



THE BULLETIN

World Citizens Association of Australia (WCAA)
Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG)
Coalition for a World Security Community (CWSC)

<http://www.wcaa.org.au>
<https://www.igpsg.com/>
<https://coalitionforawsc.org/>

Volume 18: Issue 2 Summer 2022 ISSN 2651-9453

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CHRIS HAMER - President's Column |

Are we on the Verge of World War III?

The strategic environment is dangerously fraught right now, with imminent threats from the autocracies in Russia and China against the democracies in Ukraine and Taiwan, respectively. There are predictions from the US that Russia may launch an invasion of Ukraine within weeks.

The situation bears some very alarming similarities to the period in the lead-up to World War II.

Back then, the autocrats Benito Mussolini and Adolf Hitler contemplated military action to extend their territories against Abyssinia and Czechoslovakia respectively. They formed an 'Axis', promising mutual support to each other. We have just seen Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping form a similar axis for mutual support.

Back then, the democracies in the League of Nations tried to restrain Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia by means of sanctions in 1935, but they failed. Just now, the West is promising sanctions against Russia if it goes ahead, but they are again very unlikely to succeed in halting the invasion of Ukraine.

Back then, Britain and France were unready to take military action against the Axis powers, and acquiesced to Hitler's invasion of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia under the Munich agreement of 1938, leading to Neville Chamberlain's infamous proclamation of '*Peace in our Time!*' At present, the West has proved unwilling to pledge any troops to the defence of Ukraine.

Back then, World War II began one year later over Hitler's invasion of Poland. At present, we are likely to see World War III break out within a very few years, over Xi Jinping's invasion of Taiwan. And given the greater resources available to China and Russia, the next World War is likely to be even more destructive than WW II. It could even destroy our whole civilization if nuclear weapons are used!

What can we do to prevent this nightmare scenario? There is an obvious and urgent need for the democracies around the globe to form a united front, some sort of global alliance which would be strong enough to deter the autocracies from continuing their aggression, or if necessary, to defeat them. Even better would be the formation of a world security community of democratic nations after the European model, which could be a positive first step towards a more effective system of democratic global governance, as advocated by our Coalition for a World Security Community!



Program: Coalition for a World Security Community of Democratic Nations



COALITION FOR A
**WORLD SECURITY
COMMUNITY**
OF DEMOCRATIC NATIONS

Fresh News

We have been officially recognized as a Transnational Working Group of the World Federalist Movement/ Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP) in the area of peace and security.

Summary of activities 2021

Our TWG now has about 40 members. See our website at <https://worldsecuritycommunity.org/>.

Events/Webinars

1) #DefendDemocracy Webinar ‘How to Unite the World’s Democratic Forces’, June 9th, 2021

This event was jointly sponsored by ourselves and the Alliance of Democracies Foundation in Copenhagen. **Didier Jacobs** represented us on the speaker’s panel. Alongside him on the panel were:

- **Anders Fogh Rasmussen**, Chairman of the Foundation, and former Prime Minister of Denmark and former NATO Secretary-General
- **Sir Mark Sedwill**, former National Security Adviser (UK) and former Cabinet Secretary (UK)
- **Ash Jain**, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council

The webinar went very well, with a very friendly and collegial atmosphere! Everybody seemed to agree on most points. Didier did a great job at representing us in a realistic fashion, and he was well accepted as a member of the group. This will do great things to raise the public profile of our Coalition!

We had close to 200 registrations for the event and close to 80 join the webinar session. Shortly afterwards, the outreach on social media consisted of:

- Facebook: 1.1k views in total
- Twitter: 77 views, 1,335 impressions
- LinkedIn: 93 views, 149 impressions

This has been our first public presentation since the Paris Peace Forum in 2018, and it was an important opportunity to get our message out there, and make new contacts. We need to consider how to follow up on the event.



For those who may have missed it, you can watch a replay here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTY8eAAM7lo&t=66s>

2) CGS Annual Conference

The Citizens for Global Solutions group in the US held their Annual Conference from 11-13 November 2021 via Zoom. This year's conference theme was, **Paths to a World Federation: Initial Inspirations & Current Strategies**. They invited leaders of 5 'paths' that appear prominently in the historical literature of the World Federalist Movement and continue until today (one of them being CJH). These are:

- UN Charter Review - Shahr-yar Sharei
- The United Nations Parliamentary Assembly - Andreas Bummel
- Integrating the Regions - Fernando Iglesias
- **Uniting the Democracies - Chris Hamer**
- Creating a World Constitution - Glen T. Martin

The event, led by Bob Flax and Donna Park, forms an important part of the renewal process underway for the whole world federalist movement, and I enjoyed it very much, talking 'face-to-face' with other members of the movement.

You can find recordings of the full proceedings via the CGS website:

<https://globalsolutions.org/resources/2021-national-convention/>

A recording of my talk can be found below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ss4xrRXCsc>

3) Webinar

We ourselves organized a one-hour webinar "**From a Summit for Democracy to a League of Democracies**" which took place on November 30. My report on the event to International IDEA follows:

"This webinar was a contribution to the civil society working group on countering authoritarianism, in view of the alarming and growing challenges against Ukraine and Taiwan. It was sponsored by the Coalition for a World Security Community, a global organization advocating a community of the world's democracies to promote peace and security and tackle other global challenges. Its purpose was to explore the idea of building on President Biden's Summit for Democracy to create a permanent forum among the world's democracies. Several versions of this idea were discussed: a D10, a concert of democracies, an alliance of democracies or a community of democracies. Our speakers included John Ikenberry, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University; Ash Jain, Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council; Mariam Chikhladze, Researcher and Election Integrity Fellow, Alliance of Democracies Foundation; Tiziana Stella, Executive Director, Streit Council for a Union of Democracies; and Didier Jacobs, Vice-President, Coalition for a World Security Community. The discussion was moderated by Richard Ponzio, Director of Just Security 2020, the Stimson Center.



As well as merely countering the autocracies, there was discussion of the bright and hopeful prospects of such an alliance or community, as a first step towards an eventual democratic world federation, following the example set by Europe.

Recommendations

- The Summit for Democracy should become a yearly event, to act as the supreme council of a global organization of like-minded democracies;
- An initial grouping of members from around the globe (possibly a D10) should agree on the need for an alliance or community of democracies to provide collective security against any aggression from the autocracies, and to collaborate with the United Nations in dealing with other global challenges;
- A Commission should be appointed to draft a new Treaty between these initial members, setting up the new organization. “

A recording of the webinar can be found below:

<https://www.globaldemocracycoalition.org/cwsc>

4) Global Democracy Coalition Forum, December 7-8th

International IDEA convened a global multi-stakeholder coalition for democracy in a virtual forum held on 7 December 2021. The purpose of the Global Democracy Coalition Forum is to facilitate a global conversation on democracy, as inputs to the Summit for Democracy to be held on 9 and 10 December 2021. The Forum seeks to provide a platform for voices, actors and issues that may not be part of the official Summit and will thereby contribute to broadening the discussions of the Summit. For further details, see: <https://www.idea.int/news-media/events>.

A recording of our webinar was made available as part of the Forum.

5) Civil Society working group on ‘Countering Authoritarianism’

John Davenport and I have joined this working group, convened by the US State Department to provide some input from civil society to the Summit for Democracy in December 2021. The group is very much in its early stages, and it is anticipated that its work will continue to develop into this year, leading up to the 2nd Summit at the end of 2022. Here are some extracts from the state department communique, from Lisa Peterson, Acting Assistant Secretary Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor: “Recognizing there are many different groups, coalitions, and alliances with important insights, we would like to establish a **Summit for Democracy Civil Society Advisory Council**, to which we invite you to become members. Our wish is for the Advisory Council to be representative and inclusive with international, regional, and local civil society members. This advisory council would provide a direct link to Summit planners to share your ideas and concerns.

We also envision **working groups**, coordinated and organized by steering committees composed of civil society for each of the summit themes: combating authoritarianism



and defending democracy, combating corruption, and protecting human rights. These working groups would regularly meet amongst themselves but also meet directly with Summit planners on a regular, frequent schedule.

Outreach

We have been successful in forming links with

- The Alliance of Democracies Foundation (Danielle Piatkiewitz, Jonas Parello-Plesner);
- The Atlantic Council (Ash Jain, John Davenport)

Future prospects include

- The National Endowment for Democracy (NED) – see below
- The OECD, which has been taking a progressive attitude to climate change and the taxing of international media organizations recently.

Prospective activities in 2022

Events/webinars: Possible repeat of last year's webinars, to get our message out there and take advantage of the present fraught strategic environment.

Fundraising

Prospects include

- **Open Society Foundation (George Soros)**

Their grant application process is currently suspended while they reassess their future strategy.

- **NATO Public Diplomacy Program**

CJH has submitted an application at the end of January.

Petition

Didier proposes to draft a petition for more democracy in international institutions, to be signed by hopefully up to 1000 civil society organizations.

Research

Titus proposes a study of possible gateways to democratic reform of global governance. He is proposing this might be one of the 'Big Ideas' for future research called for by the ESRC Research Council in the UK, which would be a major coup if it succeeded.

Outreach

We need to establish/consolidate links with the Atlantic Council and the National Endowment for Democracy in the US. CJH is proposing a new Atlantic Council.

Strategy Paper on a theme such as 'Uniting the Democracies' be put to the Atlantic Council Strategy Consortium for discussion. Would require consent/participation from Ash Jain.



Summit

We need to establish links with other members of the “**Countering Authoritarianism**’ working group (via International IDEA?), and formulate some useful recommendations for the 2022 Summit.

WALI ISLAM, WCAA Vice-President and Director of the Bangladesh Aid Project

Community Library: Wali is working on sending approximately 20,000 books to in a container to establish a community library and resource centre in Dhaka. The books are predicted to be sent by March 2022.

Vocational Education Centre: This is a big new project for the future, which we have promised to assist where possible.

Progress with the Bangladesh Aid Project has been largely stalled by COVID-19, although a considerable sum has been channeled through our Aid Project fund towards the relief of flood victims in Bangladesh.

LUIZ BISPO, WCCA/IGPSG Secretary



The global umbrella organisation, **the World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Policy (WFM/IGP)** has been recently working on the declaration: African Union-European Union 2022 Summit: civil society declaration for a common sustainable future. Organization and public figures are welcome to endorse the declaration.

The organization is also planning on the creation of a Coalition for Global Legal and Environmental Reform.

WFM/IGP is now welcoming individuals to join the organisation – “Individual Members of the International Member Organisation (IMO)”.



ZENY EDWARDS, President of the Institute for Global Peace and Sustainable Governance (IGPSG) and WCAA Vice-President Community Engagement



HIRAYA Sponsorship of Filipino Student Council of NSW Educational Camp, which will be held from 7th-9th January 2022 at Youthworks Port Hacking Conference Centre, Sydney NSW, Australia. 'Hiraya' means 'to dream' in the Philippine language. They have planned this event last year but have been postponed to June 2022 at the Blue Mountains due to COVID.

The objective is to allow a platform where Filipino student leaders across Australia will gather under one roof to determine its contribution to Australian multicultural society.

The sponsorship package in the Raja Package x 3 = \$900. The funding will be done through the IGPSG Trust.

SYDMUN address 12 December 2021. SYDMUN (SYDNEY UNIVERSITY MODEL UN) 2021

Zeny Edwards was the guest speaker at the Closing Ceremony of SydMUN (Sydney University Model UN) 2021, which is one of the largest annual Model United Nations conferences at the tertiary education level in Australia. Every year, SydMUN brings together hundreds of like-minded students in a simulation of the United Nations to help resolve real world issues. SydMUN 2021 offered three awe-inspiring days and nights of MUN, professional development and networking from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th of December to champion the Sustainable Development Goals. SydMUN 2021 is facilitated by the Sydney University United Nations Society which is a not-for-profit organisation affiliated with the University of Sydney Union.

New Volunteers: WELCOME!

1. David Reys as Director of Social Cohesion and Inclusion
2. Sophia Maranan as Assistant Director of Social Cohesion and Inclusion.



REGISTRATION FORM

I would like to join/renew my membership in the World Citizens Association (Australia)

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Occupation: _____

Postal Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Subscription Rates: Full	\$40
Juniors, seniors, unwaged	\$10

Funds transferred:

Subscription	_____
Donation to World Citizens Aid Project	_____
Total	<u> </u>

Please complete this form and send together with your cheque made out to 'World Citizens Association (Australia)' to:

Chris Hamer, Acting Treasurer, World Citizens Association (Australia),
PO Box 6318
UNSW
Sydney NSW 1466
C.Hamer@unsw.edu.au

Alternative methods of payment: (please still send in the form)

Online via <http://www.wcaa.org.au>, hit the 'Member Login' button at the top of the page, and then either the 'Join Us' or the 'Donate' button (no password necessary).

Or use direct electronic funds transfer to
BSB: 633000, account: 122927916

