From force to words

Bulletin of the Foundation Culture of Peace

EDITORIAL

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

"I who could no longer remain silent"
Garcilaso de la Vega
(Egloga II, 467)

The earth trembles: climate change, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, volcanoes... while confused and deeply moved human beings, "the eyes of the universe", observe what happens.

Human beings have brought much of their ills upon themselves. Only a few men have held the reins of the common destiny in their own hands. The rest, isolated, submissive, terrified, obedient, silenced.

Now, suddenly, emancipation.

Suddenly, an outcry. Suddenly, people in the limelight. Suddenly, seeds for so long barren, are now bearing fruit. Suddenly, hope in the midst of anxiety.

Suddenly, what seemed unchangeable can change in four days. Thus an interminable winter, loveless and without laughter, has given way to a spring that appears abundant and irreversible. Some, as in Neruda’s poem, will seek to “cut all of the roses”... But as the poet assured us, spring “will arrive in good time”.

A popular outcry. We must hear it and heed it.

Voices united. Wings for freedom, for the dignity of us all. Wings on which the new generations can fly high in the infinite universe of the spirit.

Meeting together peacefully once in a while, or permanently in cyberspace, that great plaza of our future. We must now fix our course and define our needs.

And to continue, to continue tirelessly on. Pedro Salinas, the poet who wrote "La voz a ti debida", expressed it so perfectly: "When man tires... / love tires,... he stops / he betrays the world, because he fails / in his supreme obligation to persevere".

It is perseverance that leads us to success and that gives sense to our daily lives. "It will fill our lives / that pure, never ending flight".

It is time to cease being comfortably seated, passive spectators. It’s time for words, for listening, for taking action.

Yes: dawn is nigh. We will lay down our arms forever and will join together in a single voice, loud and clear. The duty to speak up against the crime of silence.

Like Blas de Otero, the 15M “indignant” will become involved, committed and, as he did, will demand “peace and the word”.

Blog Federico Mayor Zaragoza: http://www.federicomayor.blogspot.com
Words from MARIO SOARES

SPAIN, PORTUGAL AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

Spain and Portugal acceded to the EEC, today’s European Union, together on June 12, 1985, after the fall of the obsolete dictatorship of Franco and Salazar.

Spain and Portugal’s accession to the European project had an enormous impact on these two Iberian Peninsula countries. With their regained freedom, everything changed. The Peninsula experienced enormous unexpected political, cultural, economic and social progress. And the citizens of “Iberia”, Spaniards and Portuguese, became a part of the “first world”, with all of the benefits that this brings.

In the meantime the communist world and the so-called “popular democracies” collapsed. All claimed their places in the sun, in a Europe that was then united in solidarity. But the United States was convinced that it was the dominant power and could “colonize” Europe with its neo-liberal ideology.

Then two decisive events occurred: the integration of the Eastern Bloc countries into Europe and the EU, and the progressive loss of the ideals on which the European project had always been based (unity, solidarity, social justice, full employment, social cohesion, etc.)

All of this has slowly disappeared with the global crisis affecting the world since 2008. National banks have had to ask for government aid to avoid massive default. The EU did not react in a unified way and unfortunately was late with the support offered to Greece.

We’ve returned to dangerous nationalist egotisms and the doctrine of “every man for himself”, so radically contrary to the fundamental values of the European project.

Europe is now governed by conservative parties, and even by the far right. The Christian Democrats were replaced by Popular Parties and the Church’s social doctrine has been forgotten. The socialists and social-democrats put their faith in the markets, in the empire of money, and forsook socialism in liberty.

And despite it all, we still have confidence. The people are beginning to react and our youth is becoming indignant, demonstrating peacefully in the streets. After time, comes time.

(*) Mário Soares, President of the Foundation Mário Soares

Mr. Mário Soares has been President of the Republic of Portugal between years 1986 and 1996.
Exhibition: “Is a new world organization possible?"

The World Forum of Civil Society Networks, UBUNTU Forum has created an exhibition entitled Is a new world organization possible? within the framework of the project “Strengthening local contribution to the reform of international institutions”, implemented in collaboration with the Barcelona Provincial Council.

Download dossier and exhibition:
http://www.ubuntu.upc.edu/pdf/dossier_expo.pdf

Pre-Forum of Civil Society of Alliance of Civilizations

On May 3-4 the Barcelona office director Manuel Manonelles participated in the Pre-Forum of Civil Society of Alliance of Civilizations held in Doha, Qatar, with 190 participants from 80 countries.

A large variety of topics were discussed during the Pre-Forum, including the need for greater social cohesion and inclusion in culturally diverse societies, the role of the communications media in mobilizing and discrimination, among others.

The meeting was part of the preparation for the IV Forum of the Alliance of Civilizations to be held next December, also in Doha, Qatar.

For more information: http://www.qatar4unaoc.org/

Workshop “Civil Society organization in Intercultural Dialogue”

The Barcelona office director participated in the workshop on “Civil Society organization in Intercultural Dialogue” organized by the Jean Monet European Center of Excellence at the University of Padua on May 9-10. Manuel Manonelles delivered a paper on “Civil Society and Promoting a Culture of Peace” and actively participated in discussions in other sessions.

For more information:
Meeting of UNESCO Chairs

A meeting of the UNESCO Chairs in Culture of Peace, Human Rights, Democracy, Citizenship, Gender, Interculturality and Migrations was held on May 27-28 in Santiago de Compostela.

The principal objectives of the meeting were to exchange information, create networks and strengthen relationships, as well as to explore the possibility of entering into future agreements among the Chairs existing in Spain.

Organized by:
- UNESCO Chair on Culture of Peace and Human Rights of USC
- Galician Seminar for Education for Peace
- Foundation for a Culture of Peace
- University of Santiago de Compostela
- UNESCO Etxea
- Spanish Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO
- UNESCO

UNESCO Center in Galicia

The Spanish National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO has authorized the Galician Seminar for Education for Peace to initiate the process of creating a UNESCO Center in Galicia, in association with the International Center for Peace (Lar da Paz), to be located in the Herbon Franciscan Monastery in Padron (A Coruña).

Exploring New Capacities to Adress the Threat of Atrocity Crimes: The Case of a UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS)

Represented by Manuela Mesa, Foundation for a Culture of Peace, participated in the Seminar: Exploring New Capacities to Adress the Threat of Atrocity Crimes: The Case of a UN Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS) organized by the United Nations Youth Association and United Nations Information Service in Vienna on May 23-27, 2011. The seminar explored the role that the international community may play in preventing genocide and crimes against humanity.

Official Event during the Global Action Week for Education

As member of the Global Campaign for Education, the Foundation for a Culture of Peace participated in the Official Event during the Action Week in which students involved in the campaign had a private meeting in the Spanish Congress with the Committee for Cooperation. Fifty students met with Delia Blanco, chairperson of the committee, and the committee members from different parliamentary groups to urge the Government to fulfill its commitment to provide universal basic education.
UNESCO and the Malaga Football C., together for “imagine peace”

On June 1, 2011, Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO and Sheikh Abdullah Al-Thani, President of Malaga F.C., signed a cooperation agreement between UNESCO and Malaga CF with the slogan “Imagine peace”. The four-year agreement’s objective is to promote a culture of peace through sport, Internet and social networks.

OAS Countries Undertake to Promote a Culture of Peace

The 41st General Assembly of the OAS ended on June 7 by approving the “San Salvador Declaration on Citizen Security in the Americas”, in which the member states reaffirmed their commitment to promoting a culture of peace and nonviolence within the framework of the rule of law.

e-STAS Simposium on Technologies for Social Action

Federico Mayor Zaragoza and Ana Barrero, participated in e-STAS, Simposium on Technologies for Social Action, organized by the Cyber-Volunteers Foundation, and held in Malaga on June 28-29, 2011. The event focused on cyber-activism for empowering citizens, and was attended by bloggers and activists who use technology to promote political, social and economic change at the local and global levels (Tunis, Iraq, Ciudad Juarez, Iceland, Spain Revolution, Wikileaks, Avaaz, Anonymous… etc.)

WILPF Spain

“Peace is much more than just taking a stand: it is a genuine revolution, a lifestyle, and way of inhabiting the planet, the means for being one’s self”

Maria Zambrano

The Spanish section of the international network WILPF (Women’s Internacional League for Peace and Freedom was founded in Madrid on June 10, 2011.

Joining this international network whose 100th anniversary is in 2015, the Spanish section commences under inspiration from those women who! through feminism took a pacifist, international and transnational stand in response to militarism and war.

Under the name WILPF Spain, a group of women from different professional backgrounds have taken this initiative to publicize, support and participate in the work of women for peace and disarmament in the world.

http://www.wilprespanya.blogspot.com

Pending admission during the WILPF Congress to be held in Costa Rica from July 30 through August 6, 2011
During the month of July the Pilot Project (2011-2012) *Women’s Knowledge: the Missing Piece for Peace*, will be launched, directed by Teresa Langle de Paz and Margarita Benitez, with the participation of eight institutions, including *Foundation Culture of Peace*, Spanish Women Institut, Library of Alexandria, University Jaume I of Castellon, University Complutense of Madrid, Sacred Heart University of Puerto Rico, Aletta Institute for Women’s History in the Netherlands, and two US universities, Lehman College and Montana State University.

The initial phase of the WK Pilot Project (2011-2012) will be devoted to gathering information and fieldwork with universities and organizations prior to the launch of WK in 2013. The programs seek to put into practice one of the Project’s central objectives: to establish alliances among the diverse elements of feminist knowledge and women to multiply their effects toward building a culture of peace.

For more information concerning WK, contact tangledepaz@fund-culturadepaz.org

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**Agenda July-October, 2011**

**July 8-16.** European Meeting of Youth for a Culture of Peace, in Varennes–Auzelles and Garchizy, organized by the Mouvement de la Paix, together with other European peace organizations such as Fundació per la Pau = Foundation for Peace and international entities such as UNESCO.

**July 25-27.** Meeting "Communication and Development. News Escenes", at International University Menéndez Pelayo of Santander, organized by AECID and the Inter Press Service Agency (IPS)

**July 30-August 6.** WILPF Congress 2011, San José de Costa Rica.

**September 3-5.** 64th Annual United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) / Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), “Sustainable Societies; Responsive Citizens”, in Bonn, Germany.

**September 22-25.** XXXIII CICA “The Seville Statement on Violence: 25 years later”, Rome. Among other institutions, organized by Foundation Culture of Peace.


**October 13-14.** International Meeting “Science, Humanism and Beliefs in a Plural Society”, organized by University of Oviedo. Conference by Federico Mayor Zaragoza “Mystery of Existence: Belief and unbelief”
Publications

2001-2012 CEIPAZ YEARBOOK “A world adrift: crisis and power struggles”

New edition of the CEIPAZ-Culture of Peace Foundation Yearbook for 2011-2012, which highlights the international crisis and suggested alternatives, nuclear armament, the Wikileaks phenomenon, or new ways of approaching peace based on indexed definitions.

From a regional perspective the yearbook includes analyses concerning democratization in the Maghreb, human rights in China, the United States, the Sahara, and regionalism in Latin America.

For more information, see the Yearbook Blog and web site of CEIPAZ.

Religions and Peace Building: The Conference and Declaration of Montserrat

Barcelona Office of the Foundation Culture of Peace has published the book Religions and Peace Building: The Conference and Declaration of Montserrat with support from the Catalanian Agency of Cooperation for Development. This publication includes the most significant elements of the Declaration of Montserrat that was held in April, 2008 to discuss the role of religions and intercultural dialogue in peace building. The book may be downloaded in Catalan and English.

Executive Report of the International Seminar on “Religions and the Building of Peace”

Within the framework of promoting inter-religious dialogue for peace, the Barcelona office has recently published the Executive Report of the International Seminar on “Religions and Peace Building: Fostering Intercultural and Inter-religious Cooperation and Action for a Culture of Peace” held on May 18, 2010 in the United Nations headquarters in Geneva.

La rebelión sigilosa = The Silent Rebellion

Teresa Langle de Paz

This book examines the “silent rebellion” of women as a source of social change, a provocative notion of omnipresent prevalent feminism. The author suggests new and promising means for achieving social and political equilibrium.

Report of Activities of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, 2008-2010

The Foundation for a Culture of Peace has published its triennial activities report, 2008-2010. Download
Recommended Resources

1325 Women Peace Weaving. Website that includes profiles of women who have played an active role in promoting peace in the world. It presents the lives of both well-known and anonymous women who in their public activities and in their daily routines have contributed to creating a more human, stable and secure world.

UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger. Interactive map that presents data and indicates the different levels of danger facing 2,473 of the world’s languages.

Declaration on a Culture of Peace of Easy-to-Read. Complete text of the Declaration in an easy-to-read format to facilitate its understanding by children and persons with reading disabilities. For use by teachers of education for peace, solidarity and tolerance, as well as the rejection of all forms of oppression and violence.

Global Peace Index 2011, published by the Institut for Economics and Peace. Through 23 indicators are evaluated internal and international conflicts, security in society, military spending, violation of human rights, etc., in 153 countries.

Foundation Culture of Peace

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From Force to Words, the Great Transition.

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