



## **CONCEPT NOTE**

**UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace  
convened by the President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly**

***"The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality, and inclusion  
for advancing peacebuilding"***

**Tuesday, 6 September 2022  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

### **Overview**

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 76/68 adopted on 9 December 2021, the President of the 76th UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, has decided to convene a UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace on Tuesday, 6 September 2022, at the UN Headquarters in New York.

This year's high-level forum will offer an opportunity to the Member States and Observers of the United Nations 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 advancing peacebuilding by ensuring justice, equality and inclusion.

### **Background**

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. The resolution serves as a universal mandate for the international community, particularly the UN system, for the promotion of the culture of peace and non-violence by 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 and self-standing 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 allowing adoption by the General Assembly multiple resolutions on a wide range of issues relating to various areas of its Programme of Action.

Mandated by the UNGA resolutions, the Presidents of the General Assembly have been convening the annual high-level forums since 2012. The Forum provides a platform for the Member States, civil society and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the continuing applicability of the Culture of Peace in the contemporary contexts.

Last year, the President of the 75th General Assembly convened the High-Level Forum on 7 September 2021, under the theme “Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery”. The day-long event provided an opportunity 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.

### **High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace, 2022**

This year’s high-level forum is taking place at a time when the world is experiencing persistence and proliferation of violence and conflicts in various parts of the world. These are adding to the existing practices of discrimination, and intolerance, including those based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, access to property, disability, birth or other status, many of which have exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The consequences of conflicts as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have led to, inter alia, economic downturn, social instability, rise in inequalities, and increased governance challenges and have been posing serious global as well as national challenges to peace and security. All these, along with pre-existing vulnerabilities have left poorer segments of the society, especially those living in post-conflict and conflict affected countries more susceptible to violence and insecurity.

In order to tackle this, there is no alternative to investing in peacebuilding and sustaining peace, with a view to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account. Such vision encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict and addressing root causes. At the same time, there is an urgent need to eliminate discrimination and inequalities and promote social cohesion and inclusive development, to ensure no one is left behind. In this context, as elaborated in the UNGA resolution on the culture of peace, empowerment of people to address the challenges in a peaceful and non-violent way is an essential component.

The Secretary-General in his report on Our Common Agenda proposed for a New Agenda for Peace, in which peacebuilding represents a key component. In the report the Secretary-General reaffirmed that prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace are at the core of the United Nations. To advance effective peacebuilding, it is critical to eliminate existing and emerging threats to peace and promote the culture of peace based on principles of justice, inequality and inclusion.

The values promoted by the concept of the Culture of Peace are defined by its Declaration and Programme of Action through eight specific areas of actions, which include, education, sustainable economic and social development, human rights, equality between women and men, democratic participation, understanding, tolerance & solidarity, freedom of information and communications, and advancing peace and security through disarmament and peaceful resolution of conflicts. Effective and coordinated actions on all these areas would have significant impacts on international community's efforts on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

This year's theme for the High-Level Forum, "The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding", will provide an opportunity to member states, UN system and the civil society to explore and discuss ways to promote justice, equality and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding and sustaining peace, especially through inculcation and promotion of the values of the Culture of Peace.

## **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 and will be open to UN agencies, civil society organisations and other stakeholders.

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

The High-Level Forum on The Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly, will take place on Tuesday, 6 September 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters from 10.00am to 1.00pm and from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

The Forum will consist of an opening segment, a plenary segment, a multi-stakeholder panel discussion and a closing session.

The plenary segment will comprise statements by Member States and Observers of the General Assembly. Member States are encouraged to deliver statements on behalf of a group of States, whenever possible. Member States are also 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.

The interactive panel discussion during the afternoon session (from 3.00 to 6.00 pm) will be chaired and moderated by 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 the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1998-1999). The panel discussion will include participation of civil society and other stakeholders.

Finally, the session will close with the closing 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/76/>.