and Pascal Perrineau

## A deep and lasting split

**Opening the debate,** Françoise Mélonio quoted the French Prime Minister Jean Castex, who said that his highest priority was *“to restore the trust which brings societies together to focus on human values: people’s trust in the elite, trust between the state and its intermediary bodies, trust in the future.”* This proves that there is a problem, as Pascal Perrineau explained: *“French society*

*is considered to be one of the most mistrustful in the world, after Afghanistan. Yet trust is a decisive factor for a functioning democracy, based on the principle that if power comes from above, trust comes from below.”* In the political scientist’s view, this feeling of mistrust is the fundamental cause of the democratic malaise we are currently experiencing. *“The studies we have carried out show that this mistrust is everywhere: mistrust of politicians, companies, religious institutions, the justice system and so on.”* In this situation, what Pascal Perrineau termed *“the protective state”* (the army, the police and public hospitals) is an exception. The paradox is that the people interviewed in France for these surveys state that they have high levels of trust in themselves and also their friends and family, their

### MODERATOR:

**Françoise Mélonio**, professor emeritus in French literature, Sorbonne University

### SPEAKERS:

**Arthur Goldhammer**, writer, translator, essayist, Senior Affiliate of the Centre for European Studies, Harvard University

**Pascal Perrineau**, political scientist and professor at Sciences Po, former director of CEVIPOF

**Marc van der Woude**, President of the General Court of the European Union

neighbours and their neighbourhoods. This trust at a local level was impressively demonstrated during the Covid-19 crisis, when remarkable acts of solidarity were seen. However, Pascal Perrineau commented on a very worrying issue: mistrust of decision-makers.

**“Trust between citizens and power is like a black hole which continues to expand every year.”**

Pascal Perrineau

## The harmful effects of the situation

The public only approves of decision-makers who have left the political arena. This widespread mistrust has harmful effects because it weakens the democratic regime and reinforces the idea that there could be another option, such as an authoritarian regime; this idea is gaining ground among young people. The Sciences Po professor explained that there are

several facets to democracy today, including “representative democracy”, which is increasingly unsatisfactory, and “participatory democracy», which is reinventing itself. This form of democracy involves citizens in the decision-making process by means of consultations and deliberations outside electoral periods, like the “great national debate” or the “citizens’ conference on climate”.

Arthur Goldhammer described the situation in the United States by saying that his country is in the grip of “*a worrying and virulent crisis*”. He mentioned six key factors: the breakdown of social mobility, the transformation of the media, a Manichean use of social media, opposing institutions, racial tensions and xenophobic overtones. In particular, it should be noted that “*Europeans have always underestimated their chances of social advancement while Americans have always overestimated them.*” The writer and translator was also very critical of American universities which, in setting up “*a so-called objective*

## The disappointment of social media and the role of the media

The debate’s speakers explained that the use of social media by demagogues who address millions of people without being contradicted and who constantly criticise “elites” works to exacerbate a sense of mistrust. The panellists were also critical of social media, about which people were “incredibly hopeful” when it first emerged. In response to an audience

question about the existence of “disinformation” in the French media, the speakers replied that “there is no channel like Fox News in France”. However, interest in information in France, as measured by the La Croix Barometer, reached an all-time low in 2020: a rather depressing statistic.

*selection system, has created something very much like a caste system for graduates.”*

## Collective responsibility

Marc van der Woude highlighted two factors which contribute to mistrust, both in France and on the other side of the Atlantic. The first is the result of a social-democratic model which no longer works and fuels individualism to the detriment of the collective.

**“Individual right is well covered in law. But where is the collective responsibility and how does it translate into jurisdictional decisions?”**

Marc van der Woude

The second lies in the perception of Europe by citizens who believe that the EU is responsible for a loss of control by member governments, primarily caused by politicians who adopt different positions, depending on whether they are speaking in Brussels or in their own country. *“When we talk about European elections, are they European? No, these are elections in which delegates to the European Parliament are appointed, but the process is not collective. This is another misapprehension when it comes to Europe.”* He lamented this, saying that he believes that the EU should unite, rather than divide.

## CONTEXT

- ▶ **64%** of people in France believe that their country’s democracy is not functioning properly
- ▶ Just **39%** of people in France trust the government to tackle coronavirus effectively
- ▶ **30%** of people chose “mistrust” to express their state of mind, ahead of “weariness” (28%), “gloominess” (22%) and “equanimity” (21%)
- ▶ Just **8%** of French employees belong to a trade union

# ASIAN DYNAMICS IN A TIME OF CRISIS

Exploring international divisions | Friday, October 2 | 2.30pm • 4.00pm | Salle Azur



Virginie Robert, Judy Tseng and Antoine Bondaz

## A climate of tension

**China, Taiwan, South Korea, Vietnam, Japan:** just like every other country in the world, Asian countries have been hit by the global pandemic. How are they coping? Has the pandemic changed their relationships with other world powers? Via video, Jean-Pierre Cabestan discussed the relationship between China and the European Union, focusing on the issue of access to the Chinese market. *“We are at an impasse and I do not see how China and Europe will be able to find common ground if the Beijing*

*regime does not agree to make concessions,”* he explained. Covid-19 could have brought the two camps closer together but it seems to have driven them apart instead. Judy Tseng shared her opinion from a Taiwanese perspective. In her view, the pandemic has played a role because it has revealed divisions within Taiwanese society, with tensions between Taiwan and China causing real suffering. She also stressed the urgent need for a world with multiple alliances and genuine regional solidarity to combat this crisis and to strengthen democracy, including in countries under Chinese influence.

### MODERATOR:

**Virginie Robert**, Chief of the international Service, Les Echos

### SPEAKERS:

**Jean-Pierre Cabestan**, Professor at the Hong Kong Baptist University and Research director - CNRS

**Dingli Shen**, Professor at the Center for American Studies, Fudan University

**Judy Tseng**, Journalist, Central News Agency

**Antoine Bondaz**, Researcher, Foundation for strategic research (FRS)

## Burying the hatchet between the United States and China

Rejecting the idea of a “post-Covid world”, Antoine Bondaz said that he believed that pre-existing trends have merely been reinforced. He began by



Jean-Pierre Cabestan

mentioning China's assertiveness<sup>1</sup>, with authorities demanding that language be closely policed. He went on to note the development of Chinese health diplomacy; China was the first country to provide aid to Italy, which was hard hit by coronavirus before the rest of the EU. Lastly, he highlighted China's worsening image in the United States from 2016 onwards and from 2018 in Europe. In his view, this crisis has revealed the weaknesses and errors of France and Europe. ***"We need to be less dependent on one country, diversifying our partners and ensuring that our interests are safeguarded in the event of a recurrence."*** Dingli Shen stressed the idea that the pandemic has exacerbated worsening relations between China and the United States at all levels, including commercially and academically, with many Chinese students having been expelled from the country. She explained that Washington is supporting Taiwan by sending officers, soldiers and weapons, a new approach which nobody was expecting. Tensions are high in Asia, with North Korea refusing to give up nuclear weapons. The Indo-

<sup>1</sup> An individual's ability to express his or her ideas and to defend his or her rights without provoking the hostility of the person with whom he or she is talking, whose values he or she respects.

Pacific is also on the agenda with an Iranian government which is unhappy about America's presence in the region.

***"At a time when there should be cooperation, I have the impression that a consensus is forming between American Democrats and Republicans to further damage relations with China."***

Dingli Shen

## Pre-emptive security

Jean-Pierre Cabestan advocated pre-emptive security to curb a pandemic like the one we are currently living through. Although he noted a significant difference between countries with borders (including Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and even the Hong Kong region) and the EU's Schengen area, he stressed that a country like Taiwan had implemented very effective protection measures in late December 2019. He also said that he believes that the United States was naive to let China assume global technological leadership. In his view, the United States take the attitude that ***"as long as China is ruled by a single party which prevents the country from becoming truly global, it will be difficult to have normalised relations with the country."*** Judy Tseng detailed the various measures taken by Taiwan to limit the spread of the virus. Having been traumatised by the 2003 SARS crisis, the government had set up a command centre which was reactivated in the wake of the global pandemic. It is responsible for all decision-making processes and communicates quickly and effectively

in a society in which mask-wearing is already commonplace. Lastly, the use of technology for contact tracing has played a part, as has compliance with the drastic rules which have been put in place. Civic-mindedness and mutual trust between the government and the Taiwanese people have contributed to the successful collective management of this crisis.

**“Taiwan wants to prove that it has managed Covid-19 flawlessly to highlight the injustice of its exclusion from the WHO, following China’s diktat.”**

Judy Tseng

Antoine Bondaz mentioned the incredibly strict measures (as difficult as that is to imagine in France) taken by various Asian countries in response to the crisis which have, in fact, brought about economic benefits. “South Korea will become the world’s tenth economic power, surpassing Canada and Russia in a year.”. The fall-out in Asia is proving to be less painful economically than elsewhere because efforts to limit the spread of the virus have not required a large-scale recovery plan, thus opening up new prospects for growth in Asian countries.

## CONTEXT

▶ Of all Covid-19 deaths, **1** in 2 occurs in Europe and North America, compared to 1 death in 5 in Asia, home to 4 times as many people

▶ Just **6** people died from Covid-19 by 15 April 2020 in Taiwan, an island of 24 million people

▶ **4.9%** growth in the 3rd quarter of 2020 after 3.2% in the previous quarter: China has confirmed its sluggish economic recovery at the height of the pandemic

## UNITED STATES/CHINA: what course of action for the EU?

When asked about this, Jean-Pierre Cabestan explained that Europe believes it can play the role of mediator by maintaining an equidistant position between China and the United States. Personally, he believes that the EU shares the values and economic approaches of the Americans, along with strategic

interests in the Far East. He sees Japan’s attitude as interesting in this respect because the country has a rather shrewd strategy: not cutting ties with China, on which it depends economically, while maintaining strategic relations with the United States, India and Vietnam.

## SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY “THE CAVE”

# Revealing a subterranean story

The Forum's first evening event was a screening of the documentary film *The Cave*, followed by comments from Amani Ballour, the film's protagonist, and its director Feras Fayyad<sup>1</sup>.

**A new initiative: a tour de force.** The first documentary to be supported by the Normandy Region, in partnership with the association Docs Up Fund, was nominated for Best Documentary at the 2020 Oscars. The relevance of this incredible film to the Normandy World Peace Forum was acknowledged by the audience. When the film ended and after a long round of applause, a few seconds were needed to process the palpable emotion created by this masterpiece which took two years to film. Feras Fayyad: *“I cannot thank Dr Amani Ballour enough because she put her life in danger for this film. Without her, we would not be able to tell this store which is our story, as Syrians. The aim was to focus on this hospital in our country, a symbol of hope and a place of safety, but also to tell the story of her struggle to save lives.”* The Syrian doctor, who learned that



<sup>1</sup> Writer and director of the internationally acclaimed 2017 film *Last Men in Aleppo*

she was the central focus of the film at its screening, said that *“her daily life in Syria was also the daily lives of other doctors and patients.”* She paid tribute to the patients who died because of the conflict in Syria. *“It is vital that everyone learns the truth!”*

## Crimes against humanity

Imprisoned by Syria’s secret services, Feras Fayyad testified at the trial of the former Syrian officer Anwar Raslan who was arrested and put on trial in Germany for crimes against humanity<sup>2</sup>. *“Dr Amani was also arrested. We have this sad experience in common.”* During his arbitrary detention, the director was subjected to physical and psychological violence. *“I was imprisoned underground in temperatures of -3°C. I suffered from a lack of oxygen, brutality and pressure. I was told that my family was going to be tortured.”* Ironically, the director and the entire Syrian crew of the film were prevented from attending the ninetieth Academy Awards

<sup>2</sup> Bashar al-Assad’s “strong arm” is accused of torturing 4,000 detainees, 58 of whom died

### An internationally-acclaimed documentary

- Nominee - Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature
- Winner - Emmy for Outstanding Cinematography for Nonfiction and Emmy for Exceptional Merit in Documentary Filmmaking
- Winner - Audience Award and Special Mention at the Camden International Film Festival

Amani Ballour



ceremony: their visas were denied by the U.S. administration in the wake of President Donald Trump’s newly implemented anti-terrorist measures.

## Women’s place in society

*The Cave* is also an ode to the emancipation of women in Syrian’s patriarchal society. *“I feel I have to confront this ancient culture in my country, according to which men should be in charge of everything. When I had been working at the hospital for four years, even though I had the same skills as the other doctors and my colleagues chose me to run the hospital, some people*

*wondered why I had been asked to manage it. Other people even refused to talk to me.”* Amani Ballour also fights for the recognition of women in Syrian society. *“My own sister got married when she was 13 years old; she has lost her husband now because he was arrested. She has a very difficult life for which she was not prepared. I am trying to fight this. That is why I have created a fund for women’s rights in my community: it will help them to access education and healthcare.”* More generally, the doctor is an advocate for all Muslim women. *“Being religious should not prevent you from working if you want to. There is a misunderstanding about Islam, especially because our communities force women to wear the hijab. But that is not the real image of Islam.”*

### **A high price to pay**

The film ends with Amani Ballour leaving Syria, having been ordered to leave the country or to risk being killed. *“It was hard to leave my homeland. I am waiting for the fall of this dictatorship so that I can come back. Until then, I will continue to study and work as a doctor.”* After leaving for Turkey, she now hopes to be recognised as political refugee in Germany. But this young woman, who was not yet 30 years old when the documentary was filmed, continues to think of others first. *“I am sad for all the refugees from my country in Turkey, in Greece and in the north-west of Syria.”*

## **THE PITCH OF THE DOCUMENTARY**

In Syria, in the besieged area of Ghouta, which suffered the worst chemical attack in 25 years, local inhabitants have built a makeshift hospital in the bowels of the earth. While the conflict rages on, the paediatrician Amani Ballour tries to save lives and to find medicines. Feras Fayyad’s film follows the working life of this devoted woman.

1H 35MIN / DOCUMENTARY

DIRECTOR:

**Feras Fayyad**

# Writing for peace

**Organised in partnership with the magazine L'OBS, a literary evening hosted by Jérôme Garcin was the closing event of the Normandy World Peace Forum. A panel made up of the editor-in-chief of the culture division at Le Nouvel Observateur, Justine Augier, Bartabas, Scholastique Mukasonga, François Reynaert and Jean-Christophe Rufin explored the relationship between authors, literature and peace.**

***"I take off my mask and pick up my pen."*** Jérôme Garcin opened this fascinating and wide-ranging debate with this witty reference to the name of the long-standing literary radio show he presents on France Inter; the speakers' contributions, analysis and explanations made this a truly inspiring event at the Forum. ***"You have listened to many researchers, economists and decision-makers so far. Tonight, let us hear from writers whose art helps to prevent war and work for peace."*** Jean-Christophe Rufin, a doctor, writer and diplomat,

was the first guest to speak. ***"Writers should have no illusions about their role. They are witnesses. Their action is clandestine and unconscious. We preach to the choir but we must address the warring parties themselves. War is an extreme form in which one sides views the other as an enemy who must be destroyed. If the writer has a role to play, it is to show that humanity can be found everywhere, even among the enemy."*** Scholastique Mukasonga, "a Tutsi living in Calvados" and "an ambassador for peace" as Jérôme Garcin put it, won the Prix Renaudot for her book *Notre-Dame du Nil (Our Lady of the Nile)*. She discussed the wars in Rwanda. ***"I have only ever known discrimination, hatred and rejection. I was a child when I was deported with other Tutsis and I was lucky to be raised by parents who actively resisted and who showed me love. From the age of 3, I was taught not to be scared, to survive, to share with others."*** Access to education was key to her resilience, as was her arrival in Normandy. ***"I am surrounded***



*by memories of the Second World War here. Here, I have been able to rebuild myself and to become stronger. Indeed, I wrote my first two books in Bény-sur-Mer.”*

## The utility of literature

Justine Augier questioned the utility of literature when it comes to promoting peace. *“I think that conflict is almost always born of a refusal to confront the world’s multiplicity. It is the result of a narrow focus on unequivocal interpretations, the imprisoning of people by simplistic and ideological explanations. On the contrary, as I see it, good literature, should not try to crush reality but to reveal its inherent layers.”* Bartabas is famous for having created the equestrian theatre Zingaro. A horseman, a director and a filmmaker, he is also the author of the book *D’un cheval l’autre*. *“For thirty years, I have analysed the relationship between humans and animals in an unconscious quest for the universal. Humans are the only animals to have invented war. They liked it and continue to wage war. The first lesson I learned from horses was not to be afraid of others, of the unknown. I think that all conflicts are the result of fear.”* François Reynaert has written

much about history and current affairs but has never been in a war zone. *“I started my career with people who talked about peace. When you write history books, you realise how lucky you are to have lived in a country like France, which has been peaceful for such a long time.”* The scholar explained that until 1914, historians liked to explain or justify wars, rather than denouncing them. The evening was also an opportunity to discuss more philosophical subjects, such as whether writers can be “neutral” when writing about conflict. *“Writing is a form of activism, an attempt to find a way to be present in the world, to share a personal perspective. Authors do take a position but the power of literature lies in not doing so in a binary way,”* Justine Augier said. Similarly, does pacifist literature influence behaviour? *“Even if it raised awareness, it did not prevent the Second World War from 1939 to 1945, despite an abundance of literature which was very hostile about the Great War,”* François Reynaert pointed out. When discussing whether good literature requires worthy sentiments and whether a good writer should always be on the right side, the speakers shared sharp, acerbic points of view.



Thomas Friang

## Parliamentarians for Peace

Launched by Open Diplomacy and the Normandy Region for the Normandy World Peace Forum, the project Parliamentarians for Peace gathered 10 parliamentarians from 5 continents to work upon the themes of the Forum: environmental degradation, social upheaval and the digital revolution. Their meeting with Forum's partners and peace project leaders resulted in the Peace Policy Platform, to promote five principles to build a lasting peace and five political solutions that they will submit to Parliament.

« We commit, as Parliamentarians for Peace, to sustain key policy solutions which work towards peace, developed by governments as well as non-state actors. Across the borders that separate our chambers, and the political boundaries that differentiate our respective viewpoints, we jointly look forward to more policy anticipation and cooperation. »



PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR PEACE  
WEBSITE:

<https://www.p4p.global/>

## THE NORMANDY INDEX

# To assess the threats to peace and democracy around the world

**The Normandy Index** assesses 136 countries and the European Union, focusing on eleven threats to measure their vulnerability to conflict. Developed by the European Parliament Research Service and the Institute for Economics and Peace in partnership with the Normandy Region, this tool returned in 2020. In view of the region's history and initiatives to promote peace, including the Normandy World Peace Forum, the Normandy Region was keen to support this Index, which was presented for the first time in June 2019. As Hervé Morin, President of the Normandy Region, explained: *"this year, the Normandy World Peace Forum is focused on new threats, including climatic, social and technological threats; these negative external factors contribute to growth which often disregards both mankind and the environment. This focus on threats is entirely consistent with*

*the Normandy Index, developed by the European Parliament Research Service (EPRS) and the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP); it is a very valuable tool which helps us to understand war so that we can better build peace."*

## 11 threats analysed

To measure a country's "peace" in real terms, the Normandy Index takes into account eleven different threats, as defined in the EU's Global Strategy: climate change, cybersecurity, democratic processes, economic crises, energy insecurity, fragile states, homicides, disinformation, terrorism, violent conflicts and weapons of mass destruction. Regions and countries are assessed and compared in each of these areas on a scale of 0 to 10 (0 = serious threat, 10 = no risk) and given an overall score. The 2020 Index, which looks at the situation in 2019, shows an encouraging global picture with a slightly higher global index than in 2018. However, some regions including the Sahel and the Middle East remain under serious threat. A tool like this is more relevant than ever when it comes to identifying risks and understanding and preventing wars.

VISIT  
THE NORMANDY INDEX'S  
INTERACTIVE PLATFORM:  
<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/infographics/peaceandsecurity/index.html#/>

## FREEDOM PRIZE

# On behalf of Loujain al-hathloul and all her sisters

**Created by the Normandy Region, in partnership with the international Institute of Human Rights and peace, the academic authorities of Normandy, Canopé and Ouest-France, the Freedom Prize pays tribute to all those who fight for the right to be free. The 2020 Freedom Prize was awarded to Loujain Al-Hathloul by 5,500 young people around the world. She has been imprisoned for two and a half years in Saudi Arabia for her efforts to emancipate women in her country.**

**As the guest of honour of the 2020 edition,** Barbara Hendricks awarded Loujain Al-Hathloul's Freedom Prize trophy<sup>1</sup> to her sisters, Lina and Alia, who were very moved. *"We cannot thank you enough for your support. We have not been in regular contact with Loujain since her arrest. Saudi Arabia is indirectly pressuring us to remain silent. My parents met with her a few months ago; afterwards, we did not hear from her for weeks and weeks."* The two siblings explained that these tactics to intimidate are combined with a sham justice system in a "schizophrenic" country. Internationally, Saudi Arabia tries to appear to be a progressive country, with women now allowed to drive and the laws around the veil now relaxed. Nationally, arbitrary arrests are commonplace, ordered by a monarchy which undermines the public authorities, according to the Al-Hathloul sisters. The two young women denounced a regime which is subjected to the "whims of the Prince", Mohammed bin Salman. He is

concerned about his image in Western countries. This is why it is particularly important to highlight Loujain Al-Hathloul's fate: to raise awareness among the public and, consequently, in the press and among democratic governments.

## A unanimous tribute

Father Pedro Opeka, another candidate for this year's Freedom Prize, expressed his support, demonstrating the solidarity which exists among all those who defend freedom around the world. *"Loujain Al-Hathloul deserves this recognition and this award. I hope*



Lina and Alia Al-Hathloul, Barbara Hendricks and Hervé Morin.

<sup>1</sup> made by Lycée Napoléon in L'Aigle (Orne)

*with all my heart that she will be freed, along with Nasrin Sotoudeh”, a lawyer who was also chosen as a candidate and is imprisoned in Iran. “The world’s young people are increasingly driven by tolerance and freedom, with no distinctions regarding race, opinion, ideology or religion. I admire these sisters who fight for freedom, who will eventually be victorious around the world,”* Pedro Opeka concluded. The Freedom Prize was inspired by three iconic people who fought against Nazism in Normandy: Bernard Dargols, who passed away last year, Léon Gauthier and Charles Norman Shay. The latter wanted to encourage the 2020 winner. *“I am honoured to have been chosen by Normandy to participate in the Freedom Prize. Seventy-six years ago, I landed on Omaha Beach as a military orderly. My comrades and I fought for freedom to protect and to cherish. I want to congratulate Loujain, a brilliant young woman, who has unfortunately already experienced brutality. Because of your sacrifice, women are now allowed to drive in Saudi Arabia. You have already won a battle.”* After Greta Thunberg in 2019, the Freedom Prize has once again been awarded to a woman. *“They embody the fight for humanity,”* Barbara Hendricks explained.



## Loujain Al-Hathloul

### Freedom has a price

31-year-old Loujain Al-Hathloul has been arrested and detained on numerous occasions in Saudi Arabia for demonstrating against her country’s system of male guardianship. This multi-lingual young woman spent some of her childhood in Toulon and studied for an undergraduate degree in French in Vancouver and a Master’s degree at the Sorbonne in Abu Dhabi. As a popular figure on social media who is known for her peaceful struggle to emancipate women in her country, she has spent the last two and a half years of her life as a political prisoner in the maximum-security prison Al-Ha’ir. Her family reported that the young woman has been subjected to torture and sexual harassment while in prison. The Saudi authorities reportedly offered to release her if she would deny that she had been the victim of violence. Loujain Al-Hathloul refused. Since the Normandy World Peace Forum, it was reported that she had gone on hunger strike to protest against the conditions of her detention.

## A democratic prize

More than 5,500 young people aged 15 to 25 from eighty-one different countries participated in the three stages of the 2020 Freedom Prize. During the first stage, the call for applications received 238 nominations. The international panel of judges, made up of twenty-four young people and led by the journalist Emmanuel Davidenkoff, spent two days narrowing down these nominations to

choose three people or organisations whose fights for freedom ahead of 2021 were particularly commendable. More than 5,500 votes were cast during an online vote which ended on 6 June 2020. The winner, Loujain Al-Hathloul, won 42% of the votes, ahead of Father Pedro Opeka from Madagascar (29%) and the Iranian lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh (25%).

## Hand in hand

In view of the absence of physical contact because of measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the Normandy World Peace Forum came up with the idea of a photo exhibition in the centre of its village, displaying some of the most stunning handshakes in history. Presented by its deputy director, Régis Le Sommier, the photographs from Paris Match's archives retraced more than 50

years of history, reconciliation, peace agreements and symbols of fraternity. From the handshake between General de Gaulle and the German chancellor Adenauer to the meeting between Greta Thunberg and Charles Norman Shay, a World War Two veteran, at the award ceremony for the Freedom Prize, these eye-catching gestures made quite an impression on many visitors.



## The gift of ubiquity

Questions arose as to how quality speakers from all continents would be able to speak at the Forum, despite border closures caused by the pandemic. Organisers also wanted speakers to avoid time-consuming and energy-intensive travel. Consequently, Normandy for Peace used video links, video conferencing and other pre-recorded messages during the conferences and debates. This resolutely modern technology did not detract from speakers' wide-ranging contributions. Audience members were particularly struck by the live speech given by



Cacique Ninawa, the spiritual leader and chief of the Huni Kuin people; this community of 15,000 people lives in villages in the Amazonian forest which are often very isolated, in the state of Acre in the north-west of Brazil.



## Intergenerational

The Forum welcomed visitors of all ages, from secondary school pupils and university students to senior citizens. This diversity was particularly noticeable during the plenary conferences.

# Acknowledgements

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Many challenges were overcome to successfully organise this third edition of the Normandy World Peace Forum. The President of the Normandy Region would like to thank everyone who made this event possible, particularly:

- ▶ **The Forum's participants**, whether they came to Abbaye aux Dames or attended remotely
- ▶ **The Forum's panellists and partners** within the Village for Peace who brought this edition of the Forum to life by sharing their experience and expertise
- ▶ **Patrons and members of the Normandy for Peace network** who helped to create a genuinely influential regional initiative
- ▶ **State departments and the city of Caen**, both of which provided essential support to ensure the health and safety of the Forum's attendees
- ▶ **The teams behind the Forum:** elected representatives, officials, service providers and volunteers who create an extraordinary public event every year

Hervé Morin

President of the Normandy Region,  
former French Minister of Defence



The Normandy Region  
is looking forward to seeing you  
in 2021 for the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of  
the Normandy World Peace  
Forum !



RÉGION  
**NORMANDIE**