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**Centro Europeo
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**University
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XIV ECPD International Conference

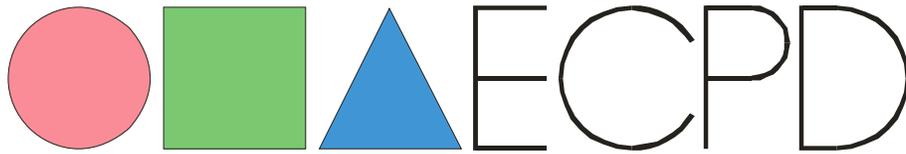
A NEW CONCEPT OF HUMAN SECURITY

(Belgrade City Hall, 26 October 2018)



REPORT

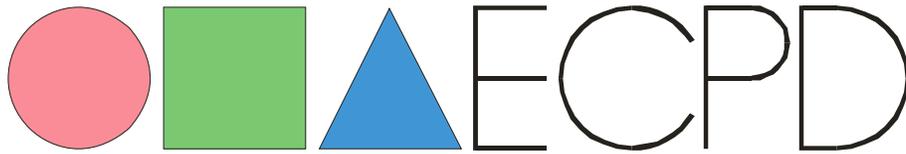
The 14th International Conference of the European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD) of the University for Peace established by the United Nations, held in Belgrade, Serbia, on 26 October 2018, called for a new broader concept of human security.



This event gathered many distinguished academics, politicians, former UN officials and other experts from across Europe and North America discussed forty presentations on new definitions of human security that put humans at the centre, including economic, social and environmental security, that build trust and ensure human health and well-being as called for in the Sustainable Development Goals. They reviewed challenges to human security in the Western Balkans, including political issues, violence and special attention to the security of those who migrate into and out of the region. They explored approaches to economic security that are socially just, ensure meaningful employment for all, are more altruistic and cooperative, and reduce poverty, including innovations in the private sector and at the community level, while addressing disfunctions such as corruption and excessive accumulation of wealth. Finally, they considered cultural security, unity in diversity and the security of shared values, building on the richness of cultural and spiritual traditions in the Balkans to find unity of purpose and harmonious visions for the future of the region, overcoming the divisions of the past.



Based on these considerations, to be published by the ECPD in a book compiling the presentations, the conference came up with some concrete proposals for human security that need to be developed at multiple levels, and questions that require wider consideration.



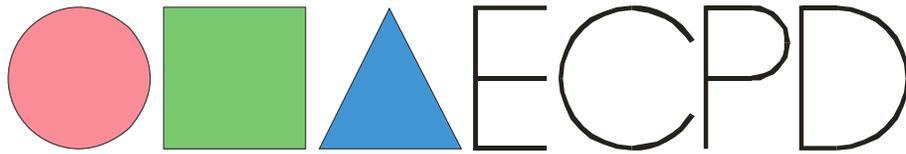
United Nations system

There is a need to strengthen democracy in the UN by bringing more public participation and democracy into UN institutions. What is needed beyond relations between governments? Who represents all of humanity? How can the UN go beyond just the representation of sovereign national interests? For example, in implementing the responsibility to protect, when would interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state be justified in the common global interest?

There is a need to maintain the strong role of civil society in the UN as it has developed since the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. The tendency to back-sliding should be resisted, and civil society inputs recognized for their constructive contribution to UN deliberations and improved UN effectiveness.



In the light of the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, it is urgent to strengthen the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement going forward, involving greater government commitments and actors at all levels.



European Union

There is a need for a strategy for the whole of Europe including the Russian Federation, and not just the European Union. What is the European contribution to human security? With its success, citizens of the European Union have developed an expectation for human security that should be reinforced and extended. Where do we need more Europe? Can Europe develop a broader definition of human security beyond military security? How do we develop a European level of democracy beyond national democracies?

Since the pressures for migration can only increase with additional pressures such as climate change, Europe needs to develop collective transboundary approaches to migration.

Europe has been particularly successful in its cultural integration, with its *aquis* and shared values. This needs to be continually maintained and reinforced.

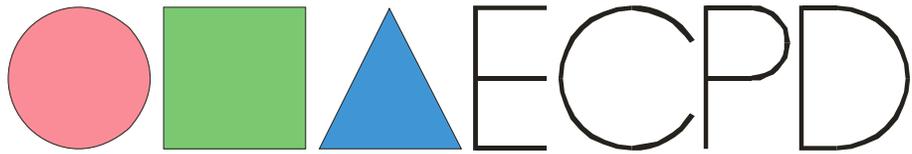
Governments

There is a need to rethink democracy and the role of the "nation". What is the role of the state, and its relation to the private sector and to civil society? How do we strengthen agreements on cooperation and good neighbourliness?

There was concern about the excessive levels of sovereign debt, of widespread corruption and the rise of nationalisms that threatened global stability and cooperation, even though the risks to human security are increasing.

Religions

There is a need to focus more on ethics and values to replace the lost connection with traditional religions in many countries. Religions need to update their approaches to provide answers to modern challenges, and to provide a counterweight to the materialistic neoliberal economy and its values. We must fight against the misrepresentation of world religions for political and ideological ends, building on the World Conference on "Religions, Creeds and Value Systems: Joining Forces to Enhance Equal Citizenship Rights" held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, 25 June 2018.

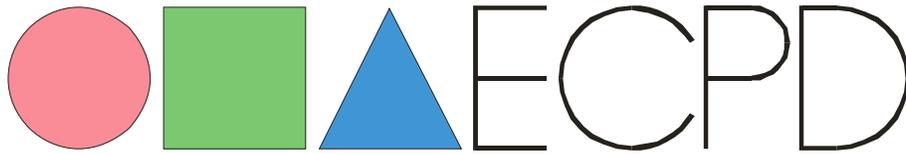


Civil Society

Civil society has an important role in education on values and ethics, to build public support and awareness for human security. This should focus on the importance of individual action, involving all men, women and children, and on the importance of local communities, especially in the Balkans where community life is still important. Communities can experiment with creative solutions to local issues of justice and human security without waiting for governments to act.

Unity in diversity can be strengthened when different sectors of society build collaboration across borders, as with scientific academies working together on funding for joint projects.

Civil society can also contribute to rethinking the economy based on shared human values, to counter the insecurity that accompanies unemployment, inequity in access to social security and human rights, and growing inequality.



Cross-cutting issues

There is a need for a special focus in migration out of and into the Balkans region in both its positive and negative dimensions, and involving all actors including governments, business and civil society.

We should be conscious of the vulnerability of the whole global system to excessive levels of debt, including sovereign debt, financial debt, social debt and environmental debt, all of which are rising rapidly. There is a complex set of challenges from the growing population, urbanization, food security, nuclear risks, and financial instability. We lack positive solutions going forward.

We need consciously to build a shared set of values and a global ethic across civil society, religion, business, the economy and government, to move from self-centredness to solidarity as the foundation for human security.

