

Council Chair Report

World Federalist Movement

Report of the Council Chair 2012-2013

Dear colleagues and members of the World Federalist Movement,

The following is a short report of my activities as the chair of the WFM Council since I was elected during our Winnipeg Congress. All of these activities are those that I consider the responsibilities that I received from you as Council chair: conciliating the need of sustaining current campaigns with the necessity of pushing new ones, supporting the unity of the federalist movement, improving the cooperation and coordination between the WFM and the European organizations, and extending our influence and structure towards the South and the BRICS.

With these principles in mind I developed the following activities.

AUGUST 2012

BUENOS AIRES

Development of the RedSudam project (South American Network for Regional Integration) together with the Democracia Global working group, whose objective is the creation of offices in seven South American cities (Buenos Aires, Sao Paulo, Montevideo, Santiago, Bogota, Lima and Caracas) under the model of Democracia Global –Buenos Aires, in order to promote locally all the WFM campaigns.

SEPTEMBER 2012

VENTOTENE

I participated at the Ventotene Seminar and provided a report of the situation of the South-American process of regional integration. I also held several meetings with members of European organizations- Jo Leinen and Virgilio D'Astoli (European Movement), Christian Wenning (Union of European Federalists) and Lucio Levi (European Federalist Movement)).

All of these organizations were invited to join (or to increase their participation) at the WFM. Following their suggestion, I wrote a message to their membership (*"Open letter to federalist and European organizations"*),

insisting on the necessity of increasing the cooperation between the separate parts of our movement, which was considered by them at their following meetings.

SEPTEMBER 2012

ROME

The Manifesto for Global Democracy and a proposal for a UN Parliamentary Assembly were organized and presented through two separate events in the Italian Senate, on September 11.

Senators Roberto Di Giovan Paolo and Marco Perduca, and the MP Federica Mogherini Rebesani discussed a strategy for the development of the UNPA campaign at the Italian senate with Virgilio D'Astoli (EM), Lucio Levi (MFE) and me. They agreed on creating a parliamentarian group in order to push for a joint resolution by the Italian Parliament.

I also had a meeting with the Senate's former President Franco Marini, who agreed to endorse the international "Appeal for the Establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly".

The following day, professors Roberto Esposito, (Istituto Italiano di Scienze Umane, Florence), Lucio Levi (Università di Torino), Raffaele Marchetti (Libera Università Internazionale, Rome), Giacomo Marramao (Università di Roma Tre), Heikki Patomäki (Helsinki University) and me presented our views on the global situation and explained the proposals included in the "Manifesto for Global Democracy" that they signed with other 25 scholars specialized on the study of political global trends.

OCTOBER 2012

BUENOS AIRES

I participated in the 4th Symposium for Altiero Spinelli and 1st Forum for Regional integration, "Challenges and strategies in the context of the crisis in the MERCOSUR and the European UNION", which was organized in Buenos Aires by Democracia Global and the Cattedra Spinelli. The Symposium was used for spreading world federalism and global democratic principles among the public and for increasing the cooperation between the participants (among which Hernán Lombardi, Minister of Culture and Government of BA, Alfonso Diez Torres, Ambassador of the European Union in Argentina, Ignacio Mendoza Unzain, President of the MERCOSUR Parliament, and many South-American and European scholars and members of national and regional parliaments) and the very vast group of Argentine and Brazilian students who gathered at the event.

FEBRUARY 2013

BRUXELLES

On the 15 and 16 of February, I participated in the WFM Executive Committee meeting in The Hague.

During the following week, from February 18 to 22, I had interviews at the European Parliament and federalist organizations.

JEF

I met with a group of about twenty young members of JEF. I also had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Guilherme Serôdio, the manager of an interesting initiative about a World Community for Food Reserves.

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT

I had lunch with Jo Leinen (German MEP and president of the European Movement) where we discussed many aspects of the UNPA campaign. I used the opportunity to invite the European Movement to join the WFM. Leinen was skeptical initially, but his mind changed when I explained the AO membership and proposed the EM to enter on this category, which he judged possible.

UNION OF EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

I had lunch with Andrew Duff and Christian Wenning, UEF President and Secretary General, insisting on the strengthening of the relationship between WFM and the European Federalists. Both were open and friendly to my initiative, even if critical about the past relationship between UEF and WFM. In any case, they committed to send a delegate to the 2013 NY Council Meeting and invited me to speak about the content of my letter to European Federalists at the next UEF Congress (Berlin, November 16). In addition, one of their Officers (Ms. Georgina Mombo) was appointed to work as the liaison between both organizations and a plate with the WFM logo was placed at the UEF office entrance some months later.

UNPA CAMPAIGN

I held several meetings with Andreas Bummel, the Director of the UNPA campaign, where we discussed UNPA and its development. Both resolutions proposed by Democracia Global for our 2013 NY Council Meeting are based on this discussion.

I also accompanied Mr. Bummel to several meetings with MEPs, including Ms Wilkström (Swedish MEP) and Graham Watson (UK MEP), who made us aware of the interesting initiative of the Climate Parliament which we found to be collaborative with the UNPA strategy.

NICCOLÓ RINALDI (EP)-GUSTAVO MARTÍN PRADA (EC)

During my interview with Niccolo Rinaldi (Italian MEP) and Gustavo Martin Prada (EU officer and former EU Commission ambassador at Buenos Aires, respectively) we explored the congruence and coherence of European and world unity, leading to the participation of the Spinelli Group in the WFM and the possibilities of involvement of the EU Commission on the creation of WFM-GD hubs devoted to world federalism, global democracy and regional integration. They both felt favorably towards the initiatives and committed to help us in their development.

PARIS

BERTRAND BADIE-ARIEL COLONOMOS (Science Po)

During my stay in Paris (February 25-26), I had two meetings with Bertrand Badie and Ariel Colonomos, two of the most prestigious French experts on International Relations. We all agreed on organizing a launch of the Global Democracy Manifesto in Paris by January 2014. It would be organized at Science Po, one of the main academic institutions in the world specializing in social sciences.

BOUTROS GHALI (UNESCO)

My visit to Paris finished with a long meeting with former UN Secretary General Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. I presented him with greetings from our EC chair, Mr. Keith Best, and our Executive Director, Mr. Bill Pace, which he welcomed.

We discussed the situation of the UNPA campaign, which he endorsed from the beginning, as well as the Global Democracy Manifesto strategy, which he signed. Mr. Ghali promised to be part of the table in the Paris launching conference in January 2014, and to explore any possibility of doing something similar in Africa. I found some comments of Mr. Ghali very remarkable. He deeply agreed on the necessity of extending our presence to the emerging South (particularly to Africa, where he was born) and suggested the WFM should establish a permanent link with the International Labour Organization (ILO -or OIT).

DONOSTIA-SAN SEBASTIÁN

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL DEMOCRACY MANIFESTO

On the 1st of March, Democracia Global and Globernance organized a launch of the Global Democracy Manifesto in Donostia-San Sebastián, Basque Country, Spain.

The conference was held at the extraordinary San Telmo Museum, with the participation of professors Emilio Lamo de Espinosa (President of the Real Instituto Elcano, Madrid), Daniel Innerarity (Director of Globernance and one of the most prominent Spanish intellectuals), Ms. Nerea Magallón (professor of the Universidad de

Deusto) and Gurutz Jauregui (professor of the UPV, San Sebastián and author of several books on “Planetary Democracy”) and me. We had about 50 very active and interested people in the conference, but the best was the amazing impact on press.

MARCH 2013

BARCELONA

LAUNCH OF THE UNPA CAMPAIGN

My trip finished at Barcelona with the launch of the UNPA campaign. The activity was organized by Asociación Proyecto Gobernanza Mundial, the NGO in which our EC colleague Joan-Marc Simon participates, and was held at the Palacio Llimona. The members of the panel were Carme Valls (Secretaria general de APGDM), Salvador Milà (Diputat al Parlament de Catalunya), Joan Marc and me. There were about 40 people in the room, among which the UNPA proposal was discussed enthusiastically.

MEETINGS WITH CATALAN FEDERALIST ORGANIZATIONS

During my visit to Barcelona I had also two separate meetings with the Executive Committee of the Asociación proyecto Gobernanza Mundial and with Mr. Albert Rojo, from Horitzó Europa (European federalists, Catalunya) and with the Consejo de Diplomacia Pública (Diplocat), the new diplomatic body that is being created by the Catalunya’s Generalitat. We discussed the development of a Spanish network of federalist associations and the integration and participation of both organizations to the WFM. Mr. Albert Royo (Horitzó Europa) was surprisingly optimistic on this possibility, which we agreed to continue to explore.

LONDON

MEETING WITH WFM-EC CHAIR

During my visit to London, in order to participate at the round table on the perspectives for the Pacific resolution of the Falkland-Malvinas conflict between Argentina and the United Kingdom, I was invited to dinner by our WFM-EC chair, my dear friend Keith Best. We used the opportunity for discussing the future strategies of our movement and the possibilities for financing new campaigns and initiatives.

APRIL 2013

BUENOS AIRES

Development of the Global Democracy Hubs project, whose objective is the creation of regional offices able to push the campaigns of the World Federalist Movement. The project was based on the Democracia Global

experience at Buenos Aires, and is part of one of the resolutions that Democracia Global proposes for our 2013 Council Meeting.

MEETING WITH ARGENTINE MP GABRIELA MICHETTI

I had a meeting with Ms. Gabriela Michetti, chair of the Parliamentary group of the UNPA Campaign, at her office, where we discussed the possibilities of contacting Pope Francisco in order to promote an ecumenical promotion of the UNPA campaign and the principles of global democracy and world federalism. Ms. Michetti, who was a close friend of Cardenal Bergoglio –now Pope Francisco 1st- was optimistic on the possibility of having a statement from the Pope on the matter.

MEETING WITH PROF. ULRICH BECK

During his visit to BA, I had a meeting with Prof. Ulrich Beck in which we discussed the situation of the Global Democracy Manifesto and UNPA campaigns, as well as the situation in the European Union, which is now the main concern of Prof. Beck's work.

MAY 2013

LAUNCH OF THE GLOBAL DEMOCRACY MANIFESTO

Continuing the events developed at London, Rome and San Sebastián, the Global Democracy was launched at Buenos Aires at the BA Fair Book, which is the biggest in South-America. The panelists were Juan José Campanella (film-maker, Oscar winner 2010), Jorge Castro (expert on International Politics for Clarín, the first Argentine newspaper), Juan José Sebreli (intellectual and co-founder of Democracia Global), Teivo Teivainen (expert on world Politics at the Helsinki University), Fernando Vilella (dean of Agronomy and Veterinary at the University of Buenos Aires) and me. The room, Adolfo Bioy Casares, holds 80 people and was completely full, while about 80 other people listened from abroad.

Two important Argentine media (Clarín and La Nación) covered the event, which is programmed to be repeated every year at the same place as a discussion on the state of the world and a balance on the development of the campaign.

NEW YORK-WASHINGTON D.C.

MEETINGS WITH WFM-IS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND GS.ORG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

During my visit to New York and Washington in order to participate at the Latin American Association Studies Congress, I met with Bill Pace and Don Kraus, WFM-IS Executive Director and GlobalSolutions.org Executive

Director, respectively. We discussed the GS.org situation and the possible strategies for its future and agreed on the need of including new campaigns in the following year's fund-raising program.

I wish to conclude this report by announcing that the City Montessori School of Lucknow, India, has decided to join our movement. The CMS is the world's largest school in terms of pupils. In 2002, it won the UNESCO Prize for peace because international peace and world democracy are part of the teaching. Every year, they organize international conferences on peace, justice and interreligious dialogue. As I knew some of their members from the times of the Global Democracy and World Parliament Initiative (2003), I recommended them to be a part, initially as an AO, of the WFM, which they have considered and accepted. I think this is good news and hope this is the first of a long list of new organizations to join our movement.

I hope this Council meeting will be a concrete step forward in improving the cooperation among our organizations and reinforcing the strength of our movement, as well as the best opportunity for exchanging ideas and suggestions in order to achieve the great objectives that have characterized our movement along the years.

Fernando A. Iglesias

World Federalist Movement Council Chairman
Vicepresidente Democracia Global - Buenos Aires
Direttore Cattedra Spinelli (CUIA)