



CHARTER OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR PEACE*

Article 1

Establishment

The University for Peace (hereinafter referred to as the University) shall be an international institution of higher education for peace established pursuant to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, of which the present Charter is an integral part, in the light of the general principles contained in the appendix hereto.

Article 2

Aims and purposes

The University is established with a clear determination to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress, in keeping with the noble aspirations proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations. To this end, the University shall contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace by engaging in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge fundamental to the full development of the human person and societies through the interdisciplinary study of all matters relating to peace.

Article 3

Legal status

The University shall have the legal status necessary to enable it to fulfil its purposes and objectives. It shall enjoy autonomy and academic freedom in its operations, in keeping with its profoundly humanistic purpose, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

* The Charter forms an annex to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace which was adopted by resolution 35/55 of the General Assembly of the United Nations dated 5 December 1980. At its twelfth session held in San José, Costa Rica, from 7 to 8 November 2000, the Council of the University for Peace received from the Rector of the University, in accordance with article 5 (2) of the Agreement and article 19 (1)(b) of the Charter, a proposal of amendments to the Charter. Pursuant to article 5 (2) of the Agreement and article 19 (2) of the Charter, the Council of the University for Peace formally adopted on 20 April 2001, by written procedure, the amendments to the Charter.

Article 4

Relationship with Governments, organizations and institutions

1. The University may enter into association or conclude agreements with Governments and intergovernmental and other organizations and institutions in the field of education.
2. The University shall, in particular, seek to establish a close relationship with the United Nations University. The association which may link the University with the United Nations University should be determined by common agreement between the two institutions.
3. The University shall maintain close links with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in view of its special responsibilities in the field of education.

Article 5

Organization

The University shall have an organizational framework consisting of the following:

- (a) The Council of the University for Peace, which shall be the governing body of the University;
- (b) The Rector of the University for Peace, who shall be the chief administrative officer of the University.

Article 6

Composition of the Council

1. The Council of the University for Peace shall be the supreme authority of the University. It shall be composed of:
 - (a) The following *ex officio* members:
 - (i) The Rector;
 - (ii) Two representatives designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

- (iii) The Rector of the United Nations University;
 - (iv) Two representatives designated by the Government of the host country;
 - (v) The Chancellor of the University for Peace;
- (b) Ten representatives of the academic community or other persons eminent in the field of peace and security, appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
2. In the appointment of the representatives of the academic community, who shall be persons of distinction in the academic field, or other persons eminent in the field of peace and security, regard shall be had to a broad academic, geographical and cultural distribution. Their term of office shall be four years and may be renewed.
3. The Council may make arrangements for appropriate representation and participation of the student body and alumni.

Article 7

Honorary President of the University for Peace

The Secretary-General of the United Nations will be the Honorary President of the University for Peace.

Article 8

Functions and powers of the Council

The Council shall have the following powers:

- (a) To establish the general policies which shall govern the activities and operations of the University;
- (b) To adopt, revise or abrogate such regulations and rules as are required for the application of the present Charter and the proper operation of the University;
- (c) To adopt its own rules of procedure;
- (d) To elect a President and a Vice-President of the Council for two-year terms which may be renewed;
- (e) To elect the Chancellor of the University for a two-year term which may be renewed. The Chancellor shall be an eminent international figure, recognized in the field of peace, and shall act as a high level representative and advocate of the University;
- (f) To elect the Rector for a five-year term which may be renewed;

- (g) To adopt, on the proposal of the Rector, the annual programme and budget of the University and to assist in their execution;
- (h) To consider the annual and other reports of the Rector on the activities of the University;
- (i) To establish such other headquarters, organs and offices as are required for the fulfilment of the purposes of the University, within the framework of the present Charter, and to adopt such headquarters agreements as are considered necessary in that connection;
- (j) To amend the present Charter in accordance with the procedure set out in article 17 below and subject to the provisions of the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace;
- (k) Such other powers as belong to it in accordance with the present Charter.

Article 9

Sessions of the Council

The Council shall meet no less than once each year and no more than twice each year except where clearly necessary and subject to the availability of adequate funds. Sessions of the Council shall be convened by the President of the Council at his or her own initiative, or at the request of at least three members of the Council or at the request of the Rector.

Article 10

Majority required for decisions

Except as otherwise specified in the case of amendments to the present Charter, the Council shall adopt its decisions by a majority of its members present and voting.

Article 11

Rector

The Rector of the University for Peace shall be the chief academic and administrative officer of the University. In this capacity he or she shall assume the overall responsibility for the organization, direction and administration of the University in accordance with the general policies formulated by the Council. The Rector may delegate academic and administrative functions of the University, including the powers of legal representation and legal power of attorney referred to in article 12 (1)(e), to other officials of the University with the approval of the Council.

Article 12

Functions and powers of the Rector

1. The Rector shall, *inter alia*:
 - (a) Implement the policies established by the Council;
 - (b) Administer the University;
 - (c) Prepare the programme, work plans and annual budget estimates of the University for submission to the Council for its approval;
 - (d) Execute the work programmes and make the expenditures envisaged in the budget approved by the Council;
 - (e) Act as the legal representative of the University and exercise its legal power of attorney;
 - (f) Appoint, in accordance with terms and conditions laid down by the Council, Vice-Rectors, Deans and other officials of the University as required for the proper functioning of the University.

The Rector shall have such other functions and powers as may be prescribed by the provisions of the present Charter or otherwise entrusted to him or her pursuant to decisions, rules and regulations adopted by the Council.

2. The Rector shall report to the Council at its sessions. When the Council is not in session, the Rector shall report to the Council through the President of the Council.

Article 13

Faculty and staff

1. All members of faculty shall be appointed on the basis of their high academic qualifications and of their commitment to the purposes and objectives of the University, with due regard to the need for appropriate representation in terms of geography, social systems, cultural traditions, age and sex. In the performance of their duties, they shall be expected to comply with the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.
2. The faculty of the University shall consist of the Rector, the academic staff, visiting professors, fellows, academic consultants and the research staff at the University campus and at such other centres or in such programmes other than at the University headquarters as may be determined by the Council.
3. The Rector shall appoint administrative and other personnel on terms and conditions determined by the Council for such appointments and in accordance with the present Charter. Due regard shall be paid in their appointment to the purposes and objectives of the University.

4. The Rector may at his or her discretion appoint temporary faculty members and staff on an *ad hoc* basis in accordance with the present Charter.

Article 14

Students

Students shall be admitted to the University in accordance with requirements established by the Council. In this regard, the Council shall bear in mind the need to ensure a world-wide representation with special attention being given to the participation of minorities. Parity should be sought between men and women students at the University.

Article 15

University programmes and degrees

1. Irenology, which shall comprise the study of peace, education for peace and human rights, shall be the main concern of the University. The studies carried out at the University shall focus on the topic of international peace. Completion of a programme of studies, including irenology as a compulsory subject, shall be required for obtaining any degree granted by the University.
2. The University shall, *inter alia*, grant master's degrees and doctorates under terms and conditions established by the Council.

Article 16

Assets, financing and use of financial resources

1. The assets of the University shall comprise the land donated by the Government of Costa Rica as the headquarters site of the University, the facilities thereon and such endowment funds as may be allocated to it.
2. The University shall derive its revenues from voluntary contributions made by Governments, by intergovernmental organizations and by foundations and other non-governmental sources, and from tuition and related charges.
3. The University may decide freely on the use of the financial resources available to it for the execution of its functions, in accordance with financial regulations formulated and approved by the Council.

Article 17

Amendments

1. Amendments to the present Charter which are compatible with the basic aims and purposes of the University and with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace may be proposed to the Council by:

- (a) A State party to the Agreement;
- (b) The Rector;
- (c) Any other member of the Council.

2. Amendments shall require a two-thirds majority of the members of the Council for adoption.

3. The States parties to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace shall be notified without delay if any amendment to the Charter is adopted by the Council.

Appendix to the Charter

*General principles formulated by the Commission on the University for Peace
established by the General Assembly pursuant to its
resolution 34/111 of 14 December 1979*

1. The persistence of war in the history of mankind and the growing threats against peace in recent decades jeopardize the very existence of the human race and make it imperative that peace should no longer be viewed as a negative concept, as the end of conflict or as a simple diplomatic compromise, but rather that it should be achieved and ensured through the most valuable and most effective resource that man possesses: education.
2. Peace is the primary and irrevocable obligation of a nation and the fundamental objective of the United Nations; it is the reason for its existence. However, the best tool for achieving this supreme good for humankind, namely education, has not been used.
3. Many nations and international organizations have attempted to attain peace through disarmament. This effort must be continued; yet facts show that man should not be too optimistic as long as the human mind has not been imbued with the notion of peace from an early age. It is necessary to break the vicious circle of struggling for peace without an educational foundation.
4. This is the challenge that now faces all nations and all men as the twenty-first century approaches. The decision must be made to save the human race, which is threatened by war, through education for peace. If education has been the instrument of science and technology, there is all the more reason to use it to achieve this primary right of the human being.