**If...**

You are convinced that all the inhabitants of the world stand together face to its future.

If you believe that the Global Community has now become a reality.

And that it must now face challenges that have reached a global scale;

**Do not hesitate !...**

**Contact**

**THE WORLD CITIZENS’ MARCH**

towards the political unity of the planet

[www.worldcitizensmarch.org](http://www.worldcitizensmarch.org)
both in French and in English

**CCM**

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**What was still utopia a century ago, is now a pressing need!**

**editorial**

This is the third annual issue of the World Citizen’s March Magazine. Its existence proves its vitality and shows how right we were, on January 14 2014, at the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris, in starting the World Citizens’ March towards the political unity of the planet.

From the many observations expressed over the last two years a common idea has emerged : that, above all, we should avoid any misunderstanding over the objective we are aiming at and the means we choose to achieve it. It must be understood that we wish to concentrate our efforts on the idea of adapting the various political institutions across the world to the challenges facing the world today. Our originality is to endeavour to bring together in a single global civic movement all those – men, women, regardless of age, experienced or not in politics – willing to follow this objective. A difficult task, a rocky road ahead perhaps, but we know where we are headed and time is undeniably working for us.

We are now aware that the solution lies in applying a federal model at all levels of society, including a planetary one ; this may not please rigid believers in the principle of the absolute sovereignty of States, an outdated concept that has made the UN powerless.

This is why we have now taken the decision to join the World Federalist Movement (WFM), while at the same time we are members of the World Citizens’ Assembly, a crossroads of multiple trends in favour of world citizenship.

We have therefore organized this issue of our magazine in two sections : one, a review of the events of 2015; two, an invitation to take part in the March in 2016, as it is to be defined today in view of the many comments that have been formulated on the subject, both by militants and sympathisers, and by external observers. Needless to say, we sincerely hope that this layout will encourage our neighbours, friends and relations to see themselves as World Citizens towards the Unity of the Planet.
The March has taken its flight!

Like a bird taking its flight across the valley... or a ship sailing away towards the wide open seas, the World Citizens’ March towards the political unity of the planet has now taken its flight: We are no longer considered as naive souls or irresponsible dreamers. World events have proved us right: men and women moving on towards the political unity of the planet do so with a well-balanced mind. The mud and dirt they find on their way may slow them down for a time. However, they know where they are going, and this fills them with optimism.

In the same way as people at work strive to solve problems they meet in areas of technology and human resources; the men and women in our movement search for ways of adapting the political Institutions of the world to the new conditions of our time. With their help, and with yours, we shall build the world of the future.

Naturally this does not please all, particularly those who are satisfied with the present organization, or rather disorganization, of our global community: international financiers, affluent society, unscrupulous dictators, overcautious citizens and their cynical (elected) representatives shrivelled inside their nationalistic cocoon.

4 typical reactions
To the Invitation to join the March

• It’s outside my range of concerns.
• Leave National Sovereignty out of this, it’s a sacred principle
• You are quite right, I agree with the idea But it’s not lidelly to happen soon.
• Yes, totally !... I’m with you all the way.

Now, it that our action seems to attract growing signs of approval and encouragement from our fellow citizens... which leads me to give a detailed account here of the work we have accomplished this year.

On the occasion of our annual meeting on May 30th 2015, the CCM’s Coordination Committee spoke of its wish that, following a positive start in France, the March should spread its action to the other continents. This has now been achieved: we are now present in Africa (Senegal and in the Democratic Republic of Congo), in Asia (India and HongKong), in North America and in Australia. Simultaneously, as our objectives are similar, we are preparing to become members of the World Federalist Movement (WFM).

This new development has led us, with the assistance of professionals, to redesign our Internet site – www.worldcitizensofmarch.org – into its new form, both in French and in English. We would be very interested in any observations which could be made known to us on the subject.

Moreover, a “ZOOM” page has been opened in the Menu, enabling the visitor to access opinions formulated by the March and any other document of interest.

We have thought it appropriate to start this year with “point of view” messages, expressed by the WCM Committee on current events and sent out to all our correspondents: March militants and sympathisers, and university, press and other personalities. The reader was made to relate these messages with the World Citizens’ March towards the unity of the planet.

There have been two “points of view” expressed this year: first, following the November shootings in Paris, then, on the occasion of COP 21; We were struck with the absence of criticism over them and by the great number of approving messages coming from France, Europe and other parts of the world. Our thanks go to these perceptive commentators on the state of the world today.

It would perhaps be appropriate at this point to consider the true “glass wall” which separates us from the media. This is no doubt the result of the negative image acquired through time by World Citizens, depicted as dreamers and utopians. Hopefully, things are changing, although gradually.

Thanks to the thoughts expressed during our “workshop” sessions, the idea has taken form over the model of organization that should be applied to the political unity of the planet. Consequently, the CCM (Coordination Committee of the March) have clearly taken position in favour of FEDERALISM as a model for the organisation of society at every level of its structure.

This choice of words, obviously, makes things clear and its meaning bears hope wherever it is spoken in the world, even though it is far from becoming a generality. To wit, the obstacles which our own continent is facing in its efforts to reach its unity; this is likely to go on as long as Europe has not become a Federation. It is also through the “Way” of federalism, to quote Edgar Morin, that the majority of current political crises could be resolved, particularly in areas such as Ukraine, Syria, Iraq or Palestine. The same can be said of Africa. Generally speaking, regrouping States into sub-continents should be envisaged in the perspective of a federal structure, according to sociologist and researcher Roland Guillon à propos the Mediterranean rim. The spirit of Federalism should be at the basis of any form of “World re-Foundation”, to quote the title of a book by Jean-Claude Guillebaud published in 1999. It is therefore the keystone to the political organisation of the planet: the “World Federation of Nations”.

The question now rises over the “Political Transition” enabling us to pass from the obsolete and almost powerless UNO of today to the World Federation of Nations. This is the
Federalism

Basically, Federalism consists in going beyond the idea of absolute sovereignty for Nation States. This can be achieved, either by bringing together several States, or by breaking up one State into several federal entities. The Larousse Dictionary, in order to give the word a more factual meaning, gives two definitions:

- "way of re-grouping several political collectivities so as to increase their community of interest while preserving their particularities"

- "constitutional organism establishing a share of powers between federal institutions and member states"

The first definition is not entirely satisfactory. It applies to all States, and does not distinguish between the federal system and other organisms such as, for instance, the confederation, an association of States, each keeping its independence and prerogatives, while they are not submitted to a superior authority.

The second definition is a better match to what characterises federalism, that is to say, the power of decision at several levels and a repartition of competences (a division of powers) between the Federal State and the various entities that are part of it.

Division of powers is not found solely in the federal system. It can also be found in decentralised unitarian States. These decentralised collectivities may enjoy a certain degree of authority, but this authority is limited, as it is granted by national law and can be modified by the central power system.

There are many examples of federal States, the better known being the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Switzerland, Germany and Belgium (since 1993).

Unlike unitarian States, who are the sole bearers of executive, legislative and administrative powers over their territory, federal States are composed of an association of entities with their own institutions (parliament, government, administration), functioning autonomously from the Federal State. These entities come under a wide variety of names: 50 States in the USA, 26 Cantons in Switzerland, 3 Communautés and 3 Régions in Belgium. Whatever their size, they all apply the same principle: sharing of power (sharing of competences) with the federal government. Their territory is governed by two authorities: the federal State, for matters concerning the country in general, and federated authority for local matters.

The sharing of Power is established by the federal constitution. This guarantees the status of federated organisations which cannot be modified by unilateral measures taken by the federal government. Generally speaking, the federal State possesses full powers over international relations and national defence. Naturally it manages its Budget; moreover, Justice and Police are under its management.

Federated authority retains power over its own finances and budget, as well as over the institutions that are necessary to its functioning. A local police and justice system may co-exist side by side with the federal police and justice system. Federated territories may be represented at the federal parliament in a State Assembly.

Federalism thus can be considered as an apt illustration of the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality which guarantees that decision over a public action is taken at the appropriate level.

P.A.

Needless to say that, both in Federations and Unitarian democratic States, powers at every level are granted by the people by means of general elections.

theme which we have decided to put forward this year in a joint reflection process together with our Australian friends, leaders on the subject.

In a little under three years, we shall be celebrating the 70th anniversary of the foundation of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of Mankind by the United Nations, during a meeting at the Palais de Chaillot in Paris. This will also be the occasion to look back on the memorable incident in which Albert Camus, Garry Davis, Robert Sarrazac and a few other World Citizens broke into the United Nations meeting which was in session in the very same Palais de Chaillot in May 1948. This incident is considered by those who can remember it as the « founding gesture » of the World Citizens movement.

This well shows the importance we must attach to supranational institutions if we wish nations across the world to pursue their development in peaceful harmony. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary General to the United Nations from 1992 to 1996, was right in saying in 2009 « After UNO 1 (Society of Nations), then UNO 2 (the present United Nations), the time will come for UNO 3, more democratic and more efficient in facing the challenges of the world to come ».

In our view, it is clear that this UNO 3 can only be the Federation of Nations. We are glad to note that the idea seems to be gaining ground. Does this mean that we have reached our goal? Obviously not. That will need a great amount of time and energy. This means that the role played by each and every « Marcher toward the Unity of the planet » will be decisive.

Then read the 2016 flyer of the Invitation to Join the World Citizens’ March in 2016 enclosed in this Annual number. Confirm your participation to the March in 2016, either simply as a Sympathizer or as an Active Militant. Hand out this document to your friends: the more we are walking together towards the political unity of the planet, the quicker we will reach our goal!
Popular words at this time... Carlos Ghosn, Renault and Nissan CEO says he is a Citizen of the World, French actor Gérard Depardieu prides himself as being a citizen of the world, President Barack Obama claims he is a Citizen of the World.

Setting aside those for whom these words simply mean their outlook goes far beyond the limits of their country, or that they intend to select where to pay their taxes, our attention turns to the growing number of those who choose to show their solidarity towards all humans across the world, the most destitute, as well as the ones who can claim exceptional humanistic actions. For them, being Citizens of the World is essentially a state of mind.

Some will go further: they will apply for their « World Citizens’ Card » and pride themselves in doing so! Most will support, better still, join humanistic NGOs; all will show their indignation and demonstrate without hesitation against any action against fundamental human rights across the world.

A small majority will go further and understand what the phrase « world citizenship » actually means. They will eventually realise they are bearers of « world sovereignty », equally with all human beings living on our planet at this time. These people are fully-fledged « Citizens of the World ». With them we will march ahead towards the political unity of the planet.

O.A.

Readings Suggestions

Olivier d’Argenlieu

The amazing power of World Citizens

“ I find in total harmony with this book.” Edgar Morin

Christopher Hamer

Principles of World Federation

Dr. Leo Rebello

World Without Wars

Edgar Morin

La Voie

Pour l’avenir de l’humanité

Jean-Claude Guillebaud

Le commencement d’un monde

Relaud Guillon

La Méditerranée À l’épreuve de la globalisation