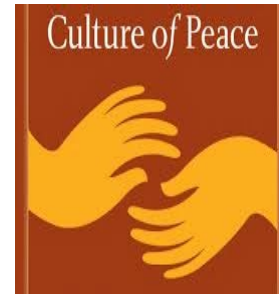


## A PACT for the Future “Culture of Peace” Recommendation Submitted on 12-31-23

### Organization Logo:



**Organization Name:** Peace Through Unity Charitable Trust

**Organization Website:** <https://peacethroughunity.org.nz>

**Organization Focal Point:** Anne Creter, Alternate UN NGO Representative Peace Through Unity, [annecrets@aol.com](mailto:annecrets@aol.com)

### Chapeau:

The “actionable” evolutionary **UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (CoP) A/RES/53/243** adopted by the General Assembly (GA) in 1999 must be integrated into *A Pact for the Future* (PACT) for greater UN innovation and synthesis, as it can provide a missing link helping the UN fulfill its mission to “end the scourge of war.” Aligned with the science of nonviolence, **CoP is a comprehensive, UN established “blueprint” or “roadmap” of actions necessary at all levels of existence to manifest sustainable peace.** If utilized in the PACT Culture of Peace could provide a new, unified global structure for the UN to connect and coordinate recognized peace actions for greater synergy and effectiveness. War will be inevitable until a new, rational, productive system is solidly in place providing the structure and platform for conflict resolution to routinely happen.

### **Chapter II: International peace and security:**

The UN’s 75-year-old quest “to end the scourge of war” has paradoxically devolved into a worldwide culture of violence at this most dangerous inflection point in history. Thus, it is imperative that the advanced peacebuilding concept of the Culture of Peace be a focal point within this futuristic PACT, for it has received growing understanding and appreciation both at the UN and within civil society in the last 25 years. In keeping with its recently evolved history at the UN, A/RES/53/243 adds clear “actionable” guidance aligned with the relatively new field of peace studies at a time when the world is hopelessly paralyzed by the existential escalation of violence at all levels, which in becoming normalized, threatens even greater planetary peril. Examples of civil society “infrastructures for peace” based on A/RES/53/243 now making a difference in the world include the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission in Oregon, USA and Rotary International showing great promise for peace at local city levels.

The landmark **UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243)** was adopted by the GA on 13 September 1999 after nine months of hard negotiations skillfully led by Bangladesh Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN; Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, who said: "I believe this document is unique in more than one way. It is a universal document in the real sense, transcending boundaries, cultures, societies and nations. Unlike many other GA documents, it is action-oriented and encourages actions at all levels, be they at the level of the individual, the community, the nation or the region, or at the global and international levels." **It defines Culture of Peace as a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations.** Per the A/RES/53/243 mandate, the Programme of Action by its pure "action" structure speaks to the PACT's goal of **"action-oriented"** recommendations, with actions at all levels that are necessary to build the Culture of Peace within the following **Eight Areas of Action:**

- 1) Fostering a culture of peace through **education**
- 2) Promoting **sustainable economic and social development**
- 3) Promoting respect for all **human rights**
- 4) Ensuring **equality between women and men**
- 5) Fostering **democratic participation**
- 6) Advancing **understanding, tolerance and solidarity**
- 7) Supporting **participatory communication & free flow of information & knowledge**
- 8) Promoting **international peace and security**

UNESCO was charged with writing the "Declaration and Programme of Action" led by David Adams, Former Director, UNESCO Unit for International Year for Culture of Peace. It is not by accident that the term originated at **UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and "Cultural" Organization)** at a meeting in Africa in 1989. For Culture appears in the very name of UNESCO which was established as the UN's cultural organization. Culture here is defined in the broad anthropological sense, not in the narrow popular sense restricted to music, dance, and other arts. **UNESCO was not concerned with culture for its own sake, but culture for the sake of peace.** It made a distinction between the old concept of peace between sovereign states and a new concept of peace between peoples. UNESCO's constitution preamble declared in 1946: *"That a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind."* As UNESCO stated: "Each of these areas of action have been priorities of the UN since its foundation; what is new is their linkage through the culture of peace and non-violence into a single coherent concept. This is the first time all these areas are interlinked so the sum of their complementarities and synergies can be developed."

A/RES/53/243 gives clear guidelines on a new mode of governance which calls on the entire UN system; all governments, and all peoples to work together to build a more free, fair, and peaceful global neighborhood through a positive, dynamic participatory process where

dialogue is encouraged, and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation. It was a watershed moment when A/RES/53/243 was passed as never before had an action-oriented template been created based on the science of nonviolence articulating all the peacebuilding actions needed at every level from inner to international for world peace to materialize. *A/RES/53/243 is innovative because it embodies this new peace knowledge by design*, stating all the multi-dimensional, congruous actions that need to happen for the Culture of Peace to manifest. These preventative, multi-level actions by individuals and groups must be “implemented” and monitored by member states to “end the scourge of war”- **a function the UN could oversee by creating a “Culture of Peace Council” equal in status to the Security Council balancing its two main purposes of peace and security through member state national Culture of Peace Action Plans.**

**Culture of Peace is a clarion call for individual and collective transformation, indispensable for the safety, security and development of planet earth.** Therefore, to enable the PACT to be truly transformational, the concept of Culture of Peace must be integrated within it reflective of the “new” positive view of peace. “Negative” peace is the absence of violence. Peace has traditionally been thought of simply as that. But we know now that peacebuilding is so much more. ***“Positive” peace is defined as the attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies***, like better economic outcomes, measures of well-being, levels of inclusiveness and environmental performance. **“Positive” peace is transformational** in that it is a cross-cutting factor for progress. **Use of the word ‘Peace’ connotes “negative” peace, old paradigm thinking whereas ‘Culture of Peace’ connotes new-paradigm “positive” peace.**

Culture of Peace has a recent rich history of evolution at the UN in the last 25+ years since A/RES/53/243 was first adopted in 1999. We are told it takes between ten to twenty years from the time UN resolutions are passed for them to be fully understood and utilized. Culture of Peace is no exception. The term was hardly ever used there in the first ten years of its passage (the first decade of the new millennium). It took 12 years before the major breakthrough of the first **High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace** took place. And that big milestone was first conceived in the year 2000 when the **International Year for the Culture of Peace** was declared, along with its **2000 Manifesto for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence** crafted by Nobel Laureates. Then from **2001 to 2010 there was the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World**, producing **Mid-Decade and End-of-Decade Culture of Peace Progress Reports**, including a continuously running virtual **Culture of Peace News Network** bulletin of actions taken around the world each month in all eight of the **Culture of Peace Areas of Action** <https://cpnn-world.org/new/>. Also, a **UN NGO Culture of Peace Working Group** which morphed into the **Global Movement for the Culture of Peace NGO Coalition**. And **12 annual Culture of Peace High Level Forums with yearly self-standing GA Culture of Peace resolutions**. Now that these milestones have been achieved, it is time for A/RES/53/243 to be fully utilized by being integrated within this forward-looking PACT.

Integrating the wisdom of A/RES/53/243 into the PACT would make that document more UN synthesized and wholistically complete, thus better able to materialize world peace if fully implemented. Culture of Peace is a state-of-the-art concept in human consciousness aligned

within the powerful new discipline of peace studies. A/RES/53/243 provides a currently missing overarching peacebuilding framework on how to construct true and lasting world peace. Rendering it essential to the PACT would endow this important futuristic document genuine “new paradigm” relevance. So let the Culture of Peace (already conceived in the heart of humanity) become the foundation upon which our children and their children’s children can continue building the future civilization. Unleashing the knowledge of how to cultivate world peace this way will amplify desperately needed UN reform and transformation.

### **Chapter V: Transforming global governance:**

Article 5 of A/RES/43/243 states that “governments have an essential role in promoting and strengthening a culture of peace.” Per the UN New Agenda for Peace - Action #3 one recommendation is to *develop national prevention strategies to address the different drivers and enablers of violence and conflict in societies and strengthen national “infrastructures for peace.” Further that Member States seeking to establish or strengthen national “infrastructures for peace” should be able to access a tailor-made package of support and expertise. The pairing of these two guiding UN principles “Culture of Peace and Infrastructures for Peace” should be included in the PACT together as a futuristic step toward UN fulfillment of its peace mission. Culture of Peace declares the UN’s peace vision as normative and prescribes the roadmap of actions needed at all levels to actualize it. Governmental Infrastructures for Peace such as Departments and Ministries of Peace are the roadways or platforms of peace architecture that support essential peace actions like diplomacy to readily occur so peace can take root and grow. Together these two constructs give shape, form and substance to the capacity for peace by operationalizing and institutionalizing peacebuilding as the missing connective layer needed to sustain peace. Both principles are designed to prevent and reduce violence thus are mutually reinforcing. Integrated within the PACT, that synergistic impact of collaborative connection would facilitate significant UN reform and transformation.*

### **UN NGO Signatories:**

**Peace Through Unity:** Kate Smith, Director; Iris Spellings, UN NGO Representative; Anne Creter, UN NGO Alternate Representative

**Pathways to Peace:** Tezikiah Gabriel, Executive Director; David Wick, President

**The Good News Agency - Associazione Culturale dei Triangoli e della Buona Volontà Mondiale:** Georgina Galanis, UN NGO Representative

*“Love for peace is not enough. Beyond it we need a vision of peace, a science of peace, a strategy for peace and innumerable actions for peace.” Dr Robert Muller (former UN Assistant Secretary-General, Prophet of Hope and Philosopher of the UN)*