

UNESCO/UC3M Chair in Public Freedoms and Civic Values: Annual Report 2015



Cátedra UNESCO UC3M en libertades públicas
y valores cívicos



Annual Report, 2015

TITLE OF THE CHAIR: UNESCO UC3M CHAIR IN PUBLIC FREEDOMS AND CIVIC VALUES

HOST INSTITUTION: UNIVERSITY CARLOS III DE MADRID (UNIVERSIDAD CARLOS III DE MADRID)

DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHAIR: NOVEMBER 2012

PERIOD OF ACTIVITY UNDER REPORT: JANUARY 2015/DECEMBER 2015

REPORT ESTABLISHED BY: ALICIA CEBADA ROMERO, CHAIRHOLDER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC INTERNATIONAL LAW, UNIVERSITY CARLOS III DE MADRID.

1) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the third year of activity of the Chair, the website and the blog have been consolidated as essential tools for the dissemination of the Chair's activities. The debate on different topics has also been channeled mainly through the blog: www.iuscogens.com

The Chair's team has undertaken research on different areas including: sexual violence in conflict; women, climate change and communication; Conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo; religion and multiculturalism; right to food; women business environment in Kenya; Gender and Sustainable Development Goals. The research undertaken so far has resulted in a considerable number of scientific articles, chapters and papers. A new PhD dissertation on the Right to Food in Mexico – under the supervision of the Director of the Chair -, has been submitted in December 2015 and it is going to be presented in February 2016. Research on all the topics mentioned will be continued in 2016.

The Chairholder's action in the field has been developed within the framework of a cooperation agreement with Women for Africa Foundation to manage projects in different African countries. This Agreement is in line with the fact that Africa is a priority at UNESCO. Chairholder is coordinating projects under the umbrella of Women for Africa Foundation in Ghana, Mali, Tanzania and Kenya.

The Chair continues to establish contacts with other UNESCO Chairs in Spain, Latin-America and Africa. The Chair has established contacts with UNESCO Office in Mali. The Chair has also taken part in a UNESCO Chairs meeting organized by University of Valencia and focused on the contribution of UNESCO Chairs to the 2030 Development Agenda.

The Chair has worked closely and will continue to do so with the UC3M Vice-President of Equality and with the International Cooperation Office at the University.

The Chair has organized a seminar on the conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo, conflict. In 2016 the Chair will host and organize a seminar on Women and Yihadism, focusing on the situation in Africa, particularly in Mali.

2) **ACTIVITIES**

a) **Education/Training/Research**

i. Education

The following courses have been offered within the framework of different degrees at Carlos III University:

- “Periodismo Internacional II” (International Journalism), in Spanish. Compulsory course in the degrees of Journalism and Communication/Journalism. With focus on the analysis of international relations, international conflicts and international legal order. (“Sept –Dec. 2015).
- “Peace and Conflict Resolution”, optional course in various Degrees in Engineering, in English (Sept- October, 2015).
- Various sessions on human rights protection, sexual violence in armed conflicts, women and development, international mediation and international conflict analysis have been given within the framework of different Masters Degrees at Carlos III University: Master in Human Rights, Master in International Cooperation, Expert Degree in International Conflicts Management and Expert Degree in Mediation.

ii. Training (short term)

March, Training in Leadership – Accra, Ghana, within the framework of the Women for Africa’ project: Ghana Wins. Addressed to a group of 15 women social leaders from Ghana. The chair was in charge of giving a session on conflict resolution styles



June, one week intensive training in Leadership at the School of Nursing, Accra, Ghana, for the 10 nurses participating in the Ghana Wins Project. This project is sponsored by Women for Africa Foundation and Bank of Santander and the Chairholder is the project coordinator.



August, Training in Leadership, New York, Wagner Leadership Center, NYU, within the framework of the Women for Africa’s project: Ghana wins. In charge of the session on Negotiation Skills.



October, Workshop on the Conflict in the Republic Democratic of Congo, at University Carlos III, sponsored by the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, in cooperation with Women for Africa Foundation. Video of this Workshop available [HERE](#).



October, Workshop on Climate Change: Towards Global Change

December, Workshop on Civil Society and Global Change: the role of civil society in Cooperation for Development. High School – La Senda Galiana, Madrid.

iii) Research

The Chair Team is engaged in research in the following areas:

* Peace and Security:

a) We are working with Women for Africa Foundation within the framework of the project: Supporting Malian Women for peace. This project includes research on the contribution of women to the national reconciliation process. In the following months research will be focused on Women and Yihadism

b) Member of the research project “Global Security and Human Rights: a Spanish and European Perspective”, led by Professor Fernando Flores, from the University of Valencia.

c) The Chair has prepared a research project on the action of the European Union in the Republic Democratic of Congo, focusing on Security and Justice Sector Reform. The Chair has organised and hosted at UC3M, a Seminar on the conflict in the

Democratic Republic of Congo (October 2015). This Seminar has been sponsored by Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies, Ministry of Defence, Government of Spain.

* Women and Climate Change.

Management of the Green Voices project, within the framework of the cooperation with Women for Africa Foundation. Green Voices is a Women for Africa Foundation's Project on Women, Climate Change and Communication in Tanzania.

The Chairholder has co-authored an article on Climate change and women's discourses in Tanzania (see full reference on the list of publications)

* Freedom of religion in a multicultural world. Chapter in a collected volume published by Columbia University Press in January 2016, (see full reference on the list of publications).

* Self-determination of peoples: A book on this topic has been published by the Chair Coordinator: Aitor Martinez Jimenez, "El derecho de autodeterminación en el siglo XXI", Aranzadi, 2015

* Gender: The Chairholder is a member of the University Carlos III Institute for Gender Studies and cooperates with the Carlos III University Vice-President for Equality.

b. Conference/Meetings/Missions to the Field



January, Mission to Ahwiam (Ghana) To coordinate the Women for Africa Foundation's Project: Painting Africa. This is a project in waste management. Access to a video on this project [HERE](#).

January, Mission to Accra (Ghana) for the graduation of the first cohort of social leaders within the framework of the Ghana Wins Project (Women for Africa Foundation). Welcome ceremony for the second cohort.

February, Mission to Nairobi Kenya with a Women for Africa Foundation team with the scope of exploring the conditions of the business ecosystem for women entrepreneurs. This mission was organized to find local partners for a project addressed to Kenyan women entrepreneurs. Meeting were held with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, the director of the Wangari Maathai Institute (University of Nairobi) and the president of the Green Belt Movement as well as the Director of KAWBO (Kenyan Association of Women business owners).

March, Lecture on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts, at United Nations Model, Carlos III University, Madrid. You can access the presentation [HERE](#).



March, Mission to Bamako (Mali) to close the first phase of the Malian Women in Action for Peace Project.



April, field mission to Nairobi (Kenya) with Women for Africa Foundation to gather information to prepare the Launch & Growth Project for women entrepreneurs.



June, Mission to Tanzania, exploratory trip to prepare the Green Voices Project (Women for Africa, Bank Santander and Universidad Autónoma).

October, Lecture in Workshop in Security in the XXI Century, organized at the University of Malaga. Further information [HERE](#).

October, Session on Development Cooperation Projects within a Training on Gender in Peace Operations, organized by Ministry of Defence, Granada (Spain). Further information, [HERE](#).

November, participation in a UNESCO Chairs Meeting in Valencia (Spain) to explore the contribution of Unesco Chairs to the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Development Agenda. Further information [HERE](#).

c. Interuniversity Exchanges/Partnerships

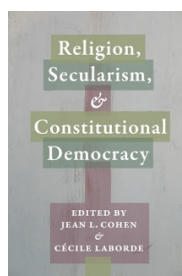
The Chairholder has signed a cooperation agreement with Women for Africa Foundation for the coordination and direction of various projects in different African countries. All of these projects have an educational component. In 2015, the Chair has enhanced the cooperation with Women for Africa Foundation. Within the framework of an agreement with this Foundation the Chairholder is providing advice and support as well as participating in the coordination of projects in Ghana, Mali, Kenya and Tanzania. Within the framework of this Agreement the Chairholder has travelled frequently in the course of the year to Ghana, Mali, Kenya, Tanzania and New York. The partners of the Foundation in these projects are: New York University, Women in Law and Development (WILDAF-Ghana), Babson College (Boston, USA) and Universidad Autónoma (Madrid). It is the

mission of the Chairholder within the framework of the contract with Women for Africa Foundation to manage and organize the relations with all the partners.

The cooperation with Women for Africa Foundation is one of the most important actions of the Chair. We think that this puts the Chair in line with the fact that Africa is a priority at UNESCO, as underlined in the UNESCO document “Priority Africa at UNESCO, an operational strategy for its implementation 2014-2021”. Our projects in Africa are designed to the benefit of African Women and based on local ownership and they touch upon crucial areas for development such as: education (Ghana Wins in Ghana;), leadership and peace (Women capacity building in mediation and conflict resolution: Malian Women in Action for Peace), economic empowerment (Program for business women in Kenya), or health (Fight Against Malaria: Painting Africa Against Malaria, in Ghana (Ningo). All these projects fit in the priorities underlined by UNESCO in the document mentioned above.

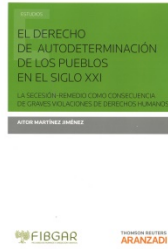
It is our intention to take advantage of the cooperation agreements already signed by Carlos III University with various Universities in Latin-America and Africa to establish partnerships with UNESCO Chairs at those Universities and to promote the exchange of students and professors.

d. Publications/Multimedia Materials



- Cebada Romero, Alicia: “Religious-Based Legal Pluralism in Europe”, in: Jean L. Cohen; C. Laborde (ed.) *Religion, Secularism and Constitutional Democracy*, Columbia University Press, 2016, pp. 498-515.
- Cebada Romero, A; Izquierdo Iranzo, P. “Green Voices: discursos de periodistas y lideresas tanzanas sobre cambio climático”, *Revista de la Asociación Española de Investigación sobre la Comunicación*, Vol. 2, nº 4, pp. 19-26.
- Cebada Romero, A., “Informe Inicial sobre Género: Ejemplos Prácticos en el Contexto Africano”, en: J. Ruíz Arévalo (Coord.) *Manual de Asesor de Género en Operaciones*, MADOC, Editorial TLeo, Granada, pp. 133-149, 2015.
- Cebada Romero, A. “Artículo 5 – Norma General relativa a los derechos y obligaciones”, en J. Prieto de Pedro; B. Barreiro, *Una Convención para la Diversidad Cultural: Análisis sistemático*, Trotta, 2015 (en proceso de edición).

- Martínez Jiménez, Aitor. “El Derecho de autodeterminación en el siglo XXI”, Aranzadi, 2015.



- Chair’s website: http://portal.uc3m.es/portal/page/portal/catedras/catedra_unesco/home click [HERE](#). For accessing the Chair’s blog “ius cogens”, click [HERE](http://www.iuscogensinternacional.com) (www.iuscogensinternacional.com)
- Media: Cebada Romero, A., European Union and the Security Sector Reform in the DRC, Katoikos, 2015, available [HERE](#).

e. Cooperation with UNESCO Headquarters, Field Offices

- The Chair is a member of the Panafrican Women Network for a Culture of Peace: From thoughts to action, promoted by UNESCO.

f. Other

- The chairholder is member of the [Academic Network of European Peace Liaison Office](#), in Brussels, providing advice and analysis on the role of civil society in peace-building.
- The chairholder has supervised more than 20 Bachelor Thesis from January 2015 to December 2015 on topics related to International Peace and Security.

3) FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS

a) Partnerships

The Chair wants to establish partnerships with UNESCO Chairs within the field of Public Freedoms with a view to set up a Network. We have already contacted UNESCO Chairs in Latin America and Africa. We want to take advantage of the wide network of agreements signed by Carlos III University with other Universities worldwide.

Within the University Carlos III, the Chair will focus on the cooperation with the Vice-President for Equality and the Vice-President for International Cooperation.

The Chair will enhance our Partnership with Women for Africa Foundation. Besides the coordination of the projects underway in Ghana, Mali, Tanzania and Kenya, we want to explore new avenues for cooperation.

b) Activities

Within the framework of the Solidarity Week, organized by the Vice-President for Equality and Cooperation, the Chair will organize a session on the University as a Player for Change: Development Cooperation Projects and Civil Society.

The Chair will host a Conference on Women and Yihadism. A report prepared by the Chairholder will be presented in this Conference.

The Chair will keep on working in the following areas of research in 2016: peace and security, including women, peace and security and security and human rights; climate change; freedom of religion and multiculturalism (related to the International Decade for the rapprochement of Cultures and Religions). We also want to promote research and debate on the Post-2015 Agenda focusing on the importance of Equality.