



# QUARTERLY News

The magazine of the Association of Former WHO Staff Members (AFSM)

*Supporting former staff and helping them to stay in touch and informed*



## **The WHO 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary party for staff and former staff**

Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, which turned out to be a very hot and sunny afternoon, the party was extremely well attended. Music, dancing, and singing, with an address from Dr Tedros, before he undertook a ceremonial tree-planting in the gardens.

All accompanied by colourful regional dress and dishes from around the world.

*See the report on page 4*

**Some of the colourful outfits seen at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary party, with Dr Tedros much in demand for photo opportunities**



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## EDITORIAL

There have been several very welcome signs recently that WHO is beginning to open up again as the Covid constraints are relaxed. First, it was the SHI help-desk which came back into operation, closely followed by our AFSM “*permanences*”, and the AFSM General Assembly and Reception will be held in WHO, and open to all members, on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

At the risk of sounding like a cracked gramophone record, I must raise again the need to reduce our printing costs and seek your help.

As one option we could reduce the cost by reducing the number of printed pages per issue, but that would adversely affect the amount of information we can convey.

Or, we could reduce the print run, if more of us would read the digital version online. This would give you several added advantages; rapid arrival wherever you are, all pages in colour, all web links and e-mail addresses fully clickable, possible inclusion of extra pages, and, if you wish to take a closer look at a photo, the PDF can be greatly enlarged without loss of definition.

Please do think about this and let us know at [aoms@who.int](mailto:aoms@who.int).

**Keith Wynn**

## EDITORIAL BOARD

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.

Please send your contributions for publication in QNT to: Keith Wynn  
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**Health Insurance (SHI):** Tel.: +41 (0) 22 791 18 18; in case of absence please leave a message, someone will call you back, or send an e-mail to: [shihq@who.int](mailto:shihq@who.int). The HQ SHI Helpdesk in office L 3 is open, by appointment only, on Tuesdays, 10.00–12.00 and 14.00–16.00.

**Pensions (UNJSPF):** Contact by e-mail no longer possible, to send an **electronic message** use the contact form on the Fund’s website, <https://www.unjspf.org/contact-us/>. **Visitors: Geneva:** Palais des Nations, Client Support Centre, Building H, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 10:00 to 13:00. **New York:** 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza (DHP), Corner of 48<sup>th</sup> Street and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, New York, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, from 12:00 to 16:00. **Documents for NY by post, address to:** United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, c/o United Nations, P.O. Box 5036, New York, NY 10163-5036, USA. **Documents for NY by courier (DHL, etc.) or registered mail, address to:** United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, 37<sup>th</sup> floor, 1 DHP, 885 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017, USA. **Documents for Geneva, address to:** UNJSPF, c/o Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. **Telephone: Geneva:** +41 (0) 22 928 88 00 or **New York:** +1 212 963 6931. **See also the list of Toll-Free and local numbers** at <https://www.unjspf.org/contact-us/>. In the case of **non-receipt of the monthly benefit** or **the death of a beneficiary**, visit the website: <https://www.unjspf.org/emergency/> for instructions. *Remember to always have your Unique ID number handy when contacting UNJSPF.*

## WHO CELEBRATES ITS 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

### WHO HQ Staff Party on 2 June

The DG invited all staff and former staff to a party in the cafeteria in the afternoon of Friday 2 June. This event was held too late to include in the July *Quarterly News*. It was a great success and the cafeteria was filled with people eagerly chatting to each other.

Participants were invited to wear national dress and to bring a national dish for the pot-luck table so there was a variety of delicacies from around the world, supplemented by food and drink from the WHO catering company. We counted over 30 former staff present but there may have been more.

Staff provided musical entertainment, with a band and singing. Attempts were made to read

some poetry written by staff but it was impossible to hear above the conversation noise so the poetry session was curtailed. The DG gave an address, notably thanking all the staff and former staff for their work for the Organization, then also mentioned his visit to Gwen Carnelley for her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. He also planted a *Cornus Florida* “Rubra” tree just outside the cafeteria in recognition of the dedication and service of the WHO workforce.

Many participants wanted to have their photo taken with Dr Tedros and he graciously obliged.

***The AFSM committee members in attendance***  
*Who also took all of the photos used on the cover, inside cover and on this page.*



*WHO's very own combo.*

## News from your Association

The last three months have seen the gradual opening of many facilities of WHO and other institutions. The World Health Assembly met towards the end of May 2023 and Dr Tedros, invited all AFSMs (Regional and HQ) to send observers to it at the cost of the Organization. All six Regional AFSM's sent their Presidents/Coordinators to the Assembly who were welcomed by the DG in his office. He was, as before, extremely warm towards retired staff and reiterated his support for them. The Regional AFSMs were very touched with this welcome, especially the efforts of the DG to institutionalize future relations of AFSMs with the Organization. Further details about the visit of the Regional AFSMs are reported under *News from around the World*.

As you have been informed, the AFSM General Assembly will be held on 5 October followed by a Reception – which could not be held during the last three years. Gradually we are getting back to our usual activities.

**Good News! The SHI Help Desk is open again.** This follows the long closure during the Covid pandemic. Visits will be by appointment only, and as a preliminary step the Help Desk, in office L3 (Ground-floor of the L Building) will be open every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00, and again from 14.00 to 16.00. Make a phone call to SHI on +41 (0) 22 791 18 18 or send an e-mail to [shihq@who.int](mailto:shihq@who.int) to arrange an appointment. For your first appointment you will need to go to Security at the Reception desk in the old main building to have your Retiree badge configured to open the external door to L Building. Please note that on this occasion, for the issuance of the badge, Security will require you to provide proof of vaccination against Covid. On subsequent visits you will be able to enter the L Building directly from the outside, using your retiree badge to activate the door.

**More Good News! The AFSM permanences are also starting again.** These will recommence in Office L71 in September, and as before will be held on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00, conveniently to coincide with the SHI Help Desk, with only a short walk between the two offices.



Our AFSM member David MacFadyen, and his co-author Dr Stefan Slater, have published a book about Alois Derso (1888–1964) and Emery Kelen (1896–1978) who became internationally renowned for their cartoons depicting efforts to build a better world following the establishment of the League of Nations, facing the rise of fascism, and finally the commitment to international cooperation through the United Nations.

David and Stefan very generously offered to provide AFSM with a copy for review and so it was that two co-Presidents met the authors in the UN, where they were launching the book, and invited them back to the new WHO

building afterwards, where the book, *The Political Cartoons of Derso and Kelen: Years of Hope and Despair* was handed over for review. You can read the review on page 14.

***The AFSM Executive Committee and the Editorial Board of the Quarterly News***

**FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (FAFICS)**

## Highlights of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Council of the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants (FAFICS)

The 53<sup>rd</sup> FAFICS Council convened in Vienna from 17 to 20 July 2023 in hybrid mode: 38 participants made the journey to Vienna while at least 52 participants logged on from home countries spanning the globe, some staying up virtually all night for the Council, the case for colleagues in the Western Pacific area, while others in the Americas logged on hours before dawn. On-line participants were very active throughout the three and a half days of the meeting, despite an occasional connection hiccup. All together the participants represented 30 of the 64 associations of UN system-wide retirees composing the Federation.

The Council welcomed a new member, *Antigos Funcionários Internacionais* (APAFI) from Portugal, the 64<sup>th</sup> to-date, and learned that UNAPATA, the Tanzanian association, became active again, following a flooding disaster.

Given that more than 20 member associations are dormant, a proposal was put forward, and accepted, to write-off dues in arrears up to December 2021 for those associations. The sum in question amounts to US\$ 7,729. It is hoped this gesture would encourage dormant associations to re-engage with FAFICS, thus expanding and strengthening the outreach to UN system retirees around the world.

The topic of communications was discussed at length. Several issues were tabled. One is the redesign of the current, rather stodgy, website and the services the new site should provide to its members. AFUS (France) shared with the Council the functionality of their website and how it has become an important platform for building community, facilitating the sharing of documents and news within the association, as well as serving as a marketing tool for attracting new members. A website working group will be formed by the FAFICS President, possibly drawing on expertise identified in member associations, to carry forward this important task.

The issue of multilingualism was recognized as important. Requests were made to provide French and Spanish translations for certain Council documents and to provide interpretation during the Council.

Also recognized was the need for an appropriate basis for peer-to-peer communications. The representative from AFICS Niger<sup>1</sup> described one such model, namely, the Global Council of WHO retiree associations which convenes twice annually. He underscored the utility of this platform for sharing information and experiences of the various associations and added that the Global Council and its work have attracted attention and support from the WHO Administration at Regional and HQ levels.

In line with the recently revised Rules of Procedure, the Expertise Pool has now been established and currently has 19 listings. The call has gone out for member associations to submit the names of retirees with knowledge and experience in the following areas: pensions, health insurance, human resources management, ethics, communication, website, IT, budget/finance, and treasury. The aim is to build a pool of talent to draw on for working groups, or FAFICS representatives, that are not

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<sup>1</sup> Kadri Tankari, who is also a member of AFSM-Africa. The activities of the Global Council of AFSMs are regularly reported in the *Quarterly News*.

elected by the Council, such as those to the Pension Board and its various committees for example.

The After Service Health Insurance of the United Nations (UN-ASHI) provides medical insurance to approximately 68,000 retirees and eligible family members. Discussions on UN-ASHI addressed the absence of building reserves for future liabilities (perceived as resulting from lethargic political will), the inadequacies of the UN Medical Insurance Plan (MIP) provided to locally recruited UN staff, retirees and their dependents representing 20% of the UN-ASHI insured, and the question of long-term care.

Long-term care (LTC) has become a growing preoccupation for ageing retirees. On the other hand, it was acknowledged that to include LTC coverage in the UN-ASHI would have cost implications. For the moment, the most appropriate course of action for FAFICS and its members seems to be to raise awareness of the implications of LTC whenever possible.

WHO's Staff Health Insurance (SHI) was cited as a Best Practice reference. It offers the same coverage to international, local and former staff and their dependents, unlike UN-ASHI which

discriminates those locally recruited in field offices. It provides LTC nursing home coverage capped at US\$ 3,000 per month. And it has a governance structure that includes retirees with full voting rights.

Pensions being of utmost importance to retirees, FAFICS devoted one full day to the topic. This item starts below.

Other news from the Council is that the accounts are healthy. The Council will continue to provide a travel subsidy for select Council attendees under the new Travel Subsidy Policy. Delia Barcelona (AFICS Philippines) was elected to the position of Secretary, and Pierre Sayour (AFICS Geneva) and Abdou Khadre Diakhate (ASAFI Senegal) were elected Vice-Presidents. With member associations encompassing 19,000 retirees, FAFICS represents about 34% of the 55,846 UN system retirees (*ref. 2022 Pension Board report as of 31 December 2021*).

In conclusion, the Council had a productive gathering and several enjoyable social events – for those present in Vienna. On-line participants, including myself, could only enjoy the photographs of the events.

**Barbara Fontaine**

## **FAFICS and our Pensions, read all about it!**

Pensions being of utmost concern to retirees, FAFICS devoted one full day to this topic. Informative presentations were given by the Chief Executive Pension Administration (CEPA), the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the Representative of the Secretary General, Head of Investment (RSG), complemented by excellent Council documents prepared by FAFICS representatives to the Pension Board and its various committees.

The Pension Fund continues to grow.<sup>1</sup> There were 143,612 participants, representing a 4.6 % increase over the last year. It was explained that the growing number of participants was not a reflection of more staff at agency headquarters but rather more field staff. During the same period,

the number of beneficiaries increased 2% to 83,988. Of note is the official location of participants and country of residence of retirees. The largest group of participants, that is 13,047, were based in Switzerland, with 11,118 in the United States, 5,229 in Italy and 4,800 in Austria, reflecting thus the important clusters of UN and

<sup>1</sup>All numbers as of end 2022.

UN agencies' offices. The rest of the top 10 locations, in descending order of staff numbers, are Sudan, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, and South Sudan. As to beneficiaries, country of residence not being dictated by employment, 11,884 chose to reside in the United States, 7,576 in France, 5,024 in Switzerland, 3,958 in Italy and 3,702 in Austria. The other top 10 countries, in descending order, are United Kingdom, Canada, India, Thailand, and Kenya. It would appear that for the large UN and UN agency cluster areas, retiring staff tend to stay in the area, whereas those serving in the field tend to gravitate to other countries.

Over the past twenty years, the evolving beneficiary demographics, excluding children, clearly show increasing longevity. From 2000 to 2022, the under 60 group increased slightly in numbers from 6,512 to 7,331 whereas the older age groups have increased substantially, the oldest groups reflecting the largest increases. In the 60–69 age group, the increase is almost 40%, from 16,269 to 22,666. For the 70–79 age group, the numbers have doubled from 12,167 to 24,716, more than tripled for the 80–89 age group from 4,417 to 14,433, with an almost eight-fold increase for the 90+ group from 509 to 3,925.

### ***A digital and data-driven Pension Fund***

For the 2022 missing Certificate of Entitlement (CE) exercise, the combined efforts of retiree associations around the globe and the Staff Pension Committees were quite successful. The initial list of 4,418 cases was substantially reduced to 1,264. CEPA expressed gratitude for this fruitful collaboration. As the use of the Digital Certificate of Entitlement continues to gain in popularity, more than 25,000 users at the moment, it is hopeful that the missing CE list will continue to shrink, in spite of the increasing number of beneficiaries.

The Fund's Administration continues its efforts towards a digital and data-driven organization. In this regard, there is a new portal for Member Organizations for the staff leaving process and increasingly more electronic documents are

replacing the paper version for this process. The Fund has also started replacing aging systems and will continue upgrading over the next few years.

### ***Financial matters***

Contributions in 2022 totalled US\$ 3.12 billion, an increase of 5.1% over the last year, while benefit payments, also increasing by 5.1%, amounted to US\$ 3.13 billion. Net administrative expenses were US\$ 0.1 billion. With contributions virtually covering benefit payments, the Fund used very little of its reserves to meet its obligations. Further, it is anticipated that, over the next 30 years, contributions will more or less equal benefit payments. That means that the Fund's capital should remain fully invested and continually generating profits, barring of course major market upheavals or other unforeseen surprises.

In 2022 financial market turbulence was the norm, fed by much uncertainty brought on by macro-economic factors, e.g. pandemics, climate change. The Fund's investment portfolio was not spared. From the peak value of US\$ 91.5 billion (in 2021), its value dived to US\$ 77.9 billion in 2022. On paper, the decrease was 14.9%. The RSG explained that this is not the first time in the last 25 years that the investment portfolio has experienced huge (paper) losses. During the Dot-Com bubble in the late 1990's, the value of the Fund's portfolio fell from US\$ 26 billion (1999) to US\$ 21.2 billion (2002), a 18.5% drop, and during the Sub-Prime fiasco (2007–2008), it went from US\$ 41.7 billion (2007) to US\$ 31.3 billion in 2008, representing a 25% loss (on paper). In both cases, the Fund's portfolio eventually recouped its losses, taking about two years after the Dot-Com bubble and four years after the Sub-Prime crash. The good news is that the Fund's investment portfolio value is on the upswing. By early August it had reached US\$ 85.5 billion, up almost US\$ 8 billion from the 2022 dip but still shy from its highest value by US\$ 6 billion. The RSG said that the portfolio is well on the way to recovery. Such is the cyclical nature of markets: growth, bubble, contraction, recovery.



### ***Inflation and the Two-Track system***

The Chief Financial Officer addressed two items of importance for many retirees, namely inflation and the Two-Track system. Our pensions are protected from inflation by periodic Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA). To determine COLA increases, the Fund resorts to the UN Consumer Price Index (CPI) data. If the cumulative official inflation since the last COLA increase is above 2% for a given country, then a COLA will be applied to the benefit payment of retirees living in that country if their pensions are on the two-track, or local currency, system. If their pensions are paid in US dollars, then these are adjusted in accordance with the US CPI, wherever their place of residence. In recent years, inflation has affected many countries, resulting in COLA increases in 97 countries in 2022 and 115 countries in 2023. For more on the COLA, one can refer to <https://www.unjspf.org/for-clients/cost-of-living-adjustment/>.

At the time of separation from service, future retirees living outside of the USA can choose to receive benefit payments either in US dollars or in the local currency of their country of residence. The local currency payments are determined by the Two-Track Adjustment System. This system was designed primarily for beneficiaries living in countries where the cost of living is high and the economy is stable. As such, their periodic benefits are adapted to the local CPI changes and not those affecting benefit payments made in US dollars. In essence it provides protection to the purchasing power in the country of residence. Once the decision has been made to receive a pension under the Two-Track system, it becomes permanent and one cannot revert back to receiving a US dollar-based pension payment.

This system appeals particularly to those residing in Europe. For example, 75% of UNJSPF beneficiaries living in Andorra have opted for this payment system, 72% of those in Switzerland, 59% in Monaco, 52% in France, and about 50% in Austria and Spain. Between 30 and 50% of UNJSPF beneficiaries have opted for this system in eight other European countries, namely, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Malta, Norway, Portugal

and the United Kingdom. According to the CFO, the current tendency however is to select the dollar-track instead of the two-track.

At present the global breakdown between dollar-versus two-track benefit payments is 60% to 40%, respectively. Of the 60% receiving US dollar pensions, 26% reside outside of the USA. Concerning two-track payments, the vast majority are in Europe and Switzerland, with 22.6% in Euros and 7.2% in CHF, for almost 30% of total beneficiary payments. Another 10% of all beneficiaries receive two-track payments in 14 other currencies.

Periodically, the Two-Track is discontinued in a particular country. Six countries are on the watch list for potential suspension, five due to wide fluctuations in the local currency track benefit and the sixth, for lack of CPI data. In another 73 countries, it is not an option. This link provides further information on the Two-Track system <https://www.unjspf.org/for-clients/two-track-pension-adjustment-system/>.

### ***Other pension topics***

Based on a 2006 decision of the General Assembly, the Fund decided this year to pay travel costs for only two FAFICS delegates to the Pension Board instead of the usual four. FAFICS therefore will cover the costs for the two other representatives to the Pension Board.

Small pensions are a perennial topic at the Council and this year the focus was on Ethiopia and Myanmar. Some retirees live on less than US\$ 100 a month. As was pointed out, these often result from insufficient years of service, and typically concern staff in the field. There are as well other factors at play, particularly adverse exchange rates or government controls. Retirees were reminded that the Fund's Emergency Fund does not exist to supplement small pensions but rather to provide to those with small pensions emergency support in the event of exceptional costs such as for a funeral or medical assistance.

WHO retirees are represented by FAFICS at the Pension Board and on several of its committees.

Currently, FAFICS representatives participate in the Standing Committee on Pension Issues, the Budget Committee, the Audit Committee, the Fund's Solvency and Assets and Liabilities Monitoring (FSALM) Committee, the Ethics Committee, the Succession Planning and Evaluation Committee and

the Plan Review Group. Because those representatives are selected for their expertise in pension matters, FAFICS voice is indeed loud, clear and sound in defending pensioners' rights and interests.

**Barbara Fontaine**

## NEWS FROM WHO

### Highlights of news from WHO

- From 12–16 June, discussions took place on the **draft global accord on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response** during a resumed session of the **Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB)**, <https://inb.who.int/> which includes WHO's 194 member countries, with a view to presenting a draft accord to the World Health Assembly in May 2024, <https://www.who.int/news/item/17-06-2023-countries-set-out-way-forward-for-continued-negotiations-on-global-agreement-on-pandemic-prevention--preparedness--and-response>
- On 13 June, the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** announced a new **global initiative to inspire and enable the world to move every day for better health**. Led by Olympians and **created in collaboration with WHO**, the **Let's Move campaign** began on Olympic Day on 23 June. Just 30 minutes of movement per day have significant health benefits for hearts, bodies and minds. On 20 June, WHO was presented with the Olympic Cup 2021 in recognition of, and to honour the Organization's support in contributing to the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020.
- The **Global Consultation on the Health of Refugees and Migrants** took place in Rabat on 13–15 June, co-hosted by the **Kingdom of Morocco, WHO, the International Organization for Migration and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees**. The Rabat Declaration was adopted to strengthen the global commitment to improve the health of refugees and migrants. <https://worldhealthorganization.cmail20.com/t/d-l-vxsjy-ttlhjrtdkl-y/>



- 15 June is **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**. One in six people aged 60 years and older have experienced some form of abuse during the past year. **WHO announced five priorities to tackle abuse**: combat ageism; generate more and better data to raise awareness of the problem; develop and scale up cost-effective solutions; make an investment case; and raise more funds to tackle the problem.
- On 16 June, WHO issued a **new report** entitled **“Left behind in pain”** which describes how the global distribution of morphine for medical use as a vital pain medicine is unequal and does not fulfil the medical need.  
<https://www.who.int/news/item/16-06-2023-people-with-medical-needs-are-left-behind-in-pain-reveals-new-report>
- On 21 June, **Belize was certified as malaria-free** by WHO following the country’s 70+ years of continued efforts to stamp out the disease. With that announcement, a total of **42 countries and 1 territory have been certified as malaria-free by WHO, including 11 countries in the Region of the Americas**.  
<https://www.who.int/teams/global-malaria-programme/elimination/countries-and-territories-certified-malaria-free-by-who>
- On 22 June, WHO published its first global **research agenda** for the world’s scientists to address the **most urgent human health priorities to combat antimicrobial resistance**.  
<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/global-research-agenda-for-antimicrobial-resistance-in-human-health>
- Also on 22 June, **WHO and the international advocacy organization Global Citizen** signed a

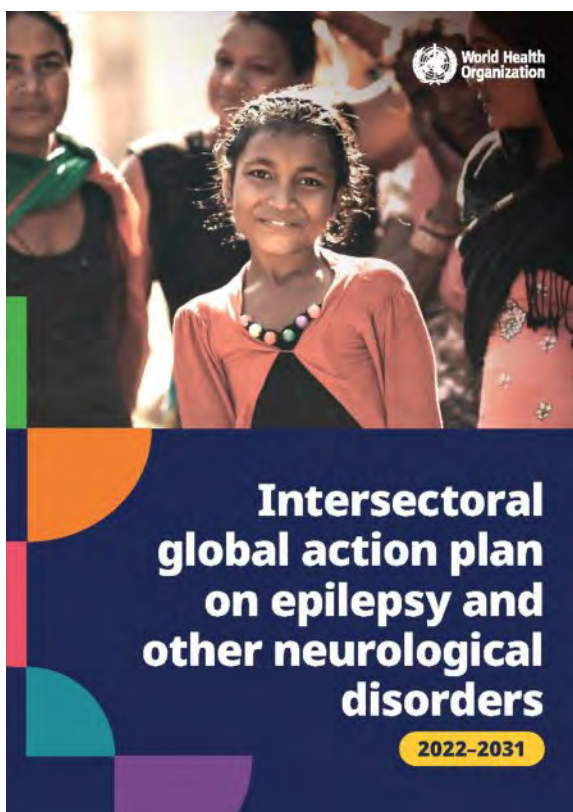
memorandum of understanding to collaborate on joint global advocacy initiatives over the next three years aimed at **promoting and protecting health, fighting inequity and addressing health-related risks of climate change**.

- Again on 22 June, **Dr Vanessa Kerry**, CEO of Seed Global Health, a renowned global health expert and medical doctor, was appointed as the **Director-General’s first-ever Special Envoy for Climate Change and Health**.



- On 23 June, **WHO published the first in a series of WHO public-benefit target product profiles (TPPs) for snakebite treatments**, in order to improve the quality of antivenoms available on the market. This is the first-ever guidance to improve the quality of such products.  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240074569>
- Also on 23 June, **multilateral development banks and WHO** launched a new **Health Impact Investment Platform to strengthen primary health care services**. The African Development Bank, the European Investment Bank, the Islamic Development Bank and WHO are the Platform’s founding members.
- On 26 June, the **Director-General announced WHO’s interest in hosting the United Nations Inter-Agency Games** in April/May 2024 in Geneva.
- On 28 June, **Dr Tedros accepted an Honoris Causa degree** from the University of Coimbra, Portugal.
- On 5 July, **GAVI - the Vaccine Alliance, WHO and UNICEF** announced the allocation of **18 million doses of the first-ever malaria vaccine to 12 African countries for 2023–2025**. A further three countries will receive doses to continue vaccinations in pilot areas and allocations were also made for new introductions in an additional nine countries.

- On 12 July, the latest **State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI)** report published by five UN specialized agencies, including WHO, revealed that over 122 million more people are facing hunger in the world since 2019 due to the pandemic and repeated weather shocks and conflicts, including the war in Ukraine.
- On 18 July, the **Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO and the Robert Koch Institute** launched a Health Security Partnership to **Strengthen Disease Surveillance and Epidemic Intelligence in Africa**.
- On 20 July, WHO published, in all six UN languages, an **Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders** which are the leading cause of disability-adjusted life years  
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240076624> and a 2020 *Lancet* paper cites them as the second leading cause of death globally, accounting for 9 million deaths a year.  
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(19\)30411-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(19)30411-9/fulltext)



- During the week of 24 July, **governments held the fourth round of discussions on proposed amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005)**

[https://www.who.int/news/item/31-07-2023-governments-hold-fourth-round-of-discussions-on-proposed-amendments-to-international-health-regulations-\(2005\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/31-07-2023-governments-hold-fourth-round-of-discussions-on-proposed-amendments-to-international-health-regulations-(2005))

- On 26 July, **WHO published the new editions of the Model Lists of Essential Medicines**  
<https://worldhealthorganization.cmail19.com/t/d-l-vyuyhkh-ttlhjrtdkl-y/>  
**and Essential Medicines for Children**  
<https://worldhealthorganization.cmail19.com/t/d-l-vyuyhkh-ttlhjrtdkl-j/> which include important new medicines for the treatment of multiple sclerosis, cancer, infectious diseases, and cardiovascular conditions, among others.
- On 31 July, a new **WHO report highlighted that 5.6 billion people – 71% of the world’s population – are now protected with at least one best practice policy to help save lives from deadly tobacco**, five times more than in 2007. This report, supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, focuses on protecting the public from second-hand smoke, highlighting that almost 40% of countries now have completely smoke-free indoor public places.  
<https://www.who.int/news/item/31-07-2023-seven-out-of-10-people-protected-by-at-least-one-tobacco-control-measure>
- From 17–18 August, the first **WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit**, co-hosted by the Government of India, took place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India, held alongside the G20 health ministerial meeting, to **mobilize political commitment and evidence-based action on traditional medicine**, which is a first port of call for millions of people worldwide to address their health and well-being needs.
- On 24 August, a **new action guide**, developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health of Qatar, was launched on **“healthier food and healthier environments at sports events”**.
- 17 September is **World Patient Safety Day**. **“Engaging patients for patient safety”** is the theme this year. Evidence shows that when patients are treated as partners in their care, significant gains are made in safety, patient satisfaction and healthy outcomes.

- From 20–22 September, the **UN General Assembly** during its 78<sup>th</sup> session, convened three high-level meetings on **health: fighting against tuberculosis; delivering universal health care; and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**.
- **Regional Committees:**
  - **AFRO** – 73<sup>rd</sup> session, 28 August – 1 September, Gaborone, Botswana
  - **AMRO** – 75<sup>th</sup> session, 25–29 September, Washington DC, USA
  - **EMRO** – 70<sup>th</sup> session, 9–12 October, Cairo, Egypt: nomination of a new Regional Director on the agenda – 5 candidates
  - **EURO** – 73<sup>rd</sup> session, 24–26 October, Astana, Kazakhstan
- **SEARO** – 76<sup>th</sup> session, 30 October – 2 November, New Delhi, India: nomination of a new Regional Director on the agenda – 2 candidates
- **WPRO** – 74<sup>th</sup> session, 16–20 October, Manila, Philippines: nomination of a new Regional Director on the agenda – 5 candidates
- Appointments of the new Regional Directors will take place at the 154<sup>th</sup> session of the Executive Board in January 2024.

Further information and documentation can be found on the WHO website – [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

*Sue Block Tyrrell*

## NEW MEMBERS

### We have pleasure in welcoming the following members into the AFSM family

#### New Life Members

Florence Barthelemy  
Avis Diane Chehab  
Mayada Fox  
Mohamed Ali Masoud  
Rajpal Singh Yadav  
Sivasubramani Suresh  
Rosa Tonitasemi

#### Conversion to Life members

Beverly Conway  
Julia Samuelson

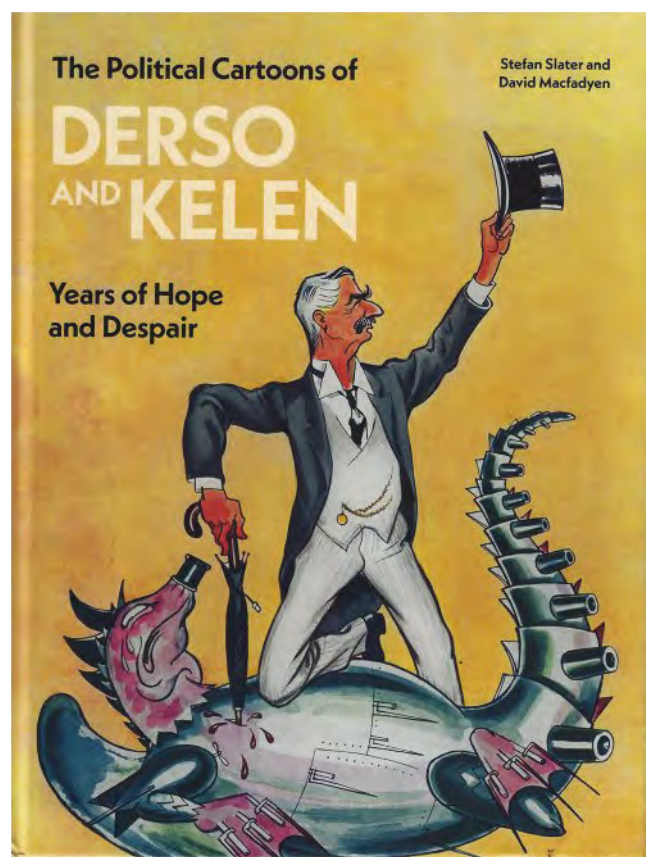
#### New Annual Members

## BOOK REVIEWS

## The Political Cartoons of DERSO and KELEN

### Years of Hope and Despair

By Stefan Slater and David Macfadyen



Format: 25 x 19 cms

160 pages (including 63 colour and 39 b&w illustrations)

Published: June 2023 by Lund Humphries,  
London, EC2A 1AH.

[www.lundhumphries.com](http://www.lundhumphries.com)

ISBN: 978-1-84822-634-0

Hardback: 39.95 GBP

Dr David Macfadyen, former DPM/EURO, and member of AFSM, and co-author Dr Stefan Slater, a former consultant physician, bring us the fascinating story of artists Alois Derso and Emery Kelen, who drew political history as they saw it being made in the fateful years between 1919 and 1945. *The political cartoons of Derso and Kelen. Years of hope and despair* chronicles “the life and times of the League of Nations, and the rise of the United Nations from its ashes” as illustrated by some one

hundred reproductions of their striking black and white and white and colour artworks.

Born in Hungary (1888, 1896), both artists left their homeland after World War I “in all likelihood to escape the persecution of Jews that followed political upheavals”. They studied and worked in Paris, Munich and Zurich before meeting for the first time in 1922, at one of the post-WWI peace negotiations in Lausanne. Settling mainly near to Geneva, home to the headquarters of the League of Nations, they continued to chronicle its “fruitless attempts to maintain peace” until they fled France in 1938 for safety in the US. Thereafter they continued to publish brilliant cartoons about the Nazi threat, notably for the US magazine “Ken”, and to depict the newborn hopes inspired by the United Nations, such as its early work in nuclear arms control. Cartoon below, *The UN Shelter for the Control of Atomic Energy* – 1949.





The artistic collaboration of “*Derso et Kelen*”, as they styled themselves, was symbiotic and highly unusual. Working as “duettists”, both contributed to each figure in a cartoon, passing a drawing “back and forth between them until they were both satisfied”.

Gentle, occasionally dark, ironically humorous – but never a “belly laugh” – their cartoons were sometimes painfully prescient. To illustrate Chamberlain’s tenuous accords with Mussolini’s Italy, they cautiously entitled the cartoon above, of the Anglo-Italian Accords of April 1938, as “*Allegro, ma non troppo*”.

Political cartoons inevitably reflect their times. However, as the authors point out, “historians have been slow to explore their value as a historical resource”. In the case of Derso and Kelen, the historical value is enhanced by the artists’ habit of identifying caricatured personages by name.

During their long careers the two men were so well known that their presence at diplomatic conferences and political meetings was a given. Until very recently, their international renown had faded from memory. In resurrecting their story and their phenomenal contributions to the art of political cartoon and caricature – and to historiography itself – Slater and Macfadyen have done the world a great service.

**Suzanne Cherney**



A Tree Grows in Lake Success – A Canopy of UN Agencies  
More cartoons can be found on page 33 in the digital version only.

## AFSM CRUISE 2023

## Report of the AFSM cruise on the Douro River, Portugal

## 31 May to 5 June 2023

In May 2023 the AFSM was once again in a position to organize a 6-day cruise and the destination was the Douro River in Portugal. Our group of 11 met at Geneva airport on **31 May** for the flight to Porto, where a minibus took us to our ship, the *MS Amalia Rodriguez*. After being shown our cabins, which were modern and comfortable with large picture windows, we were offered a welcome drink and an introduction to the crew.



Our cruise ship, the *MS Amalia Rodriguez*.

After dinner there was an evening excursion by coach to see Porto by night. We saw illuminated landmarks and also visited the famous *Sao Bento* train station, where the walls are decorated with 20,000 beautiful hand painted tiles, each depicting important events in Portuguese history.



Porto Railway Station, *Sao Bento*, and its amazing tiled walls.



Porto, by night.

**On 1 June** we were taken on a guided tour of Porto, which is one of the most ancient towns of Europe and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is well known for its lovely churches and buildings, one of which is the famous Stock Exchange, where we spent time visiting this amazing edifice, including its elaborate golden Moorish style salon inspired by the Alhambra in Spain. We visited the *Sao Francisco Church*, a Gothic and Baroque masterpiece. World-famous for its port wine, our visit ended with wine tasting at one of the city's largest wine cellars. In the afternoon we sailed to Regua, passing two locks, Crestuma and Carrapatelo.

**On 2 June**, after breakfast, we left for a guided excursion to the *Vila Real*. This elegant small town, nicknamed the "royal city" has retained its patriotic residences adorned with coats of arms and traditional wrought iron balconies.

The tour continued to the *Solar de Mateus* mansion, a magnificent 18<sup>th</sup> century Baroque building with a splendid French garden and many fruit trees. Part of the house is still lived in by the owners, but we had a guided tour to see a number of rooms including a wonderful library. We arrived at Barca d'Alva during the afternoon. After dinner there was an evening with flamenco dancing.



While we meandered peacefully along the river in the Douro Valley, the views of the terraced fields of vineyards with their brown and green hues, were exceptional.



One of the many astounding views along the Douro River.

It is the oldest demarcated wine region in the world and the valley extends over approximately 250,000 hectares of which about 40,000 hectares are used. The climate is ideal, with cold winters and summers nourished by the mists of the river and flooded with sunshine, therefore producing the famous Port wine.

**On 3 June** we went for a full day excursion to Salamanca. The town has an extraordinary dynamism and its historic architecture is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We had a guided tour of this beautiful city, which dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and is well known for its famous university and cathedrals. One cathedral, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century which took 220 years to complete, is very ornate and it leads into an older, less ornate and smaller cathedral, which was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. We sailed on to Senhora da Ribeira, once again appreciating the scenery. The chef prepared an excellent dinner for our Gala evening.

On our last full day, **4 June**, we had an excursion from Ferradosa, which took us uphill from the Douro valley, on winding roads covered with the terraced vineyards and quite spectacular views. We made a stop at an attractive village and then continued to a delightful vineyard, *Quinta do Tedo*, a family-owned concern, for more port wine tasting! Here all the grapes are still crushed by foot. We rejoined our ship at Folgosa and the afternoon was spent sailing. After dinner there was a folklore show.

**On 5 June**, our last day, we left the ship after breakfast and went to Aveiro. This is a very picturesque town, which is well-known for its colourful vessels which used to be used to collect algae and seaweed and are now used for sightseeing trips.

Later in the day our minibus took us to the airport for our flight back to Geneva at the end of the afternoon, after a splendid holiday.

### **Bunty Müller**



*The participants.*

*On the left, from the front: Monique Bottiglieri, Pamela Hindle, Linda Voysey, Lynn Dixon (hidden), Genevieve McCone. On the right, from the front: Charles Hager, Ray Cheng, Wanda Cheng, Bunty Müller, Geneviève Weber, Annette Nock.*

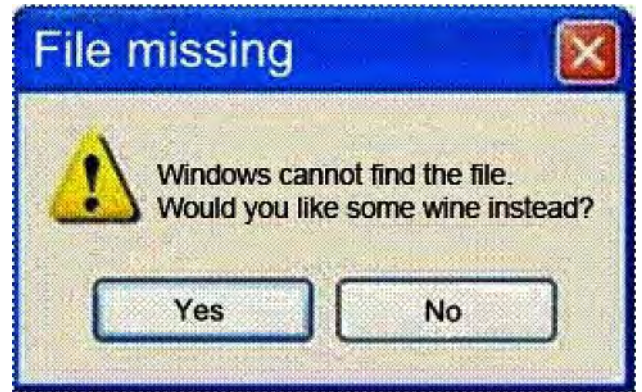
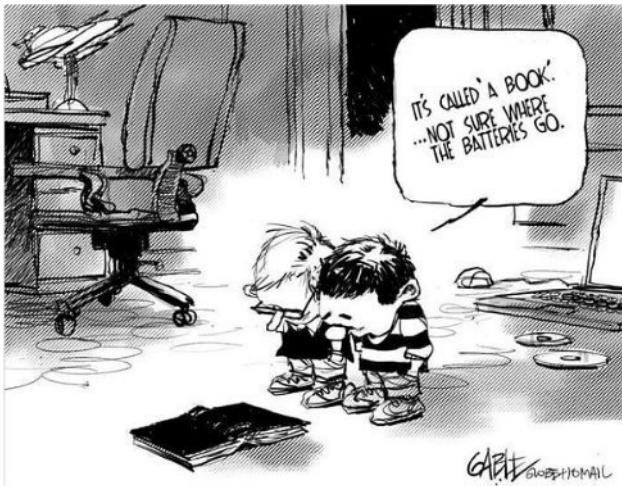


*The participants.*

*On the left, from the front: Annette Nock, Geneviève Weber, Bunty Müller, Wanda Cheng, Ray Cheng, Charles Hager. On the right, from the front: Genevieve McCone, Lynn Dixon, Linda Voysey, Pamela Hindle, Monique Bottiglieri.*

In the article, photos are courtesy of Ray Cheng. Many more photos of the cruise, taken by Bunty Müller, can be enjoyed in the digital version of the *Quarterly News* starting on page 34.

HUMOUR



## NEWS FROM FORMER WHO STAFF MEMBERS' GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD

### News from around the world

**AFSM-HQ:** In the previous issue we mentioned the “historic” intervention of Dr Tedros during the fourth meeting of the AFSM World Council which was held by Zoom on March 28. One of his decisions had been to invite two representatives from each of the Former Staff Associations to the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in May.

He kept his word and these were days of intense emotion which are very well described by Kanaga Rajan, President of AFSM-SEARO, in his article below.

This visit also allowed us to meet physically for the first time and to discuss our various concerns in an informal setting.

On 28 March, Dr Tedros had asked the associations to provide him with a list of requests to enable them to exercise their mandate more effectively. This list was prepared and sent to his office.

At the time of writing, our colleagues from AFSM-AMRO/PAHO are preparing for the fifth Board meeting to be held on October 11. Most of the agenda will be devoted to the progress of the various requests. It is expected that Dr Jarbas Barbosa da Silva Jr, Regional Director of AMRO/PAHO will attend.

We will report back to you in the next issue of the *Quarterly News*.

***Sue Block Tyrrell, Jean-Paul Menu and Dev Ray***



The Regional AFSM presidents and colleagues in Geneva for the WHA, at the invitation of Dr Tedros.

*Front, left to right:* Linda Milan, Custodia Mandlhate, Gloria Coe, Yuka Sumi (WHO), Thiago Héric De Sá (WHO).

*Behind, left to right:* Sharon Miller, Jen Linkins (WHO), Hernan Rosenberg, Ambi Sundaram, Robert Bos, Kanaga Rajan, Melodie Karlson, Romy Murillo, RL Dhawan, Kalula Kalambay.

*Not pictured:* Hanaa Ghoneim and Maha Gaama.

Another photo, with other AFSM presidents on page 21.

## Regional reports

### **AFSM-SEAR:** Greetings from AFSM-SEAR.

Dr Tedros, Director-General, invited Regional AFSM Presidents, with one other colleague to participate in the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly (WHA) in Geneva. Myself accompanied by the Vice-President had the privilege of attending, representing AFSM/SEAR.

On Sunday 21 June, in the morning of the WHA, a Walk-the-Talk event was organized by WHO celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, starting beneath the iconic Broken-Chair monument in front of the UN. The event began at 07.30 and saw many thousands of participants braving the threatening weather. The AFSMs had a brief opportunity to greet the DG, walk with him and exchange a few words of gratitude and appreciation.

In the afternoon the High-level inauguration and Opening of the WHA took place in the new Main Plenary Hall at the *Palais des Nations*, the seat of the United Nations in Geneva, amid tight security in view of the participation of a large number of Health Ministers, Ambassadors, etc. An incredible occasion, providing an opportunity to join fellow AFSM Presidents and colleagues from HQ and Regions. We were seated inside the main plenary hall as special guests of the DG, which afforded us the privilege of watching and listening to the proceedings from the ringside.

After the opening speeches Dr Tedros addressed the Assembly. Highlights of the speech included tracing the 75-year history of WHO and gratefully acknowledging the contributions of Member States. The DG especially acknowledged the contributions of each previous DG, mentioning and applauding each DG's signature achievements. The DG also acknowledged and thanked all WHO staff members present and past for the good work. His speech received a standing ovation.

In the evening, AFSMs were invited to the high-level Reception hosted by the President of Swiss Confederation. At the Reception we had further opportunities to talk with Dr Tedros, and a special encounter with the former DG, Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland, who spoke of her time in WHO. She surprised me by recalling my own meeting with her, as DG in 2002, in my capacity as the then President of WHO/SEAR Staff Association.

In addition to attending the WHA plenary sessions, we took the opportunity to hold useful meetings and consultations among AFSMs, UNJSPF, UNFCU and AFICS (Association of Former International Civil Servants) at the Palais, and at WHO, with SHI, Director HR/HQ, and the Programme of Healthy Ageing.

On the third day of the WHA, Dr Tedros generously agreed to meet with the AFSMs, despite his heavy and busy schedule. We were received with warmth and ushered into the special office of the DG at the Palais. The DG talked to us sitting as one amongst us and reiterated his commitment of institutionalizing AFSMs as entities in WHO across Offices. He then led us to the special room where he receives the ministers and high-dignitaries, and official photographs were taken with us.

The AFSMs also took the opportunity to hold an informal Global Council meeting in a meeting room beside the WHO Cafeteria in the new building.

Overall, this was an incredible, wonderful and immensely useful WHA experience and our grateful thanks and appreciation go to Dr Tedros. We, the retirees, are the first to fly the WHO flag high, and to contribute whatever to WHO and its causes.

**M.R. Kanaga Rajan** (President, AFSM-SEAR)

**AFSM-Africa: AFRO Retired but Not Tired: The third General Assembly (GA) was held virtually on 20 July 2023**, with the participation of 67 members from 35 countries. Dr Angelica Salomao (Mozambique), President of the 2<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, opened the session by welcoming everyone and proceeding to the elections of the new officers. Dr Oyewale Tomori (Nigeria) was elected Chair and Dr Issue Diop Touré (Senegal) Vice-Chair. Professor Tomori praised the work done by the Executive Committee and the members of the association and valued the presence of Dr Joseph Cabore, DPM/AFRO. The latter, representing the Regional Director, Dr Moeti who was unable to attend, reaffirmed the slogan "*Once WHO, Always WHO*" of the WHO Director-General, and to underline this the Regional Office confirmed the invitation of four members of the association to the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the Regional Committee in Gaborone, Botswana, from 28 August to 1 September. Dr Cabore also invited former staff members to contribute to the reflection on priority health problems in Africa, such as road accidents and mental health.

Among the highlights of the Coordinator's report, Dr Kalambay Kalula (Canada) stressed the active participation of committee members in monthly meetings, the challenges related to current membership dues and the recruitment of new members.

**Participation in the celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WHO in Geneva was a major highlight**, strengthening the relationship between the two entities. The collective book project has been widely shared, providing an avenue for collaboration with WHO and a legacy for future generations. At the end of the deliberations, the General Assembly unanimously adopted the report of the working group on the revision of Article 12, including the renewal of the mandate of the Executive Committee (EC) for two years (2023–2025), the extension of the mandate of the working group on the revision of the Statutes and Rules of Procedure, the mobilization of retirees at each country level, the creation of a Committee of Elders composed of former presidents of the GA and the EC, and the harmonization of the titles of the members of the EC with the other AFSMs, in particular president and vice-president respectively. The questions on pension and health insurance will be discussed later in a special session to be organized by Dr Tankari (Niger).

**Kalula Kalambay** (President AFSM-AFRICA)

**Solange Kouo Epa** (Secretary AFSM-AFRICA)



The Regional AFSM Presidents and colleagues, in Geneva for the WHA, at the invitation of Dr Tedros.

*Left to right:* Romy Murillo, Ambi Sundaram, Custodia Mandlhate, Kalula Kalambay, RL Dhawan, Gloria Coe, Kanaga Rajan, Linda Milan, Hernan Rosenberg, Robert Bos. Another photo, with other AFSM presidents on page 19.

**AFSM-Manila: Soon to be AFSM-WPR: on the road to recognition and institutionalization.** In October 2017, Dr Tedros had expressed appreciation of Retirees and acknowledged their contribution to WHO. Actions and directions to senior management gave flesh to his pronouncements, paving the way to recognition of AFSMs and the institutionalization of a WHO/AFSM partnership. The DG's invitation to AFSMs to attend the 76<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly was significant because it also coincided with WHO's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, further demonstrating the DG's acknowledgement of Retirees as members of the WHO Family. Meeting with AFSM leadership on the sidelines of the Assembly, Dr Tedros reiterated his wish for the institutionalization of AFSMs as partners of WHO.

On 18 July 2023, an official call was made to Deputy Director-General, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, who is also Acting Regional Director WPR, by those members of AFSM-WPR Executive Committee while they were in Geneva. The Executive Committee conveyed and expressed its appreciation for the strong support of Dr Jakab to the retirees, former staff members and its initiatives in line with the DG's pronouncements of retirees still being part of the WHO Family. There was a brief introduction of AFSM, the Global Council of AFSM, and Amendment of the Statutes (expanding the reach of retirees to include retirees/former staff who have settled down in the WPR member countries). The Executive Committee is grateful to Dr Jakab for the support and appreciate the valuable insights shared.

WPRO, under the leadership of Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, had quickly acted on DG's directions. At the WRs/CLOs Meeting in April 2023, a briefing on "The AFSMs" was included in the agenda under HR UPDATES. Further discussions ensued in the following weeks regarding support that AFSM-WPR will need to perform its work more effectively. We are looking forward to a more fruitful relationship to meet the AFSM-WPR objectives. Given the strong support and encouragement by DDG Jakab, we can say that AFSM-WPR is indeed on the road to Recognition and Institutionalization as the DG had envisioned.

**Linda Milan** (President AFSM)



*Above:*  
AFSM-WPR Executive Committee Luncheon Meeting with Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Acting Regional Director, in the WHO/WPRO Executive Lounge.

*Left:*  
L-R: Henry Cardenas, Lydia Manuel, Annie R. Naño, Maria Pilar Topacio, Thelma Ballat, Dr Zsuzsanna Jakab, Dr Linda Milan, Cora Nery, Lou Rodriguez, Bing Javier

## IN MEMORIAM

### Recent deaths<sup>1</sup> of former WHO staff members as reported to AFSM

Abdel Aziz	Mohamed	23.03.2023	McDermitt	M	19.05.2022
Ali-Mchangama	Hassane	12.03.2023	Menouta	Lemma	04.04.2023
Ballance	Richard C	23.05.2023	Mercado	Remigio D	27.03.2023
Barahona	Horacio	02.04.2023	Michaud	Andre M L	02.04.2023
Barbour	Effie R	29.12.2021	Nasah	Boniface T	21.03.2023
Bikoumou	Pierre	02.02.2023	Nazliaka	Hasan Vehbi	16.05.2023
Bindjouli	Jean	13.06.2023	Ngobila	Collin	12.10.2021
Bradbury	John	25.04.2023	Niklaus	Monique	05.05.2023
Cardenas	Hernando	05.04.2023	Nzonzi	Andre	04.01.2023
Chabara	Abdel R	19.03.2023	Oberoi	Krishen Chandr	15.04.2023
Davis	Joan	22.04.2023	Ouedraogo	Jean-Christophe	13.03.2023
Degbe	Kokou Cephass	11.03.2023	Pallota	Elvo	27.12.2022
Drame	Malam	14.03.2021	Paz	Ezequiel	22.05.2023
Fabre	Nathalie	17.04.2023	Piebo	Yvette	08.08.2019
Farah	Fahmida	27.03.2023	Prezioso	Ubaldo	19.06.2021
Fares Guirguis	Naguib	29.04.2023	Price	Sheila M	21.03.2023
Fernicola	Nilda A	27.05.2023	Quinn	Heather	01.07.2022
Fluss	Sev Solomon	30.05.2023	Rwegera	Damien	09.05.2023
Gonzalez	E	13.05.2023	Sarue	Nora	11.04.2023
Gromyko	Alexandre I	01.06.2023	Schroder	Connie R	20.03.2023
Hurst	Nancy	25.03.2023	Shinkfield	Ebba	21.05.2023
Ismail	Ali Khogali	08.05.2023	Suksiriale	Sala	18.06.2023
Johansen	Kaia-Lis	03.06.2020	Teixeira	Paulo F Piza	21.05.2023
Khipple	Kanta	12.04.2023	Tejada	Cesar Antonio	13.04.2023
Kifoua	Ferdinand	10.02.2023	Tin	Maung Maung	15.05.2023
Lorion	Michelle T I F	03.03.2023	Toe	Robert	19.03.2023
Manouana	Ernest	20.04.2023	Vijh	Dev Raj	15.05.2023
Manus	Alison Jane	06.04.2023	Vinther-Jorgensen	Ib	30.04.2023
Martinez	Honoriam Zamitiz	23.02.2023	Weinstein De Jaque	Vera	06.03.2023
Masironi	Roberto	09.06.2023	Wiedmer	Renate	13.06.2023

<sup>1</sup> The present notification of deaths was gratefully received from UNJSPF and covers Q2 2023. We have endeavoured to ensure that deaths already published have not been repeated in this list, however we apologize in advance if there are omissions or repeat entries. The editorial policy is to publish, once only, the names on the list of death notices we receive, and this regardless of whether an obituary has already been published; appears in the current issue; or will appear in a future issue.

The deaths were also announced of the survivors of former staff members: Augsburg, Eddy; Brown, Yvonne; Collins Vargas, Bernardita M; De Mendizabal, Maria Magdalena; Delaunay, Antoinette; Deme, Marie Therese; Fiasorgbor, Innocentia; Galvez-Garcia, Maria; Jayaweera, Dhanika; Lachenal, Gabrielle; MOUNGANDA, Leonie; Mya Sein, Daw; Pare Sodore, Assitan; Perrotte, Madeleine; Pull, Paule Marie; Salguero De Caballe, Pilar; Samba, Mary; San Martin, Shirley; Sehgal, Nirmal; Servais, Grace Lilian; Traboulga, Emilienne.

## Sev Solomon Fluss, born 1 November 1934, in Rozwadów, Poland, died 30 May 2023 in Geneva, Switzerland



Sev completed his university studies in Edinburgh, Cambridge (Trinity Hall), and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1960 he was made Scientific Information Officer, Commonwealth Bureau of Plant Breeding and Genetics, School of Agriculture, Cambridge University.

In October 1965 Sev joined WHO's Health Legislation Unit under Dr Jean de Moerloose, first as Editor, and later Editor-Translator. On the latter's retirement Sev then served as Chief of the Unit and Editor-in-Chief of the *International Digest of Health Legislation* (IDHL) from March 1984 until his retirement at the end of February 1995. A remarkable 30-year career in Health Legislation.

Sev also sat on the editorial boards of various journals in the field of medical and health law, he was an Honorary Member of the Czech Medical Association and held a Special Professorship in the faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of Nottingham University. He was Special Advisor to the Secretary-General of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS). He has also held the post of Programme manager for Human Rights, in the WHO Office of Health Policy in Development, and was later to become Special Adviser to the then Director-General, Dr Hiroshi Nakajima.

The IDHL was a publication unique in the world, it was the only comprehensive source of health

legislation available to health professionals worldwide. The legislation reported has provided invaluable comparative legal information and disseminated knowledge on health policy, enabling countries to benefit from legislative experience in other countries.

How laws and policies affecting people's health are formulated, says a great deal about the degree to which nations value the health of their citizens. Under Sev's guidance the Digest showed how law can be creatively used to protect and promote health and WHO has come to play a leadership role in that process.

As we say farewell to Sev we can reflect that WHO can be proud of what the *International Digest of Health Legislation* achieved in documenting national and international health legislation. For instance, such legislative documentation provided persuasive grounds for adoption by the 44<sup>th</sup> World Health Assembly in 1991 of the guiding principles on human organ transplantation (*WHA 44.25*). Sev was instrumental in preparing this and coordinated the contributions of all the regional offices.

As Senior Legal Officer within the Office of the Legal Counsel I had the privilege and pleasure of knowing Sev before his retirement, and was immensely proud to be able to continue his work as Chief of the Unit and Editor-in-Chief of IDHL.

Sev's dear wife Vera passed away before him, leaving him deeply saddened. He leaves 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

***Geneviève Pinet-Samuelsson***



## Sev Fluss

I was recruited to, and worked in the Health Legislation unit headed up by Sev. He did so much for me by giving me the tools I needed to become a better translator and eventually also a text editor – and that increased my personal self-confidence. I couldn't have had a better colleague and mentor.

### Kevin Cook

From 1974 until his retirement, I had the pleasure of working with Sev, and again more recently as editor of the *Quarterly News*, to which Sev was a regular contributor.

His contributions can be found in the following issues,

- Linking Health and Human Rights, *QNT 17*, Spring 1994, page 2
- WHO's Semicentennial: The Paris Colloquium, *QNT 34/35*, 1998, page 4
- Readers' corner, *QNT 84*, July 2011, page 12
- Obituary: Juhana E. Idänpään-Heikkilä, *QNT 103*, April 2016, Page 13
- Readers' letters, Long-running WHO publications, periodicals, and series, *International Digest of Health Legislation*, *QNT 122*, January 2021, page 25
- Anecdotes from the Annexes: An even earlier annex in Petit-Saconnex. *QNT 129*, October 2022, page 20

### Keith Wynn

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## Richard (Dick) Ballance, born 27 February 1926 in Ottawa, Canada, died 23 May 2023 in Issigeac, France



After a childhood spent in Westboro, a brief spell in the army, and rather longer with the Central Band of the Royal Canadian Air Force, Dick attended the University of New Brunswick (UNB), earning a degree in Civil Engineering in 1954. He was subsequently awarded a master's

degree in Public Health Engineering by Imperial College, London, and returned to UNB as Assistant Professor. His Ph.D. in Sanitary Engineering came from West Virginia University in 1970.

Following assignments with Canadian provincial and federal institutions, Dick joined WHO in 1971 as country engineer in Afghanistan, working to improve rural water supplies in that drought-stricken country. In 1972 he brought this valuable field experience to WHO HQ, joining the Community Water Supply and Sanitation unit. His work with the World Bank–WHO Cooperative

Programme took him on many field missions to African and Asian countries. After his retirement in 1986 Dick undertook a number of consultant missions for WHO, including one to post-genocide Rwanda.

Outside work, Dick was a talented percussionist and was often to be seen playing for musical productions in Geneva, including the Christmas pantomime. He took huge pleasure in exploring Switzerland at the wheel of his beloved red Fiat convertible. Perhaps his greatest passion was skiing – he loved the Alps but also had a wealth of tales of skiing in the Hindu Kush.

In 1952 Dick had married Willy Tennian, who sadly passed away in 1984. He then met Sarah Jones at WHO and they married in 1990, finally setting up home in rural Dordogne. Dick is survived by Sarah and five children, a stepdaughter, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. His former colleagues mourn his passing but will always remember him as a humorous, entertaining and reliable colleague and friend.

**Richard Helmer, Jenny Torelli and Robert Bos**

**Roberto Masironi, born 19 September 1931, Rome, Italy,  
died 9 June 2023, Geneva, Switzerland**



Before coming to WHO, Roberto had gained very wide experience at the international level. It was this experience that enabled him to establish links which later served him well in his future work at WHO.

He studied at Rome University, *La Sapienza*, where in 1956 he graduated as a biologist

and chemist. He started working in the same university from October 1960 to August 1962 as a Research Associate at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. From August 1962 to March 1963, he was Visiting Investigator at the Academy of Sciences of URSS, Institute of Molecular Biology Vavilov, Moscow, URSS. From May 1963 to May 1964, he worked as a Visiting Investigator at the United States Atomic Energy Commission (USAEC), Oak Ridge National

Laboratory, USA. From May 1964 to December 1966 he was Research Associate at the School of Medicine, Emory University, Atlanta, USA.

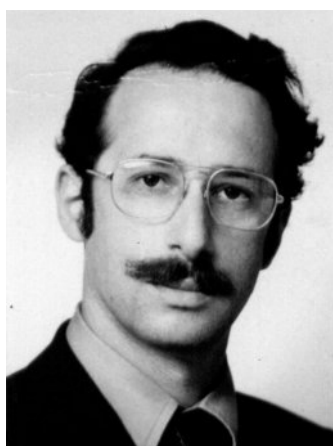
His career in WHO commenced in September 1967. From 1967 to 1980 he worked as a Scientist, Cardiovascular Diseases Unit, Health Protection and Promotion, WHO HQ, Geneva, Switzerland.

From 1975 to 1986, he was Secretary, WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Smoking and Health. In the same period, he was Secretary, WHO Expert Committees on Smoking and Health. In 1980 he was appointed Coordinator, WHO Programme on Smoking and Health, WHO HQ, Geneva. It was in this programme that he had founded, and where he continued working until 1991. He retired in 1991 and after some years started new work as Secretary General of WFUNA - World Federation of UN Associations, UNO, Geneva, Switzerland.

He was also for some years one of the Vice-presidents of AFSM with the then President, Roger Fontana.

***Laura Ciaffei***

**Mark Belsey, born 2 June 1935 in New York City,  
died 2 March 2023 in New York City, USA**



Mark specialized in paediatrics and epidemiology, and before joining WHO, he taught and practised at Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, in New Orleans. In 1965 he was made Director of Emergency, Immunization and

Epidemiologic Surveillance following Hurricane

Betsy in New Orleans 1965, but continued to teach at Tulane. He left in 1972 to join WHO, as one of the first epidemiologists to be attached to the Special Programme on Human Reproduction (HRP), which at the time was a relatively new field for WHO and indeed the global public health community in general. After ten years with HRP, he was appointed Chief of WHO's Maternal and Child Health Unit, and remained there until his retirement.

During Mark's leadership, the MCH Unit embarked on a vigorous program of research, training and

policy formulation that helped to change how maternal and child health was being thought about by countries and within WHO itself. His commitment to international health development meant that he was constantly thinking of, and promoting, new ways of changing the way in which the health of the most vulnerable could be enhanced. In this regard, he was especially committed to women's health and he was an early advocate of women's rights in health and the need for WHO to better understand the social and cultural dimensions of how women are perceived, and how this influences the ways in which they are treated in their own communities and the healthcare system.

Under Mark's direction, the MCH Unit went on to produce more guidelines, policy papers and training materials than at any other time before or since. Their impact on how the needs of mothers and children are still seen by health planners and others in government, remains an enduring legacy to Mark's vision.

**Manuel Carballo and Richard J Guidotti**

See also, the photo from the archives, on page 29.

## SUBMISSION OF OBITUARIES

**Editorial policy on the submission of obituaries.** As you know the Association publishes the obituaries of former WHO staff members in the *Quarterly News*. The Editorial Board reviews the obituaries received with a view to suitability for publication. Obituaries should not exceed 300 words and be submitted along with a good quality photo of the subject of the obituary. Unless it follows the wishes of the deceased or their family, consider not revealing the cause of death. The date and country of death are required, and the date of birth if known.

### *The Editorial Board*

## AFSM CENTENARIANS

From a message from the family, it has been brought to our attention that our member Dr Boga Skrinjar Nerima, who passed away on 29 November last year, was in fact 100 years old, so becoming the fourth AFSM centenarian that we are aware of. Educated in the former Yugoslavia, she joined WHO in 1962 as a Medical Officer in the Unit of Development of Health Statistical Services and retired 20 years later from the post of Chief, Development of Health Statistical Services.

On the subject of AFSM centenarians, our first was Ronnie Peters, 30 March 1915 – 4 March 2016, who sadly passed away just before her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

Our second centenarian is Dr Thomas Barnes, who is now 104 years of age. The WHO Representative in Thailand visited him on World Health Day this year and his grand-daughter has advised us that he has recovered after Covid – truly amazing.

Then, news of our third centenarian – Gwendoline Carnelley – can be found in the July 2023 issue of *Quarterly News* (No. 132).

## A REMINDER TO ALL MEMBERS

### The death of a retiree is, inevitably, an upsetting, stressful, and busy time for the surviving family

However, we remind you of actions that should be taken without delay.

#### UN Joint Staff Pension Fund

##### **A. Survivors' benefits**

As detailed in the AFSM guide, *Formalities concerning the death of a WHO retiree: A guide for retirees and their survivors to ensure continuity of the UN pension and of the WHO health insurance. Revised edition: 2023*, see <https://www.who.int/about/former-staff/resources>. Click on the 8<sup>th</sup> heading in the section **Retirement resources**.

If you have not already done so, AFSM would urge you:

##### **To send to UNJSPF now:**

- an official copy of your marriage certificate, or if applicable, divorce decree, or the *Livret de Famille* if available;
- an official copy of your spouse's birth certificate;
- an official copy of your birth certificate;
- an official copy of the birth certificate of each child under the age of 21;
- a copy of your spouse's passport page (or identity document) showing their photograph, name, date of birth and signature.

##### **To establish a file to be kept at home containing:**

- photocopies of the documents listed above plus a pre-filled E/2 form – Instructions for payment of death or disability benefits – ready for despatch to UNJSPF by the survivor;
- your Unique ID number (pension number).

##### **B. Bank account**

- Similarly, in order to ensure uninterrupted pension payments, it is advisable to have them paid into a joint bank account which remains in the name of the survivor when the retiree dies.

#### WHO Staff Health Insurance (SHI)

After the death of a former staff member, continued participation will be automatic for the surviving spouse and/or children, and/or surviving parent, brother or sister who were insured at the date of the former staff member's death. They may at any time discontinue participation, but may not thereafter resume it.

Contributions of the surviving family member(s) of a deceased former staff member will be paid using the same method of payment/deduction elected by the deceased former staff member.

##### **SHI must be informed:**

By email at [shihq@who.int](mailto:shihq@who.int) (recommended)

Or, if not possible, by mail to:

WHO/SHI

20 avenue Appia

1211 Genève 27

Switzerland

Tel: +41 (0) 22 791 18 18

Copies of the death certificate and Form 90.3 completed accordingly should be attached to the correspondence.

## A PHOTO FROM THE ARCHIVES



**The Family Health Division (FHE), photo taken in 1992 on the occasion of the retirement of Dr Angèle Petros-Barvazian, Director of FHE.**

**Top Row (left to right):** Godfrey Walker, Alpha Barry.

**Fifth Row:** Jane Ferguson, Dorrit Berthier, Clare El-Shami, Marcia Tomas, Gloria Lamptey, Carole Peters, Sue Lambert, Vinod Unikkadath.

**Fourth Row:** Janet Demierre, Lindsay Simmons, Arfi Farah, Linda Guidotti, Agnes ?, Robert Johnson, Marie-Christine Nedelec, Erica Royston, Josef Kierski.

**Third Row:** Jane Card, Annette Edwards-de Lima, Annick ?, Christine Willumsen; Valerie Raphoz.

**Second row:** Technical Officer name not known, Anita Komodin, Jean Samson, Habib Rejeb, Carla Abou-Zahr, Shamila Akram.

**Front row:** Herbert Friedman, Hu Ching-Li, Angèle Petros-Barvazian, Mark Belsey, Leila Mehra, Puroshottam Shah.

**Not in the photo:** Manuel Carballo, who had just joined the Global Programme on AIDS, and Richard (Rikk) Guidotti who was on duty travel.

If you know the names of the three staff members not fully identified, please let us know so that we can complete our archive.

The recent death of Mark Belsey prompted us to search for this photo. *See the obituary on page 26.*

## ART EXHIBITION IN MARTIGNY, SWITZERLAND

## LES ANNÉES FAUVES

*Fondation Pierre Gianadda, Martigny, Switzerland*

7 July 2023 to 21 January 2024, every day from 9 am to 6 pm



The Pierre Gianadda Foundation presents the exhibition “*Les Années Fauves*” or The Fauvist Years, with a hundred works from the Museum of Modern Art in Paris and various French museums and private collections, represented by paintings, drawings, sculptures and ceramics. These are works full of colour which characterizes the painters of the artistic movement called Fauvism, the first avant-garde movement of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

This artistic movement, without any rules, wanted to challenge the “Divisionism” of the Impressionists. It was embraced by young painters coming out of Schools of Fine Art, who thus announced their struggle against the painting of older and better-known painters. Shaking off the tyranny of “Divisionism”, the sentence of Matisse, leader of Fauvism, these young artists bring the lesson of Van Gogh to its climax by exalting pure colour. An excess that triggers the displeasure of the public and the critics.

Fauvism came to the fore at the *Salon d'Automne* of 1905, when a group of painters exhibited works where vibrant colour was exalted. This chromatic excess shocked the public

and Louis Vauxcelles, discovering a bust of an Italian-style boy by the sculptor Albert Mark, declared: “*Donatello among the beasts*” and their exhibition was banned.

There were several important painters of the time who became part of this artistic movement, such as Manguin, Derain, Vlaminck, Rouault, Marquet, Dufy, Braque and others. They formed two groups of painters, one from the South of France with their paintings of the landscapes of Collioure, Saint Tropez and L'Estaque and the other from Normandy, with the landscapes of the port of Le Havre, such as Georges Braque and Raoul Dufy. The port inspired them with many colourful views. The painting of the *Regattas* particularly provides an example of this feverish maritime activity executed with an astonishing colour palette and rapid sketches of spectators watching from the shore admiring the sailing boats on the water. The solid areas outlined in black show Dufy's adherence to Fauvism.

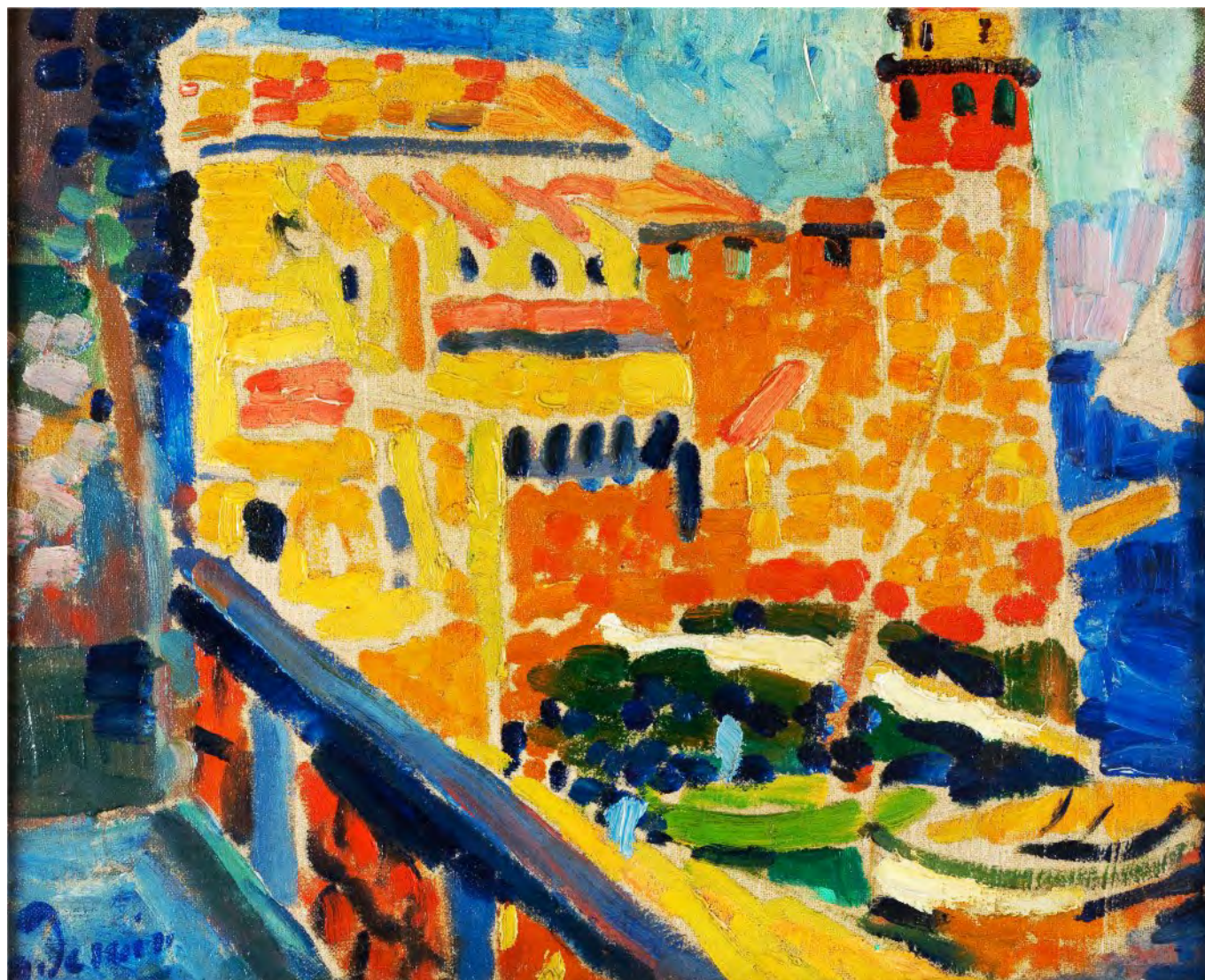
Braque (1882–1963) attracted by the South, painted at L'Estaque, in the footsteps of Cézanne, then, seduced by the dazzling light of the Mediterranean, he painted “*The Gulf, Les Lecques*” (oil on canvas, 1907). Painted from a bird's-eye view, the scene unfolds in front of the viewer with the intense yellow of the pine forest, the cobalt blue of the sea and, towards the horizon, the contours of the mountains are coloured and outlined in black. A fiery sky closes the composition. Even Picasso copied this style, and this can be seen in two of his works in the exhibition. He observed the Fauves, especially the techniques of Matisse and Derain, during his pink period.

*"The first thing that could be said of Fauvism is the liberation of colour. Vivid colour",* as the painter Vlaminck said. *"It's simply a way of being, of acting, of thinking, of breathing"* explains Jacqueline Munck, chief heritage curator at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris and curator of this exhibition.

To end this presentation, we must also mention the African statuettes on display which also testify to the influence of this exotic art on the Fauve workshops. These artists were also influenced by the discovery at the time of the gigantic statues from Oceania that they had seen at the British Museum in London. Some artists are also open to innovations such as ceramics, some examples of which are on display. It can certainly be said that the Fauvists create with "vital energy", which goes off like a firework in 20<sup>th</sup> century art. From this energy remains the actuality, which today's world always needs.

### **Laura Ciaffei**

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Switzerland Tarifs: Seniors (60 +) : CHF 18 € 18



André Derain (French 1880–1954)

Le phare de Collioure, painted 1905

Oil on Canvas

Paris Musées / Musée d'Art moderne de Paris © 2023



Henri Charles Manguin (French, 1874–1949)  
Femme à la grappe, villa Demièrre, painted 1905  
Oil on Canvas



### The Political Cartoons of DERSO and KELEN

Some more cartoons from the book reviewed on page 14.



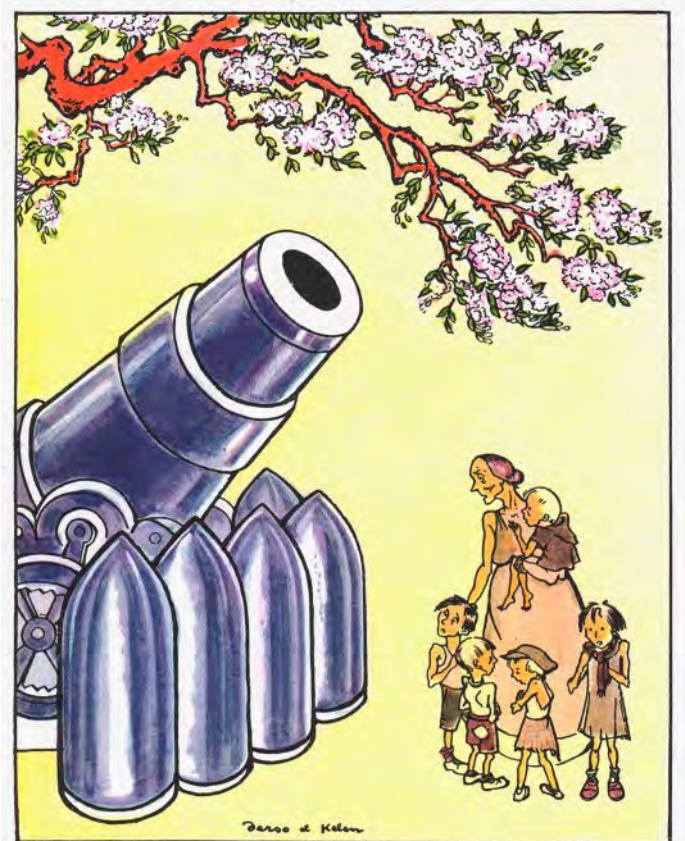
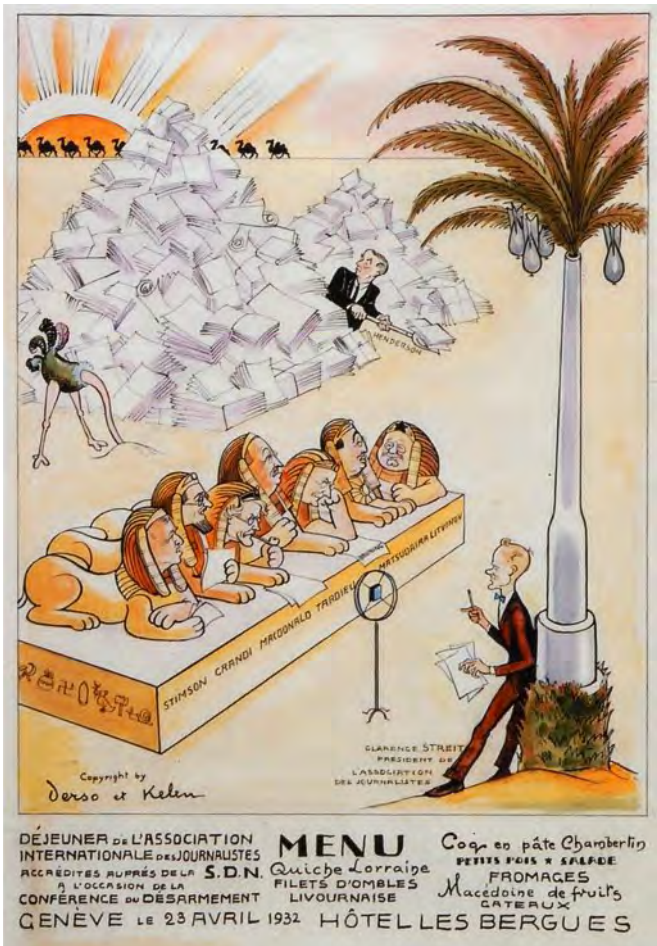
Derso et Kelen

UNE SEANCE DU CONSEIL DE LA S. D. N. 1925

Above: A Meeting of the Board of the League of Nations, 1923

Below left: The Sphinxes of the Disarmament Conference, 1932

Below right: Two Families – Cannons or Mouths to Feed



## More photos of the AFSM cruise on the Douro River, Portugal



All photos by Bunty Müller.

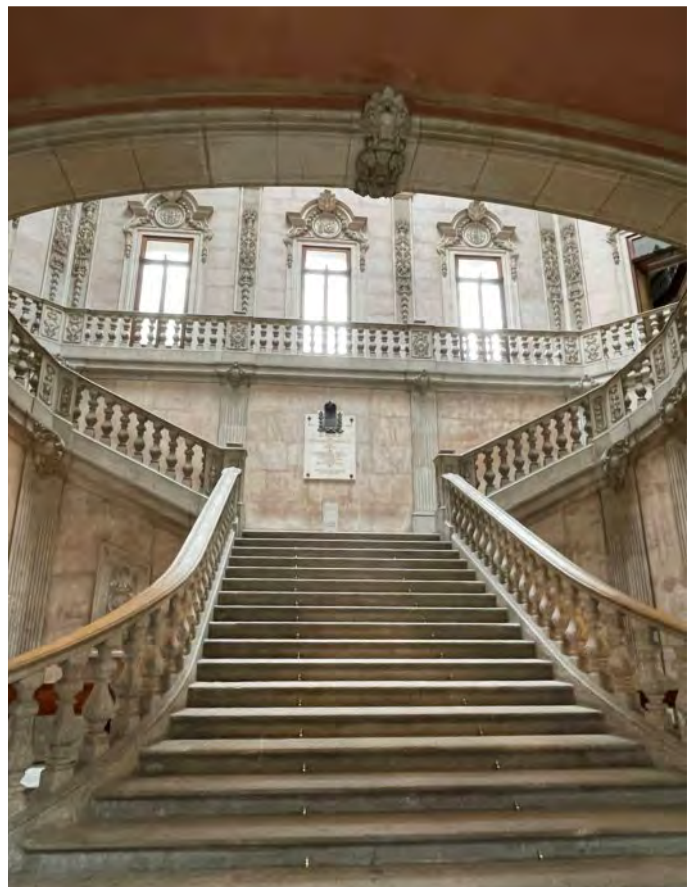
*Above, Porto.*

*Right, Solar de Mateus mansion.*

*Below, the Golden Salon in the Porto Stock Exchange.*

*Lower right, Salamanca.*





All photos by Bunty Müller.  
 Top left, Aviero. Top right, Bunty Müller, Lynn Dixon and Linda Voysey  
 Lower left, the interior of Salamanca Cathedral.  
 Lower right, Staircase at the Porto Stock Exchange.