



Edward Peters

## A different approach to Human Security

After two World Wars, the Cold War and numerous wars induced by the colonial legacy, we are now told to focus on a 'war on terrorism'.

Actually a more radical diagnosis is needed. The issue is not a clash of civilizations but a lack of security for all people.

The causes operate on two levels. On one hand, social breakdown, war, the humiliation of whole peoples, the unequal distribution of wealth. And on the other, this solid, tenacious block inside each of us made of bitterness and conflict, which kills hope and faith, and holds us back from renewal.

A different approach is to change ourselves, to know ourselves better.

The *Initiatives of Change* centre at Caux, Switzerland, has 60 years experience in creating the conditions for peace. The art of listening, of honest dialogue, is key to creating the conditions for peace.

Humanity cannot avoid this kind of change that starts with each one of us. Solving the conflicts of tomorrow demands a diplomacy that integrates the art of really listening to people and taking into account their hurts. Without this, there is no defusing the time-bomb of humiliation.

To find a preventive strategy that could tackle the root causes of insecurity and save millions of lives will require unprecedented trust and collaboration among all nations and actors. The first **Caux Forum for Human Security** in 2008 seeks this trust and collaboration.

**Mohamed Sahnoun**  
President, *Initiatives of Change International*

Served as Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on the Horn of Africa region.

## Initiatives of Change International

*Initiatives of Change International* (IofC International) is a non-government organization (NGO) working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide. It has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, and Participatory Status at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. It stresses the importance of personal responsibility, ethical leadership and building trust across the world's divides.

Based in Caux, Switzerland, *IofC International* was founded in 2002 as an association bringing together the autonomous national bodies of the *Initiatives of Change* movement which are active in 39 countries, many of them over several decades.

*IofC International* represents the universality and multifair character of the movement, and facilitates its relationships with the United Nations and other international organizations through its Geneva office. Its Office of Training Services in Geneva connects the training capacities of the worldwide movement with needs identified by the UN and other international agencies.

*IofC International* has operational responsibility for *Initiatives of Change's* global communications and facilitates collaboration between IofC national bodies. Certain trans-national programmes of the *Initiatives of Change* movement also operate under its auspices.

In 2008 *IofC International* launches the new **Caux Forum for Human Security** at the movement's international conference centre in Caux. The Forum is expected to become a global resource for those working for peace and human security at all levels.

## Aims

As a diverse global network, IofC initiates programmes aimed at:

- Healing the wounds of history that sustain cycles of revenge, especially where cultures and civilizations meet.
- Strengthening the moral and spiritual dimensions of democracy, so challenging selfish interests and corruption.
- Helping individuals and families to counter the climate of blame and selfishness with a culture of care and personal responsibility.
- Strengthening the motivation of care and moral commitment in economic life and thinking, in order to create jobs, correct economic and environmental imbalance, and tackle the root causes of poverty.
- Rebuilding a sense of community and hope in cities and tackling the causes of racial and communal discrimination.
- Forging networks among people from different cultures and faiths based on a shared commitment to work for reconciliation, justice, and peace.



CAUX CONFERENCE CENTRE  
SWITZERLAND

[www.caux.ch](http://www.caux.ch)

## Funding

*Initiatives of Change* is financed by a combination of individual contributions, its own activities, grants from corporations, foundations and governments, and income from invested funds, mostly received from bequests.

Its major conference centre, owned and managed by the Swiss foundation *CAUX-Initiatives of Change*, is funded in like manner and by the lease of the Caux facility to a hotel management school for 10 months of the year. Asia Plateau centre in India is largely funded by training programmes and contributions of conference participants.

Full-time workers receive modest salaries or allowances and in-kind support. Part-time volunteers make significant contributions of their time and skills. Accounts of national societies are audited annually and are available on request.

*Initiatives of Change International* receives occasional grants for specific projects from governments and private foundations, and is supported by contributions from individuals and its 21-member national societies. Fresh funds would enable us to expand our capacity, to satisfy the growing demand for our trust-building work. Contributions are usually most tax-efficient through the national associations of IofC. Contributions and funding enquiries for international operations can be directed through the Treasurer: [treasurer@iofc.org](mailto:treasurer@iofc.org) For online payments see: [www.iofc.org/support](http://www.iofc.org/support)



ASIA PLATEAU CONFERENCE CENTRE  
PANCHGANI, INDIA

[www.in.iofc.org](http://www.in.iofc.org)

# HIGHLIGHTS 2007-2008



Keith Neal

Former combatants harvest rice with local community at peace farm

## PEACEMAKING IN ACTION IN SIERRA LEONE



Edward Peters

Mohamed Sahnoun and Annan

KOFI ANNAN SPEAKS AT  
IofC CONFERENCE IN CAUX



Danielle Maillefer

Caux Scholars at the UN

NEW IofC INTERNATIONAL OFFICE  
OF TRAINING SERVICES, IN GENEVA



Christopher Harnell

BC Justice Institute, Canada

'THE IMAM AND THE PASTOR'  
GOES GLOBAL, MULTILINGUAL

[www.iofc.org](http://www.iofc.org)

**Initiatives of Change International - Liaison Office for UN and International Organizations**

Rue de Varembe 1, CH-1202 Geneva. Postal address: P.O. Box 3, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

Phone +41(0)22 749 16 20 Fax +41 (0)22 733 02 67 Email [iofc-international@iofc.org](mailto:iofc-international@iofc.org)



Building trust across the world's divides

Initiatives of Change International



Danielle Maillefer

**Journalism for Peace and Reconciliation, Côte d'Ivoire**

## Peacemaking & reconciliation

Sierra Leone's relatively peaceful 2007 elections were described by the Chairman of the UN Peacebuilding Commission as a 'turning point' for a country recovering from 10 years of civil war. **Hope-Sierra Leone** (H-SL), the *Initiatives of Change* NGO based in Freetown, played a significant role in the process, mounting a **Clean Elections Campaign** and establishing trust with political parties in the lead up to the August poll; and then working with those parties to defuse outbreaks of violence in the period of uncertainty following the Presidential election run-off. This peacemaking work was supported by the UNDP, and by local leaders trained by H-SL through **Moral Foundations for Democracy** courses created in 2005 to bring army, police and civil society together. Plans are in hand to extend these trust-building courses to members of parliament and civil servants. H-SL also continues its rice-growing project, bringing together ex-combatants and those who suffered from the war (see cover).

Other peacemaking initiatives included:

- A team from lofC's **Creators of Peace** programme led a five-day workshop for politicians and social activists in Juba, **South Sudan** and again in Khartoum, hosted by Angelina Teny, Minister of State for Petroleum and Energy. Earlier they introduced their **Peace Circle** process into South Africa and Kenya. This year Peace Circles have been run in Colombia, Australia, Lebanon, Rwanda, UK and USA.
- In 2004, young **Vietnamese** and **Cambodians** initiated a **series of dialogues** to break through the inherited mistrust and prejudice between their nations. The third and fourth of these dialogues took place in Vietnam (2007) and in Cambodia (2008).
- In **Côte d'Ivoire** a network of journalists committed to **Journalism for Peace and Reconciliation** was born after a workshop in March, jointly organized by *lofC International* and the InfoSud press agency. The previous October, *lofC Côte d'Ivoire* was awarded the 'Prix du Merite' for its work towards national reconciliation and peace.
- **Caux** conferences in **Switzerland** on the theme '**Trust across the world's divides? Dignity for all!**' were attended by about 1,500 people from all over the world, including many from conflict regions. Visiting Caux on 8 August, Kofi Annan told a packed plenary, 'You don't have to be Secretary-General of the UN' to be a good global citizen. When something goes wrong in our societies, we should not just turn to governments, he suggested. 'We should all ask ourselves what we can do.' Earlier in

the summer Ambassador Pierre Comberous, speaking for the Swiss government and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, saluted the 'special relationship' between Switzerland and lofC over 60 years. Referring to Caux's contribution to recent peace negotiations for **Burundi**, to which the Swiss government has given financial support, he said this partnership was 'in the spirit of Switzerland's foreign policy (which) is marked by ideas of solidarity, universality and human values'.



Altaf Mohammed Abid

**Smoke Ceremony at Global Indigenous Dialogue**

## Community-building & dialogue

*Initiatives of Change International* is an active member of the Conference of International NGOs of the Council of Europe, and helped draft the Conference's contribution to the Council's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue. Many lofC projects aim to promote understanding and reconciliation, particularly between Muslim and Western societies.

- In **France**, for the last 10 years, the **Initiative Dialogue** programme has brought Muslim and non-Muslim residents into local circles to 'bridge gaps between different worlds that ignore each other'.
- Following the launch of *The Imam and the Pastor*, a production of lofC's FLTfilms, this powerful message of reconciliation continues to be used in educational and interfaith settings all over the world – from Somalia and South Africa to Brazil, Ukraine and Norway. It was screened to over 1000 people at an event organized by the International Muslim Organization of Toronto. The film tells the story of Imam Ashafa and Pastor Wuye, who led rival militias in communal clashes which caused thousands of deaths in **Northern Nigeria**. They now head the Muslim-Christian Interfaith Mediation Centre in Kaduna. *The Imam and the Pastor* won first prize in the short documentary section of the Africa World Documentary Film Festival, October 2007. A French version of the film was premiered in April 2008 in Switzerland and Quebec, with extensive media coverage. This was followed by the launch of the German version in Berlin in May.
- During the 200th anniversary of the end of the trans-Atlantic slavetrade, groups connected with lofC's **Hope in the Cities** (HIC) programme have continued working to overcome that bitter legacy. A delegation from **Richmond, Virginia, USA**, led by the Vice-President of the City Council, joined the Lord Mayor of **Liverpool, UK**, at a ceremony symbolically laying to rest, in the African tradition, the souls of the slaves who had perished.

In Richmond, where racial and economic inequality still impacts the school system, 450 attended Metropolitan Richmond Day in November 2007 to support HIC's commitment to equal education.

- In **Australia** the first act of the newly-elected Parliament in February was to say 'sorry' to the 'stolen generations' – indigenous Australians who were forcibly taken from their families to be raised in white institutions under racial policies up until the 1970s. John Bond, for many years the Secretary of the National Sorry Day Committee, has been among lofC activists who with other groups have campaigned over a decade for this historic apology and have brought spokespersons of the movement to Caux. In August, the **Global Indigenous Dialogue** in Caux, **Switzerland**, highlighted indigenous issues with contributions from North and South America, Australia, Europe and Asia.



**East Europeans in teambuilding exercise**

## Nation-building & transforming society

- In response to ethnic violence that rocked their nation after the December 2007 elections, young Kenyans associated with lofC launched **Kenya I Care**, using story sharing, skits and songs to empower school children to help break the chain of tribal hate. 'Corruption and tribalism are the two big issues raised as major concerns of students,' writes facilitator Ann Njeri.
- The **Foundations for Freedom** programme (F4F), now headquartered in **Ukraine**, ran 10 courses – mostly in Russian – for young leaders in civil society and politics, including activists of youth NGOs and members of student parliaments. Training for trainers' events were also held to expand the pool of young East Europeans facilitating these courses, which examine the moral and spiritual qualities underlying free societies.
- In **France**, the lofC **Education for Peace** programme works with schools, teaching students how to manage conflict without violence. Over 500 children took part in an art competition, in which children had to imagine a conflict scenario and tell the story of its peaceful resolution in pictorial form. Responding to a growing demand for these courses, two 'training for trainers' programmes were held.
- A three-day **Imbizo** (consultation) brought representatives of 12 African nations to **South Africa** in May 2007, renewing their vision and shaping future directions for the work of reconciliation and tackling corruption. An **African Youth Forum** in **Ghana** gave training in effective leadership to 26 from the region.



Altaf Mohammed Abid

**Asian executives gather in India**

## Global economy & sustainability

- Seeking a 'new leadership model' which injects 'trust and integrity' into Asia's rapidly-growing but unequal economy, 22 **Japanese** joined government and corporate executives from 16 nations, in November 2007, for the second **Caux Initiatives for Business** conference at **Asia Plateau**, lofC's Asian centre in **India**.
- Inspired by what they found at Asia Plateau's programmes on **Ethics in Public Governance**, two officers from the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) developed a plan to use lofC-based training to reach a 'critical mass' among 4,000 officers in the Karnataka State Secretariat. Their aim is not only to increase efficiency, but to provide governance with a responsive 'human face'. Workshops have begun in Bangalore and at Asia Plateau, where monthly programmes for managers and employees in public and private sectors have run for over three decades.
- The 10th **International Farmers' Dialogue** brought 100 farmers from five continents to **France** during November. Facing the increasing challenge of world hunger, these dialogues link farmers to learn from each other's experience and renew their calling to feed the world.
- 240 participants from 52 countries took part in the **Caux** conference '**Building trust and integrity in the global economy**' in July, sharing personal stories of transformation leading to new workplace initiatives, promoting value-based business practices, accountability in the media and resolving economic conflicts.

## Capacity-building programmes

- lofC training programmes aim to build ethical capacity, developing and nurturing qualities of visionary, inclusive and transformative leadership. The new *lofC International* Office of Training Services (established in January 2008) will build on over 40 training programmes that have been developed in all continents over the past 30 years. Among courses offered:
- The month-long **Caux Scholars Program**, in July-August, took a class of 20 international students through strategic peacebuilding and conflict transformation.
  - **Tools for Change**, also in Caux, Switzerland, involved 380 participants from 70 countries in learning the skills and attitudes needed to be an effective 'change-maker'.
  - **Life Matters** courses at the lofC centre in Melbourne, **Australia**, explore themes such as identity, transforming conflict, and aim to help participants find a path and purpose for life.

## About Initiatives of Change

*Initiatives of Change* (lofC) is a diverse, global network committed to building trust across the world's divides. Active in over 60 countries, it comprises people of many cultures, nations, beliefs and backgrounds transforming society through changes in individuals and relationships, starting in their own lives.

In 1938 as Europe prepared for war Frank Buchman, its originator, launched a campaign for 'moral and spiritual re-armament' as the way to build a 'hate-free, fear-free, greed-free world'.

Following World War II, Moral Re-Armament (MRA), as it became known, worked for reconciliation between France and Germany, and between Japan and some of its Asian neighbours. It was involved in the process of decolonization, and in forging industrial teamwork and harmonious race relations. It was also active in interreligious relations and in the struggle for the rights of indigenous peoples.

In all these cases, what made the difference was the reality that each person, whatever their situation, has a role to play. Through changes in behaviour and mindsets, individuals and groups in conflict found a way to bridge their divides. Change isn't easy and a spiritual dynamic is required to overcome inertia. Daily quiet times to seek inner inspiration and a commitment to ethical practice can provide that dynamic.

lofC's emphasis is on individuals taking personal responsibility for change, recognizing that everyone – even the seemingly weak or powerless – has a part to play. Its methods focus on the interaction of people, whether few or many, in homes, small or large groups, personal encounters, training courses, and local or international conferences. For over 70 years lofC has brought people of diverse backgrounds and faiths together, providing a rallying point for individuals and teams to work for justice, healing and human development.