



# World Citizens Association of Australia

## THE BULLETIN

World Citizens Association(Australia)  
Coalition for a World Security Community

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## President's Column – A Possible Referendum to End the Ukraine crisis?

The damage in the Ukraine war has been horrific, and there is no clear end in sight. Casualties and deaths have numbered in the hundreds of thousands on both sides, and it is estimated that around \$1 trillion will be required to repair the damage to buildings and the economy in Ukraine.

### Is a diplomatic solution feasible?

A possible resolution would begin with a ceasefire, followed by a legitimate, UN-supervised referendum in each of the disputed territories to see whether the residents would prefer to be citizens of Russia or Ukraine. Both sides would have to agree to withdraw their forces, and for the referendum to be supervised by UN peacekeeping forces. The voter rolls would have to include all the registered voters of each territory recorded before the Russian invasion. These referenda would clearly demonstrate the will of the people themselves, which ought to be acceptable to both sides. Russia has asserted that the inhabitants would prefer to live as citizens of Russia, and to admit otherwise would destroy their whole justification for the war. And Ukraine has been loudly supporting the principle of democracy, which would be severely compromised if they took back the disputed territories against the will of the people. Of course the practical difficulties would be enormous.

My OpEd article on this subject has now been published, see [here](#).

We were also delighted to welcome at our general meeting in May Liliane Metz-Krencker and her daughter Nadia Toumi. Liliane has recently moved to Sydney – her new home. Liliane is from Strasbourg (France), She was the original instigator for the establishment of WCAA, when she visited us in 2004 as Secretary of the Peoples Congress, associated with the Registry of World Citizens in France..

*Chris Hamer*

## Model Global Parliamentat Unity Grammar, 25 May 2023

This year, WCAA's affiliated organisation, the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance, took charge of Model Global Parliament 2023, the long-held program originally organised by WCAA. WCAA Vice-president and IGPSG President Zeny Edwards reported that MGP 2023 was the first schools-based Model Global Parliament organized by Unity Grammar student Rayaan Nabi and held at Unity Grammar School and included schools from the Greater Western Sydney Region.

A concerted effort between Unity Grammar and the IGPSG Management Committee resulted in a very successful outcome judging from the feedback from the attendees, teachers and school executives, who signified their enthusiasm to participate in the next MGP. Liverpool Mayor Ned Mannoun has indicated further engagement with IGPSG regarding future events in partnership



with his local government. Guest speaker Professor James Arvanitakis (Forrest Research Foundation) also confirmed his continued engagement and participation with IGPSG and its educational programmes.

Schools represented were: Unity Grammar (Russia, India); Malek Fahd Islamic School, Hoxton Park (UNASUR); Amity College (Australia); Hurlstone Agricultural High School (Pacific Islands Forum); Malek Fahd Islamic School, Greenacre (China); Malek Fahd Islamic School, Beaumont Hills (ASEAN); Birrong Boys High School (USA).

Speaker David Delos Reyes received acclamation from all the students. David announced that he is willing to train students to be speakers of the house for the next MGP to allow a different speaker to lead for each of the sessions. Preliminary discussions have tentatively scheduled the next MGP to be held in February 2024.

*Zeny Edwards.*

## **Copenhagen Democracy Summit, May 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2023.**

*A 6-minute review is available on their Youtube "Copenhagen Democracy Summit". You can watch all sessions on their [YouTube channel!](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLy5ruQHLG0JRPvfnTqpcDhoA2DszzFcyj) at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLy5ruQHLG0JRPvfnTqpcDhoA2DszzFcyj>*

The Copenhagen Democracy Summit is an annual conference organized by the Alliance of Democracies Foundation. It brings together political and business leaders, including current and former heads of government, from the world's democracies. The goal of the Summit is to be the top international forum for analysis on the security and economic challenges facing the democratic world as well as a forum for analysis on the interplay between technology and democratic norms.

Politicians, business leaders, and activists from 76 different countries gathered in Copenhagen. We heard powerful speeches and took part in thought-provoking discussions, workshops and interactive debates on the future of democracy.

Discussions focused on the most pressing issues facing our countries, such as Ukraine's path to victory, countering authoritarianism, supporting democracy advocates, and the role of technology in shaping the future of democracy.

Did you listen to Kaja Kallas, Petr Pavel, Liz Truss, Bobi Wine and many more?

### **Summary report.**

This was the sixth annual Summit held by the Alliance of Democracies Foundation in Copenhagen, discussing mainly the war in Ukraine, and the worldwide struggle of democracy against autocracy. It was noted that according to Freedom House democracy in the world has gone backwards for the last seventeen years!



Proceedings were opened by the President of the Foundation, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who declared that the democracies must do everything possible to ensure that Ukraine wins the war against Russian aggression. He discussed his suggested Kiev Security Guarantee, with the democracies arming Kiev to win the struggle until they can join NATO, in which case they would be covered under Article 5 of the NATO Treaty.

There followed an impressive list of speakers. Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine and Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan both appeared by video link, appealing for continued support from the democracies against the threats from the autocracies, Russia and China respectively. Nancy Pelosi also appeared by video, but Liz Truss was present in person, arguing fiercely that the democracies must unite against autocracy, and send Ukraine all their latest missiles, tanks, etc

There were also contributions from various exiled fighters for democracy from various autocracies around the world: Belarus, Russia itself, Venezuela, Myanmar, and Uganda. The most impressive was a session with Leopoldo Lopez from Venezuela and Masih Alinejad from Iran. Leopoldo somehow survived four years in solitary confinement in Venezuela, and has now organized a global network for freedom fighters called the World Liberty Congress. Masih gave an impassioned speech about the persecution of women and girls in present-day Iran, which was the highlight of the meeting. She has had to move frequently and stay in hiding to avoid assassination attempts by operatives from her home country.

Another focus of the meeting was technology, and the race between democracies and autocracies to develop new algorithms in AI (artificial intelligence) and other fields. There was a very impressive video speech from Eric Schmidt, former CEO of Google. Here it seems the democracies are well in the lead, thanks to several entrepreneurial outfits on the West coast of the US.

A universal theme was the need for **solidarity**, for the democracies to unite against autocracy. There was talk of an economic alliance of democracies, with an economic article 5 to combat illegal trade sanctions against member states. There was also talk of a tech alliance of democracies to combat disinformation from the autocracies. But there was no discussion of possible new transnational institutions to cement this unity, such as our World Security Community. The closest we got was an amusing video discussion between Anders Fogh Rasmussen and Jens Stoltenberg. Both have been formerly Prime Ministers, of Denmark and Norway respectively, and both have served as Secretary-General of NATO, one former and the other current. Rasmussen tried to get Stoltenberg to make commitments firstly, that NATO should offer Ukraine a security guarantee until such time as it was able to join NATO as a member; and secondly, that NATO should expand to include its partner allies in the Indo-Pacific such as Australia, South Korea and New Zealand. Stoltenberg was obliged to stonewall against any such commitments without the agreement of his NATO member states, although he is probably personally in favour of both ideas!

*Chris Hamer*



## WCAA General Meeting

The biannual meeting of the WCAA was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023, at Rossini's café, Circular Quay, Sydney NSW.

*Present:* Chris Hamer, Zeny Edwards, Keith Suter, Liliane Metz-Krencker, Nadia Toumi, Mai Ni Pham, Luiz Bispo

*Apologies:* Michael de Mol, Charlene Cai, Dr. James Page, Andrew Spannenberg



Image: WCAA Meeting May 2023 (from left to right) – Chris, Liliane, Nadia, Mai Ni, Zeny, Keith. Photographer: Luiz Bispo

### Presidents Report– *Chris Hamer*

See my column above, and items elsewhere in the Bulletin.



## Vice-President (Community Engagement) Report – Dr Zeny Edwards OAM



### A. Commemorations:

1. UN Observances Days, particularly International Women's Day and the International Day of Forests.
2. Anniversaries and festivals in other countries e.g. New Year celebrations in China, Korea and Vietnam.

### B. Participation:

1. Participated in Australia-Vietnam Human Rights Dialogue
2. Joined as supporter of Climate Council of Australia – The Climate Council is Australia's leading climate change communications non-profit organisation formed to provide independent, authoritative information on climate change and its solutions to the Australian public. It advocates reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Continued to monitor Australia's relationship with Asian and Pacific countries particularly in relation to peace, economic stability i.e. trade, security and human rights.
4. Regular attendance of Lowy Institute conferences on various global issues e.g. AUKUS, China and forthcoming G7 meetings.
5. Attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jewish Independence on 3 May 2023.

### C. Affiliation with IGPSG:

1. KAPWA – informed the committee meeting of the successful welcome event of KAPWA at the Women's College, University of Sydney, on 22 April 2023 attended by 80+ international students from five different countries. Organised by the Filipino Student Society of NSW.
2. MGP at Unity Grammar – 25<sup>th</sup> May at Unity Grammar. A sole initiative of the Year 10 students headed by Rayaana Nabi who was a MP of the previous IGPSG MGP at Parliament House. See elsewhere in this Bulletin.
3. Ongoing discussions with Ku-ring-gai Council regarding the creation of a Peace Park as the site for planting six olive trees (propagated from the oldest olive tree in Australia growing at Elizabeth Farm). Continue promoting the importance of commemorating peace through tangible means and particularly encouraging students to participate. Example is Calder Yeung, an outstanding youth advocate who has convinced his school (North Sydney Boys High) to commemorate the International Day of Forests by planting a tree in their school grounds.



## Secretary's Report- Luiz Bispo



### World Federalist Movement

The global umbrella organization, **World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)** has a new Program Director: Alyn Ware. Mr Alyn Ware is a peace educator and international peace and disarmament campaigner. Originally from New Zealand he has lived in the United States and Switzerland, and now resides in the Czech Republic.

Mr Ware was one of the leaders of the successful campaigns to prohibit nuclear weapons from New Zealand in the 1980s and to achieve a ruling from the International Court of Justice on the illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons in 1996.

### 2023 WFM/IGP Congress (11-12 November)

The next WFM/IGP Congress is scheduled to take place on the 11th and 12th of November via Zoom. Therefore, kindly, save-the-date! The exact time and duration of the event will be announced in the upcoming months. Congress elects the principal officers and the Executive Committee (Board) which meets regularly between Congresses. Congress is the overall governing body in terms of policy direction and the organization's governing Statutes. For queries about the 2023 Congress, kindly contact Donna Park (Congress Chair) via [congress\\_chair@wfm-igp.org](mailto:congress_chair@wfm-igp.org)

### "Atlas' Consultation on the Future of Global Governance", March 4<sup>th</sup>

See <https://www.wfm-igp.org/event/an-introduction-to-atlas-consultation-on-the-future-of-global-governance/>

ATLAS is a global coalition of young world federalist organizations, and they are planning a series of online discussion meetings on topics of this nature. I made a brief contribution towards the end of this meeting.

### Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN)

On January 19-20, several C4UN partner organizations hosted a 'Global Policy Dialogue' on '*Addressing the Triple Planetary Crisis through Improved Global Governance.*' The in-person meeting took place in Recife, Brazil.



## Global Truths with Dr Keith Suter



Keith Suter, formerly President of the World Federalists Association of Australia, gives a regular public **podcast entitled “Global Truths with Dr Keith Suter” on world affairs**. A recent topic of particular relevance to us is below.

### An Atlantic-Pacific trilateral

Systemic challenges from non-democratic countries trying to overthrow the current international order are a concern for the US and its democratic allies. Dr. Keith Suter explains how these global democracies could join forces in order to maintain a favourable balance of power.

## **Coalition for a World Security Community**

### **Summit for Democracy, March 29-31<sup>st</sup>**

The second Summit for Democracy took place March 29-30th. Elisenda Buxo advertised a **Global Democracy Coalition** Forum meeting beforehand, 28 February – 1st March.

### **Copenhagen Democracy Summit May 15-16<sup>th</sup>2023**

Chris Hamer, John Davenport and Jake Sanders from our group attended the meeting, and made a few new contacts. None of our contacts from the Atlantic Council were there, unfortunately. John distributed some literature on his recent book publication proposing changes to the US Constitution, see attachment, and his earlier book regarding a League of Democracies, see [www.routledge.com/9780367786946](http://www.routledge.com/9780367786946). CJH distributed some literature on his ideas for a referendum to end the Ukraine conflict, and the need for a global alliance or community of democracies to deter and head off a Chinese invasion of Taiwan, which he has circulated previously to our group. For a summary of proceedings at the Summit from our point of view, see earlier in this Bulletin.

### **G7 Summit, Hiroshima, May 19-21<sup>st</sup>**

Japan hosted the most recent summit meeting of the G7 leaders in Hiroshima, May 19-21<sup>st</sup> this year. Japan has been very active in boosting its defence forces and budget in order to counter the growing threat from China. They should be very receptive to our ideas for a D10 core alliance or security community of democracies, and we sought to promote these ideas to them. Chrissent letters to the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, the Prime Minister of Japan, and the Defence Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Prime Minister of Australia, discussing these ideas. [Late note: a recent statement from President Macron of France has dealt a possibly fatal blow to the idea of a D10 alliance.]





## Indo-Pacific Security Initiative (IPSI)

The Scowcroft Center at the Atlantic Council has launched a new Indo-Pacific Security Initiative (IPSI), directed by Markus Garlauskas. IPSI works with US, allied, and partner governments and other key stakeholders to shape strategies and policies to mitigate the most important rising security challenges facing the region, including China's growing threat to the international order and North Korea's destabilizing nuclear weapons advancements. IPSI also addresses opportunities for cooperation in the region, such as transforming regional security architectures, harnessing emerging technologies, and developing new mechanisms for deterrence and defense cooperation. This is right up our alley. I have established contact with Markus, and I hope we can work productively together in this field.

## Visit of Jonas Parello-Plesner, late 2023

Jonas Parello-Plesner, the Executive Director of the Alliance of Democracies Foundation, has replied positively to our invitation to visit Australia. We have suggested to him that we might organize events during his visit including:

- a Symposium of some sort;
- a roundtable discussion on strategy;
- interviews with the Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and the Minister for Defence Richard Marles. We're hoping his presence would open the door to them.

Alan Dupont, a well-known security expert in Australia, has advised that we should try and get sponsorship and collaboration with either the Lowy Institute or the Centre for Independent Studies, which could provide much greater publicity for his visit, and help open doors to the politicians. We shall see what can be done.

The date for his visit is now tentatively fixed as late August or September. We need to start making arrangements for events during his visit. Any comments or offers to help with these arrangements would be gratefully received!

*Chris Hamer*



