



THE ELEVENTH UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

THEME

*"The Culture of Peace:
Importance of justice, equality and inclusion
for advancing peacebuilding"*

Convened by the President of the
76th General Assembly
His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Shahid

Tuesday 6 September 2022 | 10.00 am to 6.00 pm
General Assembly Hall and Trusteeship Council Chamber
UN Headquarters, New York

In cooperation with
The Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCoP)

Backgrounder

On 13 September 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus and without reservation, its landmark, pioneering and norm-setting resolution 53/243 on the **Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace**. Among other things, it provided the driving force for the implementation of the **UN-declared International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)**.

Ever since the initiative taken in 1997 to include a separate agenda item on the culture of peace by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury of Bangladesh and the UNGA decision to do so allocating the item to the plenary of the General Assembly, every year the Assembly has adopted by consensus a comprehensive, self-standing resolution on the culture of peace. The General Assembly, through its annual substantive resolutions, has highlighted the priority it attaches to the full and effective implementation of these visionary decisions which are universally applicable and is sought after by the vast majority of all people in every nation.

Recognizing the need for continual support to the further strengthening of the global movement to promote the Culture of Peace, as envisaged by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the day-long, General Assembly High Level Forum is intended to coincide with the anniversary date of the adoption of 53/243. Substantively, the Forum is to be an open public opportunity for the UN Member States, UN system entities, civil society including NGOs, media, private sector, and all others interested, to have an exchange of ideas and suggestions on the ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace and to highlight emerging trends that impact on the implementation process.

When we see what is happening around us, we realise the urgent need for promoting the culture of peace - peace through dialogue - peace through non-violence. The culture of peace begins with each one of us – unless we are ready to integrate peace and non-violence as part of our daily existence, we cannot expect our communities, our nations, our planet to be peaceful. We should be prepared and confident in resolving the challenges of our lives in a non-aggressive manner. This individual dimension is the core message of the culture of peace, more so in recent years, and can create the collective action for peace which the United Nations is aiming to achieve for more than the seven decades of its existence.

The Forum is convened by the President of the General Assembly taking the lead in the preparations of the event which focuses on the implementation of the Programme of Action. Following the wide-ranging success of the UN General Assembly's High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace held on 14 September 2012, the Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution 68/125, co-sponsored by 105 Member States led by Bangladesh. It requested "the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September."

The 76th session of the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution 76/68 on 9 December 2021 - with the co-sponsorship of 109 Member States led by Bangladesh – which invited "Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels" and "to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level".



UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

06 SEPTEMBER 2022, UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

OPENING SEGMENT

General Assembly Hall

10:00–11:00 am

Opening remarks by:

H.E. Mr. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th
Session of the UN General Assembly

Mr. Courtenay Rattray, Chef de Cabinet to the
Secretary-General representing the UN SG

Ms. Elizabeth Spehar, Assistant Secretary-General
for Peacebuilding Support

Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake, Secretary-General's
Envoy on Youth

11:00 am–1:00 pm Plenary Segment

Statements by Member States and Observers,
followed by UN entities

PANEL DISCUSSION

Theme: “The Culture of Peace: Importance of justice, equality and inclusion for advancing peacebuilding”

Trusteeship Council Chamber

3:00–5:45 pm

Chair and Moderator:

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, Chair of the UN General Assembly negotiations for the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (1998-1999)

Panelists:

H.E. Ambassador Egriselda López, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations in New York

H.E. Ambassador Claver Gatete, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations in New York

H.E. Ambassador Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of African Union to the United Nations in New York

H.E. Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, President of Foundation for a Culture of Peace, former Director-General of UNESCO
[Pre-Recorded]

Ms. Nihal Saad, Senior Advisor for Policy & Strategy and Chief of Cabinet for the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Chief Executive Officer, Global Network for Women Peacebuilders

CLOSING SEGMENT

5:45–6:00 pm *Concluding Remarks by:*

H.E. Mr. Muhammad Abdul Muhith,
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to
the United Nations

H.E. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76th
Session of the UN General Assembly

OPENING SEGMENT

H.E. MR. ABDULLA SHAHID

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY



H.E. MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES

SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS



MS. ELIZABETH SPEHAR

ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT

Ms. Elizabeth Spehar of Canada is Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support in UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. With more than 35 years of experience in international and political affairs, she has worked in UN Headquarters and in the field, leading political, development, peacebuilding and conflict prevention initiatives. Since 2016, she was the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). Previously, Ms. Spehar was Director of the Policy and Mediation Division in the Department of Political Affairs, now DPPA, where she worked on policy and operational matters related to conflict prevention, mediation, peacebuilding and gender mainstreaming. Prior to this, she was the Director for the Americas and Europe Divisions in the Department of Political Affairs. Before joining the UN, Ms. Spehar was a senior official with the Organization of American States (OAS) for more than 12 years, working to promote democracy and develop the organization's dialogue and conflict resolution instruments.



MS. JAYATHMA WICKRAMANAYAKE

UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ENVOY ON YOUTH

Appointed as the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017, Ms. Jayathma Wickramanayake works to expand the UN's youth engagement and advocacy efforts across all four pillars of work – sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action – and serves as a representative of and advisor to the Secretary-General. Hailing from Sri Lanka, she advocated for global youth development as a key member of the first ever Sri Lankan Youth Delegation to the United Nations.



PANEL DISCUSSION

CHAIR AND MODERATOR

H.E. AMBASSADOR ANWARUL K. CHOWDHURY



Ambassador Chowdhury has been a career diplomat, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, President of the UN Security Council, President of UNICEF Executive Board, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative, Senior Special Advisor to UN General Assembly President, and recipient of the U Thant Peace Award, UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace, Spirit of the UN Award, University of Massachusetts, Boston Chancellor's Medal for Global Leadership for Peace, 2018 Global Women's Peace Award, 2020 Robert Muller Global Peace Prize and the inaugural Global Citizen Award in 2021. His legacy and leadership in the service of global community are boldly imprinted in his pioneering leadership initiatives at the United Nations in September 1999 for adoption of the landmark programme on the Culture of Peace by the UN General Assembly and in March 2000 as the President of the Security Council for the political and conceptual breakthrough leading to the groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. He received Honorary Doctorates from Soka University of Japan in 2003; from Saint Peter's University of USA in 2012 and from University of La Verne of USA in 2021. He is the Founder of New York-based civil society coalition, Global Movement for The Culture of Peace (GMCOP).

PANEL SPEAKERS

H.E. AMBASSADOR EGRISELDA LÓPEZ



Appointed as the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN in New York in 2019, Ambassador Egriselda López has been the co-chair of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the UN General Assembly during its 75th and 76th Sessions. She was also Chair of the Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee of the 76th session and a member of the Advisory Group on Gender Equality of the 76th President of the Assembly. Ambassador López worked as an advisor on multilateral affairs in the Foreign Ministry of her country. Ambassador López holds a Master of Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in 2018.

H.E. AMBASSADOR CLAVER GATETE



Before being appointed as the Permanent Representative in February 2022, Ambassador Gatete served as the Minister of Infrastructure. Before which, he was the Minister of Finance and Economic Planning. He has also served as the Governor of the National Bank of Rwanda. Ambassador Gatete also served as Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Iceland from 2005 to 2009 and has served as the Personal Representative of the President on the NEPAD Steering Committee in Rwanda.

H.E. AMBASSADOR FATIMA KYARI MOHAMMED



As the Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU) to the UN, the mandate of Ambassador Mohammed includes developing and maintaining institutional relationships between the AU and UN institutions, supporting and coordinating the activities of the African Group at the UN and ensuring the effective monitoring, implementation, and promotion of AU Decisions within the African group in multilateral negotiations. Her career spans more than two decades with a focus on peace, security, socio-economic development, regional integration, organizational development, and project management in the public and private sectors. She is also the Founder of the LikeMinds Project, a non-profit, non-partisan organization working with vulnerable communities in Nigeria.

H.E. MR. FEDERICO MAYOR ZARAGOZA

Dr. Federico Mayor, Professor of Biochemistry, Rector of Granada University (1968–1972), Co-founder of the Center of Molecular Biology Severo Ochoa in the Autonomous University of Madrid, Minister of Education and Science of Spain (1981–1982), President of the Issyk-Kul Forum (preceded by Pres. M. Gorbachev, 1986–1992), Director General of UNESCO (1987–1999), President of the High Level Group of the “Alliance of Civilizations” (2005), Current President of the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, since 2000 and of the International Commission against the Death Penalty since 2010. He is a member of the Club of Rome and the Club of Budapest.



MS. NIHAL SAAD

Senior Advisor for Policy & Strategy and Chief of Cabinet for the High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Ms. Nihal Saad leads the organization's policy and strategic initiatives. She is also the speechwriter for the High-Representative and a contributor to EOSG on issues relevant to UNAOC mandate. Ms. Saad has conceptualized and led UNAOC Global Forums in Bali, Baku, and New York. Prior to that, she was the Spokesperson & Head of Communications for the 66th President of the UN General Assembly. With more than 25 years of experience in communications and journalism, Ms. Saad was the Head of the Press & Information Bureau at the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the UN. Before moving to New York, she was Senior Political Correspondent and TV host for Egypt's TV.



MS. MAVIC CABRERA BALLEZA

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Ms. Mavic Cabrera Balleza is one of the two civil society initiators of the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. She is also one of the founding members of its Global Funding Board. Ms. Cabrera-Balleza is a Board Member of the Generation Equality Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action representing GNWP and the Beijing +25 Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace & Security and Youth, Peace & Security. Ms. Cabrera-Balleza initiated the Philippine National Action Plan (NAP) on the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. She also served as the international consultant to Nepal's first 1325 NAP. In 2014, she led the establishment of the Young Women Leaders for Peace.



CLOSING SEGMENT

H.E. AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD ABDUL MUHITH

Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York since August 2022, Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith currently serves as the Chair of the UN Peacebuilding Commission and as the President of the Executive Board of UN Women. Ambassador Muhith joined Bangladesh Foreign Service in 1993. Prior to his current post, he was the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Austria with concurrent accreditation to Hungary, Slovenia, Slovakia and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN Offices and International Organizations in Vienna (2020-2022). He also served as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Denmark with concurrent accreditation to Estonia and Iceland (2015-2020).



GEMS FROM THE UN DECLARATION ON CULTURE OF PEACE



"A culture of peace is a set of values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behaviour and ways of life based on respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation"



"Education at all levels is one of the principal means to build a culture of peace. In this context, human rights education is of particular importance."



"Governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace."

"Civil society needs to be fully engaged in fuller development of a culture of peace."



"The educative and informative role of the media contributes to the promotion of a culture of peace."



"A key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious bodies and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative and artistic activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations."



"Progress in the fuller development of a culture of peace comes about through values, attitudes, modes of behaviour and ways of life conducive to the promotion of peace among individuals, groups and nations."

"The United Nations should continue to play a critical role in the promotion and strengthening of culture of peace worldwide."

