



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE
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(MAY 16, 2020)

-as submitted-

In 2017, the United Nations declared 16 May the *International Day of Living Together in Peace*, to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding, and solidarity across the world.

Each year on this day, we reaffirm our commitment to international cooperation as our approach to solving challenges of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.

Today, we are facing the most challenging crisis since the Second World War. COVID-19 poses a serious threat to maintenance of international peace and security - potentially leading to an increase in social unrest and violence that would undermine our ability to fight the disease.

The United Nations has called for an immediate global ceasefire to work together on the actual fight – defeating the pandemic. It is time to silence the guns and bring hope to those who are most vulnerable. Over 100 Member States, diverse regional organizations, religious leaders and more than 200 civil society groups have endorsed this call so far.

The challenges we are facing today are huge. They require international solidarity.

The international community must come together and act as one. We must coherently execute action to deliver our mandates - maintaining peace through our 95.000 peacekeepers deployed around the world.

We must ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches more than 110 million people in 57 countries. We must continue to develop new strategies to sustain peace and follow through on those already in place.

The world is watching and counting on us to deliver and show leadership.

I call upon all Member States that have not yet done so to endorse the call as a concrete step in the struggle to protect the most vulnerable - women and children- who are already impacted disproportionately by armed conflict.

We must act - urgently and collectively - to build a future for all of us where we can live together in peace.