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**Verso un multilateralismo  
personalista ed ecologista?**

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Nello scorso mese di febbraio si è tenuto a Roma il secondo incontro mondiale degli ex JECisti, ossia di coloro che hanno fatto parte in gioventù dei movimenti studenteschi dell’Azione Cattolica.

Il nostro direttore ha partecipato alla tavola rotonda “Un nuovo multilateralismo per una nuova era: dialettica tra sovranità nazionale e interconnessioni globali delle società” con una relazione dal titolo “Verso un multilateralismo personalista ed ecologista?” della quale volentieri pubblichiamo una sintesi quale introduzione ai documenti delle conferenze We the People e We the Future, che hanno riunito da tutto il mondo organizzazioni della società civile a New York nell’agosto del 2018



Verso un multilateralismo personalista ed ecologista? Intervento di Rosario Sapienza alla tavola rotonda “Un nuovo multilateralismo per una nuova era: la dialettica tra sovranità nazionale e interconnessioni globali delle società”, Roma 28 febbraio 2019

L'affermazione secondo cui il multilateralismo è finito è comune ed è collegata all'altra, secondo la quale ciò sarebbe essenzialmente dovuto all'azione del presidente americano Trump.

In realtà, penso che sarebbe meglio dire che una stagione del multilateralismo, quella fino a questo momento guidata dagli Stati Uniti, è finita.

Come ha sostenuto il politologo francese Zaki Laïdi, infatti, oggi l'ordine internazionale appare attestato su un assetto doppiamente bipolare nel quale gli Stati Uniti giocano ancora un ruolo centrale, ma su due fronti distinti.

Il primo è quello della competizione economica con la Cina, il secondo è il confronto geopolitico con la Russia in Medio Oriente e lungo il fianco orientale della NATO.

E fino a quando questo doppio confronto non si risolverà, è abbastanza difficile che si parli di multilateralismo. Poi dopo si vedrà ... non è detto che non si ritorni a parlarne.

Vorrei però sottolineare che quando si parla di multilateralismo, c'è in giro molto di più della sola disponibilità degli Stati a cooperare fra di loro.

Le organizzazioni della società civile, che nel 2018 hanno partecipato alla Conferenza delle Nazioni Unite “We the People”, hanno infatti adottato per acclamazione un documento finale che propone un nuovo multilateralismo, incentrato sulle persone. In questo documento si segnalano sia gli specifici impegni a tal fine assunti dalla società civile, sia le richieste rivolte agli Stati membri delle Nazioni Unite, alle imprese e alle Nazioni Unite come organizzazione.

Vorrei anche segnalare la dichiarazione dei giovani “We the Future”, adottata in quella stessa occasione, che descrive gli impegni assunti dai giovani e una serie di visioni, impegni e raccomandazioni volti a contribuire agli sforzi delle Nazioni Unite per attuare l'Agenda per lo sviluppo sostenibile.

Il discorso è stato avviato da tempo. In un precedente incontro nel giugno 2016 a Gyeongju, in Corea, queste organizzazioni si erano già impegnate a costruire

“una cultura della cittadinanza globale”.

L'anno scorso hanno sviluppato l'idea di un multilateralismo centrato sulle persone umane e non solo sugli Stati e la loro diplomazia. Si vuole così un multilateralismo che abbia a cuore al contempo i diritti umani e l'ecologia e trovi il suo punto di riferimento fondamentale nel riconoscimento di una crisi nell'attuale sistema multilaterale e nella constatazione allarmante della diffusione di un nazionalismo che considera l'obiettivo di uno sviluppo costruito solo per alcuni, e anzi a scapito di tutti gli altri.

Si vuole anche un multilateralismo che proponga un ritorno al tema della democrazia delle relazioni internazionali: in un mondo profondamente cambiato dove molti attori non statali, come le multinazionali o gruppi armati non statali possono decidere il destino di miliardi di persone, bisogna che le organizzazioni della società civile lavorino insieme per assicurare che i benefici dello sviluppo siano condivisi equamente in tutto il mondo.

Questi documenti propongono insomma un riposizionamento del sistema delle Nazioni Unite basato su questo nuovo multilateralismo centrato sulla gente, attraverso le sue istituzioni globali, in uno spirito di cittadinanza globale. Ed è proprio per tutto ciò che questo progetto impegna la nostra responsabilità, la responsabilità di ogni individuo come individuo, ma anche come associato. E tutto ciò va detto con particolare determinazione oggi in Italia, quando il governo chiude i porti e vorrebbe chiudere anche i nostri cuori, in nome di un egoismo di sistema che è in definitiva il suo unico progetto politico. Insomma, il multilateralismo ci riguarda.

## **People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action**

**“We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems”**

**67th United Nations DPI**

**NGO Conference UN**

**Headquarters, New York**

**22-23 August 2018**

In June of 2016 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, We the Peoples committed ourselves to “an ethos of global citizenship.” In that spirit, We the Peoples, gathered here in New York for the 67th United Nations DPI NGO Conference, commit ourselves to foster *people-centered multilateralism* to address global challenges. It is a multilateralism pledged equally to uplift those whose human rights are most under threat and to protect our planet by living in harmony with nature, a multilateralism that shares responsibility and accountability among all stakeholders. The ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, driven by pressing transnational problems like climate change, demands the deeper and more equitable cooperation that we urge.

People-centered multilateralism requires expanding the role of civil society partnerships, especially with youth, to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since more than half of the world's population is under 30 years old, young people are key partners in implementing the SDGs. Thus, on behalf of the nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) assembled here, we adopt this Call to Action to ensure that the 2030 Agenda leaves no one behind.

### ***A Time to Reawaken International Cooperation***

Each day at the United Nations, Member States affirm that it is only by reaching across divisions that we prosper together in a better, more peaceful world. At the United Nations, governments partner with civil society to defend human rights and advance sustainable development. Moreover, the United Nations has been a platform for activists, artists, entrepreneurs, and social movements that have shaped the world we live in. Billions of people have benefited from this cooperation.

However, far too many are being left behind. Violations of international norms by those with power, together with widening inequality, have caused some to doubt that the potential benefits of international cooperation can be realized. Since 1945, the distribution of power in the world has shifted dramatically. Today, corporations, non-state armed groups, and transnational social movements influence the fate of billions. The United Nations' legitimacy depends in part on its ability to build consensus in a world where state power has become more diffuse and where non-state actors play a substantial role.

When the current multilateral system falters, opportunists argue against the idea that cooperation helps everyone. In place of multilateralism, they cultivate a narrow nationalism that promises development for some at the expense of all others, especially the most vulnerable.

We the Peoples reject the false choice between nationalism and globalism. We offer people-centered multilateralism as an optimistic and realistic alternative. Its inclusive processes will foster a sense of shared ownership, build trust, and result in greater effectiveness. To bring people-centered multilateralism to maturity, we, as civil society, pledge to work side by side with governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders to pursue the SDGs. Therefore, civil society claims its unique space for action that transcends national identities and other affiliations.

### ***A Time to Renew Civil Society Commitment***

In order for people-centered multilateralism to take root, civil society must be able to carry out its critical work. However, every day, civil society representatives face threats to their physical safety and their rights to advocate. Our colleagues and friends are being arrested, abducted, and even murdered with impunity. Progress toward sustainable development requires a multilateral system that effectively safeguards nongovernmental actors.

As civil society, we identify across the full spectrum of wealth, age, race, gender, sex, ability, power, religion, culture, and sexual orientation. We embrace our distinct identities, and we pledge to work together across our differences to guarantee that the benefits of development are shared equitably across generations, now and in the future.

Civil society is already contributing to equitable and sustainable development. After this conference, we intend to go further.

Therefore, as civil society, we commit:



- To embrace gender equity as an integral component of social justice,
- To operationalize the Global Compact on Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees by prioritizing the rights and dignity of forced migrants and people in fragile and conflict-affected states,
- To affirm the importance of international law and principles of cooperation,
- To share information and digital technology, media, and communication tools in a democratic manner to amplify the voices of those who are systematically marginalized and silenced,
- To act in solidarity with civil society representatives whose safety and rights are threatened,
- To empower and engage young people as partners to achieve the SDGs as outlined in the “‘We the Future’: Youth Declaration,”
- To build on economic and cultural innovations that strengthen social, economic, and environmental foundations of development, and
- To serve as independent sources of analysis, advocacy, and action to hold states, corporations, and other stakeholders accountable to the standards and values adopted in the 2030 Agenda.

### ***A Time to Join with Civil Society***

Cooperation and partnerships with Member States, the UN development system, and the private sector are needed on all levels to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore, as civil society,

we call upon Member States

to:

- Respect, protect, and promote the rights of civil society to hold public and private institutions accountable and to participate in decision making,
- Advance people-centered multilateralism by developing proposals to revitalize the United Nations on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 2020,
- Fulfill their obligations under international law,
- Honor and uphold the commitments made in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

- Reaffirm the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders on its 20th anniversary by working to ensure the safety, expression, and freedom of association of those who speak out on abuses, and
- Enact policies aimed at eradicating extreme inequality, including by preventing individual and corporate tax avoidance and rights violations, with particular attention to the upcoming Special Session on Financing for Development; Multinational corporations to:
- Adopt business models that shoulder social and environmental responsibility aligned with the SDGs and the Global Compact, and
- Deliver fair economic returns on value added by local communities;

The United Nations Secretary-General and the United Nations to:

- Play their historic roles as conveners of states and stakeholders, to guarantee that the most marginalized peoples throughout the world are heard most clearly and to ensure that our planet remains a place where all of humanity can flourish,
- Demand an end to tax avoidance, corruption, and rights violations by corporations, and
- Remain focused on intergenerational equity, safeguarding the planet's health and natural resources for generations to come;

All decision-makers to:

- Engage in real partnerships with civil society that, as called for by the “We the Future”: Youth Declaration,” enable vulnerable groups to shape policies that affect their lives, and
- Financially support and promote change-makers, regardless of age, in public policy decisions and to follow the example of innovative and powerful social movements.

### ***Resolution***

We can transform the international order to bring about a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world through people-centered multilateralism. We commit to support the successful repositioning of the United Nations system with our collaboration, passion, and creativity. People-centered multilateralism, through its worldwide

institutions, culture, and work in a robust and protected civil society space, will generate the political and social support needed to endure for this generation and future generations.

Therefore, we who are gathered at the 67th United Nations DPI NGO Conference commit to redouble our efforts to establish people-centered multilateral cooperation in a spirit of global citizenship. Beginning with the upcoming Paris Peace Forum in November of 2018, we encourage civil society representatives to meet again during future international conferences to assess progress under this Call to Action. We call upon states, corporations, institutions, and other collective and individual stakeholders to join our effort. By so doing, together we will further the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure that no one is left behind.



“We the Future” - A Youth Declaration  
“We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems”  
67th United Nations DPI NGO Conference  
United Nations Headquarters New York  
22 - 23 August 2018

Preamble

We, the young peoples of the world gathered at the 67th United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, join our voices and efforts to uphold the value of multilateralism and re-commit ourselves to seeking global solutions for global problems, including but not limited to, achieving the targets set forth in the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Youth, with our unique capacities and vibrant energy, are propelling humanity's movement towards a new future. Today, millions of families are still trapped in extreme poverty, struggling to access even basic resources like education, healthcare and employment. Today, a quarter of the world's youth still live in the shadows of violent conflict, everything from wars to human trafficking to substance abuse threaten to steal the promise of our tomorrow. And today, all on the planet earth are impacted by environmental degradation, communities of people and creatures are endangered by pollution, climate change, sea-level rising, and many other by-products of human development. If we don't join in concerted action now, we may not have an earth to live on tomorrow.

The rising generations recognize that we must work collectively, across national, generational, and other real or fabricated boundaries, to shift the current paradigm and create new global and multilateral structures, to weave a new tapestry of economic, technological, environmental and social life that can drive humanity's evolution towards collective prosperity. We have power in numbers and when united, can demand immense change.

We the Youth are taking the lead and contributing our expertise, energy, experience, passion, and creativity in implementing global solutions. It is in this spirit that we set forth this Declaration of our shared visions, commitments, and recommendations.

Visions

We the Youth are united in our vision for a peaceful and sustainable world. Together we affirm that:

1. Global problems are beyond the power of any single entity to tackle; partnerships are essential to create

and facilitate lasting change. Multilateralism is more than partnership by multiple entities, but rather inclusive collaboration of states and non-state actors. We need to implement the new collaborative model, as described in “People-Centered Multilateralism: A Call to Action”, recognizing and respecting all peoples’ right to participate, especially those who have been traditionally underrepresented.

2. We will continue to work together and undertake sustainable actions that can benefit all of humanity; we will continue to work towards ending conflict, counter-ing violence and building sustainable and lasting peace.

3. We share responsibility for our planet, strive to live in harmony with nature, and must work to minimize the human-made effects of climate change.

4. We must create economic systems that can provide for the well-being of all, ensuring that development does not take precedence over the health of people and the planet.

5. We are one in our humanity, with natural and inalienable human rights, including the right to determine our future; civic participation must also be a right ensured to all.

6. We work to remove all forms of discrimination against sex, gender, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, religion, physical appearance, political affiliation, other-abled individuals, which are all counterproductive to progress

7. We must be included in decision-making at all levels of political processes and structured mechanisms for youth participation must be incorporated into all public institutions.

### Commitments

We pledge to commit our abilities, efforts, and heart to:

1. Increase awareness of and work persistently towards the accomplishment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, their corresponding targets, and the commitments set forth in the Gyeongju Youth Declaration.

2. Become active global citizens supporting our peers across their spectrum of needs, from ending poverty in all dimensions, supporting women and girls, to quests for public office and other leadership positions in service of the community. We also proactively demand space for youth in all public fora.

3. Become more conscious of the effects of our own consumption activities and make responsible decisions in our daily lives that can help in achieving Agenda 2030.

4. Increase awareness of and advocate for human rights in our work, honor all life with respect, and join together to fight the injustices committed against youth across the world;

5. Contribute to the repositioning of the UN Development System and improvement of other international bodies, making them more progressive, fair, sustainable, effective, youth-friendly, and shouldering our share of the responsibility in shaping the future of our world.

6. Serve as open partners, sharing our technology, information, knowledge and skills with those who can benefit from them and creating opportunities for inter-generational partnerships, learning from friends and spreading best practices.

7. Help create safe spaces of expression for those who are left out of the existing political system, including but not limited to residents of conflict-ridden areas, migrants, displaced people, refugees, stateless people, and other groups in vulnerable situations.

8. Draw on our advantageous position as youth to facilitate peacebuilding, reconciliation, and the cultivation of new communities.

### Recommendations

Fully understanding that in order to achieve a paradigm shift, we need more than just personal action. By resonating the hopes of youth around the world, we, with a “We the Future” - A Youth Declaration

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but not limited to residents of conflict-ridden areas, migrants, displaced people, refugees, stateless

people, and other groups in vulnerable situations.

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cultivation of new communities.

Recommendations

Fully understanding that in order to achieve a paradigm shift, we need more than just personal action. By

resonating the hopes of youth around the world, we, with a unified voice, call upon:

1. States and other entities committed in multilateral agreements to deliver their promises and to be

trustworthy partners to ensure stability in the rules-based international order.

2. States and non-state actors to augment diversity and inclusion across all spectra in their decision-making

process, making sure that those most impacted are part of the deliberations, understanding that

superficial tokenism does not foster true partnership.

3. States to ensure access to quality and culturally-relevant education for all, reaching even the most

vulnerable communities, providing the materials and knowledge to cultivate independent learners.

4. States to integrate Agenda 2030 into all facets of their education curricula, considering informal, non-

formal, experiential, service-based and interdisciplinary education as emphasized elements of the

learning experience.

5. States to consciously design their education systems to enhance global citizenship by fostering

inclusivity, developing leadership, and encouraging innovation and creativity in youth.

6. States to address youth unemployment as a priority by investing in workforce development, creating

green jobs, internships, and apprenticeships, supporting entrepreneurship; and to implement effective

workplace policies to protect youth from exploitation.

7. Everyone to respect youth as equal partners in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

8. Everyone to consider environmental consequences, including those affecting life on land, life below

water, and the global climate, and to prioritize the use of renewable energy and technology.

9. Governments to increase financial resources for public health concerns, such as mental health and

wellness, drug use and addictions, family planning, wireless radiation, reducing cancer risk amongst

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10. All levels of government to dedicate time, space, and resources to develop locaunified voice, call upon:

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10. All levels of government to dedicate time, space, and resources to develop localized plans that achieve the targets of the SDGs