The University for Peace (UPEACE) was established by an “International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace” (the “International Agreement”), a multilateral treaty, as an academic institution with both academic and financial autonomy. The General Assembly, by its resolution 35/55, approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement and with the Charter of the University for Peace. UPEACE has been training leaders for peace for the past 38 years, with more than 2,200 Alumni – over 54% of them women – from its M.A. programmes working for peace around the world. It is an important educational institution in the field of irenology, in the pursuit of the mandate set forth in its Charter, namely “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.”

As it prepares to celebrate its fortieth anniversary, the University continues its systematic and critical study, understanding and analysis of the causes of multiple problems affecting human and global well-being; the exploration and formulation of strategies and practices in various contexts to address such problems and contribute to the processes of peacebuilding, including through achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals; the cultivation of modes of thinking, inquiry and pedagogy that are critical, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, integrative, empowering and transformative; and the development of a diverse, inclusive, ethical, creative community of learning, sharing, networking and solidarity on campus and in the global environment. Through its rich Faculty body of Resident and Visiting Professors, UPEACE trains future leaders for peace to explore and formulate strategies and practices in various contexts to address such problems and contribute to processes of making, building and sustaining peace.

With its contribution to the work of the United Nations and its vision of the role of other key civil society actors, it is essential that the University’s vision, position and tasks within the context of an evolving international system is regularly reviewed. The current international context demands an expansion of training and educating for peace, especially with regard to ongoing and increasingly complex conflicts, interrelations between the local, national, regional and global levels and the impact of transnational crime on peace and security. The University contributes to such a response. In this regard, the support of Member States will be important to carry out the University’s mission successfully, which is aimed at the academic training of future leaders of Governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector on peaceful conflict resolution and the relationship between peace, security, development, human rights and environmental protection as the foundation for economic development and increased equality. With the support and collaboration of Member States and the wider United Nations system, the University will continue to contribute to the preparation of a new generation for their fundamental role and responsibility in resolving conflicts – with an emphasis on prevention – and promoting opportunities for cooperation for peace.
OCTOBER 2015

1. University for Peace presents its Tri-annual Report before the UN General Assembly

On 19 October 2015, the Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE), Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena-Aravena, presented the Secretary-General’s Tri-Annual Report before the Fourth Committee of the UN General Assembly. The Report, which spanned the 2012-2015 period, detailed UPEACE’s achievements and challenges, and exhorted Member States to support the University’s mandate through financial and political support. The resolution presented by the Permanent Costa Rican Mission before the UN was co-sponsored by 23 countries, and included the creation of a Trust Fund for Peace – under the leadership of the Secretary-General – through which Member States, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and other philanthropic institutions can make voluntary contributions to UPEACE in support of its mission.

2. The University for Peace and the Human Rights Project train Honduran Judicial System and Public Ministry Officers

On 29-31 October, the University for Peace inaugurated its latest project, “Strengthening the Rule of Law for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Honduras,” through which 100 members of the Honduran Judicial System and the Public Defender’s Office will receive specialized training through a postgraduate programme; upon completion of the programme, participants will receive a Master’s Degree in International Law and Human Rights. The programme is being executed in association with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and in coordination with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

NOVEMBER 2015

3. University for Peace attends the Second Core Partners Meeting for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

The University for Peace (UPEACE) attended the Second Core Partners Meeting, organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in relation to the joint project “Boosting the Advance of Women on Peace-related Issues: Strengthening Tools for Women’s Education.” The meeting, organized in Vienna, served as a coordination and outreach meeting with the two main partners, UNODA and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP). During this meeting, UPEACE reiterated the importance of securing scholarships and training to 140 women on disarmament and non-proliferation issues, with a clear focus on peace and conflict. UPEACE will serve as the implementation agency for this project, with training planned in the Middle East, Asia, Latin America, and Africa. This project will have a duration of 3 years and is financed by the German Government.
5. University for Peace Commemorates its 35th Anniversary with a High-Level International Seminar on Conflict and Alternatives to Peace in the 21st Century

The University for Peace (UPEACE) celebrated its 35th Anniversary on 5 December 2015, with a high-level international seminar titled “Conflict and Alternatives to Peace in the 21st Century: New Wars, New Solutions”, which brought together renowned international personalities in the field of human development, peace, and security. UPEACE Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena kicked off the activity with an opening speech commemorating the actions of a visionary man, the late President Rodrigo Carazo Odio (1978-1982), whose passionate appeal before the UN General Assembly 35 years ago for the creation of a higher-education institution dedicated to the study of peace and conflict resolution, gave way to an institution whose mission, in light of the current climate, becomes not only relevant but essential. Rector Rojas recalled President Carazo’s powerful words: “If you want Peace, prepare Peace. I propose the creation of an institution that prepares people for peace.” Perhaps of one the highlights of the seminar was the video message from Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban ki-Moon, in which he congratulated UPEACE on its 35th Anniversary, stating “the University for Peace is one of the world’s leading teaching centres in the fields of peace and conflict resolution… Today, UPEACE is exploring how education can further help to address the many crises of our time and build a safer, more just, and sustainable future for all.” The Secretary-General concluded by reaffirming his support, and that of all Member States of the United Nations, to the important work being carried out by the University for Peace. The seminar’s inauguration also included a video message from UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bukova, and President of the UPEACE Council, Dr. Hal Klepak. The final inaugural speech was given by the guest of honour, President of Costa Rica Luis Guillermo Solís, who congratulated UPEACE for its role and positive impact on the world throughout its 35-year history, highlighting the fact that the institution has had the important responsibility of building knowledge to foster tolerance and peace among all societies. “On behalf of the government of Costa Rica”, stated President Solís, “I transfer our congratulations and our recognition, for what I think has been an extraordinary success story, with its lights and shadow – but mainly its lights, which are many – reflected in the more than 1,600 graduates of this university”. Also in attendance were First Lady of Costa Rica and UPEACE Alumna and Council Member, Mercedes Peñas Domingo, government and diplomatic corps representatives, UPEACE students, alumni, and faculty members, and other special guests.
**JANUARY 2016**

6. **UPEACE Karamoja Cluster Project Successfully Concluded**

After three years of arduous work, the University for Peace (UPEACE) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of the “Karamoja Cluster Project” (KCP), a cross-border project with a clear objective: to mitigate pastoral violence within the Karamoja Cluster of Kenya and Uganda. The project, which began in April 2013 and used people-to-people approaches with a focus on community theatre, sports, and women-led peace initiatives, was funded by the Dutch National Postcode Lottery, a long-standing supporter of UPEACE’s initiatives. This project supported peacebuilding capacities in the region and brought neighbours together through interactive activities that unite and promote dialogue in the midst of recent violence. Storytelling and the use of participatory theatre were part of the activities that helped develop messages of peace and conflict transformation, in addition to sporting activities, a popular pastime for these communities and a well-known vehicle for bringing people into contact and dialogue with one another.

7. **UPEACE Rector and Dean participate in the UN High-Level Forum on a Culture of Peace**

The V High Level Forum of the United Nations on a Culture of Peace was held at UNHQ in New York, and summoned the top aides and defenders of Human Rights and the Culture of Peace from around the world. Other topics discussed included the Sustainable Development Goals and synergies with action programs on a Culture of Peace, and the immediate reduction of armament spending, to be reallocated to the achievement of “disarmament for development.” During his intervention, the Rector of the University for Peace, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, expressed his congratulations to the initiative around the Culture of Peace and reaffirmed UPEACE’S permanent efforts to contribute to this objective. During the forum the President of the General Assembly reiterated the role of the United Nations in strengthening “intercultural and interfaith dialogue” and extended the invitation to all Member States to commit to a Culture of Peace.

8. **Dutch National Postcode Lottery Honours the University for Peace at its Annual Gala**

On 26 January, the Dutch Postcode Lottery Charity Gala (Goed Geld Gala) was held in Amsterdam, with actor George Clooney serving as its host. This year, the University for Peace was awarded the annual grant of €500,000 to continue its important mission of educating future leaders for Peace. The Rector of the University for Peace, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, was in attendance to receive the donation on behalf of UPEACE. The Dutch Postcode Lottery has been raising funds since 1989 to support organisations working towards a fairer and greener world.

9. **Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ambassador Yukiya Amano, visits the University for Peace**

In an effort to contribute to the essential dialogue around atomic energy, the University for Peace (UPEACE), the Costa Rican Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications, and the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organized a conference by Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Ambassador Yukiya Amano, titled “The contribution of the IAEA to Peace and Development.” During the Conference, Mr. Amano stated that the essential
values promoted by the University for Peace are consistent with those of the IAEA: “I know that the University does important work in areas including peace and security, sustainable development and climate change. These are also key areas of the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Costa Rica joined the IAEA in 1965 and is active across a broad range of our activities.” Furthermore, the Director General highlighted the IAEA’s contribution towards achieving 13 of the 17 of the 2030 Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals, agreed upon in New York, in areas such as poverty, hunger, human health, clean water, affordable and clean energy, and climate change.

MARCH 2016


The University for Peace has launched a new initiative aimed at contributing to the attainment of the new Sustainable Development Goals – including ending poverty and promoting prosperity – consisting of a scholarship fund for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. The purpose of this initiative is to provide refugees with postgraduate education on matters of peace, conflict resolution and transformation, and security-related issues, in an effort to ensure that, upon their return to their homes, they will become central actors in reconstruction and institutional development. At the high-level meeting on “Global Responsibility Sharing Through Pathways for Admission of Syrian Refugees” held in Geneva on 30 March, the Government of Costa Rica endorsed the project and announced its full support to the Refugee Fund.

11. Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena serves as Keynote Speaker at Inter-American Defense College event in Washington D.C.

UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena visited the Inter-American Defense College to participate as Keynote Speaker at a conference on the advances and challenges of the hemispheric security system, which was delivered to the current Class 55, comprised of 62 students from 12 nations within the Western Hemisphere. The conference took place at Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington D.C. and is one of several academic events held by the College throughout the year as part of students’ path towards completing their master’s degree. The IADC is an accredited institution that offers a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Inter-American Defense and Security. It is an international educational institution operating under the aegis and funding of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Defense Board.

JUNE 2016

12. UPEACE Celebrates Commencement 2016

The University for Peace (UPEACE) celebrated its 2016 Commencement Ceremony on 8 June 2016. A total of 118 students representing more than 40 countries celebrated the conclusion of the academic year and the beginning of a new stage in their personal and professional lives. During his speech, the Rector of the University for Peace, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena Aravena, emphasized the importance of educating for Peace: “In each one of you we recognize a vocation
for peace. Working for peace within the current international context can be a dangerous task, considering the violence occurring throughout today's world. At the University for Peace you have developed tools that will allow you to search for new answers. Remember, 'If we want peace, we must educate for peace.’ This year’s Keynote Speaker was Ana Eugenia Duran, Senior Regional Advisor for the Americas for the International Organization for Migration, whose speech about migration reminded all presents of the new challenges represented by the current refugee crisis and how it has changed the world as we know it. One of the event’s more significant moments was the announcement of the first UPEACE Doctoral Degree Recipient, Dr. Mihir Kanade - current Head of the Department of International Law at UPEACE - who was introduced by Dean Juan Carlos Sainz Borgo in an emotional speech.

13. The Council of the University for Peace (UPEACE) Held its Twenty-Seventh Session in Costa Rica

The 27th Session of the Council of the University for Peace (UPEACE) was held on the UPEACE Campus on 21-22 June 2016. The purpose of this meetings was to review the activities developed since the previous session – held last October – and to inform the Council about the main activities planned for the upcoming academic and fiscal years, as well as to request their orientations on the new initiatives currently under development. The UPEACE Administration emphasized the work it has been carrying out and the guidance provided by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in planning its initiatives and allowing it to advance in the central objective of this University: "If we want peace, we must prepare for peace."

JULY 2016

14. University for Peace Participates at the OAS-UNHCR High-Level Round Table

Delegates of the University for Peace participated in the OAS-UNHCR high-level round table on the “Call to Action: Protection Crisis in the Northern Triangle of Central America,” hosted by the Government of Costa Rica and supported by the Central American Integration System (SICA). The objective of this round table was to provide an opportunity to discuss the challenges posed by increasing levels of violence and displacement in the North Triangle of Central America, and to explore ways to assist countries of origin transit and asylum in responding to the protection and assistance needs of those affected by the situation.
AUGUST 2016

15. 2016 Malinalli National Prize is awarded to Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University for Peace

The award given to Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena Aravena, from the Universidad Juarez Autonoma de Tabasco, emphasizes his recognized academic career, his invaluable contributions to the processes of social integration and his hard work in the establishment and maintenance of positive relations between countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In its Eighth Edition, the Malinalli National Prize for the Promotion of the Arts, Human Rights and Cultural Diversity, paid a well-deserved tribute to different personalities, institutions and organizations for their intellectual work, research and creative work, which have contributed to plurality, the strengthening of civic and democratic values, gender equity and social integration, as is the case of Dr. Rojas Aravena. On this occasion, the statuette was in honour of "La Malinche", an iconic woman from Mexican history who contributed to the Mexican miscegenation with her life and work. During the event, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena gave a speech in which he reaffirmed his commitment to peace, democracy and the rule of law, multilateralism, human rights, regional integration, as well as to the training of new generations of leaders for Peace.

SEPTEMBER 2016

16. Two programmes from the International Law Department receive Official Quality Accreditation from the Costa Rican National System of Higher Education Accreditation

On 9 September 2016, the Department of International Law of the University for Peace received the accreditation of its M.A. programmes in International Law and Human Rights and International Law and the Settlement of Disputes. This accreditation was granted by the Costa Rican National System of Higher Education Accreditation (SINAES for its name in Spanish). This is an important recognition of the efforts of administrators, faculty members, students, and staff of the University, who have contributed to the forging of academically-sound academic programmes. In his acceptance speech, Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena emphasized the importance of this recognition for UPEACE and reiterated the University’s commitment to human rights, education, and world peace.

17. UPEACE signs MoU with the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations

The Rector and the Dean of the University for Peace were invited to China to meet with the China International Council for the Promotion of Multinational Corporations (CICPMC), in an effort to establish a cooperative relationship between both institutions. This is the result of a lengthy dialogue process with the Chinese Embassy in Costa Rica. The CICPMC is a non-governmental organization approved by the State Council, registered with the Ministry of Civil Affairs and directly supervised by the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China, which is especially engaged in the work of multinational corporations in China. It is well-known all over the world for successfully organizing the World Economic Development Declaration Conference and issuing the globally unique World Economic Development Declaration. In July, 2006, it was granted the Special Consultative Status with the Economic and
Social Council of the United Nations. During their visit, the Rector and the Dean had the opportunity to meet with the President of the CICPMC, as well as regional and educational authorities, and were able to visit Universities in Beijing and Datong. The visit ended with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, based on a mutual willingness to deepen cooperation between both institutions.

**18. With the visit of the Chinese Ambassador to Costa Rica, UPEACE officially kicks off its 2016-2017 Academic Year**

On 23 September, the University for Peace received the visit of Chinese Ambassador to Costa Rica, H.E. Song Yanbin, in order to officially kick off the 2016-2017 Academic Year. During his speech, Ambassador Yanbin stressed China’s active participation in peace missions around the world, with a permanent squadron of 80,000 men, and its position as a permanent member of the Security Council of the UN. He also noted its continued participation in training peacekeepers to work in demining programmes. The Chinese ambassador also spoke about the Sustainable Development Goals as a commitment to change the world, categorizing the elimination of poverty as the main objective to be achieved. Moreover, he emphasized that China is a peaceful nation committed to peace, development, and international cooperation and proposed objectives, to contribute more significantly to world peace. University students took the opportunity to ask questions about the current situation of Muslim minorities in China, the challenges of the Chinese government and the nation’s contribution to the Millennium Development Goals.

**19. The University for Peace opens its first Programme in Spanish, “M.A. Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development” with a conference by the Colombian Ambassador to Costa Rica**

On 29 September, the University for Peace welcomed the students from its newest and first Spanish-language programme in over two decades, the M.A. in Conflict Resolution, Peace and Development, with the visit of the Colombia Ambassador to Cost Rica, H.E. Jesus Ignacio Garcia Valencia. The inauguration began with a brief introduction to the Colombian context, with Ambassador Garcia highlighting the fact that the Colombian conflict dates back more than 60 years, and has left 260,000 dead, 25,000 missing, 30,000 kidnapped, 6,000,000 displaced and a total of more than 8,000,000 casualties. Ambassador Garcia also referenced the ongoing peace process, which represents a negotiated solution to the scourge of violence that has plagued Colombia. The Colombian Ambassador explained in detail the agreement signed in Havana, underscoring the nature of a negotiation with multiple actors, because this process, unlike others, is characterized by the involvement of civil society, the military, the Catholic Church, and the victims of the armed conflict. The first cohort of this new M.A. consists of 12 students from 10 countries, including Italy and Spain, as is taught exclusively in Spanish.

**OCTOBER 2016**

**20. UPEACE signs MOU with the International Criminal Court**

The Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE) signed a cooperation agreement on behalf of the University with the International Criminal Court (ICC) on 17 October 2016. Among the points established by the agreement is the opportunity for UPEACE students and recent Alumni to receive special consideration for internships within the ICC, as well as the possibility for ICC staff members to carry out their sabbatical leave at the University for Peace. During his visit, Rector Rojas Aravena had the opportunity to meet with Judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, an Argentinian lawyer who has presided the International Criminal Court since 2015. As part of the academic offer, supplementary courses will be offered for attorneys and for those interested in justice issues, with specialized professors from both institutions contributing to their development.
21. The University for Peace participates in Coca Cola’s Water for the Future project for the second year in a row

In October 2015, the University for Peace (UPEACE) signed an agreement whereby it joined the Coca-Cola System’s Water Replenishment Program in Costa Rica. Through this initiative, the Coca-Cola System seeks to achieve a neutral water footprint by 2020. The involved organizations are committed to reforesting and protecting UPEACE’s forest reserve, which houses several water sources and aquifers. In the case of the forest protection activity, UPEACE assumes the commitment of maintaining the forest coverage in order to avoid erosive processes and superficial runoff. These efforts will be translated into a constant infiltration of water, which is greater than that occurring through an alternate use of the soil, such as agriculture, and, therefore, a greater amount of water is secured. This year, approximately 200 volunteers from the Coca-Cola System and UPEACE participated in this project. The amount of trees planted reached 2000.

NOVEMBER 2016

22. The University for Peace Signs a Cooperation Agreement with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS)

The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS), represented by Secretary General Ideli Salvatti, and the University for Peace (UPEACE), represented by Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena, signed an agreement to establish a framework for cooperation between the two institutions, particularly focusing on the areas of research, technical, and academic assistance on issues of access to justice and law. During this auspicious event, UPEACE Rector Rojas Aravena and Ms. Salvatti spoke about the possibility of organizing a series of joint events around key issues for the country and the region as a whole, and agreed to coordinate and carry out meetings and activities on matters of mutual interest. The University’s recent commitment to the SDGs was also highlighted, with Rector Rojas Aravena placing special emphasis on SDG 16, which has become the North of the University’s activities.

FEBRUARY 2017

23. Uganda Senior Police Officers Graduate from UPEACE M.A. Programme

On 10 February, the University for Peace’s Africa Programme graduated its first batch of M.A. students specializing in Peace, Governance and Security. The 37 graduates are senior Police officers from the Uganda Police Senior Command and Staff College. The event, which took place in Kampala, was presided over by Dr. Mihir Kanade – Head of the Department of International Law and Academic Director of UPEACE - in representation of UPEACE. Uganda’s Minister of Internal Affairs, General Jeje Odong, and Uganda’s Inspector General of Police, Gen. Kale Kayihura, also participated in the graduation. The event follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between UPEACE and the Uganda Police Force to strengthen the capacity of Uganda Police in the area of peace, governance and security. This Master’s programme falls within UPEACE Africa’s drive to engage the security sector after previous programmes focused on strengthening universities and research institutes in the area of teaching, training, research and publications. The programme consciously adopts an Africa focus and is robustly transdisciplinary. Professors come from several nationalities including South Africa, Australia, Cameroon, Nigeria, Germany, Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, amongst others. The programme is 60% subsidized by UPEACE, and the remaining 40% of the cost is covered by UPF.
MARCH 2017

24. Inauguration of Course on Disarmament with UNODA

The University for Peace welcomed Former President of Costa Rica Laura Chinchilla, as well as the Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Costa Rica, Mr. Jens Büntjen, to inaugurate the course “Boosting the Advance of Women on Peace-related Issues: Strengthening Tools for Women’s Education.” Former President Chinchilla talked about military expenditure in Latin America, even though there are currently no external security threats to these countries. She also mentioned the current pandemic of violence, especially in Central America, and the devastating impact it has on young people. “The relation between these crimes and drugs means this pandemic could also become an issue in other countries,” said Chinchilla. However, according to Chinchilla, women's participation is a predictor of social peace, and studies show that “where women are more empowered, countries are less inclined to go to war.” Costa Rica’s first female President also mentioned that women could play a more active role in promoting stable peace through a more active role in civil society, in law-enforcement agencies, and within the judiciary system. Laura Chinchilla was also the first woman in Costa Rica to become Minister of Security. This course is aimed at doing just that, with 39 women from Latin America and the Caribbean participating in the 1-week training.

APRIL 2017

25. Dr. Takeju Ogata, Head of The Nippon Foundation, receives Doctor Honoris Causa degree from UPEACE

On 24 April, Dr. Takeju Ogata, President of the Nippon Foundation, was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa degree today for his contribution to the ideals of peace, tolerance and human progress. The Nippon Foundation sponsors, among many other projects, the Asian Peacebuilders’ Scholarship (APS) Programme with the University for Peace and the Ateneo de Manila University in The Philippines. This programme has been active for ten years and has graduated approximately 300 students from South-East Asia. Upon receiving this honorary degree, Dr. Ogata said “We must aim for a society without weapons, a state in which weapons are eliminated. Considering humans’ characteristics, conflict will not be eliminated without the elimination of weapons. Unless conflict is eliminated, weapons will exist.”

JUNE 2017

26. The University for Peace Celebrates Commencement 2017 on its campus in Costa Rica

On 9 June 2017, the University for Peace (UPEACE) celebrated its 2017 Commencement Ceremony on its Rodrigo Carazo Campus. A total of 118 students representing more than 40 countries celebrated the conclusion of their academic year and the beginning of a new chapter in their personal and professional lives. In his introductory speech, Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena indicated that the ethical values of the culture of peace, expressed through prevention and incorporated through education, are what allow us to facilitate peaceful coexistence. Always remember, “If we want Peace, we must work for Peace.” When addressing the Class of 2017, he told students: “We recognize, in each one of you, the vocation for Peace. Working for peace within the current international context is a demanding task, considering the current climate of
violence throughout the planet. At the University for Peace, you have developed tools that will allow you to search for new answers. International cooperation is the most fundamental instrument in the pursuit of this goal. However, cooperation is currently under threat by unilateralism and polarization. Your time at UPEACE has allowed you to gain a fresh perspective on the world as well your own personal and professional objectives for the future, which will be forever influenced by this year and all the goals you have achieved while at UPEACE.” Keynote Speaker Ana Helena Chacon, Vice President of Costa Rica, went on to congratulate the Class of 2017 and deliver a speech on the importance of social development for progress and peace. Vice President Chacon assisted the Academic Staff of the University in granting a UPEACE Doctoral Degree to Mr. Wyclife Ong’eta Mose, as well as in individually congratulating the Class of 2017 for their achievements.

AUGUST 2017

27. Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN, H.E. Juan Carlos Mendoza, kicks off the 2017-2018 Academic Year

The University for Peace (UPEACE) was honoured to have His Excellency, Ambassador Juan Carlos Mendoza – Costa Rican Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 2014 – inaugurate the 2017/2018 academic year, in the presence of UPEACE students, Faculty, staff, and representatives of the Costa Rican diplomatic corps. In his speech, Ambassador Mendoza talked about the challenges currently faced by the United Nations. Among other things, he mentioned the imbalance between small and big States, especially regarding their representation within the Security Council. He also talked about the International Criminal Court and how it should be more justice-driven, rather than budget-driven. He then mentioned the Secretary General’s commitment to management reforms. Ambassador Mendoza also highlighted Costa Rica’s involvement in the Treaty for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and how it played a major role in leading the initiation process of this treaty, which strengthens policies and laws against nuclear weapons. Costa Rica, said Ambassador Mendoza, is also very committed to the UN’s 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, it was the first country to sign the agreement. It has also taken the leadership in advocating for women’s participation in leadership, through the “Group of Friends for Gender Parity in the General Assembly”, which currently includes members from 109 States.

SEPTEMBER 2017

28. Rector Rojas Aravena participates in the High-Level Event on a Culture of Peace at UNHQ

For the second year in a row, UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena attended the UNGA’s High-Level Event on a Culture of Peace at UNHQ. In keeping with this approach, this year’s High-level Forum aims to highlight emerging trends that impact on the realization of a culture of peace and to enable Member States and others to exchange ideas on further promoting a Culture of Peace. During his intervention, Rector Rojas Aravena referenced the current migration crisis, stating “The existence of more than 65 million refugees and displaced persons worldwide demonstrates the gravity of the situation. Of these, a significant portion are children, whose advancement opportunities are truncated. It is the commendable work of the UN which provides protection through camps, shelters and in partnership with States for the reception of families of refugees. Similarly, efforts, debates, discussions and consensus, such as those that arise from forums such as this one on a Culture of Peace, make it possible to design public policies with a focus on people – in this case children – which reinforce the
right to life, well-being and opportunities for progress for each and every one of them. It is important to remember that more than one fourth of the world’s population is under 15 years of age. We have a global responsibility to protect children and youth.”

29. Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship Programme Celebrates its 10th Anniversary

The University for Peace hosted one of four events to celebrate the 10 years of the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme. The Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship (APS) Programme is a Dual Degree Master of Arts Programme, funded by The Nippon Foundation, and which takes place at the University for Peace (UPEACE) in Costa Rica, and Ateneo de Manila University (AdMU) in The Philippines. The objective of the programme is to train young Asian professionals to become peacebuilding practitioners, ready to take up leading positions in organisations across the globe. The programme has already graduated over 300 students from Japan and 10 other Asian countries. The celebration in Costa Rica included the first meeting of the APS Alumni Secretariat which includes members representing the 9 priority countries of the programme (Japan, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Philippines), plus 1 member to represent alumni from non-priority countries. The Secretariat will bring structure to efforts to stimulate the APS alumni network. The second day of the event focused on Global Perspectives on Conflict Resolution, a conference for discussing emerging conflicts and rethinking innovative solutions. The opening remarks were made by Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena Aravena, Rector of UPEACE; Father Jose Cruz, Vice Rector of Ateneo de Manila University; and Mr. Yuji Mori, Executive Director of The Nippon Foundation.

OCTOBER 2017

30. UPEACE launches new LL.M. Programme in Transnational Crime and Justice with UNICRI in Turin, Italy

The University for Peace (UPEACE) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) are partnering to offer a new Master of Laws (LL.M.) in Transnational Crime and Justice. This LL.M. is designed for young professionals and university graduates wishing to specialize in the fields of humanitarian law, international criminal law and procedure, international human rights law, international law dimensions of peace and conflicts, transnational crimes and transitional justice. The academic curriculum of the Master programme is divided into two phases: a residential phase and a final research phase. Upon successful conclusion of the programme, students will receive an LL.M diploma.

DECEMBER 2017

31. Artist Miguel Bosé and UPEACE publish book on the Right to Peace

A year after the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Declaration on the Right to Peace, the Peace without Borders Foundation; the University for Peace and the UNESCO Chair on Peace, Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue of the Abat Oliba University CEU have published the book “History of Peace in the West.” The Declaration on the Right to Peace is the result of efforts made by civil society and the Peace without Borders Foundation, which is led by world-renowned artists Juanes and Miguel Bosé, and the first declarative instrument on peace adopted by the UN General Assembly in the New Millennium. The Declaration is an invitation to “practice tolerance, dialogue, cooperation and
solidarity among all human beings, peoples and nations of the world as a means to promote peace.” “In these times of insecurity and uncertainty – says Bosé in the Introduction - we must resist cynical efforts to divide communities and portray neighbours as ‘the other.’ Discrimination, racism and xenophobia diminish us all. It prevents people — and societies — from achieving their full potential. Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights. Together, let us build bridges. Together, let us transform fear into hope.”

APRIL 2018

32. University for Peace pays tribute to the First Lady of the Republic of Costa Rica, the Vice Chancellor and the Ambassador of Chile in Costa Rica prior to the end of their terms in office

The University for Peace (UPEACE) paid tribute to several governmental and diplomatic personalities whose support has been fundamental for the work of the University over the past four years, including Her Excellency, Mercedes Peñas Domingo - First Lady of the Republic of Costa Rica, Member of the UPEACE Council and graduate from this academic institution in the year 1992 - Mr. Alejandro Solano - Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship - and the Hon. Ambassador Miguel Angel González - Ambassador of Chile in Costa Rica. In a sober and brief ceremony at UPEACE'S Rodrigo Carazo Campus, Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena thanked Vice-Chancellor Solano for his interest, support and concern for UPEACE activities. Among other things, Dr. Rojas Aravena highlighted the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, and Alejandro Solano in particular, in the formalization of the economic support of the Government of Costa Rica to the institution. Next, the Rector highlighted the support and friendship of the Hon. Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Ambassador of Chile in Costa Rica, who has offered various forms of support for both the high-level activities of the institution’s leaders and those of UPEACE students. The ceremony culminated with a tribute to Her Excellency Mercedes Peñas Domingo, First Lady of the Republic of Costa Rica, whose support and contributions as a member of the Council of the University, have allowed a greater link between the University and the host country and greater visibility of UPEACE worldwide. Given the status of Her Excellency Mercedes Peñas Domingo as a graduate of the University, Dr. Rojas Aravena honoured her with the title of Distinguished Alumna of the University for Peace.

The University for Peace and the culture of peace can transform societies. If there is something that transforms it is us, the people, and for that we need knowledge and skills that this university gives. This possibility of transforming our environments is fundamental to generating peace. When there is violence against women, there is no peace. When there are countries that do not invest in sustainable development and care for the environment, always in the hands of people and human development, there is no peace. There is no peace when there is hunger. And not only the absence of conflict is peace, the concept of peace goes much further, and the effort that the University for Peace has made, not only to position peace in the broad sense, but to generate that knowledge and those capabilities in people to generate that culture of peace and to transform societies, is fundamental. This university is unique and exceptional and we have to continue betting as a country, as a United Nations System and as people, to continue accompanying the efforts of a university like this one.

- Closing remarks by Her Excellency, Mercedes Peñas Domingo - Former First Lady of the Republic of Costa Rica, Former Member of the UPEACE Council and UPEACE Alumna.
33. UPEACE Recognized for its Commitment to Refugees with Prestigious Award

On 23 April 2018, the University for Peace was publicly recognized by the President of Costa Rica, H.E. Luis Guillermo Solis, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for its commitment to refugees, and was awarded the Living Integration seal, which “recognizes the commitment of organizations and institutions with the development of the Costa Rican society, which takes into account the real contributions made by refugees, the promotion and defence of their rights, and the understanding of the condition of refugees, including sensitizing its staff members to this condition.” Currently, UPEACE implements humanitarian projects designed to integrate refugees into the local culture, as well as ensure their independence within their new context. UPEACE is currently present on the southern border of Costa Rica in support of Costa Rican immigration authorities. UPEACE also trains government officials on refugee matters. For the University for Peace For the University for Peace, it is of paramount importance to count on support for the integration of programmes aimed at refugees in Costa Rica and around the world. It is for this reason that this distinction, awarded it by the UNHCR and the government of the Republic of Costa Rica, which further reaffirms UPEACE’s commitment to carrying out this important work.

34. UPEACE Organizes Side Event on “The role of Education in Peace Building and Sustainable Peace” at UNHQ

On 26 April 2018, the United Nations-mandated University for Peace, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica, the Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations and The Nippon Foundation hosted a side event at the UN Secretariat, around the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace convened by the President of the United Nations General Assembly on 24 and 25 April 2018. The forum on “The role of Education in Peace Building and Sustainable Peace” was attended by close to 60 persons, including special guests, representatives of the permanent missions to the UN, UN officials, and UPEACE Alumni. The event included the participation of UPEACE Dean Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo; Ambassador Narinder Kakar, Permanent Observer of the University for Peace to the UN; H.E. Juan Carlos Mendoza, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the UN; H.E. Jüri Ratas, Prime Minister of Estonia; and Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Principal Coordinator of the SDGs for the Prime Minister’s Office in Bangladesh. The second part of the forum took the form of an interactive dialogue and the exchange of views on the current development agendas, including the Sustainable Development Goals, with a presentation by H.E. Amrith Rohan Perera, Permanent Representative of the Socialist Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to the UN, followed by Ms. Paloma Duran, Director of the Sustainable Development Goals Fund at the United Nations, as well as by Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director for Partnerships and Public Engagement at the UN Department of Public Information Outreach Division. The last portion of the event included a presentation of the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship Programme (APS) as a successful experience in promoting sustainable peace and coexistence in the Asia region. The event concluded with an open dialogue among attendees to produce recommendations on best practices for promoting common activities between stakeholders in the field of peacebuilding and sustainable peace.
MAY 2018

35. University for Peace participates in the ceremony of appointment of the new president of the Republic of Costa Rica

A delegation that included the Rector of the University for Peace, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, the Dean, Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, and the Secretary to the University Council, Mrs. Ariela Fernandez Tischler, participated in the ceremony of appointment of the new president of the Republic of Costa Rica, Carlos Alvarado Quesada. The ceremony was held at Plaza de la Democracia, in the center of the city, and was attended by representatives of more than 100 countries, as well as representatives of the United Nations and other international organizations present in the country. After the formal ceremony, the delegation participated in a gala lunch at the National Theater, where they had the opportunity to exchange a few words with President Alvarado and his wife, Claudia Dobles Camargo. They also took the opportunity to greet Epsy Campbell Barr, who was named Vice-President and Chancellor of the Republic. Carlos Alvarado is the 48th president of Costa Rica.

JUNE 2018

36. Nobel Peace Laureate, Ouided Bouchamaoui, delivers keynote speech at UPEACE 2018 Commencement Ceremony

The University for Peace celebrated this year’s commencement ceremony on its campus in San Jose, Costa Rica. Nobel Peace Laureate and UPEACE Council Member, Ouided Bouchamaoui, delivered the Keynote Speech to more than 130 students from 49 different countries. Mrs. Bouchamaoui opened her speech by saying, “Being in front of you today gives me joy and satisfaction as your institution is an example, one of those we dream about… And the dream comes true! Its reputation shines all over the world, demonstrating a will of tolerance, understanding of different cultures, and an awareness to reinforce shared values as an aim for peaceful and democratic societies. Because, never in the history of mankind, have the subjects of education and peace been so acutely and seriously felt. We are constantly reminded of their importance by the daily tragedies occurring in the four corners of the planet.” This year’s Commencement Ceremony also marked an important milestone for the newest member of our Resident Faculty, Dr. Mariateresa Garrido (Venezuela), who became the first woman and first Latin American to receive a Doctoral Degree from the University for Peace.

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- Ouided Bouchamaoui, Nobel Peace Laureate and UPEACE Council Member
JUNE 2018

37. UNSG Antonio Guterres visits Costa Rica

The University for Peace had a very active role in the visit of UNSG Antonio Guterres to Costa Rica. In addition to the Rector’s participation in a series of events organized for the UNSG’s visit, including a meeting of the United Nations Country Team, UPEACE Staff Member Laura Escobar, currently Alumni and Public Relations Officer, served as the official photographer for the UNSG’s visit.

SEPTEMBER 2018

38. Rector Rojas Aravena participates in the UN High-Level Event on a Culture of Peace

The Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE), Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, participated today in this year’s one-day High Level Forum on a Culture of Peace under the theme “The Culture of Peace: A Credible Pathway to Sustaining Peace.” This High Level Forum aims to highlight emerging trends that impact the realization of a culture of peace and to enable Member States and other stakeholders to exchange ideas on further promoting a Culture of Peace. In his intervention, Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena talked about the new threats and risks faced by today’s societies: climate change, nuclear weapons, pandemics and resistance to antibiotics, among others. The Rector also spoke about how “changes in power relations are generating spaces for discrimination, xenophobia, de-democratization and the emergence of divisions and ruptures among the main actors on the world stage”. Dr. Rojas Aravena went on to mention “the changes generated by the processes of globalization are demanding changes in paradigms”. The Rector finished his intervention by stating the importance of the University for Peace in creating a Culture of Peace. During his trip to UNHQ, Rector Rojas Aravena met with Nobel Prize Winner Rigoberta Menchu; Ms. Maria Luiza Viera, Chef de Cabinet of the UNSG; Council Member and ASG Oscar Fernandez-Taranco; new Costa Rican Ambassador to the UN, Rodrigo Carazo; and Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN.

39. Nepal becomes the 41st State to sign the UPEACE Charter

On 27 September 2018, the government of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal sent a direct missive to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, expressing their decision to adhere to the International Treaty for the Establishment of the University for Peace, dated 5 December 1980. With this act, Nepal became the 41st State to adhere to this treaty and to the UPEACE Charter. As citizens of a Signatory State, Nepalese nationals will enjoy a 30% tuition waiver. The University for Peace is honoured to welcome Nepal to the UPEACE family!
OCTOBER 2018

40. The Rt. Hon. K P Sharma Oli, Primer Minister of Nepal, receives a Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the University for Peace

The Prime Minister of Nepal, the Rt. Hon. K P Sharma Oli, visited the University for Peace (UPEACE) today as part of his official visit to Costa Rica. PM Oli was awarded a Doctor Honoris Causa degree for his work in achieving peace and democratization in Nepal, during a solemn event held on the UPEACE campus, which included the presence of a Nepalese Delegation, Ms. Lorena Aguilar, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica; Dr. Arjun Karki, Ambassador of Nepal to the USA and Costa Rica; members of the Diplomatic Corps, and UPEACE faculty, students and staff. PM Oli shared his views on peace, stating “Peace is not a mere absence of war. Nor should it be understood as suppressed calmness, forced silence, and circumscribed tolerance. It is a state of mind, way of living and has much broader dimensions –individual, political, economic, social, and cultural- which are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.” He went on to highlight the importance of the UN and of the University for Peace by stating, “The UN Charter captures the aspirations of people for universal peace –‘to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war’. To promote and defend these aspirations, both structures to maintain and culture to sustain peace are needed. The international institutions, rules, UN peace missions, and mediation are among the important tools as far as the structures are concerned. Sincere fulfilment of moral and legal obligations by all Member States and upholding the values of peace and harmony by every citizen are essential to maintain and sustain peace. Here lies the important role of peace education. In this sense, the United Nations has done justice to the core of its mandate by establishing this University.” In his speech, PM Oli committed to creating a scholarship fund for Nepalese students interested in pursuing their postgraduate degrees at UPEACE.

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-Rt. Hon. K P Sharma Oli, The Prime Minister of Nepal
If you want peace, work for peace.