



Triglav Circle, 15 Truell Road, Hollis, NH 03049
Cercle de Triglav, Chateau de Cuy, Nievre 58110 France
www.Triglavcircleonline.org Email: triglavcircle@tds.net

Interactive Dialogue of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Harmony with Nature to commemorate International Mother Earth Day

Discuss different economic approaches to further a more ethical basis for the relationship between humanity and the Earth

22 April 2013

United Nations Headquarters, New York, New York

Statement by Barbara Baudot, President/Coordinator of the Triglav Circle

H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, President of the 67th Session of the UN General Assembly; H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations; H.E. Mr. David Choquehuanca, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; H.E. Ms. María Belén Moncayo, Minister of Coordination of Heritage of Ecuador, Distinguished Delegates; Distinguished Panelists; and members of the Secretariat:

Thank you for this opportunity to make this statement on behalf of the Triglav Circle, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC.

Created in the aftermath of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development, the Triglav Circle is a group of reflection striving to enrich the international discourse on matters of economic and social progress with spiritual and ethical perspectives.

THE TRIGLAV CIRCLE AND HARMONY WITH NATURE

The Circle considers that the elaboration and application of the concept of harmony with nature can help the world community avoid impending ecological catastrophes. Forty years after the Stockholm conference and twenty years after the Rio Summit, the continuing deterioration of most aspects of the global environment shows that a “shift,” or a qualitative and quantitative “jump” in international and national policies is necessary.

Nature is life. Nature is the home of Humanity. To destroy Nature is to destroy Humankind. Whereas the word “environment” evokes a distance between human beings and the “milieu” in which they live, the word Nature places the human race in the midst of all the forces that constitute the universe. The word “environment” suggests problems to be solved, particularly as by-products of mankind’s economic activities. The word Nature signifies the human condition, in all its grandeur and fragility. And harmony is balance but also creativity. Being never achieved,

constantly in need of re-invention, harmony is a dynamic concept. The goal of harmony with nature should inform and orient global and local environmental policies.

Further, Harmony, or Love and Respect for Nature, ought to be a privileged means of transforming the spirit of the time and a dominant objective of the world civilization to be constructed. For, as all forms of violence are related, all thoughts and actions informed by love are also related. The assumption of the Circle is that the search for a greater harmony with nature is not only a condition for addressing efficiently and durably environmental problems and threats, but would also help building a more peaceful, more just and more creative world.

In this context, the Circle is particularly interested in an elaboration of the conditions for the coexistence, in an open but organized world economy, of different economic systems for different types of goods and services and different types of exchanges. Such conditions have to be compatible with the flourishing of local production for local markets, notably in agriculture. Competition ought not to be the sole organizing principle of a sustainable world economy. Intellectual and political room ought to be left for generosity and altruism.

Also critical is the articulation of rights and responsibilities in an interdependent world. The idea of universal human rights that ought to be protected and promoted was and remains a most important step in the history of humanity. The Universal Declaration on Human Rights contains, however, only one article on the duties and responsibilities –notably in the civic realm – associated with the enjoyment of individual rights. It is perhaps through an enlargement and deepening of the ideas contained in this article of the Universal Declaration that a better recognition of the duties and responsibilities of Man vis-à-vis Nature could be achieved.

The Triglav Circle firmly believes that all global issues require the use of different sources of knowledge – science, philosophy, poetry, spiritual insights -for their understanding and for the design of norms and corrective policies.

Thank you.