



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2 September 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 25 August 2021, regarding the convening of the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, to be held on Tuesday, 7 September 2021, kindly find enclosed herewith the revised concept note and final programme for the Forum.

More information will be made available on the website of the President of the General Assembly: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/culture-of-peace/>. Kindly take note that the Forum will be webcast.

As communicated earlier, Member States are encouraged to deliver statement on behalf of a group of States, whenever possible. Members States are encouraged to limit their statements to three (3) minutes for individual delegations and five (5) minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. Delegations wishing to inscribe for the plenary segment, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch by sending an email to [galindo@un.org](mailto:galindo@un.org), with a copy to [gaspeakerslist@un.org](mailto:gaspeakerslist@un.org). In view of time constraints for the plenary segment, delegations that did not have the opportunity to speak can send their statement for uploading to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir', written in a cursive style.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

**High level Forum on The Culture of Peace  
convened by the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Tuesday, 07 September 2021  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

### **Overview**

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 75/25 adopted on 09 December 2020, the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, will convene a High-Level Forum on The Culture of Peace on Tuesday, 7 September 2021, at the UN Headquarters, New York.

This year's High-Level Forum will offer an opportunity to the Member States and observers of the General Assembly and other stakeholders to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on tackling the multidimensional impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and towards a resilient and inclusive recovery.

### **Background and Objectives**

On 13 September 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted, by consensus and without reservation, its pioneering resolution 53/243 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, asserting and reaffirming the commitment of all the UN membership for building the culture of peace. Through annual substantive resolutions adopted by consensus for more than two decades as well as by holding annual high-level forums since 2012, the General Assembly has highlighted the importance it attaches to the implementation of its Declaration and Programme of Action, which serve as a universal mandate for the international community, particularly the UN

system, for the promotion of the culture of peace underscoring its enduring value that benefits humanity, in particular its future generations.

The Culture of Peace remains one of the key items for the General Assembly since 1997 when the Assembly decided to include a new item to its agenda. This was followed by the UNGA resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 that proclaimed the year 2000 as the “International Year for the Culture of Peace” and GA resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, that proclaimed the period of 2001-2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World”.

Over the years the scope of the Culture of Peace expanded and became more relevant than ever. The concept now embraces a wide range of related issues and multiple resolutions are now adopted under this agenda item.

The annual high-level forum on The Culture of Peace convened by the President of the General Assembly, provides a platform for the Member States, civil society and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the conceptual validity and continuing applicability of the Culture of Peace in the contemporary contexts.

Last year, the President of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly virtually convened the High-Level Forum on 10 September 2020, under the theme “The Culture of Peace: Change Our World for the Better after COVID-19”. Despite the difficulties resulting from the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the Forum asserted the utmost importance that the United Nations continued to support the global movement to promote the culture of peace, its Declaration and Programme of Action, and that the international community’s response and recovery efforts were guided towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery**

This year’s High-Level Forum is taking place at a time when the international community is still facing the enormous challenge presented by the all-embracing and debilitating impact of the apparently never-ending COVID-19 pandemic. While the recovery efforts are ongoing, a large part of the world is still engaged in a life-or-death battle with the virus and its variants. Inequality and violations of human rights is widening in multiple forms and dimensions. Hate speech, extremism and xenophobia manifested in most cases with violence, are on the rise. On top of all these, the emerging “vaccine nationalism” threatens to undermine the efforts to end the pandemic globally.

It is, therefore, an imperative to inculcate the values of the Culture of Peace among nations, societies and communities, with particular attention to the younger generation, through promotion of compassion, tolerance, inclusion, global citizenship and empowerment of all people.

This year's theme for the 2021 high-level Forum - "Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery", will provide a platform to explore and discuss multiple ways and means for empowering all segments of the society, towards a resilient recovery, including by ensuring vaccine equity, bridging digital divide, ensuring equality and empowerment of women and harnessing the power of youth, among others.

### **Participation**

All Member States and observers of the General Assembly are invited to participate in the high-level forum. It will be webcasted on UN WebTV.

### **Format of the High-Level Forum**

The High-Level Forum on The Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, will take place on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at the General Assembly Hall from 10.00a.m. to 1.00p.m. This will be followed by an interactive Panel Discussion to be held virtually from 3.00p.m. to 6.00p.m., with participation from civil society and other interested stakeholders, in addition to Member States and observers.

The session in the General Assembly Hall will consist of an opening segment and a plenary segment. The opening segment will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, a video message by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, remarks by the Chef de Cabinet of the United Nations Secretary General, a video message by the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC) and an address by Director a.i. of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Liaison Office in New York. The plenary segment will comprise statements by Member States and observers of the General Assembly.

Member States are encouraged to deliver statement on behalf of a group of States, whenever possible. Members States are encouraged to limit their statements to three (3) minutes for individual delegations and five (5) minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. A pre-established list of speakers for the plenary segment in the morning has been opened for inscription on Monday, 30 August 2021. Delegations

wishing to inscribe for the plenary segment, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch by sending an email to [galindo@un.org](mailto:galindo@un.org), with a copy to [gaspeakerslist@un.org](mailto:gaspeakerslist@un.org). In view of time constraints for the plenary segment, delegations that will not have the opportunity to speak can send their statement for uploading to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org).

The interactive panel discussion during the afternoon session (3.00 - 6.00 pm) includes participation of civil society and other stakeholders. It will then be followed by a closing segment with remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

Further information regarding this meeting will be made available on the PGA's website: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/>.



**UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON  
THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

07 SEPTEMBER 2021, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

**PROGRAMME**

**HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

**“Transformative Role of the Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and  
Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery”**

**Tuesday, 7 September 2021**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

<b>OPENING SESSION</b>	
<b>10.00am – 10.45am</b>  General Assembly Hall	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ H.E Mr. Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly</li><li>▪ Video message by H.E. DR AK Abdul Momen, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh</li><li>▪ Ms. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary General representing the Secretary-General</li><li>▪ Video message by H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilization (UNAOC)</li><li>▪ Mr. Eliot Minchenberg, Director a.i., the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Liaison Office in New York</li></ul>
<b>10.40am – 1.00pm</b>	<b>Plenary Segment</b>  Statements by Member States and observers
<b>PANEL DISCUSSION: “Transformative Role of the Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery”</b>	
<b>3.00pm – 5.45pm</b>  <i>Virtual Platform</i>	<b>Chair and Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ H.E. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (GMCoP), Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, Chairman of the UN General Assembly negotiations for</li></ul>

	<p>the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1998-1999)</p> <p><b>Keynote message</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ms. Beatrice Fihn, 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Executive Director, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)</li> </ul> <p><b>Video Messages:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hon. Mr Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan and President of “Mayors for Peace” with a worldwide membership of 8000 City Mayors; and</li> <li>▪ Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ H.E. Ms Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations;</li> <li>▪ H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations;</li> <li>▪ H. E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations;</li> <li>▪ Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of Foundation for a Culture of Peace, former Director-General of UNESCO (1987-1999);</li> <li>▪ DR Ada Juni Okika, Global Director of the Centre for Transformative Advancement of Development of Africa;</li> <li>▪ Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs;</li> <li>▪ Mr Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University of Peace in Costa Rica.</li> </ul> <p>[Interactive segment with comments, questions and answers from the floor with participation of the panellists]</p>
<p><b>5.45pm – 6.00pm</b></p> <p><i>Virtual Platform</i></p>	<p><b>Closing Segment</b></p> <p>Closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly</p>