



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

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Dear Colleague(s), Dear Friend(s)

We are pleased to inform you that an

International conference

organized by the

International Association of Democratic Lawyers

on a

Democratic New International Economic Order

will be held on

May 24 and 25 2013.

3 rue du Château d'Eau, PARIS

A Democratic New International Economic Order is now a requirement in all countries of the world whose peoples are victims of domination by financial powers. This must change, and the distribution of wealth in the world must serve exclusively the satisfaction of human needs.

We hope that this conference will give the opportunity for lawyers of all countries that are struggling side by side with their people to express their opinions on the matter, so that, from their experience, emerges a common commitment in the respect of the richness that presents the diversity of their expression.

**CONFERENCE ON BUILDING A NEW
INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ECONOMIC ORDER
MAY 24-25, 2013**

PROPOSED AGENDA

MAY 24, 2013

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 9:30 to 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 to 11:00 | Welcome and Goals of the Conference: Roland Weyl, Jeanne Mirer

All speakers will be asked to address one or more of the topics of Why we need a New economic order, what would it look like and what is the way to achieve it, We will discuss various topics as noted below with this framework in mind. |
| 11:00 to 1:00 | Featured Speakers: :

Skype presentation by Samir Amin

Alfred de Zayas: United Nations Independent Expert on
the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable
International Order

Mamdouh Habashi, Egyptian Socialist Party

Jan Pierre Dubois, French League for Human Rights

Jean Christophe Le Duigou, trade unionist economist

Magdelina Sepulveda, Special Rappoeteur on Extreme Poverty

(Invited)

Kent Hudson

There are also Invited Representatives from CETIM, CADTM and ATTAC and Via Campesina.

IADL expects other eminent speakers and relevant papers to be circulated throughout the conference. |
| 1::00 to 2:00 | Lunch Break |
| 2:00 to 5:00 | Discussion: Why we need a new democratic international economic order with focus on role of International Financial Institutions

Changing IFI's and WTO to promote economic human rights. |

MAY 25, 2013

9:30 to 12:30

What would a new international economic order look like

Continuing discussions

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as human rights

Labour Rights as human rights

Promoting the human right to peace

12:30 to 2:00

Lunch Break

2:00 to 5:00

Discussion of How do we achieve a new democratic international economic order:

Statement of the Conference and Next Steps

What is a New Democratic International Economic Order and Why Do We Need One?



Jeanne Mirer, IADL President

To answer this question, we must describe in broad terms the dominant features of the current Undemocratic International Economic Order so as to make a clear contrast.

1. The current undemocratic international economic order is a neo-liberal economic order. It is an economic order dominated by large multinational corporations which seek “liberalization” of laws protecting people in order to promote economies based on the market rather than human rights and needs of people, which includes the right to a healthy environment. The main pillars of the neo-liberal economic order are: (1) deregulation of corporate activities including financial services, (2) privatization of public services such as education and prisons etc.; (3) de-unionization of the workforce; (4) casualization of the workforce with precarious workers i.e temporary, contingent or contract workers; and (5) free trade agreements aimed at protecting direct foreign investments by corporations.
2. The current undemocratic international economic order uses international financial institutions to force countries to “liberalize” their economies according to these neo-liberal principles in order to secure loans; the result is that these countries incur huge debt.
3. The current undemocratic international economic order has resulted in massive transfers of wealth upwards into to fewer and fewer wealthy hands within countries and between countries. The result has been growing inequalities in both developed and developing countries. Despite significant growth rates in developing countries, there has been a corresponding growth in inequalities. The undemocratic international economic order has resulted in massive public debts owed to international financial institutions and private investors, especially by countries in the South. The resulting unrest among the people who are opposed to this undemocratic international economic order is dealt with by repression using, among other things, anti-terrorist laws that many countries passed or imposed after 9-11.
4. The current undemocratic international economic order is also characterized by massive militarization, particularly by the United States and the NATO countries. This militarization reflects a powerful corporate military industrial complex and a foreign policy based on

military intervention in countries which possess resources the United States and the western former colonial powers and their major corporations seek to exploit.

5. The current undemocratic international economic order is dominated by media corporations which promote celebrity and spectacles as news and do not seek to educate the people about the nature of the undemocratic international economic order.

6. The current undemocratic international economic order exploits differences between people based on class, race, gender, religion, and citizenship status, and other characteristics in order to divert attention away from the fact that these divisions are a result of and exacerbated by the current undemocratic international economic order.

7. Most importantly, the current undemocratic international economic order is characterized by a both an ignorance of and lack of respect for law and legal obligations, especially international law and international human rights (including labor) law and growing impunity for violating international law. The UN Charter, which prohibits aggressive war and seeks to promote disarmament, has been flaunted by superpowers, especially the United States. Wars of aggression have been fought by superpowers without accountability. Corporations are engaging in illegal land grabbing and other illegal actions in developing countries without accountability.

Although these features of the undemocratic international economic order are currently dominant, the movements for a democratic international economic order have not been silent. They have not, however, been unified, and where they have come together they have often been repressed.

Nonetheless, based on the features of an undemocratic international economic order the features of a new democratic international economic order would include the following characteristics and promote the following rights:

1. The right to economies which are democratically controlled, either through democratic control of private corporations or state run enterprises which have as their core mission the creation of an international and social order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized. (Article 28 of the UDHR).

2. The right to participate in democratic social movements which promote public services to meet the needs of the people; respect for the rights of freedom of association and collective bargaining, so that workers may protect their economic and social interests; and the promote market regulation that secures equitable distribution of wealth and an end to discrimination based on gender, race, class, religion or citizenship status etc.

3. The promotion of the rights in Human Rights Council Resolution 8/5 for the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order, such as the human right to peace, self-determination, and the right to equitable participation in all domestic and global decision-making.

4. Democratic control or replacement of International Financial Institutions to the end that illegal debts should be canceled and lending is based on meeting human peoples' needs rather than promoting interests of private investors.

6. A democratic international economic order would work to convert military spending to peaceful endeavors, and promote disarmament.

7. A democratic international economic order would end impunity for crimes and promote respect for international law, including human rights law and humanitarian law.

The United Nations Charter is based on the peoples' rights. The Charter declares "We the Peoples of the United Nations" resolve ... The Charter has at its core the promotion of the fundamental indivisible human rights of all people to civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, as the basis for promoting social progress and peace.

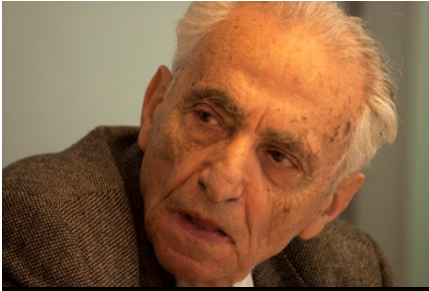
The peoples of the world must begin plans for the new democratic international economic order.

At this conference there will be speakers who can address the various ways in which to address the current undemocratic international economic order.

Speakers will be asked to address such topics as:

- How neoliberalism harms the peoples of the world;
- How the debt structure of the International Financial Institutions promotes inequality;
- Using human rights law and organized labor to confront multinational corporate interests in order to fight back against the neo-liberal order;
- Alternatives to Free Trade Regimes that promote private investment such as ALBA; and
- Promoting resistance to the current undemocratic international order

WHY A DEMOCRATIC NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER (DNIEO)?



Roland Weyl, First Vice-President IADL

Why a DNIEO

When the IADL proposed a DNIEO at its Athens Congress in 1984, it was in relation to the inequality between former colonised (developing) countries and the developed ones.

Now, all the peoples of the world (even the US) are suffering cuts in their living standards to pay the so-called debt to the so-called markets. At different levels, all peoples are now colonized.

On an international scale, we see the misery of peoples increasing in order to pay for the increasing profits of financial institutions. Every major serious issue facing the world today can be traced to this reality.

For progressives, this reality is one of the greatest challenges we face. How should democratic lawyers respond?

Economists offer many theories about what went wrong and what should be done about it but most of them ignore the fact that economic reform does not occur spontaneously; it depends on who holds power over the economy.

It is the duty of lawyers to contribute to thinking about how such power can be exercised.

The Issue of Power

Humanity today faces the challenge of the alternatives of the old (feudal, then capitalist) power *over* people, and the power *of* the people. (cf. Demo-cracy, from the ancient Greek “kratos” = power and “Demou” = of the people, and Lincoln’s “Government of the people, by the people and for the people.”)

A historic and revolutionary step was taken when the UN Charter proclaimed the reformulation of the old vertical power *over* the peoples into a new horizontal and cooperative power *of* the peoples: “*We the Peoples of the United Nations determined ... to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom ... to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security Accordingly, our respective governments have agreed to the present Charter ...*”

While the Charter is based on the right of all peoples to self determination, and an international society based on universality and equality, experience shows that the UN does not operate that way, and has been hijacked by the few into a tool of power *over* peoples (with outrageous violations of the Charter). This brings us to the International Economic Order (or rather Disorder), and how it got that way.

The peoples of the world need an instrument of their power, for both internal administration and international relations. That instrument is the State. If they dispensed with their State, they would have to create something else, with the same problems. So the question is not the State itself but who exercises power by controlling the State. In reality, both domestically and internationally, States do not function as instruments *of* their people, but are misappropriated by financial powers as their instruments *over* the people. This holds true internally when they practise austerity to pay external debts, and it is true internationally in their behaviour at the UN.

This brings us back to the basic point: while the UN Charter proclaims the power of the peoples, this only relates to political power and not economic power.

We must never forget that the IMF, WB, WTO are not part of the United Nations framework. While the UN launched a new era proclaiming the sovereignty of peoples, under universality and equality, the economic order was launched *outside* the Charter by the Bretton Woods agreement, creating IFIs, which are neither universal, nor equal. So we may describe this economic order as an “outlaw”!

Then comes the issue of Human Rights. At first the 1948 Universal Declaration concerned only civil and political rights. But after two decades, it appeared obvious that these rights could not be enjoyed without economic, social and cultural rights, leading to the Second Generation of Human Rights.

It is the same for the right to power. The peoples have only had the First Generation and it is not enough. It is meaningless without a Second Generation; economic power.

We should note that this truth was officially assumed at the UN in the context of the decolonisation process. The peoples who won independence won new states, politically independent, but this political independence was worthless without economic independence. Therefore the GA adopted the 1971 Resolution on the Right of Peoples to their Natural Resources. But it soon became apparent that this was ineffective in the face of the law of the global market.

So it must be clear that international law can be implemented and respected only in the context of an economic order that accords with the Charter.

Which Institutions are Required for a DNIEO?

This is the hardest but the most important task for lawyers; to conceive instrumentalities for putting international economic power in the hands of cooperating sovereign peoples.

It is a gigantic goal, but no more so than was the abolition of slavery. Perhaps it will take decades, but what is important now is to acknowledge the necessity. For example, why should medical drugs or food come under the authority of the WTO instead of WHO and FAO? We need to define the ideal necessary structures to aim for, and the step-by-step measures along the way, as targets of the struggle of the Peoples using their political power

as guaranteed by the Charter.

In aiming for this goal, the fruitful creativity of lawyers (and non-lawyers) is essential for, and must find a place at, such a conference.

CONFERENCE DE PARIS POUR UN NOUVEL ORDRE ECONOMIQUE

PARIS CONFERENCE FOR A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER

CONFERENCIA DE PARIS POR UN NUEVO ORDEN ECONOMICO

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PRENOM / GIVEN NAME / NOMBRE

ADRESSE / DIRECCIÓN

TELEPHONE / TELÉFONO

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BESOIN DE VISA NEED OF VISA NECESIDAD DE VISADO:

OUI / YES / SI

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Registration is not compulsory, but would help the organization. Be kind to send it back to Droit-Solidarité or by mail to mrwjur@gmail.com

Esta ficha de inscripción no es obligatoria, sin embargo ayudará a la organización del evento. Gracias por rellenarla y enviarla a Droit-Solidarité 160 rue du Temple, 75003 Paris o por mail a mrwjur@gmail.com