

# ***.APRED***

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## **"Peace first, peace only!"**

### Annual Report 2018 - 2019

*(June 12, 2018 - July 31, 2019)*  
*The online version will contain photos*

*Thanks to Johnny Clegg, 1953 -2019*

#### **State of peace in the World** *(Looking at reality)*

For soon 75 years, Europe has enjoyed a state of peace unmatched through history. Substantial ethical and institutional, democratic and educational, scientific and humanist progresses partly explain this almost total absence of war on the continent. Taking peace further in quality, extending it to all humanity through research, civic or political participation, henceforth making the tools and values of peace – and the happiness that goes with it – easily available to all is at the core of **.APRED's** work.

#### **Participation** *(Actions for reality)*

**.APRED** is called "*participative* institute for the progress of peace" because we all are authors of peace. Yet peace being serenity, there is within it no duty to partake in its progress – or at least if peace is sufficient or un-threatened. Conversely, there is a duty to preserve and to avoid disturbing peace. Nevertheless and at present times, any sound historical analysis shows that humanity, you and I, can and must still progress to achieve peace and to attain for it a sufficient degree of quality and lasting, sustainability, or even better to reach peace as universally as may be. The present climate crisis makes this need to enhance peace and its methods all the more pressing. Or on a more absolute basis, humanity needs and always will need peace to perpetuate its very existence. So forth: you are called upon to participate in the progress of peace, and to the best of your abilities and means. The knowledge and tools needed for the preservation, progress and achievement of peace, as developed inter alia by **.APRED**, are now being made readily available to you and all. This annual report is a vigorous call for your generous participation in humanity's future and in **.APRED's** vision, a call to sustain its projects and tool making processes, for our common human future.

*If the world is a human work, it is high time to succeed!*

### **Work accomplished**

*(Synthesis and continuity)*

#### **I. Common work at the United Nations** *(World united)*

- a. Cooperating with two NGOs – bravo and thanks to them! –, the work we do at the UN allows us to disseminate analyzes and the progresses they bring about, to give them practical meaning and to approach the authorities of the non-militarized countries, thus preparing a conference of the army-less countries. This preparation is, if not confidential, at least done discreetly. We will gladly inform you more. As part of the reorganization of the board, a working group will be set up to overview our diplomatic work and the preparation of this conference.
- b. **Center for Global Nonkilling** (CGNK).  
Thanks to the collaboration with CGNK – with our strongest appreciation! –, we have access to the United Nations in Geneva for works on the rights to life and to peace, nonkilling and

nonmilitarisation. Working on the right to life, at the very substance of our existence, is particularly gratifying. It also strengthens the work for peace, life being both "source and fruit of peace".

- ◆ In the concerned period, we participated for 21 countries to their Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Human Rights before the Human Rights Council. This peer to peer review takes place for four years for every country; some 40 countries pass yearly. NGOs make submissions (reports) and CGNK does so for the rights to life and peace, highlighting the areas where these rights may progress. The ones done for the right to peace reinforce knowledge and practices on public peace policies. We made submissions for Mauritius \*, Costa Rica \*, San Marino \*, Lesotho, Spain and Eritrea. We made 15 more smaller submissions as part of CGNK's campaign for the universal ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (New Zealand – Niue \* and the Cook Islands \* – North Macedonia, Dominican Republic and Vanuatu \*, Dominica \*, Equatorial Guinea, Qatar, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, North Korea and Angola, Grenada \*, Guyana, Kiribati \* and Kenya). Countries marked with a \* are non-militarized. The UPR is an ideal opportunity to build contacts with the representatives of these countries to bring them together for the conference of non-armed countries. Lesotho is included in this list because there is a group of scientists and other stakeholders in the country campaigning for the abolition of the Lesotho Defence Force.

- ◆ Presentation of 17 oral statements to the Human Rights Council either for these countries or for topics related to the rights to life, peace and *conscientious objection*.

- ◆ All these documents and the videos of our interventions are available either on the websites of the UN or of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or for the most recent ones on request.

- ◆ Participation in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mauritius and at other activities at the UN, including the Geneva Peace Talks and Geneva Peace Week.

- ◆ Two reports are available on the work at the UN. A general report, presenting the first three years with the Universal Periodic Review (2015-2018) and a journal listing all our formal activities and official participations in meetings at the UN.

c. **Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI).**

At the United Nations, this work focuses on the financing of peace, on the preparation of a human economy and first and foremost for conscientious objectors to military budgets.

- ◆ In preparation of a world report on access to conscientious objection and to its alternative service, we drafted for the High Commissioner for Human Rights a report on the state of conscientious objection in Switzerland (available [here](#)). The UN report, called for by a unanimous resolution, clearly poses the right to conscientious objection as a universal right and clearly defines the conditions needed for the realization of the right, and for the access to an alternative service. It is also the first official document gathering all the case law and presenting the practices of many States, including Switzerland following our contribution. We gladly participated. The world report is available [here](#).

- ◆ A global meeting of all organizations supporting conscientious objection to military budgets will be held in Edinburgh from the 28<sup>th</sup> until the 30<sup>th</sup> November. We shall attend.

II. **Our research and peace promotion themes:** (*For a living theory of peace*)

In the context of our general work on non-violence of institutions:

a. A review of the situation of **non-militarization** in the world was produced for a two-day conference on countries without army. The main addition to our knowledge and work is that half of the countries of the world, with less than 20,000 men in their respective armies could easily be fully demilitarized; others should too. Their strategic situations are to be carefully studied one by one, but peace and non-violence shall prevail, always or if not, much more often.

For this conference, a first version of a **non-militarization manifest** was drafted. This document is a call for participation: your appreciations, additions and comments are expected and welcome!

b. On the **human right to peace**, an official intersession of the Human Rights Council was held and called for among other things for the strengthening of mediation and the creation of ministries of peace. It took place in June 2018 and a report on this meeting is available [here](#).

A new resolution on the right to peace was adopted on 5 July 2019 by the Human Rights Council. It added *zones of peace* to the ongoing process, a theme we thoroughly worked on in the past ([link](#)).

c. For the **place of effective peace in constitutions**, we work for the presence of peace in the text being drafted for the new constitution of the Swiss Canton of Valais. It is taking shape, but we need support to act locally on the issue. We are looking for funds to strengthen our lobbying, ideally to organize a conference there as we did in [Geneva in 2009](#). [www.vs.ch/web/constituante](http://www.vs.ch/web/constituante)

- d. *A new theme: fundamental methods of humanity.*  
We have fundamental rights! We need fundamental methods, humane and sustainable to uphold these rights. Examples: humanism, education, free access to knowledge, adaptability, the principles of precaution and prevention, harmony with nature, peaceful settlement of disputes (as universal as possible), reconciliation and prospective, evaluation. Peace as a good practice, non-violence, disarmament, civil defense, nonkilling, non-militarization and of course the spread of happiness. We are looking for partners for this study.
- e. *Another new theme: peace and economics.*  
To say it simply: it is not by paying for war and its preparation that we will buy peace. Building peace and its tools alongside or by improving the human condition is surely a great progress, but on the long run, it will not be enough. It is time to “buy” an uncompromising peace, build without violence, destruction or dehumanization of others and to make the funds needed for a greater growth of peace more widely and easily available. Yet, as long as governments will fund war and its preparation, the financing of peace will have to come mainly, or also, from other sources: from you and from the private sector! Worse, through our taxes, we become complicit to the existence of war.

### III. **Actions:** *(From us to the world: may the blessings of life and the gifts of the world come back to us, infinitely).*

- a. Conferences given
- ◆ Barcelona, Universitat Internacional de la Pau, summer school: "Another security is possible". A week long seminar to hear about peace, some – and war and its by-products, more or too much – but also some happy and constructive initiatives. On July 8<sup>th</sup>, we gave a lecture on "*The Nation-State as a Peacemaker*", with effective examples neutrality, peace in constitutions, non-militarisation. A theme sometimes difficult to pass to people for whom the state is often a supporter or an accomplice of war. Videos and our Powerpoint are available [here](#).
  - ◆ "Alternatiba", 18<sup>th</sup> of September: "Countries without the army", a very nice informal conference.
  - ◆ March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, "Non-militarization and countries without armies". 4th conference of the cycle "Explorations in peace and conflicts research", Åbo academy and CGNK, Vaasa, Finland. A formal conference, prepared a bit in difficult conditions. Nevertheless, excellent networking with several high-level academics present and a good analysis of the current situation of non-militarization and peace infrastructures. Beginning of the writing of the non-militarisation manifest. [Small report](#).
- b. Upcoming conferences
- ◆ Caen, D-Day Memorial (6.6.1944): "Making peace", 13-15 November.
  - ◆ Edinburgh, 28 to 30<sup>th</sup> of November “Peace taxes”.
  - ◆ We would like for 2020 to organize a presentation on “peace and law” at the Geneva Peace Week.
- c. Publications
- ◆ The three first years of work at the UN, June 2018, ([link](#) download). An update is in preparation.
  - ◆ In the newsletter of KOFF, the NGO platform of Swisspeace: "Youth and peace", "Ecology and pacifism", "SDG goal 16" all available [here](#).
  - ◆ *In progress*: Public Peace Policies. Promise made to the International Institute for Peace of Catalonia. We are looking for time and resources to finalize it.
  - ◆ *An unpublished text*: "Non-Violence of States, some Best Practices" (previous version [here](#)).
  - ◆ *A draft*: "Fundamental methods? Complementing and completing fundamental rights!".
- d. “Peace and Non-Violence, Romandie and Grand-Genève”. Coordination of Grassroot NGO’s by “Spiders Webbing for Peace” and **APRED**. Regional newsletters on peace activities. [Subscribe](#).
- e. Thursdays of peace. “Maison des Associations” in Geneva, every Thursday at noon informal meetings on a theme related to peace. **APRED** participates occasionally. [Contact](#).
- f. "Jai Jaigat 2020": A march for peace will leave India in October and walk to Geneva arriving in September 2020 for a week of activities on peace and social justice. [Info](#).
- g. Legal clinic for civil service and soldiers. Work at 20%, a little exhausting (many consultations), done by your coordinator and allowing for a small income; insufficient but necessary.

### **Work to come**

*Progress and solidarity*

### IV. **Strengthening the board** *(A space for Growth)*

- a. Presently, the board serves mainly as an information organ. Monthly exchanges will be restored. During the past two years, a number of people have been approached to participate to the work of

the board. Its mailing list has now 17 members, co-opted by the coordinator. Some of them still have to confirm their participation or to see it ratified by a general assembly. As it is not always adequate to be known as supporting the progress of non-militarization or the regress of armies, the list of members of the board is not public; only those saying so are publicly presented.

- b. More active participation of the members of the board is called for and necessary for intellectual participations and creativity, to uphold activities, for sharing resources and the search of financing.
- c. Four working groups will be formed: 1) Diplomacy and the conference of the non-militarised countries. 2) Fundamental research. 3) Actions for peace. 4) Peace finance and **APRED's** Funding.

#### V. **Future creating: ideas, plans and goals** (*Consciousness and Freedom, Consequences and Happiness*)

In addition to actions and projects described above, according to means and availability, are planned:

- ♦ "Do you know peace?": to strengthen contacts with members, stakeholders and the network we will offer "peace services": coaching, trainings, peace and prevention projects, mediations or stays at the Enchanted Star, a peace zone deep in the mountains.
- ♦ A "Non-violence label". Because of growing climate change and other protests, we intend to build a body of standards for nonviolent action.
- ♦ "Advance peace!". The call for participation is a call for open and dynamic, reciprocal participation. There is and will always be a place for APRED for "your own peace projects".
- ♦ We are also looking for trainees and volunteers, associate researchers. Participate!
- ♦ To implement your projects and ours, we are planning a "peace seminar", one week in residential, ideally in May 2020, at the Enchanted Star or in Southern France.
- ♦ See you again here in a year, or sooner, for more evaluation of actions taken and future progress.

#### VI. **Finance and Resources** (*From life and nature, we received everything: it is time to make it a proper share*)

First and foremost, may our benefactors receive here our full and gentle gratitude.

Our work for life, peace and happiness would not be possible without the participation of the following persons (for **APRED** as for your coordinator): the "Part" Association and its members (8,000.- CHF, ~ 7,300 €): their support, three times so far, has made possible the starting of projects and their necessary continuity, with my great thanks. A private donor (3'000.- and a mobile phone). These sums already make 2019 a good year, even if an equivalent amount (some of it urgently) is needed to cover the second part of the year. There are also a number of other donations, without which the Geneva office (750.-) and our office and home in the mountains would not be viable (i.e.: the use of a car, taxes and insurances included, a wash machine or computer services).

The tools for fundraising (this report and those for the UN work), but also networking with individuals and institutions is strengthening; the sale of products and services for peace are progressively put in place and the first results are encouraging.

Nevertheless, your vigorous and generous participation is vital and essential. Thanks in advance.

## Participation

*Gratitude and continuity*

We care and call for maximum participation: for the democratization of knowledge, of politics and resources and for the fulfilling of our "humanities" (or for the rejection of violence, the search for sustainable and humane alternatives). Humanity progresses and thrives through our personal contributions to its well-being, its continuity! Similarly, our own well-being improves or intensifies at the measure of our own sharing and learning: it is by pooling our advances that are measured their quality and magnitude.

**Let's participate: together!**

*We all come from migration,  
Three million years ago out of Africa;  
We now reached home,  
Together on Earth!*

Christophe Barbey  
Coordinator  
Yours joyfully

