

Forcing Change



Global Calendar of Events 2014

By Carl Teichrib (www.forcingchange.org)

Since *Forcing Change* came into existence eight years ago, I have pulled together an annual “Global Calendar of Events” (before that I compiled this calendar for an Indiana-based ministry, and still provide them with a shorter version). For many *FC* readers, including radio talk show hosts and other writers, this calendar is of special importance. Why? Because it puts a finger on the pulse of tomorrow.

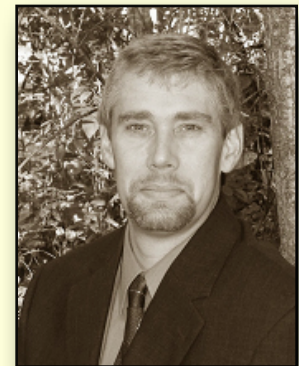
Each annual calendar offers a tangible list of “change events” set to transpire in the months ahead. The listings, therefore, present a verifiable time, place, and context for either social, religious, political or economic transformation - and sometimes all of the above come together in a single gathering. Consider this to be, roughly speaking, an event-based road map for 2014.

That said, it must be noted that this is a *limited calendar* as hundreds of other similar events will take place in the next twelve months; from security summits to meetings in the United Nations to conferences in the banking community to New Age festivals to symposiums on science and technology to gatherings of heads-of-state to organized demonstrations and campaigns. Everyone is looking to change the world in their own way, with their own vision, in support of their particular worldview. If anything, this calendar demonstrates that transformation doesn’t “just happen” - nor is it a “conspiracy theory” - rather, it’s the result of observable movements and actions, small and large, subtle and direct.

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Carl Teichrib, Editor

2014

2014: Each year receives designations from different groups, agencies, and organizations. For example, 2013 was the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation, while this new year will be the UN International Year of Small Island Developing States, the Year of Crystallography (the science of atomic arrangements), and the Year of Family Farming. A number of activities are formed around these designations; public relations and educational campaigns, conferences and meetings, and commitments from national governments to advance the particular cause being represented.

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of *Forcing Change*. *Thank you!***

One of the designations for 2014 comes from the Socialist International (SI), a large and influential association of socialist political parties, many of which form the governments of nations, provinces and cities. This designation, the *Year for Middle East Peace*, is built around a published political call, the *Declaration on Peace in the Middle East* (see page 22). The *Declaration* reads in part; “A high-level delegation of ministers from SI member parties in government will go to Israel and Palestine, to urge the Israeli government to cease activities counter-productive to the peace process and take the bold decisions necessary for peace.”

This year also marks the beginning of a declared decade, the “United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All” (2014-2024). It’s no surprise, therefore, to see a number of “sustainable development” events slated for 2014 [NOTE: many other sustainable development themed meetings are poised to happen beyond what is listed in this calendar, including numerous technical and issue-specific forums].

January 5-7: Towards A Nonviolent Future.

Where: Jalpur, India.

“Toward a Nonviolent Future” is the theme for the eighth International Conference on Peace and Nonviolent Activity, a world-unity conference program. Sponsored by the Anuvrat Global Organization and the Jain Vishva Bharati University, the speakers include the Dalai Lama, Mohammad Hamid Ansari (VP of India), and Vijay Mehta, the chairperson for the United Kingdom-based Uniting for Peace. Working sessions will focus on interfaith work for nonviolence, models for co-existence, the creation and nurturing of universal culture, environmental concerns, and the “Role of Youths in Creating a Peaceful World.”

January 9-10: Barcelona Workshop on Global Governance.

Where: Barcelona, Spain.

Global problems require global solutions: The “necessity” for international oversight forms the basis of the Barcelona Workshop, a platform where leading academics can explore the challenges and potential outcomes of world order changes – the institutional arrangements and requirements for global governance, and the networking needed to ensure a new framework for cooperation. Speakers at the Barcelona event include Narcis Serra (former Spanish Minister of Defense) and Javier Solana (Former NATO Secretary General).

January 22-25: World Economic Forum.**Where:** Davos-Klosters, Switzerland.

This annual event is the premier gathering of the planet's most influential leaders from business and industry, government, finance and banking, civil society and academia. Hence, what happens at the World Economic Forum reverberates throughout economic and political circles on every continent. Moreover, throughout the year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) hosts special regional meetings in Africa, the Middle East, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America. For 2014, the regional events are as follows;

- April 1-3: WEF on Latin America, Panama City, Panama.
- April 27-29: WEF on Europe, Middle East/North Africa and Eurasia, in Istanbul, Turkey.
- May 7-9: WEF on Africa in Abuja, Nigeria.
- May 21-23: WEF on East Asia in Manila, Philippines.
- November 17-19: WEF on India, New Delhi.

The theme for this year's Davos event is provocative – *The Reshaping of the World: Consequences for Society, Politics and Business*.

January 25-28: Rainbow Serpent.**Where:** Lexton, Victoria, Australia.

Rainbow Serpent is one of the most influential transformational festivals in the Southern Hemisphere. Going beyond the early days when it was primarily a music/dance event, Rainbow Serpent is now a unifying social/spiritual experience that incorporates yoga, radical inclusiveness, indigenous beliefs, workshops and lectures on consciousness, the release of boundaries, ecstatic encounters, and participation within an organic community. Part New Age festival, part social experiment, part entertainment and party - Rainbow Serpent represents a temporary portal into the new social/spiritual reality that's blooming around the world.

January 26: World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation.**Where:** Detroit, MI.

To be celebrated in Detroit's Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, the World Sabbath of Religious Reconciliation is a Michigan-based interfaith event "seeking to build a world of tolerance, justice, faithfulness, and peace." Readings, "offerings of prayers... from many beliefs," and music from a multitude of world faiths form the backbone of this inter-religious experience; The Jewish shofar is blown, Hindu dancers perform, and the Muslim Call to Prayer is chanted. Throughout the World Sabbath, youth play an integral part, participating in the songs, dances, readings and prayers, and through a special "Children of Peace" processional.

February 1: Transhuman Visions.**Where:** San Francisco, CA.

This is an intimate, one-day event, bringing together futurists, "biohackers," transhumanists, "immortalists," and cultural trendsetters. The purpose is to explore future directions in technology, bio-medical breakthroughs, and art and culture in the quest to achieve the transhuman dream of extreme life extension and the directed evolutionary revolution of becoming a new species.

February 1-2: All India Students' Conference on Science and Spiritual Quest.**Where:** Varanasi, India.

Seven hundred students, scientific and spiritual leaders, and academics from around the world will discuss the interplay between science and spirituality - and seek to find a synthesis between the two in a way that will harmonize humanity. Conference themes include; "Ultimate Reality - Scientific and Spiritual Paths," "Machines, Mind and Consciousness," "Biotechnology and Bioethics," "Spirituality and Environment," and "Science, Ethics and Spirituality." Economic management and its connection to spiritual themes will also be explored, as well as aspects of Vedanta (Hindu) Consciousness to science and the idea of cosmic spiritual unity.

**February 1-2:** Strategies for Sustainable Economic Development in the Green Era.**Where:** Dubai, UAE.

"Green banking" and the financing of global sustainable development will be explored in this international academic conference in Dubai. The following will be discussed: International capital markets, the pivotal role of the world financial community - the World Bank and national central banks in particular, the funding of "green industries" and the value of "social wealth," eco-friendly transportation and "green tourism," and the necessity to formulate an effective set of global management tools to ensure sustainable development.

February 11-12: Global Forum – From Ego to Eco-System Economics.**Where:** Boston, MA.

Held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and sponsored by difference MIT departments, this two day event is meant to foster big-picture economic transformation, moving away from individualism and capitalism while aiming towards group-conscious environmental systems - "shared ecosystem prosperity." Discussions will swirl around the topics of private property limitations, consumption patterns, land use, transportation, resource development, community healthcare, and economic-social functions.

February 10-17: Tribal Gathering.**Where:** "Uninhabited" beach on the Caribbean Coast, Panama.

This is a psychedelic transformational festival for "tribes of the world." Converging from around the planet, participants will experience an alternative reality built on themes of spiritual evolution, organic community, ecstatic dance and visionary art - with the main theme of moving humanity through the Chakras. Tribal Gathering is about a worldview shift encounter, connecting individuals to the global mind and the energy of the Earth. Couched as a "sustainability" event, this festival hosts workshops and lectures to help attendees change thinking patterns and behavior in ways that reflect global interdependence. Connecting humanity to the "spirit world" is explored through ceremonies and hands-on guidance from recognized Shamans.

February 14-16: National Preach-In on Climate Change.**Where:** United States of America.

The weekend from February 14-16 has been set aside as a time for religious leaders across the United States to speak out regarding climate change. Hundreds of pastors and teachers from different denominations and religions will deliver sermons on global warming, the need to change behaviours and values, and the desire for a united world response to stem “climate change.” The organization coordinating this National Preach-In is Interfaith Power and Light.

**February 14-17: Wisdom 2.0.****Where:** San Francisco, CA.

Over 2000 people are expected to attend the Wisdom 2.0 Conference, an immersive New Age-styled event that explores the role of “wisdom traditions” and alternative spirituality, social communication tools and advanced technologies, and evolutionary culture as mechanisms to achieve personal transformation and social change. Speakers for this years Wisdom 2.0 event include Arturo Bejar (Director of Engineering, Facebook), Eckhart Tolle (author of New Age books openly endorsed by Oprah Winfrey), Arianna Huffington (CEO, *Huffington Post*), Gopi Kallayil (Chief Evangelist, Google Social for Brands – yes, that’s his title at Google), and Jon Kabat-Zinn (internationally recognized meditation teacher).

February 14-17: PantheaCon.**Where:** San Jose, CA.

PantheaCon is entering its 20th year. This is a very large gathering of pagan and Wiccan practitioners from across North America, and the event incorporates rituals, lectures and workshops, and entertainment venues. To get a sense of the size, PantheaCon is held in the DoubleTree Hotel, and the event takes up the entirety of its 48,000 square feet of function space.



February 17-23: Hindu Environment Week.**Where:** India and worldwide.

The Bhumi Project, a Hindu ecology program launched through the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, is hosting the first Hindu Environment Week. Partnering with Oxford University and the Alliance of Religions and Conservation, an interfaith-ecology organization started by Prince Philip, the Bhumi Project and its Hindu Environment Week will be the launching pad for conferences, seminars, and other activities aimed at promoting a green consciousness within the global Hindu community. While India will be the nation most impacted, the scope of the Week is global with anticipated involvement from other corners of the world. One development will be the launching of the *Green Temple Handbook*.

February 24-26: World Ocean Summit.**Where:** San Francisco, CA.

Hosted by *The Economist* and *National Geographic*, this high-level event is specifically geared toward addressing the question of international ocean management as part of the “global ocean sustainability initiative.” To that end, “ocean governance” is the focal point; What will this look like and how to bring it about? How can major corporations encourage greater regulatory controls? What role will the United Nations play? Multinational corporations and global financial institutions? The World Bank? Federal governments and the European Union?

The speakers at the 2014 World Ocean Summit reflect the international nature of the event and the power circles being courted:

- HRH The Prince of Wales.
- Anibal Silva (Pres., Portugal).
- HSH Prince Albert II (Sovereign Prince of Monaco).
- Achim Steiner (Ex. Dir. United Nations Environment Programme).
- Ali Bongo Ondimba (Pres., Gabon).
- Sri Mulyani (Managing Director, World Bank).
- Jia Guide (Deputy Dir-General, Dept. of Treaty and Law, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China).
- David Balton (US Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries).
- Maria Pereira (Minister of the Environment, Chile).
- Jose Figueres (former Pres., Costa Rica).
- Maria Damanaki (Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, European Commission).
- Trevor Manuel (National Planning Commission, South Africa).
- Sharif Sutardjo (Minister of Marine Affairs, Indonesia).
- Lisel Alamilla (Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development, Belize).
- Bill Campbell (Pres., Equilibrium Capital Group).
- Andrew Sharpless (CEO, Oceana).
- Mark Tercek (Pres., Nature Conservancy).
- Julie Packard (Trustee, Packard Foundation).
- Christopher Conner (CEO, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics).
- Kristina Gjerde (Senior High-Seas Advisor, International Union for the Conservation of Nature).
- Rupert Thomas (VP Environment, Royal Dutch Shell).
- Daniel Franklin (Executive Editor, *The Economist*).
- David Miliband (Pres., International Rescue Committee and former UK Foreign Secretary).

- Masamichi Morooka (Chair, International Chamber of Shipping).
- Malcolm Preston (Global Head of Sustainability Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers).
- Michael Lodge (Deputy to the Secretary-General, International Seabed Authority).
- Jane Lubchenco (Administer, US National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration).

Sponsors and Supporters of the World Ocean Summit include;

- Blancpain (Swiss watch manufacturer).
- DNV GL (world's largest ship and offshore classification organization).
- Maersk Line (global shipping container company).
- Google.
- Shell.
- Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics (global shipping solutions company).
- National Geographic.
- BSR (global sustainability group networking with over 250 of the world's top companies).
- Conservation International.
- International Chamber of Shipping.
- Intrafish (news provider to the global seafood industry).
- Ocean Recovery Alliance (linked to UNEP and the Clinton Global Initiative).
- The Nature Conservancy (one of the largest nature-based organizations with a global reach).
- World Ocean Council (an alliance of businesses and groups working for ocean governance).

February 27-28: Regaining Control of the International Monetary System.

Where: Vienna, Austria.

As this year marks the 70th anniversary of the Bretton Woods system, with the World Bank and International Monetary Fund as its cornerstone institutions, a number of conferences and meetings will be held on the subject of global financial governance; its past, the present crisis, and possible futures. This event, "Regaining Control of the International Monetary System," is one such meeting, and is being hosted in cooperation with the Central Bank of Austria.

March 3-4: Focus on the Future - Empowering Agents of Change.

Where: San Jose, Costa Rica.

"Are you concerned about the pressing environmental, social, economic, and political challenges facing the world today? Each of us has the power to make a difference, to participate in improving our planetary future as agents of change." (conference call)

Sponsored by the Institute of Global Education, affiliated with the United Nations and the UN University for Peace, this event will bring together leading educators, social services personnel, academics and activists who are in-tune with the idea of being global "change agents" - facilitators working to shift values, ethics, and behavior for a new international paradigm, one that fits with the ideology of "sustainability." Speakers at this conference are representatives from various UN agencies and the United Nations University for Peace, including Mirian Vilella, UNESCO "Earth Charter" Chair on Education of Sustainable Development and Executive Director of the Earth Charter International Secretariat.



March 4-5: First Global Conference on UN Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE).
Where: Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

From a UNEP press release on the upcoming event; “The conference will be an opportunity to review the progress on implementing the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication following Rio+20, and also a chance to consider how greener economies can contribute to the emerging post-2015 development agenda and new global architecture for sustainability.”

This is no small event, as the purpose is to drive forward the concept of a global green economy through pilot projects in 30 countries, create international partnerships to that end, and transition societies toward sustainable development goals. Four UN agencies have agreed to collaborate on PAGE; the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organization, the UN Industrial Development Organization, and the UN Institute for Training and Research. Together, these agencies “will provide a comprehensive suite of green economy services that will enable countries to transform their national economic structures to meet the growing demands and challenges of the 21st century... PAGE will build enabling conditions in participating countries by shifting investment and policies towards the creation of a new generation of assets, such as clean technologies, resource efficient infrastructure, well-functioning ecosystems, green skilled labour and good governance.” (UNEP *Green Economy* news release)

March 19-23: Phoenix Phyre.

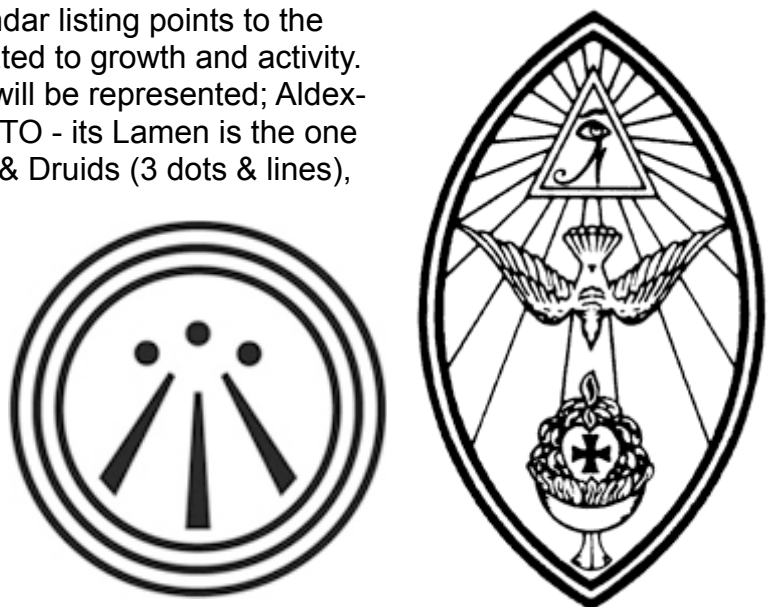
Where: Lakeland, Florida.

Established in 1992, this national pagan festival incorporates classes, seminars, group rituals, spiritual experiences, entertainment, and vendors servicing the pagan/Wiccan communities. Another Phoenix Festival is slated for October.

March 22: Occult Conference 2014.

Where: Glastonbury, UK.

While not a large conference, this calendar listing points to the fact that the occult community is dedicated to growth and activity. During this event, five occult traditions will be represented; Aldexandrian Wicca, Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO - its Lamen is the one with the dove), Order of Bards, Ovates & Druids (3 dots & lines), Dion Fortune Western Mystery Schools, and Illuminates of Thanateros. This conference will allow attendees and practitioners in these five streams to network, attend lectures on occult philosophy and practice, and come together in ritual encounters. A celebration of The Gnostic Mass is scheduled, as is the OTO “Mark of the Beast” ritual.



March 22-23: Anticipating 2025.**Where:** London, UK.

Hosted by Humanity+ and the London Futurists, this two day conference with 18 expert speakers will explore transhumanism – the technologically driven evolution of humanity – and the rush to shape our global future. The first day will broach the subject of “visions, nightmares, roadblocks, and plans.” On day two, the presentations will focus on “health, spirituality, politics, and transcendence.” Speakers include the Chairperson of Humanity+, Natasha Vita-More; Anders Sandberg from Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute; David Wood, the pioneer of the smartphone; and Ben McLeish from The Zeitgeist Movement.

April 5-11: United Nations World Urban Forum.**Where:** Medellin, Columbia.

Because cities are centers for political, economic, cultural and technological energy, the role of major urban centers within the international community has rapidly increased during the last decade. Helping cities to become global actors is the United Nations World Urban Forum, a significant event meant to strengthen the role of cities within the global system. This year, the 7th World Urban Forum (WUF7) is anticipated to bring 10,000 participants to the event. And like other World Urban Forum's in the past, this is being organized through UN-Habitat.

April 6-16: Latin American Forum on Global Governance.**Where:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Sponsored by Germany-based ZEIT-Stifung and Brazil's FGV think tank, this forum will focus on Latin American issues in the context of the global community and internationalism. Participants who are allowed to attend are young professionals between 25 and 35 years-of-age who have been nominated by senior government officials, heads of multinational corporations, and presidents of major universities.

April 9-11: United Nations Sustainable Development Transition Forum.**Where:** Incheon, South Korea.

Government representatives, academic figures, personnel from think tanks, and members of civil society will meet to share information on implementing sustainable development strategies, discuss challenges, and collaborate in bringing sustainable development to the policy forefront. Note: As sustainable development is being re-energized through the “United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All,” which lasts from 2014 to 2024, events like the Transition Forum will play an important role in strengthening the cause of international environmental management – bolstering the framework of global governance.

April 9-12: Business for Peace: Strategies for Hope.**Where:** Ypres, Belgium.

Meeting on the anniversary year of World War I, an important conference is taking place to commemorate the centennial of the “War to End All Wars.” This event is a joint venture between the Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative and the European SPES Forum, and it will bring to the Ypres battlefield a gathering of business leaders, scientists, human rights experts, and governmental officials – including the President of the European Council, Herman

Van Rompuy (who will speak on “Europe as a Peace Project”), and Mark Eyskens, the ex-Prime Minister of Belgium. Two spiritual thinkers, Franciscan Thomas Dienberg and Buddhist Zoltan Valcsicsak will tackle the subject of “Spirituality, Ecology and Peace.” One of the highlights of this conference will be the launching of the “Charter of Hope.”

April 8-10: Conference on International Law and Human Rights.

Where: Strasbourg, France.

Hosted by the influential Institute for Cultural Diplomacy, which has a battery of former and presently sitting high-power diplomats and politicians in its roster, this event will explore the role of international law in creating a world system of peace and global solidarity. Points to be considered include the enshrining of world law in national systems, countering political opposition to world law, “reconciling universal jurisdiction and sovereignty,” and reforming the global legal framework.

April 17-20: Marxism 2014 – Ideas to Challenge the System.

Where: Melbourne, Australia.

Marxism 2014 is the largest conference and film festival related to advancing Marxism in the Asia-Pacific region. Attending this event will be Marxist personalities from around the world, musicians, film makers, unionists, feminists, anti-Israel activists, environmentalists, and community organizers. A “Marxism for Beginner” program will be part of the event, as is the 2nd annual School of Rebellion, “a radical course for kids.” Other points of note within the conference programme include the “Radical History of Darwin,” “Theories of Revolution in Advanced Capitalist Societies,” “Why the Market can't Fix the Environment,” “The Origins of the Gay Community,” and “Western Marxism and the New Left.” The University of Melbourne Student Union is one of the official supporters of this event.

April 22: Earth Day.

Where: Global.

Around the world, children and adults from all cultures and religions will engage in Earth Day, a time to consider ecological issues and uphold the Earth. Started in 1970 with an overtly anti-Christian and anti-family tone, Earth Day has now become one of the most recognized “secular holidays” on the planet. Nevertheless, the “green pagan” aspect of this Day cannot be overlooked. Summing up Earth Day in 1990, the actor James Coburn said the following to Christian researcher, Caryl Matrisciana: “Mother Earth is our Mother. She's the Mother Goddess. She's the one we should be praising rather than raping. I mean, all of these people here today are here for one reason, because they are concerned about what's happening to the Earth, what Mankind is doing to the Earth... The Earth is a living organism. We're killing the one we love the most, and she loves us. We've got to praise our Mother Goddess!”

April 23-24: Future of Internet Governance.

Where: Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Officials from national governments, computer industry and IT leaders, and representatives from civil society will meet to discuss the future of global internet governance, web privacy, the scope and possible limits of national surveillance via the internet, and new rules for the interna-

tional digital age. Writing on this event, the Council on Foreign Relations notes; “It promises to be an uncomfortable meeting for the United States, potentially emboldening those who wish to wrest management of the Internet from the multi-stakeholder ICANN and place it in the hands of the International Telecommunications Union, where, ironically, it would be even more susceptible to national manipulation.”

April 28-May 3: International Conference on Sustainable Alternatives for Poverty Reduction and Ecological Justice.

Where: Antananarivo, Madagascar.

This is a multi-discipline, academic and religious-ecumenical conference operating under the banner; “A common search for solutions to global crisis and sustainable development.” Hosted by the World Council of Churches and with the support of the University of Saskatchewan, the University of New Hampshire, the Planta Europa Foundation and the Conference of European Churches, this event will strive to bridge church/religious leadership with sustainable development goals, calls for global wealth redistribution, climate change and “eco-justice” campaigns, and financing ideas for a new “ecological economics.”

April 30-May 4: The Beltane Gathering – A Sacred Sexuality Event.

Where: Darlington, Maryland.

Beltane is a pagan, Celtic fertility festival celebrated in Scotland, Ireland, England, and in other parts of the world, including the United States. To that end, Maryland's Beltane Gathering is an adult-only pagan festival that brings in about 300 participants for a time of fertility rituals and celebrations, workshops on everything from polyamory to spirituality, and a strengthening of the neo-pagan community.

May 1: May Day.

Where: Global.

May 1 is an international day for various reasons. Here are two May Day themes.

A) As a Northern European, pagan-based celebration of Spring and fertility, primarily through Celtic (Beltane) and Germanic traditions. Today, this aspect of May Day is celebrated in different ways, sometimes with obvious references to its pagan origins and aspects, and other times with low-key associations. May Day activities connected to this theme can include street carnivals and parades, fertility rituals and rites, fire celebrations, the raising of May Poles, etc.

B) International Workers' Day: A worldwide show of solidarity for workers and unions, with activities and organizations often reflecting the history of International Workers' Day, which is directly connected to the Second International – an association of Marxist and socialist political parties that endeavoured to create a new socialist order. At its first congress in 1889, May Day was declared as an international day of demonstration, and has been ever since. In its current context, May Day is a public call to support unions, socialist ideals, and to rally against capitalism. Therefore, it's not unusual to see Marxist and Communist banners at May Day demonstrations and parades.

May 2-6: Sustainable Humanity, Sustainable Nature: Our Responsibility.**Where:** Vatican City.

Bringing together leaders from the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, this multi-day workshop will examine the state of the Human-Nature relationship at the international level. A host of topics will be explored, including alternative economic models for sustainable development, "human-nature co-evolution," the issue of overpopulation, climate change and extreme weather events, protecting biodiversity, globalization and democracy, and international governance of the "global commons."

May 8-11: Beltania.**Where:** Florence, Colorado.

Built around the Beltane theme, this is a large pagan festival complete with rituals and ceremonies, music performances, rites of passage for young men and women, a Maypole dance, a May Queen and Green Man (representing the fertility spirits of the season), and Earth-honoring experiences and encounters.

May 19-23: Astana Economic Forum and World Anti-Crisis Conference.**Where:** Astana, Kazakhstan.

Political leaders from Kazakhstan are working hard to turn Astana, its capital, into a mecca for internationalism, primarily by hosting major world events in two areas; economic transformation and religious dialogue.



On the economics side, the Astana Economic Forum brings together many Nobel Prize winners, heads of financial institutions and monetary experts from around the world to discuss "new macroeconomic realities" and global financial governance. In 2013, more than 12,000 delegates attended the Forum, which is established to "connect [the] global community in development of recommendations for current global issues."

Running in conjunction with the Forum is the World Anti-Crisis Conference, attended by monetary and fiscal policy makers from 100 countries. The purpose: To implement the *Astana Declaration*, a roadmap document that calls to radically strengthen global governance, integrate world markets, create a new "global financial architecture," and institute the true globalization of currencies. Furthermore, as the world is now on the eve of the 70th anniversary of the Bretton Woods agreements, which created the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the time is ripe – according to conference organizers – to consider "the future of the International monetary system..." Toward this end, a plenary session will take place with UN officials, representatives from the IMF and World Bank, and delegates from national governments, to be followed with a roundtable titled, "Dialogue of the Continents."



May 24-30: Borders Without Boundaries - Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.
Where: St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada.

Held in Brock University, this is a pro-socialist/Marxist, academic-based congress. The main speaker is Dr. Prabhat Patnaik, an Indian-based Rhodes scholar who sat on a United Nations task force that recommended “reforms of the global financial system.”

May 26-29: Paths to Dialogue in our Age
Where: Melbourne, AU.

Drawing from the precedent of Vatican II, the Centre for Inter-religious Dialogue at Australian Catholic University is building on the historical push to advance global interfaithism. To that end, the Centre is hosting an “international theological conference” to celebrate interfaith development, explore new approaches, and consider challenges. Global oneness through religious cooperation – world unity and peace, and the “wellbeing of humanity and the entire cosmos in our age” – is the underlying theme that resonates through this event.

June 4-5: G8 Summit.
Where: Sochi, Russia.

The Summit of the Group of Eight brings together Heads of State from the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, Italy, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom. In fact, this is the 40th anniversary of the G7/G8. And like other Summits, the 2014 event will be a time when world leaders will work together in considering global priorities and outlining solutions to pressing world issues. Anticipated points of discussion include regional security in the Middle East and the rise of BRICS – a relatively new international bloc comprised of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South America.



June 13-14: Tallberg Forum.
Where: Tallberg, Sweden.

Organized by the Tallberg Foundation, which works to encourage world harmony, global social evolution and interdependence, this Forum will bring together approximately 300 social, political and cultural leaders to brainstorm toward a new vision of internationalism.

June 15-22: Pagan Spirit Gathering.
Where: Earlville, IL.

This annual week-long pagan festival is one of the largest in the United States, and one of the oldest, with its beginnings going back to 1980. Over 150 activities take place at PSG, including many workshops, rituals, entertainment venues, network meetings, and a continuously burning Sacred Fire. Two items of note that have gained this event some fame are its Summer Solstice Ritual and the 1000-candle labyrinth. There's also a leadership development program hosted by the Pagan Leadership Institute during the week of PSG.

June 18-20: A Crisis of Global Governance?**Where:** Dublin, Ireland.

“A Crisis of Global Governance?” is the theme for this year’s annual gathering of the British International Studies Association (BISA). Primarily an academic organization and conference, the meeting will nevertheless delve into the question of modern global governance: What can be done to overcome inadequacies and ensure a robust and effective system comes into existence? The international dilemmas that have forced this reflection are many. According to the BISA, they include the inability to ensure lasting peace in Iraq and Afghanistan – which reflects poorly on the United Nations and NATO – and the inadequacies of the International Monetary Fund, the G8 and the G20, to meet the challenges of the global economic downturn. Participants of the BISA conference will explore these topics and suggest ways to bolster international governance.

June 19-21: Global Governance: Engaging New Norms and Emerging Challenges.**Where:** Istanbul, Turkey.

This is the annual meeting of the Academic Council on the United Nations System (ACUNS), with the conference theme built around the concept of international governance – its historical rise, its current health and vitality, and the future of global governance in the face of emerging security and economic challenges. The role of the United Nations will be explored, including the potential for new models and alternatives in promoting and managing international cooperation.

ACUNS is a global and professional research organization aimed at supporting and advocating global governance through the United Nations system. It has Category 1 Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

June 20-29: World Pride.**Where:** Toronto, Ontario.

Toronto will be hosting the world’s largest public gathering of the “LGBTTIQQ2SA community” during the World Pride Parade. Rightly viewed as an international event with considerable social and political clout, it is anticipated that over 2 million people from the global LGBTTIQQ2SA community will participate; LGBTTIQQ2SA stands for “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, 2-Spirited, and Allies.” What makes this significant is not just the gathering of people expressing an alternative sexual lifestyle, but its powerful political outreach, one that has ensured an official endorsement and funding from the Ontario provincial government and the City of Toronto. Activism and educational campaigns are part of this event, along with a human rights conference, the WorldPride Gala and Awards, the Trans March and Dyke March.

June 26-29: Socialism 2014.**Where:** Chicago, IL.

The Chicago district of the International Socialist Organization, a large socialist/Marxist organization with approximately 90 branches in the USA, holds an annual summer conference to bolster activism, strengthen the ranks, and pursue the goal of Marxism – domestically and abroad. Hundreds of students, community organizers, educators, feminists, labor representa-

tives, environmentalists and activists took part in the 2013 event, and this year – due in part to last year's success – will see an additional day given for more meetings and networking. Find below a selection of text from the ChicagoSocialists.org website that highlight themes from 2013. Expect more of the same this year, but with increased energy as socialism/Marxism gains traction in universities and within youth movements.

“Teacher, parent and student activists discussing the way forward for the struggle for education justice. Environmental activists strategizing about next steps for the movement. Independent journalist Glenn Greenwald speaking out on the crimes of the national security state. Socialists from Greece, Egypt and Britain describing the challenges ahead for the revolutionary left. LGBT activists highlighting the struggle for transgender rights. Idle No More activists linking historic First Nation and Native American struggles with those today. Electronic Intifada's Ali Abunimah on the Palestinian struggle. Discussions about the importance of Marxist theory today.”



THE
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION

June 29-July 6: California Witchcamp.

Where: Mendocino, CA.

This week-long event is listed here, not because it's large, but because it represents an aspect of the spiritual interest of the Western world that's growing in size and influence. At this event, witches from California and other parts of the US will gather in the deep woods outside of Mendocino for a time of spiritual experiences, rituals and rites, and the formation of a temporary and inclusive Wiccan/pagan community – “a magical journey of spiritual and personal growth.”

July 1-3: Earth System Governance.

Where: Norwich, UK.

Only a few short years ago a new global initiative was launched; the Earth System Governance Project (ESGP), the world's “largest social science research network in the area of governance and global environmental change.” Working in partnership with the United Nations University, the International Council for Science and the International Social Sciences Council, ESGP targets four specific areas, 1) Global Water System, 2) Global Food Systems, 3) Global Climate Systems, 4) Global Economic Systems.

In 2014, ESGP is hosting their high-influence annual conference at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK. This event will focus on resource allocation governance – how to effectively manage the world's natural resources and the economic benefits that follow, and how to correlate global environmental governance with human rights, social duties, economic risks, and collective responsibilities. Governance strategies will be explored, including the role of new technologies. The conference will also consider current blockages to global governance and “earth system transformation,” and review options to overcome these political, economic, and social hindrances.

July 5-7: Sustainable Development Conference, 2014 - Green Technology, Renewable Energy and Environmental Protection.

Where: Bangkok, Thailand.

Targeting government officials and policy makers, international environmental organizations, business leaders, and academics from around the world, this event will consider global environmental management strategies, green economics, recommended energy policies and regulations, “green energy systems,” climate change campaigns, corporate responsibilities to achieving sustainable development goals, and social concerns.

July 8-14: Starwood Festival.

Where: Pomeroy, Ohio.

Starwood is an influential New Age and pagan/Wiccan festival that has been culturally significant, spurring and birthing similar events and neo-pagan groupings. It's a large gathering (1500-1800) with a wide array of workshops, seminars, rituals, spirit drumming, sacred fires, labyrinths, and community building activities. Starwood is also noted for the personality heavy-weights who have participated since 1981, including the likes of Timothy Leary, LaSara Fire-Fox, and Ralph Metzner.

The following text comes from the 2014 Starwood website; “We welcome you to the Starwood Festival; a celebration of diversity and alternatives in belief systems, lifestyles, and spirituality. Here you will never find a struggle to define which truth is the 'real' truth, but rather a community of explorers...”

July 11-13: WorldFuture 2014 – What If?

Where: Orlando, Florida.

This is the annual event of the World Future Society, an international organization of futurists, world order advocates, spiritual explorers, corporate leaders, technological and social trendsetters, political players, New Age personalities, visionaries, and a wide range of professionals who support global unity and human advancement – including the concepts of transhumanism.

Each WorldFuture conference examines major trends and forecasts, and what it takes to shape our future. Topics fitting this year's theme of “What If?” include “Progress City 2.0,” “The Geopolitical Future 25 Years from Now,” “The Pacific Alliance in the Global Future,” “Backing Into Eden: Playing God with Plants and Animals,” “The Future of Sex,” and “Singularity University: Team Projects to Positively Change the World” (SI is a leading transhumanist institution located in NASA's Research Park in California).

August (exact date not released): Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

Where: Bali, Indonesia.

The Global Forum is a major conference hosted by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), a UN organization dedicated to world harmony by bridging cultures, religions, and civilizations in global understanding and unifying activities, and “to generate collective political will” toward that end. At the Global Forum, high level government officials and leaders from many non-governmental organizations will work with the UNAOC toward a vision of world unity and oneness.

August 4-11: BOOM Festival.**Where:** Idanha-a-Nova, Portugal.

Tens of thousands will converge at the massive BOOM Festival, a world renowned psychedelic-transformational event that incorporates a massive Dance Temple to trigger “mystical states of awareness,” a “Sacred Fire” arena “that honors and promotes attunement with Mother Nature,” a healing space for group yoga, and other features that promote ecstatic collective encounters. BOOM is one of many “transformational festivals” taking place in 2014.

August 7-9: Just Sustainability - Hope for the Commons.**Where:** Seattle, WA.

Held at the Jesuit-based Seattle University and sponsored through its Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability, this academic conference fits with the theme of its hosting organization, “to inspire and prepare a generation of leaders to meet the unprecedented ethical challenge facing humankind in the early 21st century: forcing a sustainable relationship between humankind and planet Earth.” To that end, the *Just Sustainability* conference is hoping to springboard an “EJS [environmental justice and sustainability] network of Jesuit institutions.”

August 8-10: World Humanist Congress.**Where:** Oxford, England.

Every three years humanist scholars and atheist personalities meet for the World Humanist Congress. In 2014 the Congress takes place in Oxford's Sheldonian Theatre, the place where Oxford graduates receive their degrees under the latin banner, *Dominus illuminatio mea* - “The Lord is my light.”

The purpose of the Congress is to support humanism as a worldwide intellectual movement, and to create new contacts and expand humanist networks. This year, the Congress theme is: “Freedom of Thought and Expression: Forging a 21st Century Enlightenment.” Some of the confirmed speakers include Richard Dawkins, author of *The God Delusion*; A.C. Grayling, author of *The God Argument*; Wole Soyinka, Nobel Prize in Literature; Greg Epstein, the Humanist Chaplain at Harvard University; University of Minnesota's P.Z Meyers, who's labeled as “a godless liberal biologist” in the Congress speaker's list; Richard Bartle, co-creator of virtual world programming; and Catherine Dunphy, who runs the Clergy Project, “an invitation-only online peer support community for active and former clergy who have lost their faith.”

August 10-13: Bridging Borders and Boundaries.**Where:** Detroit, MI.

Hosted by the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), this conference will bring together religious leaders from Canada and the United States to pursue interfaith cooperation and the ideal of religious equality. And as the Islamic Center of America is located in the Detroit metro area, it's anticipated that a NAIN visit to this mosque will correlate with their conference.

August 25-September 1: Burning Man.**Where:** Black Rock Desert, Nevada.

Burning Man is a massive transformational festival and counterculture celebration in the Black Rock Desert of northern Nevada. How large is it? In 2013 the attendance topped 68,000.

In the final weeks of August, a tent-camper city arises out of the sand. This town, known as Black Rock City, is built in a massive C-configuration around an enormous human effigy: The Man. Constructed out of wood, this towering figure is the focal point of the week-long celebration. At the end of the week, the Man is ritually razed to the ground, followed by the burning of the Temple on Sunday. This Temple is an artistically designed shrine built with the Burning Man theme in mind. In 2012 the theme was Fertility, and last year it was Cargo Cult.

Burning Man is a celebration of inclusiveness, radical self reliance and expression, community building and participation – with a combination of bohemian living, “self discovery,” sexual adventurism, and pagan encounters. Artisans of all stripes create unique sculptures, theme camps arise, and music stages are assembled. Clothing is optional.

Burning Man is considered a “petri-dish for postmodernism,” seeking to experience the building of a temporary utopian community that reflects “what the world could be.” NOTE: Throughout 2014, dozens of “Regional Burns” take place in other US states, and around the world, including AfrikaBurn in South Africa.

August 31-September 4: The Value of Values: Spiritual Wisdom in Everyday Life.**Where:** Oxford, UK.

“Value of Values” is the theme of this year's annual conference of the Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative (GCGI), hosted in association with the School of Economic Science. This event seeks to explore and advance the idea of global Oneness – the interdependence of individual, group, and “whole-systems” consciousness as a cornerstone to building a global spiritual values system; “Our universal spiritual values will focus our minds on our common humanity and destiny.”

As an organization, GCGI was born through an Oxford-based conference in 2002, and has since fuelled an international, inter-disciplinary conference series that takes a holistic approach; integrating interfaith spirituality and “wisdom” teachings, global economic parameters, and world law and global governance – the social, economic, political and spiritual tools required for a transformed world society, “globalisation for the common good.” GCGI is considered “the UK's leading progressive think tank,” and it partners with a number of institutions, including Chicago's Loyola University, Plater Jesuit College (Oxford, UK), University of Birmingham (UK), California Lutheran University, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform (Turkey), and the World Congress of Faiths.

September 1-4: United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States.**Where:** Apia, Samoa.

This is an important conference in that it sets policy direction and seeks to implement United Nations directives in relationship to small island nations, and, specifically, as this pertains to global sustainable development goals. A special UN Secretariat has been placed in charge of ensuring the conference process receives input from the spectrum of United Nations agencies.

September 10-12: Annual Meeting of the New Champions.**Where:** Tianjin, China.

Since 2007, the World Economic Forum has hosted a special annual event, the Meeting of the New Champions – “the foremost global gathering on science, technology and innovation...” Bringing together 1,500 participants from 90 countries, the New Champions represent the cutting edge of young professionals in the realm of innovative technologies, social trends, and science – hence, this group is dubbed “the Global Shapers.” In 2014, like other years, this gathering will include governmental leaders, key members of academia, and economic gurus, ensuring that global networking takes place and information flows between top innovators, policy makers, financial players, and trendsetters – “for a true global experience.” Strategic partners for the New Champions include Barclays, Chevron, Cisco, Citi, Deutsche Bank, Dow, Goldman Sachs, Google, HSBC, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley, Prudential, Saudi Aramco, Siemens, Toshiba and Visa, among many other powerful multinationals. Furthermore, there are two “Strategic Foundation Partners,” Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

September 17-18: Congress of World Religions, Secretariat Session.**Where:** Astana, Kazakhstan.

In 2003, Astana and the government of Kazakhstan hosted the first Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, a global inter-faith event bringing together recognized experts from a multitude of religions and spiritual traditions. The purpose: To promote global peace and world unity through the collective work of religions. This is to take place with tangible actions in mind, including the application of cooperative pressure to strengthen international security, speaking to global economic and social issues, contributing to the “spiritual improvement of society,” ensuring the spiritual guidance of young people, and partnering for sustainable development. To aid world religions in this global unity agenda, the Congress of World Religions established an international Secretariat, housed in Astana, and attached to the Kazakhstan government.

This September, the Secretariat – a small but important group with representatives from Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism and Taoism – is hosting its 13th session, which will focus on the theme and details of the next Congress of World Religions.

September 21: International Day of Peace and Vigil.**Where:** Global.

Instituted by the United Nations, the International Day of Peace (IDP) is meant to bring the world closer to peaceful co-existence. All major religions participate in this annual day marked with peace ceremonies, interfaith prayer meetings, concerts and celebrations, peace rituals, and meditations for world harmony. Associated with the IDP is the International Day of Peace Vigil, a grassroots spiritual component to the IDP project. This vigil has been supported by Hindu groups like the Aetherius Society, the Church of Scientology, In the Light – an interfaith Hindu/Muslim organization, the Buddhist Yun Lin Temple, and the Mennonite Central Committee.



September 22-23: United Nations World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Where: New York, NY.

This is a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on advancing the UN *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*, and promoting an international indigenous movement – including issues of sovereignty and legal standing in the global community, the role of native spirituality, treaty obligations, land and resource demands, economic and eco-justice claims, and the rights of Mother Earth. An outcome document is expected from this General Assembly event.

September 23: United Nations Climate Summit 2014.

Where: New York, NY.

With the looming 2015 deadline approaching for a new and powerful UN climate framework – a “legal global agreement on climate change” – the United Nations Secretary-General is hosting an intense one-day conference to pressure governments towards committing to tangible political actions of support. In fact, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Special Envoys in December, 2013, who will “assist in engaging Heads of State and Government[s] around the world in order to mobilize political will and action...” According to the Climate Summit webpage, this event will give governments the opportunity “to bring bold announcements and actions... to raise the level of ambition through new and more robust action on climate change.”

And of course the UN wants a new “legal global agreement” in place and operational – the sooner the better – for it will go a long way in making operational the Green Climate Fund (GCF). What is the GCF? Agreed upon during the 2010 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the GCF is supposed to be a global-in-scope financial clearing house and development bank, funded through *large* amounts of “public capital” (taxes) and potentially via private investment partnerships. Think of it as a global-green holding/lending institute, kind of like the World Bank, IMF, and Wall Street rolled up into a new and legally binding world “credit union,” with government-members forming the board. Once the GCF is in place, massive amounts of generated funds would then be injected into UN approved national green projects and North-South financial transfer programs. Effectively, the GCF would elevate the UN's political clout with national governments, regional groupings like the European Union, and other international entities like the World Bank.

October 17-26: Global Week of Action for a World Parliament.

Where: Global.

The Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly will be hosting an international action week in the fall of 2014. This time slot is dedicated to advancing the cause of a “world parliament” – a world government designed around a democratically elected international parliamentary system. Organizers and participants will be engaged in public relations and advocacy campaigns, lobbying and awareness activities, marches, demonstrations, and workshops. During the 2013 Global Week of Action, workshops and discussion groups were organized in Brussels, London, Barcelona, and Buenos Aires. All told, some 50 cities around the world had an organized and active pro-World Parliament campaign during the 2013 Week of Action. More lobbying and advocacy pressure is expected for the 2014 Global Week of Action.

Autumn (exact date unknown): World Religions Conference.

Where: Waterloo, Ontario.

For the past three decades, the World Religions Conference (WRC) has convened so that religious scholars can “pool their collective wisdom and teachings” while focussing on the pressing issues of the day. Each year a theme is introduced to set the tone, and religious representatives from Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and other spiritual communities, speak to this given theme. Overall the WRC promotes universal and religious pluralism, world peace through unity-in-diversity, the brotherhood of faiths, and internationalism. At the point of writing this, both the theme and dates for the 2014 event have not yet been released.

November 10-12: World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development.

Where: Okayama, Japan.

Hosted by UNESCO, this event will work to “coordinate global efforts to address, through education, the social, environmental, economic, and cultural challenges of the 21st century, focusing on three key issues: climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction as entry points for promoting sustainable development practices through education.” The conference motto is, “Learning Today for a Sustainable Future.”

This is an invitation-only event, with approximately 1000 participants expected from national governments – including Ministers of Education, academia, accredited non-governmental organizations, youth bodies, and UN agencies.

November 15-16: G20 Summit.

Where: Brisbane, Australia.

The Group of Twenty Summit is the gathering of Heads-of-State and ministerial level representatives from the top 20 economies in the world. This year the G20 is being pushed toward considering deeper financial structural concerns, including the promotion of global trade agreements and reforming the International Monetary Fund. The Council on Foreign Relations is particularly interested in having the G20 Summit birth a G20 Foreign Ministers Forum – a regular meeting of G8 foreign ministers who would work to find common ground on matters of regional security and stability (especially in the Middle East).

December 1-12: United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Where: Lima, Peru.

Building on previous climate conferences, and leading up to the highly-charged 2015 Kyoto successor treaty, the Lima meeting is anticipated to be a pressure-cooker event – a time of intense negotiations, arm twisting, and back-room deals. Why? This is the last conference before the 2015 Kyoto restructuring deadline kicks in, and the international community and national governments are keen to advance a revised global management framework on “climate change.” **FC**

DECLARATION ON PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

NOTE: This is the complete Socialist International (SI) declaration.

The Council of the Socialist International, meeting in Istanbul on 11-12 November 2013 held discussions on Middle East peace with the participation of member parties from Israel and Palestine.

Recalling the previous declarations of the SI on the Middle East, in particular the statement of the SI Council in New York in June 2010 and the Socialist International Middle East Committee (SIMEC) in June 2011, and with the full participation and support of Palestinian and Israeli delegations, the Council:

- Calls for an end to Israeli occupation, and respect for the right to self determination of the Palestinian people.
- Calls for the establishment of two national states existing side by side based on the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem.
- Condemns the continuous construction of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories whilst peace negotiations are going on as a contravention of international law.
- Supports the EU decision to apply the terms of the Association Agreement with Israel only to areas included within the 1967 borders.
- Calls for the immediate cessation of the demolition of Palestinian homes.
- Calls for an end to the siege of Gaza.
- Calls for the release of terminally ill prisoners and administrative detainees
- Calls for a halt to demographic and geographic measures that change the status of East Jerusalem as an occupied territory.

We recognise the intensive efforts taken to renew the peace process. In solidarity with our member parties who have shown their full commitment and dedication to a peaceful solution to the Israel Palestine conflict, and wishing to encourage and give a renewed impetus to the process, the SI Council resolves to designate 2014 as the *Year for Middle East Peace*. Over the course of 2014, the SI and its member parties will take a series of coordinated actions in support of our long held objective of peace between Palestine and Israel, and call on the Israeli government to enter seriously into negotiations that will lead to this goal. These actions will include:

1. Parliamentarians from SI member parties will introduce discussions in their respective assemblies on Middle East peace in order to place this crucial issue on the legislative agenda. The presence of elected representatives of SI member parties in dozens of parliaments, assemblies and congresses across the world can ensure that during the *Year for Middle East Peace*, our vision for a two state solution is never off the legislative agenda.

2. A high level delegation of ministers from SI member parties in government will go to Israel and Palestine, to urge the Israeli government to cease activities counterproductive to the peace process and take the bold decisions necessary for peace. The delegation will stand alongside Israelis and Palestinians united by their desire for peace and reconciliation in a demonstration of our shared will to make 2014 the *Year for Middle East Peace*.
3. SI members pledge that their party leaderships will write to the Israeli ambassadors in their respective countries, informing them of the SI's *Year for Middle East Peace* and calling upon the Israeli government to genuinely work to this end.
4. The Socialist International will coordinate an international day of action, during which member parties across the world will demonstrate in support of Middle East peace, working with members to ensure that the event receives local and global media attention.
5. The next meeting of the Socialist International at the Assembly of the Inter-parliamentary Union will place peace in the Middle East at the heart of its agenda and ensure that our parliamentarians speak at this gathering with a united voice to bring our initiative to the centre of the debates at that assembly.
6. Member parties will mobilise their members in support of the International's goal of peace, raising awareness at a national level and building a grass roots network that can engage in coordinated action.
7. SI member parties will report to the next two Councils of the International, scheduled for 2014, on their activities and initiatives in line with the *Year for Middle East Peace*.

Parties participating in the Council have pledged their support to these actions as part of the 2014 Year for Middle East Peace. Between now and the end of the year 2013, the Socialist International will invite the leaders of all its member parties to formally make this pledge, placing this call for action at the centre of our agenda from the very beginning of the year .

A coordinated, sustained campaign which mobilises action from the grass roots up to the level of Heads of State and Government can make a tangible difference to the prospects for peace and a two state solution in Israel and Palestine. The successful realisation of the 2014 Year for Middle East Peace can serve as a platform for future coordinated actions and initiatives of our global family.
