



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 August 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 22 July 2021, concerning the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, to be held in-person on Tuesday, 7 September 2020, at the General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, kindly find attached herewith the concept note and programme.

This year's high-level forum will offer an opportunity to the Member States and Observers of the United Nations and other stakeholders to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on tackling the multidimensional impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and towards a resilient and inclusive recovery.

Member States are encouraged to deliver statement on behalf of a group of States, whenever possible. Member States are encouraged to limit their statements to three (3) minutes for individual delegations and five (5) minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. There will be a pre-established list of speakers and it will be open on Monday, 30 August 2021. Delegations wishing to inscribe for the plenary segment, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch by sending an email to galindo@un.org, with a copy to gaspeakerslist@un.org. In view of time constraints for the plenary segment, delegations that did not have the opportunity to speak can send their statement for uploading to estatements@un.org.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Volkan Bozkir'.

Volkan BOZKIR

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



**HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON
THE CULTURE OF PEACE**
01 SEPTEMBER 2016, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

CONCEPT NOTE

UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace convened by the President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly

**Tuesday, 07 September 2021
UN Headquarters, New York**

Overview

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 75/25 adopted on 09 December 2020, the President of the 75th UN General Assembly H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir, will convene a UN High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace (2021 HLF/CoP) on Tuesday, 07 September 2021, at the UN Headquarters, New York.

This year's high-level forum will offer an opportunity to the Member States and Observers of the United Nations and other stakeholders to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of the UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, with particular emphasis on tackling the multidimensional impacts of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and towards a resilient and inclusive recovery.

Background and Objectives

On 13 September 1999, the UN General Assembly adopted, by consensus and without reservation, its pioneering resolution 53/243 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, asserting and reaffirming the commitment of all the UN membership for building the culture of peace. Through annual substantive resolutions adopted by consensus for more than two decades as well as by holding annual high level forums since 2012, the General Assembly has highlighted the importance it attaches to the implementation of its Declaration and Programme of Action, which serve as a universal mandate for the international community, particularly the UN system, for the promotion of the culture of peace underscoring its enduring value that benefits humanity, in particular its future generations.

The Culture of Peace remains one of the key items for the General Assembly since 1997 when the Assembly decided to include a new and self-standing item to its agenda. This was followed by the UNGA resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 that proclaimed the year 2000 as the “International Year for the Culture of Peace” and GA resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998, that proclaimed the period of 2001-2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World”.

Over the years the scope of the Culture of Peace expanded and became more relevant than ever. The concept now embraces a wide range of related issues and multiple resolutions are now adopted under this agenda item.

The annual high-level forum on The Culture of Peace convened by the President of the General Assembly, provides a platform for the Member States, civil society and relevant stakeholders to deliberate on the conceptual validity and continuing applicability of the Culture of Peace in the contemporary contexts.

Last year, the President of the 74th General Assembly virtually convened the high-level forum on 10 September 2020, under the theme “The Culture of Peace: Change Our World for the Better after COVID-19”. Despite the difficulties resulting from the raging COVID-19 pandemic, the Forum asserted the utmost importance that the United Nations continued to support the global movement to promote the culture of peace, its Declaration and Programme of Action, and that the international community’s response and recovery efforts were guided towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery

This year’s high-level forum is taking place at a time when the international community is still facing the enormous challenge presented by the all-embracing and debilitating impact of the apparently never-ending COVID-19 pandemic. While the recovery efforts are ongoing, a large part of the world is still engaged in a life-or-death battle with the virus and its variants. Inequality and violations of human rights is widening in multiple forms and dimensions. Hate speech, extremism and xenophobia manifested in most cases with violence, are on the rise. On top of all these, the emerging “vaccine nationalism” threatens to undermine the efforts to end the pandemic globally.

It is, therefore, an imperative to inculcate the values of the Culture of Peace among nations, societies and communities, with particular attention to the younger generation, through promotion of compassion, tolerance, inclusion, global citizenship and empowerment of all people.

This year's theme for the 2021 High Level Forum - "Transformative Role of The Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery", will provide a platform to explore and discuss multiple ways and means for empowering all segments of the society, towards a resilient recovery, including by ensuring vaccine equity, bridging digital divide, ensuring equality and empowerment of women and harnessing the power of youth, among others.

Participation

All Member States and Observers of the General Assembly are invited to participate in the high-level forum. It will be webcasted on UN WebTV.

Format of the High-Level Forum

The high-level forum on The Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly, will take place on Tuesday, 7 September 2021 at the General Assembly Hall from 10.00am to 1.00pm. This will be followed by an interactive Panel Discussion to be held virtually with participation from civil society and all other interested stakeholders, in addition to Member States and Observers from 3.00 pm to 6.00 pm.

The session at the General Assembly Hall will consist of an opening segment and a plenary segment. The opening segment will feature statements by the President of the General Assembly, a video message by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh, remarks by the Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary General representing the Secretary-General and an address by Director ai of Office and UNESCO Representative to the United Nations in New York. The plenary segment will comprise statements by Member States and Observers of the General Assembly.

Member States are encouraged to deliver statement on behalf of a group of States, whenever possible. Members States are encouraged to limit their statements to three (3) minutes for individual delegations and five (5) minutes for statements made on behalf of a group of States. There will be a pre-established list of speakers and it will be open on Monday, 30 August 2021. Delegations wishing to inscribe for the plenary segment, please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch by sending an email to galindo@un.org, with a copy to gaspeakerslist@un.org. In view of time constraints for the plenary segment, delegations that did not have the opportunity to speak can send their statement for uploading to estatements@un.org.

The interactive panel discussion during the afternoon session (3.00 - 6.00 pm) would include participation of civil society and other stakeholders and closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly.

Further information regarding this meeting will be made available on the PGA's website: <https://www.un.org/pga/75/>.



**HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON
THE CULTURE OF PEACE**
01 SEPTEMBER 2016, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

PROGRAMME

UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

“Transformative Role of the Culture of Peace: Promoting Resilience and Inclusion in Post-Covid Recovery”

Tuesday, 7 September 2021

UN Headquarters, New York

OPENING SESSION	
10.00am – 10.45am General Assembly Hall	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ H.E Volkan Bozkir, President of the 75th Session of the UN General Assembly▪ Video message by H.E. Dr. AK Abdul Momen, MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Bangladesh▪ H.E. Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet of the UN Secretary General representing the Secretary-General▪ Mr. Eliot Minchenberg, Director a.i., UNESCO Office in New York
10.40am – 1.00pm	Plenary Segment Statements by Member States and Observers
PANEL DISCUSSION	
3.00pm – 5.45pm <i>Virtual Platform</i>	Chair and Moderator <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ H.E. Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace (GMCOP), Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations, Chairman of the UN General Assembly negotiations for the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1998-1999) Keynote message

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ms. Beatrice Fihn, 2017 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Executive Director, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) <p>Video Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hon. Mr Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, Japan and President of “Mayors for Peace” with a worldwide membership of 8000 City Mayors; ▪ Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ H.E. Ms Rabab Fatima, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN; ▪ H.E. Mr. Rodrigo A. Carazo, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN; ▪ H. E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN; ▪ Mr Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University of Peace in Costa Rica ▪ Dr. Ada Juni Okika, Global Director of the Centre for Transformative Advancement of Development of Africa. ▪ Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN DESA; ▪ Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of Foundation for a Culture of Peace, former Director-General of UNESCO (1987-1999). <p>[Interactive segment with comments, questions and answers from the floor with participation of the panellists]</p>
<p>5.45pm – 6.00pm</p> <p><i>Virtual Platform</i></p>	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Closing remarks by the 75th President of the General Assembly</p>