



Documenting international co-operation

Since its foundation in 1907, the Union of International Associations (UIA) has been documenting the nature and evolution of international civil society.

Today, the UIA is the oldest, largest and most comprehensive source of information on global civil society and a unique repository for current and historical data on the work of international associations.

Besides being a non-profit, independent research institute, the UIA provides a platform for global non-governmental cooperation, collaborating with, providing services to, and promoting international associations. By documenting the work of International Nongovernmental Organizations and Intergovernmental Organizations and reflecting the collective views of international bodies, the UIA also promotes public awareness of their activities. Making civil society visible on a global stage—that is the main purpose of the UIA.

Serving global civil society

By providing reliable and comprehensive information on global civil society actors, the UIA pursues the following major objectives:

- Facilitate the development and efficiency of non-governmental networks and disseminate information on international bodies, their interrelationships, their meetings, and the problems and strategies with which they are concerned.
- Experiment with meaningful and action-oriented ways of presenting such information to enable these initiatives to develop and reinforce each other creatively.
- Act as a catalyst for the emergence of new forms of associative activity and international co-operation.
- Promote research on the legal, administrative and other problems common to international associations.
- Contribute to a universal order based on principles of human dignity, solidarity of peoples and freedom of association and communication.



More than 100 years of service

The UIA was founded in 1907 by Nobel Peace Prize winner Henri La Fontaine, and father of information science Paul Otlet, in order to support the emerging transnational associations, known today as civil society. The UIA was to provide services, including management of relations between international associations, study of questions of common interest, creation of new organizations, international instruction, management of publications and documentation, among others. Notable UIA lobbying successes include: the 1919 Belgian law providing special legal facilities for international associations, contributing to the establishment of the League of Nations, and to the founding of the International University.

Following World War II, the UIA resumed its activities in 1948, no longer as a federation of international associations, but as a research centre for documentation, study, service, and the promotion of closer relations between international associations. To this day, the UIA carries out the sophisticated and visionary concepts of its founders.

The UIA Global Civil Society Database

The UIA offers a wide range of products and services to international associations, the academic world and the general public. The UIA's most important projects are:

International Congress Calendar

The International Congress Calendar comprises meetings and events organized or sponsored by intergovernmental (IGOs) and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) working worldwide. Meetings from 1851 to 2036 are covered, over 3,500 of which are future meetings. Information on all meetings is collated by an editorial staff and presented in a standardized format to facilitate comparison and statistical analysis. The meetings data compiled by the UIA are analyzed in great detail in its Annual International Meetings Statistics Report.

Yearbook of International Organizations

The Yearbook of International Organizations includes detailed information on over 41,000 active and 32,000 dormant international organizations from 300 countries and territories. Some 1,200 new organizations are added each year.

Expertly edited by specialized staff, the Yearbook is a trusted tool for studies and research in all areas of civil society activities, including Political Science, Law, International Studies, International Relations, Sociology, Demography and Peace Studies. It is available both online and in print.

Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential

The Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential is a unique, experimental research work published as a searchable online platform with profiles of world problems, action strategies, and human values that are interlinked in novel and innovative ways. By concentrating on the links and relationships of problem cycles and thus sustainable strategy cycles, the Encyclopedia is uniquely positioned to bring focus to the complex and expansive sphere of global issues and their interconnected nature and offer a radically different perspective to associations, policy-makers, social researchers and those concerned with development strategy.

UIA Associations Round Tables

The UIA Association Round Tables promote, facilitate and enable expanded dynamism in the work of international associations. In each of their varied and attractive locations, the Round Tables focus on structured training, educational and networking opportunities. They are famous for opening up the mind and the senses to local cultural events; they invariably provide outstanding food and beverage experiences.

The Round Tables bring association participants into friendly and productive contact with Convention Bureaux and with leaders of significant international institutions.



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