We live in a difficult, complex, but also fascinating era, because for the first time we have the chance to influence governments on a local and global scale. Modern information and communications technology not only facilitates global knowledge and, thus, appreciation for what we have and awareness of those less fortunate, but it likewise enables distance participation. The participation of all peoples that is so essential for genuine democracy.

Thus, at last it will be the peoples, so lucidly referred to in the United Nations Charter, who will take their destinies into their own hands. At last, world governance based on multilateralism and public liberties and justice. At last, the security of peace rather than the peace of security. At last, on the local, community, regional and international levels, the will of all and the voices of everyone.

At last, no longer passive subjects, but rather full citizens.

It is finally within our power, working together daily, to achieve the transition from a secular culture of violence and war to a culture of dialogue, conciliation and peace.

At last, within a few years, peace on Earth.
AT PEACE WITH THE PLANET

The modern era has been an age of great scientific and cultural advances, but like others, full of lights and shadows. A result of the latter, of the errors and excesses of the last centuries, is the delicate situation that today affects the environment (climate change, drastic shifts in land use, loss of biodiversity, energy problems...). Changes in the planet prompted by our species are so intense that together have produced the so-called “global change”, a critical situation in certain aspects to maintain our life forms on earth.

At the same time, a widespread reductionist and mechanistic world view has resulted in nature being considered a machine with rules that ignore the enormous complexity of all living things. Fortunately science has itself prompted a change in the paradigm since the beginning of the 20th century, but this new paradigm and the complex thought it generates have not quite prevailed over the simplistic and economist views that insist of subjecting the earth’s assets to the exclusive economic interests of transnational companies and the world’s most powerful.

In these circumstances, with nature backed into a corner, we must urgently reassess our collective attitude (for which the countries in the north bear greater responsibility), to stop the destruction and leave a habitable planet for our future generations. This will require fundamental technological, political, economic and social changes. And also changes in education, in the values that we teach our children and youth. But undoubtedly the greatest transformation must be made in our minds and hearts: we must come to feel that nature has an intrinsic value, that there are certain rhythms and certain rules that must be respected. We must cease to equate welfare with consumption, practice self control and austerity in the use of resources, and advance toward social equality between the rich north and the global south...

In my opinion we will not take that step and peace will not be possible without several prior prerequisites: first, accepting that without personal sustainability there can be no collective sustainability. We have to reconsider whether we want to live merely as submissive producers and consumers or if life is really something more creative, full of intangible values. As for global sustainability, it is essential to underscore that the policies of unlimited growth, which are so in vogue, are a road to disaster. Our challenge is to reinvent and implement forms of sustainable development that don’t necessarily have an enormous ecological footprint that will have catastrophic results.

This doesn’t mean “being worse off”, but rather reorienting our priorities: doing away with tax havens; regulating financial flows; drastically reducing military spending…, and devoting more resources to social and ecological objectives. Because we are consuming the planets’ biological “assets” faster than the ecosystems’ capacity for regeneration...

Because a great part of humanity lives in permanent hunger and poverty… Is this the world we want to leave our children?

We have lived and still live fascinated by the GDP and other quantitative indicators that reflect the state of the economy in a rather crude and indiscriminate way.
Words from MARÍA NOVO

But these indicators don’t measure peoples’ happiness or the aspirations of young people who seek to rule their own destinies rather than being mere passive subjects, or the time that parents in our societies have to spend with their children… Some sectors are turning to a new indicator, the GDH, which measures “gross domestic happiness”, something that is much more complex and interesting.

This measurement reflects a reorientation of our lifestyles toward post-materialist societies that take into account not only peoples’ material necessities, but also their emotional, psychological and intellectual needs…

Fortunately, something is moving. Peace on the planet will be possible if we are individually and collectively capable of rectifying on time.

This possible peace will above all be signed in the hearts and minds of the people. Protocols and political and economic agreements are necessary to readjust our objectives. But it is an urgent priority for each of us to understand something that is so simple that it is often forgotten: you can’t change lives without changing your own life.

(*) María Novo is Professor of the UNESCO Chair of Environmental Education and Sustainable Development at the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia.

World Report on a Culture of Peace 2010

The World Report on the Culture of Peace 2010 was made as the culmination of the United Nations International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World 2001-2010.

The Report presents and analyzes the contributions of civil society to the Culture of Peace during the decade. It contains information compiled and provided by almost 1,000 organizations from all over the world that have conducted activities to promote a culture of peace and non-violence.

Manuel Manonelles, director of the Barcelona office, together with Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury and Mr. David Adams presented the World Report on the Culture of Peace 2010 at the 65th General Assembly of the United Nations on October 15, 2010. The report was subsequently distributed to all of the United Nations delegations.

The Foundation for a Culture of Peace in Barcelona has published the report in English and Spanish.

Download WRCP:

Spanish - English
Making Peace in Colombia

The “Making Peace in Colombia” Seminar was held on February 21-23, 2011 in Buenos Aires (Argentina), organized by the Association of Colombians for Peace under the leadership of Piedad Córdoba, former Colombian senator, with the support of the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and COPAL.

Forum participants analyzed experiences in Colombia and other countries that have forged and continue to forge processes of dialogue and negotiated solutions to armed conflicts.

Also examined were coherent means of political approximation, both for conducting strategic peace talks as well as rapidly “humanizing” conflicts.

Both the President of the Culture of Peace Foundation Federico Mayor Zaragoza and the Director of its Barcelona Office Manuel Manonelles participated in this Seminar, in which Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Adolfo Pérez Esquivel was likewise present.

More information on the Seminar

Assessing Education for Development in Spain

On March 4 a study prepared by Manuela Mesa and Jose Escudero was released on the status of Education for Development in Spain.

This report identifies the principle strengths and weaknesses of Education for Development in Spain and offers a series of recommendations to advance in this field of action.

During the seminar organized by CEIPAZ different dimensions of education for development were discussed by a group of participants that included researchers, members of NGOs, professors, and representatives of local, regional and state governments.

For additional information see: www.ceipaz.org/educacionparaeldesarrollo

From Force to Words
The wisdom of Women: keys to peace

The Culture of Peace Foundation is supporting a new international project: El Saber de las Mujeres: Claves para la Paz (Women's Knowledge: the Missing Piece for Peace), directed by Teresa Langle de Paz and Margarita Benítez. The WK project seeks to foment, disseminate and more adequately use the wisdom of women for building peace and a more just world.

WK is beginning its work in 2011 with three short and middle-term objectives:

1. To develop an inter-university program of scholarships and exchange program for professionals in Europe, the United States, Latin America, the Caribbean and the countries of North Africa, in order to support specific projects and multiply synergies.

2. To establish international action and coordination platforms. Work is underway to create a broad international network of institutions.

3. To create a community and a global program to promote and support the knowledge, training and leadership of women. In a meeting to be held in June, 2011 in New York a group of experts will set forth the basic principles of this transnational program to democratize the access and dissemination of the knowledge of women.

At present a Pilot Project is being prepared in which four and six universities on each side of the Atlantic will participate, and which will be launched in 2012.

For more information on WK contact tlangledepaz@fund-culturadepaz.org

Culture of Peace: Networking and Commitment to Development

During 2011-2012 the Culture of Peace Foundation will continue with its project initiated in 2005-2007, “Culture of Peace: Networking and Commitment to Development”.

The objective of this project is to consolidate an international network of people and organizations which, through cooperation, carry out activities and projects to promote a culture of peace and non-violence all over the world.

“There is no peace without development, nor development without peace”

Internacional Network:

Argentina: Alicia Cabezudo

Guatemala: Office of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace (Federico Figueroa)

Mexico: International Institut for a Democratic Culture (Jorge Nieto)

Mali: Centre Amadou Hampaté (Aminata Traoré)

Nicaragua: “Martin Luther King” Institut Technical University of Nicaragua (Denis Torres)

Rusia: International Public Foundation for Survival and Development of the Humanity Rustem Khairov)
Learn by telling: visualizing Women’s Contributions to Development and Peace

In 2011-2012 training-action workshops will be held for women’s associations, youth associations, local organizations and social-cultural activities coordinators. Workshops will approach strategies used by women working for peace and development from a gender perspective, based on real-life experiences. Participants will examine the lives of anonymous or well-known women who have made relevant contributions to development and peace.

Additional information is available at: [www.1325mujerestejiendolapaz.org](http://www.1325mujerestejiendolapaz.org)

Lar da Paz, International Center for Peace

The Seminario Galego de Educación para a Paz is continuing its rehabilitation work and has launched Lar da Paz, and International Center for Peace in the Herbon Franciscan Monastery in Padrón (A Coruña). This Center will provide a place for teaching the values of a culture of peace and will have a documentation and research center, library, video archive, permanent exhibition hall, auditorium and classrooms. It is due to be operative within three years.

Agenda April-June 2011

11-17 April. World Action for Education Week, focusing on the theme “Education isn’t a fairy tale: for the rights of women and girls”.


May 2011. The first issue of the thematic Bulletin “En son de Paz” will be published in May by the Seminario Galego de Educación para a Paz. This first issue will be devoted to volunteering.

10-11 May. International Seminar on New Challenges for Peace, in Madrid at the Círculo de Bellas Artes. Organized by the Movement for Peace (MPDL) and Foundation Culture of Peace.

12 May. Conferencia de Federico Mayor Zaragoza “Education and transmission of values” in Vic, Auditorio Unnim, Rambla Hospital, at 20 h.

27-28 May. Meeting of the UNESCO Chairs in Culture of Peace and Human Rights in Santiago de Compostela, organized by the and the Spanish Cooperation Commission of UNESCO.
Publications

Declaration on a Culture of Peace of Easy-to-Read

The Foundation Culture of Peace and the Citizenship Foundation, have published "Declaration on a Culture of Peace" of "Easy-to-Read", to mark the end of the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010". This publication seeks to facilitate an understanding of the Declaration for children and for people with reading disabilities.

This version of the Declaration may provide an important tool for teachers in their educational tasks of fomenting a culture of peace, conciliation, understanding, solidarity and tolerance, as well as rejecting all forms of oppression and violence.

The Crime of Silence: The time has come. It’s time for action

Editorial Comanegra has just released "The Crime of Silence: the time has come. It’s time for action", a publication in which its author, Federico Mayor urges citizens to take a stand and take the reins of their destinies into their own hands, rather than remaining silent spectators, and to say ENOUGH!

"The time has come for the peoples, the women and men of the whole world to take the reins of their destinies into their own hands. The time has come to refuse to accept the unacceptable. To rise up, to raise our voices and offer an outstretched hand"

Peace as Culture

“Peace as Culture: Sources and Resources in Education for Peace Teaching Methods” is the first volume of a book concerning resources and teaching methods written by Manuel Dios Diz, President of the Seminario Galego de Educación para a Paz. In this book the author analyzes the principal declarations, reports, documents, etc. relating to a culture of peace.

In 2011 a second volume will be published under the title “Teaching Methods for Peace”.

2010 Annual Report of Activities of the Foundation Culture of Peace

The Culture of Peace Foundation’s 2010 Annual Report of Activities is now available. It may be downloaded at:  http://fund-culturdepaz.org/spa/03/MEMORIAS/MEMORIA_FCP_2010.pdf
Recommended Resources

**CEIPAZ Virtual Library.** Freely-accessible databases including documents, reports, culture of peace declarations, investigations on peace, security and governance, gender and conflict, human rights, conflict prevention, etc.

**Culture of Peace and inter-religious Dialogue.** Web page that includes information concerning the Meeting and Declaration of Montserrat on Religions and the Building of Peace held in 2008, as well as other activities and resources on inter-religious dialogue and the construction of a Culture of Peace.

**Education for Development** Web page of the Center for Education and Research for Peace (CEIPAZ), specialized in material concerning education for development.

**Planeta Pau: Peace Blogs.** Portal of peace blogs sponsored by Fundació per la Pau, that brings together blogs concerning a culture of peace, conflict analysis, education for peace, disarmament and non-violence.

**SIPRI’s databases.** Databases of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, (access is free) concerning international relations and security, peace operations, military spending, the arms industry, etc.

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Founded in 2000, the fundamental objective of the **Foundation Culture of Peace** is to contribute to building and consolidating a culture of peace through reflection, research, education and on-site action in accordance with the *Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace* and those derived from the *International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).*

The Headquarters of FCP is in Madrid, and it has two external offices and a Center of Education and Research for Peace.

-**Foundation Culture of Peace Barcelona Office**  
  Director: Manuel Manonelles i Tarragó

-**Foundation Culture of Peace Santiago de Compostela Office**  
  (Seminario Galego de Educación para a Paz)  
  Director: Manuel Dios Diz

-**Center of Education and Research for Peace (CEIPAZ)**  
  Director: Manuela Mesa Peinado

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From Force to Words.  
The Great Transition.  

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