



# ARC•PEACE



International Architects Designers Planners for Social Responsibility  
Newsletter No 70 November 2021

## SCHOOL VIOLENCE

## VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS

## URBAN PLANNING

STOP IT!



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Page 3

**LIGHT to LIFE**  
Adopting orphans  
is improving  
Humanity  
Page 5



World Science Day  
for Peace  
and  
Development



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Happy Children's Day!

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**Now is the time to participate !!**

**XXXIV<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
XXI<sup>st</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Palma, Mallorca, Balearic Islands, Spain  
Friday 26, Saturday 27 and Sunday 28

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**NORWAY - PALESTINE**

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| Sunday                                     | Monday   | Tuesday                       | Wednesday   | Thursday                                     | Friday                                  | Saturday                             |
|--|--|-------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------------|
|  | 1  | 2                             | 3   | 4<br>Day against<br>violence and<br>bullying | 5                                       | 6                                    |
| 7  | 8<br>World<br>Urban Planning<br>Day                | 9<br>World<br>Adoption<br>Day | 10<br>Science for<br>Peace and<br>Development         | 11   | 12                                      | 13                                   |
| 14   | 15   | 16                            | 17  | 18   | 19                                      | 20<br>Universal<br>Children's<br>Day |
| 21   | 22   | 23                            | 24  | 25<br>NO MORE<br>VIOLENCE<br>ON WOMEN        | 26<br>XXI ARC•PEACE<br>GENERAL ASSEMBLY | 27                                   |
| 28<br>XXI ARC•PEACE<br>GENERAL<br>ASSEMBLY | 29<br>Solidarity with<br>the Palestinian<br>People | 30                            | Reports sent to the General Assembly<br>Pages 9 to 12 |  |   |                                      |

## How do they see you: as an island or a continent?

Social responsibility is typical of beings that enjoy empathy with their peers in need. **Containment** honours much more than **isolation**.

In the midst of the ‘communications age’ it is worth asking why it is so difficult to forge fruitful and lasting social relationships. And, also, if we are witnesses of the numerous circles of power that use lies and ridiculous justifications with the intention of hiding their constant violation of the rights of the weakest.

It was enough that some media dared to investigate the plots of power so that the whole society began to know what is behind the scenes.

With the passage of time, what was reprehensible became naturalized; so much so that international, regional and national organizations decided to create "days" a year for it; according to them, in order to ‘generate social awareness’.

The first page shows seven of those ‘days’ with motives that coincide with our struggle over 34 years of life. November is a key month for **ARC•PEACE** members and supporters; to include the deferred meeting of the XXI General Assembly.

Also, we use two events as excellent context to answer the question in the title. One: it is on the island of La Palma with the volcanic eruption that continues; the other: the plan to re-urbanize the central area of Gaza.

*I. The volcanic eruption that shocks the Atlantic island of La Palma, in the Spanish archipelago of the Canary Islands* (Editor's map at the bottom).

The origin of these beautiful islands is their ancient volcanic activity. From the earth's magma, the fertile land that is today inhabited by more than two million human beings emerged on the oceanic level; thousands of which have been affected by this amazing natural phenomenon.

Many of them lost their houses, plantations, farms, shops and workshops on which they lived; in addition to cultural and public buildings.

In the opposite sense to easy denialism I suggest drawing a symbolic parallel between the information that reaches us and the effect it produces on us. In the eyes of others we act with one of two opposite behaviours.

**One:** that which is the consequence of your senses isolating you or your mind turning you away from an unwanted reality. Trapped in ‘yours’ you exclude everything related to it; then you are seen as an island.

**Another:** the one that results from the irrepressible impulse to incorporate that reality as yours. Agile empathy moves you; and you are seen as a continent.

Isolating ourselves is minimizing the suffering suffered by beings similar to us. Being willing to analyse the fact in a rational way helps to identify with them and contain them.

*II. The enormous suffering of the Palestinians confined in the cruelly named Gaza Strip.*

Entire families are herded there after being uprooted from their ancestral homes in brutal operations, while taking over their land.

Supported by the **United States** and the **United Kingdom**, the Israelis made Gaza a huge prison as populated as the **Canary Islands**. Only those poor internees are denied any outside access by land, sea or air.

The paradox is that today the **Israeli government** does to the **Palestinians** what the **Israelites** suffered in **Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Rome, and Germany** under the insane **Hitler**.



In red, the Editor shows what Israel is missing to keep all of the Palestinian territory

During the 60 years after the creation of the two states by the **UN** (1947), its rejection by the **Arab League**, and the unilateral declaration of independence by **Israel** in 1948, the **UN Security Council** issued 79 **Resolutions** against **Israel** for its repeated violation of peace accords.<sup>1</sup> By circumventing them, the **Zionist State** continues to use its sophisticated Army to oust peaceful **Palestinians** from their homes, demolish their original dwellings and replace them with exclusive housing for Jews coming from the Diaspora.

The systematic violation of HR by the **Israelis** provoked the **Arab** response, equally terrorist, like that of **Hamas**. The **Israeli** ruling wing shamelessly uses its warmongering in the name of the **Jewish** religion; and it puts peaceful **Muslims** in the same bag as the **Arab** militias. Thus, **Israel** tries to self-justify legalizing its usurpation of land, confining its inhabitants and building without pause the infamous 7-meter-high **Separation Wall** to reach the projected 721 km in length.<sup>2</sup>

On this issue, renowned **Norwegian** architect and urban planner **Øystein Grønning**, a member of **ARC•PEACE**, has been fighting for years on behalf of the weak attacked by the greedy. **Øystein** provides us with another good example of the empathy it takes to help our worldwide neighbours in need like the **Palestinians** (See page 8).

**Dear reader: do you know if you are seen as an island or as a continent?**

**The Editor**



1. <https://dissidentvoice.org/2010/01/rogue-state-israeli-violations-of-u-n-security-council-resolutions/>  
2. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/11/1051781>

## November 8: World Urban Planning Day

The profession of Urbanism is symbolized in the logo adopted on a design dating from 1934, whose version in use is its synthesis (2nd and 3rd images on the right, respectively).

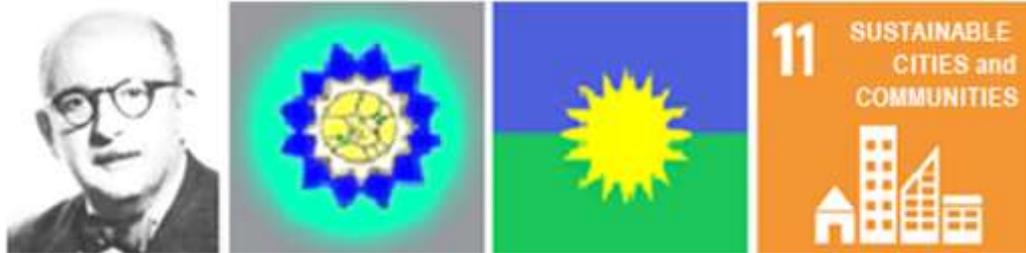
**Carlos María della Paolera** (1890-1960; right) <sup>1</sup> an Argentine engineer and urban planner is the author. Inspired by the sun, air and vegetation created the logo. These three natural elements are represented in radiant way in the colours golden yellow, blue and green.

The aforementioned pioneer is the author of another initiative: the **World Urban Planning Day**. Its celebration was made official by the *International Organization for World Urban Planning Day*, in 1949. Its *Permanent Committees* in each adherent country are in charge of scheduling events.

The purpose of this initiative is to educate people, starting with the urban planning teams. The emphasis was placed on the need to generate healthy and pleasant environments with green spaces, to avoid population overcrowding, global contamination and the completion of plans in execution.

### Updated information

1. According to current statistics, almost 6 out of every 10 inhabitants of the planet are urban beings.<sup>2</sup> In other words we humans who live in cities now number 4,741,200,000.
2. The occupation of territory in urban areas is only 4% of the land surface.
3. The number of inhabitants living in marginal and undeveloped areas in cities is close to 1,000,000,000. We can say that a fifth of the urban population lacks the minimum conditions of basic habitability.



4. According to different reports, urban electricity consumption varies between 60% and 80% of the planet's total consumption.

5. Although cities produce close to 80% of the world's GDP, they also generate 70% of carbon emissions, leading the contribution to the planet's greenhouse effect.

**The Sustainable Development Goal No 11 UN 2030 Agenda** (above far right).

This SDG states:

*"The world is increasingly urbanized (...) Cities and metropolitan areas are powerhouses of economic growth (...)*

*Rapid urbanization is resulting in increasing numbers of inhabitants in poor neighbourhoods, inadequate and overloaded infrastructure and services (such as waste collection and water and sanitation systems, roads and transportation), which is worsening air pollution and uncontrolled urban growth (...)*

*The United Nations food agency FAO has warned that hunger and deaths could increase significantly in urban areas that do not have measures in place to ensure that poor and vulnerable residents have access to food."*

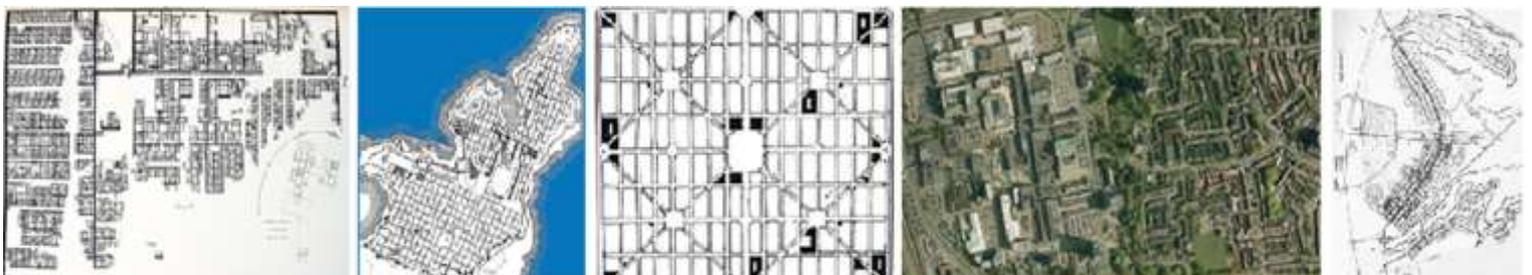
ARC•PEACE book **"Architecture & Planning under different political systems"** <sup>3</sup> - whose Spanish version *"Arquitectura & Planificación Urbana bajo Distintos Sistemas Políticos"* is still waiting to be edited, is written by fifteen authors. They are introduced as committed professionals, and with the ability to *"highlight the challenges and potential that urban planners and architects can exercise to promote human rights, citizen influence and democratic planning processes within professional work in the societies in which they participate."*

From the Newsletter we encourage architects and urban planners who fight for the Common Good above all selfish desire, to organize events on the **Urban Planning Day** with special participation of their neighbours.

*The Editor*

### References

1. He was Director of the Institute of Urbanism at the Buenos Aires UBA. Graduated from the Institut d'Urbanisme de Paris, Carlos María della Paolera is considered the first professor of Urbanism in the Argentine Republic.
2. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/264651/proportion-of-population-in-cities-worldwide/>
3. [https://arcpeaceinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Architecture\\_and\\_planning\\_under\\_different\\_political\\_systems.pdf](https://arcpeaceinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Architecture_and_planning_under_different_political_systems.pdf)



Above, from left: 1. **Sesostris II Pyramid Villa** at El Lahun, Egypt, 19th century BC. C. / 2. **Piraeus Port** Ancient Greece, by **Hippodamus of Miletus** (498-408 BC) Greek architect and urban planner who is considered the father of urbanism. He based the city design on functionality, with an orthogonal or 'hypodamic' grid, streets and roads at an angle. / 3. **La Plata**, Argentina (1880) by a design team led by **Pedro Benoit** (1836-1897), Argentine surveyor, engineer, architect and urban planner. The grid, the diagonal streets, and the green spaces are repeated. 4. Aerial view of **Stevenage**, Hertfordshire, England (1946), the first of 15 'new towns' built in the UK between 1946 and 1949. Note the clear difference between the new approach on the left and the 'from garden city' on the right, typical of **Ebenezer Howard** (1850-1928). / **Brasilia**, Brazil (1960), by **Lucio Costa**, urban planner; **Oscar Niemeyer**, architect and **Roberto Burle Marx**, landscaper. This is a classic modern example of 'official urban planning' without any citizen participation in the entire process.

**November 4: International Day against Violence and Bullying at School / November 20: Universal Children's Day**

I. *Cyber bullying quickly joined historical forms of violence suffered by children and adolescents.*

It would be retrograde to deny the well-proven fact that Internet access provides previously ignored ways for communication and learning new opportunities. It shouldn't be ignored that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, children now spend more time in front of their computers than ever before.

Many global sources agree that the increase in virtual mode in primary and secondary education is directly detrimental to the face-to-face mode.

***Dire consequences of 'progress'***

On the other hand, the high cost of this technological advance is a fact: *children and adolescents are exposed to 'online violence'.*

Only in Europe (EU) almost half of those consulted acknowledged having been victims of some form of cyber bullying during sanitary confinement. Among them, girls between the ages of 11 and 13 are the most harassed by the sexually corrupt.

Just as at home parents are responsible for the education of their children, teachers and tutors are responsible in formal schools. Their most important mission is to protect those most exposed by the use of this technology. They are the ones who must take all the possible precautions and security controls.

The main objective is that they themselves can identify behind their disguises the many forms and sources of violence online. Only then can they protect themselves from perverse attacks by their own peers and corrupting adults.

Cyber bullying, like physical and mental violence, directly affects school performance, mental health and the quality of life of students. Thus, 9 out of 12 schoolchildren excluded from the school year have been victims of 'bullying' or school harassment by virtual means.



The main objective of the celebration of this **World Day**,<sup>1</sup> is to sensitize all people, regardless of their relationship, about the urgent need to put an end to this cruel problem of violence and school bullying.



Each day of the school year, teachers, administrators, union delegates, businessmen and government officials, with the support of parents, must assume the moral and practical obligation to contribute to preventing cyber violence.

The joint action of the living forces of a society contributes to transforming the educational centers into true schools for peace and sustainable development.

II. *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*,<sup>2</sup> signed by 192 countries, is the most universally adhered treaty on human rights.

Childhood is not a subject just to review from time to time; it is to analyse what the next generations will inherit from us adults.

To celebrate **Universal Children's Day**<sup>3</sup> is to recognize to all the children of the world the right to a dignified life, good health, sound education and being heard in their opinions.

It is also respecting their right to play, to be protected from harassment, violence and discrimination; and above all to have a happy family life. Our community members: i.e. parents, teachers and health personnel, government authorities, religious and political leaders, businessmen, citizens, the media and social networks, play a key role in the well-being of children.



Thus, this **Universal Children's Day** offers us a starting point to carry out actions inspired by the defence, promotion and fulfillment of their rights. Dialogue is not enough; Transformative practical works are necessary to improving the world we are leaving to children.

The pandemic crisis has had worse consequences for children than for adults. It is time for professionals with social responsibility to come together to imagine a world different from the one we live in.



***Why not take advantage of November 20 to initiate a change in the way we behave with children and adolescents?***

***The Editor***

- [1. https://es.unesco.org/commemorations/day/against-school-violence-and-bullying](https://es.unesco.org/commemorations/day/against-school-violence-and-bullying)
- [2. https://www.unicef.es/causas/derechos-ninos/convencion-derechos-ninos](https://www.unicef.es/causas/derechos-ninos/convencion-derechos-ninos)
- [3. https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/10565/v87n4p341.pdf](https://iris.paho.org/bitstream/handle/10665.2/10565/v87n4p341.pdf)

***On education:*** "Instruct the child in his way, and even when he is old he will not depart from it." Solomon (988-928 BC).

***On the abusers:*** "It would be better for him to have a millstone tied around his neck and thrown into the sea, than to trip one of these little ones." Jesus (c. 4 BC - 30/33 AD)

***On non-violence:*** "Non-violence is more powerful than the weapon of greatest destruction conceived by the ingenuity of man." Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).

## November 9: World Day of Adoption

According to the *United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)*, there are more than 150 million homeless children in the world. This harsh reality is closely related to others that have not yet been quantified; but, if there were reliable statistics, it would surely give a higher figure. I suggest analysing them in two groups closely related to each other, since they present the direct causes that justify the adoption.

**One.** It is the one that represents thousands of couples who suffer the endless pain of infertility; He is joined by women who due to their medical condition would endanger their own lives if they decided to bring a child into the world; and even more so, those who, enjoying good health, live single. All of them would be much happier if they could raise a child born homeless.

**Two.** It is that of so many young mothers who have been left widows and with children, running the risk of losing their home due to lack of livelihood. In this group are single women too young to take on the responsibility of raising a child properly; and those who lack all resources to properly care for a child.

It causes a lot of sadness to check this reality with children damaged by homelessness.

Adoption is a very humane way of becoming a parent; and the adoption process should be developed with the necessary legal and social support, in a more agile way than the current one.



Above: John and Gladys Akaki are posing with the brave group members

Among the many ways of working on this very special Day <sup>1</sup>, we suggest remembering what in the last three years we have been reporting in the Bulletin about '*Light to Life*', the Children's Home in Kisii, Kenya.



Left: she is Angel; right: he is Brighton; both are 6 years old

Feeding, clothing and educating the 62 children of the Home costs about 4.557€ each month; at the rate of 2,45€ per child and per day. Those who wish to collaborate by adopting or sponsoring a boy like **Brighton**, a girl like **Angel** or children of other age, can write in English to the directors:

**John & Gladys Akaki.**  
[obeshjohn@yahoo.com](mailto:obeshjohn@yahoo.com)

For more information or help on this topic ARC•PEACE is at your complete service. Write to:

[arcepeaceinternational@gmail.com](mailto:arcepeaceinternational@gmail.com)

This is the opportunity to contribute to transform many life stories.

**Let's not let it pass!**

*The Editor*

1. Hank Fortener created World Adoption Day in 2014; and also a crowdfunding platform for adoption, in order to provide a family for each orphan child.

## November 25: Internacional Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

The *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women* was approved in the *UN General Assembly* in 1993. It advocates putting an end to any act of sexual violence that has or may result in physical or psychological harm or suffering for women. It explains why we must eliminate violence against women as well as threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty; whether they occur in public or private life.

This is one of the most widespread, devastating and persistent current forms of human rights violations in the world. It is barely reported due to the impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators; and the silence, stigmatization and shame suffered by the victims.

In general, this violence includes:



- Physical and psychological abuse from the sentimental partner or the spouse; reaching femicide.

• Sexual innuendo and harassment, stalking and street harassment, rape, forced sexual act and marriage, cyberbullying, and child sexual abuse.

- Trafficking in human beings: slavery and sexual exploitation.
- Genital mutilation.
- Child marriage.

Violence against women is still an obstacle to achieving equality.

**Everyone must defend women from degenerated men who make women believe that all men are like them.**

By helping to **end violence against women and girls**, the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* will make true that **no one will be left behind**



**The time has come to honour in each woman who in the months of pregnancy was our first safe home in the world: our mother.** *The Editor*

## November 10: World Science Day for Peace and Development

### I. World Science Day for Peace and Development<sup>1</sup>

It was created to remember the commitment made at the *World Conference on Science, Budapest*, in 1999. It has been held around the world since 2002, under the auspices of the *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization* (UNESCO) and the *International Council for Science* (CIC).

The purpose is to maintain and renew, at the national and international level, the responsible participation of science in the neediest areas of every society; as is **the eradication of poverty**, in particular.

It also aims to raise public awareness of the importance of eliminating the gap between science and society. Since the beginning of *World Day*, many projects, programs and funds have been generated around the world to support this laudable goal.

It has also helped foster cooperation among scientists living in conflict-ridden regions, such as the creation of the **Israeli-Palestinian Science Organization (IPSO)**, supported by UNESCO.

At the *Budapest* meeting, it was considered that the establishment of this Day would constitute an opportunity to reaffirm each year the will to achieve the objectives proclaimed in the **Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge** and to follow up on the recommendations of the *Program in favor of Science: General Framework of Action*.

It is also the door that opens the *International Week of Science and Peace*, which had been celebrated since 1986, when the **International Year of Peace** was observed.

**ARC•PEACE** promotes and supports initiatives that are financed with funds that are transferred from the arms industry towards the social, cultural and economic development of the world's neediest populations; and thus comply with the objectives of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.



Imitating the UN when it invites Member States to celebrate the **Day of Peace**, **ARC•PEACE** encourages associated groups and individuals to: sponsor conferences, workshops, and other actions to promote and disseminate the relationship between the scientific and technological progress and the maintenance of peace and security on the planet.



Photo: *NGO Strategy, 2018; Roof and Own Site Program; using earthquake resistant construction technologies*". Lima, Peru.

### II. International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People<sup>2</sup>

The date was chosen because on November 29, 1947, the *United Nations General Assembly* approved the well-known *Partition Resolution*, which stipulated the creation of a *Jewish state* and an *Arab state* in **Palestine**, with **Jerusalem** under a regime international special.

Of the two states envisaged in that resolution, international Zionism took the lead, supported by the US and the UK and rushed to create the **Jewish State of Israel** in 1948. The **Palestinians** have not yet obtained the inalienable rights recognized by the *UN General Assembly* and the creation of the **Palestinian state** is not yet resolved, despite having international support to do so.

To make matters worse this injustice is misnamed as the **'Question of Palestine'**.

## November 29: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People



**Israel** confines in the **Gaza Strip** hundreds of thousands of **Palestinians** forcibly removed from their homes depriving them of the right to self-determination without external interference, national independence and sovereignty. They are denied the right to return to their homes, from where they were displaced, and to have their property returned to them (Photo above).

Architect **Abe Hayeem**, *RIBA*, (photo) is a Peace activist, founder of the **Association Architects & Planners for Justice in Palestine**, and an expert on the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians.



2021 marked the 54th anniversary of the start of the *Arab-Israeli war*. That war is supported by the 'tycoons' of the war industry, one of the most profitable on the planet.

The solution to this conflict is to disempower its supporters: **the Israeli armed forces and Hamas terrorist groups**. They prevent the peaceful citizens of both countries (who even coexist in Israel) from achieving a just and lasting peace.



Peaceful Palestinians wave the flag that one day not far away will be hoisted at the UN along with the other flags of the world.

[The Editor](#)

#### References

- <https://www.un.org/es/observances/world-science-day>
- <https://www.un.org/es/observances/international-day-of-solidarity-with-the-palestinian-people>

# CONFERENCE ON "PARTICIPATION IS A RIGHT"

FRIDAY 26 AND SATURDAY 27 OF NOVEMBER 2021

| FRIDAY 26<br>Time   | Program Day 1   | Speakers   |
|---------------------|---|--|
| 18:00               | Introduction<br>Guests' Presentation<br>Coordinator                               | President of AV Es Fortí<br><b>Salvador Maimó Barceló</b><br>Cofounder & Secretary of ARC•PEACE Int.<br>Arch. & Urb. Planner <b>Oscar Margenet Nadal</b> |
| 18:15               | Introductory Words to the Conference  | Palma City Councilor<br>Citizen Participation and Interior Government Area<br><b>Alberto Jarabo Vicente</b>  |
| 18:25               | The Necessary Quality in Participation  | President of the Palma Neighborhood Federation<br><b>Maribel Alcázar</b>   |
| 18:40               | Language creates reality  | Executive and business coach<br><b>Marian Buján</b>  |
| 19:15               | <b>BRAKE</b>  | <b>Time to see Books and Paintings</b>   |
| 19:30               | I. "PARTICIPATION IS A RIGHT"   | President of ARC•PEACE Int. and of CAHR<br>Center for Architecture & Human Rights<br>Arch. & Urb. Planner <b>Graeme Bristol</b> (Canada)                 |
| 20:15               | II. NEIGHBORHOOD MAKING. CITY MAKING<br>Open to the Participation of all Presents | President of AV Es Fortí<br><b>Salvador Maimó Barceló</b>  |
| SATURDAY 27<br>Time | Program Day 2   | Speakers   |
| 17:00               | II. "PARTICIPATION IS A RIGHT"  | Cofounder & Secretary of ARC•PEACE Int.<br>Arch. & Urb. Planner <b>Oscar Margenet Nadal</b>  |
| 17:30               | II. PARTICIPATION PROPOSALS<br>in the NEIGHBORHOOD                                | President of AV Es Fortí<br><b>Salvador Maimó Barceló</b>  |
| 18:00               | <b>BRAKE</b>  | <b>Time to see Books and Paintings</b>   |
| 18:15               | CITY COUNCIL PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS<br>Answering questions to all Participants    | Palma City Councilor<br>Infrastructure and Accessibility Area<br><b>Angélica Pastor Montero</b>  |
| 18:50               | Closing words for the Conference  | <b>Salvador Maimó Barceló / Oscar Margenet Nadal</b>   |



Above, from left to right:  
Salvador Maimó Barceló, Oscar Margenet Nadal,  
Alberto Jarabo Vicente, Maribel Alcázar,  
Marian Buján, Graeme Bristol y  
Angélica Pastor Montero

Left: Plaque in front of the Casal del Barrio Es Fortí, 1, Bartomeu Darder St, 07011 Palma.

Right: Second-Hand Market celebrated years back in Barcelona Square, Es Fortí.



**AVESfortí**  
Neighborhood Association  
[www.avesforti.net](http://www.avesforti.net)



Palma Town Hall



**ARC•PEACE**  
International Architects Designers Planners  
for Social Responsibility  
<https://arcpeaceinternational.org/es/>

## XXI<sup>a</sup> GA: Participation in Times of Pandemic



After being postponed three times, finally, the **XXI General Assembly of ARC•PEACE International** was held.

Following the provisions of the Charter the Secretariat duly convened the meeting of the sovereign body of the entity. The invitation to participate was sent to colleagues, supporters and former associates via hundreds of emails. Only the equivalent of 4% of recipients responded. It is regrettable that three colleagues asked to be removed from our database.

The plan was to help those traveling to Palma with documentation and lodging reservations.

However, due to the strengthening of sanitary restrictions, four of them who planned to travel to Palma had to cancel the trip.

Only one member was kind enough to apologize for not participating due to exclusively work-related reasons; and two others tried to enter the meeting from their countries over the Internet, without success. This situation, far from discouraging them, further encouraged the President and the Secretary.

Although the pandemic continues, the GA was carried out thanks to the participation of **Nita Lorimer** (Lund, Sweden), **Osman Elkheir** (Khartoum, Sudan), **Shyama Sivadas** (Atlanta, GA, USA), **Bijayanand Misra** (New Delhi, India), **Graeme Bristol** (Vancouver, Canada) and **Oscar Margenet Nadal** (Palma, Spain), in the upper photo. The absence of **Marilou Sánchez Hurtado** (Lima, Peru) and **Ali Shimaim** (United Kingdom) was regretted.

Several months in advance, the Secretariat tried to have a room that was adequately equipped, such as those used in GA XIX and XX (years 2016 and 2017 respectively). But the toughened travel and health restrictions in recent weeks made it hard to get them.

Here is when the figures of the *President of the Neighbourhood Association 'El Fortín'* and other members emerge. *This Editor* can affirm that the *XXI General Assembly* and the *Conference on 'Participation is a Right'* could be held thanks to these Mallorcan assets. *Right: Don Salvador Maimó Barceló* and his wife **Antonia** in *Plaça Barcelona*.

We used the *Neighbourhood Casal* facilities thanks to their mediation before the *Palma City Council*



(To Page 9)

# XXI GA: Willingness to Participate Overcomes Many Obstacles

A brief review of the lives of men and women who helped the development of Humanity reveals a common key factor in their work: a strong will to face and overcome obstacles of all types and sizes.

Without attempting inappropriate comparisons, *the Editor* wishes to highlight the efforts made by those who helped us overcome the obstacles that have delayed holding the most important ARC•PEACE meeting in the last four years. Thus, to those already mentioned on page 8, here is the volunteer who was in charge of providing the essential telematics communication system.

**Andrés Margenet Cáceres** (picture) interrupted on 11/26 his own tasks in order to organize, connect and direct the free system that, in advance, he had chosen to transmit the sessions of the XXI<sup>st</sup> GA. **Thanks a lot, Andy!**



At the beginning of the meeting, both **Graeme Bristol** and **Osman Elkheir** were able to overcome the absence of video and microphone from their respective countries.

As an exclusive preview of this **Newsletter**, *the Editor* informs that what was resolved in the GA will be shared by *the Secretary* in the **Minutes** that he will write to share as from **Wednesday, December 15**.

Next, he cites some issues to which the congressmen gave a diligent treatment.

1. **ARC•PEACE** member organizations that are in arrears with the payment of their annual subscription, may request a special form of payment to catch up.
2. This being the case of the associated groups in **India** and **Sudan**, based on the commitment to catch up with the **Treasury**, it was unanimously resolved that the participation of both in this GA be with voice and vote.
3. The urgent institutional renewal was recognized as 'Number 1 Priority'.

This means programming concrete actions to attract and retain more young people to the organization. The current members decided to begin by encouraging their own descendants and others' to participate.

4. Some programs were mentioned in which ARC•PEACE International gave participation to young people, adolescents and children. Those who are no longer with us were reminded of the successful program carried out by civil associations in collaboration with the Municipality of Palma, called "El Rollo de Palma" (Palma Scroll), also replicated in Uruguay and Kenya.

It is a creative move to educate adults on the need to pedestrianize and forest the urban central area, to discourage the polluting presence of cars, to create more clean air in towns, to promote the use of public transport to and from the commercial, admin and residential areas of the city.

**The goal is to encourage young participation, like the examples depicted below.** [The Editor](#)



**YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICIPATING.** From left to right, above: **Manuel Moreno**, a Honduran architect (two master's degrees in Industrial Design) gives his urban vision; He is heard by the Mallorcan historian **Gaspar Valero Martí** and the experienced colleagues **Ahmed Aljowder** (Kingdom of Bahrain) and **Osmar Elkheir** (Sudan). The Mallorcan architect **José María Ros Matheu** speaks from a right corner while colleagues **Oscar Margenet Nadal** and **A. Aljowder** listen to him in a meeting with residents of Palma's 'El Terreno' Neighbours Assn. Below: children painting in Palma's El Olivar Square. Seven members of the **Swedish group** (ERASMUS Program) build an urban model. Eight collaborators of **El Rollo de Palma** wearing allusive t-shirts: **Gabriela Gulášová** (ERASMUS Slovakia) **Michel Margenet**, the **Secretary** of ARC • PEACE, **Samuel Sauer** (ERASMUS Slovakia), **Alejandra Cerutti Jacob** (local volunteer), **Teco Ruiz de Lobera** (Art Teacher), **Marcelo Morales** (Uruguayan volunteer) and **Kenneth Nava** (Peruvian, audio-visual producer). (To Page 10)

Reviewing files, it is verified that between GAs XX<sup>th</sup> and XXI<sup>st</sup> there were numerous actions carried out by members of ARC•PEACE; so many that they could not have been mentioned at this meeting; and, less, publish them in this Newsletter. For this reason, during the connection on Friday 26, the assembled members approved the decisions recorded ad referendum to the Minutes to be later circulated. Although some historical aspects were shared with good spirit, as they shed light on little-known issues, the GA session was streamlined to define the future responsibilities of the members in the plan to improve the institutional functioning. Thus, the Agenda was covered in little more than three hours.

Emeritus Member Bijay Misra from New Delhi, India, and with the support of the other assembly members, proposed to express appreciation to Oscar Margenet Nadal for his work in the Secretariat, taking into account adverse circumstances such as those suffered in recent years.

In response to the generous display of affection, the Secretary explained that he was just trying hard to fulfil **Dick Urban Vestbro's** wish, to take care of doing the homework that he did until he was hospitalized. "*It is not the weight of work that worries me*", said he, "*but the sudden loss of health of my wife **Alejandra Cerutti***" (photo).



Then he told what happened to her on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, just two months after the XX<sup>th</sup> GA, when she was diagnosed with

an 'acute confusional syndrome with partial memory loss and severe agoraphobia'. Thus, the newly appointed ARC•PEACE Executive Secretary was unable to take over.

This unfortunate fact also put a brake on the 2017-2020 Budget prepared by **Ibtihal Yousif**, the then Co-President, together with the Secretary of ARC•PEACE.

Regarding the Association's files, it was reported that colleague **Osman Elkheir** is the one who keeps them; while the Secretary brought part of it from his trip to Stockholm in 2019.

Furthermore, the Secretary did translate fourteen Newsletters from English into Spanish (those numbered from 56 to 69). He said to have distributed them by email, initially. But, he received little or no response from recipients. He then chose to upload them page by page to Facebook, in both English and Spanish, sending the links by email. The result did not change: only 4% of the approximately 200 names in the database acknowledged receipt of the attachment.

Then, he went for help to **Joan Gabriel Margenet** (photo), his own son. He asked him to place the Newsletters on the website, which he accepted. He does it on a volunteering basis, despite being quite busy with a Professional Training course.



After the formal items of the Agenda were approved, the reports of the members of the **Executive Committee (EC)** present, **Graeme Bristol** and **Oscar Margenet Nadal**, were heard.

**1. Graeme Bristol** is Executive Director of CAHR (Center for Architecture and Human Rights). He shared a synthesis of his work, among which we highlight his long-standing effort for the **International Union of Architects (UIA)** to include a **Department of Human Rights** in its structure.

In addition, he presented at the **UIA World Congress** held in Rio de Janeiro, last July, the writing '**Participation is a Right**', a topic worked upon during the Conference. He emphasized the need to attract younger generations, in view of the age of the current members of the EC.

**2.** Then **Oscar Margenet Nadal** pointed out that it is a priority to offer a renewed institutional image.

In this sense, it has been explained in the Newsletters that this is a long-standing problem. The NGO's former mentor **Sven Thiberg** did point out several times in his editorials that it could not be that all the work fell on the then Secretary (**Dick U. Vestbro**).

**3. Bijay Misra** speaking on behalf of **ArcPeace India** reiterated his decision to support the change of the NGO into a Foundation, as the Indian group has already done. Then, it will be possible to look for donations that today cannot be obtained, in the absence of a business-level operation, even if it is non-profit. "*I have announced that I am willing to support with money to achieve this change*," he shared.

**4. Osman Elkheir**, coinciding with what **Bijay** pointed out, spoke on behalf of **Arc Peace Sudan**. He said that his objective is to continue working to recover colleagues who were separated from his group due to the suffocating political, social and economic situation in his country.

**5. Nita Lorimer** was quite involved throughout the session and said she was moved by a deep desire that **Sweden** once again have a leading role in the entity, whatever its format. She showed great interest in the activity with children and young people. She encouraged all to engage in teaching architecture and design from childhood; and promised to support new initiatives in this regard.

**6.** Colleague **Shyama Sivasdas** did not participate in the meeting, but both by email and in the Conference, later, she said she was willing to do everything possible to start a group in **Atlanta, Georgia, USA**; there she works hard in favour of discriminated people, by procuring them a decent house.

*The Editor suggests to the readers the possibility of adding their contribution, no matter how small, so that the mission of ARC•PEACE International broadens and strengthens by adding goodwill colleagues worldwide.*

[The Editor](#)  
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This is a synthetic report of the activities carried out by ARC•PEACE associates in the last 4 years, and which are detailed in the *Minutes of the XXI GA (Annex I)*.

## I. ARC•PEACE Ibero America

The Spanish-speaking group created an architectural-urban program with the participation of groups of schoolchildren in Palma, Balearic Islands, Kingdom of Spain. In the first group outing, the children, with teachers and some parents, portrayed the urban environment with drawings and paintings on a scroll of paper; thus the name "*El Rollo de Palma*".

ARC•PEACE's goal is for adults to see how children see the city that we leave them, with so many unsolved problems and very few successes. That was a time when not few colleagues were planning to attend the XXVII Congress of the UIA in Rio de Janeiro. The project "PALMA - RIO 2020" was born; but the COVID-19 pandemic finally put an end to it.

However, a bunch of volunteers cooperated with ARC•PEACE during a several months, when eighteen youths from the EU Program ERASMUS-Plus travelled from Germany, Slovakia and Sweden to be trained in Palma.

This earned the institution the recognition of the municipal and insular governs, being invited to participate in the urban transformation of a sector of the city, of which they made a model.

Members of this group also collect medicines that NGO *Vida Digna* sends to most needed people in Venezuela. *Right: Alejandra Cerutti.*



She is the group's former secretary who twice on the topic of COVID-19 interviewed a scientist in Beijing.

The outcome were exclusive notes anticipating some therapeutic aspects that only later were addressed and recommended by the WHO.

## II. Arc.Peace India.

The group functions as a Foundation since 2015. It is actively working for *Land Rights of Urban Slum Dwellers* as a part of inclusive planning and the *17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)*. *Right: Dr Ruma Shukla, Secretary of Arc.Peace India.*



The book "*Land Rights for Urban Slum Dwellers: A Step Forward toward Sustainable Cities in India in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*" is about to be published. It starts with a preamble, highlighting the India's changing urban growth scenario and the sustainable cities. It defines the slum and the understanding of the issues of land rights of the poorest of urban poor.

Arc.Peace India will be glad to contribute to the Volume/book in the memory of Prof. Dick Urban Vestbro.

The Indian associate is also looking for collaboration with likeminded organizations / donor support as it cannot strive only on members. This may be taken as a general policy for all the organisations and ARC•PEACE International.

## III. ARC•PEACE México.

Before establishing Arc Peace group, we already worked on the formation of a *Sustainability College*. *Right: Sandra Sosa.*



It has already been established legally and it is planned to operate jointly with Arc Peace Mexico, supporting each other, thus generating a greater synergy than going it alone. The difference between one entity and another is that the College can bring together professionals from other disciplines with the same interests, so that a good work team can be made in matters of research. In addition, as we are already a recognized entity, we are trying to start working as state advisers.

Our goal is to generate a faster impulse to position us in the market and broaden our voice. This way the College and Arc Peace Mexico complement and promote each other. What we have gained is the legal inclusion of the area in ecology, whose biologists will give the complementary focus to our actions.

We have overcome several problems but managed to get three sponsors, which cover the specification of being green. They are *Interceramic, Oxical* and *Hidrocreto*.

## IV. ARC•PEACE Peru.

We continue working with women representing different provinces of the Coast, Sierra and Selva regions.

The aim is to explain the progress achieved with the presentation to the Congress of the *Land Regulation Law*. *Right: Luz Maria 'Marilou' Sánchez Hurtado.*



We are awaiting the approval of the framework law. Over the years there are occupations of privately owned but unoccupied land.

Due to lack of places to live, the families occupied them improving the area. They added drinking water, drainages, tracks, and sidewalks and parks. The families agree to pay a fair price to the former owner at the tariff price. But private property does not accept and wants families to pay them at commercial prices and this cannot be accepted because these lands were occupied when they were cotton and vegetable growing areas, not urban.

We are proud to introduce "*Land development for urban housing in Lima, Peru, with the examples: Villa El Salvador, Huaycán and New Pachacútec*" book by Jan Bredenoord and Luz María Sánchez Hurtado.

*Our Peruvian colleague holds several distinctions and nominations from UN Commissions and Agencies. The Editor*

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### V. ARC•PEACE RD Congo.

The Congolese group associated with ARC•PEACE International since 2016, on occasion of the XIX GA held in Palma, helps people living in poor tribal conditions to learn how to build a decent home and give a good education to their children.



Above: Apollinaire Salumu Kitenge M'ba, the founder and President.

One of our colleague concerns is to reach out for others to join this cause. To that end they held a workshop on Sanitary Fittings, in Kinshasa, on 2019. *Observation: This group characterizes for punctually paying the Annual fees.*

### VI. ARC•PEACE Sudan.

According to the reports received from our recognized colleague and friend **Dr. Osman Elkheir** (on the right), the Sudanese national group is the most affected by the successive military upheavals suffered by this Northern Africa country.



This does not pale the historical great support given to the Association by many of these brave colleagues, particularly by **Munzer Maali**.

All we can do is to offer them our solidarity; hoping they will soon be back with renewed strength.

### VII. CAHR.



**Graeme Bristol** is the Executive Director of *Center of Architecture and Human Rights* and the President of our institution since 2017.

Our Canadian colleague has a long history of working on behalf of humble exploited people in Thailand. He builds sustainable architectural designs and is a persistent voice before the global decision-making pods, where he advocates an ethical separation of our professions from the prevailing immoral system at the hands of ruthless mercantilists and cruel political authoritarians of any ideological wing.

### VIII. MCCI.

This organization works in crowded prisons in favour of better conditions for the internees. It was recognized by the provincial government receiving more internees to look after (but not more funds, obviously). Internees receive masonry and carpentry courses. They produced 60 baby cribs that were donated to a group of young people who work with single mothers in deprived neighbourhoods.

At the special event with the mothers receiving the cribs, official diplomas in Constructions, Sanitary Installations, English and Guitar were delivered to the internees who approved all the exams.

Argentine colleague **Héctor Santojanni** (right), President of the organization, is most grateful for all the support received from ARC•PEACE: "We



*are honoured to know that, in one way or another, we are part of that organization."* In fact, an anonymous donor paid all their annual fees until year 2020.

*Santojanni* hopes that more people realize that the only way to move forward is by "recognizing the other as a person, as an equal, as a similar."

### IX. SGR (UK).

**Stuart Parkinson** (below) is the Executive Director of *Scientists for Global Responsibility*. SGR recognises that science, design and technology are indeed part of the problem; but also recognises the enormous contributions that they make to our civilisation and wellbeing. The new problems such as starvation, drought and illness, require a combination of new scientific, economic and political solutions. If social justice, care for the other species of this planet, and a concern for future generations have their rightful place as fundamental values, then science, design and technology can be much more part of the solution than part of the problem.



### X. Shyama Sivadas

She recently joined our institution from the US. Our colleague is a strong voice denouncing all kind of discrimination on the basis of ethnic, social or belief grounds. She works hand in hand with the homeless; her voice is heard by politicians and officers in government.



### XI. Anthony 'Tony' Watkins

This multifaceted New Zealand colleague is one of the co-founders of ARC•PEACE.

His long trajectory in vernacular architecture and his unique literary gift have been recognized in his country. For these among several other reasons, *Tony* well deserves to be nominated *Emeritus Member* of our organization.



*The Editor*

The Secretary of **ARC•PEACE Internacional**, architect **Oscar Margenet Nadal**, responsible Editor of this Newsletter, is grateful to all who made this edition possible particularly voluntary **Joan Gabriel Margenet** in charge of the website for a second year.

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**Contributions are welcome:** articles, projects, ideas, constructive comments, translations into French, German, Portuguese and Arabic.

If you wish to cooperate, please get in touch with:

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