

2015 NGO Conference at the United Nations

Dear organisers,

You are right: the 70th anniversary of the UN is truly an event *by* NGO's, *for* NGO's. My most sincere recognition and congratulation to all those that have timely promoted the participation of civil society in the activities of the UN, so relevant at present for the future of mankind. Progressively, the neoliberalism imposed by the republican US party has marginalised the UN and substituted them by plutocratic groups (G6, G7, G8... G20) and, even worse, the ethical values have been displaced by the market ones.

The terrible balance is that everyday die of hunger more than 20 thousand human beings, at the same time that 3 billion dollars are invested in armament in military expenditures.

Humanity has entered in the anthropocene and never the less there is no, after so many analysis, projects and proposals (UNESCO UICN, 1948 and Man and Biosphere, 1971; Helsinki 1972; Rio de Janeiro 1992...) a real, proportionate, intelligent and creative reaction. When we face potentially irreversible challenges –as happens in social, pathological and environmental processes- the measures cannot be postponed because the possibility exists of reaching no return points.

Pope Francis has recently clearly warned about the intergenerational responsibility, and president Obama has said something that we must all

keep in mind: “We are the first generation that suffers the climate change and the last one that has the opportunity of acting to control it”.

“Unprecedented situations must be addressed with unprecedented solutions”, has written Amin Maalouf. And we are now precisely living moments in which, for the first time in History, is feasible to invent the future. “We the peoples...” as foreseen with impressive farsightedness in the charter of the UN we’ll be able to participate actively in the decision-making. During centuries, in a men-driven society, a culture of imposition and confrontation has prevailed. Civil society was completely absent of the power scenarios, particularly the women. Living in a very restrictive context, both from the territorial and intellectual point of view, unable to know what was happening in the rest of the world, citizenship was obedient, silent and fearful.

Now, particularly taking advantage of the digital technology, global consciousness is being progressively built up. More women are involved with their inherent values in the governance at local, national, regional and international level and non-presential participation can take place.

Now it is time for action. The time of resignation is over. The transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace and non-violence can be a reality in a short period of time. From force to word. Disarmament for development.

Peace is in our hands. It is in our hands to firmly promote everyday, with our behavior, a full role of the civil society for understanding and conciliation...

For all the reasons mentioned above I would very much like to join you [the 25th-27th August](#) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, particularly important at the celebration of the 70th anniversary. The United Nations must be re-founded. In a extraordinary session of the General assembly could be dealt with the more urgent (potentially irreversible) issues: environmental and social inequalities. In the same session the decision could be adopted for a “roadmap” leading to a new structure of UN System. This “new UN” will have a General Assembly of 50% representatives of States and 50% representatives of civil society, adding to the present Security Council and Environmental Council and a Social-Economic council...

We cannot accept the progressive marginalization of the UN: the present governance of the world is a disaster.

With the very best wishes,

Federico Mayor