

# ARC•PEACE INTERNATIONAL REFOUNDATIONAL PROJECT

## PRELIMINARY REPORT

During the first 28 years - of its more than 33 years of life - our institution was affirmed and promoted by a group made up of colleagues from Sweden and from other nations who were studying or working in Sweden. That was the reason why it functioned in Stockholm from its initial foundation as IADPPNW<sup>1</sup> (international architects, designers, planners for the prevention of nuclear war), and later as ARC•PEACE (international architects, designers, planners for social responsibility) until 2015.

The relocation of the headquarters to Spain was not scheduled; it was an extreme measure taken in response to two very unfortunate events: the first, the long illness suffered since 2014 by Professor Dick Urban Vestbro,<sup>2</sup> who endured it with enormous courage until his death five years later;<sup>3</sup> and the second, the discreet but very heartfelt departure from this world of one of the main mentors of the NGO, the late Professor Sven Thiberg, in March 2015.<sup>4</sup>

### **Our institution was born in coincidence with important changes worldwide.**

To name a few, a copy of the UN report published under the name '*Our Common Future*', later known as the '*Brundtland Report*',<sup>5</sup> was already circulating in the hands of the founders of IADPPNW in Brighton, in July 1987. With it the UN tried to initiate a process of radical changes in the political, social and economic approach in the world. This did not happen because, paradoxically, the most developed countries never honoured it as expected.

Shortly after completing two years of its creation, Professors Sven Thiberg (Sweden) and James Jim Morgan (USA) proposed updating the institution, as a result of the successful International Assembly held in Prague (former Czechoslovakia), just when citizens began to tear down the infamous Berlin Wall.<sup>6</sup>

This proposal was seconded by convening a General Assembly in coincidence with the XVI<sup>th</sup> Congress of the UIA, in Montreal, Canada, in June 1990. On that occasion, at the suggestion of Professor Glenn Sweitzer<sup>7</sup> it was decided to adopt an acronym that better identify the organization with Humanity's effort to establish lasting 'peace'.<sup>8</sup>

Despite the fact that at that time the only means of communication in use were the postal mail, the telephone and the new electronic mail, these examples reveal an institutional attitude attentive to the changing reality. Thanks to it, the Newsletters were born in 1990. With this advance, the recommendations on the permanent need to strengthen and update the organization's operation were disseminated in greater detail. Global support grew, to the point of adding new international members to the first Boards of Directors.<sup>9</sup>

The undersigned, the only active co-founder to date, was asked to be in charge of the ARC•PEACE Secretariat and the eventual transfer to Spain, what occurred with its incorporation to the RNA (National Registry of Associations) at the end of 2015, based in Palma, Balearic Islands' capital.<sup>10</sup>

It was during the International Meeting "*The Threatened City, the Citizen, the Future City*",<sup>11</sup> held in this insular city, that the regional group ARC•PEACE Iberoamérica was created, in September 2015. Later, at this insular headquarters, two General Assemblies (GA) were held: the XIX<sup>th</sup> in 2016;<sup>12</sup> the XX<sup>th</sup> in 2017,<sup>13</sup> and a long series of other activities. All of this attracted people from a wide range of disciplines and occupations; however, someone who joined the group not long ago entrusted to the Secretary: "*ARC•PEACE functions as a single family on mission.*"<sup>14</sup>

In 2019 the Executive Council planned to hold the XXI<sup>th</sup> GA in the same city, under the slogan "*Participation is a Right*". The date was set for May 7 and 8, 2020, with the idea of facilitating the eventual attendance of interested parties at the UIA World Congress 'Rio de Janeiro World Capital of Architecture', planned for July of that same year.<sup>15</sup>

However, the Covid-19 pandemic forced the cancellation of both events.<sup>16</sup> The controversial source of the appearance of this mutant virus caught Humanity by surprise and generated a series

of pathologies worthy of being investigated by experts in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Medicine, Pharmacology, Anthropology, Political Economy, Social Psychology, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. We have duly dealt with this chaotic global reality in the Newsletters<sup>17</sup>. Due to the emerging restrictions, it was decided to invite the members and supporters of ARC•PEACE to hold an online meeting on the 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the institutional life.<sup>18</sup>

Those who finally participated on July 15, 2020, were colleagues **Graeme Bristol (President)**, **Paul Broches (Representative to the UN)**, **Fernando Mendizábal Mendoza** (collaborator in charge of the Google Meet session, and **Oscar Margenet Nadal** (Secretary).

All this information is accessed at: <https://arcpeaceinternational.org/newsletters/> and on the Facebook pages in Spanish: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1535062103438673> and in English: <https://www.facebook.com/ArcPeace-International/425665954845118>

In the video meeting last July, it was agreed that society as a whole faces a situation that requires radical changes in all areas; also, that - despite the enormous task that this implies - we should see this situation as an opportunity to properly adapt our institutional functioning. A correct vision of what is happening worldwide will help us to respond in practice to the challenges that come from decades ago; and those that are still unknown at the regional and local level, but that will appear in the near future.

In addition, it was agreed that, depending on the health situation, a date and a place accessible to the majority of colleagues who wish to attend the XXI GA will be set. On that occasion this Refoundational Project<sup>19</sup> will be put to the consideration of the assembled members.

To begin the task, with this Preliminary Report the Secretariat extends a cordial invitation to all colleagues and friends who wish to contribute laying the foundations of the Project. There are two alternatives, at least, to renew the organization:

1. Maintain the NGO and create the Foundation. 2. Transform the NGO into a Foundation<sup>20</sup>.

I recommend reading the attached material to learn more details about these possibilities.

Finally, if based on your experience you want to send us your suggestions, comments, ideas or queries, we will be very grateful to consider them to improve this project.

With best wishes for this year, I look forward to your kind response with warm greeting,

**Oscar Margenet Nadal**  
Secretary  
ARC•PEACE International  
arcpeaceinternational@gmail.com

*Palma, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain, January 2021*

References:

1. 'Arc-Peace The Early years', Tony Watkins, Pages 4 and 5 (unnumbered), Karaka Bay Press, December 2016. The XVI UIA Congress held in Brighton, England, had to be postponed from April to July 1987 due to the vulgarly spread threat as the 'red button'. For that reason, thousands of colleagues canceled their attendance.
2. Newsletters: N ° 43, Page 7; December 2014; No. 45, Page 11; June 2015; N ° 53, Page 2, June 2017.
3. Newsletters: N ° 60, Page 7, June 2019; In Memoriam Special Edition, 8 Pages, July 2019.
4. Newsletters: N ° 48, Pages 1 and 7, March 2016.
5. [https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informe\\_Brundtland](https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Informe_Brundtland). In it the term 'sustainable development' was introduced, coined by Prof. Ernst F. Schumacher in his book 'Small is Beautiful' (1973); and by Oscar Margenet in his Spanish version entitled 'Small is Beautiful', Editorial H. Blume, Barcelona, 1978; that is to say 14 and 9 years - respectively - before 'Our Common Future' included it - curiously - ignoring this important antecedent.
6. IADPPNW Newsletter 1/90, Pages 1 to 4, 1990. In this first newsletter you are invited to attend the XVII UIA World Congress, Page 4.
7. Ibid. Page 4.
8. ARC • PEACE Newsletter 2/90, Pages 1 and 2.
9. Newsletters: N ° 3, Pages 1, 2 and 4, December 1991; No5, Pages 2, 3 and 4, June 1993; No6, Page 1, November 1993; No11, Page 4, October 1997; No 12, Pages 1 to 6; March 1998; No 13, Pages 1 to 8, December 1998; No 14, Pages 2, 3, 4 and 5; April 1999; No 15, Pages 1 and 3, December 1999; No 16, Page 6, May 2000; No 23, Page 8, March 2008; No 25, Page 4, January 2009; No 26, Page 6, May 2009; No 27, Page 7, December 2009; No 28, Page 1, June 2010; No 29, Pages 5 and 6, December 2010; No 31, Pages 5 and 7, September 2011; No 32, Page 8, December 2011; No34, Page 1, August 2012; No 35, Page 7, December 2012; No36, Pages 5 and 9, March 2013; No 39, Pages 2 and 4, December 2013; No 40, Pages 1 and 2, April 2014; No 41, Pages 1, 2 and 4, June 2014; No 42, Pages 7 and 8, September 2014; No 44, Page 5, March 2015; No 47, Page 7, December 2015; No 48, Pages 1 and 2, March 2016; No 49, Pages 1, 2 and 3, June 2016; No 52, Pages 1, 5 and 6, December 2016; No 53, Pages 1, 2, 7 and 8, June 2017; No 54, Pages 1 to 8, December 2017; No 56, Pages 1, 7 and 8, June 2018; No 57, Pages 1, 2 and 8, September 2018; No 58, Pages 1 and 2, December 2018; No 59, Pages 1 and 2, March 2019; No 60, Pages 1,2,3,4,5, 7 and 8, June 2019; No 61, Pages 1 to 8, September 2019; No 62, Pages 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, December 2019; No 63, Pages 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8, March 2020; No 64, Pages 1, 6, 8, 9 and 10, June 2020; No 65, Pages 1, 6, 7 and 8, September-October 2020; No 66, Pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, December 2020.
10. Newsletters: N ° 47, Page 8, December 2015; RNA No. G1 / S4 / No. 141.
11. Newsletters: N ° 45, Pages 1 and 3, June 2015; N ° 46, Pages 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7, October 2015.
12. Newsletters: N ° 47, Pages 1 and 3, December 2015; N ° 48, Pages 1, 2, 3 and 4, March 2016; N ° 49, Pages 1, 2 and 3, June 2016.
13. Newsletters: N ° 48, Page 8, March 2016; N ° 50, Page 9, September 2016; N ° 52, Pages 1, 5 and 6, March 2017; N ° 53, Pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, June 2017; N ° 54, Pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8, December 2017.
14. Architect Mario Guitelzon. Bulletin No. 63, Pages 2 and 8, March 2020.
15. Newsletters: No 60, pages 1 and 5, June 2019; No 61, pages 1 and 7, September 2019; No 63, pages 3 and 8, March 2020.
16. Bulletin: No 64, pages 1 and 8, June 2020.
17. Newsletters: No 62, Pages 1, 2, 4 and 8, December 2019; No 63, Pages 1, 2 and 4, March 2020; No 64, Pages 1, 4 and 5, June 2020; No 65, Pages 1 and 2, June 2020.
18. Bulletin: No 65, Pages 7 and 8, September-October 2020.
19. REFUNDATIONAL PROJECT OF ARC • PEACE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT. Pdf
20. ALTERNATIVES I and II. Pdf