

2010 IofC GLOBAL CONSULTATION

CLUJ-NAPOCA, ROMANIA, 12-19 APRIL

The IofC Global Consultation in Cluj-Napoca, Romania was memorable in several ways...

...there were important issues to discuss: the proposal for a new governance structure, the selection of new members for the International Council, and the strategic use of Caux. It was also the first Global Consultation to take place in an East European country. Of special value was the presence of Rajmohan and Usha Gandhi and the team of younger people with whom they have visited countries in Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

It was also memorable because of the eruption of the volcano in Iceland, which covered most of the European continent with an ash cloud and prevented air travel across Europe. This gave the Consultation a slightly chaotic ending, with some participants creatively organizing alternative transport and others patiently waiting until the skies cleared and making the best of extra days in Romania. (A good reminder we humans can't control everything!)

The venue of Cluj-Napoca, Romania's second city and the capital of Transylvania Province, was chosen in part to support the emerging IofC team there and in the city of Baia Mare, 150km north of Cluj. In addition to hosting the Consultation, Diana Damsa organised three successful public events in Baia Mare and Cluj-Napoca featuring Rajmohan Gandhi (visit: www.iofc.org/gandhi-tour). The Gandhi party went on to Kiev and Crimea in Ukraine, while others did visits in Romania and Moldova.

We appreciated the many responses to the Consultation themes that had been submitted. The facilitators, Anthony Duigan (South Africa), Kate Monkhouse (England) and Inese Voika (Latvia) ensured that these were taken into account and used Open Space Technology (www.openspaceworld.org) to draw out the convictions and concerns of all participants. What emerged was a result of working together, generating ideas and drawing on the creativity of a wide variety of people.

Governance & Selection of International Council members

A full day was given to discussing the proposal, '**Towards a Simpler Governance**' (www.iofc.org/governance-proposal-3) which had already benefited from extensive worldwide consultation.

The proposal combines the International Council and the Executive Committee of the International Association (IA) into one body, to be called the International Council, with a three to four person Executive Team. After agreeing on some minor but important amendments, the proposal was unanimously approved. There was a wholehearted sense that the simplified leadership structure will enhance the effectiveness of IofC's work. (The amended version of the proposal will soon be available on the xChange.)

The amended proposal will now be considered by the IA Members (national IofC Boards) with a view to incorporating the proposed changes into the constitution

of the International Association at the General Assembly in Caux on 24 July 2010.

New International Council

Another full day was devoted to selecting by consensus seven people to serve on the International Council (IC):

Nombulelo Khanyile (South Africa) and Andrew Lancaster (Australia) – both current IC members re-selected for a further two-year term – Fabiola Benavente (Mexico), Chris Breitenberg (USA), Shoufeng Hsu (Taiwan), Omnia Marzouk (Egypt/UK) and Edward Peters (UK).

Subject to approval by the IA General Assembly (see above), their terms begin in October 2010, when they will join Rajmohan Gandhi (India), Lorne Braun (Canada), Antoine Jaulmes (France) and Hennie de Pous-de Jonge (Netherlands).

The strategic use of Caux in the context of lofC's role in the world

Four days of the Consultation were used to discuss the subject of the role of Caux in lofC's international work, as recommended by the Caux Review (www.iofc.org/caux-review-short)

Overview

Caux belongs to the world and plays a distinctive role in lofC's work worldwide. Yet the effectiveness of Caux is largely dependent on the vitality of lofC in Europe.

Most lofC teams in Western Europe are struggling to attract a new generation while lofC in Eastern Europe is young and vibrant but still small and with few resources.

On a continent which has tended to emphasize the head over the heart, hurts and divisions are hard to heal, within lofC and in the region as a whole.

Thus, rather than looking for a strategy for Caux, we began to envision a strategy for Europe that could revitalise lofC in Europe and in which Caux will have its part. This new realization elicited a strong response. It revealed a readiness for closer teamwork between the European lofC teams and to thinking 'outside the box' about Caux.

The Europeans among us were touched by the expressions of practical and moral support from those from other continents, and welcomed the suggestion for exchanges and cross-fertilization with programmes in Asia and Africa.

A strategy for Europe will not come 'ready-made', but below we suggest some essential elements and steps to take.

Practical Steps

- **Each person to nurture the spiritual life** of themselves and their colleagues, and to take steps to heal hurts and let go of grievances.
- **Strengthen the composition** and remit of the **European Reference Group** to discover the priorities and activities of European lofC teams, identify convergences, and formulate a strategy for Europe. (A next step will be taken at the European lofC meeting in Caux 21-22 July.)
- **A strategy for Europe** should include the following **themes** on which a great deal of work is already being done:
 - o **Young people, education and intergenerational communication** by developing dialogue opportunities and training programmes (eg Caux Intern Programme, Education for Peace, Foundations for Freedom, School for Changemakers, Caux intergenerational dialogues), and by creating opportunities for young people to intern with lofC programmes. (This theme will be carried forward at a meeting in Paris, May 27-28.)
 - o **Integration and contribution of ethnic and religious minorities** (eg Caux Multicultural conferences, Initiative Dialogue, Hope in the Cities, Creators of Peace Circles, Learning to be a Peacemaker programme for young European Muslims, Religious Diversity and Anti-Discrimination Training)
 - o **Reconciliation** between and within Eastern and Western European nations, and outside Europe (eg Foundations For Freedom, Caux Scholars Program, Great Lakes programme, Agenda for Reconciliation-UK)
 - o **Sustainable living** (eg Caux conferences: Caux Forum for Human Security, Leading Change for a Sustainable World, Trust and Integrity in the Global Economy, Farmers' Dialogue, Food and Sustainability Network)

Essentials

for renewing lofC in Europe

1. A rediscovery of **'personal work'** – learning, developing and living the 'lofC way of life', in which responsiveness to the guidance of God, the inner voice or conscience, care for one another, sharing and teamwork remain central to all our personal and collective activities.
2. **Addressing together specific issues and situations** where trust-building based on personal transformation is needed, within Europe and beyond
3. Mobilizing a **new generation of European change-makers**
4. Articulating a **strategy for Europe**

Consultation Participants

Alex Birnberg (Australia)
Amina Dikedi-Ajakaiye (Nigeria/UK)
Andrew Lancaster (Australia)
Angela Mattli (Switzerland)
Anthony Duigan (South Africa)
Antoine Jaulmes (France)
Camilla Nelson (Norway)
Chris Breitenberg (USA)
Chris Evans (UK)
Edward Peters (UK)
Eliane Stallybrass (Switzerland)
Erik Parsons (Sweden/Moldova)
Erwan Floc'h (France)
Fabiola Benavente (Mexico)
Frédéric Chavanne (France)
Grace Liu (Taiwan)
Hennie de Pous (Netherlands)
Imad Karam (Palestine Territories/UK)
Inese Voika (Latvia)
Jean Fiaux (Switzerland)
Jean-Pierre Méan (Switzerland)
K Haridas (Malaysia)
Karen Elliott Greisdorf (USA)
Kate Monkhouse (UK)
Kiran Gandhi (India)
Lena Kashkarova (Ukraine)
Liubou Pranevich (Belarus)
Lorne Braun (Canada)
Marianne Spreng (Switzerland)
Marta Dabrowska (Poland)
Nombulelo Khanyile (South Africa)
Peter Riddell (UK)
Rajmohan Gandhi (India)
Rob Lancaster (Australia)
Sasha Shymina (Ukraine)
Ulrike Keller (Germany/Switzerland)
Usha Gandhi (India)
Victor Parlicov (Moldova)
Wadiaa Khoury (Lebanon)
Yeon-Yuk Jeong (South Korea)

Support Team

Carole Khakula (Kenya)
Diana Damsa (Romania)
Johannes de Pous (Netherlands)

Practical Steps (continued)

- **Listen to Caux participants** to better understand their needs, and identify shared opportunities.

The results of the 2009 Caux Participants Survey, conducted for the Caux Foundation last summer, were presented. They show that Caux maintains its potential to attract and satisfy, though this is not unqualified. Young people especially reported thoroughly enjoying the experience of learning in a multicultural context. Older participants expressed disappointment with the content and/or organisation of the conferences, but on the other hand, the quality of the location and facilities, the informal and easy communication, and the discreet and non-imposing spirituality generally made up for it.

The study shows aspects which need substantial improvement. For example, regarding the conferences, there should be better advance publicity, more clarity about aims and outcomes, and more effort to meet participants' expectations. More generally, participants need more help to cover the cost of travel and stay, and more young people should be given responsible roles.

The Executive Summary of the Caux Participant Survey report is available on the IofC xChange (www.iofc.org/node/46931).

- **Rethink the current use of Caux**, exploring ways to free up and generate resources and energy in the service of the broader vision, such as
 - o Envisaging a possible pause in the Caux conferences for one year – or holding conferences every second year – to refresh vision and allow exploration of other outreach possibilities during the summer months in Europe and elsewhere.
 - o Developing other strategic uses for Caux (including Villa Maria and those parts of Mountain House not used by the Swiss Hotel Management School) throughout the year, such as training courses, hosted dialogues and community living.
 - o Professional scenario-planning to examine the range of options for the future of Caux.

Spiritual Basis of lofC

Underlying many of our discussions was the question of whether or not lofC is a faith-based/spiritual organization, and indeed, what these terms mean. Although not formally addressed in plenary sessions, time and again it came up in our conversations and group discussions. The issue is a burning one, particularly in Europe where attitudes towards faith traditions are changing.

The following points which emerged from our conversations merit further thought and discussion:

- Part of lofC's strength and its tradition is that it offers space based on a change in attitudes and

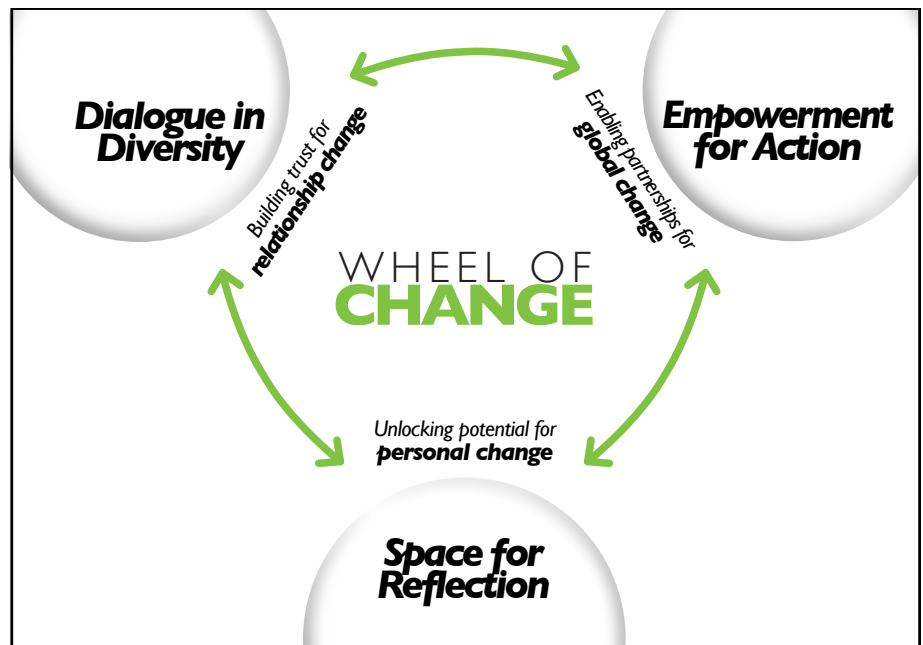
motivation in which diverse groups can meet, whether religious or non-religious. lofC teams need to be free, and feel encouraged, to express the message of lofC in ways appropriate to their specific cultural context.

- We will not resolve this question by convincing each other in argument, nor by a perfect definition of a common position. We can all be enriched by ongoing discussion in a spirit of honest dialogue. However we will most likely find practical answers as we work together, side by side, and in humility, to meet the urgent needs in people and in society. While what we say is important, we need to remember that others often judge us far more by what we do.
- When we speak about God or use religious language, we need to do it in such a way that someone for whom God is an unfamiliar concept can relate to what we say.
- At Caux and elsewhere lofC promotes global change based on deep personal change. People find their way to such change in many ways – through conscience, the inner voice, God, moral values, a sense of the needs of the world – and all are welcome. Individuals and teams should be free to express their own sources of inspiration, as an enrichment to ourselves and others, and with respect for others' frames of reference.

Fresh Initiatives

Two previews were given:

1. A new way of presenting lofC's process, '**Wheel of Change: finding a common ground for working together**'. This concept was first articulated at a meeting in Oslo in January. In it lofC's message is grouped around three themes: **Space for Reflection, Dialogue in Diversity** and **Empowerment for Action**, each feeding into the other. It was felt that this presentation could be particularly relevant for use in Europe and it is now being amended in the light of comments from Consultation participants.
2. A presentation of the **Caux Call to Action** – to be developed and launched at the third Caux Forum for Human Security this July – which is "**designed to mobilize a global 'coalition of conscience'** around practical strategies to address human security concerns." Consultation participants responded warmly to this global outreach initiative.



The Third Annual

CAUX FORUM
for **HUMAN SECURITY**

A Conversation in Caux, Switzerland
9–16 July 2010

LAUNCH OF THE CAUX CALL TO ACTION

"Initiated by Clare Short MP, formerly UK's Secretary of State for International Development, a team is developing a Call which will offer everyone a role in meeting the human security challenges of the twenty-first century."



Building trust across the world's divides

Initiatives of Change

Report design by Erik Parsons & Karen Elliott Greisdorf. Photos © 2010 Karen Elliott Greisdorf, except IC portraits.