



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.
