



CONCEPT NOTE

UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace in the UN General Assembly *“Promoting Culture of Peace in the Digital Era”*

31 August 2023,
3:00-6:00 p.m.

CR4, United Nations Headquarters, New York

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 77/296 adopted on 14 June 2023, the President of the 77th session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Csaba Kőrösi, will convene a High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace on 31 August 2023, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters, New York.

Background

On 13 September 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted its resolution 53/243 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. Since then, the General Assembly has annually adopted a resolution under this agenda item to promote a culture of peace and non-violence by underscoring its enduring value that benefits humanity and future generations.

Pursuant to these resolutions, since 2012, annual high-level forums have been convened which have provided an inclusive platform for all stakeholders to deliberate on the continuing importance of the Culture of Peace.

Theme for 2023: “Promoting Culture of Peace in the Digital Era ”

The world is facing a multitude of interlocking crises. At the same time, the digital sphere is transforming at an unprecedented speed. While digital technologies, in their various forms, have enhanced access to knowledge, information and boundless opportunities, they can also affect peace and security dynamics. Technology, particularly in the space of social media, can be used to spread misinformation, hate speech and other divisive narratives that instigate or abet violence, leading to real life consequences.

In the context of the discussions around the Summit of the Future, Member States are consulting on elements for a Global Digital Compact which could outline shared principles for an “open, free and secure digital future for all.”

Digital transformation can have a profound impact on the culture of peace, the implementation of the declaration and all eight areas of its programme of action – sustainable economic and social development, respect for human rights, equality between women and men, democratic participation, tolerance & solidarity, freedom of information and communications, and advancing peace and security through disarmament and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In resolution 77/296, Member States acknowledged



that the digital sphere and its ongoing transformation were important areas for global action on building a culture of peace. This year's High-level Forum will therefore be dedicated to the theme "Promoting Culture of Peace in the Digital Era".

The Forum will be an opportunity for Member States, the UN system, civil society and other stakeholders to discuss possible impacts of digital transformation on the implementation of the programme of action on a culture of peace, and to explore ways to utilize digital technology and tools for promoting a culture of peace and non-violence.

Participation

The High-level Forum is open to all Member States and Observers of the General Assembly, UN System entities and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The Forum will be webcast on UN WebTV.