

Anniversary United Nations

Let's go back to October 24, 1945. Eighty years ago.

The United Nations Charter was ratified by 51 states, establishing the United Nations, or UN, which everyone is familiar with, whose primary objectives are to maintain international peace and security. But also to protect human rights, provide humanitarian aid, promote sustainable development, and uphold international law.

The UN is going through a major crisis; some are questioning its role; but should we do without this unique forum for multilateralism?

Like the Society of Nations that preceded it ; the Society of Nations was created after the First World War in 1919 to preserve peace in Europe; it was dissolved in 1946 for failing to prevent the Second World War.

Two of the UN specialized agencies are particularly close to my heart, as I have worked extensively with them—and continue to do so—namely UNESCO and UNHCR.

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is a specialized international agency of the United Nations, created on November 16, 1945, in the wake of the destruction and massacres of World War II. Its goal is to contribute to the maintenance of peace through education, science, and culture.

I represent the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts there.

UNHCR, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1950, in the aftermath of World War II, to help the millions of people who had lost their homes. I signed the first partnership agreement with UNHCR when I was Chair of the World Committee of the International Scout and Guide Fellowship.

And it just so happens that on 25 October it is Fellowship Day. Enjoy that Day.

Martine Lévy