World Citizens’ MARCH

Towards the political unity of the planet

CCM
Coordination Committee for the March
www.worldcitizenmarch.org
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editorial

KILOMETRE 17

According to a phrase which will sound familiar to long-distance runners, we now stand at Km 17 on our long March toward the Political Unity of the Planet.

In 2000, at the turn of this century, the start of the third millennium, the idea dawned in people’s minds. At Km Zero of the March, that is.

At Km 10, in 2010, « The Amazing Power of World Citizens » was published, with a very positive response from the public. So much so that in 2014, at Km 14, a few of us thought it relevant to launch their appeal to join « The World Citizens’ March » toward the political unity of the Planet. It bore fruit.

Here we stand today at Km 17. At this date, only a spattering of us are active across the world. A small number of men and women, intent on bringing the representatives of their countries to sign a New Chart of the United Nations. However, the numbers of Marchers is increasing every year. Actually, it doubled in 2016.

Our March goes on, with a confident look toward Km 100, the finish line of this enduring pursuit: we shall cross it with your support!

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Remind you of the 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 ideally to happen soon.
• Yes, totally!... I’m with you all the way.
Where are we today?

When « The Amazing Power of World Citizens » was published in 2010, it was immediately read and approved by Boutros Boutros Ghali, Secretary General to the United Nations from 1992 to 1996, who had tried to reform the United Nations Organisation on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. He also agreed to write the book’s Introduction.

Simultaneously, Edgar Morin expressed himself as « being in total harmony with the book ». Moreover, a number of people quoted in its pages gave the author their support; namely : Stéphane Hessel, Jacques Attali and Hubert Védrine, the latter describing the book as being « full of hope for the world ».

The Centre Français des Citoyens du Monde and, more notably, the World Citizens’ Assembly were quick to follow suit, and consequently a small group of militants decided to launch a new movement : « The March Of World Citizens towards the Political Unity of the Planet », directly inspired by « The Amazing Power of World Citizens ». That was first step of the March.

Having achieved this first objective, we are now looking at a number of issues. To start with : « The March : how many divisions ? », to quote Staline in 1935. We started off at 7, we were rapidly 70 and we shall soon reach 700. These will be the « Hope Marchers » across the five continents : men and women of today, intent on bringing representatives of their countries to sign the new United Nations Chart following its adoption by referendum, a document which will give birth to the World Federation of United Nations. At this point, there are but a few of us, scattered across the globe, but the History of Mankind is there to urge us on, and time works in our favour.

Has the March met its challenge? It is early yet to give a clear answer ; for if our size and determination allow us to exist and to express ourselves freely across the globe, we are still confronted with expressions of indifference, condescension, scorn or even open hostility.

Why is that so ? Because we are trouble-makers : we encourage our fellow-citizens to extend their vision beyond short-term issues. Every day and everywhere, ordinary citizens bends low beneath the load of daily chores... A load so heavy that it shuts out any gleam of hope. What about the others ? Politicians, the elected representatives, heads of State, all have their eyes fixed on short-term issues, on the outcome of coming elections (on their re-elections, or evictions at coming elections (trop lourd))..., As for journalists, professors or scientists, they limit themselves to analysing facts. In any case, they can only formulate ideas and comments based on daily events. Generally speaking, the political, administrative and cultural elite of our countries, no matter how learned they may be, are all structured on a given model based on the idea of national sovereignty. These men and women, for the most part, are unable to imagine that there may be political actors on this planet other than the 197 Nation-States existing today as a result of the march or History. These are the sovereign and independent Nation-States who knew no better in 1945 than to form a « Club » with no real power or actual means of action : the United Nations Organisation.

In this context the only ones to emerge are those who, because of their financial superiority, can afford to disregard peoples and borders, with the consequences we are witnessing today.

The March is far from having reached its objective, and the small team at its head are well aware of this. This is the reason why we are now resolutely starting out on the second step of the World Citizens’ March.

The second step of the March

Our strength is that we represent a movement, and that we can take our time in reaching our goal. Unless we are struck by some sort of planetary cataclysm, whatever its origin - climatic, nuclear, economic pandemic - the agenda of the March will unfold according to the following list. This gives us time for action.

In the second step of the March, we shall highlight six lines of action :

1 : continue increasing our numbers by activating an effect of contagion from our present members. Our warmest thanks to all of you for participating in this effort. This is absolutely essential to the March’s development.

2 : open and help develop a growing number of « relay posts » in as many locations as possible.

3 : Reinforce the links between the various Groups and Associations which follow the same objectives as we do, concentrating on the younger generation, on those who will build the world of tomorrow.

4 : Reach through the wall of indifference of Higher Education and Media to contact their more open-minded members.

5 : Start writing the new United Nations Chart with help from experts and researchers across the world showing interest in our cause.

6 : Strengthen the Coordination Committee of the March with the active representatives from all continents and set up a replacement system for outgoing members.

This is our road map for the years to come. We must not forget the ultimate goal of the World Citizens’ March, that is : the creation of the World Federation of Nations, to replace the 1945 UNO, which has clearly become obsolete, confronted with the planetary challenges of the XXIst century.

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It is generally considered, more or less confusedly, that the present political organisation of the Planet is outdated. It is based on the existence of 197 Nation-States dating back to historical times, all considering themselves sovereign and independent. The UN is a mere “club” founded in 1945 by 45 States, gradually developing into its present 193, with no power and no actual means of action. In spite of the goodwill and energy of its members, this club of dogooders has demonstrated its inefficiency in front of the global challenges of our time. It has become necessary to reform the political organisation of the planet and adapt it to the present world. Those who have given some thought to the question agree that it has become necessary to renounce the idea of absolute sovereignty of States and mark a difference between global, national and local sovereignties. Each of these should have its own appropriate political institutions. Consequently the federal structure is an obvious option at a global level, as it is already applied at a national level in a number of States.

How can we move on from the present UN to the World Federation of Nations?

Several approaches are possible. Amongst others, the “world revolution” advocated. In its time by globalist militants, in favour of the suppression of national States and their replacement by a single “World State” with absolutely no federal aspect whatsoever.

Another, more classical, approach, which has the advantage of clarity, recommends the election by universal suffrage of a “global Constituent Assembly”; its electoral college consisting, obviously, of the whole world population. Intellectually this suggestion seems attractive, as it sounds rational and can easily be understood by analogy with what happens in countries at the time of a change of government. However it is hardly likely at this date that anyone would dare attempt to set off such a procedure, the international community being what it is. Unless...

Unless the United Nations itself takes action, in view of the dangers threatening humankind and realising that the present organisation is unable to deal with them. This would be a fast and simple approach. The UN General Assembly would draft out a tentative project defining the organisation of a global institution on a federal basis. This Draft would then be submitted to the State Parliaments for approval. This would constitute the basis of a World Parliament. However at this time, the persistence and growing influence of nationalism in numerous States makes this type of scenario impossible to conceive.

It is widely thought that the political unity of the planet can only be set up gradually, one step at a time, similarly to the construction of the European Union. Europe made a modest entry into the world in 1951 through the constitution of the European Coal and Steel Community, which grouped only six Countries. As years went by, it developed into the European Community consisting of twenty-eight countries. The first European Assembly, held in 1952 through the action of the Steel and Coal Community became the European Parliamentary Assembly in 1957, then in 1962 the European Parliament. It is only in 1979 that the European representatives were elected by universal suffrage. Similarly, a Peoples’

« The International Community does not exist »

Hubert VÉDRINE
Le monde au défi
Fayard 2016
Assembly, with only a consultative status at the start, could be instituted through the General Assembly of the United Nations. In a first stage, it could simply be composed of representatives from national parliaments, but elections at a universal suffrage level could be rapidly set up. As we all know today, the European Union today is at an impasse: its member States are more than ever attached to their sovereignty. The same can be said of the United Nations Organisation, so long as its members insist on keeping their sovereignty. This gradual scenario, which one might call a « nibbling process » is hardly satisfying. It might sadly result in dragging along with no result in view.

According to some caution comments, before considering a global system of government, it would be wise to practice on more limited areas. It has been suggested to regroup States at Continent levels. This should facilitate the passage to a true global institution when the need arises. However new sovereignties may exacerbate nationalistic feelings, be they at the level of continents, and constitute a supplementary obstacle to global unity.

The World Citizens’ March has opted for another way. Those who initiated this movement had two concerns from the start: to know where we were going, and how to get there. We were soon aware of our destination: « the Federation of the United Nations », This was put forth in detail in our previous yearly magazines, especially in issue N°3, published in January 2016, and in our brochure « Join the World Citizens’ March ». This is why we chose to establish closer ties with the World Federalist Movement (WFM). How to reach our objective took us a little more time, and after much reflection, we are now able to formulate our opinion more clearly today.

The question is: how to manage a process of change without upsetting the rules. The realisation came to us that the time has come to stop dreaming. Let us leave the intellectuals and other concept manipulators to their thoughts, they would be of no use to us. The same can be said of political leaders and Heads of State, most of them prisoners in their squirrel cages, obsessed with short-term issues and the defense of the immediate interests of their countries. So, who can we rely on? Well, on those directly concerned, that is, the people themselves! It is therefore vital that our message, as well as our invitation to join the March be broadcast by the militants of the march, by word of mouth or otherwise. Only when our number has grown large enough within each country that the media and the political leaders will start to take notice.

That was the case for the environment two or three decades ago. When the attention towards our action reaches enough people inside one country - and simultaneously in many others - it will give rise to a public debate centered on the proposition of the « New Charter of the United Nations », drafted with the help of experts and scholars concerned by the subject. At this point, we will not be far from our goal, for, under the pressure of public opinion, a referendum will be launched on the project of the « new Charter of the United Nations ». This Charter will be adopted by a growing number of countries. When the limit fixed by the United Nations is reached the World Federation of Nations will be founded, replacing very naturally the 1945 UNO. This is the approach we have chosen to bring about the political unity of the Planet. This will not happen until several decades from now: only a global cataclysm might accelerate the process. However, this is the major political of XXI century!
Scenario for the march
Updated January 2017

This is a basic scenario. It can gain speed providing people become aware of the urgency to reform the United Nations.

Step 0 : Preliminary Approach

1998 - 2013

• Initializing the project: conception, contacts, exchange of views.

• Writing the book: « The Amazing Power of World Citizens ».

• Publishing the book and receiving positive response and support.
  (from Boutros Boutros Ghali, Jacques Attali and Hubert Vedrine.

• Approval from the International Register of World Citizens and support from the French Center of World Citizens and the Assembly of World Citizens.

Step 1 : Launching and Beginnings

2014 - 2016

• Launching of the « World Citizens’ March » in January 2014, on the occasion of a public tribute to Albert Camus on the premises of the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris.

• Setting up the World Citizens March website and publishing our brochure « Join the World Citizen’s March » both in French and in English.

• Launching the first issue of our yearly magazine in French and in English.

• First memberships registered, « militants» and « sympathisers ». : the first hundred Marchers !

• Issues N° 2 & 3 are published (January 2015 & 2016).

• Posting on the internet of « Viewpoint » a message from the Coordination Committee of the March., in accordance with the direction taken by the March.
Step 2 : The March’s Progress

- Setting up relay posts across the five continents through the support of our correspondents.
- Joint actions together with the WFM (World Federalist Movement) and other globalist movements.
- Increasing the March’s membership in a growing number of countries.
- Drawing up the « New Charter of the United Nations », with the help of experts from over the world international experts).
- Attracting a growing interest towards the March from universities, the media and the political world across the planet.
- Setting up referendums in leading countries to bring their populations to vote for the « the New Charter of the United Nations ».

Step 3 : Acceleration and outcome : Success !

- A growing number of political institutions across the world will adopt the New Charter of the United Nations.
- The populations of an increasing portion of the 197 UN countries will bring their support, followed by those who will have opted for the Federation in the meantime.
- As soon as the limit decided by the New Charter (presumably 50% of the global population) is reached, the « Federation of the United Nations » will be set up, applying the principles of the New Charter of the United Nations.
- Dissolution of the 1945 UNO, replaced by the Federation of the United Nations.
- The remaining States will gradually join the Federation as their population give their approval to the New Charter of the United Nations by referendum.

To quote Boutros Boutros Ghali’s premonitory words, « After UNO 1 (the Society of Nations) and UNO 2 (the 1945 United Nations), will come UNO 3, more efficient and more democratic ». Job done !
The workshop for

The New Charter of the United Nations

is in operation!

Anyone having read the previous pages can take the measure of the importance of setting up this workshop. Indeed the New Charter of the United Nations is at the very heart of the transformations process from the UNO to the World Federation of the United Nations resulting in the political unity of the planet.

It took several years – 1943 to 1945 – for the work team appointed by the victors of WWII to draft and finalise the Charter that led to the founding of the present UNO in 1945. Similarly, it will need several years’ hard work for the best expert lawyers and international politicians to draft and finalise the New Charter which is to give birth to the World Federation of the United Nations.

Starting off on this second stage, we are planning to establish the necessary contacts and we give our thanks in advance to those who will bring us their help. We will form a « pilot group » in charge of coordination, chaired by a world renowned university personality. It will consist ot a dozen members from various areas of competence and sensitivity to optimize its task..

We can already confirm that the new Charter will refer to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and that it will contain the wording required to endow the World Federation of the three components without which the global community cannot normally survive and develop:

- a set of Rules to be observed across the planet
- an Executive Authority to see that these rules are observed, and to work for the interest of all
- a Representation of the human population to draft the rules and controls the Executive Authority.

These words have a true ring of Democracy...

We are not naive : we are perfectly aware that, political leaders and upholders of the principle of sovereignty will strongly oppose the spread of such a subversive text within their own countries, the risk of temptation might prove too great. However the energy of the March will spread, dictatorships will gradually weaken and totalitarian régimes will eventually collapse, as has been recorded through history, reaching up to recent times.

Whether you are an ordinary citizen, concerned with the idea of democracy and global solidarity, or a well-known expert, or a motivated and competent researcher, we invite you to join us in our work. Just e-mail us at contact@worldcitizensmarch.org We will then contact you by return.

The future is before us ! The political unity of the planet will come to be with your action, and thanks to you.

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