

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

---

**MESSAGE ON THE OPENING OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE  
FOR THE CULTURE OF PEACE  
AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD**

The International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World is an invitation to the entire international community to come together in the struggle for peace. It should give us all added motivation to reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of peace in every sense of the word - ideals that the United Nations has symbolized throughout its history.

This requires us to look at peace from many different perspectives. It reminds us that to win the battle for enduring peace, we must fight on several fronts: for freedom from the scourge of war; freedom from abject and dehumanising poverty; and freedom from the threat of living on a polluted planet with few natural resources left.

We can build a better world for succeeding generations, if we only summon the will. The leaders of the world affirmed that will at the Millennium Summit last year. And the peoples of the world have spoken just as clearly. By joining in activities to promote the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, you are all, in your own way, nurturing the culture of peace for the sake of our children and grandchildren.

You all have an important part to play -- by making your voices heard; by raising awareness; by showing the will to overcome differences; by building networks of concerned citizens; by holding your Governments accountable. Please think of this as your commitment; we need all of you to be involved in this undertaking. However you choose to do it, I hope you will always see the United Nations as a valuable ally in the struggle for peace.



INTERNATIONAL DECADE  
FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE

2001



2010

AND NON-VIOLENCE  
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

