

MULTICULTURAL CITIES FACING CLIMATE CHANGE

“CHANGE MINDS, NOT THE CLIMATE”
(UNESCO Strategy against Climate change)



© ISOCARP Northern Lights over Bodø

No citizens, no cities! From the Antiquity we know that cities were built for the activities of human beings always choosing the best situation. But, from the end of the 15th century, discoveries, trade between different continents, West Indies and East Indies companies, Silk roads and Spice roads, new ships, conducted human beings to build coastal cities along seas and oceans. And, from the 16th century, urban planning appeared to have wide squares and avenues for the monuments to be better put into light. And every people built in the cities monuments and houses in accordance with their cultures.

Multicultural cities, for UNESCO, are very often the historic centres of those cities, testimonies of several centuries when different populations came and established them besides the other populations or in accordance with them within multicultural neighbourhoods.

Melaka, along the Spices Road between West and Far East is a perfect example of that kind of multicultural cities; tangible and intangible cultural heritage, monuments and private houses, languages, cooking and other traditions, are present everywhere in the city.



© UNESCO Christ Church in Melaka



© UNESCO Along the Straits of Malacca

But there are also multicultural cities that present a recent real cultural diversity due to migrations from the end of the 20th century, such as Linköping, Sweden, where more and more citizens do not practice Swedish language to correctly understand and learn at school. So, the city was registered by UNESCO on the Learning Cities Network. Some others can also be multicultural cities during only one year, a few days or only one day.

On our planet the climate has always been changing at its proper rhythm, but nowadays the trend of climate change knows a dangerous acceleration as a threat against life on Earth. We must consider SDG 13 relating to climate and SDG 11 relating to sustainable cities.

How and why a global NGO such as ISOCARP could and must contribute in the reflection on the way to avoid such an evolution, since multicultural cities have certainly different ideas about climate change and a lot of assets to do it?

Around the question “can or could we change the evolution face to climate change” 3 possible ways (or 3 obliged paths?) concerning that important issue: firstly we will consider a fact becoming today a threat due to human action; secondly, we cannot say anything else that culture is the future for sustainable cities respecting all life, the climate being a part of our life; thirdly we must be conscious of the responsibility of all and each one of us towards climate change or not.

I - CLIMATE CHANGE A FACT BECOMING A THREAT DUE TO HUMAN ACTION

1 - The role of Science is a basic one considering the progress from the MDG to the SDG that are almost the double. Conducting a reflection on that difference, communication and information will help in being conscious of the challenge multicultural cities have to face.

Cape Town is a multicultural city due on the one hand, to its past, as an important harbour, particularly when Prince Alfred, the second son of the Queen Victoria, came to affirm the domination of the United Kingdom (to wider the photo allows to see the very important “Victoria and Alfred Hotel”). And on the other hand, thanks to multicultural tourism because of the proximity of the Cape of Good Hope, a lot of people can admire the landscape and be sensitized to the danger for such a heritage to be overflood with the climate change, the coastal cities being among the first to disappear!

Science linked with environment can play a basic role in advocacy demonstrating that more and more CO² in the atmosphere will conduct to a temperature that will have, in a very next future, as effect, on the ice to disappear into the oceans, the level of which will be higher than the current one...

So, **communication and information** are basic action to open minds and make understand, thanks to various special information, flyers in the hotels, training seminars, guided visits around the cities, that it is easier to “change minds, not the climate” as says the UNESCO Strategy against climate change.

Cultural tourism as well as **ecotourism** offer also interesting opportunities to visit sanctuaries for different kinds of animals and sensitize on the richness of natural diversity alongside the ocean, sanctuaries that could also be victims of climate change. Scientific information can be provided on the occasion of those visits, making the sanctuary the origin of a multicultural network, and the city near the reserve becomes a multicultural city.



© G. Marin 14 February 2018 CAPE TOWN from Table Mountain

Birds of Eden Sanctuary is the largest Sanctuary of the world with a big lot of wonderful birds coming from different places, located not very far from the seaside and which will have to face to disappear in case of climate change. Those birds are coming from private collections or now closed zoos



© G. Marin Birds of Eden Sanctuary on the Indian Ocean at the East of Knisnya

The city of Plettenberg, as well as the city of Knisnya, can play a decisive role in informing the citizens and the visitors of the danger of climate change for such irreplaceable sanctuaries so close to the coast. Citizens and visitors from different countries give to those cities a multicultural dimension and could constitute a network relaying the information in the world.

2 - ISOCARP action and activities such as the UPATs, the YPPs, ISOCARP Institute, can contribute, using serious scientific information, in such a good way since, at least the time of a session, cities that welcome these activities are multicultural cities: the participants are coming from the different regions of the world and when they come back home they have the possibility to share the conclusions of the seminar with many parts in the world through their families, associations or social networks.

UPATs: Urban Planning Advisory Teams, are, may be, the best example of multicultural cities at least for one week. They offer 3 very basic assets: the team must gather planners from different regions and different aims in planning, the team is in contact with the population, living very often in multicultural neighbourhoods, young planners from different countries, are invited to attend the meetings on the reports during the week. A good opportunity to disseminate scientific information on climate change!



© ISOCARP, Gaza, West Bank, ISOCARP members of the UPAT coming from: Austria, Belgium, India, the Netherlands, United States, Palestine

YPPs: Young Planning Professionals workshop offer another kind of assets. They are gathering young planners who are not only members of ISOCARP, what can widen the cultural diversity of the seminar, but they also are very often organized previous the annual congress and located in a place very close to that of the congress. By the way, they will reach the networks of the participants in the workshop and in the congress, what makes the city of the congress a very multicultural city that can disseminate scientific information on climate change all over the world.



© ISOCARP YPPs Workshop Durban 2016 September
“Social Dimension of the inner-city urban regeneration”

The YPPs workshop held previous the Durban Congress could be an excellent example, as well as the YPPs workshops held on the occasion of the Bodö Congress 2018.

3 - The 3rd Conference HABITAT III held in 2016 in Quito, adopted Agenda 2030, giving many years to face the challenges to overcome for all people can live in urban or peri-urban environment.

Quito, multicultural city registered on the UNESCO List of Cultural Heritage, has been built in the 16th Century on the ancient site of an Inca city. The historic centre of the city is an example of very best conservation in South America. Testimonies of the “Baroque school of Quito”, the monuments, as well as the houses shops are multicultural since they present, in addition to indigenous art, Spanish, Flemish, Italian and Moorish arts.



© UNESCO Marielle Richon, Francesco Bandarin, Marielle Richon

Quito, named “The Cradle of the Pre-Colombian” cultures, is a real multicultural city, registered on the UNESCO List of Cultural Heritage, that presents monuments and houses testimonies of different cultures along the centuries, particularly from the Baroque period developed at the same time in Europe and South America.



© UNESCO Marielle Richon, Marielle Richon, Francesco Bandarin

The city of Quito, welcoming the UN HABITAT III meeting, hosting people from all over the world, became a multicultural city at two levels: monuments and old practices of cultural heritage and, thanks to HABITAT III, science and our future, towards the aims of the Agenda 2030 for planning. Participants in the UN HABITAT III meeting, coming from all over the world, are a second network that can sensitize, as scientific experts, and citizens of the world, from a multicultural city, on the risks of climate change.

What can I do, as a simple citizen, but citizen of the world, face to this heritage that could disappear, to contribute to “change minds not the climate”?

II - CULTURE AS A FUTURE FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND NEIGHBOUROODS

1 - More and more multicultural cities and neighbourhoods, a matter of fact around the world. UNESCO in charge of culture, gave us some cultural conventions and recommendations relating to urban landscapes. So, planning must consider UNESCO priorities, such as Africa, gender equality, fighting against poverty, youth.

Florence, Tuscany, Italy, city on the list of Cultural Heritage since 1982, presents an eight centuries history that has built a unique urban landscape as well as a kind of special minds of citizens. Particularly from the 13th century, different monuments can testify of such a long evolution. The Palazzo Vecchio, the entrance of which we can see below with a copy of the David by Michelangelo, is one of these monuments on the Piazza Della Signoria. The Piazza is the most alive in Florence and many young people are there all along the day and the evening. A good multicultural square.



© UNESCO Francesco Bandarin, Entrance of the Palazzo Vecchio

The Historic Centre of Florence was built on the site of an Etruscan city, due to its excellent situation along the River Arno. It is located on the left riverside, at around 50 meters above the level of the oceans. On the right riverside, the Oltrarno, the Piazzale Michelangelo, offers different good perspectives of the historic centre of Florence from the Arno riverside. We can observe some towers such as the Tower of the Palazzo Vecchio, the cupola of the Church San Lorenzo and the white octagonal roof of the Baptistry, the Campanile, the Duomo of Santa Maria del Fiore.



© C. Bourgeois Florence, Italy, historic centre from Piazzale Michelangelo

The city of Florence is also known as the cradle of the Renaissance from the 15th century, during the period of the Medici. But, surrounding the historic Centre, we can see testimonies of the 14th century wall such as the Porta Romana on the right riverside near the Boboli Gardens.

By the way, Florence is a multicultural city and some festivals such as the Florentine May, musical festival, welcome a wide lot of visitors.

However, if we do not take care, may be with the climate change a large part of this Cultural Heritage could disappear from the landscape! And may be one day visitors could only admire the towers of the city and see a large part of this amazing so called “tangible” Cultural Heritage, from some coral viewers departing from a lovely marine located not far from the Piazzale Micheangelo... Some wonderful places could not be visited with a coral viewer, such as the San Lorenzo Library with the whole hand written Books of the Bible exhibited, all open, in the main room of the Library...



© C. Bourgeois Florence, C. Marin Canaries, Coral viewer

Danger on which everyone has to be conscious and sensitize the others. Risk is not only for the others.

2 - The role of women, associations, decision makers, is basic to promote links and synergies between cities and communities to set up active networks playing advocacy near public or private decision makers.

Save Guinean Environment is a NGO sensitized to non-wished migrations, city centres becoming poor and poor and degradation of the environment, since the three facts are linked, and it is crucial to change the outlook on the matter.



© ONG/SEG Action to sensitize on a clean environment along the River Thokou

The interest of the forests is justified by the CO² they can absorb what is basic against climate change.



© ONG/SEG (Save Guinean Environment) Reforesting action.

Conakry, as UNESCO World Book Capital offers the NGO the opportunity to have a wider network to spread the information and, due the link between the city and its environment, avoid unwished migrations.

The International Association of Charities

Randa, a migrant coming from Algeria in Milan, Italy, asked the association to have training seminars on Italian culture and history to be able to help their children pupils in an Italian school. In addition, those mothers wished to know Italian culture to have a better quality of life and to understand daily life and customs in Italy.

Since IAC is an official partner of UNESCO, the *raison d'être* of which is “building peace in the minds of men and women”, the action was named “experience for peace”. The local branch of the association organized workshops where women from different cultures can work and share their feelings.



© IAC/MILANO PONTE LAMBRO Meetings, solidarity, shared opinions: paths of peace

At the end of the experience, the women used to share their meals, sometimes Italian, sometimes from other different countries, given another multicultural aspect concerning citizens and not only the city.

Man and the Biosphere, Sanctuaries to be visited such as Balambagan, Java, Indonesia.

Balambagan was registered on the UNESCO List of Biosphere Reserve in 2016, but, since 1980, there were three national parks and one nature reserve. They are different kinds of terrestrial, coastal and marine landscapes. The Reserve practices also ecotourism, a good mean to sensitize on dangers of an uncontrolled tourism for nature and mankind.

The Balambagan transition area has a population of around 1,5 million inhabitants who practice agriculture and agroforestry consisting in teck and mahogany plantations. But the Reserve is located around 60 km from Situbondo, the city that organizes visit tours in the Reserve and which can play the role of multicultural city at the centre of a network of tourists who could disseminate all around them the information on climate change for the life of human beings.



© UNESCO/Balambangan Biosphere Reserve/Mangrove Bandealit-Balambangan (Java, Indonesia)



© UNESCO Balambangan ecotourism

3 - Social and Human Sciences Sector of UNESCO, through its program Management of Social Transformations (MOST). MOST is UNESCO's intergovernmental science programme on social transformations, putting into light that for every city, the link between social transformations and respect of cultural landscapes and values.



© UNESCO Community Learning Centre, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, promoting Community Learning Centres for Lifelong Learning

To implement this program the Culture Sector and Education Sector are associated and supported by the National Commission of Mongolia. The subject of the seminar is the Status of Community Learning Centres. The seminar gathered members from formal and non-formal education, experts from the Cultural Heritage Centre, institutions, to share good practices that can help lifelong learning education in Mongolia. In addition, the seminar is open to all generations for the empowerment of anyone and of the whole communities.

“The National Review Seminar on the Status of Community Learning Centres represents a unique opportunity to review the current status of CLCs, assess past achievements and address future opportunities and challenges, as well as explore potential synergies and linkages between CLCs and existing cultural programs in Mongolia.”

Since participants are coming from UNESCO, Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Sport of Mongolia, and gathered different experts, it was considered that the event could offer a good opportunity for the promotion of cultural diversity.

For a moment, Ulaanbaatar could be one of those multicultural cities connected with the world thanks to the personal networks of speakers and participants.

What can I do and did I do, as a simple citizen, but citizen of the world, to contribute to maintaining the results and the richness of cultural diversity in action, to change minds not the climate?

III - RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL AND EACH ONE OF US

1 - The importance of quality education

Conakry, capital of the Republic of Guinea

The city was named World Book Capital for 2017 by UNESCO, due to its educational program focussing on community involvement. In addition, the program takes into account the SDG particularly SDG 4 “Quality education” and “Youth” according to the UNESCO’s Strategy for Youth in Africa.



© UNESCO Conakry named World Book Capital for 2017

On 23 April 2017, anniversary of the date when Shakespeare and Cervantes passed away, the “World Book and Copyright Day” offered Conakry the opportunity to open its mission. On that occasion, as

everywhere in the world, it is a great moment to promote libraries, edition, bookshops, cultural institutes and here, the diversity and richness of African literature. A lot of cultural activities are implemented, and numerous African authors were present.



© RFI/Coralie Pierret. At the Federico Mayor school, pupils training to challenge correct reading.

What a good opportunity to have books and copybooks with concepts and information on the dangers of climate change to sensitize the children on the matter, using some simple words to be correctly understood!

Linköping Sweden part of the “Learning cities” network because of its evolutive situation due to migrants more and more numerous for around a decade. In the multicultural neighbourhoods the pupils coming from migration have less good results than the others, since Swedish is not their mother tongue. And the parents cannot help their children and even cannot find a lucrative job due to the language.

The program “Learning together”, innovative multicultural and intergenerational approach in Linköping, implemented in 2013, aims to help the children and their parents. So, parents will be able to understand better Swedish and help their children to reach the pedagogic aims.

By the way, Linköping is an active multicultural city and an example for other cities that have to face the same challenge for migrants at school and their parents to find a decent job.

As everybody knows, it is impossible for a child, even an adult, to learn at the same time a word and its meaning: to efficiently correct understand a concept, it has to be explained in the mother tongue. It is why the program “Learning how to learn” which is also for the parents will allow them to help their children to understand the concepts through a quality education towards Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Agadir, Morocco, offers trade, fishing, seaside, tourism, encounters between cultures all year long thanks to more than 300 sunny days in the year.

Agadir is an old Berberian city located in the south of the country, now known as the first seaside resort of the country. Even destroyed by the earthquake of 1960, it was rebuilt on the same site because of the interest of its situation in a wide bay along the Atlantic Ocean. At the top of the hill, a walled granary reminds us that the city is the place where all agricultural products of the Sous are coming to be sold.

As we saw, Quito is yet a multicultural city; but it was the occasion to be a multicultural city due the people participating in the Conference and in ISOCARP workshop. Any participant, coming from a different country, could share that major moment for planning and housing through his/her personal network. And, may be, some of them thought to evoke climate change.

A report on talks relating to “social innovation process” in some countries, in total agreement with the aim of UNESCO: “*put human beings at the centre*”, says that could be a good way to “solve different social issues”. Following up this idea, personal networks could work on this way. As we know, the city is a city because of the presence of citizens! And urban population is over 50% and regularly increasing.

For many years, ISOCARP was involved in UN-HABITAT activities such as different sessions of the World Urban Forum. During the 7th session of the WUF held in Medellin, two members of ISOCARP were elected to chair an important working group: Shipra Narang Suri, Vice President representing ISOCARP at UN-HABITAT and ISOCARP Past President Ismael Fernandez-Mejía. Those moments were very important since numerous organizations attended the Forum. For the first time, professionals (housing planners, architects, planners, landscape architects), civil society, as well as the private sector were involved in the preparation of the draft of the New Urban Agenda to be adopted in 2016.

As it could be written for Quito, any of the cities hosting UN-HABITAT was, at the moment, an important multicultural city connected with the world until the simple citizens, thanks to their media, social or personal networks.

3 - To realize those objectives, a concrete involvement of all ISOCARP members

UPATs and particularly those held in relation with the topic of the Bodø congress can put into light and action our 3 beacons, guidelines for our action: “Being useful to the others” (Max Van Den Berg), “Involving people” (Peter Jonquière), “Knowledge *for* Better Cities” moto of ISOCARP, to sensitize about the dangers of climate change.

The three UPATs held from April to June 2018, held in Ningbo Ximalu District, China, Durban, South Africa and Guangzhou, China, had the opportunity to become during a week, special multicultural cities and act to open minds against climate change and, why not, adopt a short declaration on the matter to be in the Magazine of the UPAT presented during the Bodø Congress. UPATs are asked by Municipalities and the role of the Mayors of the cities is always crucial and can help to disseminate the information.



© ISOCARP Ningbo Ximalu District, China, April 2018

The initiative “One Belt, One Road”, a project of the Ningbo URBAN Planning and Design Institute, that aimed to implement a vision for the renovation of Xinmalu Historical District being also urban and ecological for a better quality of life for any citizen, as well as useful for international trade and cultural exchange.



© ISOCARP Durban, South Afrika, April-May 2018

They are the eThekweni Municipality and the City of Durban that invited a UPAT the theme of which is “Inner City Financial Urban Developments Models and Funding”. Durban that, as multicultural city has welcomed the ISOCARP Congress 2016, found another opportunity to be, during a week, a special



© ISOCARP Guangzhou, China, June 2018

The Guangzhou Urban Planning and Design Survey Research Institute asked ISOCARP to implement a UPAT in the multi-centuries and multicultural city of Guangzhou. The topic “Guangzhou Historic and Cultural Corridors” added the opportunity to act also as a special multicultural city during a week and, according to the topic of the Bodø Congress, write, in the Magazine that will be presented, to add a brief declaration on fighting against climate change.

Since UPATs seminars are organized in Partnership with the Mayors of the cities and the addition of being a citizen and a member of a non-governmental organization, offered an important asset to inform different networks.

YPPs and particularly YPPs held in the framework of the Bodø Congress

As for the UPATs, the Young Planning Professionals’ Workshops had the opportunity to consider climate change according to the same 3 beacons quoted above for the UPATs.

The YPPs that took place in Kristiansand, Norway, previous to the Bodø Congress aimed to consider New Kristiansand as a possible “sustainable polycentric urban model” for the city and for the Agder County, Kristiansand is a part of.



© ISOCARP Cool Planning in Southern Norway, 2018

The workshop had, in addition, the asset to be part of the Congress and reach not only the participants, but also, through publications and exhibitions, make place to wider information and discussions.

The YYPs held in Bodø, the city hosting the 54th Congress, gave the city the opportunity to be a multicultural city on a double scale, a permanent multicultural city and a week long special one, due to the diversity of the participants coming from all over the world.



© ISOACARP Bodø, Cool Planning in Northern Norway October 2018

During a short period of three days, the YPPs' workshop, thanks to an international team of participants, experts and lecturers, in close cooperation with the local coordinators, gave the city the opportunity to share the results all over the world through a lot of international, national or personal networks, an excellent occasion to inform on the dangers of climate change for a Northern city, so close to the Melting Arctic sea ice.

But, which could be the interest of such major weeks working, if it is to be vanished in a few years?

We can easily imagine an Iceberg, like a cruise vessel, leaving the Melting Arctic sea ice, sailing towards the sunny places of the hemisphere, becoming a cruise ship, disseminating fresh water along its trip, and finishing its trip as a small boat in a Marina such Agadir Marina!



© ISOCARP, YPPs held in Glasgow (UK) in October 2016
"Rethinking Clyde Waterfront"

By the way, for whom, such a wonderful job as made the YPPs participants in Glasgow, to rethink the River Clyde Waterfront, should have been useful? The mouth of the Clyde should be one of the first to come back to the Ocean, due to climate change.

Bodø ISOCARP Congress itself is a crucial moment among ISOCARP activities

The city can offer such a lot of amazing landscapes due to its site and situation and is, at the same time becoming a model for an important Arctic city, the population of which is increasing with a number of citizens overpassing 50000.



© ISOCARP City of Bodø, Norway, hosting the 54th ISOCARP Congress

The Mayor of Bodø, Ida Pinnerød, could say, in her words of welcome to Bodø “When we develop our communities for the future, we must do it in a smart way. How we live, move, and meet each other will prove even more important when facing big global challenges such as climate change. The key focus here in Bodø is to develop our community together **with and for** the people living here.”

All ISOCARP activities and action must be invested and the publication of a Journal in the framework of the ISOCARP Institute should be welcome to inform on the coming dangers of climate change.

Then, I can ask myself about What can I do, as a simple citizen, but citizen of the world, correctly informed on the danger of climate change for Human kind, to contribute to change minds not the climate?

A Declaration adopted in Bodø after the UPATs, YPPs’ workshops and venue of the Congress, involving all ISOCARP members, is a good mean not to forget to think of our role to change the outlook on climate change everywhere in the world, could be published in the ISOCARP Institute Journal and disseminate all over the world.

CONCLUSION

The assets to be a multicultural city to reply to all those interrogations.

According to the proposal of this article, its issues, and of the priorities and programs of the different sectors of UNESCO, we could say that the presented overview shows that multicultural cities are an important worldwide network of associations or personal networks.

Multicultural cities for eight centuries or half a millennium, multicultural cities for one year, a week or even a day, all those cities are testimonies of the life and daily life of citizens, the raison d’être of any city. So, which could be the assets linking all those cities, that could be so crucial to successfully fight against climate change, and the basic role played by citizens in any case?

As we can see, they are testimonies of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, according to UNESCO's definition from the Convention of 1972. Monuments, houses for trade, all human settlements the value of which is unique, can be registered by UNESCO on the World Heritage List.

From the 16th century, urbanism provided better cities since all monuments were put into light thanks to wide avenues, squares, parks. But urbanism has also followed the evolution for a better quality of life for all, particularly according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Then, multicultural cities used to link Nature and Culture, the two dimensions where human beings are living, as a whole ecosystem. The UNESCO's program "Man and the Biosphere" conducted to set up Reserves and also Sanctuaries in order to protect plants or animals face to the dangers of non-authorized trade and deforestation or bad treatments towards animals, as we saw in the sanctuaries of South Afrika. So, we have multicultural cities in the transition area and in the cities near the Biosphere Reserves, even the Geoparks, that can sensitize the visitors.

Cities became more and more multicultural during the 20th century due to the migrations, in particular unwished migrations between continents, within a continent or within a country, the city being really attractive for some rural population, particularly the young. Social Inclusion, following up increasing migrations, is an asset since, on the one hand, migrants receiving education to correctly understand can have find a decent job for the adults or have better results for the children. But always linking education and intercultural dialogue, as we saw in the IAC program. So, migrants provide the city a better economical development, and on the other hand, are a way towards tolerance and mutual understanding. Is not this a good way towards a culture of peace against all kinds of conflicts, ***"Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defences of peace must be constructed."***

As we could note, every time culture is a part of all conducted actions and for UNESCO Culture must be seen as urban future and multicultural cities are the cities of the future. If we consider the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG 11 aims towards cities we need for the future. However, as it was demonstrated during the Interactive Round Table, held prior to the Portland Congress, according to a systemic approach, no SDG can be implemented alone, and SDG 11 and multicultural cities are particularly linked with SDG 4 "Quality education", SDG 1&2 "No poverty", "Zero hunger", SDG 16 "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions", as we could read all along this article.



© UNESCO 17 Sustainable Development Goals



© ISOCARP, ISOCARP-UNESCO Special Event, Portland, Oregon, USA, October 2017

Hawa Deme, Mali, Co-founder of UMUGANDA (Working together) AFRIKA was the Special guest for the Event “Towards Sustainable Cities We Need: An Obligated Way to Save Life on Our Lovely Planet”. She insisted on “UNESCO’s Soft Power around the Sustainable Development Goals” and on the impossibility to implement any one of them alone. Here we see her, between Nicholas You, Chair of the Interactive Round Table, and Ric Stephens, ISOCARP President and Moderator during the Interactive Round Table.

Such a reflection conducts us to the UNESCO Strategy concerning human beings and climate change:

“Change minds, not the climate”.

Mother Earth is calling!

**Could you be so kind, Dear Human Beings,
To pay me a few minutes of your attention?
“Mother Earth”,**

As a lot of you heard, I heard the Ocean calling, last Summer.
but it seems to me, who welcome him to live and who very well know him,
that he was disappointed not to being better understood.
So, I have to help him by calling you too.

As I am, since an important mutation occurred, the cradle of Human Beings,
I have the feeling of a kind of responsibility,
in this accomplishment of life that was, by the way, given to me,
face to the lack of conscious of Humans, to whom I also give housing.
Some of them even say “Mother Earth”!

SO IT IS WITH A PREOCCUPATION FOR THEIR SURVIVAL IN DANGER

that I address Humans as if they were my own children.
Then, I am thus trying to have towards them a good Mother's attitude,
with a view to go along with her children until they are responsible teenagers,
by referring, in a first time, to their hearths.

ON BEHALF OF HUMANITY SURVIVAL AND NOT OF MY OWN SURVIVAL

“Respecting the Other as an other myself”
looks like a concept too much difficult to be understood,
except teaching it from early childhood,
thanks to your education of loving parents, then to School Education...

ON BEHALF OF LIFE, UNIQUE PRIVILEGE WITHIN OUR GALAXY

“Respecting all lives” (UNESCO, Manifesto 2000)
seems sometimes not important for a lot of you.
Are you conscious of the whole exceptional conditions
that allowed the “sapiens sapiens” Human whom you are
to have the benefit of a privileged place on Mother Earth?

ON BEHALF OF SPRING WATER SOURCE OF LIFE, FOR IT, NOT TO KILL

Respecting that source of life, gift to Humans, and which is slowly-slowly destroyed.
I will not miss water, but Human beings, even the richest or the most powerful will miss fresh water,
since no more potable, or because they will be overflowed, thanks to the climate change.
Who remember that the top of Montmartre Hill, in Paris, was an island?
Nobody, since Humans were not yet on Planet Earth...

ON BEHALF OF THE WIND, SORRY TO PROVIDE DESERT OR DELUGE

Did you think of the climate change which is going quicker and quicker,
thanks to selfishness of some ones not respecting the others?
Did you think to educate your children on the water cycle
and on the forest that can provide its proper rain, if it is not destroyed...
I knew a lot of other climate changes, this is my destiny,
But, then, the Human who has Science and Wisdom was not yet here...

ON BEHALF OF BASIC RESOURCES FOR HUMAN KIND

Please share with equity Sun, Air, Fresh Water...
But, also, do not overpass using mineral resources
since they look like progress or wonderful, but non-useful, even negative buildings,
as it is the case when using sand present everywhere
and, by the way, avoiding it to protect seaside or riversides and the basement of buildings,
as it should be its vocation.

ON BEHALF OF REMEMBRANCE AND MUTUAL RESPECT BETWEEN HUMAN BEINGS

Please do not destroy human life,
accomplishment of an evolution integrated in the Nature of which you are a part,
fruit from irreversible privileged moments, of which you seem not to be conscious.
My proper "life" will go on, as it was before Humans appear,
but, I do appreciate your company and it is my pleasure
to hearing you telling "protecting the Planet",
that corresponds, in fact, to protect your own survival...

ON BEHALF OF HUMAN HERITAGE ANYWHERE VISIBLE ON MOTHER EARTH

Kindly act for safeguarding cultural diversity of which heritage is testifying:
all Human Beings you are have right to an equal dignity,
but your genuine richness is the richness of your diversity.
"It is because it was me, it is because it was him" could we learn one day!

ON BEHALF OF HUMAN HERITAGE LOCATED WITHIN EARTH OR WATER

Since I am welcoming you, a part of your heritage is underground,
necropolis or cities built one above the others,
as well as a part of them is underwater,
testifying your activities along the rivers, all over the world,
or your courage to face the challenge of the Ocean!
Do not allow it disappearing forever!

ON BEHALF OF FORGOTTEN TRADITION BECAUSE OF MODERNITY

Please respect knowledge and cleverness of those who came before you.
When the Sahara was a sea, maybe you forgot it, since you were not then,
the Albian strata kept that water, today underground,
allowing nowadays to provide with water cattle crossing by the desert
or palm-trees oasis providing shadow to fruit-trees and cultures
and, by the way, allowing urban life within such unwelcoming places.

ON BEHALF OF HUMAN CREATIVITY ON PLANET EARTH

Since your mind is associated with your hand,
when the inch finger was able to face the other ones,
allowing you to invent, make tools, transfer your skills and knowledge to your children,
and enrich their environment, inventions and discoveries never ended succeeding one another
"hand aims to transforming the idea" ...
Do not allow Human creativity to face a deadline!

ON BEHALF OF SOLIDARITY WITH MILLIONS OR A BILLION REFUGEES

Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence
and knowing how to be in partnership with those suffering selfishness or local conflicts,
that are living women, children, men, by the wayside along the hopeless roads...

You did know how to do so, seven decades ago!
So, please think to welcome them with dignity and take into account the wish of their majority which
is to be able to stay or come back home.
Humans, please become conscious before it is too much late!

AT LAST ON BEHALF OF CLEVERNESS, THE PROPER CHARACTER OF HUMAN KIND

Humans “sapiens sapiens”, Humans who have in heritage wisdom of cleverness,
will you know how to use it for the benefit of the coming generations,
in order for them to be informed on the basic and universal values
that carry with them a hope of peace?

**On the opposite, if you forget what is your humanity made of,
Which should be
the meaning of the coulomb and its olive-tree branch,
the colors of the Rainbow,
if Peace has no more sense?**

**Your Mother, Planet Earth
Who worries about your Future.**



**© G. Marin Birds of Eden Sanctuary near Plettenberg
South Afrika**

“Mother Earth is calling!” proposed by Janine Marin, ISOCARP Representative near UNESCO; on the occasion of COP21 held in Paris.

**Janine MARIN
ISOCARP Representative near UNESCO**