

High level Forum on the Culture of Peace

On 1 September 2016, the President of the UN General Assembly convenes an one-day high level forum at the UN Headquarters in New York on the occasion of the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace.

Following the wide-ranging success of the UN General Assembly's first high-level forum on The Culture of Peace, held on 14 September 2012, and recognizing the need for continual support to the further strengthening of the global movement to promote the Culture of Peace, as envisaged by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the General Assembly high-level Forum is intended to be open and public. UN Member States, UN system entities, civil society including NGO's, media, private sector, and all others interested, have the opportunity to exchange of ideas and suggestions on the ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace and to highlight emerging trends that impact the implementation process.



Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/53/243
6 October 1999

Fifty-third session
Agenda item 31

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.79)]

53/243. Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

A

DECLARATION ON A CULTURE OF PEACE

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles embodied therein,

Recalling also the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”,

Recalling further the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and other relevant international instruments of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that peace not only is the absence of conflict, but also requires a positive, dynamic participatory process where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation,

Recognizing also that the end of the cold war has widened possibilities for strengthening a culture of peace,

Expressing deep concern about the persistence and proliferation of violence and conflict in various parts of the world,

Recognizing the need to eliminate all forms of discrimination and intolerance, including those based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status,

Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997, by which it proclaimed the year 2000 as the “International Year for the Culture of Peace”, and its resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed the period 2001–2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World”,

Recognizing the important role that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization continues to play in the promotion of a culture of peace,

Solemnly proclaims the present Declaration on a Culture of Peace to the end that Governments, international organizations and civil society may be guided in their activity by its provisions to promote and strengthen a culture of peace in the new millennium:

Article 1

A culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life based on:

(a) Respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation;

(b) Full respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-intervention in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law;

(c) Full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts;

(e) Efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations;

(f) Respect for and promotion of the right to development;

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

- (g) Respect for and promotion of equal rights and opportunities for women and men;
 - (h) Respect for and promotion of the right of everyone to freedom of expression, opinion and information;
 - (i) Adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations;
- and fostered by an enabling national and international environment conducive to peace.

Article 2

Progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations.

Article 3

The fuller development of a culture of peace is integrally linked to:

- (a) Promoting peaceful settlement of conflicts, mutual respect and understanding and international cooperation;
- (b) Complying with international obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law;
- (c) Promoting democracy, development and universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- (d) Enabling people at all levels to develop skills of dialogue, negotiation, consensus-building and peaceful resolution of differences;
- (e) Strengthening democratic institutions and ensuring full participation in the development process;
- (f) Eradicating poverty and illiteracy and reducing inequalities within and among nations;
- (g) Promoting sustainable economic and social development;
- (h) Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women through their empowerment and equal representation at all levels of decision-making;
- (i) Ensuring respect for and promotion and protection of the rights of children;
- (j) Ensuring free flow of information at all levels and enhancing access thereto;
- (k) Increasing transparency and accountability in governance;
- (l) Eliminating all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

/...

(m) Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity among all civilizations, peoples and cultures, including towards ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

(n) Realizing fully the right of all peoples, including those living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, to self-determination enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and embodied in the International Covenants on Human Rights,² as well as in the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960.

Article 4

Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace. In this context, human rights education is of particular importance.

Article 5

Governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace.

Article 6

Civil society needs to be fully engaged in fuller development of a culture of peace.

Article 7

The educative and informative role of the media contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace.

Article 8

A key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations.

Article 9

The United Nations should continue to play a critical role in the promotion and strengthening of a culture of peace worldwide.

*107th plenary meeting
13 September 1999*

² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

B

PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON A CULTURE OF PEACE

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on a Culture of Peace adopted on 13 September 1999,

Recalling its resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997, by which it proclaimed the year 2000 as the “International Year for the Culture of Peace”, and its resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, by which it proclaimed the period 2001–2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World”;

Adopts the following Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace:

A. Aims, strategies and main actors

1. The Programme of Action should serve as the basis for the International Year for the Culture of Peace and the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.
2. Member States are encouraged to take actions for promoting a culture of peace at the national level as well as at the regional and international levels.
3. Civil society should be involved at the local, regional and national levels to widen the scope of activities on a culture of peace.
4. The United Nations system should strengthen its ongoing efforts to promote a culture of peace.
5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization should continue to play its important role in and make major contributions to the promotion of a culture of peace.
6. Partnerships between and among the various actors as set out in the Declaration should be encouraged and strengthened for a global movement for a culture of peace.
7. A culture of peace could be promoted through sharing of information among actors on their initiatives in this regard.
8. Effective implementation of the Programme of Action requires mobilization of resources, including financial resources, by interested Governments, organizations and individuals.

B. Strengthening actions at the national, regional and international levels by all relevant actors

9. Actions to foster a culture of peace through education:

/...

(a) Reinvigorate national efforts and international cooperation to promote the goals of education for all with a view to achieving human, social and economic development and for promoting a culture of peace;

(b) Ensure that children, from an early age, benefit from education on the values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life to enable them to resolve any dispute peacefully and in a spirit of respect for human dignity and of tolerance and non-discrimination;

(c) Involve children in activities designed to instill in them the values and goals of a culture of peace;

(d) Ensure equality of access to education for women, especially girls;

(e) Encourage revision of educational curricula, including textbooks, bearing in mind the 1995 Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy³ for which technical cooperation should be provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization upon request;

(f) Encourage and strengthen efforts by actors as identified in the Declaration, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, aimed at developing values and skills conducive to a culture of peace, including education and training in promoting dialogue and consensus-building;

(g) Strengthen the ongoing efforts of the relevant entities of the United Nations system aimed at training and education, where appropriate, in the areas of conflict prevention and crisis management, peaceful settlement of disputes, as well as in post-conflict peace-building;

(h) Expand initiatives to promote a culture of peace undertaken by institutions of higher education in various parts of the world, including the United Nations University, the University for Peace and the project for twinning universities and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Chairs Programme.

10. Actions to promote sustainable economic and social development:

(a) Undertake comprehensive actions on the basis of appropriate strategies and agreed targets to eradicate poverty through national and international efforts, including through international cooperation;

(b) Strengthen the national capacity for implementation of policies and programmes designed to reduce economic and social inequalities within nations through, *inter alia*, international cooperation;

(c) Promote effective and equitable development-oriented and durable solutions to the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries through, *inter alia*, debt relief;

³ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-eighth Session, Paris, 25 October–16 November 1995*, vol. 1: *Resolutions*, resolution 5.4, annexes.

(d) Reinforce actions at all levels to implement national strategies for sustainable food security, including the development of actions to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of resources from all sources, including through international cooperation, such as resources coming from debt relief;

(e) Undertake further efforts to ensure that the development process is participatory and that development projects involve the full participation of all;

(f) Include a gender perspective and empowerment of women and girls as an integral part of the development process;

(g) Include in development strategies special measures focusing on needs of women and children as well as groups with special needs;

(h) Strengthen, through development assistance in post-conflict situations, rehabilitation, reintegration and reconciliation processes involving all engaged in conflicts;

(i) Incorporate capacity-building in development strategies and projects to ensure environmental sustainability, including preservation and regeneration of the natural resource base;

(j) Remove obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular of peoples living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development.

11. Actions to promote respect for all human rights:

(a) Full implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;⁴

(b) Encouragement of development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of all human rights;

(c) Strengthening of national institutions and capacities in the field of human rights, including through national human rights institutions;

⁴ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

(d) Realization and implementation of the right to development, as established in the Declaration on the Right to Development⁵ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

(e) Achievement of the goals of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995–2004);⁶

(f) Dissemination and promotion of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at all levels;

(g) Further support to the activities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the fulfilment of her or his mandate as established in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, as well as the responsibilities set by subsequent resolutions and decisions.

12. Actions to ensure equality between women and men:

(a) Integration of a gender perspective into the implementation of all relevant international instruments;

(b) Further implementation of international instruments that promote equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁷ with adequate resources and political will, and through, *inter alia*, the elaboration, implementation and follow-up of the national plans of action;

(d) Promotion of equality between women and men in economic, social and political decision-making;

(e) Further strengthening of efforts by the relevant entities of the United Nations system for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women;

(f) Provision of support and assistance to women who have become victims of any forms of violence, including in the home, workplace and during armed conflicts.

13. Actions to foster democratic participation:

(a) Reinforcement of the full range of actions to promote democratic principles and practices;

(b) Special emphasis on democratic principles and practices at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education;

⁵ Resolution 41/128, annex.

⁶ See A/49/261–E/1994/110/Add.1, annex.

⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

(c) Establishment and strengthening of national institutions and processes that promote and sustain democracy through, *inter alia*, training and capacity-building of public officials;

(d) Strengthening of democratic participation through, *inter alia*, the provision of electoral assistance upon the request of States concerned and based on relevant United Nations guidelines;

(e) Combating of terrorism, organized crime, corruption as well as production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs and money laundering, as they undermine democracies and impede the fuller development of a culture of peace.

14. Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity:

(a) Implement the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance⁸ (1995);

(b) Support activities in the context of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations in the year 2001;

(c) Study further the local or indigenous practices and traditions of dispute settlement and promotion of tolerance with the objective of learning from them;

(d) Support actions that foster understanding, tolerance and solidarity throughout society, in particular with vulnerable groups;

(e) Further support the attainment of the goals of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People;

(f) Support actions that foster tolerance and solidarity with refugees and displaced persons, bearing in mind the objective of facilitating their voluntary return and social integration;

(g) Support actions that foster tolerance and solidarity with migrants;

(h) Promote increased understanding, tolerance and cooperation among all peoples through, *inter alia*, appropriate use of new technologies and dissemination of information;

(i) Support actions that foster understanding, tolerance, solidarity and cooperation among peoples and within and among nations.

15. Actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge:

(a) Support the important role of the media in the promotion of a culture of peace;

(b) Ensure freedom of the press and freedom of information and communication;

⁸ A/51/201, appendix I.

(c) Make effective use of the media for advocacy and dissemination of information on a culture of peace involving, as appropriate, the United Nations and relevant regional, national and local mechanisms;

(d) Promote mass communication that enables communities to express their needs and participate in decision-making;

(e) Take measures to address the issue of violence in the media, including new communication technologies, *inter alia*, the Internet;

(f) Increase efforts to promote the sharing of information on new information technologies, including the Internet.

16. Actions to promote international peace and security:

(a) Promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, taking into account the priorities established by the United Nations in the field of disarmament;

(b) Draw, where appropriate, on lessons conducive to a culture of peace learned from “military conversion” efforts as evidenced in some countries of the world;

(c) Emphasize the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in all parts of the world;

(d) Encourage confidence-building measures and efforts for negotiating peaceful settlements;

(e) Take measures to eliminate illicit production and traffic of small arms and light weapons;

(f) Support initiatives, at the national, regional and international levels, to address concrete problems arising from post-conflict situations, such as demobilization, reintegration of former combatants into society, as well as refugees and displaced persons, weapon collection programmes, exchange of information and confidence-building;

(g) Discourage the adoption of and refrain from any unilateral measure, not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being, that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical care and the necessary social services, while reaffirming that food and medicine must not be used as a tool for political pressure;

(h) Refrain from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion, not in accordance with international law and the Charter, aimed against the political independence or territorial integrity of any State;

(i) Recommend proper consideration for the issue of the humanitarian impact of sanctions, in particular on women and children, with a view to minimizing the humanitarian effects of sanctions;

(j) Promote greater involvement of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and, in particular, in activities promoting a culture of peace in post-conflict situations;

(k) Promote initiatives in conflict situations such as days of tranquillity to carry out immunization and medicine distribution campaigns, corridors of peace to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies and sanctuaries of peace to respect the central role of health and medical institutions such as hospitals and clinics;

(l) Encourage training in techniques for the understanding, prevention and resolution of conflict for the concerned staff of the United Nations, relevant regional organizations and Member States, upon request, where appropriate.

*107th plenary meeting
13 September 1999*



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2015

Seventieth session
Agenda item 16

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2015

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.24 and Add.1)]

70/20. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”,

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration¹ and Programme of Action² on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011, 67/106 of 17 December 2012, 68/125 of 18 December 2013 and 69/139 of 15 December 2014, adopted under its agenda item entitled “Culture of peace”,

Recalling also its resolution 68/127 of 18 December 2013 on a world against violence and violent extremism,

¹ Resolution 53/243 A.

² Resolution 53/243 B.



Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

Reaffirming also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,⁴

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,⁵

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing dialogue and negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁶ which provides an overview of the activities that have been carried out by the main United Nations entities working in the areas of a culture of peace and interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace since the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolutions 68/125 and 68/126 of 18 December 2013,

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Welcoming the efforts of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

³ Resolution 55/2.

⁴ Resolution 60/1.

⁵ Resolution 61/271.

⁶ A/70/373.

Welcoming the successful holding on 9 September 2015 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, the greater participation, in particular of Member States, and the wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum, and welcoming also with appreciation the observance in 2015 by the Forum of the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recognizing the role of women and young people in advancing the culture of peace and, in particular, the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations,

Welcoming the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Recalling the Yamoussoukro Declaration on Peace in the Minds of Men, and acknowledging the observance in 2014 of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption,

Noting the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace² is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the promotion of a culture of peace in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;⁷

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for strengthening efforts to mobilize all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, and invites

⁷ Resolution 70/1.

the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website and in the context of the celebration of its seventieth anniversary;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts, and in this context notes with appreciation the global launch of the United Nations Children's Fund Early Childhood Peace Consortium in September 2013;

7. *Encourages* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

8. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace, including lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship and human rights;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

10. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

11. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, in line with the Declaration¹ and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

12. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

13. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September;

14. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report, within existing resources, on actions taken by Member States, on the basis of information provided by them, and those taken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote the culture of peace and non-violence;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session the item entitled “Culture of peace”.

*66th plenary meeting
3 December 2015*



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

13 May 2016

Excellency,

Resolution 70/20, entitled “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace”, adopted on 3 December 2015, requested the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a High-level Forum on a Culture of Peace, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September. It also recognized the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

In this regard, I have the honour to inform you that I will convene a one-day High-Level Forum on a Culture of Peace on Thursday, 1 September, 2016 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

This High-Level Forum will provide an opportunity for Member States and stakeholders to have an exchange of views on ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace. It will consist of an opening segment, two interactive panel discussions and a closing segment. A Concept Note and a provisional programme will be forwarded in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

11 July 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my previous communication, dated 13 May, 2016, concerning the High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace that will take place on Thursday, 1 September 2016.

In this regard, I am pleased to transmit the attached Concept Note. The Provisional Programme will be provided in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft'.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace

Convened By
President Of The General Assembly
H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft

Thursday, 1 September 2016, Trusteeship Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters

Draft Concept Note

Background:

On 13 September 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus and with out reservation, its landmark, pioneering and norm-setting resolution 53/243 on the **Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace**. Among other things, it provided the driving force for the effective observance and realization of the objectives of the UN-declared **International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)**. Asserting and re-affirming the commitment of the totality of the UN membership for building the culture of peace, the UNGA has adopted resolutions on the subject every year since 1997.

The General Assembly, through these annual substantive resolutions, has highlighted the priority it attaches to the full and effective implementation of these forward-looking decisions which are universally applicable and is sought after by the vast majority of all peoples in every nation.

Recognizing the need for continual support to the further strengthening of the global movement to promote the Culture of Peace, as envisaged by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the day-long, General Assembly High Level Forum is intended to be an open public opportunity for the UN Member States, UN system entities, civil society including NGO's, media, private sector, and all others interested, to have an exchange of ideas and suggestions on the ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace and to highlight emerging trends that impact the implementation process.

Setting the scene:

Following the wide-ranging success of the UN General Assembly's first High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace held on 14 September 2012, the Assembly, under the guidance of its President Mogens Lykketoft and co-sponsored by 104 Member States, adopted by consensus the resolution 70/20 on "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace".

In its operative para13, it said "*Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September."

In the preambular part, the resolution also expressed the Assembly's positive support to the Forum by "*Welcoming* the successful holding on 9 September 2015 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the sixty-ninth Session of the General Assembly, the greater participation, in particular of Member States, and the wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum, and welcoming also with appreciation the observance in 2015 by the Forum of the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action,"

Since adoption of GA resolution 67/106 in 2012 requesting the President of the General Assembly to consider convening the High Level Forum, the Assembly has reiterated this decision every year and, in pursuance, the President has convened the Forum annually.

Format and outcome:

As at the High Level Forums in the past years, the Forum in 2016 will also be held from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm on Thursday, 1 September, providing opportunities for separate opening and closing sessions, as well as interactive thematic panels.

The HLF will commence with the opening statements of the PGA and the Secretary-General.

The two panels during the Forum will focus on:

1. *Synergy between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eight action areas of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace; and*
2. *Youth advancing the SDG; Goal 16 on the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.*

The outcome will be a President's summary, which will be circulated to all Member States, Observers, and stakeholders.

Participation:

Member States will be invited to participate at the highest possible level, U.N agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders will also be invited.

Further information on the High-level Forum, including Programme details will be availed in due course.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

18 August 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to my previous communication, dated 13 May and 11 July 2016, concerning the High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace that will take place on Thursday, 1 September 2016 in the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

I am pleased to transmit the attached provisional programme.

Delegations wishing to speak in the plenary segment are kindly requested to inscribe with the list of speakers, General Assembly Affairs Branch (Ms. Antonina Poliakova – poliakova@un.org; tel. 1 (212) 963-5063). Speakers will be kindly invited to limit their statements to no more than 3 minutes in order to give an opportunity to all those inscribed on the list to deliver their statements.

During the Panel Discussions, Delegations will be invited to take part in the interactive discussion alongside other participants.

All other relevant documents concerning the High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace will be available on my website (<http://www.un.org/pga/70/events/high-level-forum-on-the-culture-of-peace>).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To all Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE
Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters
Thursday 1 September 2016**

OPENING SESSION	
10:00am -10:30am	<p>H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, United Nations</p> <p>Keynote Address:</p> <p>Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, Founder of <i>The Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet</i>, winner of 2015 Nobel Peace</p>
10:30am - 10:45am	<p>Musical Interlude:</p> <p>FJ Music Duo - Feifei Yang & Jiaju Shan</p>
10.45 am - 1.00 pm	<p>Plenary Segment – Statement by Member States</p>

Panel Discussion I: “Enhancing synergy between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and eight action areas of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace”	
3.00 pm – 4.30 pm	<p>Chair and Moderator:</p> <p>Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations; Chair of the UN General Assembly Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace (1998-1999)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mr. Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations - H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations (tbc) - Mr. Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO - Mr. David Nabarro, Special Advisor of the UNSG on 2030 Agenda

	<p>for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Barbara Marx Hubbard, Visionary/Social Innovator, Head of Foundation for Concious Evolution <p><i>Interactive discussion and remarks by Member States and other participants</i></p>
--	--

Panel Discussion II: “The Role of Youth in advancing the culture of peace in the context of the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security”

4:30 pm - 5:45 pm	<p>Chair and Moderator:</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Katalin Annamaria Bogay, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H.E. Mrs. Maria Emma Mejia, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations - Mr. Ahmed Alhendawi, UNSG’s Envoy on Youth (tbc) - Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University of Peace - Ms. Marie Paule Roudil, Director of UNESCO Liaison Office in New York - Ms. Kazi Ateea and Mr. Nsilo Mavour, Youth leaders from Global Kids <i>(joint presentation)</i> <p><i>Interactive discussion and remarks by Member States and other participants</i></p>
--------------------------	--

CLOSING SEGMENT

5:45pm - 6:00pm	<p>Concluding Remarks by:</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Mogens Lykketoft, President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly</p>
------------------------	--