

REPORT

of the Hon. Louise Mailhot

I.A.J. Representative to the UNO (Geneva and New York)

To the Presidency Committee, Paris, June 23-24, 2017

Since my last report of October 2016, I have continued to monitor the activities of the NGO Section/PDI and of the DESA of the United Nations (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) on the internet and to attend International events of interest.

News of the United Nations

Climate Change Conference (COP21, Paris):

As I reported in my last report, the conference held in Paris, November 30th to December 10, 2015 was a huge success. An agreement was adopted on December 12, 2015, by 196 countries recognizing the necessity to fight climate change. The Paris Agreement has since been opened for signature until April 22, 2017 and it is to come into force in 2020 if 55 countries responsible for 55% of the greenhouse effect gas emissions have ratified it. To date more than 148 parties have ratified for at least 55% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions.

However, on June 1, 2017, the USA has announced it will pull out of the Agreement but this cannot be an official withdrawal before 2020.

The UN Ocean Conference, New York, 5-9 June 2017 :

Under the directorship of UN DESA Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, the Ocean Conference was held in New York between June 5 and June 9, 2017. It was the first UN conference of its kind on the issue. It is co-hosted by Fiji and Sweden.

The Ocean is a stabilizer for temperature on the mainland. Oceans and seas cover 70% of the mainland.

On June 7, 2017, 855 commitments to take action to improve the health of the ocean have been recorded.

The Conference hoped to raise awareness of the international communities about major ocean problems:

- Its overfishing

- Its pollution by plastic and other types of garbage
- The melting of icebergs that will raise sea levels

The aim of this conference is also to mobilize the different communities to join efforts to protect the seas and reduce pollution. See <https://oceanconference.un.org>.

A new UN posting for Hon. Louise Arbour

The new UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed on March 9, 2017 the Hon. Louise Arbour as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration; she is succeeding to the Irish Peter Sutherland, himself former Attorney General of Ireland, appointed in 2006 at the UN.

Louise Arbour will be called to brief the States to implement the New York Declaration, whereby the countries have committed in September 2016 to protect the rights of refugees and migrants, to save lives for the large movements of persons in the world.

According to the UN, in 2015, there were 244 million of migrants and 65 million of displaced persons (refugees).

“Mrs. Arbour will lead UN system with the preparation for the 2018 Intergovernmental Conference on international migration, working with member States, in partnership with other stakeholders, as to develop a global agreement for safe, orderly and regular migration. She will also lead UN advocacy efforts on international migration, provide policy advice and coordinate the engagement of United Nations entities on migration-related issues.” (UN.org/press)

Africa CEO Forum

The 5th edition of this large international conference of the private sector was held on March 20-21, 2017 in Geneva and was entitled: “Shaping the future of Africa, Rethinking Africa’s business model”.

This forum provides a unique platform for over 1,000 African and international figures from industry, finance and politics to discuss future-oriented themes and challenges.

Amongst many topics: good governance, securing investment, infrastructures, the future of leadership and women in business.

International Arbitration

On January 1, 2017 the amendments to the *Règlement d'arbitrage* of the *Chambre de commerce internationale (CCI)* to reduce delays and costs of the arbitral proceedings has come to force.

As well the amendments to apply an accelerated process for arbitrations of cases involving less than 2 million US dollars, came into force on March 1, 2017 for cases agreed to after that date. There is an opt-out and an opt-in possibility.

International Conferences in Montreal

March 16, 2017 : *Les enjeux internationaux à surveiller en 2017. S.E. Nicolas Chapuis, ambassadeur de la République française et Raymond Chrétien, président du C.A. du Conseil des relations internationales de Montréal (CORIM) sur l'Accord du libre-échange Canada-UE et les conséquences du Brexit, l'Administration Trump et les répercussions économiques et géopolitiques.*

May 9, 2017 : *La justice internationale contre les dictateurs (CORIM et ENAP).*

May 15-17, 2017 : Global Public Transport Summit. 2,500 participants from 84 countries. The *Centre interuniversitaire de recherche en analyse des organisations (CIRANO)* invited Ms. Elizabeth Borne, CEO of RATP of Paris to speak to a group of guests. During her presence, she was informed of her appointment by President Emmanuel Macron to be Minister of Transport for France.

May 23, 2017 : H.E. Marc-André Blanchard, Canadian Ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations in New York, gave a presentation at a Canadian Bar Association annual meeting of the current world political and economic challenges.

June 2, 2017 : Paul Magnette, Minister-President of Wallonie was a guest speaker at the CORIM.

June 16-19, 2017 : The 17th Conference of *L'Observatoire international de la démocratie participative* will take place for the first time in North America.

June 23, 2017P Presentations by Mrs. Irene Khan, international jurist and General Director of *l'Organisation internationale de droit du développement (OIDD)* and by the Hon. Guy Canivet, former Vice-President of the Ethics Commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and former President of the Cour de cassation (France), at the Charles Gonthier Commemorative Conference of 2017.

Once again, it was an honor to represent IAJ at various international venues and report on them to the Presidency Committee and to the Central Council.

Louise Mailhot
I.A.J. Representative with the U.N.
(Geneva and New York)

June 8, 2017