

THE HISTORY OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE

I. Transition from a culture of force and imposition to a culture of dialogue, conciliation and peace. Present Trends.

*"We, the people ... determined
to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war..."*

Beginning of the Preamble to the United Nations Charter.

At the close of the United Nations Summit on the Millennium Plus 5 Goals¹ in September 2005, the final Declaration included the following paragraph, demonstrating the recognition on the part of the Heads of State and Government around the world of the urgent need for the transition from a culture of imposition, control and violence to a culture of meeting, dialogue, reconciliation and peace:

144. "Culture of peace and initiatives on dialogue among cultures, civilizations and religions

We reaffirm the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, as well as the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations and its Programme of Action, adopted by the General Assembly, and the value of different initiatives on dialogue among cultures and civilizations including the dialogue on interfaith cooperation. We commit to take action to promote a culture of peace and dialogue at local, national, regional and international levels, and request the Secretary-General to explore enhancing implementation mechanisms and to follow up on those initiatives. In this regard, we also welcome the Initiative of the Alliance of Civilizations announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005."

Four years later, on 5 November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a Resolution² on the "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace", in item 49 of the Agenda entitled "Culture of Peace": "The General Assembly... approved....the celebration of the International Year for the

Rapprochement of Cultures, in 2010, in commemoration of the International Year of Reconciliation, 2009”:

“Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, the General Assembly affirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace.”

At the end of this important Resolution, a decade is proposed, on conclusion of the decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), dedicated to “Interreligious and intercultural dialogue and cooperation for peace.”

On 20 August 2009, within the General Assembly’s agenda item on “Culture of Peace”, the Secretary-General presented a report³ on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, which will come to an end on 31 December 2010.

This report details the activities undertaken up until 2008 in relation to the following aspects:

- i) actions to foster a culture of peace through education
- ii) actions to promote sustainable economic and social development
- iii) actions to promote respect for all human rights
- iv) actions to ensure equality between men and women
- v) actions to foster democratic participation
- vi) actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- vii) actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

viii) actions to promote international peace and security

The essential role of civil society and the current mechanisms to promote mobilization through communication networks are addressed as well.

The final Recommendations are particularly relevant:

- United Nations agencies, funds and programmes are encouraged to continue focusing their programmes on the various dimensions of the culture of peace, especially at the country level.
- Member States, for their part, are encouraged to:
 - Ensure that funding quality education for all is a top priority and that the financial crisis does not serve as a justification for a reduction in the allocation of resources to education at both the national and international levels;
 - Increase investments in science and technology, especially green technologies, in order to promote a green economy;
 - Strengthen education for sustainable development, lifelong learning for all and equal access of all levels of society to learning opportunities so as to implement the principles of inclusive education;
 - Review and revise educational and cultural policies to reflect a human rights-based approach, cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and sustainable development;
 - Strengthen efforts to remove hate messages, distortions, prejudice and negative bias from textbooks and other educational media and to ensure basic knowledge and understanding of the world's main cultures, civilizations and religions;
 - Promote school cultures and environments that are child-friendly, conducive to effective learning, inclusive of all children, healthy, protective and gender-responsive and encourage the active role and the participation of the learners themselves, their families and their communities;
 - Expand access to information and communication technologies to bring the benefits of all levels and means of education to girls and women, the excluded, the poor, the marginalized and those with special needs in a lifelong perspective.

These recommendations and the decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the 2005 United Nations Summit because

are a demonstration of the progressive consolidation of the concept of a Culture of Peace, of the urgency to abandon (motivated to a large extent by a “masculine” society, in which women occasionally appear on the stage of power) a culture of force and war, a culture of imposition and violence in favour of a culture of dialogue and consensus. For centuries the power has been following the depraved proverb that says “if you want peace, prepare for war”, which has been immensely beneficial to arms producers throughout the ages, currently amounting to the unbelievable figure of 3 billion dollars a day, constituting a totally unacceptable situation as, at the same time, some 60 to 70 thousand people, more than half of whom are children aged 0 to 5, are dying of hunger and neglect.

The power gained by the war industry is so great that action on a large scale will be necessary on the part of civil society in order to achieve the progressive reduction in military weapons, with the intervention of strong United Nations, equipped with the authority, the human, technical and financial resources which are absolutely essential in order to tackle, at the dawn of this century and millennium, the major challenges of social justice and the environment. Radical changes are required for this, since, particularly over recent decades, life expectancy has increased considerably, at the same rate as the birth rate has fallen, resulting in a drastic change in the demographic picture; the use of fossil fuels has produced an excessive amount of gas, leading to the greenhouse effect, especially carbon dioxide, the recapture of which

has at the same time been effected by the reduction in phytoplankton, an essential ingredient in the great “ocean lung”...

Action today is possible because, as indicated in the recommendations reproduced above, there is modern communication technology available to enable a large number of the earth’s inhabitants to express themselves without any kind of restrictions. Within very few years, “virtual force” will bring about changes which, if there were leaders capable of realizing at this point that these changes are now inevitable, they would take the appropriate corrective measures forthwith. They would abandon the plutocratic groups with which they have attempted to replace the United Nations, which constitute the ethical and legal framework which is absolutely indispensable for national and international justice, and they would learn that the best way of guaranteeing collective security is to share (with “intellectual and moral solidarity”, as established by the Constitution of UNESCO) so that responsible citizens, who have been subjected to the designs of those in power for so long, can take the reins of destiny into their own hands.

So, within very few years the great transition from force to the word will be achieved, the security of peace will be guaranteed and never again will the peace of security be tolerated because it is the peace of silence, of the total lack of freedom, the peace of mistrust and suspicion. In spite of today’s sombre horizons, enormous changes will take place to make the equal dignity of all human beings a

reality soon, so that everyone without exception can put into practice this distinguishing faculty of the human race that is its enormous creativity, the ability to invent, to decide by oneself, to act in accordance with one's own thoughts.

The change in direction is unavoidable and is best to ensure that takes place without ruptures, without restlessness. Those who are against moving with the times, against the invention of new procedures, believe that by conserving the inertia of a situation which has been so beneficial to them, the problems of today and tomorrow will be solved by yesterday's formulae. But this is not so: for the good of everyone, they must evolve quickly, that is to say, conserve what must be conserved and transform and change what must be changed. Back in 1969, Prof. Mayor wrote on the blackboard, when explaining Biochemistry: "revolution". The students' surprise could be heard in their intense murmuring. It can be well imagined, due to the context in which this occurred, the reaction of the students. Then he erased the "r" to leave the word "evolution". And he told them: "This is nature's way of proceeding and I believe that this is how we should proceed too. The difference between both words is just one "r", the "r" of responsibility. Let's be responsible".

Now is indispensable and urgent to act in order to quickly raise the percentage of those living in the prosperous area of the global village. This is not yet 20%. All other human beings, on a different gradient, live in conditions which are humanly unacceptable. It is

necessary to move from an economy of speculation and war to an economy of global sustainable development which would increase the number of “clients”, would be beneficial to a large number of people who should no longer form part of flows of despairing migrants, or of these breeding grounds where, due to the living conditions, those witnessing the promises of aid repeatedly unkept, become radicalised and fall into the temptation of resorting to violence. There is no justification for violence but we have to try to explain it in order to make amends, to rectify the current trends which have led (on committing the gravest error of substituting democratic principles, ethical values, with market laws) to a situation of great confusion, making the problems of living on this planet, access to water, to health services, to education, etc., more acute.

Within very few years, the concept of the culture of peace has been growing and establishing itself, making it possible now, over the next ten to fifteen years, for it to become a reference point for a great social movement on a worldwide scale. Aware, for the first time, of the quality of life of “the others” in all corners of the earth, it is not ethically admissible to look the other way. It is more crucial than ever to assume responsibilities and stop threatening in order to distribute, to share appropriately, to replace force with the word, to fulfil the first article of the Universal Declaration which states that we should live “in a spirit of brotherhood”.

II. Origins

The first reference of the "culture of peace" comes out in 1983 at the III Congress of Theology "Christians for Peace and Poverty" organized by the Association of Theologians John XXIII in Madrid.

The same year was founded in Lima the Peruvian Association on Studies for Peace under the leadership of Father Felipe Mac Gregor. The General Assembly of the United Nations declared 1986 International Year of Peace and, in this occasion and in a joint venture of the Peruvian Ministry of Education and UNESCO-Peru, the book "Culture of Peace" was published in October 1986. The author, F. Mac Gregor, was invited by the Director General of UNESCO to chair the Preparatory Committee of the Yamoussoukro Meeting, in Côte d'Ivoire, decided by the UNESCO's Executive Board in October 1987 and May 1988, and held in 1989, that represented the starting point of the UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme⁴.

In May 1988, the German Association on Culture of Peace (Gesellschaft Kultur des Friedens) started, under the impulse of Mr. Henning Zierock, its activities in Tübingen, Germany. The many, imaginative and widespread actions carried out by this institution are to be commended (see the report of its 25th anniversary⁵).

The Constitution of UNESCO begins, with a view to fulfilling the mission of the United Nations of avoiding “the scourge of war”, as follows: “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”.

The concept of a “culture of peace” in relation to putting this mandate into practice, originated in Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast, on the first of July 1989, with the “Declaration on peace in the minds of men”⁶:

“Peace is reverence for life.

Peace is the most precious possession of humanity.

Peace is more than the end of armed conflict.

Peace is a mode of behaviour.

Peace is a deep-rooted commitment to the principles of liberty, justice, equality and solidarity among all human beings.

Peace is also a harmonious partnership of humankind with the environment.

Today, on the eve of the twenty-first century, peace is within our reach...

...The Congress invites States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, the scientific, educational and cultural communities of the world, and all individuals to:

help construct a new vision of peace by developing a Culture of Peace based on the universal values of respect for life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights and equality between women and men...”

“Forging a culture of peace, the Director General said in the words⁷ he uttered on that occasion, involves taking account of the various facets of life in society, life in a quality environment and the life of the mind, that is to say, the relationship between human beings and knowledge”.

“From the heart of Africa in Yamoussoukro rises today
a song of hope.

From the heart of Africa ascends today

a hymn to peace.
In the heart of Africa is heard today
a canticle of justice
affirming that all men are equal
without distinction of colour or creed,
of age or sex.
From the heart of Africa, a clamorous call of fellowship
today goes out to all,
a commitment of reconciliation,
to establish without delay a new relationship
between humanity and its environment..."

The culture of peace was "born" at an appropriate time: the same year in which the Berlin Wall fell and, along with it, the Soviet Union, without a single drop of blood, thanks to the shrewdness and good will of Mikhail Gorbachev, and the countries that formed it began a long march towards a system of public liberties. In South Africa, another historical figure, Nelson Mandela, with the complicity of President F. W. De Klerk, put an end to the unsustainable and immoral situation of racial apartheid and within a few months was elected President of South Africa. And the peace process was completed in El Salvador with the Chapultepec Agreement. And, with the mediation of the Community of Sant'Egidio, a peace agreement was reached in Mozambique. And the peace process began in Guatemala...

In 1990, in Jomtien, Thailand, the First World Conference on Education took place, sponsored by UNESCO, UNICEF, the World Bank and the UNDP, with "Education for All throughout Life"⁸ replacing the neo-colonial focus

that up until that moment had been adopted by the main programme of the education sector: “Basic education and literacy”.

With such promising, hopeful signs, at a point when the cold war seemed to make way, along with the end of a fierce arms race between the superpowers, to the “dividends for peace”, to the “brotherly relationship” among the various countries in the world, whose inhabitants were all “equal in dignity”... once again, the greed, the disproportionate ambition and the political irresponsibility of the most powerful countries on Earth cut those expectations short. And so, the World Convention on the Rights of the Child⁹, approved by the General Assembly on 21 November 1989, was not signed by the North American Administration at the Summit convened by UNICEF at the United Nations. It was the first clear sign, following the Reagan era, that “globalisation” was in fact trying to marginalise the United Nations, avoiding what they represent as ethical references worldwide, placing market laws at the centre of the planetary economic policy rather than social justice, solidarity and international cooperation.

Suddenly, all the hopes that had been placed on the most prosperous countries on earth at the end of the Cold War disappeared. Everything has been impregnated by a vision of economic control, where little importance is given to environmental impact or the gradual imbalance in the social fabric. As mentioned earlier, the Nation-State is not only handing over financial aspects but, far worse still, political responsibilities to large private multinational corporations whilst, at the same time, moving away from the United Nations through the groups formed by the

most affluent countries. “We, the people...” has been replaced by “We, the powerful...”

Nevertheless, the United Nations would continue throughout the nineties to provide, intelligently and tenaciously, “road maps” for a future in which values and multilateralism would prevail: in 1992, in Río de Janeiro, Agenda 21¹⁰ proposed the directives to rectify the dramatic environmental trends. In 1995, the commitments undertaken at the *World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen*¹¹, celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations by providing some guidelines which, at the appropriate time, could be of great interest in solving the problems being created by “globalisation”.

Also, the culture of peace has continued to spread and grow stronger: by way of example, the “Co-operation to promote a culture of peace”¹², a programme proposed in July 1992 to the Executive Board of UNESCO and which was unanimously approved at its meeting in September. It seems appropriate to extract some of the main points from this Decision:

“It has become clear that military force cannot solve the global problems of violence and injustice. Military force... requires peace-building, not just peace-keeping, as stated by United Nations Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali. We need peace culture, not war culture, as stated at Yamoussoukro, and now we should make this idea operational.”

On 28 April 1993, the San Salvador Appeal¹³, in El Salvador, one of the countries which became, as a result of the peaceful solution that it had just succeeded in reaching after so many years of suffering, one of the beacons for the culture of peace. And in December 1994, in Bujumbura, Burundi, the “Declaration by the participants in the symposium on the

culture of peace in Burundi regarding the socio-political situation in the country”¹⁴. This Declaration is one of the most urgent appeals. It is like a scream pleading for the culture of imposition, violence and force to be rapidly replaced, especially in view of what had just occurred in Rwanda, by dialogue and reconciliation. Certainly, the atrocities of the neighbouring country, encouraged by the perverse “Thousand Hills” radio station, were prevented from repeating themselves in Burundi.

A few days later, on 24 December 1994, the “General Declaration of the National Forum for the Culture of Peace in the Congo”¹⁵ was held in Brazzaville:

“The Heads of State and Government of Central Africa, by their presence and contribution to the Forum, gave it a subregional dimension. They adopted a document of historical importance and laid the foundations for close co-operation in the field of security and conflict resolution. The Forum considered that:... Young people symbolize the future of the country...Women are the trustees of our values...The Forum salutes the efforts in favour of peace they have made from the start within their associations...All the religious denominations address the people with messages of neighbourly love which contribute to conflict prevention and peace-building... The National Forum for the Culture of Peace draws attention to the fact that the Congolese nation is shaped by the interdependence of all of its ethnic communities without exception. Such interdependence makes it essential for the Congolese to live together in harmony...” .

III. From 1995 to the year 2000

1995 was a particularly important year as it was the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, and of UNESCO, as already mentioned. Throughout that year, the concept of the culture of peace grew considerably stronger. The Khartoum Declaration¹⁶, in April 1995; the Tbilisi Appeal for Peace and Tolerance¹⁷, in Tbilisi, Georgia, on 14 July 1995; the Declaration on the Principles of Tolerance¹⁸ , unanimously approved by the General

Conference of UNESCO on 16 November 1995, Article 1 of which, on the meaning of tolerance, says:

“Tolerance is respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world’s cultures, our forms of expression and ways of being human. It is fostered by knowledge, openness, communication, and freedom of thought, conscience and belief. Tolerance is harmony in difference. It is not only a moral duty; it is also a political and legal requirement. Tolerance, the virtue that makes peace possible, contributes to the replacement of the culture of war by a culture of peace.”

Tolerance is not concession, condescension or indulgence. Tolerance is, above all, an active attitude prompted by recognition of the universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of others. In no circumstance can it be used to justify infringements of these fundamental values. Tolerance is to be exercised by individuals, groups and States.

Tolerance is the responsibility that upholds human rights, pluralism (including cultural pluralism), democracy and the rule of law. It involves the rejection of dogmatism and absolutism and affirms the standards set out in international human rights instruments.

Consistent with respect for human rights, the practice of tolerance does not mean toleration of social injustice or the abandonment or weakening of one’s convictions. It means that one is free to adhere to one’s own convictions and accepts that others adhere to theirs. It means accepting the fact that human beings, naturally diverse in their appearance, situation, speech, behaviour and values, have the right to live in peace and to be as they are. It also means that one’s views are not to be imposed on others.”

The 16th of November 1995, the Secretary General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, emphasized, in a letter to the Director General of UNESCO, the importance of both organizations working together for a culture of peace.

By Resolution of the General Assembly 50/173 of 27 February 1996¹⁹, UNESCO was asked to prepare a report on the promotion of education for peace, human rights, international co-operation and tolerance. At the beginning of 1997, the corresponding document was submitted to the

Secretary-General of the United Nations: “Report on educational activities in the framework of the UNESCO transdisciplinary project entitled *Towards a culture of peace*”²⁰. Of the main programmes on a global scale, “Linguapax”, “Associated Schools” and “UNESCO Chairs” are to be highlighted.

On 23 April 1997, the Director-General of UNESCO published a document of particular importance for the “implementation of the disciplinary project towards a culture of peace”²¹, with the aim of providing a response with specific actions to the aspirations already expressed in so many countries in the various continents.

On 22 November 1995, at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo, a particularly important conference took place: “Towards a culture of peace”²².

From 1996 to 1999, the year in which the General Assembly of the United Nations approved, on 6 October, the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace²³, in addition to those already mentioned, a series of declarations and documents followed one another. By way of example only, some of these are mentioned below:

- The Rabat Proposals²⁴. (Rabat, Morocco, 23 June 1995).
- “International Forum on Education for Non-Violence”²⁵. (Sintra, Portugal, 22 May 1996).
- “Symposium on Conflict Resolution”²⁶. The Humanitarian Dimension: the Case of the Sudan” (22 May 1996).

- The 12th of December 1996 the General Assembly adopted a Resolution on “Culture of Peace”²⁷ where the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy adopted by the International Congress on Education for Human Rights and Democracy convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at Montreal in March 1993, is taken fully into account as well as the “lessons learned from the national culture of peace programmes of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Burundi, the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique, the Philippines, Rwanda and Somalia” (General Assembly, A/RES/51/101, 12 December 1996).
- Bamako Declaration²⁸, (Bamako, Mali, 28 May 1997).
- The Malta Declaration²⁹. (Valletta, Malta, 20 June 1997).
- Maputo Declaration³⁰, (Maputo, Mozambique, 4 September 1997).
- Culture of Peace³¹ – Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/52/13, 15.01.1998), which calls for “the promotion of a culture of peace based on the principles established in the Charter of the United Nations and on respect for human rights, democracy and tolerance, the promotion of development, education for peace, the free flow of information and the wider participation of women as an integral approach to preventing violence and conflicts,..” .
- Declaration on “The Dialogue Among the Three Monotheistic Religions: Towards a Culture of Peace”³². (Rabat, Morocco, 16 February 1998).
- Action Plan on Cultural Policies for Development³³. (Stockholm, Sweden, 2. April 1998).

- The 17th of April of 1998 the Commission on Human Right of the United Nations adopted a Resolution untitled “Towards a Culture of Peace”³⁴ in which the Commission underlines “the need to develop, at the dawn of the millennium, preventive policies for the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through encouraging all human beings to adopt a culture of peace”. (United Nations, E/CN.4/RES/1998/54, 17 April 1998).
- The Durban Statement of Commitment. Seventh Conference of Ministers of Education of African Member States³⁵. (Durban, South Africa, 20 April 1998).
- The Caribbean Media: Freedom and Understanding³⁶. (Kingston, Jamaica, 3 May 1998).
- Forging the Future: towards a Culture of Peace³⁷ – Greece – Turkey. Turkey – Greece (Paris, 13 May 1998).
- Kishinev Declaration³⁸ “For a Culture of Peace and Dialogue of Civilizations”, Kishinev (Republic of Moldova, 18 May 1998).
- Decision on the Culture of Peace adopted by the Organization of African Unity in Ouagadougou³⁹. (Burkina Faso, 10 June 1998).
- The Rhodes Statement⁴⁰. (Rhodes, Greece, 9 July 1998).
- Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom⁴¹. (Baltimore, United States of America, 31 July 1998).
- Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes⁴². (Lisbon, Portugal, 12 August 1998).
- For a Culture of Peace in the Third Millennium⁴³, (Baden-Baden, Germany, 20 August 1998).
- Non-Aligned Movement⁴⁴. (Durban, South Africa, 3 September 1998).

- Statement on Peace in Southeast Asia on the Eve of the Third Millennium⁴⁵. (Jakarta, 12 September 1998).
- The Brussels call for Action⁴⁶. (Brussels, Belgium, 13 September 1998).
- Tashkent Declaration⁴⁷. (Tashkent, Republic of Uzbekistan, 6 November 1998).
- The Pune Declaration on “Education for Human Rights in Asia & the Pacific”⁴⁸ (Pune, India, 6 February 1999).
- Caracas Declaration⁴⁹ for a Culture of Peace. (Caracas, 3 March 1999).
- Panama Declaration⁵⁰. (Panama City, 22 March 1999).
- Niamey Declaration for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence⁵¹. (Niamey, Republic of Niger, 20 March 1999).
- Tripoli Appeal⁵² for the Establishment of a Culture of Peace in Africa on the Threshold of the Third Millennium. (Tripoli, 12 April 1999).
- Antigua Declaration, Guatemala⁵³ USAC-UNESCO. (Antigua, Guatemala, 11 May 1999).
- Moscow Appeal for the Year 2000⁵⁴. (Moscow, Russian Federation, 15 May 1999).
- Hanoi Statement on the Culture of Peace⁵⁵. (Hanoi, Viet Nam, 15 May 1999).
- Zanzibar Declaration, Women of Africa for a Culture of Peace⁵⁶. (Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, 20 May 1999).
- Déclaration Disarming History - Revisiting the Balkans⁵⁷ (Visby (Gotland), Sweden, 25 September 1999).

Of particular importance was the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, (2001-2010)⁵⁸, in November 1998:

“Aware that the task of the United Nations to save future generations from the scourge of war requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consists of values, attitudes and behaviours that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavour to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society,

Recognizing that enormous harm and suffering are caused to children through different forms of violence at every level of society throughout the world and that a culture of peace and non-violence promotes respect for life and dignity of every human being without prejudice or discrimination of any kind,

Emphasizing that the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, by which they learn to live together in peace and harmony which will contribute to the strengthening of international peace and cooperation, should emanate from adults and be instilled in children...”

The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace⁵⁹, the most important declaration established by the General Assembly of the United Nations, indicates the actions to be taken for the great turning point in history from the age-old “preparation of war” to the “building of peace with our daily behaviour”:

“Article 1

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...
- Full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms...
- Efforts to meet the developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations...
- Respect for and promotion of the right to development...

- Respect for and promotion of equal rights of and opportunities for women and men...
- Respect for and promotion of the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, opinion and information...

Article 2

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;

Article 8

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;

The actions for effective implementation are:

- Actions fostering a culture of peace through education.
- Actions to promote sustainable economic and social development.
- Actions to promote respect for all human rights.
- Actions to ensure equality between women and men.
- Actions to foster democratic participation.
- Actions to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity.
- Actions to support participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge.
- Actions to promote international peace and security.

In 1999, along with the establishment of the Millennium Goals, the Manifesto 2000⁶⁰ summarises, very briefly, the most outstanding points of the new culture of peace:

Respect all life. Respect the life and dignity of each human being without discrimination and prejudice.

Reject violence. Practice active non-violence, rejecting violence in all its forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economical and social, in particular towards the most deprived and vulnerable such as children and adolescents.

Share with others. Share my time and material resources in a spirit of generosity to put an end to exclusion, injustice and political and economic oppression.

Listen to understand. Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity, giving preference always to dialogue and listening without engaging in fanaticism, defamation and the rejection of others.

Preserve the planet. Promote consumer behaviour that is responsible and development practices that respect all forms of life and preserve the balance of nature on the planet.

Rediscover solidarity. Contribute to the development of my community, with the full participation of women and respect for democratic principles, in order to create together new forms of solidarity.

It was signed by more than 100 million people all over the world as it was considered to be logical to begin the new century and millennium with the essential transition from force to the word, from imposition to dialogue.

The same year UNESCO published the book “Letters to future Generations”, that includes a selection of texts of various personalities compiled by Federico Mayor. Among them Kofi Annan, then Secretary General of the United Nations, who refers to the need, in short, of a culture of peace. He also indicates that “Many of these pillars of peace can be indentified through the process of dialogue across cultures that is essential component of a culture of peace”. And ends saying: “If we come together and act on these principles, we shall be able to move from millennium bedeviled by the scourge of war to one blessed with a culture of peace”. In the same book, the Nobel Peace Prize Peace Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Argentina)says that: “Many of us are sure that not all is lost, that we can construct new spaces of freedom, of values, of identity and spirituality for each people and develop a culture of peace, created by awareness and practical experience of life. We have learned that nobody can plant seeds with a clenched fist. To sow, one must open one’s hand, otherwise sowing is impossible”. As already stated he said that: “*The*

twenty-first century will be the fruit of the efforts and the advances of the culture of peace and understanding between individuals and peoples”.

The Manifesto, with the slogan “Peace is in our hands” - “*Cultivemos la paz*” and “*Cultivons la paix*” in Spanish and French respectively – was initially signed by the following Nobel Peace Prize laureates: the Dalai Lama, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, José Ramos Horta, Mikhail Gorbachev, Joseph Rotblat, David Trimble, Elie Wiesel, Norman Borlaug, John Hume, Shimon Peres, Desmond Tutu, Jody Williams, Nelson Mandela, Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo, Óscar Arias Sánchez, Kim Dae Jung. And by Rita Levi-Montalcini, Nobel laureate of Medicine, as well as by 38 Heads of State and Government (including Vaclav Havel, Jacques Chirac,).

It is also important to highlight the emergence at the same time of one of the documents which continue to be most relevant to the great change that is imminent: “The Earth Charter”⁶¹. It consists of Four “Principles” (I. Respect and care for the community of life; II. Ecological integrity; III. Social and economic justice; IV. Democracy, nonviolence and peace), a preamble (Earth, Our Home; The Global Situation; The Challenges Ahead; and Universal Responsibility), and an epilogue (The Way Forward). It is important, due to both its conceptual and practical content, to transcribe the first and last paragraphs of the Earth Charter below:

“We stand at a critical moment in Earth’s history, a time when humanity must choose its future. As the world becomes increasingly interdependent and fragile, the future at once holds great peril and great promise. To move forward we must recognize that in the midst of a magnificent diversity of cultures and

life forms we are one human family and one Earth community with a common destiny. We must join together to bring forth a sustainable global society founded on respect for nature, universal human rights, economic justice, and a culture of peace. Towards this end, it is imperative that we, the peoples of Earth, declare our responsibility to one another, to the greater community of life, and to future generations.

We must realize that when basic needs have been met, human development is primarily about being more, not having more. We have the knowledge and technology to provide for all and to reduce our impacts on the environment.

To realize these aspirations, we must decide to live with a universal sense of responsibility, identifying ourselves with the whole Earth community as well as our local communities.

Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well-being of the human family and the larger living world...

As never before in history, common destiny beckons us to seek a new beginning".

It should be noted also in 1999 *The Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice in the 21st Century*⁶² that was the principal outcome of The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference which took place May 11-15. The document is organized around 4 main themes and offers 50 areas for international action. The first theme "*Root Causes of War / Culture of Peace*" begins saying "Educate for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy. In order to combat the culture of violence that pervades our society, the coming generation deserves a radically different education –one that does not glorify war but educates for peace, non violence and international cooperation. The Hague Appeal for Peace has launched a worldwide campaign to empower people at all levels with the peacemaking skills of mediation, conflict transformation, consensus-building and non-violent social change".

As indicated in the basic Campaign Statement, educators agreed that “*A culture of peace will be achieved* when citizens of the world understand global problems; have the skills to resolve conflict constructively; know and live by international standards of human rights, gender and racial equality; appreciate cultural diversity; and respect the integrity of the Earth. Such learning can not be achieved without intentional, sustained, and systematic education for peace”.

In 2000, the International Year for the Culture of Peace, the document “UNESCO undertakes to promote a culture of peace”⁶³ was published, giving rise to numerous actions for raising awareness. The strategy comprised:

- In 2001 – understanding, tolerance and solidarity, within the framework of the Year of Dialogue among Civilizations.
- In 2002 – sustainable social and economic development (World Summit on Sustainable Development); International Year of Ecotourism and United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage.
- In 2003 – participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge (Madrid Summit on the Information Society).
- In 2004 – respect for human rights (the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education).
- In 2005 – equality between men and women (follow-up to the World Conference on Women, in Beijing, 1995).

Also in the year 2000, in the month of December, a meeting was held in Madrid and was attended by various Nobel Prize laureates, national and international figures and, at its close, the Madrid Declaration⁶⁴ was signed, particularly characterised by the provision of what may be the most urgent actions for the transition which, at the beginning of this century and millennium, appeared to be capable of rectifying the trends deriving from “globalization”.

IV. Period from 2001 to ...

Extremely serious events took place internationally, beginning with the suicide terrorism of September 11th 2001, swooped on the economic, political and military power of the United States of America. The immediate reaction on the part of the North American Administration led to retaliation in Afghanistan, to some extent understandable, but also to aggressions, such as the invasion of Iraq, based on simulation and lies and bringing so much suffering and death.

What is certain is that the first few years of this new century have been characterised by the exacerbation of the culture of war, simultaneously with the disappearance of peace-building and the role that civil society, as a true protagonist, must play in this.

And there lies our faith, because all living beings are predictable and measurable, with the sole exception of the human being. And the fact is that all of us have an exclusive and wonderful ability, which is the ability to

create. For this reason, the human being is unpredictable and immeasurable, always capable of the unexpected. The human being is not predestined; he is free and the master of his own destiny. This is the great hope of humanity: in times of greatest tension and crisis, the humans are capable of bringing out the best of themselves.

In order to make the transition from the culture of force to the culture of the word, the means made available by new knowledge and new technology must be fully utilized. The culture of peace in cyberspace is one of the aspirations which could undoubtedly contribute towards making these intentions a reality. The dreamed future can only be built and guaranteed by means of shared ethical principles, by means of values that serve as a basis for future generations. Not with financial schemes or political decisions, let alone prefabricated formulae. If reason, dialogue and understanding cannot achieve the essential change, if they cannot prevent investments from being made in arms and drugs and bring about investment in books, computers, medication, homes, in protecting the environment and in the fight against misery, in improving the quality of life in rural areas, thus preventing mass migrations which are then of so much concern... once more will be defend with force what could not be defended with wisdom and foresight.

- Coordinated by David Adams, the “*World Report on the Culture of Peace*”⁶⁵ – *Civil Society report at midpoint of the Culture of Peace Decade*, sponsored by the Foundation on a Culture of Peace and with the support of the International Institute for Peace of the Government of Catalonia, Spain.

The Report reflects the commendable efforts invested, in spite of everything, by more than 700 non-governmental associations and organisations for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, during the first half of the International Decade. It also reflects the obstacles encountered in the defence of the values and principles that inspire it. The Report represents a stimulus, at a time of such desolation and predominance of war, in a tenacious attempt to bring about the advent of a new era of peace and harmony.

- By *Law 27/2005 of 30 November, on the Promotion of Education and the Culture of Peace*⁶⁶, the promotion of the culture of peace in Spain was unequivocally established:

“The 20th century has been a century of profound contradiction. It has been a century of unimaginable advances in many spheres of life. From technological advances which could help us overcome many diseases, reduce poverty and eliminate starvation, to changes in political culture which have enabled authoritarian government forms to be replaced by other, democratic, forms. However, and in spite of these advances, we have watched the 20th century become one of the bloodiest centuries in History. Two great wars, the Cold War, genocidal outbreaks in countries such as Bosnia, Rwanda or Kosovo, and great economic crises which heightened the differences between those who have the most and those who have nothing, are clear indicators of the great contradictions of the century we have just left behind.

In summary, it was a century noticeably dominated by a culture of violence... . This law, acknowledging the absolutely decisive role of education as a driver of the evolution of societies in the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace (2001-2010) proclaimed by the United Nations, aims to provide a starting point from which to replace the culture of violence which has defined the 20th century with a culture of peace which must characterise the new century”.

- In July 2006, the General Assembly of the United Nations, in the paragraph of its agenda relating to the “Culture of peace”, deals with the Report⁶⁷ that UNESCO transmitted to the Secretary-General in compliance with that established in the *International Decade (2001-2010)* and in the Resolutions on the promotion of interreligious dialogue and cooperation in favour of cultural understanding... . It consists of the actions undertaken throughout the world on education for peace and human rights; social economic development; gender equality; democratic participation; mutual understanding; freedom of expression... .
- In November 2006, the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, promoted the “Statement in favour of Life, of Peace, of Equality”⁶⁸ that was signed by personalities as Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Mario Soares, Federico Mayor, Pere Casaldàliga, Danielle Mitterrand and received a lot of adhesions.
- On 7 November 2008 a broad debate took place at the General Assembly on the activities being undertaken on the occasion of the Decade 2001-2010⁶⁹. It was unanimously recommended that the States and civil society should promote greater participation on the part of citizens, whilst at the same time taking note of the actions carried out (as referred to in the aforementioned Report) by hundreds of civil associations.
- A few days later (12-13 November 2008) a high-level meeting was held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on the culture

of peace. In addition to President Miguel D'Escotto and the Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the meeting was attended by the Kings of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, the President of Israel, Shimon Peres, the President of the Senate of Spain, Francisco Javier Rojo, the Prime Minister of Turkey, Recip T. Erdogan, ...⁷⁰.

- In October 2009, the General Conference of UNESCO adopted a *Resolution on the culture of peace*⁷¹, which may represent the reactivation on an institutional scale of its fundamental mission which, over recent years, in spite of repeated appeals by the United Nations, has faded in favour of “personal security”.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations, under the Agenda item 49, on Culture of Peace, dealt with, the 3rd of November of 2009, the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)”⁷², “Encourages the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote a culture of peace and non-violence for children in its activities”... “Encourages civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to further strengthen its efforts in furtherance of the objectives of the Decade, inter alia, by adopting its own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations System and other international and regional organizations”...“Encourages the involvement of the mass media in education for a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people, including through the planned

expansion of the Culture of Peace News Network as a global network of Internet sites in many languages”.

- The General Assembly of the United Nations, under the Agenda item 49, on Culture of Peace, dealt with, the 4th of November of 2009, the “Nelson Mandela International Day”⁷³, “Acknowledging Nelson Mandela’s contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and in the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the World”....
- Under the same Agenda item, the Resolutions of “The Alliance of Civilizations”⁷⁴ refer as well to the commitment of the Member States of the United Nations in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace: “Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which the Heads of State and Government welcomed the Alliance of Civilizations initiative announced by the Secretary-General on 14 July 2005 and committed themselves to promoting a culture of peace and dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels”....
- In the Declaration of the Regional Conference of Higher Education of Latin America and the Caribbean (CRES)⁷⁵, held from 4 to 6 June 2008, in the city of Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, under the auspices of the International Institute of UNESCO for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (IESALC-UNESCO) and the Ministry of Education of Colombia, with the collaboration of the Governments of Brazil, Spain, Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the "Context" section says that: 'In a world where

knowledge, science and technology play a major role, the development and strengthening of higher education constitute an irreplaceable element for the social advancement, wealth creation the strengthening of cultural identities, social cohesion, the struggle against poverty and hunger, the prevention of climate change and the energy crisis, as well as for the *promotion of a culture of peace*".

- Under the same Agenda item, the 5th of November, 2009, "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace"⁷⁶ : "Recognizing the commitment of all the religions to peace, 1. Affirms that mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace"... .
- In November 2009, the *Nobel Peace Prize Laureates* reaffirmed at their eighth *World Summit*, the urgent need to adopt a culture of peace and non-violence, in their "Charter for a World without Violence – Violence is a preventable disease"⁷⁷ :

"our destiny is a common destiny.... *creating a culture of peace and nonviolence*...is necessary... . Affirmation of the values contained in this Charter is a vital step to ensuring the survival and development of humanity and the achievement of a world without violence."...
- In December 2009 took place in Cairo, under the sponsorship of UNESCO, the important forum of Arab-African Dialogue on Democracy and Human Rights "Migrations in the Arab-African World". It is underlined the participation of former Secretary Boutros Boutros Ghali as well as the new Director General of

UNESCO, Mrs. Irina Bokova. Chapter 5 was devoted to “the Culture of Democracy and Peace”.

- In January 2010, the General Assembly of the United Nations at its 64th session adopts the Resolution A/RES/64/83 "University of Peace"⁷⁸ :

“The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/108 of 14 December 2006, in which it recalled that, in its resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 35/55 of 5 December 1980, it approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Noting that as the University approaches its thirtieth anniversary year, it continues to experience extraordinary growth and development in the exercise of the mandate given to it by the General Assembly,...

Noting that the University has become a recognized leader in education, training and research on issues related to peace and conflict and that it is focusing its efforts on strengthening the three main components of its activities, namely, face- to-face teaching and research, expanding its presence and programmes in all regions of the world and distance learning to reach students who cannot come to its campus,

Noting also that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched programmes in the areas of democratic consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful settlement of conflicts,...

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the important mandate given to the University and its potential role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to consider ways to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the University;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue using the services of the University as part of his conflict-resolution and peacebuilding efforts through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the *promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace*;...

- The Report by the Director General on UNESCO's Work on a Culture of Peace was presented to the Executive Board the 5th of March, 2010⁷⁹.
- In March 2010, within the General Assembly's agenda of the United Nations on "Human Rights Council", it deals with the "Report of the Office of the High Commissioner on the outcome of the expert workshop on the right of peoples to peace".
- In the book "Peace as a culture, Sources and resources of a pedagogy for peace", published by Manuel Dios Diz he accomplished a true work of synthesis on the meaning of peace as a culture and culture as a foundation and essence of peace. It describes the origins, history and essential references of the concept of the culture of peace; the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace of 1999; outcomes of the Declaration on a Culture of Peace (the Earth Charter; the Madrid Declaration of 2000; the Alliance of Civilizations;... national laws and those of the Autonomous Communities...; the teaching of peace: educating for a culture of peace, educating on affection, stopping violence...).
- 12-13 April, 2010. Seminar for Peace Education with Educators is held in Madrid belonging to Bosnian, Serb and Croat unions within the framework of the International Education organized by the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and CEIPAZ.

- 27 April, 2010. It is expressed the aim to presenting the initiative of Law decree for the creation of the National Commission for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence at the Plenary session of the Mexican House of Representatives.
- 14 May, 2010. The article “Culture of Peace” is published in the Spanish newspaper “El País” written by former President of Portugal Mr. Mario Soares.
- 23-25 June, 2010. The Brazilian Commission of Justice and Peace (CBJP), an organization linked to the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil (CNBB), carried out the 4th National Seminar on Culture of Peace, whose subject was "Business and Human Rights: ensuring rights for promoting a Culture of Peace".
- 29 June, 2010. The University of Cordoba (Spain) creates a Master in Culture of Peace, Conflict, Education and Human Rights⁸⁰.
- July 2010. Sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly: Item Culture of Peace. “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010”.
- 22 July, 2010. The Plenary Session of the Spanish Senate approved the project creation of an International Zone in the Canary Islands

of a Culture of Peace and Human Rights, in order to be constituted the corresponding International Zone.

- August 2010. The Mexican cities of Merida and Cozumel were declared "International Cities for Peace"⁸¹ by a committee chaired by the Princess Nora of Liechtenstein, Mr. Federico Mayor, former Director General of UNESCO, and the *Fundación Mensajeros por la Paz*. Other cities that have been already awarded with this distinction are: Santander, Hong Kong, Beirut, Kiev, Manila, Asunción, Santiago de Compostela, Sochavew (Poland) and Sevilla.
- September 21, 2010. Message from Mrs. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day of Peace⁸².
- September 2010. Participation of Mr. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Ambassador of Spain, in the 65th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, under item 15 "Culture of Peace".
- Under the direction of David Adams, the "Final Civil Society Report on the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)"⁸³ is carried out, under the auspices of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace and the support of the International Institute for Peace of the *Generalitat de Catalunya*.

- Nov. 2010. The UNESCO Representation in Brazil published the book "Culture of Peace: da reflexão à Ação – Balanço da Década Internacional da Promoção da Cultura de Paz e Não Violência em Benefício das Crianças do Mundo".
- 3-16 December, 2010. Prof. Mayor and the Foundation for a Culture of Peace organized the 2010 World Forum on Education. It was held in Galicia to conclude the Decade of Peace and Non-Violence and to initiate, still within the context of the culture of peace, the decade of intercultural dialogue worldwide.

The following congresses were held at the 2010 Forum: *Meeting of the Members of the High-Level Group for the Alliance of Civilizations; International Congress on Information and Human Rights; International Congress on the Human Right to Peace; International Congress on Historical Memory, Reconciliation and Culture of Peace; and World Forum on Education.*

- Music for Peace: A programme initiated with the cooperation of José Antonio Abreu (Orquestas Infantiles y Juveniles de Venezuela), Enrique Barón Crespo (Fundación Yehudi Menuhin), Jordi Roch I Bosch (Juventudes Musicales) and Franz Wolfkamp (Music in Me) and the Foundation for a Culture of Peace) in order to widespread the Culture of Peace through the universal language of music. In December 2010, in Santiago de Compostela, took place an important event at this respect: "Concert of Peace" by the World Orchestra conducted by Josep Vicent, and "Music-Youth-Peace".

- Another important activity at this time was the participation of many people on the *March for the Culture of Peace* which took place from Perugia to Assisi, at the request of the tireless Flavio Lotti.
- July 16, 2010. It is relevant to emphasise that San Sebastian, in the Basque Country, has decided to set up a “House of Peace and Human Rights Centre”, in order to “contribute to a culture of peace”⁸⁴.
- 10-11 May, 2011. III International Seminar on "Rights to a Culture of Peace" organized by the Movement for Peace with the participation of the Toledo International Centre for Peace and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development.
- 27-29 May, 2011. The Women's Federation for World Peace Europe held, in El Escorial (Spain), the 5th Annual Conference on the Dignity of Women entitled "Educating for a Culture of Peace: Social Change through Alliances Solidarity.
- 14 July, 2011. Article "Women are expressing peace from the Brazilian favelas" published in the virtual publication "Human Journalism"⁸⁵.

- Virtual publication “Culture of Peace – Mimdes”⁸⁶.
- On June 22, 2011, H. E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser in the acceptance speech upon his election as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations⁸⁷, said: “I would like to focus a little on the particular importance of the sixtieth session of the United Nations General Assembly, during which the world will go through important changes and face enormous political, social, economic and environmental challenges. Not a single month has passed without hearing about natural or a man-made disaster and the subsequent crises on food, security, health and education that inevitably continue. At the same time, there are still people under occupation, oppression and injustice, who are yearning for freedom, dignity and justice. In addition of the human rights and peacekeeping operations, sustainable development, the concerns of the least developed countries and small island States, the eradication of poverty, South-South cooperation, development financing, the final outcome document of Rio de Janeiro, international trade, dialogue among civilizations, the **culture of peace**, mediation, disarmament, combating international terrorism, system-wide coherence, the scale of assessments for apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, and numerous organizational and administrative matters, as well as other sensitive issues”.
- On September 15, 2011, President Al-Nasser remarked at the Peace Bell Ceremony: “I will also emphasize the need for the full and

effective implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, of course in cooperation with the governments, the Secretary General and civil society”.

- On September 20, 2011, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon⁸⁸ in his message for the International Day of Peace, said: "This year the subject focuses on peace and democracy. Democracy is a core value of the United Nations. It is crucial for Human Rights. Democracy must be protected and defended ...”.
- From October 25 to November 10, 2011, at the 36th meeting of the UNESCO⁸⁹ that gathered delegates from 193 Member States, noted that "the priorities were sustainable development and culture of peace and nonviolence." Many of the personalities of high level participated in the Leaders Forum under the subject "How UNESCO contributes to the building of a culture of peace and sustainable development?" and discussed UNESCO's priorities in these areas.
- In November 2011, in the weekly column of the website of the Presidency of Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff, during the withdrawal of circulation of 570,000 firearms and regularization of another half million, said "Reducing the number of weapons means decreasing the risk of violence and tragedy. *We can and must build a culture of peace.*
- Oviedo (Spain), 21 December 2011. In the context of the International Day of Human Rights, it was officially open the process

by which the Chancellor requested UNESCO the constitution and establishment of the UNESCO Chair on the Human Right to Peace at the University of Oviedo. This Chair, with the honorary presidency of Prof. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, will be the first of its kind in the world and will be devoted entirely to teaching and research of the human right to peace.

- On 14 January 2012, the President of Guatemala, Otto Pérez Molina, in his inaugural speech, said "we must be able to move forward to *build a culture of peace* with full respect for human rights.
- 04-06 June, 2012. Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The International Forum of Reflection "Culture de la paix en Afrique de l'Ouest: un impératif de développement économique et une exigence de cohésion sociale"⁹⁰ took place. It was organized jointly with the Center for Long Term Strategic Studies (CEPS) –a nongovernmental organization with a consultative status with UNESCO– in cooperation with the government of Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting was set to identify actions for the culture of peace in Africa. It was the first of several meetings whose aim was to meet the needs and expectations of the African countries, particularly those in situations of crisis, conflict or post conflict.
- 8 May, 2012. The Basque Government, Spain, declared that would grant a subvention program of 120.000 Euros for education activities on democratic values and culture of peace among youth.

- 09 July, 2012. Renewal of the Agreement of the UNESCO Chair in Human Development and Culture of Peace, Università degli Studi di Firenze⁹¹, Italy, for a period of four years until May 2016. The activities undertaken by the UNESCO Chair are in the line with the UNESCO's priorities, notably the Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence, adopted by the UNESCO's 36th General Conference.
- 15 August, 2012. Nicaragua. Representatives of the Attorney General's Office of Human Rights, the Home Foundation Zacarías Guerra and the Foundation against Drug Addiction, signed an agreement to foster actions that promote a culture of peace.
- 22 August, 2012. La Paz, Bolivia. The president representative of the United Nations Program for Development (UNDP) and the president of Club Bolivar signed an agreement to create the "*Alianza Celeste*"⁹², a project aimed to promoting a culture of peace, to help the achievement of the Millennium Goals and the exercise of social rights in the country.
- 14 September, 2012. The United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon⁹³ in his participation in the High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, held in the General Assembly, referred to attacks and riots seen in Libya and other countries in the region. He stated that there is no justification for such brutal acts: "It is shameful to exploit the fundamental right to freedom of expression to

deliberately cause intolerance and bloodshed". He also underscored that "exploiting anger is wrong, it only feeds the cycle of recrimination and senseless violence". On the other hand, Ban Ki-moon quoted the conflict in Syria and declared that the *world urgently needs a culture of peace* prevailing the calm and the reason. Ban Ki-moon was in favor of building a culture based on peace education:

"When we look at the suffering in our world, we know how urgently we need a culture of peace."

"War causes the largest-scale destruction, but even in countries at peace, senseless violence takes too many lives. I have made a point of listening to the victims. Here is what they are saying: they are exhausted from war; they are angered and impoverished by decisions to spend on military weapons at the expense of health, education and the future; and they are crying out for a culture of peace".

"We need a culture that upholds human dignity and human life. We are here to talk about how to create this culture of peace".

"I have a simple, one-word answer: education. Through education, we teach children not to hate. Through education, we raise leaders who act with wisdom and compassion. Through education, we establish a true, lasting culture of peace".

"Next week, I will launch a new global initiative called "Education First". "The aim is to bring together all partners. We want to give every child the chance to attend school. We want them to have quality lessons. And we want to strengthen their core values. This is how we build a culture of peace".

“Governments must lead. But ultimately, a culture of peace will be built by people: teachers and religious figures; parents and community leaders; business executives and grass-roots groups. All joining together to denounce violence and demand peace”.

“I will be listening to your discussions with great interest. I will report on them at next week’s High-Level Debate on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in the General Assembly. These meetings are our opportunity to capture the spirit of a culture of peace that is growing in houses of worship, in schools, in communities and in homes — and to spread this sense of solidarity around the world”.

- 14 September, 2012. “Spreading the culture of peace is critical to modern society if it is to make a new beginning to live without conflict”⁹⁴. That was the message delivered by the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser at the start of the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace. Ambassador Al-Nasser stressed the need to give young people education that does not glorify war but that educates for peace, non-violence and global understanding.

"The culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes and ways of life, based on the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, and respect for diversity, as well as on dialogue and understanding. I believe spreading the culture of peace is most critical to our society today. If we are to come out of the shadows of conflict and make a new beginning, all members of society must be inspired by the culture of peace."

- 21 September, 2012 “Writing Peace”⁹⁵—an Exhibition for thinking and sharing Peace across time and space. This exhibition opened on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2012, at United Nations Headquarters in New York. “Forms part of the global effort by UNESCO to promote the emergence of a sense of belonging to a shared and plural humanity while giving prominence to the wealth of cultures, mutual respect between them and the resulting intercultural dialogue”.
- 21 September, 2012. Guatemala. Hundreds of Guatemalan youth, school students and civil organizations commemorated the International Day of Peace. Among the legends that were read in the shirts and banners were: "Building a culture of peace is a commitment for all”.
- 21 September, 2012. Cuba/ Dominican Republic. Coordinated by the Programmes of Education and Communication and Information of UNESCO’s Office in Havana. It is developing the project entitled "School newsletters for a Culture of Peace"⁹⁶ whose aim is to strengthen the core values of a culture of peace and non-violence among children and youth.
- 30 September, 2012. UNESCO Mexico inaugurates a professional diploma “Culture of Peace and Interculturality”⁹⁷.
- 11 October, 2012. Colombia. At a meeting among the Governor of Cauca with Ambassador of Switzerland and nine Swiss

parliamentarians, the Swiss official reported the political and financial support of his country for the design and development of a peace policy from the Department of Cauca with municipalities, through the Cooperation Project for the Promotion of Peace (SUIPPCOL).⁹⁸

- 18 December, 2012. El Salvador. The Journal "*El Mundo*" in its editorial "New Year Wishes: Culture of Peace in 2013" considers that El Salvador needs a "culture of peace" in 2013 and states that "It is time to get serious about creating the National Institute for the Culture of Peace. It concludes that "In the new year, the culture of peace must go forward in order to promote a fairest society."
- 19 December, 2012. The IV International Meeting "Rights to a culture of Peace"⁹⁹ was held and organized by the Movement for Peace and the Foundation for a Culture of Peace.
- Meeting of the leaders of 54 countries of the African Union (AU) - all of the continent less the selfexcluded Morocco - and adoption of the Agenda 2063¹⁰⁰ to achieve the socio-economic transformation of Africa within the period of half a century. This Agenda is made up of seven main African's "Aspirations", "reflecting our shared, of unity and integration, prosperity and welfare wish to live in a continent of free citizens with broad horizons, where the full potential of women and young people, children and girls be made, free of fears, disease and needs". The number four is the one on: "*A peaceful and secure continent*" and indicates that "The mechanisms

for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts will apply at all levels. As a first step, the prevention and resolution of conflicts focused on dialogue will be promoted actively in such a way that all weapons be silenced by the year 2020. *A culture of peace and tolerance* will be induced in the spirit of children and young people of Africa through education for peace".

- 01 January, 2013. Pope Benedict XVI¹⁰¹ in his message for the celebration of the XVI World Peace Day "Blessed are those who work for Peace" highlighted "Education for a *culture of peace*: the role of the family and institutions."
- January, 2013. The Republic of Argentina established by law the adoption of the International Day of Peace and its official flag. In this context the law stipulates that schools and universities must "incorporate the subject of promotion of peace" and to carry out activities to commemorate the date each September 21st, and authorizes to raise the flag of peace in public buildings.
- 11 January, 2013. UNESCO awarded Frei Betto with the prize "José Martí 2013"¹⁰² for his "contribution to the building of a universal *culture of peace*, justice and human rights in South America and the Caribbean."
- 02 February, 2013. San Francisco, USA. Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury in his keynote speech at the inauguration of The Culture of Peace Resource Center of SGI-USA said: "One lesson that I have

learned is that to prevent our history of war and conflict from repeating itself, the values of non violence, tolerance and democracy will have to be inculcated in every woman and man, children and adults alike". He reminded that "We should never forget that when women –half of the world's seven billion people- are marginalized, there is no chance for our world to get sustainable peace in the real sense". Ambassador Chowdhury also manifested that "We have to find out where we went wrong. We need to stop forever the killings of innocent children...".

- 19 February, 2013. Dominican Republic. The Minister of Education, Josefina Pimentel¹⁰³, in her opening speech of the National Youth Forum for a Culture of Peace, encouraged the youngsters to recognize the worth of *the culture of peace* and the reject of violence. This forum represents a step forward in student commitment efforts for the prevention of violence and the construction of spaces for conflict mediation and negotiation through a strategy based on good relationship and peaceful coexistence.
- 28th February, 2013. New York. It was held the panel "The Human Right to Peace: time to mobilize" at the headquarters of the United Nations jointly with the "International Peace Bureau" and the "Global Movement on Culture of Peace". The main participants were the Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury (former Under SG), the Ambassador Eduard Ulibarri (Permanent Representative of Costa

Rica in the UN) and Mrs. Cora Weiss (Representative of the International Peace Bureau in the UN).

- 26 March, 2013. Luanda (Angola). The Pan-African Forum¹⁰⁴ jointly organized by UNESCO, the African Union and the Government of the Republic of Angola gathered more than 300 experts. The goal of this Pan-African Forum was to identify and fully utilize the Africa's sources of cultural and natural inspiration as well as human resources to establish concrete proposals for building and developing a sustainable peace, the cornerstone of endogenous development and Pan-Africanism.

The President of Angola, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in the opening session declared ¹⁰⁵that "Peace is one of the most valuable assets for the African continent, and the people of Angola seeks to protect and preserve it at any price." According to the Head of State, "We know from our own experience how painful the effects of war are and the worth of peace...", recalling that Angola is experiencing an effective peace for the past 11 years.

The Final Report of the Forum of Luanda has been given to the Executive Council of UNESCO by the Director General, on the 12th April, 2013. It contains a detailed Plan of Action¹⁰⁶.

The outstanding results of the Pan African Forum have been the following: i) Propose for widespreading the culture of peace and non-violence to the African Union, that celebrates its 50th Anniversary in May 2013. ii) The initiative of the Felix Houphouet Boigny Foundation, linked with the origin of the culture of peace, to

create a network of foundations for achieving peace (the Chissano Foundation, Ki-Zerbo Foundation, Eduardo dos Santos Foundation... jointly with the Department of Africa of UNESCO). The essential purpose of the Network is to facilitate the implementation of the Plan of Action of Luanda.

- 16 May, 2013. The President of Venezuela, Mr. Nicolás Maduro¹⁰⁷, announced that he "will make an appointment with the owners of the private TV channels to talk about a *culture of peace*".
- 22-23 May, 2013. At the University d'Evry (France), Prof. Alain Zozime, promoter of "*Enseignants pour la Paix*", carries on the important meeting-debate on "Science, Technology and Culture of Peace."¹⁰⁸ Previously, in 2011, he had organized an important conference on "*Rapprochement of Cultures, Dynamique de la Culture de la Paix, Leviers de l'Action*".
- 26 May, 2013. Honduras. A Special Commission was set up in the National Congress in order to provide ideas for a great pact that aims to outline a document containing, among other things, a culture of peace and self-regulation of the media campaign.
- 4 June, 2013. Mexico. The Commission on Human Rights of the Federal District (CDHDF) and the Embassy of Spain launched the call for the first Ibero-American Award for Human Rights and Culture of Peace. The President of the CDHDF said that the prize will be awarded within the framework of the activities of the 20th

Anniversary of the local Commission and the 15 years of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

- 6 June, 2013. Jalisco, Mexico. The PRI Deputy Martin López Cedillo presented an initiative to create the “Jalisco Committee for the Culture of Peace” which, according to the proposal, will have the role of "promoting, studying, carrying out and spreading the culture of peace, education for peace, non-violence, conflict mediation, as well as equality, justice, democracy, tolerance, cooperation, solidarity and prevention of social and gender violence". The policymaker argues that peace of the country has been "disrupted" in recent years, and therefore, in order "to be able to reach, feel and live a culture of peace, we need to work and promote public policies that generate, directly or indirectly, the right conditions so that social harmony prevail in our State, being projected to all municipalities". He considers that this goal can only be attained through the creation of institutions of this nature.
- 14 July, 2013. Radio Vatican said: "Be sign of hope and peace," requests the Pope Francisco. Castel Gandolfo bells celebrated and announced the arrival on Sunday of the Holy Father Francisco, on his first visit, in which encouraged the community of the Diocese of Albano to "the announcement and testimony of the Gospel and to always be a sign of hope and peace".
- 07 August, 2013. Tijuana, Mexico. The Council for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence was established in Baja California (BC) in

order to raise awareness in society about the importance of the culture of peace. Among the objectives of the Organization are the initiative of a law on culture of peace and non-violence in BC, the creation in the country of the first "University of Culture of Peace", to add "education for peace" to the third Constitutional article, and strive to make services for the culture of peace during military service.

- 01 September, 2013. The Vatican. Pope Francisco I started the Angelus from St. Peter's square, as a firm appeal for peace, saying: "Today, dear brothers and sisters, I would like to make myself interpreter of the cry rising from all parts of the Earth, of all people, in the heart of each one of the only family that is humanity, with increasing anguish: is the cry of peace!. The cry that says firmly: we want a peaceful world, we want to be men and women of peace, we want that in our society, shattered by divisions and conflicts, never again war! Never again war! Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected". And continued saying: "I address a strong appeal for peace" and "a chain of efforts for peace join all men and women of good will!... "Peace is an asset beyond any barrier, because it is a good of all mankind"... "I repeat out loud: it is not the culture of confrontation, the culture of conflict that builds the coexistence among peoples and between peoples, but the culture of the encounter, the culture of dialogue: this is the only path to peace... The cry of peace should rise high so it can reach the heart of all and all lay down their arms and let them be guided by the wish of peace".

- 03 September, 2013. It was approved by "voice vote" the "The Earth Dialogues Geneva Declaration on Action for a Peaceful and Sustainable World".
- 06 September, 2013. It took place the "*Second High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace*"¹⁰⁹ in the Hall of the General Assembly of the United Nations convened by the President of the General Assembly, Mr. Vuk Jeremic. In the preliminary synthesis document is emphasized the paragraph that says: "Recognizing the need of continuous support for the strengthening of the global movement to promote the culture of peace as envisioned by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the General Assembly through the High-Level Forum expects to provide public opportunity open to all members States, entities of the United Nations System, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the media, private sector and all other interested parties, to have an exchange of ideas and suggestions on ways to build and promote the culture of peace and to highlight emerging trends that will impact on the process of its implementation"... "The importance of the culture of peace is clear and all efforts to achieve this should be commended and supported".
- 21 September, 2013. This year the subject of the International Day of Peace was "Education for Peace", according to the initiative of Secretary General Ban ki Moon, "Global Education First", aiming to join the efforts of educators and Governments around the world in

order to integrate education for a culture of peace with a focus on global citizenship into the official curriculum.

- 22 September, 2013. Uchumayo, Arequipa, Peru. The campaign "Promoting peace" took place to encourage children to change their war toys by a tree. "Disarmament by a culture of peace, values and the environment preservation" is the name of the program, which consisted of the delivery of pistols, knives, machine guns, among other toys that provokes violence, in exchange for a sit-in. Approximately 100 children had the leading role in a parade from the ecological park to civic plaza "El Carmen" of Alvarez Thomas, carrying banners with peace messages.

"They got rid of all kinds of war toys that generate violence and distort the minds of our youth. It is a change of violence for life", said Mónica Zeballos Patrón, the campaign's Manager. The workday also helped to make known to children the dangers of firearms, war and violence. It also promoted solidarity, creativity and self-control, as tools to contribute to social peace and the common good.

- The Organization " Caminos a la paz / iniciativa de la cultura de paz" has been working on the elaboration of a "Peace Education Resource Center" (PERC), where it can be found the necessary material to carry out educational activities for a culture of peace, with a focus on global citizenship. All peace education organizations are invited to register and publish their material and some information, i.e., events, conferences and training related to education for a culture of peace.

- September 30 to October 9th, 2013. Palma de Mallorca, Spain. The workshop for youth "Youth promoting a Culture of non-Violence and Peace" took place, organized by the "Center for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean" and the "Red Cross", with the sponsorship of the Fundación Cultura de Paz, among others. Mr. Federico Mayor participated with the lecture "Culture of Peace: from Force to Word. Care and Share. Invent the Future".
- 03 October, 2013. Argentina. The Argentina Catholic Informative Agency (AICA) gathers up, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Encyclical of John XXIII "*Pacem in Terris*", widespread the declarations of Father Francisco I in regard to "the task of every human being is building peace, with the example of Jesus Christ, following these two paths: promote and practice justice and contribute to integral human development... not only the main civil and political rights must also be ensured but also everyone must have the possibility of having access to the essential subsistence means: food, water, housing, health care, instruction and the ability to raise and maintain a family. These are the objectives which have an irrevocable priority in national and international activities. A long-lasting peace for all depends of the implementation of these priorities".
- 10 October, 2013. Mr. José Antonio Abreu, a Venezuelan musician and "*maestro*" received the Special Prize of the Culture of Peace in Japan from the Goi Foundation for Peace, for having "dedicated his

life to social work to promote culture through music". This award "seeks to honour individuals and organizations in fields that have contributed to the spreading and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world," adds the information note.

- 18 December, 2013. 69th Plenary Meeting of the Sixty-eighth Session of the General Assembly, Item 15: culture of peace¹¹⁰.

Under this item, the Assembly adopted three resolutions by consensus, namely "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" (A/68/L.28), "Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace" (A/68/L.30) and "A world against violence and violence extremism" (A/68/L.31). While A/68/L.28 and A/68/L.30 are draft resolutions submitted annually under this item, draft resolution A/68/L.31 was a new text, submitted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. From that meeting we extract the highlights in what refers to the culture of peace. It was said that "In general, participants pointed out the need for social inclusion, formal and non-formal education and support to the youth, as well as to migrants and women as means of promoting a culture of peace in society, stressing the connection between peace, stability and development. They also recognized the increasingly important role of the media in eliminating hatred and prejudices while promoting better understanding among peoples".

"Brunei Darussalam on behalf of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), urged for an increased education of people, especially the youth, to respect those from different religious and

cultural backgrounds through the use of information and communications technology. Kuwait and Qatar stressed the need to promote respect for cultural differences, mediation and non-violence as means of ensuring a *culture of peace, which should be considered as an extension of democracy*".

"The links between peace and mutual understanding and the realization of development goals was emphasized by Morocco, cautioning that the goals of peace could not be realized unless a global partnership was established to help all countries achieve the Millennium Goals".

"The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies expressed its strong commitment to promoting social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace and highlighted the vulnerabilities of three specific groups in this regard, namely women, people with disabilities and migrants".

- 14 January, 2014. Ayacucho, Peru. As part of the work of the promotion of a culture of peace in the region of Ayacucho, the Commissioner for Peace and the Development of Ayacucho, Daniel rock Sulca, created ten provincial Councils of peace during 2013. He said that these Councils are placed in provinces where many social conflicts arise, as in the case of the Valley of the rivers Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro (Vraem) and the southern provinces. They have been created with the purpose of addressing conflicts before they come to a stage of confrontations. For the creation of these instances they have been working together with local governments¹¹¹.

- 28 January, 2014. Was held the II Summit of the Community of States of Latin American and the Caribbean (CELAC), in which was adopted the "Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as Zone of Peace", which expresses that "Reaffirming that integration strengthens the vision of a just international order, stated in the law and a culture of peace that excludes the use of force and non-legitimate means of Defense including weapons of mass destruction and in particular nuclear weapons"¹¹².
- February, 2014. The European Commission calls for the "Programme on New Territories in peace - promoting opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development and strengthening of local governance *in the framework of a culture of peace*"¹¹³.

It is important to emphasize that for the first time peace is the centerpiece of a programme of the European Union. This programme is supported by the Government of Colombia jointly with institutions such as the Laboratories of Peace (LP), which raised and strengthened initiatives where the civil population has become protagonist. The new Territories for Peace Programme aims to support local and regional initiatives that contribute to the promotion of socio-economic development and peaceful coexistence particularly in regions affected by armed conflicts. This initiative aims to contribute to "The generation of income (livelihoods), inclusive and sustainable models of production, food security, territory, region and *construction of peace*".

The global objective of this call is "To contribute to the *construction of peace* and development in Colombia through the promotion of territorial conditions that promote a *culture of peace*, democracy and rule of law and dignified living conditions ".

- 28 February, 2014. Pope Francisco expressed in Rome its support to the program "Culture of Peace, Peace Management" that is being conducted by the Argentine Government through the Women's Provincial Council. During the meeting between the Pontiff and the Argentine Delegation they conversed about the realization of an international forum that will tackle the problem of trafficking in persons and which will be organized by the Council next September. They also talked about the hymn "Search for Peace" with Nobel Peace, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel. Within the framework of the agenda it was also agreed to strengthen the processes of international cooperation and cultural exchange through the concerts for peace. The organization in Florence this year of a "First Forum on Economy and Peace" was also foreseen. The Forum will be transmitted on line¹¹⁴.
- 29 May, 2014. Governor Manuel Velasco Coello and the Nobel Peace Prize, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, signed an agreement between the Government and the Association Menchú Tum, which will continue to promote a culture of peace and development of the peoples and indigenous communities of Chiapas. The objective is to strengthen and consolidate fair, equitable, and inclusive public policies in favour of people and indigenous communities¹¹⁵.

- May, 2014. The second session of the intergovernmental working group open on a draft of the "United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace" was held. The draft project¹¹⁶ recalls that the "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace", acknowledged that the culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behavior and ways of life based on, among others, the full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms".
- July, 2014. Granada, Spain. The Department of Education and Science of the Government of Andalusia, through the Andalusian Plan of Education for the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence, inspired by the experiences of education and culture of peace and the founding values of the United Nations and UNESCO, reaffirms, among other issues, "Its willingness to contribute still more in achievement, for current generations and the future, of a more just and tolerant society in Andalusia, without discrimination or prejudices, that reject violence in all its forms and cultivate generosity in order to put an end to exclusion and injustice". Currently, 2.134 centres in Andalusia are attached to the network "Andalusian, School Space of Peace"¹¹⁷, which means that they include in their curricula preventive measures and actions required to promote coexistence and peace among their students. Also says that its "Education system has, among other purposes, training in respect of rights and fundamental freedoms and the exercise of

tolerance and freedom within the democratic principles of coexistence, peace, cooperation and solidarity among peoples".

- September, 9, 2014. It was held the "III High Level Forum of the General Assembly on Culture of Peace", with an exchange of ideas and suggestions on how to build and promote the culture of peace. It featured with the participation of the States, the representation of the United Nations System, the presence of civil society, academics, the media and the private sector. The Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in his speech said that "peace must be grown with respect for the dignity, rights and capacities of every human being, and it cannot be reached only by treaties". He also said that "peace means access to education, to health, to essential services, mainly for women and girls. It means that every young person has the opportunity to live as he/she wants. It also means to develop in a sustainable manner and protect the biodiversity of the planet. More than ever, it means to live together on the basis of tolerance, respect and mutual understanding"¹¹⁸.
- September, 9-23, 2014. Yamoussoukro, Ivory Coast. It was held, under the auspices of the President of Ivory Coast and, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Conference on a Culture of Peace in Yamoussoukro, birth of the culture of peace, the Conference "Peace in the minds of men and women" whose aims are: 1) The celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the birth of the culture of peace with the presence of participants in the International Congress of 1989; (2) The collection of testimonies

and the preparation of a “roadmap” of experiences of the programme “Culture of peace” 25 years after its release”; (3) Launch of the campaign for the promotion of the culture of peace “Make peace happen in Ivory Coast”; (4) Launching of the project on the history of the culture of peace in the framework of the UNESCO history project¹¹⁹.

- October, 11, 2014, México, D.F. The graduate level on a “Culture of Peace and Forgiveness”, which is the result of the union of efforts and willingness of the Ibero-American University and the Foundation for the Reconciliation of Colombia, that leads the program “Schools of Forgiveness and Reconciliation”, has now started. This training program is structured as a cultural project that seeks to focus attention, interest and availability to all mexican@s and people of other nationalities, so that they influence social and politically the promotion and construction of culture of peace, from the pedagogy of forgiveness as a strategy for the transformation of conflicts, violence and in promoting the consolidation of practices of peace in resolving individual and collective disputes. The course provides the knowledge and tools to apply forgiveness in everyday relationships as a strategy for the promotion of wellness practices that break the circles of violence and revenge, carrying the participant to know how to transform experiences emotional and communicative in overcoming the consequences of offences, to contribute in the reconstruction of the social fabric¹²⁰.

- November, 14, 2014, Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Together with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECID), the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH) launches an University Diploma in Culture of Peace. The course is a pedagogical tool designed to provide the participants the knowledge and skills necessary to deep in the analysis of conflicts, participatory construction of peace in different areas and the promotion of a culture of peace. The office of AECID in Tegucigalpa said in a statement that the diploma is part of a project of promotion of the processes of transparency and access to justice for vulnerable groups¹²¹.
- November, 14, 2014. San José, Costa Rica. The Legislative Assembly voted a law that declares peace as "a fundamental human right" and orders to apply the "perpetual, active and non-armed neutrality" in conflicts between States and within them. In this way the neutrality of this country (which carries 65 years without army) to all armed conflicts has been elevated to the status of Law. Another sign in the image of pacifist of Costa Rica¹²².
- November, 17, 2014, Quito, Ecuador. The Iranian Nobel Peace Prize 2003 Shirin Ebadi, inaugurated the UNESCO Chair on Culture and Education for Peace at the University Polytechnic Particular de Loja (UPTL), Ecuador. The Nobel Laureate underlined the importance of that Chair, since education is the basis for any kind of political and economic development of a country. The UNESCO Chair, according

to the UTPL Chair, shall constitute a "space of cooperation and international collaboration"¹²³.

- December, 5, 2014. Rome. At the first hearing of Pope Francisco after his visit to Turkey, he thanked the host and wished "that God protect the Turkish people and their leaders, to build a culture of peace". He also expressed his desire that "Christians and Muslims work together for solidarity, peace and peaceful coexistence". He insisted as well "on the importance that Christians and Muslims engage together for solidarity, peace and justice, affirming that every State must ensure citizens and religious communities a real freedom of worship"¹²⁴.
- December, 6, 2014. Dudignac, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Takes place, for second year, the "Day of Art and Culture for Peace". On this occasion the day aims to cultivate the art since childhood as a way of promoting a daily culture of peace. And to learn to value the artistic expressions of the other, to work in group, to share green spaces, to enjoy the outdoors together with adults, to participate in recycling and to encourage through the game¹²⁵.

During the review of culture of peace since its inception until now, it gets clear how that idea, which started just as a "concept", just as an "ideal", has been coming true. It has been integrated in our daily life, in the "speech" of people who are a reference for their surroundings and in initiatives and activities that, many times in a simple way, are "touching deeply" and leaving a trace.

Proofs of this are the following recent actions:

- January, 29, 2015. San José, Costa Rica. The 29 heads of State and Government of Latin America attending the III Summit of CELAC approved a "political statement"¹²⁶ focused on the combat of poverty, cooperation and the fight against hunger. This statement calls for follow up of priorities for sustainable development, climate change and global warming as well as *to promote the culture of peace and multilateralism*. Raises, among other things, to join forces to achieve commitments against corruption and for transparency, equity and the fight against inequality.
- May, 19, 2015. Incheon, South Korea. Was held the "Global Forum on Education"¹²⁷. Among the Objectives of the Education for the period 2015-2030 of UNESCO for all countries of the world it stands the one which says: "To ensure that all students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to promote sustainable development, human rights, the gender equality, *the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence*, world citizenship, and the valuation of cultural diversity and sustainable culture...".
- May, 22, 2015. Lima, Peru. "VI World Congress on violence in schools and public policy: from violence to school welfare"¹²⁸. During the inauguration the Deputy Minister of Institutional Management of the Ministry of Education stressed the importance that the State work jointly with the centers to promote a culture of peace from homes to schools. The exchange of experiences during

the World Congress allowed to enrich public policies aimed at promoting a culture of peace in the school. In this event participated scholars, specialists, teachers, school leaders, directors and legislators. At the close of the Congress the "*Declaration of Lima*" was signed which includes commitments to strengthen public policies on peace in the school.

- May, 27, 2015. Guadalajara, México. Celebration of the "II Meeting RedeseArte Culture of Peace"¹²⁹. As part of a national strategy which aims to reduce levels of violence and crime in the country, the National Programme for the Prevention of Crime (Pronapred) with the International Art Consortium and School (ConArte) organized workshops and a lot of activities. Under the name of "In Mexico moves us peace", the Federal instance has provided resources for cultural activities and the implementation of workshops that to date have benefited more than 1.300 students in 18 different locations, in colonies that are located in the polygons "priority" security. The work carried included not only children and young people but also parents, artists and officials who have received workshops of "awareness-raising and dialogue" through the interdisciplinary Program for non-violence in the Community (PIVI). With this type of activity is promoted "an inter-community dialogue that allows social mobility... and the strengthening of identity traits;"...as stimulus to a *culture of diversity, which is the basis for building a culture of peace*".

- June, 2, 2015. Launch of the itinerant exhibition "Colombiasur 2015"¹³⁰, whose purpose is to promote a culture of peace from the exhibition of artistic articles made by women in their process (photography, painting, fabrics, audiovisual), reflecting the effects that the war has left in their bodies and their lives. Colombiasur will show the life stories of women victims of the conflict in the municipalities of Neiva and Algeciras, mainly, who have been forced, abused and victimized. Women have used art (painting, photography and video) as a tool to repair their lives, making visible and reconstructing their memories. This exhibition is promoted by the House of memory Quipu Huasi, in consultation with the Ministry of Culture and the support of the Ministry of culture and tourism of the Huila.
- July, 9, 2015. La Paz, Bolivia. In the city of Sucre, the School of Judges¹³¹ empowers 157 *conciliators*, selected in open court, to promote the "culture of peace" in the resolution of legal disputes in civil and commercial matters.
- 09 September 2015. New York, United States. It was held the IV UN High Level Forum on a Culture of Peace in the General Assembly of the United Nations¹³². The Forum consisted of two consecutive interactive panels. In the first panel the discussion was around the "promotion of the culture of peace in the context of the sustainable development agenda Post 2015". In the second panel was on the "role of the media in the promotion of a culture of peace".

- 25th September 2015. Washington, United States. During his visit to the United States Pope Francis¹³³ called to the Plenary of the Congress to "abolish the death penalty, to avoid fundamentalisms, point to a culture of peace and not evade the responsibility of peoples on foreigners, as long as we have all been so at some point". Likewise, encouraged lawmakers to be "as Moses (doing) laws fair and dignified" and reminded them that "imitate the hatred and violence of the tyrants and murderers is the best way to take their post. This is something that you, as a people, reject. Ours must be a response of hope and healing, peace, and justice."
- October 05-06, 2015. San Sebastian and Madrid, Spain. Was held, organized by the General Secretariat for Peace and the coexistence of the Basque Government and the Fundación Cultura de Paz, the Seminar "For a Future of peace in the Basque Country the normalization of coexistence"¹³⁴. Although the violence is over, it is not an easy task to normalize the present coexistence and reconcile the future. It is necessary to reset the channels of dialogue, of communication that allow to live peacefully with the "other". This activity tries to overcome the past by thinking in the future of new generations, creating spaces of peace where the society, including the victims as protagonists, can build a future free from violence.
- 13th October, 2015. Cuba appealed in the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) for a culture of peace¹³⁵ in a world hit by appalling wars and terrorist acts. It stressed the importance that UNESCO made a contribution even greater in the search for peace and the promotion of

sustainable development, and reiterated the need for a reform of the institution and its governance. It recalled the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a “Zone of Peace” in the II Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries in Havana, which is devoted to respect for the principles and norms of international law and a culture of peace.

- October 23-25, 2015. Padov, Italy. It was held in the University of Padua the “Peace Paths: Annual Conference of the International Peace Bureau for the 70th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter”¹³⁶. The International Peace Bureau (IPB) is an international non-governmental federation, founded in 1892, that supports peace and disarmament initiatives through international projects. It was awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 1910. The Conference was co-organized by the Human Rights Centre of the University of Padua, the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace and by several national and international organizations and NGOs. The event was divided into three sessions. The first one dealt with the topic “Peace Planet”. During the second session, the island of Lampedusa (Italy) and the Gangjeon Village (South Korea) were awarded with the 2015 “Sean MacBride” Prize. The third session was on the topic “The UN Charter is still alive: Strengthening and Democratising the United Nations”. Federico Mayor, President of the Foundation Culture of Peace and former UNESCO General Director, gave a keynote lecture entitled “A Refounded United Nations System is more necessary than ever: ‘We, the peoples...’ now, yes, we can”. Antonio Papisca, Professor Emeritus at the

University of Padua and Chair-holder of the UNESCO Chair in Human Rights, Democracy and Peace, Reiner Braun and Ingeborg Breines, Co-Presidents of the International Peace Bureau, and Massimo Fabio, Lions Club International, joined the debate. The meeting was promoted as well by the Fondazione Fontana (<http://www.fondazionefontana.org>).

- November, 15, 2015. Barcelona. The XV World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates¹³⁷ was held with the participation of nine Nobel Peace Laureates and ten Laureate organisations. From this meeting came out the "Barcelona Declaration: Refugees, the challenge of our humanity", a clear and urgent call on the adoption of necessary and non-Deferrable measures for the world peace, focused on four challenges affecting humanity as a whole: nuclear threat, environment, lack of solidarity and fanaticism. The Nobel Laureates advocate for "Disarmament for development", in order to correct the present trends before it is too late.
- December 1, 2015. In an official ceremony, attended by students and Government officials, Costa Rica commemorated the 67 anniversary of the dissolution of his army and celebrated the "culture of peace"¹³⁸. The President, Luis Guillermo Solis, stressed: "The abolition of our army reflects a concept of peace that we remember today and bequeathed to the world. Costa Rica has been founded under the commitment to dialogue, on a culture of peace".

- The Red Cross and the Red Crescent in its publication on "The promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace"¹³⁹ says that "culture of non-violence and peace is not a utopia. There are concrete steps that we can be taken to forge a non-violent, more human and egalitarian society. We have seen that nonviolence has served as a cornerstone to several social and religious movements, and that people can use them to reach out to others and find common solutions to the various problems... ". Indicates that "for the International Federation of societies of the Red Cross and the Crescent Red, made up of 186 national societies of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the promotion of social inclusion and a culture of violence and peace is one of the three strategic objectives of Strategy 2020 (<http://www.ifrc.org/es/nuestra-vision-nuestra-mision/nuestra-vision-nuestra-mision/estrategia-2020/>)". Likewise indicates that "the promotion of a culture of non-violence and peace an integral part of the activities of the Federation, because it not only reduces violence and discrimination but allows to create more resilient communities, healthy with greater capacity for resistance and recovery" and that "voluntary service constitutes an essential tool for the construction of a culture of peace and non-violence".
- December 3, 2015. New York, USA. Confronting an increasingly polarized world where religious intolerance, discrimination, xenophobia, conflict and the emergence of new extremist ideologies abounded, the General Assembly today adopted, without a vote, two Resolutions that stressed the advancement of a culture

of peace and non-violence based on education, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation (GA/11734)¹⁴⁰.

- January 19, 2016. La Havana, Cuba. "The Government of the Republic of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, Ejercito del Pueblo, FARC-EP: "reaffirm their commitment to negotiations to achieve a Final Agreement for the termination of the conflict and the construction of a stable and lasting peace (Final Agreement), including an agreement on cease fire and hostilities bilateral and definitive and the abdication of the weapons. Likewise, reaffirm their commitment to the implementation of all the agreements contained in the Final Agreement and of effective mechanisms of monitoring and verification, with international support, which will ensure full compliance with the commitments acquired"¹⁴¹. It was said that "as the former Director General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza rightly points out: lasting peace is premise and requirement for the exercise of all rights and human duties. Not the peace of silence, of men and women silent, silenced. Peace of freedom - and therefore of justice- together joy, equality, solidarity, where all citizens are taken into account, live, share" (<https://montserratponsa.com/2016/02/02/la-habana-cuba-enero-19-de-2016-ano-de-la-paz-farg-ep/>).
- February 5, 2016. Colombia. Ignacio Mantilla in an article in the newspaper "El Espectador" entitled "Sign the Magna Carta of Colombian universities"¹⁴² says that "Our post-conflict University should set an example and its role will be the built a new culture,

strengthened in respect and ethics, a culture of peace and progress that are based on quality, equity and social inclusion".

- February 5, 2016. Querétaro, Mexico. The State capital was named "City for Peace"¹⁴³, becoming the first city with this designation in the network of cities for peace around the five continents. This name is supported by Pope Francis and 12 Nobel Peace Prize, among them Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Rigoberta Menchú and the Dalai Lama. During the event, Odino Faccia, Italian-Argentine singer-songwriter, named Peace Ambassador by UNESCO, considered the moment as historic and as an incentive so that all citizens continue generating peace and endorsing the received title and stated that "this recognition is a beautiful commitment to continue betting for a culture of peace. The Mayor of Querétaro emphasized the importance of working everyday in social peace, a theme that, be assured, is clearly stated in the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico, that recently turned 99 years of its promulgation. He also said that "the main idea of this Republican Constitution is peace among all, the peaceful coexistence based on respect for the right of the other, on the cooperation of different groups, of different faiths, different interests that together form the Republic".
- February 8, 2016. Córdoba, Spain. The UNESCO's Chair on Conflicts Resolution of the University of Córdoba¹⁴⁴ marked its tenth anniversary with more than 50 activities, 1,200 students and 156 experts from 15 countries, according to the data provided by its Director and Professor of History of Law, Manuel Torres. Torres explained that since its foundation in 2006, the UNESCO Chair has

organized all kinds of conferences, congresses and round tables, which have addressed the fundamental conflicts of our time, from the Palestinian question until the rise of Islam, the problem of refugees, war of Ukraine or the peace process in Colombia. He said that "to do so, the Chair had the participation of some of the most prestigious specialists in the matter, as Sami Naïr, Juan Goytisolo, Ramin Jahanbegloo, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Alain Tourain, Nicolás Sartorius or Amelia Valcárcel, among others". The Director of the Chair welcomed its renewal by UNESCO until 2019. He stressed that "the most important essence of the UNESCO Chair is the Master on Culture of Peace", which is already in its sixth edition.

- February 9, 2016. The University of Castilla La Mancha (UCLM) hosted the IV Ibero-American Graduate of Corporate Social Responsibility and the III Latin American Postgraduate Course in Governance, Human Rights and Culture of Peace¹⁴⁵, involving 90 students from countries such as Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Argentina, Uruguay or Chile, among others. The III Ibero-American Graduate in Governance, Human Rights and Culture of Peace, led by Professor Juan Ramón de Páramo Argüelles, corresponds to an initiative of the Institute of Conflict Resolution of the UCLM (IRC) which aims to give an overview of human rights in the international context taking into account national policies, the instruments of the United Nations, the european experience and the latest actions of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It also incorporates a more practical module for the formulation and evaluation of development projects, with an approach based on

human rights being applied in the policies and projects of the Spanish cooperation.

- February 26, 2016. Caracas, Venezuela. Within the framework of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Programme for Development (UNDP) and the uninterrupted cooperation established over 12 years between the Musical Foundation Simón Bolívar and UNDP in Venezuela, took place the presentation of the publication “Practices in Social Inclusion and a Culture of Peace: National System of Youth Orchestras and Choirs of Venezuela”¹⁴⁶. This is the first Notebook of Human Development elaborated by PNUD’s office in Venezuela. The analysis was based on the study of the applicability of the paradigm of human development in the practices of the System, and its impact on the creation of a culture of peace.
- April 27, 2016. México. Deputy Rafael Yerena Zambrano (PRI) organized the collection of signatures of citizens in order to promote the inclusion and building of a culture of peace in the Constitution of Mexico¹⁴⁷.
- April 27, 2016. El Salvador. During six days the Salvadoran Book Chamber and the Culture Secretariat of the Presidency held the children's and youth book fair¹⁴⁸. Among its goals was "to promote the children's book as an opportunity to improve the culture of peace are badly needed in the country". The Director of Publications and Prints said that "Without culture of peace cannot be built a new generation with more hope".

- May 6, 2016. New York. The President of the General Assembly will convene a High-Level Conversation on “Religions for Peace”¹⁴⁹. “Today, the values of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect for faiths and cultures seem more and more to be under pressure in the midst of political upheaval, conflicts and civil strife. Across the world, societies are facing challenges from those who purposefully misconstrue religion to try to lend legitimacy to their crimes and acts of terrorism. In this regard, nations and States should collaborate to address root causes, overcome misunderstandings between societies, cultures and civilizations, within the framework of the UN Charter and relevant international law as well as relevant General Assembly decisions, applicable UN Security Council resolutions...”. This conversation on “Religions for Peace” was an occasion for the membership of the United Nations and other relevant stakeholders, including representatives of different faith traditions, “to recall the significance of maintaining respectful tolerance across diverse cultures and religions and to address violent extremism and terrorism...”.
- July 15, 2016. Morelia, Michoacán (Mexico). In the Ordinary Session of the Congress of the State of Michoacán the united Commissions of Justice and Public Security and Civil Protection, approved the Law for a Culture of Peace and Prevention of Violence and Crime¹⁵⁰ for the State, which will be an additional institutional support to restore the social fabric and social inclusion promoting a culture of peace that gives harmony to society and ensure citizen participation

in matters which are of common interest, to protect the peace of families and communities. It will promote strongly as well the denunciation of the crimes. This initiative was presented by the Congressman Wilfrido Lázaro Medina.

- July 21, 2016. New York. UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, addressed a High-Level Panel on “The Role of Parliaments for Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies and Combating Violent Extremism”¹⁵¹, organized by the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations, UNESCO, and the Interparliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics, at UN Headquarters in New York. "Building peace and preventing violent extremism cannot be won with hard power only", stated the Director-General. "We need soft power also, we need to win the battle of ideas, through education, through democratic debate, through a better understanding of each other's cultures and religions" she continued. The event brought together parliamentarians and representatives of the diplomatic community, the United Nations System and civil society in an effort to establish a closer collaboration on the development of a culture of peace and preventing the unprecedented rise of violent extremism. The keynote session concluded with an address by Federico Mayor, President of the Foundation Culture de Paz, who recalled the important role of the “UN High-Level Forum on the culture of peace”, and urged parliamentarians to be at the forefront of the fight against extremist ideologies.

- August 6, 2016. Santiago, República Dominicana. The Public Ministry and the Pontificia Universidad Católica Madre and Maestra (PUCMM) signed an agreement for the start of a joint work programme¹⁵², which includes a training plan aimed at citizens from different sectors of the province. The purpose is that they can resolve conflicts in a peaceful manner and to contribute to the implementation and promotion of a culture of peace.
- September 1, 2016. New York, USA. Following the wide-ranging success of the UN General Assembly's first High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, hold on 14 September 2012, and 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 General Assembly celebrated this year the V High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace¹⁵³. UN Member States, UN System entities, civil society including NGO's, media, private sector, and all others interested, have the opportunity to exchange ideas and suggestions on the ways to build and promote the culture of peace and to highlight emerging trends that impact the implementation process. After the opening session, with interventions of the President of the GA, the representative of the SG and the keynote speech by the Nobel Laureate 2015 Mrs. Ouided Bouchmaoui, 43 representatives of the member States took the word in the Plenary Session. In the afternoon, there were two consecutive interactive panels. In the first panel was discussed how to increase the synergies between the objectives of sustainable development and the eight areas of the

Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. In the second panel was addressed the role of the youth in the promotion of a culture of peace in the context of the implementation of the Resolution of the Council of Security of the UN on youth, peace and security. The Session was chaired by the President of the 70th Session of the General Assembly, Mr. Mogens Lykketoft. It was attended, among others, by Ms. Ouided Bouchamaoui, Founder of the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet, awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015; Mrs. Ingeborg Breines, co-President of the International Peace Bureau (IPB); Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations and Chair of the UN General Assembly Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Programme of Action on Culture of Peace (1998-1999), and Mr. Federico Mayor, former Director General of UNESCO.

- September 1, 2016. La Havana, Cuba. Rectors of the public universities of Colombia designated by the Director Committee of the University State System gathered with the negotiators of the FARC and the Government, committed with the peace and signed a document¹⁵⁴ with some commitments between which is the one of the “promotion and strengthening of a culture of peace that allow the reconstruction of the social sense, the reconciliation and the peaceful coexistence of all Colombians, based in a pedagogy that from universities State us promise to boost”.

- September 14, 2016. Lambayeque, Peru. On the occasion of the International Peace Day (21 September) the Regional Government of Lambayeque granted “Regional award by the 2016 Peace”¹⁵⁵ to people and institutions who every day strive to promote a culture of peace in the region.
- September 27, 2016. Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. The Presidente of Carlos, Juan Manuel Santos, and Rodrigo Londoño, “Timochenko”, representative of FARC, signed the peace in Cartagena of Indian with a “baligrafo”¹⁵⁶ with which the Ministry of Education of Colombia aims to “promote a culture of peace”.
- December 10, 2016. Oslo, Norway. In his acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, the President of Colombia, Mr. Juan Manuel Santos, on Saturday, December 10, 2016, in Oslo, Norway, said: "We have to change from the inside. We need to change the culture of violence for a culture of peace and coexistence; we have to change the culture of exclusion by a culture of inclusion and tolerance"¹⁵⁷.
- December, 19, 2016. New York. The plenary of the UN General Assembly adopted by a majority of its Member States the Declaration on the Right to Peace in its Resolution A/RES/71/189¹⁵⁸.
- December 23, 2016. New York. The Assembly took up a Resolution titled “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace” (document A/71/L.47). The representative of Bangladesh introduced that text, noting the Assembly’s annual

adoption of the draft since 1997. Since its last adoption in 2005, two United Nations-proclaimed days of non-violence had been added alongside a reference to vulnerable children in the context of the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Early Childhood Peace Consortium. In 2016, more than 100 countries had co-sponsored the draft, he said, expressing gratitude for their commitment and support. By its terms, the Assembly, calling on all concerned to renew their attention to the objectives of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), invites Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace. It also invites United Nations entities to integrate the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their activities and encourage the United Nations peacebuilding architecture to continue to promote peacebuilding initiatives and to advance the culture of peace and non-violence in country-level post-conflict peacebuilding efforts. Among other things, it requests the General Assembly President to consider convening a high-level forum devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption and invite the Secretary-General to explore mechanisms and strategies for the Programme of Action's implementation and to submit to the Assembly at its seventy-second session a report on relevant actions taken by Member States. The Assembly then adopted that resolution without a vote¹⁵⁹.

- February, 02, 2017. Bogotá, Colombia. The President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, inaugurated the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, with the assistance of 31 laureate. Among others, the attending personalities were Irina Bokova, Oscar Arias, Lech Walesa, Rigoberta Menchú and Frederik de Klerk. The participants spoke and debated on peace, reconciliation and development, emphasizing the need for dialogue and the role of youth and education in periods of transition as the one Colombia is living. Note the disposal of UNESCO to support the reintegration of the FARC-EP to education. In the framework of this Summit, the Colombian President said: "Today, on this solemn stage, where we opened the door to the peace of my country, I would like to make a proposal to you my fellow Nobel Peace, the civil society and the international community. From Bogota, and in my quality of last Laureate with the prize Nobel of the Peace, I propose to you and to the world a charter that commemorates this Summit and it can be call the Colombia Charter (<http://www.nobelpeacesummit.com/the-colombia-charter-10-principles-for-peace/>). A charter of 10 principles for peace that inspire and guide us." President Santos said that they must be principles "that anyone can share and understand, which can be kept in mind, which can be studied by children and young people in schools, broadcast on the murals and the libraries, because they are bigger than us". At the end of the Summit, the Declaration "Building Roads to Peace" (http://ipb.org/uploads/documents/other_docs/FinalStatementENGLISH.pdf) was adopted. In the speech that gave Ivan Marquez (Colombian guerrilla, Commander of the block Caribbean and Member of the

Secretariat of the FARC)

(<http://www.resumenlatinoamericano.org/2017/02/05/colombia-ivan-marquez-palabras-ante-los-nobeles-de-paz/>) said that: "Peace is the more deep human dream from the origin of the times, says us Federico Mayor, former Director General of the UNESCO. Everyone must feel involved and benefited. Everyone must contribute to facilitate the great transition from the reason of force to the force of reason; from oppression to dialogue; from isolation to interaction and peaceful coexistence. But, first, the most important thing is to live. And give meaning to life. Eradication of violence going to the sources of resentment, radicalization, dogmatism, fatalism, poverty, ignorance and discrimination"¹⁶⁰.

- Madrid, April 19, 2017. Opening of the first edition of the "World Forum on Education for Coexistence and Peace" with the assistance of King Felipe VI who, in his speech, called for a "culture of peace" in the cities as a brake to the violence and urban violence. This forum was organized by the Mayor of Madrid, Manuela Carmena, and Paris, Anne Hidalgo. The King was accompanied by the Home Secretary, Juan Ignacio Zoido, and the Secretary of State for Social Services and Equality, Mario Garcés. This event counted with the participation of 70 countries and representatives from 100 cities including the Mayors of large cities like Virginia Raggi (Rome), Yvan Mayeur (Brussels), Denis Codere (Montreal) and Luis Revilla (La Paz), as well as that of the President of the Municipal Council of New York, Melissa Mark-Viverito. Felipe VI said that because the rapid growth cities had become "complex spaces for coexistence",

which encouraged institutions and Governments to promote "an authentic culture of peace" as a way to rein in the various acts of urban violence. King Felipe stressed that cities should be "places to the understanding, solidarity, inclusion and mutual respect" and warned that they are also "scenarios of tension and conflict", so that, if efforts are not undertaken timely with an integral vision, "can generate violence". For Felipe VI, the problems of violence should find in "education for coexistence and peace", as the theme of the Forum, an "inescapable" response. "It is an opportunity and a responsibility that affects everyone, from international institutions and Governments, to the media and social organizations", remarked Felipe VI and claimed to "the consensus of all"¹⁶¹.

- Rome, May 24, 2017. United States President, Donald Trump, came to the Vatican for his first meeting with Pope Francisco¹⁶². The meeting was held behind closed doors, focusing on issues where the ideas of the two converge. Pope Francisco gave President Trump the Medallion of the Olive Tree and a copy of his message for the World Peace Day, especially signed for him, and said: "I want you to be an instrument of peace. "We need peace," Trump responded. The official statement from the Vatican¹⁶³, stated that "has been manifested the desire of a serene collaboration between the State and the Catholic Church in the United States, committed to the service to the population in the fields of health, education and assistance to immigrants. The talks also included an exchange of views on some issues related with the international situation and the promotion of peace in the world through political negotiation

and interreligious dialogue, with particular reference to the situation in the Middle East and the tutelage of Christian communities".

- 07 September 2017. New York. The VI High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace¹⁶⁴ within the framework of the 71 Session of the Assembly General of the United Nations took place. The Forum was focused on the need to promote a culture of peace and how to achieve it in the midst of the current global challenges and the threat to the stability and prosperity of the planet. It has become clear the importance of education in the construction of a culture of peace, since education is crucial in the promotion of ideals and attitudes of nonviolence, equality and mutual respect. The event brought together representatives of the States members of the United Nations, entities of the System, civil society, the media and other stakeholders to exchange ideas and suggestions on ways to build and promote a culture of peace and to highlight emerging trends that will influence its application.
- 02 October 2017. La Paz, Bolivia. President of Bolivia¹⁶⁵, Evo Morales, urged the peoples of the world and its leaders to "contribute to the culture of peace when we celebrate the international day of non-violence". Referred to peace but with social justice, "because there can be no peace where there is inequality and poverty". The President recalled that this day commemorates the birth of the politician and Indian pacifist Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948). In keeping with the ideals of Gandhi

on respect for life, the Bolivian President joined the voices of people calling for a world without walls, no racism, no arms race.

- October 25, 2017. Quito, Ecuador. The collective Pressenza¹⁶⁶ (present in several countries of Europe and Latin America) presented, in an attempt to create a model of peace in the heart of the society, the book "*Dedicated lives*", that includes eleven experiences of Ecuadorian personalities about *culture of peace and non-violence* in which you can find "all faces of violence: economic, political, gender, religious" and others, told to Efe Nelsy Lizarazo, President of that group in Ecuador. Pressenza, "is an organization of volunteer activism related to social issues and which accompanies the "struggles" of groups that, sometimes, are not heard because of the absence of information on its activities," said Lizarazo. The text includes an assessment of non-violence "much broader than the approach of peace, which is a fundamental concept, but many times it is understood only as the absence of war", said the activist.
- November 27, 2017. Ragun, Burma. On the occasion of his official visit, the Pope Francisco¹⁶⁷ launched a message "in favor of peace and the respect of each ethnic group" in the presence of the political leader of the country, Aung San Suu Kyi, while the local media and from neighboring India reported of the flight of more than one thousand civilians in the ethnic-group budista and christians to the Indian territory, joining the exodus of the rohingya and putting in question the significance of all the conciliatory statements that were heard during the papal visit. Pope Francis said

also that "the future of Burma must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of every member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect of law and the democratic order that allows that each group - without excluding anyone - offer its legitimate contribution to the common good". He continued asking for "respect for human rights", an appeal that "everyone have their values, their wealth and their differences, just as every religion has its wealth and traditions to share. But this can only happen if we live in peace, and peace is built with a chorus of diversity. If we discuss, we have to do it as brothers and to reconcile quickly". The Rohingya crisis has led to a rise of nationalism.

- 08 January, 2018. Rome, Italy. Pope Francisco in his traditional year speech¹⁶⁸ in front of the representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, referred to the essential issue of peace based on multilateralism and the adherence to the principle of "the equal dignity of each person, whose contempt and ignorance led to barbaric acts that offend the conscience of mankind". He said that "the promotion of the culture of peace to achieve comprehensive development requires persistent efforts towards disarmament and the reduction of the use of armed force in the management of international affairs, together with the struggle against injustices and the elimination of the causes of discord", and urged to the dialogue and negotiation to achieve or preserve peace in different regions and countries.

- January 25, 2018. Chihuahua, México. Teachers of the National College of Technical Professional Education (CONALEP) were sensitized to promote a culture of peace through mediation. It seeks to promote a culture of peace through mediation, preventing or resolving conflicts and being a bridge between the two parties.

<http://www.chihuahua.gob.mx/contenidos/sensibilizan-docentes-de-conalep-ii-para-fomentar-la-cultura-de-paz-traves-de-la>

- 09 February, 2018. “Let Olympics Be Beacon for Human Solidarity, Culture of Peace”, United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said in a video message for Pre-Ceremony at PyeongChang Winter Games in the Republic of Korea. “The world gathers on the Korean Peninsula today, united by the Olympic spirit: in solidarity, mutual respect and friendly competition. The Olympics and Paralympics showcase the best of the world’s athletic achievements. And the best of humanity. Let the Olympic truce help spread a culture of peace. Let the Olympic spirit guide our actions today and every day” continued saying (<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm18889>). The President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea, in Gangneung said: “Your support to the United Nations is exemplary, in peacekeeping, in peacebuilding, in sustainable development, in addressing climate change, in human rights...” He made a “Toast for the happiness of the Korean people, the success of your engagements in inter-Korean dialogue and the success of international efforts in order to create a peaceful, denuclearized Peninsula that will be, I hope, the symbol of the peace we would like to see all over the world”

(<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sgsm18888>).The United Nations [Secretary-General](#), Antonio Guterres called on everyone to recognize and promote the games’ universal message of peace and tolerance. “The Olympic spirit allows people to be together, from all over the world, to respect each other, to assert the values of tolerance, of mutual understanding that are the basic elements for peace to be possible,” Mr. Guterres [told](#) journalists in Pyeongchang. “Obviously, in the present context, he said, there is a lot of attention for this message of peace in relation to the Korean Peninsula, but the Olympic message of peace is not local” (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1002411>).

- February, 2018. The United Nations and the World Bank published the joint study “Pathways for Peace: inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict” that looks at how development processes can better interact with diplomacy and mediation, security and other tools to prevent conflict from becoming violent. The resurgence of violent conflict in recent years has caused immense human suffering, at enormous social and economic cost. Violent conflicts today have become complex and protracted, involving more non-state groups and regional and international actors, often linked to global challenges from climate change to transnational organized crime. It is increasingly recognized as an obstacle to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This has given impetus for policy makers at all levels – from local to global – to focus on preventing violent conflict more effectively. Grounded in a shared commitment to this agenda in

order to understand ‘what works,’ it reviews the experience of different countries and institutions to highlight elements that have contributed to peace. States hold the primary responsibility for prevention, but to be effective, civil society, the private sector, regional and international organizations must be involved. Enhancing the meaningful participation of women and youth in decision making, as well as long-term policies to address the aspirations of women and young people are fundamental to sustaining peace. The “Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict -- Main Messages and Emerging Policy Directions” report previews findings from the full study. Preventing violent conflict saves lives, and it is critical to ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. The fact that most countries prevent violent conflict most of the time shows that prevention is a viable possibility. However, the conflict-prevention agenda must also adapt to respond to the changing demands of prevention in a dynamic world. Prevention must become a universal agenda. It should be seen as a responsibility of all countries and all actors.

<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28337>

- May 16, 2018. Pamplona, Spain. The Government of Navarra signed an institutional declaration of commitment to memory along with Andalusia, Aragon, Asturias, Cantabria, Castilla y León, Canary Islands, Catalonia, Valencia, the Balearic Islands, Extremadura, La Rioja and the Basque Country, in which they condemned the

military coup of 1936 and the Franco dictatorship, and expressed their adoption of "a culture of peace, respect and tolerance."

<http://www.europapress.es/navarra/noticia-trece-comunidades-autonomas-comprometen-memoria-historica-colaborar-familiares-victimas-20180316121649.html>

- May 17, 2018. Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations wrote in his twitter: "International security is at risk. Cold War tensions have returned. Global military spending is at its highest since the fall of the Berlin Wall. This is why I am launching my disarmament agenda, based on concrete, practical actions, on 24 May at the University of Geneva".

<https://twitter.com/antonioguterres/status/997147732618997760?lang=es>

- May 21, 2018. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Within the institutional plan of the Public Ministry for the prevention of violence and the promotion of peace in the country, the General Attorney of the Republic, Jean Rodríguez, led the opening of a Diploma on the Culture of Peace and the Management of Conflicts. In his speech he proclaimed: "Today the Public Ministry continues adopting concrete measures and taking firm steps against violence and the installation of a culture of peace, taking into account the strengthening of the training of our teachers in this matter is vital for the achievement of those objectives".

<https://elsoldelasamericas.com/2018/05/21/procurador-encabeza-apertura-de-diplomado-sobre-cultura-de-paz-y-manejo-de-conflictos/>

- September 5, 2018. United Nations, New York. Recognizing the need to further promote the Culture of Peace, particularly in the current global context, and responding to paragraph 15 of

Resolution 72/137, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Miroslav Lajčák, convened a oneday High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, under the theme “The Culture of Peace: A Credible Pathway to Sustaining Peace” at UN Headquarters, New York.

The High-level Forum aimed to highlight emerging trends in this area and to enable Member States and other stakeholders to exchange ideas on further promoting a culture of peace.

<https://www.un.org/pga/72/2018/09/05/opening-of-the-high-level-forum-on-a-culture-of-peace/>

- November 30, 2018. New York. General Assembly of the United Nations. “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace” (A/73/L.43, November, 30, 2018):

“17. Requests the President of the General Assembly to give social attention to the appropriate and befitting observance of the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which falls on 13 September 2019, by holding the High-Level Forum on that date, which will be an opportunity for renewing the commitments to strengthen further the global movement for the culture of peace”¹⁶⁹.

- April 8, 2019. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The Ministry of Education conducted an extensive national program of accompaniment and psychological guidance through the School Police Directorate to foster a culture of peace and an emotional environment that facilitates the teaching-learning process. This

program was aimed at students, teachers and administrative staff of educational centers¹⁷⁰.

- June 10, 2019. La Paz, Bolivia. Bolivia will assume the Presidency of the First Disarmament and International Security Commission of the United Nations General Assembly with the responsibility of building a culture of peace at the international level¹⁷¹.
- June 25, 2019. New, York. The President of the General Assembly of the United Nations, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, in reference to General Assembly Resolution 73/126 of December 2018, entitled “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace”, sent a letter to all the Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers of the United Nations, convening on 13 September 2019 a High –level Forum on a Culture of Peace to observe the 20th Anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. She highlights the importance of this Declaration, “considered to be one of the most significant legacies of the United Nations, encourages action at all levels, including civil society, academia, the private sector, media, and individuals who are identified as key actors for its effective implementation”. She informs that “this year’s observation on the theme “The Culture of Peace: Empowering and Transforming Humanity” will reflect on the enduring value of the Culture of Peace and its significance for achieving the transformative 2030 Agenda”. Attaches the Concept Note “United Nations High Level-Forum on the Culture of Peace –

20th Anniversary convened by the President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly” that highlights the importance of the adoption of this declaration in 1999. Manifests that “The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace unanimously adopted two decades ago is a universal document explaining, outlining and defining the focus of the Culture of Peace as agreed upon by the international community. This historic norm-setting document, considered one of the most significant legacies of the United Nations, sees the Culture of Peace as a process of individual, collective and institutional transformation...”. Considers that “The Culture of Peace is interlinked with the sustainable development Agenda” and that “In the light of the importance of the Culture of Peace and its potential for responding to the global challenges facing mankind, the 20th Anniversary Observance should be central to the pivotal discussions and commitments expected at the General Assembly in September...”¹⁷².

- 0 September 3, 2019. Bolivia. “Bolivia promotes a culture of peace and dialogue between the States” said President Evo Morales. He ensured that the country promotes a culture of peace and dialogue between the States, against all types of violence, always advocating for the well-being of the peoples.¹⁷³
- September 5, 2019. Mozambique. During Pope Francis visit to Africa, when addressing the youth of Mozambique, he indicated

that: “The greatest enmity is war. And today we see that the world is being destroyed by war. Because we are unable to sit down and talk...”. Pope Francis encouraged young people to “Create social friendship” although he acknowledged that: “It is not easy, you always have to give up something, you have to negotiate, but if we do it thinking about the good of all we can achieve the magnificent experience of set aside differences to fight together for something common”. The Pope stressed the importance of “finding points of coincidence in the midst of many dissent, in the artisan and sometimes expensive effort to build bridges, to build a peace that is good for everyone, that is the miracle of the culture of the meeting”. He encouraged young people to “Dream with others, never against others” and reminded them that peace is a process that they too are called to go, always reaching out. Pope Francis recalled the importance of learning to be “being friendly and outstretched hands” even with those who think differently, “so that solidarity grows between you and becomes the best weapon to transform history”. Francis I recalled that: “A culture of peace requires a constant process in which each new generation is involved....”. He stressed that: “A culture of peace implies a productive, sustainable and inclusive development, where every Mozambican can feel that this country is his or her own and in which he or she can establish relations of fraternity and equity with his or her neighbour and with all that surrounds him or her”. Finally he remembered the challenge of “protecting our common house, a house that belongs to everyone and for everyone”¹⁷⁴.

- September 13, 2019. New York. The 20th anniversary of the landmark UN “Culture of Peace” Resolution passage was observed at the UN at this year’s Eighth annual High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace in UN headquarters. The Global Movement for the Culture of Peace at the UN (GMCOP) urged global citizens throughout the world to join them during this special observance to amplify the importance of fully implementing this normative-setting Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace Resolution (A/RES/53/243). At this perilous time of worldwide existential violence. The High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace seeks to strengthen the Culture of Peace global movement, bringing together citizen’s groups, international agencies and governments actively working to build the Culture of Peace. This year’s High Level Forum was convened by Her Excellency President of the General Assembly Maria Fernandes Espinoza of Ecuador. Bearing in mind the broader dimension and potential impact of the Culture of Peace, the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly chose this year’s theme to be “The Culture of Peace: Empowering and Transforming Humanity.” Suggested actions were: mention Culture of Peace anniversary on their website front page, conduct a Culture of Peace workshop, initiate an educational Culture of Peace campaign, advocate with your government officials for Departments, Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace, citing the Culture of Peace resolution as the basis for them. Pathways for Peace has set up a website dedicated to the Culture of Peace 20th anniversary that is designed to collect all the Culture of Peace actions taken around the world in observance of this

milestone anniversary. A world map was produced from the data showing the range and depth of Culture of Peace activities occurring globally. Civil society is encouraged to provide input to it at this website (www.internationaldayofpeace.org)¹⁷⁶.

- September 18-22, 2019. Luanda (Angola). The Biennale of Luanda took place with the participation of representatives of governments, civil society and international organizations, as well as artists and scientists from the African continent and Diaspora. The Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay, opened it with the assistance of the Presidents of Republic of the Congo, and Namibia. The Biennale, whose main objective is the promotion of a culture of peace and non violence in Africa, was organized around three main axes: 1) Partners' Forum, Alliance for Africa: created by UNESCO last year, the Alliance mobilizes donors, public and private sector companies, regional and international organizations around sustainable development projects in Africa targeting a wide range of areas in UNESCO's mandate including heritage preservation and support for free and pluralistic media; 2) Forum of Ideas - Youth and Women's Forums: three platforms of reflection on the future of Africa, focusing on the dissemination of good practices and solutions for the prevention of crises, and the resolution and attenuation of conflicts; 3) Festival of Cultures: showcasing the cultural diversity of African countries and the African Diaspora. During her visit to Angola, the Director-General of UNESCO signed a partnership agreement for the establishment of National Doctoral Programme in science, technology and innovation, aimed

at training 160 doctoral candidates by 2020. The project is part of a wider partnership to strengthen Angola's education, science, and cultural capacities¹⁷⁷.

- September 19-22, 2019. The XVII Nobel Peace Prize Meeting was held in Yucatán, México. On the occasion of this meeting the Nobel Peace Prize and former President of the USSR Mikhail Gorbachev declared: "In the 20 years of its existence, the World Summit of Nobel Peace Prizes has made a significant contribution to the development of ideas and principles of the new ones thinking about world politics through their activities and declarations. I am grateful to both the participants of the Summit and the Permanent Secretariat for their lasting efforts for world peace". The outcome of this Summit were two especially important statements for their opportunity and courage: "Let's built a Culture of Peace" y "Leaving a Mark for Peace"¹⁷⁸.

V. Culture of Peace by themes

- Education
- Human Rights, the Human Right to Peace and Democracy
- Religion
- Culture
- Women Equality
- Journalism and Communication

- Military
- Inclusion in Constitutions
- Culture of Peace on Statues of Spanish Autonomies

Thematic culture of peace:

Before concluding this general review of the progressive widespreading of a culture of peace and non-violence to date, it is important to highlight the progress made in its practical inclusion in a series of fields which are true cornerstones of the possible new world that the peoples long for:

- Education:
 - *Declaration of the 44th session of the International Conference on Education, held in Geneva, Switzerland, in October 1994:*

“Convinced that education policies have to contribute to the development of understanding, solidarity and tolerance among individuals and among ethnic, social, cultural and religious groups and sovereign nations, convinced that education should promote knowledge, values, attitudes and skills conducive to respect for human rights and to an active commitment to the defence of such rights and to the building of a culture of peace and democracy...,

they submitted for the approval of the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 28th session in Paris, in November 1995, the *“Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy”*¹⁷⁹:

- Strategies
- Content
- Teaching materials and resources
- Teacher-training
- Higher education
- Non-formal education

Of all of these, in view of their particular importance, the following paragraphs are to be highlighted:

“Education must develop the ability of non-violent conflict-resolution. It should therefore promote also the development of inner peace in the minds of

students so that they can establish more firmly the qualities of tolerance, compassion, sharing and caring.

Education must cultivate in citizens the ability to make informed choices, basing their judgements and actions not only on the analysis of present situations but also on the vision of a preferred future...”.

- *Statement on the Role of UNESCO Chairs in the Promotion of a culture of Peace* - Stadtschlaining, Austria, 25 April 1998¹⁸⁰.
- *World Declaration on Higher Education in the Twenty-First Century*¹⁸¹: Vision and Action. UNESCO, Paris, 9 October 1998.
- *World Conference on Education and Sport for a Culture of Peace*¹⁸². UNESCO, Paris, 30 July 1999.
- *Une sélection de matériels pratiques et de référence de l'UNESCO en rapport avec l'éducation pour la paix*. Published by the Sector of Education of UNESCO, Paris, June, 2001.
- In October 8th 2009 the role of the University for Peace¹⁸³ was reviewed and reinforced by the General Assembly and among the different foreseen activities, we can emphasize the following:
 - As a good example of the importance given to education for a Culture of Peace is the book *Filosofía en acción. Retos para la paz en el siglo XXI (Philosophy in Action. Peace Challenges for the XXI Century)*. París Albert, Sonia and Comins Mingol, Irene. University of Jaume I.
 - In November 2009 the Latin Union organized in Madrid, Spain, an important International Colloquium on “Formación permanente y Cultura de Paz”.
- Human Rights, the Human Right to Peace and Democracy:

- *Declaration of Antigua Guatemala on Human Rights and the Culture of Peace*¹⁸⁴ (Antigua, Guatemala, 30 July 1996).
- *The Human Right to Peace*¹⁸⁵. Declaration by the Director-General of UNESCO. (Paris, January 1997).
- *Governing Globalization (The Brasilia Consensus)*¹⁸⁶. (Brasilia, 6 July 1997).
- *Universal Declaration on Democracy*¹⁸⁷ (Cairo, Egypt, September 1997).
- *Stadtschlaining Appeal to Promote Human Rights, Peace, Democracy, International Understanding and Tolerance*¹⁸⁸ (Stadtschlaining, Austria, 25 April 1998).
- *Rabat Declaration, "For an Arab Strategy on Human Rights Education"*¹⁸⁹. (Rabat, 20 February 1999).

The Human Right to Peace has followed a long path of progressive consolidation, corresponding to the implementation of Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". What is needed is the security, because that is the peace of silence, of zero liberty, of suspicion, of fear. Among the advances made in relation to the human right to peace, those accomplished by Professor Carlos Villán and his colleagues are worth mentioning, particularly the work undertaken with UNESCO-ETXEA in Bilbao, Spain, which very recently published¹⁹⁰ an excellent report on the path taken and on the next stages in achieving its formal approval.

- Religion

- *Declaration on the Role of Religion in the Promotion of a Culture of Peace*.¹⁹¹ (Barcelona, 18 December 1994):

“Deeply concerned with the present situation of the world, such as increasing armed conflicts and violence, poverty, social injustice, and structures of oppression;

[We] Declare: We live in a world in which isolation is no longer possible. We live in a time of unprecedented mobility of peoples and intermingling of cultures. We are all interdependent and share an inescapable responsibility for the well-being of the entire world....

We believe that peace is possible. We know that religion is not the sole remedy for all the ills of humanity, but it has an indispensable role to play in this most critical time... Unless we recognize pluralism and respect diversity, no peace is possible... We understand that culture is a way of seeing the world and living in it... Religions have contributed to the peace in the world, but they have also led to division, hatred, and war. Religious people have too often betrayed the high ideals they themselves have preached...

We commit ourselves to resolve or transform conflicts without using violence, and to prevent them through education and the pursuit of justice... We commit ourselves to work towards a reduction in the scandalous economic differences between human groups and other forms of violence and threats to peace...

Our communities of faith have a responsibility to encourage conduct imbued with wisdom, compassion, sharing, charity, solidarity, and love; inspiring one and all to choose the path of freedom and responsibility. Religions must be a source of helpful energy...

- *Declaration of Montserrat on “Religions and the Building of Peace”*¹⁹², Montserrat, Barcelona, 10 April 2008. This Declaration is a truly urgent appeal, formulated from all religions and beliefs, in favour of the peaceful solution of conflicts, of dialogue, of reconciliation.

- *European Council of Religious Leaders. “Religions for Peace”. Lille Declaration on a Culture of Peace*¹⁹³ (27 May 2009). An extraordinarily interesting document which addresses the spiritual, ethical, social and cultural dimensions of religions and incorporates

the “commitments” to work towards a Culture of Peace on a daily basis.

- Culture

- *Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights*¹⁹⁴ (Barcelona, 9 June 1996). This is a highly valuable document as it clarifies many of the conceptual principles required to strengthen linguistic pluralism, preventing cultural uniformity. It is, without doubt, a necessary reference for the further development of linguistic rights and of the conservation of the various forms of expression that form part of mankind’s heritage.

- Women’s equality

- *“Statement on Women’s Contribution to a Culture of Peace”*¹⁹⁵, at the United Nations 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4-15 September 1995:

“To replace unequal gender relations with authentic and practical equality between women and men is imperative in order to allow for the true participatory democracies... Ours is still an armed and warring planet. In the first half of this decade alone, more than 90 conflagrations of various kinds have taken a vast toll of human life, impeded social and economic development and depleted the world’s resources. Women continue to experience systematic violations of their human rights and to be largely excluded from decision-making. In situations of war and military occupation, women are to an alarming degree the victims and targets of atrocities and aggression...

A culture of peace requires that we confront the violence of economic and social deprivation. Poverty and social injustices such as exclusion and discrimination weigh particularly heavily on women. Redressing the flagrant asymmetries of wealth and opportunity within and between countries is indispensable to addressing the root causes of violence in the world... Equality, development and peace are inextricably linked. There can be no lasting peace without development and no sustainable development without full equality between men and women”.

- *“Male Roles and Masculinities in the Perspective of a Culture of Peace”*¹⁹⁶, Expert Group Meeting, Recommendations (Oslo, Norway, 24 September 1997).
- Young people
 - *Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations towards Future Generations*¹⁹⁷ (General Conference of UNESCO, 12 November 1997).
 - *“Young Protagonists of Peace. Maloca Declaration”*¹⁹⁸ (Melgar, Colombia, 3 May 1999).
- Journalism and communication
 - *Declaration of Puebla: Meeting of Publishers and Editors of Latin American Newspapers for a Culture of Peace*¹⁹⁹ (Puebla, Mexico, 17 May 1997). The participants at this important meeting express:

“... their concern at the concentration of the media internationally, which threatens the freedom of expression and imposes restrictions on the diversity of information and opinion, which are the foundations of a culture of peace; ... Proclaim that the freedom of the press includes the right of citizens to information; ...”
 - *Moscow Declaration of Journalists for a Culture of Peace*²⁰⁰ (Moscow, Russian Federation, 14 November 1998.) (Annex 59),
- Military
 - *Declaration of the Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace*²⁰¹ (San Salvador, El Salvador, 27 July 1996). • *Declaration of the Second Central American Military Forum for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence*²⁰² (Guatemala, 17 April 1998).

- Inclusion in Constitutions

- *Bolivia. New Political Constitution of the State*²⁰³. October 2008. In Title III, Duties, article 108 states: "The duties of Bolivian men and women are... 4.To defend, promote and contribute to the right to peace and to foster the culture of peace".

The Culture of Peace will be promoted as a guide for action of the National Police in Bolivia.

- *Ecuador. New Political Constitution of the Republic*²⁰⁴, July 2008. In Title I of the Fundamental Principles, Article 3.8 establishes the duty of the State "to guarantee to its inhabitants the right to a culture of peace, integral security and live in a democratic society and free of corruption."

- Institutional Statements

- On 12 of October 2009, in the UNESCO General Assembly for the Celebration of the Bicentenary of the Independence Process of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean, the approve resolution states: "Considering that UNESCO is the ethical and moral forum for excellence of the United Nations System, by *promoting social justice, culture of peace and solidarity between people...*"

- Culture of Peace in the Town Hall in November 3rd 2009, at the International Federation of Mayors for Peace all together with the Catalanian and Spanish Federation of Municipalities declared their joint action for a culture of peace. No doubt Municipality will

became progressively very important for democracy and decision-making at the worldwide space.

- In November 14th 2009, the Martin Luther King Institute, Universidad Politécnica of Nicaragua (UPOLI), presented the initiative for a Program of Culture of Peace in Central America and other Latin American countries.

Finally, in this chapter is particularly relevant to add the speech given by President of Brazil Luis Inácio da Silva in the ceremony that took place in UNESCO, Paris, on July 7th, 2009, when was awarded with the Research for Peace prize Félix Houphouët-Boigny: his first sentence was: “Promotion of the Culture of Peace is one of the pillars of UNESCO”.

- Culture of Peace in the Statutes of Autonomy of Spain

Much has been achieved in relation to the Spanish Statutes of Autonomy:

Thus, in the *Statute of Autonomy for Andalusia*, Organic Law 2/2007 of 19 March²⁰⁵, on Reform of the Statute of Autonomy for Andalusia, Article 10 of the Preliminary Heading on “Basic Objectives of the Regional Government”, states in its third paragraph: “....*the Regional Government, in the defence of general interests, shall exercise its powers with the following basic objectives: ... 22. The promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among peoples*”.

The “*School, a Space for Peace*”²⁰⁶ Programme is also very important in Andalusia. Andalusian Education Plan for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence.

The Department of Education and Science of Andalusia, by means of this Andalusian Education Plan for the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, inspired by the numerous experiences in practising and researching an education and Culture of Peace, reaffirms its wish to contribute even more towards the achievement, for present and future generations, of a fairer and more tolerant Andalusian society. With the involvement of all members of the education community, it is developing a set of actions which undoubtedly form part of the directive of building a Culture of Peace. The initiatives within this project include:

1. Project “School: a space for peace”. An annual public announcement to drive and support projects relating to the objectives of this plan and in which the centre is collectively involved.
2. Focus of education on values, the basis of the Culture of Peace, through education innovation projects.
3. Observatory on coexistence in schools.
4. Teacher Training. Training activities on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence will be encouraged.
5. Collection and creation of teaching materials.
6. Conferences, sessions and seminars. Organisation and staging of conferences, sessions and seminars in order to exchange experiences and information in this field. To this end, the Department of Education and Science will encourage the help and collaboration with peace institutions and research centres.
7. Stability of teaching teams who are developing specific programmes in this area.

The Department has adopted the following measures:

1. Creation of the teacher/mediator figure.
2. Improvement of the team of staff and reduction in the ratio in certain teaching centres.
3. Improvement of the perception that pupils have of their own centre and of the teaching they receive in it and enhancement of the centre’s relationships within its environment.
4. Improvement of security conditions around the schools.
5. Legal advice and support for teachers.

From 2002 to 2009 the overall data on centres, teaching staff and pupils within the "School: a space for peace" network indicates that it now consists of:

1896 centres

56,340 teachers

657,300 pupils

47.71% of schools in Andalusia

The "Order of October 27, 2009, which regulates the granting of Annual Awards for the Promotion of the Culture of Peace and coexistence School in Andalusia" was published in the official bulletin of the Junta de Andalucía of November 11, 2009²⁰⁷.

By Law of March 29, 2007 of the Ministry of Education of the Government of Extremadura establishes the "Extremaduran Network of Schools for a Culture of Peace, Equality and Nonviolence". In Article 3, paragraph a) "Phase: I "Awareness" refers to the "constitution in each selected center of the School Committee on a Culture of Peace, Equality and Nonviolence". The selected centers "have the commitment to actively participate in a continuous improvement process that involves innovation around issues related to the culture of peace, equality and nonviolence. The culture of peace implies to work actively on behalf of a positive dimension of peace, understood as an ongoing process of building social justice ".

Statute of Autonomy of Aragón (Organic Law 5/2007, of 20 April, on Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Aragón)²⁰⁸:

CHAPTER II. Governing principles of public policies

Article 30. Culture of democratic values.

The public powers of Aragón shall promote the culture of peace, by means of incorporating values of non-violence, tolerance, participation, solidarity and justice, especially in the education system.

Statute of Autonomy of Castile and León (Organic Law 14/2007, of 30 November, on Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Castile and León)²⁰⁹

TITLE I. Rights and Governing Principles

- CHAPTER IV. Governing principles of the public policies of Castile and León.

Article 16. Governing principles of public policies. 25. The promotion of the culture of peace, tolerance, respect and democratic civic behaviour, rejecting any attitude which may incite violence, hatred, discrimination or intolerance, or which, in any other way, may be detrimental to the equality and dignity of individuals.

Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia (Organic Law 6/2006, of 19 July, on Reform of the Statute of Autonomy of Catalonia)²¹⁰:

TITLE I:

- CHAPTER V. Governing Principles

Article 51. Cooperation for promotion of peace and cooperation for development.

1. The *Generalitat* shall promote *a culture of peace* and actions that foster peace in the world.

The action in Catalonia in favour of a Culture of Peace is also evident in the annex related to “The Development of a Public Policy of Promotion of Peace in Catalonia”.

The report of the activities of the “Escola de Cultura de Pau” of the Autonomous University of Barcelona shows the relevance at the level of high education given to peacebuilding in this important Community of Spain.

Xunta (Autonomous Government) of Galicia

During the first quarter of 2010, a specific law on the Promotion of the Culture of Peace is about to be passed. The basic reference text is that of the Galician Seminar of Education for Peace (Culture of Peace Foundation) and has been adopted by the three parliamentary groups (Popular Party, Socialist Party and the Galician Nationalist Party, BNG).

VI. Time for action to make “a new beginning” possible

It is time for action. It is time to speak up. It is time to unite voices and hands. Eduardo Galeano, who is a constant inspiration to us, wrote that the “grandfathers of mankind survived against all odds because they were capable of sharing and knew how to defend themselves together”.

If we do not act with intrepidity and haste, in no time, those involved in tax havens and supranational trafficking (of arms, drugs, patents, capital... people!), those who continue imposing an economic system based on market laws rather than on social justice and the “democratic principles” clearly established in the Constitution of UNESCO, will once again be those who are “in control”.

No more bystanders! No more obedient and resigned receivers. The transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace requires another profound, personal transition: the transition from subjects to participatory citizens, to “educated” citizens who act in accordance with their own thoughts, who do not allow themselves to be won over by faraway instances of media power. The power of the media which, combined with military, economic and technological power, instils fear in a large number of people, must now receive a firm and clear message: the time of silence is over. The time of lies, façades and fear has come to an end because newly-emancipated civil society, conscious of its power and aware of the true situation, will no longer agree to be a passive witness of the abuse of power.

The culture of peace is the culture of principles, of temperance, serenity and non-violence, but of firmness. It is the culture of the manifestation of the power of the citizen who now, for the first time in history, does not have to be present, thanks to modern communication technology.

Achieving global sustainable development as a basis for a new world economic system is the best way of expressing the solidarity of present generations with future generations, to whom we owe a voice and action.

The time, then, has come to move resolutely from imposition, control, violence and war to meeting and conversation. From force to the word. So simple, and yet so difficult, as this means overcoming the age-old inertia and achieving the involvement of the people. Peace is possible if the

people stop being witnesses and receivers and take the reins of destiny into their own hands.

Yes, peace is possible. Peace based on justice, liberty, equality and solidarity. Everyone different, everyone equal. No one subjected, no one accepting inertia or assumptions which lead to the acceptance of the unacceptable, to living repressed and not as citizens who participate, who agree or disagree, who build democracy every day with their behaviour.

Day by day, step by step, establishing a culture of peace, serenity, reflection, of forming one's own opinions, without acting on the orders of anyone.

Education is the best antidote to extremism, fanaticism, arrogance and intransigence.

Yes, peace is possible. It is possible to transform an economy of war into an economy of generalised development, in which investments are reduced in arms and increased in new sources of renewable energy; in the production of food and water; in health; in the protection of the environment; in eco-friendly housing; in electric transport; in education...

The human race is capable of inventing its own future.

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

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