Initiatives of Change
Conference Centre
Caux, Switzerland

Report of the Fourth Annual
Caux Forum
for Human Security
10-17 July 2011

Tackling root causes of hostility
Human Security as Smart Security

Building trust across the world's divides
Initiatives of Change International
Security is often seen as a matter of keeping the enemy out — with armies and alliances and barricades. This may be necessary but, in the long term, security comes from turning enemies into friends. The Caux Forum for Human Security works for this by tackling root causes of hostility. It examines these causes through five windows:

**Just Governance** — Corruption and the abuse of power sow distrust in societies of North and South. They are major causes of conflict. Only governance which is accountable to all citizens, minorities and majorities alike, offers a path to lasting peace.

**Inclusive Economics** — Vast inequalities of wealth cause resentment and create conditions for conflict. Only economies which seek to meet everyone’s basic needs, and offer everyone the chance to prosper, can assure the social cohesion necessary for continuous progress.

**Intercultural Dialogue** — Differences are often exploited to fuel division and hatred. A heightened understanding and respect across cultures is crucial to global cooperation.

**Healing Memory** — The wounds of history leave their victims with memories which perpetuate conflict, sometimes for generations. When these are faced honestly and healed, cycles of violence can finally be broken.

**Living Sustainably** — Global warming increases the urgency of building a sustainable global economy. Only a renewed commitment to this goal will avoid massive environmental destruction and a much diminished world for future generations.

These challenges call for new lifestyles and major structural changes in both the developed and developing worlds. These will come through people who move beyond self-interest towards a commitment to the common good, and who work together with others to implement social change. The Caux Forum aims to inspire such a ‘coalition of conscience’ by bringing together pioneers in many areas of human security, and enabling them to tell both of their work and their motivation.

This report gives a flavour of the 2011 Forum, which brought together 300 people from 58 countries. Full speeches can be found at [www.cauxforum.net/the-2011-forum](http://www.cauxforum.net/the-2011-forum)

---

**Caux Forum Aims**

- To create a learning environment focused on answering basic human needs
- To build trust by giving attention to historical wounds which rarely feature in international negotiations but often shape the outcome
- To encourage collaboration between civil society, multilateral institutions and governments in initiatives for peace and sustainable development
- To develop the potential of Caux as a resource for human security initiatives

---

**Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun** *Algeria*

Founder and Chair, Caux Forum for Human Security
Formerly Special Advisor to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Caux offers the chance to understand what human security means. The past tendency was to defend one’s city, one’s nation, one’s tribe. In the Cold War, where ideologies seemed clear, there were sharply defined sides. But today, with our globalized world, we need a solidarity that includes everyone.

At present we spend US$1.5 trillion on armaments, but less than US$100 billion on development — 15 times as much to kill each other as to heal. The language of security is often one of power and polarization.

Our purpose is to change that language to a language of human values. We must go to the root causes of the fears that give birth to insecurity. I have experienced insecurity — prison and torture — and that has deepened my conviction that only by talking to one another can we have lasting solutions.

Despite setbacks, I believe that, as a world community, we are moving towards a greater sense of common purpose. People know far more about what is happening and can be mobilized. Autocratic leaders are losing their grip. Suddenly, for example in the Arab Spring, there seems to be an emerging awareness that we need an ethical culture.

The Caux Forum works to advance this ethical culture through robust analysis, honest dialogue, forgiveness and healing, and a strong notion of justice.

Peter Maurer  Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Federal Government of Switzerland

The concept of human security is cherished in this country: the promotion of peaceful coexistence, power-sharing and democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law are important in our domestic and foreign policy alike. As Kofi Annan said, ‘We will not enjoy security without development, we will not enjoy development without security, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights.’

The Department of Foreign Affairs, in collaboration with Initiatives of Change, has just held a two-day workshop here at Caux on leadership, building trust and dealing with the past. It brought together participants from Mali, Niger and Chad.

This Forum is an opportunity to develop initiatives to improve peace and human security in the world. These exchanges resulted last year in the adoption of the Caux Call to Action, emphasizing the critical importance of people of conscience for the well-being of societies. The Swiss government is proud to support such meetings and warmly thanks Initiatives of Change for organizing this forum, as well as for its ongoing efforts to promote innovative thinking in the field of human security.

The Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs funded 21 political and civil society leaders from Chad, Mali and Niger to attend the Forum.

Claude Wild  Head of Political Affairs
Division IV (Human Security), Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), outlined why his Division supports the Caux Forum and collaborates with Initiatives of Change in programmes for peacemaking in Burundi and capacity building in Western and Central Africa.

‘Caux has a focused approach on personal experiences, individual responsibility and “life skills”’, he said. ‘The DFA’s approach tends to be more structural... Thus PD IV and Caux act in a complementary way.’

From an interview with Philipp Thüler

Changer soi-même pour changer le monde (Change yourself to change the world) was launched at the Forum. The booklet, written by François D’Alançon of Le Croix, France, and Richard Werly of Le Temps, Switzerland, comprises an extensive interview with Mohamed Sahnoun and Cornelio Sommaruga, in which they discuss international affairs and the role of Initiatives of Change.

Cornelio Sommaruga  Switzerland  former President, International Committee of the Red Cross

Initiatives of Change calls us to change what is wrong in our society. Fear, hatred, greed and indifference are the source of injustice, poverty, environmental destruction and conflict. Each of us has a unique contribution to building a just, peaceful and sustainable world – if we are prepared to start with change in ourselves. We need to be the change we want to see in the world.

This is the spirit of Caux, a philosophy of life that transcends parties, classes, factions and enables us to work for reconciliation, beginning with our own relationships. We can be artisans of a world of lasting security for all, in which every person is valued.

This spirit is inspired by the religions and cultural traditions across the world which offer moral principles as guides for individual and community living – honesty, unselfishness, love and purity. At its heart is the search for inner guidance, for the insights which come as we listen to what is deepest in our heart, and discover a source of truth, renewal, inspiration and empowerment.
During the 1970’s and early 80’s the vast Sahel region was hit with drought after drought. Families abandoned their villages, but Yacouba Savadogo (right) from Burkina Faso, remained and pioneered techniques that turned back the approaching desert. Today tens of thousands of hectares of degraded land have been made productive thanks to these techniques, and the story is told in an award-winning documentary, The Man who Stopped the Desert.

Having heard Savadogo speak, political leaders from a neighbouring country invited him to visit. ‘I thought there wasn’t much hope of overcoming erosion,’ said one. ‘I am overwhelmed by what you have told us.’

The 2010 Caux Forum launched a Caux Call to Action, drawing attention to urgent global challenges. As one response, the 2011 Forum devoted a full day to

**Restoring Earth’s degraded land**

**REVERSING MAN-MADE DESERTS. REVIVING AGRICULTURAL LAND.**

Each year one percent of the world’s arable land is lost to erosion, and this is increasing poverty, migration, conflict and global warming. At the request of Luc Gnacadja, Executive Secretary of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the Forum focused on how to turn this situation around. The result was a day which, in Mr Gnacadja’s words, ‘more than fulfilled my expectations, and was fully in keeping with Caux’s tradition as an incubator of change’.

**Martin Frick**
*Germany Programme Leader, Climate Diplomacy, E3G*

Caux offers us space for reflection — a space that inspires and challenges us. This year’s Caux conference has highlighted that in order to ensure our food supplies we can and must reduce land degradation to zero. The most important players are those we often take out of the equation — the people at the bottom of the pyramid who can deliver vital services to humankind.

**Prem Shankar Jha**
*India Journalist and author*

Restoring land is one of the most powerful ways to reduce atmospheric carbon. We also need to directly reduce emissions. The fiasco at the Copenhagen UN conference resulted from a bedrock assumption that there are no economically viable alternatives to fossil fuels. This belief is wrong. There are renewable energy technologies which, within 30 or 40 years, can replace oil in all its uses except the most sophisticated. Solar energy is developing so far, and costs falling so far, that in 10 years we may not even need nuclear energy.

**Clare Short**
*UK former Secretary of State for International Development; Chair, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative*

If we are to avoid environmental catastrophe we have to share our resources and guarantee a decent chance of life to everyone on the planet. The OECD countries’ way of living is unsustainable, and if everyone aims for that there will be more and more conflict. It is easy to feel disempowered, but much can be done, and everyone can do something.

**Chau Duncan**
*Australia Trade Commissioner for Clean Energy and Environment in ASEAN*

Australia has lost 90% of its old growth forests, and much of its productive land is severely degraded. We are heavily exposed to climate change, experiencing severe drought, and then massive floods. The Government plans to introduce a carbon tax next year, to encourage renewable energy development. We are committed to working with the region on these vital concerns, sharing our expertise and investing heavily in research and development.

In the lead-up to the Rio+20 UN conference on sustainable development, Forum participants are now working to bring world attention the potential for massive land restoration on every continent. In September 2011 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, speaking at a General Assembly meeting on desertification and drought attended by over 100 heads of state and government, said, ‘Let us resolve today to adopt a target of no more land degradation by the end of this decade.’
Land degradation is the planet’s skin disease, but we are not tackling its root causes. Land degradation means life degradation because it entrenches people living in affected areas, especially in the drylands, into poverty, food insecurity, hunger and famine. Already 1.5 billion people are being directly affected. The most vulnerable ecosystems to land degradation are mainly in the drylands, which make up 44% of the world’s cultivated systems. Four-fifths of the world’s conflicts are in these drylands. Land degradation fuels political instability. But in many dryland areas, people are adapting and degraded lands are being restored. We must support them because their wellbeing affects ours too and that of our planet. Fixing carbon in the soil is vital in that struggle and also their wellbeing affects ours too and that of our planet. Fixing carbon in the soil is vital in that struggle and also contributes to contain global warming.

China’s Loess Plateau, where the earth was first tilled 10,000 years ago, was long known as the most eroded place on the planet: 600 million tons of soil washed into the Yellow River every year. But now a staggering transformation is taking place. Just 15 years of work by the local people — backed by the Chinese government and the World Bank — has made an area the size of Belgium fertile again, through such measures as terracing the barren slopes and building small dams, a ban on felling trees and the planting of new ones, and setting aside land for nature. Yields and incomes have quadrupled.

John Liu, a film-maker who has been documenting the transformation, told a conference on “human security” in Caux, Switzerland, this week that the results had “far exceeded expectations.” Other speakers had similarly surprising experiences. Yacouba Sawadogo — an innovative, illiterate and eloquent small farmer from Burkina Faso — experimented with digging holes every metre across his barren land and filling them with manure. His yields of millet and sorghum quickly jumped from nothing to 1,500 kilos a hectare in years of good rains, and tens of thousands of his neighbours have followed suit.

And Dr Chris Reij, of Amsterdam’s Vrije University, who has worked in the Sahel for over 30 years, described how farmers in Niger had greened five million hectares of unproductive land simply by protecting naturally sprouting tree seedlings from being eaten by goats. The result: an extra 500,000 tons of grain a year — enough to feed at least 2.5 million people. He reckons that two thirds of the world’s degraded land could be similarly restored. But encouraging as the grassroots greening is, it remains piecemeal, and largely unknown — still less supported — by local governments, let alone the world at large.

In 1992, the Rio Earth Summit agreed a treaty to reverse land degradation — but it has not received a thousandth of the attention paid to the agreements on climate change and biodiversity struck at the same time. Perhaps this is about to change. Mr Gnacadja, who heads the treaty’s secretariat, has persuaded the UN General Assembly to host a special one-day summit on the issue in September. Is it too much to hope that the world finally cops on to both the gravity of the crisis and the immense potential for reversing it?


www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/environment/8640824/Just-10-inches-from-oblivion.html
The Arab Spring – the struggle for democracy

From the Arab world came people emerging into leadership in their countries’ new order. They shared their experience and their hopes.

**Samir Dilou**  *Tunisia Spokesperson on foreign affairs for Ennahda, Tunisia’s largest political party, previously a political prisoner for 10 years*

Our party, an Islamic party, is determined to show that Islam and democracy can coexist, and so dissipate fears about Islamic political systems, the status of women, the relationship with the West. We have come to start a dialogue which we hope will build a relationship of trust and respect across the Mediterranean.

**Lotfi Hajji**  *Tunisia Director, Al Jazeera bureau, Tunisia*

Under dictatorship we had 150,000 police for a population of two million. Journalists were imprisoned and tortured. Today our press is more or less free. And we have just announced twelve new radio stations. But there is much to be done to create a democratic society in which the media can flourish.

**Ambassador Ahmed Haggag**  *Egypt Secretary-General, Africa Society of Egypt*

It is time for my generation to give way to young people. I do not say that easily. But Egypt is in a hurry, and I am convinced that this revolution is going the right way. Political parties have been established, elections will be held soon, workers seek wage increases. In our situation, the enthusiasm of youth is necessary to see these changes through.

**Abdelfattah Mourou**  *Tunisia founding member, Islamic Tendency Movement*

The Tunisian people have given us the responsibility of developing a democratic party based on Islam. We are pioneering, just as we did when our country enacted the first Constitution in the Arab world in 1861. From Europe we ask for a new attitude of respect. You have Christian political parties. You have reached out to our countries, but through dictators. You have seen our people being imprisoned and killed, and kept quiet because you saw us as your enemies. But we are not Europe’s enemies. We are neighbours and we must live together. Your security is our security. Please reach out to us, and we will reach out to you.

**Étienne Pinte**  *MP France former President of the France Tunisia parliamentary group*

We French need to be humble since we failed to recognize the deep aspirations of the Arab world. Let us build a new relationship with the Tunisian people. There is immense poverty in Tunisia, and some people suggest that the country will simply move from a political to a religious dictatorship. I do not accept this. But we need to help the Tunisian people to develop their economy and to build a new political system, without taking their place. The circular migration schemes between Tunisia and France are a significant means of economic support. I believe that all of Europe could benefit from these schemes. We have not yet persuaded our colleagues in the European Union to agree, but we are working for it. I hope that the Mediterranean Union will become known as a Union which is truly hospitable.

**Wiem Maalej**  *Tunisia student*

I chose the path of protest because I knew my country needed me, and it was now or never. We had no choice but to overthrow Ben Ali. Now, as we work to put new laws in place, I am discovering what is needed to bring unity. And I have returned to my studies. If we wish to install democracy we have much to learn.
Khalil El-Masry, Egypt founder member, Democratic Front Party

I first joined a demonstration in 2008. We were hundreds of people. I wanted a better Egypt for my son Aly. I was totally afraid, but I had to stick with my courageous colleagues, and gradually I broke through my fear of being detained and tortured. On 25 January, I found myself leading the crowd of thousands shouting for freedom and dignity. The police intervened with their normal brutality, scattered the crowds and I was detained. A few days later I was released, and returned to Tahrir Square, facing the last fear barrier – death. Each martyr was a driving force for us to continue our struggle. Each drop of blood was bringing more determination for freedom and a healthy, civilized Egypt. On 11 February we led our nation to victory. The people’s power had proved stronger than the people in power.

Maher Kallel, Tunisia expert on economy and development

Tunisia has important assets in its transition to democracy. One is our diaspora. We now have five ministers from the diaspora, and they are bringing business skills to our administration. Under the dictators, the diaspora invested very little in Tunisia, but now we hope for investment of several billion dollars. And we have good education. We have 170,000 unemployed graduates. These are the people who will create good businesses and efficient government departments. I am working on creating Citizens’ Service Centres, a nation-wide network which will employ 20,000 people. We are putting an emphasis on transparency – free access to accurate, coherent information. This will bring overseas investment and employment, it will improve governance – and it is a vital guard against corruption.

Anissa Hassouna, Egypt Secretary-General, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs

Social justice was a driving motive for Egypt’s revolution. Young women stood on the streets for 18 days, manifesting great leadership. Yet women are still not at the decision-making tables. We demand that our role be respected. We are working like hell, going to villages, cities, everywhere, talking about voting procedures, non-discrimination, civil rights and citizenship values. It is like the birth of a baby. The operating room is filled with doctors, sometimes chaos, the pain is unbearable, but you have to continue because there is no alternative, and the result is worth it — an amazing Egypt, liberal, civil, just and inclusive.

During the following days, the 40 Arab participants met, among themselves and with other participants, to discuss how to work for sustainable democratic governance in their countries, and how to build respectful relationships between the Arab world and the West.
Corruption can be defeated

The Forum heard from people who are confronting corruption in their countries – and often paying a high personal price to do so.

Prabhat Kumar, India, former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India

When India became independent in 1947, it was one of the world’s less developed countries. It is now the world’s largest democracy and fourth largest economy. But our governance has two serious weaknesses – unequal distribution of the benefits of growth, and corruption in high places.

We of the Initiatives of Change Centre for Governance in New Delhi organised a national convention on corruption last December. That convention called for the creation of an overarching institution, independent of government, which would be responsible for the detection, investigation and prosecution of corruption at every level. We drafted a bill for an Independent Commission against Corruption. There was a widespread response to this proposal, and a peaceful Gandhian movement was launched. Hundreds of thousands joined candlelight vigils in different parts of the country. There were protest rallies and fasts by leaders of civil society. Now the Indian Government has agreed to establish an Independent Commission against Corruption. For the first time in India, members of civil society are sitting with cabinet ministers, framing the new law.

In recent months millions have joined this movement. In August 2011, following a 12-day fast by campaigner Anna Hazare, the Indian Government agreed to take to Parliament a bill to appoint an independent Commission with wide powers of investigation.

Bedan Mbugua, Kenya, General Manager of Royal Media, Kenya’s largest media organization

As a child I learnt from my mother’s firm faith, her care for those who needed help, and her refusal to tolerate dishonesty. When I became a journalist, I tried to apply these precepts in my work. In 1988 Beyond, the magazine of which I was editor, exposed the fraud in the Presidential election. I was called to see the President. ‘Why did you publish those articles?’ he asked me. I replied, ‘Because of my love for my country. I could see we are heading for dictatorship.’ He demanded that I write a letter of apology, otherwise I would go to jail. I replied, ‘I would rather be in physical prison than in the prison of my conscience.’ So I was taken to court and jailed.

Corruption is destroying my country. Not long ago, when my newspaper was about to expose a major bank which was siphoning off public funds, the managing director came with five million Kenya shillings in a suitcase, offering them to me if I would stop the article. We published it and he fled the country.

The political class are in denial about this situation. But now we have a new constitution, and we are using it to ensure that they listen to the people. Before a new Chief Justice was chosen in May, we invited civil society and individual Kenyans to interview the candidates on television – which has never happened before.
Marou Amadou MP  
**Niger Minister of Justice**

Democracy is advancing in Africa. Niger’s dictatorship was overthrown last year, and elections were held this year. For decades I have fought passionately for this, and our new Government appointed me a Minister though I belong to no political party. I respect the values which underpin Caux – love, purity, unselfishness and, especially, honesty. We need to get rid of double standards, and speak frankly about bad governance. Let us recognize the double standards in America and Europe too. We need their support, but we need it without manipulation. In the next 50 years Africa can become democratic, prosperous and peaceful. And as the world becomes more just and equal, it will become more secure.

Ashwin Patel  
**Kenya Chartered accountant, Nairobi**

I head a chartered accountancy firm in Nairobi with a staff of 100. It has become known as a corruption-free zone. This has built credibility both with the taxman and our clients, and our income has surged. Ours is not a passive stance. We wage an upfront fight to persuade the bribe takers to change their ways and become change-makers themselves.

That is not how I started. At university in Mumbai, India, at a time when alcohol was prohibited there, I smuggled whisky. My illegal acts became more and more daring. But internally I was struggling, and wanted to break out of this way of life. My first step was to pay back 20 rupees I had nicked from my room-mate’s wallet. That evening my room-mate returned 100 rupees that he had stolen from me! I went to the customs authorities and repaid the duty I had evaded. I began to find a joy, an aliveness which flows into everything I do.

Further talks on governance:  
[www.cauxforum.net/the-2011-forum](http://www.cauxforum.net/the-2011-forum)

**Infrastructures for Peace**

Paul van Tongeren  
**Netherlands, Honorary Chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict**

Outlined ‘Infrastructures for Peace’, a project attracting growing interest in UN and diplomatic circles.

**Variety evening**

Farai Maguwu  
**Zimbabwe Director of the Centre for Research and Development at Mutare**

At the Forum I had fruitful discussion with delegates from Kenya, Uganda, Burkina Faso, South Africa, Mali, Egypt and the Democratic Republic of Congo, he writes, ‘at which we agreed that it was important to establish an African Forum to advocate for a review of mining policies so that the poor can benefit. I returned to Zimbabwe determined to move forward the Natural Resource Dialogue Forum, a platform from which NGOs can share their observations, plan research and develop initiatives to bring change. A Forum was held in August, and more are planned.’

**Tackling Africa’s ‘resources curse’**

Africans met to discuss how to overcome their continent’s ‘resources curse’, whereby their natural resources often benefit extractive industries and political elites at the expense of the majority, who remain poor. Farai Maguwu, Director of the Centre for Research and Development at Mutare in Zimbabwe, recently received the Alison Des Forges Award from Human Rights Watch for ‘his tremendous courage in exposing abuses in Zimbabwe’s diamond fields and working to end rampant violations of human rights throughout the region.’
Healing the wounds of history

To sustain peace, trust must grow between former antagonists. How is this trust built? The Forum heard the experiences of courageous peacemakers from many countries.

**Peter Maurer**  
**Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Federal Government of Switzerland**

In the aftermath of violent conflict the victims have the right to know what actually happened and to know the fate of their missing relatives. Those responsible for the most serious crimes must be held accountable, a reparation program must be built up and institutional reforms implemented. The way the past is dealt with must inspire public confidence and generate new practices in the field of democratic governance and a new culture.

**Douglas Johnston**  
**USA President, International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, Washington**

We are working with the leaders of 1,600 madrasas throughout Pakistan, and have been amazed at the welcome we have received. Our Center’s approach is based on respect for the glorious heritage of the madrasa system of Muslim education, which is little known in the West. This is already beginning to displace some of the extremist ideas that lead to violence. Ultimately it will help secure a better future for the children of Pakistan, while getting at the heart of the global ‘war on terrorism’. It shows that the best antidote for religious ignorance is religious understanding. Making religion part of the solution to intractable conflicts requires special skills, and is physically, emotionally and psychologically draining. And it is risky. But the stakes are too high for us not to give it our best effort.

**Sylvester Turner**  
**USA Director of Reconciliation, Hope in the Cities**

History can be a blessing, not a curse, if it is brought into the light. We have created a Slave Trail in my city of Richmond, Virginia - once one of America’s busiest slave centres - and each year thousands of people walk this trail and learn about this history. We established with Liverpool, England, a major port for slave ships, and Benin, West Africa, where captured Africans were loaded onto ships, a Reconciliation Triangle Project. One result is the Reconciliation Statue which is erected in each of these countries. I bring my grandchildren to the statue in Richmond as a reminder of the strength of their ancestors and the importance of our history. We have to own our history, the good, the bad and sometimes the ugly. For me that means learning the history of all that have shaped the world that we live in. As I have learnt from the painful episodes of our history, it has helped me to be more compassionate toward others.

---

**Addressing conflict in Kenya**

In 2012 Kenya will hold national elections. Many Kenyans are working passionately to avert the widespread conflict which followed its last elections in 2007.  
**An African Answer**, the documentary launched at the 2010 Caux Forum, is being used widely across Kenya. It tells the story of healing between Kikuyu and Kalenjin in Burnt Forest, a town in Kenya’s Rift Valley where more than 100 died in clashes between the two peoples.

Among those promoting the film is **Ann Njeri Ndiangui**, International Coordinator, Creators of Peace (www.iofc.org/creators-of-peace). During 2011 Kenya’s Women’s Information Network awarded her an Outstanding Service Award for her work in community healing. At the Forum she told what led her to do this work. ‘In 2008 my school teachers were killed, and my elder sister and many family members lost all their property,’ she said. ‘I am Kikuyu, and the prejudiced view of Kalenjin people with which I had grown up led to hatred in my heart. When my family was thrown out of our home, my hatred grew. ’Then, at a Creators of Peace Circle, it dawned on me that though I prayed for peace, my bitter words made me a perpetrator of hatred. It was difficult for me to apologize to Kalenjin friends, but every time I did, love found some space in my heart.’

**In 2012 Kenya will hold national elections. Many Kenyans are working passionately to avert the widespread conflict which followed its last elections in 2007.**

**An African Answer**, the documentary launched at the 2010 Caux Forum, is being used widely across Kenya. It tells the story of healing between Kikuyu and Kalenjin in Burnt Forest, a town in Kenya’s Rift Valley where more than 100 died in clashes between the two peoples.

Among those promoting the film is [Ann Njeri Ndiangui](#), International Coordinator, Creators of Peace (www.iofc.org/creators-of-peace). During 2011 Kenya’s Women’s Information Network awarded her an Outstanding Service Award for her work in community healing. At the Forum she told what led her to do this work. ‘In 2008 my school teachers were killed, and my elder sister and many family members lost all their property,’ she said. ‘I am Kikuyu, and the prejudiced view of Kalenjin people with which I had grown up led to hatred in my heart. When my family was thrown out of our home, my hatred grew. ’Then, at a Creators of Peace Circle, it dawned on me that though I prayed for peace, my bitter words made me a perpetrator of hatred. It was difficult for me to apologize to Kalenjin friends, but every time I did, love found some space in my heart.’
Ukrainian Action: Healing the Past

Young Ukrainians active in the Initiatives of Change programme Foundations for Freedom (www.iofc.org/f-4-f) told at the Forum of their new project for national healing. ‘Now that censorship has been abolished,’ said project coordinator Olha Hudz, ‘many Ukrainians are discovering terrifying facts about the abuse endured by their families and friends, not only in the 1930s, but right up till the 90’s, and their hearts are becoming filled with pain, hatred and blame.’ This is one cause of deep national divisions. At the Forum she and four colleagues described how they had confronted the wounds and prejudice which caused conflict among them, and discovered that they could find healing and forgiveness. This led them to launch a pilot project last year, when they travelled to many regions of the country, capturing the personal stories which portrayed Ukraine’s 20th century history, and produced a book and documentary. The response was such that they have now launched the project ‘Ukrainian Action: Healing the Past’ to reach 100,000 Ukrainians, including politicians and journalists, in the coming year. Speaking with them were three Russians, representing a Foundations for Freedom team which has launched a similar project in Russia.

Monseigneur Henri Teissier, Archbishop Emeritus of Algiers, introduced a showing of the award-winning film Of Gods and Men. ‘It is not the story and the tragedy of seven monks, but of an entire people,’ he said, noting that some 150,000 Algerians had lost their lives in the violence after the aborted elections in 1991. The film, which won the Grand Prix and the Ecumenical Jury Prize at the 2010 Cannes Film Festival, has been seen by two and a half million people in France alone.

Brendan McAllister UK Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, Northern Ireland

The past has left us a legacy, both positive and negative. It has given us insights borne out of the painful endurance of violence, civic discord and political failure across a generation and more; but also trauma, unresolved enmity, segregation between communities and a residue of hurt.

The Victims Commission advises Government on services to victims and contributes to the broader consideration of ways to deal with the past. This includes recommendations on truth recovery and justice, story-telling, acknowledgement, memorials, inquiries and the work on historic cases.

Symbolic acts can bring healing and re-evaluation rather than mere divisiveness about the past. Two months ago the Queen visited Dublin, where she respectfully acknowledged the dead of the 1916 Easter Rising against British rule, and honoured the 50,000 Irishmen who died in the First World War in British uniform.

Last year the British Prime Minister made a full apology for the action of British soldiers who killed 13 people attending a civil rights march in Northern Ireland in 1972. This was very significant in getting to the truth, assisting healing and promoting reconciliation.

Impact of Australian apology

Two Aboriginal women from Australia told of the significance of apology in healing a deep national wound. Debra Hocking and Melissa Brickell were both removed from their families as infants under policies aimed at assimilating Aboriginal children into the culture of white Australians. They told of years of struggle to find their families and their identities despite the obstructiveness of the authorities. And they spoke of the rise of a people’s movement, which saw nearly a million Australians take part in a community-organized national Sorry Day in 1998, and then in a Journey of Healing which brought Aboriginal and white Australians together in initiatives to overcome the harm done.

In 2008 the newly elected Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, made a full apology for the policies, supported by the whole Parliament, and committed the Government to a $3 billion programme to end Aboriginal disadvantage. Debra is now Deputy Chair of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, set up by the Government after the apology, and Melissa is a senior manager in Aboriginal child care. Their stories bring to light both the challenge and the promise of dealing openly with the past.

EMDR is a psychotherapy treatment for trauma victims which is now in use widely across the world.

Francine Shapiro USA, originator of EMDR, gave two lectures in which she outlined the treatment, and described the EMDR Humanitarian Assistance Programs, which coordinate disaster response and pro bono treatments worldwide.

Francine Shapiro
‘My face does not close any more’: coping with the stress of leadership

A feature of the Caux Forum is the community groups, in which people can speak confidentially about their concerns. Here is a glimpse into one community that we reproduce with permission, after consulting the participants:

An African speaks. He has held senior positions in his country, but has also endured exile, an assassination attempt with a car bomb, and prison — where he would have died had not a coup freed him. ‘I struggle with my conscience to try to forgive or forget,’ he says. ‘How can some of our leaders grab power and kill, and get away with it? Or finance wars in other people’s countries, and profit from them? Is the problem in me, that I find forgiveness and reconciliation so hard?’

Another African responds. She was here in Caux, a few months later, when the man came to her country on a mission, she found herself sitting next to a man whom she loathed.

She tells of her inner journey which gradually freed her from this hatred. Some months later, when the man came to her country on a mission, she found herself braving the many military checkpoints to go and visit him in his office.

Honoured by trust

Moments later an Algerian speaks. She admits that she ‘can no longer be optimistic’. She tells of torture and disappearances under colonial rule. ‘Then it was all forgotten, we left the evil behind us. We even became quite keen on French culture. And thirty years later, we’re back into a black decade of violence, this time springing up among our own people, who feel unjustly treated. I remember a schoolteacher killed on her way home from school... Violence always breaks out again.’

We finished the meeting with a heavy load of questions, honoured by the trust of those who shared their burdens.

The last day of the Forum is here. The last community meeting. We talk about the week. ‘I’ve felt as never before the urgency of challenges that we face in the world,’ says a French participant, ‘but also that the horizon is far more open than we guess. Even on the most degraded land, something can be done. Specialists are at work, but it is up to all of us to work on the human relations.’

People are important

An African active in national affairs says, ‘I thought that I might find here answers to fundamental questions facing our continent, issues of power and violence... but there were other questions that I was not asking myself. I need to re-think my relationships with others, with my family. I’m never at home. Here we’ve been getting to know each other around the meal tables. I’ve seen something at work that is beyond words. Yes, people are so important. I have never had time for that stuff, but maybe it will help me find answers to the big questions.’

Another African says that what struck him most was simply the beauty of nature. ‘For someone from the Sahel, the greenery is incredible! When I open the window at home, everything’s dry and stony. And here at Caux, we also discover, through many encounters, the beauty in human nature. I was struck by the film about Yacouba Savadogo, who turned back the desert. I have 10 hectares of land, and I’ve never planted a tree. That must change.’

A politician adds, ‘Just before coming here, I lost a good friend. Here I’ve made another friend, who has listened to me. These days have challenged my intellectual vision and my political convictions. I leave transformed. My face does not close any more when I think of events I have lived through.’

The meeting ends. A sheet is passed around for addresses. We will keep in touch.

The Fifth Annual
CAUX FORUM for HUMAN SECURITY
8-15 July 2012
By invitation only due to limited space.
Expressions of interest welcome.

Caux Forum for Human Security Secretariat 5/6 Initiatives of Change International
Rue de Varembé 1, CH-1202 Geneva. Postal address: PO Box 3, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Phone +41(0)22 749 16 20  Fax +41 (0)22 733 02 67  Email humansecurity@cauxforum.net

www.cauxforum.net

Initiatives of Change is a non-governmental organization (NGO), working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide. It stresses the importance of personal responsibility, ethical leadership and building trust across the world’s divides. www.iocf.org

CAUX-Initiatives of Change is a charitable Swiss Foundation. It owns and manages the Caux centre, for over 60 years home to international conferences. www.caux.ch

Held in the picturesque Swiss mountain village of Caux, the Caux Forum is organized by Initiatives of Change International and hosted in partnership with CAUX-Initiatives of Change.

We are grateful for the generous support the Forum has received from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Initiatives of Change national bodies and many individuals.

We are grateful too for the vast amount of pro bono work which makes the Forum possible.

CAUX-Initiatives of Change supports the Caux Forum for Human Security. For more information, please visit www.caux.ch.

Tunisian leaders discussed with India’s former Electoral Commissioner, the Chair of Transparency International India and others the challenges in shaping and sustaining a democratic tradition

Participants came from 21 countries of Africa

Colette Avital, International Secretary of Israel’s Labour Party, and Lucy Nusseibeh, Director of Middle East Non-violence and Democracy, Palestine, led a session on Israel and Palestine

An African says that what struck him most was simply the beauty of nature. ‘For someone from the Sahel, the greenery is incredible! When I open the window at home, everything’s dry and stony. And here at Caux, we also discover, through many encounters, the beauty in human nature. I was struck by the film about Yacouba Savadogo, who turned back the desert. I have 10 hectares of land, and I’ve never planted a tree. That must change.’

A politician adds, ‘Just before coming here, I lost a good friend. Here I’ve made another friend, who has listened to me. These days have challenged my intellectual vision and my political convictions. I leave transformed. My face does not close any more when I think of events I have lived through.’

The meeting ends. A sheet is passed around for addresses. We will keep in touch.

The Fifth Annual
CAUX FORUM for HUMAN SECURITY
8-15 July 2012
By invitation only due to limited space.
Expressions of interest welcome.

Caux Forum for Human Security Secretariat 5/6 Initiatives of Change International
Rue de Varembé 1, CH-1202 Geneva. Postal address: PO Box 3, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland
Phone +41(0)22 749 16 20  Fax +41 (0)22 733 02 67  Email humansecurity@cauxforum.net

www.cauxforum.net

Initiatives ofChange International is a non-governmental organization (NGO), working for peace, reconciliation and human security worldwide. It stresses the importance of personal

responsibility, ethical leadership and building trust across the world’s divides. www.iocf.org

CAUX-Initiatives of Change is a charitable Swiss Foundation. It owns and manages the Caux
centre, for over 60 years home to international conferences. www.caux.ch

Held in the picturesque Swiss mountain village of Caux, the Caux Forum is organized by

Initiatives of Change International and hosted in partnership with CAUX-Initiatives of Change.

We are grateful for the generous support the Forum has received from the Swiss Federal

Department of Foreign Affairs, Initiatives of Change national bodies and many individuals.

We are grateful too for the vast amount of pro bono work which makes the Forum possible.

CAUX-Initiatives of Change supports the Caux Forum for Human Security. For more information, please visit www.caux.ch.