Founded in 1991 at the Peace Palace in The Hague, UNPO is unique as an international organization in that it is built entirely by its members. Representatives of Armenia, Australian Aboriginals, Cordillera, Crimean Tatars, EaWst Turkestan, Estonia, Georgia, the Greek Minority in Albania, Iraqi Kurdistan, Latvia, Palau, Taiwan, Tatarstan, Tibet and West Papua convened to found an organisation that would embody, promote and affirm the value of the five principles enshrined in the UNPO Covenant: non-violence, human rights, democracy and self-determination, environmental protection, and tolerance.
Although the aspirations of UNPO members differ greatly, they are all united by one shared condition, namely that they are not adequately represented at major international fora, such as the United Nations. As a consequence, their opportunity to participate on the international stage is significantly limited, as is their ability to access and draw upon the support of the global bodies mandated to defend their human and cultural rights, protect their environments, and mitigate the effects of conflict.

UNPO, therefore, works to address the consequences of marginalisation, working with its members to promote their democratic causes, to provide information, and to articulate creative and nonviolent strategies for progress, above all however, UNPO works to ensure their voices are heard.

UNPO has been established to provide an international forum through which its members can become effective participants and contributors to the international community. In an increasingly interdependent world it is ever more important that those who continue to be denied their rights or remain excluded be given an opportunity to present their case.

UNPO's membership has also grown steadily from its original fifteen founders, representing today 46 members worldwide. Although the work of UNPO adapts continually to meet the challenges of its members and the nature of the international political climate, each member remains committed to respecting the principles of the UNPO Covenant.

**PRESIDENCY**

**HONORARY PRESIDENTS**

**INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS**

**RAISING UNREPRESENTED VOICES**

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As UNPO is based in Brussels, much of our work is with the EU. UNPO acts as a facilitator between the European institutions and its members, assisting the latter in establishing ties with MEPs, secretariats and major political groups in the European Parliament. In this regard, UNPO is an active intermediary in advocacy meetings. In tandem with MEPs, UNPO also organises conferences and cultural events in Brussels which represent our members. UNPO furthermore acts as a consultant on issues related to its members when it comes to European Parliament hearings and resolutions. Some of our work with the European Parliament is detailed in the following pages.
CONVINCED THAT THE PRINCIPLES, METHODOLOGY, AND PRACTICE OF GANDHIAN NONVIOLENCE AND NONVIOLENT CIVIL—RESISTANCE ARE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PURSUING AND ENFORCING BOTH COLLECTIVE AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, UNPO REJECTS TERRORISM, EXTREMISM, AND VIOLENCE IN ALL ITS FORMS.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THOSE BASIC STANDARDS WITHOUT WHICH PEOPLE CANNOT LIVE IN DIGNITY, SUCH AS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, FREEDOM FROM TORTURE, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT, THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING, FREEDOM OF RELIGION, THE RIGHT TO SELF—DETERMINATION, THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE AND THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION.

CONVINCED THAT THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND ITS NATURAL RESOURCES, IN PARTICULAR IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND RELATED SHORTAGES OF POTABLE WATER, IS LINKED TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF NATIONS AND PEOPLES EVERYWHERE, NECESSITATING RESPECT FOR THE ENSHRINED RIGHTS OF FREE, PRIOR, AND INFORMED CONSENT, SO AS TO GUARANTEE THEIR RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR OWN FUTURE AND THE PROTECTION AND RESPECT FOR THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS AND RESOURCES.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
NON-VIOLENCE
RULE OF LAW
SELF DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS
EQUALITY
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
DEMOCRACY
RESPECT
LIBERTY

FREE ELECTIONS ALONE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT FOR A COUNTRY TO BECOME A TRUE DEMOCRACY; THE CULTURE OF THE COUNTRY’S POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SERVICE MUST ALSO CHANGE.

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UNPO has arranged several cultural events aiming at raising awareness of its members’ cultural heritage, traditions, history and everyday life. As a result of UNPO’s efforts, marginalized groups and minorities have been able to actively participate in various UN sessions of the Human Rights Council, the UN Forum on Minority Issues, and the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues. Moreover, UNPO actively takes part in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, an initiative launched in 2008 to review the human rights records of all UN Member States. Expanding its reach to Treaty-Based Body mechanisms, UNPO has also taken part in activities related to the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee Against Torture, the Human Rights Committee, and the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights. In addition, UNPO submits complaints to the Special Procedures mechanisms, such as the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders or the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Thanks to these activities, over the years UNPO has intensified the relationship between marginalized groups and the UN, while stressing the importance of continuous dialogue between the two.
In January 2014 UNPO launched its International Campaign Against Slavery (iCAS), calling for the United Nations General Assembly to take a strong step towards the eradication of slavery by adopting a resolution and ensuring its implementation by each state.

Alongside this, the campaign aims to increase awareness about the topic of contemporary slavery: its roots, its causes, its forms, its victims, its consequences, those who fight against it and the way forward to abolish it.

On the occasion of the 13th edition of the colorful and vibrant Fiesta Latina held in August 2014, UNPO implemented a new campaign entitled “BXL <3 INDIGENOUS”, which was inspired by our Mapuche Member, an indigenous group from Chile and Argentina. The idea behind “BXL <3 INDIGENOUS” was simple: to interact with the general public with our specially-made new tote bags and badges, and raise awareness about the situation of the Mapuche as well as support for the activities of UNPO.
There is so much more work to be done, and for that we need your help. UNPO receives no government funding and our vital work relies on generous donations from organisations and individuals. Individuals like you. We hope that you will choose to support UNPO and help us continue to represent some of the most marginalized and forgotten people in the world today.

You can donate using the information below, via PayPal or credit card, or by bank transfer via the UNPO website (unpo.org). It is such a simple gesture, but the help you provide will go towards making the world a fairer and more representative place.

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BIC code: ABNANL2A
IBAN code: NL80ABNA0500502145

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