“Only if we are capable of seeing the invisible will we be capable of doing the impossible”

The communications media keep us informed of what is happening. When journalists describe what is happening—not when they write about their points of view that are totally discretiona- they should do so truthfully. In general (and that’s why they are called “news”), they relate unusual and extraordinary events, and we thus run the risk of forming a partial or superficial impression. For that reason it is essential to try to “see the invisible” who lie in the shadows and who are not illuminated by the floodlights of the media. We will only be able to undertake deep-reaching reforms if we have an in-depth knowledge of reality. It is essential to study and analyze different aspects and dimensions, and having acquired the sufficient knowledge we can change course and modify any tendencies as needed. If we are aware of what was previously in the shadows and perceive what was until now imperceptible, we can do the impossible. So many of today’s realities were formerly “impossibles”! We must ban what was formerly considered unchangeable from our attitudes, ceasing to believe that “things are like they are” and “there’s no remedy”.

Perseverance in finding solutions is essential… knowing that if we don’t find new ways, we can invent them. There is no challenge beyond the scope of human creativity. The capacity for creating, imagining and foreseeing the future is unique to our specie. It is often said that “politics is the art of the possible”. No. That is the politics of the weak and powerless. And what we need today is precisely the opposite: people who illuminate the dark horizons by discovering new roads and, at the vanguard of progress, design the future that mankind deserves and that the future generations coming one step behind us expect.

Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff lucidly expressed this at the end of her inaugural address on January 1, 2011: “To breathe life into our dreams we must surpass the limits of the possible”. Our creative talents enable us together to reach beyond the constraints of the possible.

This is our hope.
**PARTICIPATION IN BUILDING PEACE**

2011 has shown that citizens are on the move. Prompted by the economic crisis, budget cuts, unemployment, corruption, evictions, speculation, or by all of the above, the debate concerning the apathy of people with no apparent direction has become obsolete. Citizens have not only mobilized, they have organized themselves outside of classic structures such as trade unions, political parties or associations.

Given these circumstances and the masses of people ready to work for what they consider just and necessary, but following their own previously-agreed procedures, non-governmental organizations for development must truly promote participation within their organizations if they don’t want to be left behind.

Here I would like to recall what Einstein said about the impossibility of solving our problems if we continue to think (and act) the same way as we did when the problems arose. The Peace Movement is aware of the growing need to create venues for debate, reflection and participation in Spain, and in this case concerning one of the objectives of our NGO, which is promoting a culture of peace.

We believe that four sectors are essential for building peace: education, the communications media, participative movements and local government.

Four areas that converge in our new Citizen Network for Peace, and with which we wish to provide citizens the tools required to launch initiatives that promote peace among individuals and peoples but, above all, that establish alternatives for citizen participation and make at least a small contribution toward achieving this goal.

For this reason, this network is not directed by the Peace Movement, which merely stimulates its growth: this network is supported from contributions from its own participants, who develop relations among themselves and share knowledge and experience.

In summary, we should not forget the mission for which we were created and why we exist as associations: to create venues for citizen participation for social change, venues that seek to eradicate inequalities and injustice, that promote citizen awareness and that monitor and support the public institutions responsible for guaranteeing the rights of all citizens.

*Francisca Sauquillo* President
Movement for Peace – MPDL-
The WILPF Congress is held each year at one of WILPF’s national headquarters. This year the Costa Rican section of WILPF organized the Congress during the first week of August, 2011 (July 30-August 6), which was attended by over 150 delegates from 25 different countries. WILPF is one of the women’s organizations that has a long history of working for world peace. It will celebrate its 100th anniversary in The Hague in 2015.

as the Culture of Peace Foundation’s representative, presenting a paper at one of the congress’ round tables. The Culture of Peace Foundation supported the formation of the Spanish Section of WILPF in June, 2011, and whose president is Carmen Magallón.

Interreligious Celebration of “International Peace Day”

Manuel Manonelles delivered a speech during the interreligious celebration of “International Peace Day”, organized by the Bahá’í Community in Terrasa on September 17. The event was attended by representatives of local institutions and different religious groups.

VI Prize “Memorial Joan Gomis” for Solidarity in Journalism

Once again this year the Culture of Peace Foundation—Barcelona has participated in the organization and on the jury of the sixth “Joan Gomis Memorial” Prize for Solidarity in Journalism, together with Cristianisme i Justícia, Justícia i Pau, Fundació per la Pau, Foc Nou and El Ciervo.

The awards ceremony was held on October 10 and this year the journalist Ander Izagirre received the “journalistic works” prize for “Mineritos”, “Las madres guaraníes saltan a la cancha” and “Once voces en el desierto”. The photo journalist Kim Manresa received the prize in the “lifetime achievement” category.
Innovative Financial

The Ubuntu Forum, has been working in the area of innovative financing on two large projects, together with other organizations.


2. Side-event organized on September 22 together with the inauguration of a new period of sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Entitled “Innovatinn in Justice, Innovating in Financie: Time for a Currency Transaction Tax”, Global Policy Forum, the Center of Concern, Stamp Out Poverty and the UN-NGLS, collaborated in the event that focused on the application of a tax on financial transactions to finance development.

Food Sovereignty and Global Democracy

As a part of its Campaign for In-depth Reform of the System of International Institutions, the World Forum of Civil Society Networks, UBUNTU Forum, is opening a new area of work concerning the links between food sovereignty and global democracy entitled “Food sovereignty and global democracy: new ways for eradicating hunger”.

In that framework, a working session and round table, was held on October 24, 2011 at the Patio Manning in Barcelona.

IV Meeting of the International Commission against the Death Penalty

The 4th Reunión Meeting of the International Commission against the Death Penalty, that chair Federico Mayor, was held on October 11-12 in Geneva.

After having its headquarters in Madrid for a year, the Commission will be permanently located in Geneva at the Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights.
Mayors for Peace is one of the world’s largest municipal groups, with over 5,000 member cities from 150 countries and regions, representing over 1000 million citizens.

From November 7-10 Granollers became the Capital of “Mayors for Peace”, where the organization held its 8th Executive Conference, meetings and dialogues for peace. For the first time representatives of “Mayors for Peace” met in Catalonia, including the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Federico Mayor Zaragoza participated in the executive meeting, accompanied by Montserrat Ponsa and Manuel Manonelles, who participated in one of the Dialogues for Peace on “Citizenship and Building Peace”.

301 towns in Spain are members of this organization, 200 of which are in Catalonia. Granollers Mayor Josep Mayoral has been one of the vice presidents since 2008.

Culture of Peace at the 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference

At the 36th Session of the UNESCO General Conference, held October 25- November 10 with delegates from the 193 Member States, the priorities were “sustainable development and a culture of peace and non-violence”. A large number of high level personalities participated in the Leaders’ Forum entitled “How does UNESCO contribute to building a culture of peace and sustainable development?”, where UNESCO’s priorities in these areas were discussed.

An especially relevant event was the admission of Palestine as a full member of the Organization.
Together with Foundation for Peace, the Foundation for a Culture of Peace is organizing the 4th Animations for Peace Awards, whose slogan is “We create peace day by day”.

The award has two modalities (Spot, for animations of 1 minute maximum and Short, for animations of 1 minute minimum) and two categories (Junior, for people from under 18, and Senior, for people from 18 years old on). And there’s also the Public award.

The deadline for animation’s reception is May 30th, 2012.

Agenda November 2011—April 2012

14-16 November. Closing conference by Federico Mayor at the I Congress of Culture of Peace “Palestine and Israel in a new interanal and international context” to be held in Getafe (Madrid), organized by the Institute of International and European Studies "Francisco de Vitoria", University Carlos III in Madrid, with the collaboration of UNESCO Getafe and Foundation for a Culture of Peace.

15-16 November. International Conference “Strengthening Peace and Security for Development: the Role of International Organizations and Civil Society”, organized jointly by GPPAC (Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict) and OEA.

17 November. Meeting “ICT, education, peace and solidarity”, in Madrid, organized by CEIPAZ-Foundation Culture of Peace, in which groups of professionals from academia, NGOs, the 15-M movement, etc., will participate to discuss the use of information and communications technologies in these areas.

24-25 November. The International Conference “Policymakers’ responsibility in a Changing World. The Mediterranean: Waves of Change”, will be held in Montpellier, organized by the New Policy Forum (Gorbachev Forum), with the participation of Federico Mayor.

1-3 December. XXIV Conference of the Academy of Latinity The New Democratic Imaginaries will be held in Tunis.


23-25 April 2012. Foundation Letter of Peace addressed to the United Nations and University of Barcelona are organizing the Congress “Building Peace in the 21st Century”. Federico Mayor will participate in the Opening Session. Manuel Manonelles is a member of the Advisory Committee.
Culture of Peace Initiatives

RADIOMINIATURA: A world to Share

Radiominiatura International is an education for peace project of the Neighbors’ Association Casto Antiguo, Mairena del Aljarafe, Sevilla, in collaboration with schools and associations in different countries. Their objective is to create a forum to bring together children from different countries, in which they feel they are members of the same community without borders or cultural, linguistic or religious differences.

The project is inspired in Manifesto 2000 and adopts the underlying principles of a culture of peace (respect for life, non-violence, sharing with others, listening to learn, preserve the planet, rediscovering solidarity).

It is designed for children from 7-12 years old, and aims to teach them to SHARE THE WORLD through an online radio station in which they are the real protagonists. They are the builders of peace.

Publications

Report “The Women count”

The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), have finished the second stage of their research project to monitor the application of the Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This second stage includes new analyses on Spain, conducted by Manuela Mesa (CEIPAZ), bajo el título “entitled “Women count: report on efforts to monitor the application of Resolución 1325 in Spain”

Manual ICT “Information and Communications Technologies for Peace and Solidarity”

This manual on “Information and Communications Technologies for Peace and Solidarity” provides a series of guidelines and keys to using information and communications technologies in promoting a culture of peace and solidarity. It is intended for solidarity and research organizations devoted to the culture of peace, as well as the educational sector, and can improve their work to achieve greater impact through the use of these new technologies.

It was prepared by Ana Barrero, head of Information and Technology at the Foundation for a Culture of Peace.
Recommended Resources

**Peace Portal.** This is an initiative of the GPPAC Foundation (Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict). The Peace Portal’s objective is to provide a platform for sharing and integrating information on actions designed to prevent conflicts and build peace.

**Portal of Information and Knowledge on Africa.** Developed by Fundación Sur, this is a tool for all of those who work in development on the African continent, with a view to gathering and managing all types of information on Africa, from the highly academic to current news and the opinions of relevant representatives of society, as well as seeking sources of new information.

**Portal TICambia.** CEIPAZ has launched TICambia, a web site to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peace and solidarity. This is an educational web that offers teaching resources and conceptual frameworks in five thematic areas: development and the fight against poverty, human rights and peace, gender equality, environmental sustainability and cultural diversity. Its objective is to contribute to reinforcing the skills necessary for understanding the world in which we live, using information and communications technologies. The project is directed by Manuela Mesa and coordinated by Laura Alonso, with support from Ana Barrero.

**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