Voices from UPEACE - November 2021

THE UNITED NATIONS

There’s been so much happening at UPEACE since our last edition, including the inauguration of a new academic year, the presentation of the UN Secretary-General's Report on UPEACE before the General Assembly, the inauguration of a new UPEACE campus in Somalia, and the launch of a new and innovative new M.A. programme. Dive into this newsletter to find out more!

15 October 2021, New York, USA – In accordance with the Charter of the University for Peace (UPEACE), Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena, Rector of the University for Peace, appeared before the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly for the official presentation of the Secretary-General's Report on the University for Peace for the period 2018-2021, which highlights the most relevant activities of the University and reflects on the challenges ahead in the coming years, as well as outlining short and medium-term goals. As Honorary President of UPEACE, the Secretary-General presents this report every three years to the body responsible for the establishment of the University.

7 September 2021, New York, USA – UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas participated in the High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, which offers 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. Rector Rojas had this to say at the High-Level Panel on a Culture of Peace: “Without human security, there is no development. Without sustainable development, we will not have peace. In contexts of high conflict, there is no possibility of exercising any rights. Cooperation based on a Culture of Peace and Non-violence provides us with the instruments to build societies based on rights and where education for peace is an essential instrument to make them effective.”
UPEACE Rector Participates in the Event “Civil Society: A Fundamental Pillar for Peace”

25 October 2021, Madrid, Spain – On 25 October, UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas was invited to participate in the event “Civil society, a fundamental pillar for peace” organised by the Spanish Federation of Associations, Centres and Clubs for UNESCO, in the framework of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations and UNESCO. He was accompanied by representatives of these two organisations, including Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Deputy Director-General for Social and Human Sciences at UNESCO and current member of the UPEACE Council.

UPEACE Facilitates the Transfer of the “Bloody Dove” to the UN in Geneva

16 June 2021, San José, Costa Rica - After an unusual year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the University for Peace celebrated the closing of its 2020-2021 academic year in person on its main campus, with the virtual participation of the President of the Republic of Costa Rica and member of our Council, Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada, who sent a message to our students.

UPEACE Becomes an SDG Hub for SDG 12

August 2021, UPEACE HQ, Costa Rica – The University for Peace (UPEACE) has been named an SDC Hub for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, by the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI). Over the years, UPEACE has promoted extensive research and study on the right to development, including through e-courses intended to train stakeholders on the normative, theoretical and practical importance of and mechanisms for operationalizing the right to development in the implementation of the SDCs. UPEACE has also been an active member of the Costa Rican Network of Sustainable Institutions, has established a system to reduce its water footprint, adopted a single-use plastic ban and an innovative waste-management protocol, and hosts the student-led UPEACE Green Office, focused on food waste, renewable energy and circular economy. Among other programs, UPEACE offers a Master’s program in Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, which emphasizes economic and management perspectives of peace while focusing on the concepts of sustainability and responsibility.
September 2021, UPEACE HQ, Costa Rica – On 23 September, the University for Peace welcomed its Class of 2022, most of which was present face-to-face to partake in our orientation activities. Close to one hundred students descended upon the UPEACE Campus in Costa Rica – many of the accompanied by their service dogs! – ready to take on the challenges of the new academic year and acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for the post-pandemic professional arena, particularly with regards to development work, which was further challenged by the pandemic.

UPEACE Inaugurates its 2021-2022 Academic Year

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UPEACE and UNICRI Celebrate the Graduation of their Most Recent Cohort of the LLM in Transnational Crime and Justice

9 July 2021, Turin, Italy – The latest batch of UPEACERS from our joint programme in Transnational Crime and Justice graduated in a ceremony presided by UNICRI Director Antonia Marie De Meo, UNICRI Deputy Director Leif Villadsen, and UPEACE Rector Francisco Rojas. In a ceremony held on the UNICRI campus, 42 students hailing from 21 countries received their degrees.

UPEACE Inaugurates its Somalia Campus

21 September 2021, Mogadishu, Somalia – On 21 September and as a way to commemorate the International Day of Peace, the Dean of the University for Peace, Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo inaugurated the UPEACE campus in the Federal Republic of Somalia, which was celebrated with the graduation of 76 students from our master's degrees in Governance and Development; Environment, Development, and Peace; International Law and Human Rights; and Disaster Resilience Leadership and Humanitarian Action. Through these specific programmes, UPEACE has made a conscious and historical decision to assist Africa's most security-challenged nation in building sustainable peace and security.
6 July 2021, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia – Dr. Francisco Rojas awarded a UPEACE Doctor Honoris Causa Degree to Dr. Mohammad bin Abdulkarim AL-ISSA – Secretary General of the Muslim World League – in recognition of his outstanding efforts in supporting international diplomacy, promoting friendship and cooperation among people, and his effective endeavours in combatting hate. As Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Dr. AL-ISSA has been a trailblazer in building new partnerships among different communities, faiths and nations. Dr. AL-ISSA joins our other DHC recipients, including 5 former presidents – among them UPEACE founder Rodrigo Carazo Odio and Nobel Peace Prize recipient Oscar Arias Sanchez – a former judge of the International Court of Justice, Dr. Thomas Buergenthal, and most recently, the Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, all representing a wide variety of geographical, professional, and religious backgrounds.

The University for Peace has launched a new M.A. in Religion, Culture and Peace Studies! This M.A. programme, courtesy of UPEACE, the Muslim World League, the World Jewish Congress and the Pontifical Lateran University, has been designed to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to engage in contexts related to peace and conflict studies that are entangled with aspects of religion. This M.A. programme was established thanks to the generosity of the Dr. AL-ISSA Fellowship Programme.

22 September 2021 – The University for Peace held an expert panel titled “What’s next for Afghanistan? Perspectives on Peace and Stability,” moderated by the Head of the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies, Dr. Adriana Salcedo, with the participation of Dr. Dawood Azami - award-winning journalist and academic and Multimedia Editor at the BBC World Service in London – Dr. Hafiza Yazdani, a gender and peace education specialist with a specialization on human rights, gender equality and peace in Afghanistan – and Dr. Zahid Shahab Ahmed – a UPEACE Alumnus and research fellow at the Alfred Deakin Institute for Citizenship and Globalization (Australia).
2 September 2021, UPEACE HQ, Costa Rica – On 2 September, in commemoration of Costa Rica’s Bicentenary Celebration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, the Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica and the University for Peace organised the Planting of the Bicentennial Forest on the main UPEACE campus, in which 200 trees – mostly yellow bark – were planted as part of the activities to commemorate this important milestone.

### Report: "Measuring Digital Safety of Female Journalists to improve their protection and access to public information in Central America"

In June 2021, UNESCO and UPEACE partnered on a project designed to investigate violence against female journalists and journalism students in El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The project - "Measuring Digital Safety of Female Journalists to improve their protection and access to public information in Central America" consisted of a questionnaire, distributed among prospective participants, which was then used to feed the contents of a course on digital security designed specifically for these participants. The questionnaire, which was completed by 177 female journalists or journalism students from El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua, was then used to put together a report (which will be available in Spanish later this year) on the conditions of female journalists in these Central American countries.

### UPEACE Co-Organises I Latin American Meeting on Maritime Law and Transnational Organised Crime

On 28-30 September, the UPEACE Chair on Countering Illicit Trade and Preventing Transnational Organised Crime co-organized the I Latin American Meeting on Maritime Law and Transnational Organised Crime, alongside the Crime Stoppers Caribbean, Bermuda and Latin America Foundation, and the Universidad Católica Andrés Bello. The meeting covered the following topics: (1) Transnational organised crime and maritime transport: An approach to the problem; (2) A multidisciplinary approach to the problem of the incidence of transnational organised crime in international maritime transport; and (3) The impact of transnational organised crime on maritime security.
New Book: "The Journey to Gender Equality: Mapping the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action"

"The Journey to Gender Equality: Mapping the Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action," edited by Uzma Rashid is a collection of case studies, bringing together voices from different countries and continents to weave a picture that reflects the status of gender equality for people in these diverse contexts. It responds to the need for reflecting on the progress that has been made so far in the 25 years since the passing of this milestone, on how state and non-state actors have translated the declaration into practice, and what challenges were and are still being faced in the process and need to be addressed. This collection has been made possible through the support of Global Women Leaders - Voices for Change and Inclusion (GWLVoices), the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), and the University for Peace.

UPCOMING DEADLINE for our new M.A. in Indigenous Science and Peace Studies

Don't miss your chance to be a part of the first cohort of this innovative master's degree programme, taught from the perspective of indigenous science and wisdom. Financial assistance options available, please email admissions@upeace.org for more information.

A Happiness Summit at UPEACE.
What could be better?

Hosted through the UPEACE Centre for Executive Education, the 4th annual Gross Global Happiness Summit in March brings together thought-leaders in the field of wellbeing from around the globe. Through interactive workshops and powerful talks, you'll walk away with practical tips to cultivate more happiness in your own life, within your peer group, at your workplace and beyond. Perfect for NGO leaders, humanitarians, coaches, business consultants, and just about anyone else who believes that wellbeing should be at the heart of all that we do. Join online or onsite. UPEACE alumni get a discount, and there's even a limited time travel package offer that includes lodging and airport pickup if you want to come to UPEACE.
FULFILLING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ON A QUEST FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

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