

# UN Special

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

## One Year Later



N°776 - FEBRUARY 2018

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**ALEXANDER MEJIA**

Rédacteur en chef / Editor-in-chief

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One year after the United Nations swore in António Guterres as its Secretary-General, this edition of *UN Special* will briefly explore what has happened so far and where we stand in January 2018. The magazine features an overview of the SG's first year in office, as well as a few staff impressions on his tenure so far. Most importantly, you will find an interview with Mr. Guterres himself, discussing his accomplishments and aspirations for the beginning of his mandate.

You may also read several articles related to health, including a piece on how WHO responds to humanitarian emergencies, and another on the WHO Global Working Group of the Joint Staff-Management Respectful Workplace Initiative, as well as some musings on the role of the medical profession in the contemporary world.

On the theme of education, we hear from the Director of the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack on protecting schools caught in war zones. The Education Relief Foundation also discusses how to advance SDG 4.7. And, we hear from Dr. Colum Murphy, the Director of the Geneva School of Diplomacy. He shares his experience as both scholar and as former UN Deputy Head of Political Affairs in Bosnia, having served in Sarajevo while it was under bombardment in the mid-nineties.

Further offerings include a piece by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China on the Belt and Road Initiative, a topic also featured in this edition's centerfold. Also included: a discussion on the headscarf in Christianity, Islam and Judaism, as well as several pieces on issues of peace and war. In staff matters, we have an update on the UN Federal Credit Union, which has achieved carbon neutrality, and also on the results of the UN Club Photo International annual competition.

We hope you enjoy this first edition of 2018! ■

Un an après l'investiture de M. António Guterres en tant que Secrétaire Général des Nations Unies, ce numéro examine brièvement ce qui s'est fait jusqu'à janvier 2018. Nous présentons un aperçu de la première année du SG, ainsi que quelques impressions du personnel sur son mandat. Vous trouverez notamment un entretien avec M. Guterres lui-même, discutant de ses réalisations et aspirations au début de son mandat.

Vous trouverez également plusieurs articles sur la santé, dont un sur la réponse de l'OMS aux urgences humanitaires, un autre sur l'initiative du groupe de travail mondial de l'OMS de milieu de travail respectueux, ainsi que quelques réflexions sur le rôle de la profession médicale dans le monde actuel. Sur le thème de l'éducation, la directrice générale de la «Coalition Mondiale pour la Protection de l'Éducation des Attaques» nous parle des écoles en zones de guerre. La fondation «Education Relief Foundation» aborde comment faire progresser l'ODD 4.7. De même, Dr Colum Murphy directeur de l'École de diplomatie de Genève, nous raconte son expérience de chercheur et d'ancien chef adjoint des affaires politiques des Nations Unies en Bosnie, à Sarajevo sous les bombardements dans les années quatre-vingt-dix.

D'autres thèmes sont abordés, dont un article de la mission permanente de la République populaire de Chine sur la nouvelle route de la soie, un sujet mis en avant dans cette édition dans sa page centrale. Vous trouverez aussi une contribution sur le voile dans le christianisme, l'islam et le judaïsme, ainsi que d'autres articles sur les questions de paix et conflits.

En ce qui concerne le personnel, vous lirez comment l'union fédérale des crédits de l'ONU a atteint la neutralité carbone, ainsi que les résultats du concours annuel du Club Photo de l'ONU. Nous espérons que vous apprécierez cette première édition de 2018! ■

**The official magazine of the international civil servants of the United Nations at Geneva and of the World Health Organization**

**La revue officielle des fonctionnaires internationaux des Nations Unies à Genève et de l'Organisation mondiale de la Santé**



Global Stakeholder Forum with leaders and experts in education. United Nations Geneva, 8 December 2017.

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## Introducing balance and inclusivity from policy to practice

# A meeting of global leaders advancing SDG4.7

*Leaders and experts in education, met at the United Nations in Geneva to acknowledge and endorse the urgent need to a pragmatic solution in implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal 4 target 7 (SDG4.7).*

**ANUSHA RAJAMANI,**  
**THE EDUCATION RELIEF FOUNDATION**

Organised by the Education Relief Foundation (ERF), in cooperation with Globethics.net, the Global Forum on Balanced and Inclusive Education (BIE), was held on Dec 8th. Edgar Morin, French philosopher, sociologist, UNESCO Chair of Complex Thought and largely considered the founder of Transdisciplinarity addressed the assembly as the guest of honour.

The ERF's 2017 four regional stakeholder meetings, marked the final stage of consolidating the recommendations discussed at the meetings hosted, with ERF's partners, in Thailand, Nigeria, Panama and Geneva. The objective was to produce a Global Guide for Code of Ethics on ERF's BIE through an approach based primarily on international cooperation via academic research and policy uptake based on local

initiatives, in advancing the humanistic vision of SDG4.7 globally.

The panel addressed the challenges and solutions for the implementation of BIE and directed the conversation to ensure that the new agenda presented by the SDGs are with high hopes and to be achieved this time round. The four pillars of BIE set by ERF: **Intra-culturalism, Transdisciplinarity, Dialecticism** and **Contextuality** will be used as the foundation for this Global Guide. The endorsements of ERF's BIE presented at the meeting further supported ERF's initiative to develop a global guide for ethics, principles, policies and practice for the delivery and uptake of BIE.

SDG 4.7 is of particular importance as it is the first time it has received global attention and universal agreement instead of a concern that was thought to be relevant

only in developing countries. The President and founder of ERF, Shaikh Manssour Bin Mussallam emphasised that a combination of dynamic intergovernmental, cross sectoral structure, further strengthening south-south as well as north-south, multilateral collaborations are quintessential when discussing overhauling our global educational systems.

Mr. Ichiro Miyawaza from UNESCO Bangkok, urged to take action towards a sustainable reform as the discussion on education has spanned over a century, and with every unfulfilled goal and target, the number of out of school children is on the rise, with the current magnitude of 263 million children and youth stated by UNESCO. Although substantial improvements have been made in the past, these efforts require strengthening in order to respond to the needs of our societies for a more peaceful and sustainable



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Edgar Morin "The unity and diversity of human beings must be recognized in education." United Nations Geneva, 8 December 2017

world. Moreover, a sustainable paradigm shift is crucial as is the mode of communication and mobilisation when implementing BIE. Mr. Renato Operti from the International Bureau of Education, UNESCO in Geneva, pointed that if the educational systems do nothing to provide everyone with equal opportunities, a void will be created in every classroom. The panelists made it imperative to acknowledge that inclusive education should be a right and not a privilege especially by those engaging in this conversation. Ms. Yetnebersche Nigussie, Laureate of the Right Livelihood Award stressed to bridge the gap for children with disabilities to be given more than just the access to education, but to one that is inclusive and tailored to support and empower people, irrespective of differences and capabilities. She added that the international community needs to follow a multi-stakeholder approach in the future implementation of BIE, as there is a clear disparity between policy aspirations and budgetary allocations for students with disabilities.

In the keynote address of the former French Minister of Culture and Education, and President of the *Institut du monde arabe* and ERF Fellow Mr. Jack Lang said, 'In spite of our diversities, it is essential that a humanistic vision is integrated in our education systems'. He added that "The key for this lies in the training of trainers without which there is no hope for the reform of education systems'.

The rise of global citizenship education has aided in reducing issues revolving around

inclusive education from the perspective of cultural connectivity. That being said, much work is still required in order to ameliorate policies and practice of global citizenship education. BIE goes further than global citizenship. To firstly, connect the fragmented initiatives into a global platform for collaboration, and to adhere to the various needs and capabilities of students irrespective of their backgrounds. Lastly, to engage learners through transdisciplinarity and intra-cultural knowledge and dialogue. These are particularly important to remain relevant in our globalised world where curricula is often disconnected from current affairs.

SDG 4 represents a global responsibility that is reinforced by stakeholders to push forward this agenda in order to facilitate a long overdue discussion on the strengthening of the educational structure, as well as its content and discourse. Education is at the epicentre for socio-economic growth of societies and as a prerequisite, BIE needs to be comprehensively implemented.

The Global Forum On BIE at the UN in Geneva included recommendations

presented from the four regional stakeholder meetings of ERF by Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development from the Southeast Asia Ministeries of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), Dr. Francois Vallaeys, President, Union of University Social Responsibility for Latin America (URSULA) constituted of 86 Latin American member universities, Dr. Victoria Kanobe Kisaakye, Programmes Coordinator, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Uganda and Prof. Abdeljalil Akkari, Faculty of Psychology and Sciences of Education – Research Team in International and Comparative Education, University of Geneva (UNIGE).

The Education Relief Foundation is a non-profit NGO based in Geneva working on the forefront to develop, promote and embed BIE, globally adapting education to the 21st century. The ERF Secretariat, which serves as the implementing body of the organisation is headed by the Director Dr. Najia Musolino. ■

## Message du rédacteur en chef

Vous aimeriez partager votre opinion sur le magazine et son contenu ?

### N'hésitez plus et écrivez-nous !

Nous serions heureux de recevoir votre avis. Les plus pertinents, les plus intéressants, les plus originaux seront publiés dans le magazine.

Si vous souhaitez proposer un article, n'hésitez pas à me contacter à tout moment.

### Et maintenant, à vos plumes !

#### Adressez vos commentaires à :

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Would you like to share your opinion about *UN Special* and its contents ?

### Write to us!

We will be glad to hear from you. The most interesting, relevant, or even ingenious responses will be published in the magazine.

Should you wish to submit an article, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

### Now, put pen to paper!

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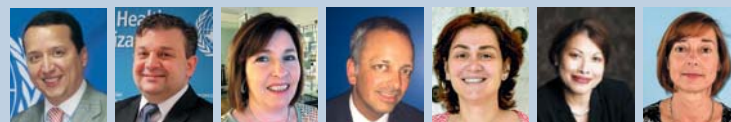
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