

The Seventieth Anniversary of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

—Teckla C. Negga Melchior

In 1944 the second stage of planning a blue print to create an international organization to put an end to the era of repeated and unimaginable World Wars began to take form at Dumbarton Oaks on 21 August through 7 October. Following the recognition for a need to create a postwar international organization in the Moscow Declaration of 1943, the Dumbarton Oaks Proposals, although, universally recognized as the genesis of the United Nations, was incomplete in that essential questions were not answered. The voting system, and the Security Council of the proposed Organization were not resolved until the third stage of planning and negotiations that were held at The Yalta Conference on 14 February 1944. At Yalta not only were the above issues hammered out, but in addition a proposed trusteeship system was designated to operate in the new Organization that would succeed the defunct League of Nations' mandate system. All the proposals formed the foundation of the fourth and final stage of negotiations at the San Francisco Conference on 25 April 1945 from which the Charter of the United Nations emerged.

On 22 January 2016 I had the great pleasure of attending the observance of the 70th Anniversary of the Economic and Social Council, one of the six principle organs of the United Nations that was designed as the Organization's principal venue in which the discussion of economic, cultural, social and implicitly fundamental freedoms and human rights are discussed and debated. Thus, ECOSOC is tasked with: conducting studies; formulating resolutions, fundamental recommendations, and drafting



conventions for consideration by the General Assembly and the Security Council, when asked. It coordinates the activities of various specialized agencies as well. ECOSOC is differentiated from the other five Organs in a fundamental manner that is of particular importance to the International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade and the general global population. From its inception the Charter of the United Nations, in Article X, describes ECOSOC's composition, functions, powers, voting and procedure. The Council was allowed to grant consultative status to nongovernmental organizations. Hence, fully bringing to life the first

seven words of the Charter: "*WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS...*"

As of 1 September 2014, 4,045 NGOs enjoy consultative status with the United Nations. IU is among this impressive number and as we have the privilege and opportunity to present our mandate and philosophy to the Organization through ECOSOC this opportunity is indeed one that is yet to be fully realized by IU. As stated, ECOSOC is tasked with coordinating the specialized agencies of the United Nations such as: World Bank, IMF (International Monetary Fund), ILO (The International Labor Organization), IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development), WTO (World Trade Organization) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) just to name a few. Moreover, with the distinct status IU enjoys with ECOSOC we have a portal to the entire Organization in short, the World.

In the newly renovated Chamber the commemoration commenced at 10 am and concluded at 1:20 pm. The current President of the Council, His



Excellency Oh Joon, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of North Korea, began the session with an opening remark (https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/publication/statement_ecosoc_president_21_january_2016.pdf). President Joon then introduced the Key Note address, via video, by The Honorable Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi. India was the first President of the this body and has been through the past 70 years most vocal in it . It has been posited by social scientists that the work done in and through ECOSOC may be linked to the emergence of the Sub Continent as Brick Nation. Several past presidents shared with the attendees their recollections, observations, successes and disappointments they experienced during their terms. I found my thoughts wondering intermittently. Often befuddled when the United Nations is dismissed by some, I began to realize that the musing of past Presidents and, by the two civil society representatives on the dais—Mr Rakesh Rajani of Ford Foundation and Ms Sarah Cliff of New York University) in part contributes to the ignorance and confusion that fosters that dismissal. Perhaps, as a result of the “reorganization” of the United Nations, promoted by some of the permanent members, perhaps the implementation of bureaucratic corporate matrices that have prompted employment at the United Nations to be “**Job**” oriented as opposed to the imperative that it was at the four Conferences that created the Organization in the mid forties and most important a “**calling**” for its subsequent employees until the late eighties. Worst of all, it may the monetizing of the United Nations. The sums made through consultancies, contracts and the like, some piddling others obscene. It may a combination of the above that made some of the statements less enlivening than others.

In turn, each statement looked of the future of the Council, the incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the necessity of incorporating the desires, ideas and proposals of the global youth. While enjoying the celebratory sensation it became quite clear that the Georgist paradigm was in complete alignment with the Charter of the United Nations and the mission of ECOSOC. This is rather remarkable, when the publication of Progress and Poverty was some forty years before the creation of the League of Nations and sixty-six years before the creation of the United Nations. The universal and unassailable truths of Georgist philosophy endure. May there be a Delegate of IU in the Council Chambers in the year 2086. It is for IU, and all Georgist organizations, to take advantage of this —the World Stage and to work tirelessly and in concert to present honest, effective and just methods to realize a world composed of truly United Nations.