

GEMS FROM THE UN DECLARATION ON CULTURE OF PEACE



"A culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life based on ...respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation"



"Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace. In this context, human rights education is of particular importance."



"Governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace."

"Civil society needs to be fully engaged in fuller development of a culture of peace."



"The educative and informative role of the media contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace."



"A key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations."



"Progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations."

"The United Nations should continue to play a critical role in the promotion and strengthening of culture of peace worldwide."



United Nations High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace

**"SOWING THE SEEDS OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE :
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS THE BEGINNING"**

**Convened by the President
of the**

**71st Session of the General Assembly
HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PETER THOMSON**



**Thursday 7 September 2017
From 10.00 am to 6.00 pm**

**General Assembly Hall
and
Trusteeship Council Chamber
UN Headquarters, New York**

**In cooperation with
The Global Movement for The Culture of Peace
(GMCoP)**

Background

On 13 September 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus and without reservation, its landmark, pioneering and norm-setting resolution 53/243 on the **Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace**. Among other things, it provided the driving force for the implementation of the UN-declared **International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)**. Asserting and re-affirming the commitment of the totality of the Member States for building the culture of peace, the UNGA has adopted every year since 1997 resolutions on the subject.

Ever since the initiative taken in 1997 to include a separate agenda item on the culture of peace and the UNGA decision to do so allocating the item to the plenary of the General Assembly, every year the Assembly has adopted by consensus a comprehensive, self-standing resolution on the culture of peace. The General Assembly, through its annual substantive resolutions, has highlighted the priority it attaches to the full and effective implementation of these visionary decisions which are universally applicable and is sought after by the vast majority of all peoples in every nation.

Recognizing the need for continual support to the further strengthening of the global movement to promote the Culture of Peace, as envisaged by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the day-long, General Assembly High Level Forum is intended to coincide with the anniversary date of the adoption of 53/243. Substantively, the Forum is to be an open public opportunity for the UN Member States, UN system entities, civil society including NGOs, media, private sector, and all others interested, to have an exchange of ideas and suggestions on the ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace and to highlight emerging trends that impact on the implementation process.

When we see what is happening around us, we realise the urgent need for promoting the culture of peace - peace through dialogue - peace through non-violence. The culture of peace begins with each one of us – unless we are ready to integrate peace and non-violence as part of our daily existence, we cannot expect our communities, our nations, our planet to be peaceful. We should be prepared and confident in resolving the challenges of our lives in a non-aggressive manner. This individual dimension is the core message of the culture of peace, more so in recent years, and can create the collective action for peace which the United Nations is aiming to achieve for more than the seven decades of its existence.

The Forum is convened by the UNGA President and he/she takes the lead in the preparations of the event which focuses on the implementation of the Programme of Action. It is organized through broad partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society. Following the wide-ranging success of the UN General Assembly's High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace held on 14 September 2012, the Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution 68/125 on "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace", co-sponsored by 105 Member States led by Bangladesh.

In its operative para13, it said "Requests the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September."

Earlier in 2012 a resolution (A/Res/67/106) which, inter alia, also requested the President to consider convening the High Level Forum, was adopted by the Assembly at its 67th session with the co-sponsorship of 84 Member States also under Bangladesh's leadership.

In 2016, UNGA resolution A/Res/71/252 reiterated its request to the President to consider convening the High Level Forum. It was adopted at the Assembly's 71st session with the co-sponsorship of 102 Member States under Bangladesh's leadership.



United Nations High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace

UN General Assembly Hall
and
Trusteeship Council Chamber – New York

7 September 2017

MORNING SESSION

10:00–10:30 am Opening Segment

H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the 71st
Session of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of
the United Nations

Keynote Address:

Dr. Betty Williams, 1976 Nobel Peace Laureate;
President and Founder, World Centers of Compassion for
Children International

10:30–10:45 am Musical Interlude

**Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation
at the United Nations**

*Inspired by the words of peace, harmony and oneness of Sri Chinmoy, their
performances over the years are dedicated to peace and United Nations.*

10:45–1:00 pm General Debate Segment–Statements by Member States and Observers

AFTERNOON SESSION

3:00–5:30 pm Panel Discussion

“Sowing the Seeds of the Culture of Peace: Early Childhood Development is the Beginning”

Chair and Moderator:

H.E. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations; Chair of the UN General Assembly Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace (1998-1999); Founder, Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Mary Elisabeth Flores Flake of Honduras

H.E. Professor Federico Mayor, former Director-General of UNESCO and President, Culture of Peace Foundation

Dr. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay of Hungary

Ms. Mikiko Otani, Member, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and International Human Rights Lawyer

Dr. Rima Salah, Chair, Early Childhood Peace Consortium of UNICEF and former UN Deputy SRSG

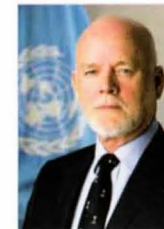
Dr. Nancy Hardt, Professor Emerita, University of Florida and Researcher on Adverse Childhood Experiences and Resiliency

5:30–5:45 pm Closing Segment–Statement by the
President of the General Assembly

OPENING SESSION

H.E. MR. PETER THOMSON

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



H.E. MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

DR. BETTY WILLIAMS

NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE

Since being awarded the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize, Betty Williams has devoted her life to creating a new way forward for the world's children. As a result of her efforts over a period of 35 years, the first City of Peace in the world for children is being built in the Region Basilicata. Under her leadership, the people of Basilicata saved the land identified by the Italian government for the dumping of nuclear waste and are using it for the benefit of children. Mrs. Williams knows this will begin a new paradigm for children, a new way forward. In her travels it became evident that to create the changes necessary and persuade governments to listen to the voices of their children, legislative changes must be implemented to protect children. She is also advocating that where children are under threat of death and destruction, safe areas must be created, areas off limits to any form of military attack. This is her life's work.



CHAIR AND MODERATOR

H.E. AMBASSADOR ANWARUL K. CHOWDHURY



He has devoted many years as an inspirational champion for sustainable peace and development ardently advancing the cause of the global movement for the culture of peace. His determined leadership led to the UN General Assembly's adoption in 1999 of the landmark Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace and to the UN Security Council's adoption of its groundbreaking Resolution 1325 on women's contributions to peace and security. He was Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to the UN (1996–2001) and served as Under-Secretary-General of the UN for the world's most vulnerable nations from 2002 to 2007. Recipient of Honorary Doctorates from the Saint Peter's University, USA and the Soka University of Japan; UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace and University of Massachusetts Boston Chancellor's Medal for Global Leadership for Peace. He is the Founder of the Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP).

PANEL DISCUSSION

H.E. AMBASSADOR MARY ELISABETH FLORES FLAKE



Ambassador Flores Flake became the first woman Ambassador of Honduras to the United Nations representing the Government of Unity and Reconciliation in 2010 and re-appointed in January 2014. She was elected as Vice-President of the UN General Assembly's 67th Session in 2012. She was elected to public office following a groundbreaking political reform in Honduras with the highest percentage of votes. She also became the youngest and the first woman to hold the position of the First Vice-President of the National Congress of the Republic of Honduras (2006–2010). She practiced journalism for ten years as a columnist and as a Board member of La Tribuna in Honduras. Since May 2016, Ambassador Flores Flake is the President of the Executive Board of International Association of Permanent Representatives (IAPR) in New York.

H.E. PROFESSOR FEDERICO MAYOR



Dr. Federico Mayor, Professor of Biochemistry, Rector of Granada University (1968–1972), Co-founder of the Center of Molecular Biology Severo Ochoa in the Autonomous University of Madrid, Minister of Education and Science of Spain (1981–1982), President of the Issyk-Kul Forum (Pres. M. Gorbachev, 1986–1992), Director General of UNESCO (1987–1999), President of the High Level Group of the "Alliance of Civilizations" (2005), Current President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, since 2000 and of the International Commission against the Death Penalty since 2010.

DR. MARTA SANTOS PAIS



Marta Santos Pais is the first Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, appointed in 2009. She has more than 30 years' experience on human rights issues, and engagement in United Nations and intergovernmental processes. She was Director of the UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre (2001–2009). She was also a member of the UN Drafting Group of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child and of its Optional Protocols and has participated in the development of other key international human rights standards.

H.E. AMBASSADOR KATALIN BOGYAY



Ambassador Bogayay represents Hungary to the United Nations since 2015. From 2009 to 2014, she served as her country's Ambassador and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO and from 2011 to 2013 as President of UNESCO's General Conference. From 2006 to 2009, she was Hungary's State Secretary for International Affairs for Education and Culture, and from 1999 to 2006, Founding Director of the Hungarian Cultural Centre in London. Prior to entering government, Ms. Bogayay had a distinguished career as an international television broadcaster, film producer and writer. She is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts in the United Kingdom and the World Academy of Art and Science in the United States. The author of several books and publications, she is also a guest lecturer and speaker at universities and international conferences.

MS. MIKIKO OTANI



Mikiko Otani is a Member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). An international human rights lawyer based in Tokyo where practicing family law with focus on women's and children's rights, she is a Council Member of the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute. She is deeply committed to human rights education providing training for professionals and the general public on the rights of the child, in particular, early childhood development and child participation.

DR. RIMA SALAH



Dr. Rima Salah is a highly effective advocate for the rights of children and women in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. Currently she is the Chair of the Early Childhood Peace Consortium (ECPC), an entity launched at UNICEF HQ in September 2013 to highlight the well-being of children and families who can be sustainable agents of change for peacebuilding. She served as a Member of the United Nations High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (2014–15), and as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the Central African Republic and Chad. Dr. Salah has had a distinguished career with UNICEF serving twice as Deputy Executive Director.

DR. NANCY HARDT



Dr. Nancy Hardt is Professor Emerita of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Florida College of Medicine. Presently she collaborates with community leaders to address local health equity issues, specifically early childhood brain development as an important social determinant of adult health. She co-founded the Intimate Partner Violence Clinic in conjunction with the College of Law, in which law and medical students learn together how best to meet the needs of victims. The law-medicine partnership led to the formation of Peace4Gainesville which seeks to reduce trauma and enhance resilience for children, in particular. These efforts have resulted in widespread recognition of Dr. Hardt's contribution to children's welfare and wellbeing.

United Nations High-Level Forum
on The Culture of Peace

General Assembly Hall, 7 September 2017

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Songs of Peace by Sri Chinmoy

The Singers from *Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations* have been privileged to perform at the UN and other venues, songs composed by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to peace and the UN. At the invitation of UN Secretary-General U Thant, in 1970, Sri Chinmoy began leading meditations for delegates and staff and other programmes for peace at UN Headquarters, and the Singers are honoured to continue in this spirit.



Bird drawings
by Sri Chinmoy

O Dreamers of Peace

O dreamers of peace, come,
Let us walk together.

O lovers of peace, come,
Let us run together.

O servers of peace, come,
Let us grow together.



The words to this song were featured when members of the diplomatic community joined in setting a Guinness World Record for the poem recited in the most languages in 24 hours (203 languages) on 10 April 2014 at Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, United Nations environs.

A Moment's Truth

A moment's truth can and shall make the world beautiful.

A moment's peace can and shall save the world.

A moment's love can and shall make the world perfect.

A New World of Peace

A new world of peace,
A new world of light,
A new world of height
Can alone give me
Satisfaction-delight.



In the Depths of Peace

Shanti gabbire banchite chahigo shanti gabbire
In the depths of peace I long to live.



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Ever since the initiative taken in 1997 to include a separate agenda item on the culture of peace and the UNGA decision to do so allocating the item to the plenary of the General Assembly, every year the Assembly has adopted by consensus a comprehensive, self-standing resolution on the culture of peace. The General Assembly, through its annual substantive resolutions, has highlighted the priority it attaches to the full and effective implementation of these visionary decisions which are universally applicable and is sought after by the vast majority of all peoples in every nation.

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on
The Culture of Peace**

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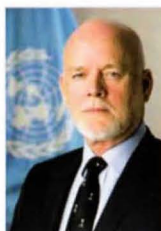
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**5:30–5:45 pm Closing Segment–Statement by the
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General Assembly Hall, 7 September 2017

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A New World of Peace

A new world of peace,
A new world of light,
A new world of height
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Shanti gabbhire banchite chahigo shanti gabbhire
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