

AESI - SEMINAR OF STUDIES 2021

IN COLLABORATION WITH



DELEGATION IN ITALY

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SEMINARS OF EUROPEAN STUDIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CAREERS

“ETHICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS “

Ethics, Identity, Democracy, Innovation, Cooperation

“Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievement which first create a de facto solidarity” (Robert Schuman)



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(*) ITALIAN EMBASSY TO THE HOLY SEE

“The very concept of law, of an existing and projected reality profoundly, and deliberately, different from both anarchy and tyranny is shaped by the recognition that we human beings are all persons and each other's equal in that respect even if in no other” (Prof. John Finns University of Oxford)

“Man has a nature that he must respect and that he cannot manipulate at will. Man is not merely self-creating freedom. Man does not create himself. He is intellect and will, but he is also nature and his will is rightly ordered if he respect his nature” (Prof. Massimo Maria Caneva - President AESI)

FORUM PROGRAM ON LINE - 27 April 2021 4.00 p.m.

ROME - Palazzo Borromeo - Italian Embassy to the Holy See

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRqZfCROkaY>

“JUSTICE AND PEACE: ETHICS

IN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS”

WELCOME: Amb. Pietro Sebastiani – Italian Ambassador to the Holy See (*)

Prof. Massimo Maria Caneva - President AESI

Chairman: Amb. Gianfranco Varvesi - Scientific Committee AESI

4.15 pm INTERVENTIONS: Amb. Gian Lorenzo Cornado Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Prof Ugo Villani – Scientific Committee AESI - Professor of International Law

Amb. Adriano Benedetti - Vice President AESI – Italian Ambassador

Prof. Julia Amos - War and Peace at Oxford Research Network Coordinator
Department of Politics and International Relations –University of Oxford (UK)

Prof. Munther Dajani - Professor of Political Sciences (Palestine)

Prof. Manuela Consonni – Professor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)

Prof. Tetiana Kaminska Professor of Department of Finance, Academy of Labour,
Social Relations and Tourism Kyiv (Ukraine)

Prof. Igor Maksimtsev Rector of St Petersburg State University of Economics (Russian Federation)

5.30 pm PAST STUDENTS: Ms. Nadia Shokeh - Palestinian Past Student - UNRWA Expert (Palestine) (*)

Mr. Ehud M. Becker - Israeli Past Student - Researcher Israeli Knesset (Israel) (*)

Mr. Muna Ahmad - Palestinian Past Student (Palestine)

Mr. Erez Kalif - Israeli Past Student from Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)

Ms. Vanessa Sfeir - Past Student from Lebanon - Programs Coordinator International Center
for Human Sciences affiliate to UNESCO (Lebanon)

6.00 pm DISCUSSION: Students' Coordinator AESI: Dott.ssa Cinzia Vanzo – Director AESI
Coordinator of Web AESI FORUM: **Dott.ssa Silvia Siciliano**

Palazzo Borromeo 2020 - Presentation of AESI Publication: https://youtu.be/-hbG0IB_8IY



Amb. Pietro Sebastiani – Italian Embassy to the Holy See

https://ambasantasedevaticano.esteri.it/ambasciata_santasedevaticano/it/ambasciata/news/dall-ambasciata/2021/04/aesi-forum-presso-palazzo-borromeo.html

VIDEO: https://fb.watch/5eo2On_z3X/

Good morning everyone

Benvenuti, welcome!

Before we start, I would like to show you A brief video on Palazzo Borromeo Home to the Embassy of Italy to the Holy see Since 1929 when the Lateran Treaties were signed. I hope you enjoyed it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RRqZfCROkaY>

Let me start by stressing the tight collaboration between this Embassy See and the European Association of International Studies (AESI) centered on the recognition of the remarkable and longstanding AESI vocation to promote, through courses, seminars and conferences, the cultural education of young people on topics such as human rights, religious freedom, inequalities, and also the development of international law, the progress of the European and others regional integration processes and last but not least the crucial issue of the weakening of multilateralism.

In fact, it was only in the last century that the international community developed a model to resolve and prevent international crisis, a model that substantially exclude military intervention as an option.

It was then the real beginning of modern multilateral diplomacy, whereby, in Pope Francis' words "states attempt to distance their reciprocal relations from the mentality of domination that leads to war".

The League of Nations experiment met with difficulties that led to a new and more devastating conflict.

Nevertheless, it paved the way for the establishment of the United Nations Organization, which, despite difficulties and obstacles still provides an indispensable framework for nations to meet and seek common solutions to common challenges.

So, during the second half of the last century, a new era for conflict resolution has been consolidated whereby the military assists civil society and diplomats in providing instruments for peaceful transitions.

It is important to continue to consider multilateralism as the essential framework in which to place political strategies that aim to preserve peace and promote economic and social development.

In this view, young people represent an opportunity, as unique contributors and likely leaders of successful peacebuilding efforts.

The United Nations Security Council recognized the importance of youth active participation in peacebuilding for the first time with a specific Resolution in 2015 on Youth, Peace and Security.

The document encourages governments, international organizations, and the civil society to actively engage younger members of the population as partners in shaping peace and security processes. It is also important to reinforce the concept that in a global world, humanitarian crisis (think about environment, pandemia,etc) and above all conflicts require comprehensive response and multidisciplinary approach and Universities here can and must play a pivotal role.

So again, I praise today initiative

By thanking AESI and its President Prof Caneva

To whom I now give the floor

AESI PRESIDENT Prof. Massimo Maria Caneva MD PhD: <https://fb.watch/5djebSRKJS/>

POPE FRANCIS IN IRAQ: <https://youtu.be/BOVsxg22pD4>



Amb. Gian Lorenzo Cornado Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr Ambassador, Pietro Sebastiani
Mr. President, Prof. Caneva,
Mr. Chairman, Amb. Varvesi
Mr. Vice President, Amb. Benedetti
Distinguished Panelists and Colleagues,
Dear Students,

It is a great pleasure to participate in this Forum in my capacity as Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva. As you know Geneva is the world's hub of multilateral diplomacy with over 200 International Organizations and Agencies., including the *UN*, *WHO* and *WTO* as well as numerous *NGOs*. Geneva has been a city of peace for more than 150 years. In 1863, a small group of Genevois set up the *International Committee for Relief to the Wounded*, which later became the *International Committee of the Red Cross*, which led to the first international humanitarian treaty, the Geneva Convention of 1864 The humanitarian assistance has always maintained a strong ethical foundation. As stated by relevant UNGA Resolutions, "it must be provided in accordance with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality". But while there is a large *consensus* about the need to bring relief and protection to the populations affected by conflicts, concrete action is not always possible as in Tigray where full humanitarian access is still being prevented. Italy actively contributes to the promotion of international humanitarian law (IHL) and is part of the Hague Conventions, the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols.

The promotion and protection of children's rights in armed conflict is also an integral part of our international commitment. On the occasion of the *33rd Conference of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent* (Geneva, 9-12 December 2019), Italy presented an open pledge to guarantee the security and the rights of children affected by armed conflict, that reached the widest support among the Conference pledges. Looking beyond Geneva, another concrete example of the link between ethics and justice in international relations is the *International Criminal Court*. Italy actively promoted the establishment of the *ICC* hosting in 1998 the United Nations Conference that led to the adoption of the *Rome Statute*, the founding treaty of the Court and marked a milestone in the history of international crime prevention and law enforcement. Justice and accountability are crucial elements to achieve long-lasting peace.

This is a key aspect of our activity here in Geneva, at both EU and national level: during the last Session of the Human Rights Council, together with our EU partners, we promoted Resolutions with a strong focus on accountability concerning human rights violations in Belarus - after the 2020 presidential election - and the dramatic situation in Myanmar, related to the violations and abuses occurred before and after the military coup of 1st February. Italy is also a member of the core group that promoted a Resolution on Syria, in order to address the persistent, widespread and serious human rights violations and abuses by all parties to the conflict, in particular by the Syrian regime and its allies. But while it is necessary to provide humanitarian assistance for ongoing wars or crises and to ensure accountability for crimes already occurred, it is also essential to prevent them. For this reason human rights are one of the main pillars of the United Nations alongside peace and security and development. In that perspective, the UN General Assembly created, in March 2006, the *Human Rights Council* - which replaced the Human Rights Commission. The Council deals with the "Promotion and

protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.” which is a last generation human right. In June 2007, a new mechanism, the *Universal Periodic Review*, has been introduced with the aim to scrutinize the human rights records of all UN Member States so as to reduce the politicization which had affected the last years of the previous Commission on Human Rights. The protection of human rights is a continuous process based also on the crucial contribution of the civil society *“in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”*. Recalling the words of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, of Italy, the Hon. Luigi Di Maio, at the High Level Segment of the last Session of the HRC, *“After the Second World War, Italy, the country that had been the cradle of humanism during the Renaissance, found in democracy that same moral inspiration. We embraced values and principles that have been demanding us to promote and protect the universal dignity of the human being worldwide”*.

As Minister Di Maio underlined, this effort evolves continuously, adapting to the changes in sensitivities and social demands as well to the technological progress. Furthermore, this effort has to adapt to the new challenges, like the COVID-19 pandemic, which has affected the entire world and in particular vulnerable or marginalized people and their human rights. And, of course, these principles will also guide Italy this year with the presidency of *G20*, the *Co-presidency of CoP26*, and the organization of the *World Health Summit* next May 21st

On this note, I would like to conclude by thanking Ambassador Sebastiani and President Caneva for inviting me to such an interesting Forum and by wishing to the students all the best for their careers ahead and future endeavors.



Prof. Ugo Villani - AESI Scientific Committee Professor of International Law

1. I have to specify that in my talk I'll only consider the system of the United Nations, that is the universal organization to which any other universal or regional organization is linked or subordinate.

It is well known that the main purpose of this Organization is to maintain international peace and security in order to save succeeding generations – as it is declared in the Preamble of the Charter – “from the scourge of war, which twice in our life-time has brought untold sorrow to mankind”. To that end, Member States are forbidden to resort not only to war, but to any use of force, and even to the threat of force, in their international relations. This prohibition represents an innovation of paramount importance in international law: in fact, until the beginning of the twentieth century, war was not unlawful and it only determined the application of the law of war instead of the law of peace. The Covenant of the League of Nations too did not ban war, but only limited the possibility to resort to it. On the contrary, the Charter of the United Nations provides for a general prohibition, that refers both to war – that is the massive use of armed force directed to subdue one's enemy – and to any use or threat of armed force.

It is worth pointing out that when the UN was born, in 1945, the obligation to refrain from force, as a treaty provision, only applied to Member States; but it subsequently changed in a customary rule of general international law. The existence of such a customary rule was recognized by the International Court of Justice in a renowned judgment of 1986 in the case concerning military activities between Nicaragua and the United States of America. That implies that the prohibition of force applies to any State, even if outside the United Nations, and to any other subject of international law, particularly to regional organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, the African Union, the League of Arab States and so on.

The Charter however contains an important exception to the general prohibition of the use of force: it is the right of self-defence in the case of an armed attack. Self-defence may be individual, when a State resorts to force to repel an armed attack against itself, or collective, if force is used in order to defend another State which is the victim of the armed attack. Self-defence should have a temporary character, because it is only allowed until the Security Council has taken the necessary measures to maintain international peace and security. Yet, sometimes the Security Council is unable to intervene, especially owing to the veto of its permanent Members. So, the provisional and limited use of force by the attacked State may degenerate in a true war.

2. In any legal order, and particularly in international law, it is not sufficient to give a prohibition if there is no authority which can secure the respect of that prohibition. The absence of any mechanism of guarantee was the main cause of the failure of the Paris Pact of 1928 for the Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy. In the United Nations, on the contrary, a system of collective security is established, in which the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. This organ consists of fifteen Members; ten are elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years; the other five, China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, are permanent Members of the Security Council and have the right of veto, by which each of them can prevent the Security Council from adopting any decision.

The Security Council has the power to take coercive measures to maintain or to restore international peace and security in the case of a threat to the peace, a breach of the peace or an act of aggression.

It can make recommendations or binding decisions for the adoption of measures by Member States not involving the use of armed force, such as the interruption of economic, financial, commercial or diplomatic relations with the State which is responsible for the threat or the breach of peace or for the act of aggression. If the situation is particularly serious and these measures are inadequate, the Security Council can take an armed action against the said State.

To that end, the Charter declares that all Members undertake to make available to the Security Council, on its call, armed forces as well as any military devices and facilities.

Yet, this system has never been actually carried out; the Security Council, therefore, never had an army neither any military means at its disposal. In order to exercise its responsibility for the maintenance or the restoration of peace, the Security Council "invented" the peace-keeping operations. They are military interventions that are conducted by troops of Member States under the authority of the same Council and the direction of the Secretary-General. Peace-keeping is based on the consent of the States that voluntarily supply the Security Council with military forces, as well as on the consent of the States in whose territory they are to operate. Of course, peace-keeping operations cannot act against a State, that never might agree to an operation conducted against it.

When an armed action of a coercive character is necessary, the Security Council can authorize some Member States or regional organizations to use military measures against a State or another international actor (e.g. a group of terrorists). A well-known example is Resolution 678 of 29 November 1990 by which the Security Council authorized a group of States to intervene against Iraq in order to free Kuwait from the Iraqi invasion.

3. The United Nations is also aware of the necessity of preventing war and the threats to peace by strengthening the foundations of peace and by eliminating the causes of international tensions. So, the purpose of maintaining international peace and security is closely linked to the other purposes of the Charter: to promote universal respect for human rights; to enhance economic and social progress and development; to realize the principle of self-determination of peoples. In other words, only by promoting conditions of justice and equality in the relationship among human beings, among States, and among peoples, may one hope to save international peace: peace without justice is not possible.

And so, the United Nations has directed its action towards the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, to begin with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948; to the realization of the right to self-determination of peoples – it is sufficient to remember the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples of 14 December 1960 –; to the promotion of a sustainable development, recently with the adoption of the resolution "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" of 25 September 2015.

To conclude, the UN has not always succeeded in saving peace and in preventing the outbreak of war. Pope Francis has often spoken of a third world war "in pieces". But, as Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld said in a

conference at the University of Berkeley in 1954, the “United Nations was not created in order to bring us to heaven, but in order to save us from hell”.



Amb. Adriano Benedetti - Vice President AESI – Former Director General Ministry of Foreign Affairs and IC

“Justice and Peace”: these are the initial words of the title of our discussion today. There is no doubt that, with reference to what man has witnessed for the largest part of human history, the relations among nations have been essentially based upon the so called “rapports de force”. Only when the internal, domestic history of nations started (approximately around the second part of the XVIII century) to be inspired by some principles of, an although embattled and nascent democracy, there started a tendency in some members of the international community to contain the forces that, if unresisted, would have led to war. But the two world wars of the XX century have shown that, where the democratic assumptions benefitted only tiny minorities of the population, the drive to war, finally unconstrained, would involve a great number of nations in the world. History has clearly shown where the main responsibilities for the two conflagrations resided.

It was mainly after the second world war that the international community succeeded in creating an adequate infrastructure for conducting world affairs. But it soon became clear that the antagonism between East and West would lead the United Nations to a substantial stall. That situation, through highs and lows, has prevailed up to the present days. In the mean time the forces at work in human history have induced the United States, assisted in some ways by the European Union but on the descending curve of power and determination, to continue to have the upper hand in the distribution of clout internationally: that situation of military superiority, though, may continue only for another decade. After that we should have a situation of more substantive strategic parity between the democratic world and non democratic nations, whose number and strength would continue gradually to increase. It is clear since the present days that the leading role of the non democratic part of the world will be assumed by the Republic of China and that the confrontation between East and West will extend world wide. The core of the conflict will be centered, though, in the Far East initially around the island of Taiwan.

What is the role of Europe in all this? It is my firm belief that Europe must remain in the Western camp as a close ally of the United States, contributing to the defence of the Western values, though in a more open stance towards the autocratic nations. Only on the condition that Europe is clearly perceived as a firm ally of Washington, Europe itself will be able to perform that go-between role vis à vis Moscow and Beijing, while trying to reduce tensions between East and West.

I see here at least two main spots of collaboration for Europe with the Russian Federation particularly, one in Ukraine and the other in the Near East.

Since about thirty years ago we have been witnessing the struggle of Ukraine in trying to distance itself from Russia. It is not here the place to reaffirm our sympathy and moral engagement with Kiev: we have only to say that also the defensive interests of Russia have to be taken into account leading us to try and find a common ground on which the contrasting aspirations of the two countries may eventually encounter some conciliation. Europe has a clear role in all this.

Going further south we find the Palestinian problem. Europe, which with Nazi Germany created around the thirties and forties of the last century the unforgettable tragedy of the Holocaust, has an historical duty to defend Israel which derived also from this terrible experience. But the pursuit of that fundamental duty cannot conceal questions of deep justice regarding the Palestinian people. An equitable solution for that population has to be found. Signals coming from the Biden's government are forthcoming and Europe must exert its moral appeal and convey the political material means in order to make a reasonable, peaceful compromise possible. In the meantime the on - going Israeli effort to form a new government after the last inconclusive elections must be respected, although it is imperative for Europe to make also its voice heard signalling the right road ahead, irrespective of the results of the political struggle being presently developed in Israel.

The contribution that international organizations may convey to the resolution of these conflicts is important. But the distribution of power, as it is now, relies mainly upon the States, as members of the international community, states which may be asked to cover the extra mile necessary to reach the waited-for result.



Prof. Julia Amos - War and Peace at Oxford Research Network Coordinator
Department of Politics and International Relations –University of Oxford (UK)

Dear Delegates,

Thank you for inviting me: my name is Julia Amos, and I am based at the University of Oxford, where I am a Research Fellow at the Centre for Resolution of Intractable Conflict and a member of the Senior Common Room at Merton College. I have also tried now, for a number of years to head up a project to coordinate the different centres, departments and groups: The War and Peace at Oxford Network. So what do we do and how can we contribute and cooperate? The study of war and peace in Oxford goes back at least to 1587 when Alberico Gentili was appointed Regius Professor of Law and became a seminal contributor to the tradition of just war thinking. The Chichele Chair in Military History was created in 1909 and during the Cold War Oxford became a leading centre for work on war, nuclear strategy and arms control built around the work of such seminal figures as Michael Howard, Alastair Buchan, Hedley Bull, and Robert O'Neil. As Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, Adam Roberts has made critical contributions to study of the laws of war and to our understanding of civil resistance and violent conflict, whilst Martin Ceadel was one of the leading historians of the peace movement. An extraordinarily wide range of major figures in the field began their academic careers in Oxford (including Philip Bobbitt, Lawrence Freedman, Chris Coker, Bruce Hoffmann, John Chipman, Beatrice Heuser, Keith Krause, Audrey Kurth Cronin, Mats Berdal, Ade Adebajo, John Nagl, Evelyn Goh and Sarah Percy). This tradition not only continues to thrive but Oxford scholars have constantly pushed the boundaries of research in new directions in response to evolving and emerging developments. At Oxford today, faculty members and a new generation of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows are engaged with the perennial themes of war and peace that would be familiar to earlier generations (including great power dynamics, strategic studies, and normative work on the ethics of war); but they are also confronting problems and policy challenges that were barely on the horizon a few decades ago, including cyber security and autonomous weapons systems. The scope of the study of war, peace, conflict and security at Oxford has expanded considerably. Oxford scholars are now grappling with an ever growing list of pressing global issues related to armed conflict, encompassing forced migration, human rights, violent non-state groups, and transnational organised crime. Oxford is also home to outstanding scholarship on the study of responses to conflict, including through the United Nations and regional organisations. Peace has been the subject of study of academics and graduate students across departments and faculties. Issues ranging from local peacebuilding initiatives to

country-wide peace negotiations and peacekeeping, mediation, the prevention, resolution and transformation of conflict, as well as transitional justice and post-conflict recovery are at the core of our research.

What is apparent from the breadth and depth of contemporary Oxford scholarship is that these issues do not – and cannot – fall within the domain of any single academic discipline. Rather, the range of groups and institutions represented in the War and Peace at Oxford Network is a reflection of the scale and diversity of the intellectual and policy challenges faced in today's world. The War and Peace at Oxford Network opens up some of the many and varied ways in which historians, political scientists, economists, theologians, anthropologists, geographers, area studies specialists, psychologists, evolutionary theorists, and lawyers are bringing their diverse approaches and perspectives to bear on the immense challenges of war, peace, conflict and security in the 21st century. Interestingly, because Oxford is such a decentralised university, with so many different centres and groups pursuing their own lines of research – and also individual scholars, it often happens that interesting work is being undertaken on parallel issues and topics without the people involved being aware of each other's work. This is within the same organisation! This speaks to the challenges of furthering ethics research, as well as improving ethical practises, and I hope that our network has contributed in some small ways towards making those connections and building those bridges. It is in the words of the title of that famous book on multiparty mediation (edited by Chester Crocker, Fen Olser Hampson, and Pamela Aall) a case of 'Herding Cats'. So, I am very pleased to be here today learning more, and if you want to reach out to any of our 'cats' then do let me know. My own work seeks to combine a narrative approach to conflict resolution and ethical practise by collecting the stories of ordinary women caught up in situations of conflict and violence, and subject to their ongoing consent, publishing these testimonies in a way that will make their perspectives available to theorists and policy makers alike.

Thank you!



Prof. Munther Dajani - Professor of Political Sciences (Palestine)

VIDEO: <https://fb.watch/5dkAv5wkkZ/>



Prof. Manuela Consonni – Professor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel)

VIDEO: <https://fb.watch/5dkrgGm6Cp/>



Prof. Tetiana Kaminska Professor of Department of Finance, Academy of Labour,
Social Relations and Tourism Kyiv (Ukraine)

VIDEO: <https://fb.watch/5duWAMs5kf/>

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

I would like to thank you for this splendid opportunity to have a speech at this Forum. It is an honor for me and I appreciate it a lot.

To start with, I would like to stress that higher education institutions have been playing an important role during conflicts and after them. However, their roles have not always helped build peace. Universities, faculty, and students have been affected by, participated in, and sometimes used by the warring parties for logistical purposes or to propagate ideology, as it was mentioned by Ivan Francisco Pacheco in his paper on Conflicts, Post-Conflicts and University Functions: Lessons from Colombia and Other Armed Conflicts in 2013.

It is crucial to understand that education can either help break peace or sustain conflicts based on identity, as well as to become a way to protect or create privileges related to social positions. Moreover, it is education that can also be a weapon for cultural repression and can be used to manipulate history for political purposes. Our concerns are connected with the fact that it can be used to reduce self-esteem or to encourage hatred, as well as a tool to ensure inequality, inferiority and stereotypes. Yet, as a peacemaker, a mediator, or a participant in peace, education can have "conflict-limiting consequences," promoting an atmosphere of ethnic tolerance, encouraging "mental desegregation," "language tolerance," "comprehensive concepts of citizenship," and "disarmament of history." According to Bush & Saltarelli, the language of instruction and teaching of some certain courses that are prone to manipulation for political purposes, such as history and geography, are among the curriculum issues that require special attention (Bush & Saltarelli, 2000, pp. 34-35).

Regarding instruction, teachers are considered "the most important resource in education and reconstruction" (World Bank, 2005, p. xiii). Consequently, they can play an important role in pediatric trauma therapy and recovery (Davies, 2004).

Thus, recognition of the potential role of teachers and pedagogical organizations is very important because it gives them the status of stakeholders, not just tools of educational policy and practice.

The inclusion of education as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals identified by the United Nations reveals the importance it attaches to the development and economic prosperity of nations (Cowan, O'Connell, & Scanlon, 1965, p. 27).

In recent years, as Rector of the Higher Education Institution, I supported this idea and organized the annual national and later - the International Festival "Student Carol", which aimed to promote universal and spiritual values among young people. I would like to emphasize that such events are platforms for the formation of new world leaders who, over time, will promote, facilitate and ensure tolerance, equality and acceptance of each other. It should be noted that His Beatitude Patriarch of the UGCC Lubomyr Husar (Blessed Memory), current Patriarch of the UGCC Sviatoslav Shevchuk and Nuncio (Vatican Ambassador to Ukraine) His Excellency Claudio Gugerotti took part in such our Festivals with welcoming words to students and teachers. The report and photo report of such and other events for students with the participation of professional facilitators and mediators from around the world were presented by me at the annual conference of university rectors in Rome, where I had the honor and pleasure to speak at the invitation of Professor Massimo Maria Caneva.

To conclude, an important role of scientific conferences and organizations, which form a truly effective negotiating platform for the exchange of experience, opinions and ideas for scientists and teachers on instruction, education and peace processes, should be recognized as mutual efforts in promoting peace, democracy and ethics in international relations.

I would like to thank you for your time and attention!



Prof. Igor Maksimtsev Rector of St Petersburg State University of Economics (Russian Federation)

VIDEO: <https://fb.watch/5dv8g69kqo/>

Dear Friends! Dear colleagues!

I am very glad to meet with you again on our international seminar and thank Professor Caneva for the organization such important meeting and for the invitation.

The relationships between countries are like farmers. Even if farmers are good friend, there is a fence between farms. Sometimes the fence is low and symbolic, sometimes high and solid. Universities are like trees, they grow independently as high as they can. Sooner or later their branches cross the border line and apples and pears are falling to the opposite ground. That's what we call fruitful academic cooperation.

Real neighborhood relationships are based on respect of the history and culture of your neighbors. Such a respect is based on knowledge and understanding of common history as well as social & cultural features of neighboring state. The most effective way to get to know your neighbors is mobility – academic, business or cultural. Building people-to-people links is a way to explore history, culture, customs and traditions from the brand new point of view.

To overcome disruption between Russia and Ukraine (as well as any other country) we should foster academic mobility – to send and host students, researchers and professors. The Academic mobility is a core activity for internationalization strategy of any university. Universities are eager to attract full-time foreign students as well as to host ad send students for semester. Students are very interested in Winter and Summer schools as well as Internship programs.

We have to focus on three kinds of mobility:

A. **Building people-to-people links:** motivating more students and professors to travel;

B. **Maintaining research excellence:** attraction of researchers and PhDs for effective use of research infrastructure;

C. **Fostering regional thematic research (Environment, Energy, Maine Studies, etc):** creation of networks, joint use of resources, long-term funding.

In the current political circumstances direct mobility programs are impossible. Hereby our friend and partners in the EU might help us. Russian and Ukrainian students and researchers should meet and work together on the neutral platforms. There should be Winter and Summer schools, language courses, internships, semester mobility, conferences and research projects in the mixed format.

The political tensions are finite but we cannot afford the whole generation to be taken from the dialogue and thus Russian-European-Ukrainian networking projects is extremely important.

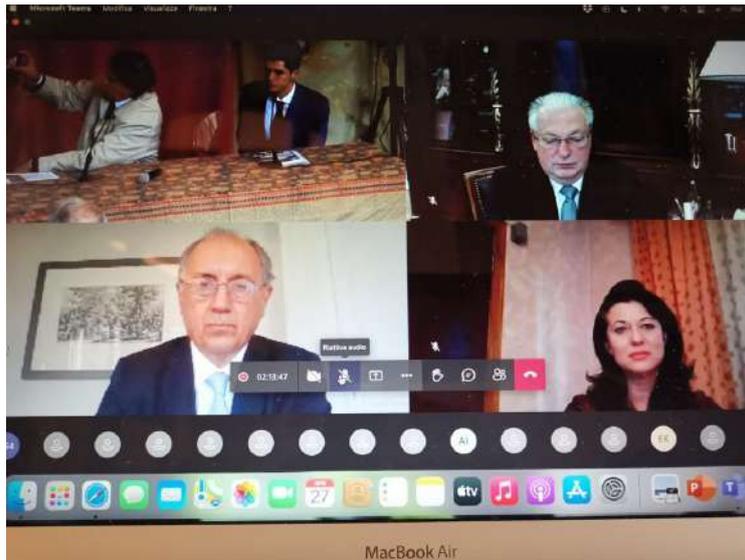
The pandemic seriously hit international cooperation: research and students' mobility was stopped; students postponed or cancelled their study abroad though they still might travel. The most important factor of Mobility – Motivation suffered from the fear of international travel, quarantines and isolations, etc. We have to keep in mind loss of income in many families that cannot afford study abroad anymore. There is vivid discussion about recognition of education gained at the foreign university but online.

Nevertheless, we continue motivating and supporting our students. Their international experience will be very interesting but challenging due to lockdowns, closed campuses, online studies. At Unecon we believe that today international experience is more important than academic or scientific one.

We predict mobility boom as soon as pandemic is over. The geography will change as countries that were not able to fix the trouble will be less attractive. COVID gives us chance to re-think mobility: its goals and tasks. Firstly, we will need more scholarships. Secondly, mobility periods might be shorter (up to month) and be research or internship focused. Moreover, we need to think about online/offline balance.

I am pretty sure that academic community will survive through the pandemic time!

Thank you for your attention!



AESI FORUM 27 April 2021

<https://aesieuropa.eu/news/arsi-forum-27-aprile-2021>