What is a Culture of Peace?

As defined by the United Nations (1998, Resolution A/RES/52/13), the Culture of Peace consists of **values, attitudes and behaviours that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations**. The UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1999, Resolution A/53/243) stakes out eight action areas for actors at local, national and international levels that call for:

1. Fostering a culture of peace through education by revising the educational curricula to promote qualitative values, attitudes and behaviours of a culture of peace, including peaceful conflict-resolution, dialogue, consensus-building and active non-violence. Such an educational approach should be geared also to:

2. Promoting sustainable economic and social development by reducing economic and social inequalities, by eradicating poverty and by assuring sustainable food security, social justice, durable solutions to debt problems, empowerment of women, special measures for groups with special needs, environmental sustainability…

3. Promoting respect for all human rights Human rights and a culture of peace are complementary: whenever war and violence dominate, there is no possibility to ensure human rights; at the same time, without human rights, in all their dimensions, there can be no culture of peace...

4. Ensuring equality between women and men through full participation of women in economic, social and political decision-making, elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women, support and assistance to women in need,…

5. Fostering democratic participation Indispensable foundations for the achievement and maintenance of peace and security are democratic principles, practices and participation in all sectors of society, a transparent and accountable governance and administration, the combat against terrorism, organized crime, corruption, illicit drugs and money laundering…

6. Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity To abolish war and violent conflicts we need to transcend and overcome enemy images with understanding, tolerance and solidarity among people.

Learning from our differences through dialogue among civilizations and respect for cultural diversity is an enriching process…

7. Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge Freedom of information and communication and the sharing of information and knowledge are indispensable for a culture of peace. However, measures need to be taken to address the issue of violence in the media, including new information and communication technologies…

8. Promoting international peace and security The gains in human security and disarmament in recent years, including nuclear weapons treaties and the treaty banning land mines, should encourage us to increase our efforts in negotiation of peaceful settlements, elimination of production and traffic of arms and weapons, humanitarian solutions in conflict situations, post-conflict initiatives…

Today more than ever…

We need to reinforce our efforts to build collectively and at all levels a Culture of Peace, one of the greatest challenges being to better dialogue, understand and share between and among cultures and civilizations.

Year 2000 was a starting point for a major mobilization as it was the International Year for the Culture of Peace. On this special occasion, a global movement for a culture of peace was initiated by the United Nations to create a "grand alliance" of existing movements that unites all those already working for a culture of peace in the eight domains described above. This movement is now growing with the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

As lead agency for the Decade, UNESCO developed an interactive website (**www.unesco.org/cp**) allowing all the actors of the movement to promote their initiatives and to exchange information and resources between each other. More than 75 million individuals and thousands of local, national and international organizations representing more than 160 countries are already part of it.

www.unesco.org/cp

…join the global movement for a culture of peace

Go to **www.unesco.org/cp**: section "how to take part" to find out how to participate and section "who is involved" to discover and contribute to what is already going on in your country and in the rest of the world.

If you are an international NGO in official relations with the UN (consultative status with the ECOSOC or associated with the UN DPI) **and/or with UNESCO**, contact the Culture of Peace Coordination (BSP/WYS/SI): UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy
F 75352 Paris 07 SP
Tel: 33 (0) 1 45 68 15 89
Fax: 33 (0) 1 45 68 55 57
E-mail : cp@unesco.org

In all other cases, as individual or local / national / international organization, contact your National Focal Point which is usually the National Commission for UNESCO and/or the UNESCO Office in your country. You may find them by going through the section "Tool box / Focal Points list" on the Culture of Peace web site: www.unesco.org/cp

For more information
www.unesco.org…

- UN and UNESCO resolutions, reports and other documents
  on the Culture of Peace and the Decade ....**www.unesco.org/cp/uk/uk_sum_refdoc.htm**
- The *Manifesto 2000* is an individual commitment to translate
  the resolutions of the United Nations into everyday language.......**www.unesco.org/manifesto2000**

1. Culture of peace through education
- Non-violence education .... **www.unesco.org/education/nved/index.html**
- Early Childhood & family education .... **www.unesco.org/education/educprog/ecf/html/eng.htm**
- Associated Schools Project Network .... **www.unesco.org/education/asp/background.shtml**

2. Sustainable economic and social development
- Environment and sustainable development .... **www.unesco.org/science/activities_env.htm**
- Teaching and learning for a sustainable future .... **www.unesco.org/education/tlsf**
- Man and Biosphere programme (MAB) .... **www.unesco.org/mab/wnbr.htm**

3. Respect for all human rights
- Human rights, democracy, peace, tolerance .... **www.unesco.org/human_rights/index.htm**
- Human rights education .... **www.unesco.org/education/ecp/index.htm**
- International Decade of the World's Indigenous People .... **www.unesco.org/culture/indigenous**

4. Equality between women and men
- Gender equality .... **www.unesco.org/women/pol/index.htm**
- Women and a Culture of Peace .... **www.unesco.org/cpp/wcp**
- Women, Science, Technology .... **www.unesco.org/science/women/eng/index.html**

5. Democratic participation
- Management of social transformations programme (MOST) .... **www.unesco.org/most/projects.htm**
- Human rights, democracy, peace, tolerance .... **www.unesco.org/human_rights/index.htm**
- UNESCO Cities for Peace Prize ....**www.unesco.org/citiesforpeace.unesco.org**

6. Understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- Intercultural dialogue and pluralism .... **www.unesco.org/culture**
- Dialogue among civilizations **www.unesco.org/dialogue2001**
- Tolerance programme .... **www.unesco.org/tolerance/index.htm**

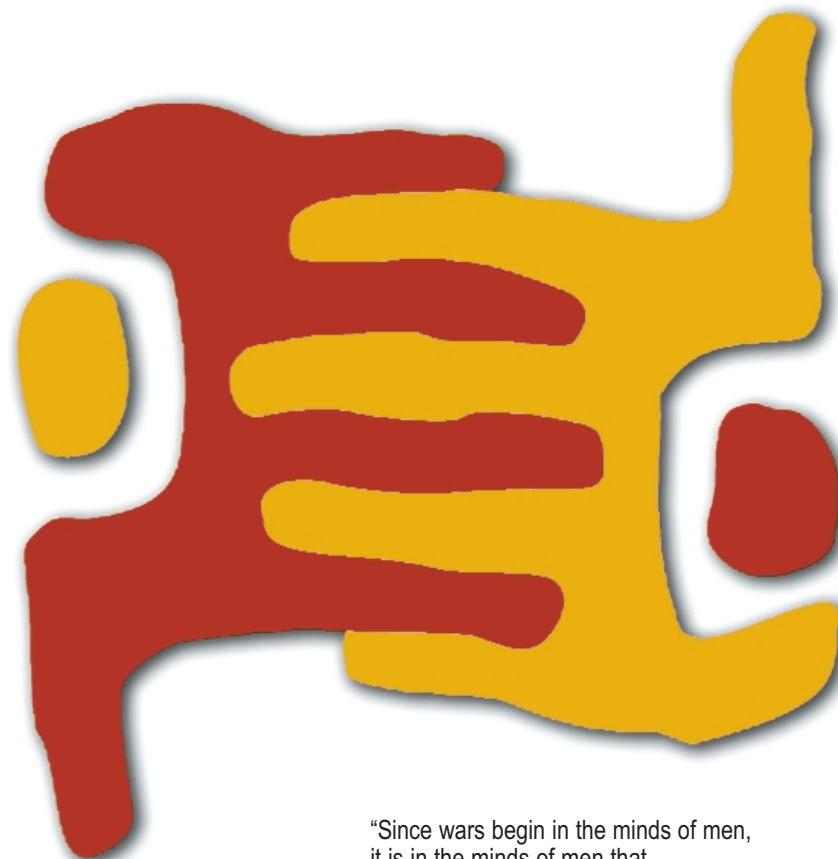### 7. Participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge
- Communication and peace .... **www.unesco.org/webworld/com_media/peace.html**
- Community Multimedia Centres **www.unesco.org/webworld/com/broadcasting/broad04.shtml**
- University-industry-science partnership programme ....**www.unesco.org/unispar**

8. International peace and security
- International Hydrological Programme .... **www.unesco.org/water/wwap/pccp**
- Education in crisis and post-conflict situations .... **www.unesco.org/education/emergency**
- Human security .... **www.unesco.org/securipax**

Culture of Peace

"Since wars begin in the minds of men,
it is in the minds of men that
the defences of peace must be constructed"

UNESCO Constitution, 1945

PEACE
2001–2010 INTERNATIONAL DECADE
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

IS IN OUR HANDS

UNESCO