

**UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF
PEACE**

***“The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality and inclusion
for advancing peacebuilding”***

Tuesday, 6 September 2022

PANEL DISCUSSION

Federico Mayor Zaragoza

Dearest friend Anwarul Chowdhury, the champion of the Culture of Peace, dear and distinguished members of the General Assembly, ladies and gentlemen,

Yes, now it is the moment of peacebuilding, because this is the supreme mandate of the United Nations.

The first phrase of the Charter says “We, the peoples, have resolved to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war”. But at that moment, in 1945, this was premature, because “we, the peoples” did not exist. There was an immense absolute male power at the worldwide level and the discrimination was also immense. 90% of human beings were living and dying without knowing the possibility of expressing themselves freely and without the capacity of democratic reaction. For this reason, the United Nations with this very clear mandate was unable to put it into practice because of the veto of the five winners of the Second World War. At that time, it was not possible to build peace.

During many decades we had a world living under the immense shadow of the armament race between the two super powers, the United States and the USSR. In 1986, in October, in Reykjavik, there was a moment when the governance of the world would have been able to change. This was when president Gorbachev told President Reagan that the USSR will very rapidly come to be a Commonwealth of Independent States and that What he was really asking him was to eliminate all the nuclear weapons. United States decided to keep 30% of this hegemonic power of nuclear armament and at the same time, and this is very important, G-6, the first group of plutocracy and supremacism was created. From then, all the claims made by different institutions including the United Nations, but I remember the Club of Rome, already 1968, and I remember the first Earth Summit that we had in Rio de Janeiro where we said “now is the moment”. And nothing. In 2002 there was again an Earth Summit, in Johannesburg, and nothing.

At the end, the Democratic president Barack Obama changed this, he was brave enough and wise enough to sign the agreements of Paris in September 2015 and two months later the Resolution of the General Assembly of United Nations to transform the world for Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. It was

a moment of great hope. But you know what happened: six months later the successor of Obama, Donald Trump, said: "I will not apply the Agreements of Paris and the Agenda 2030".

Now at this moment we might realise that there was no reaction. We could expect the European Union to react immediately, because Europe, from the quantitative point of view is not relevant but from the qualitative point of view is very relevant. But there was silence. Why? Because there is also veto. And this is one thing that must be corrected immediately, because they say that the very important decisions must be adopted by unanimity, and the unanimity is the antithesis of democracy.

Therefore, now we are in a moment when we must raise our voices. Now, for the first time in history, the possibility exists that we, the peoples, can say the next generations that war will disappear, that solidarity will be established at the worldwide level. Because now the human beings can say that we are all equal in dignity. This is fundamental from the Human Rights point of view, and it is essential for the new era. And now we can express ourselves, now we can participate, now we can be members of a very big democracy at the worldwide level. Now, we the people can, now, we the people must immediately react, and we must put into practice the adoption of the resolution on a Universal Declaration on Democracy in the United Nations. And we must say that from now on there is only democracy. This is the solution for eliminating the plutocratic supremacist governance and to have the possibility of this peacebuilding and to fully put into practice the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace that the United Nations General Assembly approved in 1999.