



University for Peace



United Nations High-Level Forum on Culture of Peace

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Virtual Event, 10 September 2020

“Overcoming Fear and Uncertainty: Transforming Wishes into Reality.”

Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector, University for Peace.

Esteemed Excellency Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the seventy-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Esteemed Excellency António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Esteemed Excellency H.E. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, Former Under-Secretary General and High Representative of the United Nations;

Esteemed Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Human and Social Sciences of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

Esteemed Ms. Nihal Saad, Chef de Cabinet of the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations;

The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence contributes to predictability and reduces uncertainties in turbulent times. We live a particularly complex time for humanity. Uncertainty and fear have grown parallel to the pandemic. Fear is paralyzing. Even more so when we face great global threats.

Covid-19 negatively impacts human life in a multifaceted and multilevel way from the perspective of health, economics, and Peace.

Covid-19 has disrupted time. Time has been accelerated by the speed of contagion, on the one hand. On the other hand, it has stopped, because of the confinement measures decreed in all regions of the world.

Governments have short deadlines to adopt policies and to agree on actions in uncertain times. We live in a context of weakened multilateralism.



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The pandemic has caused the reemergence of old fears and great mistrust. Fear of the "other", of "uncertainty", creates feelings of insecurity. Discrimination and exclusion increase, which leads to hateful discourse and violent actions. Fear produces conflict.

Fear generates fragmentation, xenophobia, and atomization. Social cohesion is eroded. Without Peace, there are no rights. Without Peace, there is no development. Without cooperation, there is no Peace or development.

The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence reduces conflict and contributes to tolerance, understanding, peaceful coexistence, cooperation and partnership.

The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence contributes positive values to confront fear and discrimination. It transforms conflictive situations into opportunities for understanding and association.

The common danger for humanity today is Covid-19. The greatest threat today and tomorrow is climate change.

The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence calls for hope. It opens opportunities for cooperation from the local to the international sphere. This reaffirms Human Rights.

The *2030 Agenda* is the path that allows us to face the great planetary threats. Prevention and anticipatory actions establish the ways to overcome them and build a better world for all. The role of the United Nations – during its 75th anniversary – is fundamental.

At the University for Peace, we teach the ways in which to develop "Peace Capital" and "Resources for Non-Violence." From the University for Peace – in different parts of the world – we educate leaders for Peace. We propose a different future, one in which participation, inclusion, cooperation, and solidarity are the values capable of transforming hope into reality.

Education allows us to advance towards a more holistic and integral development model.

Building a different future, a "new" post-pandemic reality, is feasible. We know the global public goods we need. The *2030 Agenda* will allow us to achieve them and ensure no one is left behind.



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The desires and hopes of humanity are reflected in the SDGs. The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence reconnects the vast majority of the world's population with those who must lead them - developing preventive and anticipatory actions – towards that future of sustainable Peace, sustainable development and prosperity.

Mr. President,

The Culture of Peace and Nonviolence summons humanity, the global citizenry, to build a new future, based on a cooperative multilateralism, led by the United Nations. We will overcome our fears and transform them into new opportunities to promote Human Rights for all.

We will achieve the desired global, regional and national cooperation.

If we want Peace, let's work for Peace!

Thank you.

*10 September 2020
Rodrigo Carazo Campus*