



It took us 33 December months to reach 2021

Editorial - Page 2

1987: UN International Year of Housing for the Homeless ends / Nevada, USA detonates two nuclear bombs / Reagan & Gorbachev sign the Treaty for Elimination of Nuclear Weapons / 1988: Cyclone in Bangladesh leaves 5 million homeless / Nevada, USA detonates 3 nuclear bombs / Earthquake in Armenia kills thousands and leaves 400,000 homeless / UN recognizes the Palestinian State / 1989: Chile elects democratic president after 17 years with Pinochet / Brazil elects president after 29 years of dictatorship / Dictator Nicolae Ceausescu is overthrown and executed in Romania, after 22 years / 1990: Mary Robinson, first woman elected president in Ireland / Tim Berners-Lee defines the foundations of the Internet at CERN, Switzerland / 1991: Ukraine elects Leonid Kravchuk as the first president / Kazakhstan becomes independent / Mikhail Gorbachev dissolves the USSR / 1992: the 'Aegean Sea' oil tanker sinks off La Coruna, Spain, creating an ecological disaster / Nigeria approves the multi-party Constitution / 1993: Pablo Escobar Gaviria, head of the Medellin Cartel, is killed by the Colombian police / The PLO and Israel agree in Cairo on Gaza and Jericho boundaries / Russia holds legislative elections / 1994: Japanese Sony launches Play Station / Arafat, Rabin and Peres receive the Nobel Peace Prize in Norway / 1995: The European Union member states create the Euro currency in Madrid / NASA's Galileo probe penetrates the Jupiter atmosphere / 1996: MRTA takes the Japan embassy in Peru, retains 72 men until April 1997 when the guerrillas are killed by the Armed Forces / Nickelodeon starts broadcasting in Latin America by cable / 1997: the Protocol on Climate Change is agreed in Kyoto / Insurgents massacre 400 people in Algerian villages / Russia agrees to build a nuclear plant in China for 3,000 million dollars / 1998: Hugo Chavez wins his first elections in Venezuela / Puerto Rico rejects full integration with the USA / Iraq breaks with the UN and demands an end to the oil embargo / 1999: US returns control of the Panama Canal to Panama / Strong floods cause 30 thousand deaths and 100 thousand victims in Venezuela on the day the new Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic is approved / World Celebration for New Year / 2000: declared International Year for a Peace Culture / Ukrainian President orders to shut down the last reactor in function at Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant / The world dismisses the 20th century and welcomes the 3rd millennium (Conclusion on Page 8)

THIS LISTING REVEALS THAT:

SELDOM MAJORITIES DO LEARN FROM HISTORY
POLITICIANS AND MINORITIES ARE ACCOMPLICES IN THE HEGEMONIC POWER
TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRAMMED OBSOLESCENCE GOES FOR ABUSIVE PROFITS
NEITHER DEMOCRACY NOR COMMUNISM ENSURE PEACE & COMMON GOOD

Almost at the end of the 21st century second decade, well into the third millennium, the multi-coloured lights of the traditional festivals barely conceal the chaos of the world crisis. More and more powerful minorities are advancing at a sweeping pace towards their ultimate goal: to take control of the terrain-spatial habitat. These despots are driven by selfishness and greed; the same vices that paralyze the complaining majorities, as they struggle to survive by clinging to the promised crumbs.

However, in the depths of every human being there is a small and inextinguishable light that flickers; it brings lighting to truths relegated by ruthless urgencies; with maternal warmth they whisper from our consciences that it is still possible to see old dreams come true; that there is no joy that can be compared to the arrival of new members to the family; that it is always good to re-establish old fraternal ties with friends of the youth; that it is never too late to contribute to solidarity causes.

It's worth visiting *Worldometer*¹ to see how many humans are born per day, hour, minute and second. While writing the first lines of this editorial 130,432,911 born and 54,759,075 died so far in 2020. The good news is that, for every 10 humans who arrive, only 4 leave; the bad news is that those who think they own birth control are getting richer and richer.

How do they do that? To rulers who are easy to corrupt, they offer irresistible perks in exchange for entering the arms race, starting internal conflicts and fratricidal wars, destroying cities, landscapes and natural environments, exterminating the weakest, legalizing abortion, sterility, euthanasia; this and even more, in unconditional support for their cosmic concentration of power.

We have already shared in ARC•PEACE that Covid-19 imposed in the globalized world the tendency to see everything through a negative lens².



In the midst of this unwanted situation, just a few have the courage to make a constructive self-criticism; and even less to look for something positive worth rescuing.

Furthermore, the media has become a very lucrative industry if its owners associate or submit to hegemonic power.

That is why we do not hesitate to repeat that throughout the world the virus has exposed the social improvisation and hypocrisy of the despotic political class.

Is it a reductionism to say that Covid-19 was generated by the worst of the human condition?

To find out, I propose to our dear readers a practical mental exercise. It is about reviewing the positive things of the list that we offer on pages 1 and 8 of this Newsletter. Among all the historical negative facts I encourage them to rescue what - in their opinion - has contributed to curbing the insane madness caused by those that the late Prof. E. F. Schumacher aptly described as those of the "forward stampede."³

There are worldwide testimonies to affirm that the imminent danger of breaking the delicate planetary balance is due to the fact that the increase in negative events is not reciprocated by another equal or greater number of positive events.

Professionals and entrepreneurs who make a living from architectural design, planning, construction and urban planning, cannot play the distracted or believe to be innocent. Even less so, if we do not work or cooperate to strengthen the Common Good. The metaphor chosen in the title is therefore worth inviting colleagues from all over the world to stop and dedicate a little of their valuable time to see what to do, or to contribute to refund our organization; as we anticipated in Newsletter No 65⁴.

As this new issue is being released, the Secretary - the only active co-founder of the NGO - has begun to send a personal letter to each of the current and historical associates- sympathizers. Everyone is thus invited to freely express whether will accept the challenge to support the initiative to transforming the Association to comply with its founders' dreams, in 1987. From the responses we receive, we will be able to see whether the thirty-three months of December that are ending have hopes for a better future.

The sunset of each stage is the promise of a new day⁵.

The Editor

1. <https://www.worldometers.info/>
2. Newsletter No 64.
3. *Small is Beautiful*, Preface.
4. *Boletín No 65*, páginas 2,7 y 8.
5. *Sunset at Palma*. Photo by Alejandra Cerutti, 03/12/2020.

Among many responsibilities of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, one is to adopt resolutions on issues that have been previously approved in its working Commissions sessions.

The Editor of this Newsletter considers it is useful to report on the resolutions declaring **2021 International Year**, as based on 4 proposals sent to the UN plenary sessions for resolution.

1. **Creative Economy for Sustainable Development** (12/19/2019).¹
2. **Peace and Trust** (09/12/2019).²
3. **Fruits & Vegetables** (12/19/20219).³
4. **Elimination of Child Labour** (07/25/2019).⁴

In the spirit of the Editorial (*page 2*) we propose to analyse these yearnings of an organism in which the sordid struggle between theory and practice grows day by day between bureaucracy and results; between dark interests and the Common Good.

1. Creative Economy for Sustainable Development.

The Resolution concludes by saying (*Editor's bold type*):

“Encourages all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, **as well as civil society, the private sector, non-governmental organizations (including ARC • PEACE), academic circles and individuals**, to celebrate the *International Year* appropriately and in accordance with national priorities, in order to raise awareness, promote cooperation and networking, encourage **the exchange of best practices and experiences, increase awareness human resource capacity, promoting an enabling environment at all levels, and tackling the challenges of the creative economy;**



Above picture: The Creative Economy is also known as the 'Orange Economy'.

Invites the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to contribute and support the celebration of the *International Year*;

Invites the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the UN system and other international and regional organizations, **as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and the private sector**, and encourages it to invite United Nations entities to collaborate and support the celebration of the *International Year of the Creative Economy* with synergistic effect;

Emphasizes that the cost of all activities that may arise from the application of this resolution **shall be covered by voluntary contributions;**

Requests the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and in consultation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and relevant entities of the United Nations system, to report it, in its Seventy-seventh session, on the implementation of this resolution, through a specific section of *Creative Economy Outlook* ⁵, detailing in particular how the resolution is harmonized with and promotes the 2030 Agenda, with recommendations on concrete measures that would help Member States and the system of the United Nations to accelerate its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. ”⁶

Our conclusion: in spite of its undenied desire capacity, the resolution cannot estimate neither the times when these recommendations will be followed nor the best method to evaluate results. The ARC•PEACE Statutes ⁷ says that the NGO “*main mission is to strengthen and support architects, designers and planners to work towards a society characterized by respect for Human Rights and Social Justice*”. Participates in citizen awareness actions for the care and improvement of the built environment, on ecological, economic and socially sustainable bases: “*believes that professional education must develop the integrity and competence necessary for architects, designers and planners*” in order to support “*subsequent elimination of nuclear, biological, chemical and other means of mass annihilation, both on earth and in space.*”

Every ARC•PEACE member enjoys his “*professional expertise to help protect the natural environment from further destruction; (...) Promote an enabling strategy for housing, and methods and techniques that improve people's capacity; especially of the poor, to build and improve their own housing and living environment.*” Thus, it is a privilege to start now working on the 2021 General Assembly in mind to decide the functional renewal of ARC•PEACE, more crucial than before, in line with these core principles.

The Editor

1. *International Year of the Creative Economy for Sustainable Development (A / RES / RES / 74/198).*
2. *International Year of Peace and Trust (A / RES / 73/338).*
3. *International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (A / RES / 74/244).*
4. *International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour (A / RES / 73/327).*
5. *Perspective of the Creative Economy.*
6. *52nd plenary session 19 December 2019.*
7. *In consultative status (Category II) with ECOSOC with headquarters in Palma, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain” since 2015. Link to the Statutes: [STATUTES-ARC•PEACE \(arcpeaceinternational.org\)](https://www.arcpeaceinternational.org)*

Our world lives without peace. We mention peace so much, due to its absence; and, without peace, there is hardly any trust.

On the previous page we began to analyse the first of the four resolutions of the United Nations (UN) Plenary Assembly when it adopted to designate 2021 as the 'International Year' to highlight some basic concepts that make up the daily life of Humanity.

The Editor now proposes to address the second of the designations:

2. Peace and Trust (09/12/2019) ¹

ARC•PEACE includes Peace in its name from the Board of Directors meeting held in Montreal, Canada, in 1990.

Perhaps this is the most mentioned noun in ARC•PEACE's 33 years of life; and not precisely because of its name.

What does the UN resolution say?

Underlines that the International Year of Peace and Trust is a means of mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace and trust among nations on the basis, among other things, of political dialogue, mutual understanding and cooperation, in order to achieve sustainable peace, solidarity and harmony;

Calls upon the international community to continue promoting peace and trust among nations as a value that promotes sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights;

Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to facilitate the appropriate celebration of the International Year of Peace and Trust and spread the benefits of peace and trust, including through educational and public awareness activities;



Requests the Secretary General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals;

It emphasizes that the cost of all activities that may arise from the application of this resolution must be covered by voluntary contributions. ²

Conclusion: with undeniable desire capacity, the text cannot verify times or places where these recommendations are applied; nor how to evaluate its results.

ARC•PEACE Charter aims at creating a vision and mission that are based on seeking and maintaining peace in all of its endeavours. For this reason it supports mediation to resolve conflicts by peaceful means.

At ARC•PEACE we aspire to introduce into our professions an ethical-moral approach based on the Common Good, as opposed to that of the 'developpers' who disguise their petty interests in deceptive marketing. They send confusing messages asking for confidence from the very people they use to trade with their basic needs.

They have no peace; they don't know it. Not only do they not generate trust, but rejection.

The tactic of installing lies that ends up being accepted as *"this is what there is"* is the same one used by immoral politicians who aspire to live fastened to power, whatever it may be.

They are corrupts who are not even interested in defending an ideology.

They are blind by power.

In Cuba, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Argentina, Russia, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, and now the USA, a single individual or a single family seizes power by manipulating votes in elections, mobilizing column-based militancy behind a very charismatic leader who is even worse than its predecessors. Then they point the finger at their opponents, blaming them for committing the same things, and even demand them before the Courts of Justice.

For their part, multimedia competes for ratings to attract advertisers, in a struggle that ignores all reasonable limits. To save their irresponsible ways they prologue their farces with the label: *"The images of the material in this first might hurt your sensitivity."* Assured success! **Abusing the morbid is another way of declaring war on people who love peace.**

The clearest example of the breakdown of peace and the rise of mistrust is the shameful use of the COVID-19 pandemic. Modern 'Talibans' of the drug, media and political industries do with this virus what they dare not do with armamentism, wars, innocent's blood, destruction and death. They pay no attention to issues on prostitution of children from schools, pedophilia, refugees, hunger, dehydration, or the elderly. **It is not profitable to them!**

There can be no peace because false narratives, hypocritical accusations and confusion reign; therefore, we have less, reliability. Something declaimed is recognized as true only when it is followed by the action that affirms it.

The psalmist David already advised it about three thousand years ago:

"Stay away from evil and do good, and try to live always in peace." ³

Let's try to do it too.

The Editor

1. *International Year of Peace and Trust (A / RES / 73/338).*
2. *106th plenary session, 12 September 2019.*
3. *Psalms 34:14. TLA version.*

The global pandemic produced by the first strains of COVID-19 led to long confinements due to which the world socio-political-economic system was radically altered.

In order to cope with the problems created by this situation, in many households certain practices were innovated that deserve to be imitated.

They are initiatives that allow us to harbour hopes of greater sustainability for planetary life. One of them is to do at home what cannot be done outside of it for the time being.

The United Nations (UN) adopted not long ago, the designation of 2021 as the "International Year of Fruits and Vegetables."¹ The Declaration:

1. Invites: all Member States, organizations of the UN system, other international and regional organizations, and other stakeholders (...), such as civil society, the private sector and the academic world, to celebrate the International Year (...) with activities aimed at raising awareness and focusing regulatory attention on the benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption for nutrition and health, the contribution of fruit and vegetable consumption to promoting varied diets and lifestyles, balanced and healthy, the reduction of losses and waste of fruits and vegetables and the exchange of best practices in this regard;

To the Food and Agriculture Commission, bearing in mind the provisions contained in the annex to resolution 1980/67 of the Economic and Social Council, to facilitate the celebration of the International Year.

The aforementioned Commission shall report on the application of this resolution, providing a final evaluation of what was obtained in the International Year.



2. Emphasizes that the cost of all activities arising from the application of this resolution shall be covered by voluntary contributions, including from the private sector.

3. Invites all relevant stakeholders to contribute and support the celebration of the International Year.

4. Requests the Secretary General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders, such as civil society, the private sector, and academia, so that the Year International is duly held.²

Conclusion: we must make the most of this celebration in this hard hour; in at least two crucial aspects: early childhood education and socio-economic sustainability. Children, whose schooling is the most affected by confinement, should be considered the main beneficiaries in 2021.

From ARC • PEACE we support any action in which the associations of Parents and Teachers of public schools intervene. Another very good practice is to make community gardens on unused urban plots³. (Photo below left).

Many grow vegetables at home, nowadays. In the absence of a plot of land, pots are used; and even glass jars and plastic, tin, wood and aluminium recycled containers are used to grow vegetables on a balcony⁴.



The UN Declaration might be welcome by those who practice vegetarianism or veganism with more sympathy than by those used to consuming dairy products, fish, red meat and eggs.

However, this is not an appropriate time to promote particular food customs or cultures, but rather to focus on what is most important: **the survival of the human species and the sustainability of its natural habitat.**

Consistent with our mission, let us give a hand to those who live in extreme conditions; people that even lack water and soils suitable for cultivation. Wherever they live, they need and expect to have the resources to produce fruits and vegetables.

They have as much right as we do!
The Editor

1. International Year of Fruits and Vegetables (A/RES/74/244).

2. 52nd plenary session on 12/19/2019.

3. Bunyola, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain. The photo below is part of the production achieved by the Editor and his family, in one of the 40 plots in that orchard (only 12m2), 2014.



4. Left photo: tomato plant grown by reader Guillermo E. Sedaca at his home in Buenos Aires. Thanks to the recycled container, the plant is taken out to the balcony to receive sun light.



Statistics from the **United Nations Children's Emergency Fund** (UNICEF) ¹ introduce us into the terrible reality of millions of children cruelly exploited by adults, worldwide.

They estimate that "151.6 million girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 17 (1 in 10 children in the world) work." Of these, "almost half (72.5 million) carry out some of the worst forms of child labour, such as slavery, trafficking, forced labour or conscription for armed conflicts."

Although that number has decreased since 2000 by 94 million children, as a result of COVID-19, several million children joined who "are at risk of having to do child labour due to the crisis (...), which would cause an increase in this phenomenon for the first time after 20 years of progress."

UNICEF explains that "9 out of 10 child victims of child labour live in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia." And also points out that "in countries in conflict, there is a 77% higher incidence of child labour."

Because they have to work, these little ones are part of the "61 million girls and boys (who) don't go to school." These figures take on dramatic edges in the case of girls; millions of them, from the age of 5, do long hours of 'housework' every day." This reality "intensifies when girls reach adolescence", say the experts.

The UN, in the "**International Year for Eradication of Children Labour**" ²

"Invites:

all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, other international and regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, individuals and other relevant stakeholders, to celebrate the International Year as appropriate, through activities aimed at raising awareness about the importance of eradicating child labour, and exchanging best practices in this regard;

the International Labour Organization (ILO), bearing in mind the provisions contained in the annex to resolution 1980/67 of the Economic and Social Council, to facilitate the celebration of the International Year.

Emphasizes that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of this resolution and that are different from those currently included in the mandate of the coordinating body should be met through voluntary contributions.

Invites all relevant stakeholders to make voluntary contributions and provide other forms of support for the International Year.

Requests the Secretary General to bring this resolution to the attention of all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, and civil society organizations so that the International Year is duly celebrated." ³

CONCLUSION: ARC•PEACE, since 1987, prioritizes education as fundamental to affirm the full validity of Human Rights. That is why we encourage readers to make these four recommendations and good wishes of the UN come true throughout the year 2021.

From ARC•PEACE we did share a good number of examples in the last three decades. Among them, the Editor wishes to highlight the work carried out by the CAHR: *Center for Architecture and Human Rights*.⁴

CAHR Executive Director is the Canadian colleague **Graeme Bristol**, and President-in-Office of our NGO, since the XX General Assembly held in Palma, in 2017. The valuable work of *Graeme Bristol* can be seen thanks to one of his numerous researches carried out in Thailand, entitled '**The Portable School**'.⁵

There he reveals the important help that architects can provide with education in different construction sites, where greedy adults and Unscrupulous ruthlessly exploit entire families. Below: A model portable school built with local materials, assisted by a group of young architects as part of the CAHR sponsored volunteer program.



The *Newsletter Editor* encourages readers to propose local actions focused on the benefit of children.



The wisdom of investing in education is as old as twenty-nine centuries; like King Solomon proverb pointed out:

"Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it." ⁶

In 2015, the 193 member States of the UN signed the agreement entitled: "Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", known as the 17 Goals (SDG) ⁷; the fourth Goal being "Quality Education"; a mandate impossible to ignore. It is through comprehensive, courageous and generous education that we can hope to save children from labour exploitation.

ARC•PEACE has been trying to introduce profound changes to secure its own sustainability. This implies taking care of the necessary renovation, after 33 years of presence in the areas of socially responsible architecture, design and planning. We have now 4 challenges.

Let's now join forces so we can celebrate our goals together in 2021!

The Editor

1. <https://www.unicef.es/trabajo-infantil/>
Find in YouTube many videos on this issue, like: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cAJp-4GDfro>
2. 2021 International Year for the Eradication of Children Work (A/RES/73/327)
3. 101^a Plenary Session 25 July, 2019.
4. <https://architecture-humanrights.org/>
5. The Portable School; by Graeme Bristol, CAHR Executive Director; 2009. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B136cP_HAhb_3Nm15eWNyaFFCR3M/view
6. Proverbs 22:6; Common English Bible (CEB).
7. ARC•PEACE sponsored Prof. Jaime Alzérreca Pérez initiative for his Notebooks edited by the San Simón Mayor University, at Cochabamba, Bolivia, in 2016. https://www.academia.edu/27518416/Miradas_a_los_17_Objetivos_del_Desarrollo_Sustentable

LET'S LEAVE THE SHADOWS, SAY GOODBYE TO 2020, & TOGETHER RECEIVE 2021

For obvious reasons this year is worth forgetting. Yet, we know something is negative thanks to what we also know is positive. This is what we intend to convey with the 3 attached pics. Year 2020 says good bye bringing the 'Bella Storm' over Mallorca. Heavy rains and cold wave, paradoxically, both took a rest; and as anticipating better days they shared a gorgeous sunset (*below*).

A few days back, no one was thinking of drastic weather changes; even less a couple who enjoyed the sunshine in a public square; whose shadows projected on the ground ended in a photo (*below*). It looks like yesterday leaving the shadow that marks the end of a stage, in order to enter a new one, which we visualized as Peace Portal (*right*). Welcome 2021!



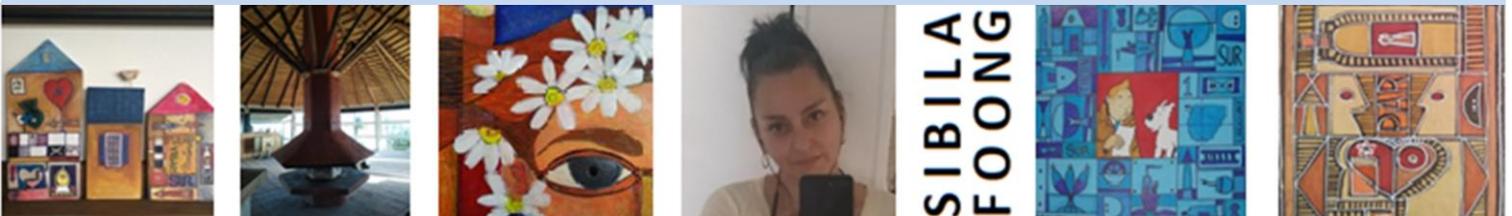
International Architects Designers Planners
for Social Responsibility

These 42 wills marked, mark or will mark the destiny of ARC•PEACE International

Representatives from more than thirty countries on five continents, we have been cooperating with other colleagues and friends by spreading the vision and mission of ARC•PEACE International. Let's hope many of us have the possibility to be its re-founding members in 2021. The objective is that our professions are exercised with total social responsibility.



THANKS SIBILA FOR YOUR GREAT AESTHETIC CONTRIBUTION! Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/revelsibilafoong>



The Editor in charge of the Newsletter, architect **Oscar Margenet Nadal**, Secretary of ARC•PEACE International, gives thanks to all contributors to this issue: **Graeme Bristol**, NGO President; **Alejandra Cerutti Jacob**, Secretary of ARC•PEACE Iberoamérica and author of the photo 'Shadows'; **Prof. Jaime Alzérreca Pérez**; **Michel Margenet**, author of the photo of the Palma sunset during the Bella Storm; **Ivana Fischer Margenet** for her financial support; **Sibila Foong** for her sculptural, pictorial and poetic art; also to all who read, comment and share this Newsletter; supporters and active members. Many thanks for cooperating and diffusing this publication.

Contributors are needed in exchange for being honorary members. Contact the ARC•PEACE Secretariat at: arpeaceinternational@gmail.com / Visit the website run by **Joan Margenet**: <https://arpeaceinternational.org/>
THE ENTIRE EDITORIAL TEAM WISHES THE READERS A HAPPY START AND BETTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE YEAR 2021

Donate using our PayPal account: ARC•PEACE International
Next Issue (Newsletter No 67) will appear on March 2021

WE NEEDED 33 DECEMBER MONTHS TO REACH 2021

2001: Chilean worker commits suicide in public, denouncing those responsible for asbestosis / China enters the World Trade Organization, WTO / Economic chaos in Argentina with looting of shops, 39 deaths and resignation of President De la Rúa / 2002: Jimmy Carter, former US president, receives the Nobel Peace Prize / 72 dead and 200 injured in the explosion of pro-Russian barracks in Chechnya / 2003: The dictator Saddam Hussein is arrested in Iraq / Strong earthquake in Iran causes 46,000 deaths / 2004: earthquake in eight South Asian countries causes 200 thousand deaths and thousands of disappeared / In the fire of the Cromañón Disco, Buenos Aires, 194 die and 800 are injured / Guerrilla chief Ricardo Palmera alias Simón Trinidad is captured and imprisoned in Colorado, USA / 2005: Iraq elects first constitutional government, winning the Shiite religious group / Evo Morales is elected president in Bolivia / 2006: The UN declares the International Year of Desertification / Hugo Chávez is reelected in Venezuela / First Space Swede on Discovery Shuttle STS-116 / Former dictator Pinochet dies in Chile / 2007: Pipeline explosion kills 200 people in Nigeria / Saddam Hussein is executed in Iraq / 'Hebei Spirit' oil tanker dumps more than 10,000 tons into the sea of crude oil in front of the Taean Haean Natural Park, South Korea / Argentina: Cristina Fernández de Kirchner is the first woman elected president, succeeding her husband / Suicide terrorist kills former Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir Bhutto and 30 other people / 2008: The UN declares the International Year of Planet Earth / Bernard Madoff, Nasdaq, Wall Street scam for 37.5 billion Euros is discovered / Israel starts bombing in the Gaza Strip killing and injuring hundreds of civilians / 2009: The XV International Conference on Climate Change was held in Copenhagen / Evo Morales is reelected in Bolivia / 2010: Brazil recognizes Palestine in its 1967 borders / The Tunisian Revolution begins with the public suicide of a young man / Wave of cold and snow covers all of Europe / 2011: UN declares International Year of Forests / Meeting to save the Euro from crisis concludes in Brussels / Mass protests against Vladimir Putin re-elected thanks to alleged fraud / USA permanently withdraws its troops from Iraq / Civil war begins in Syria / 2012: UN declares the International Year of Cooperatives / Fiasco of 'end of the world' forecasts / Typhoon Bopha left 647 dead, 1,400 injured and 780 missing in Philippines / Elementary school shooting kills 27 in Sandy Hook, USA / 2013: Uruguay is the 1st country in the world to authorize the sale of marijuana / South Sudan: rebels create chaos and death / China: 3rd country to land a device on the Moon / 2014: The UN declares the International Year of Family Farming / Environmentalists protest over the announcement to build the Nicaraguan canal / USA makes its relations with Cuba more flexible / 2015: The UN declares the International Year of Light and Soils / Burkina Faso chose its first civil government / IS claims an attack in California with 14 dead and 21 injured / 2016: 36 people die in a fire at a party with electronic music, Ca., USA / Odebrecht becomes a resounding case of corruption in Latin America / 160 believers die when church roof falls in Nigeria / 2017: Iraq announces end of war with IS / In Peru civilians take to the streets repudiating the presidential pardon of former dictator Alberto Fujimori / 2018: 1st meeting of G20 in South America, Buenos Aires / Indonesia : tsunami leaves 492 dead / IS claims attacks in Iraq and Libya with deaths and injuries / A. M. López Obrador (AMLO) sworn in as 1st left-wing president of modern Mexico / 2019: The UN declares the International Year of Indigenous Languages / 30th anniversary of the Romanian revolution / 30 years since Portugal cedes Macao to China / 2020: WHO declares the International Year of Nurse and Midwife / It is 1 year since the appearance of COVID -19 / It is the 250th birthday of the inimitable musician Ludwig van Beethoven.