

**Contribution of the
Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation-AAPSO-
to the
Preparation of the Mid-Term Report on the
International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-
Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)
-(U N E S C O)-**

Responding to the question I.3 of your Questionnaire

[-"Which of the eighth areas of action listed on page 1 have been most important for your work and why do you consider them important?"]],

the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization- AAPSO- considers EDUCATION as the most important item which should deserve better and sustained attention.

Since "Education" presents itself as a common factor which, by virtue of its pedagogical nature and characteristics, can embrace all the eight areas of action contained in the "Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, namely :

- E 1.- Fostering a culture of peace through education
- D 2.- Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- U 3.- Promoting respect for human rights
- C 4.- Ensuring equality between women and men
- A 5.- Fostering democratic participation
- T 6.- Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- I 7.- Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- N 8.- Promoting international peace and security

each of these areas of action should thus be the subject of study, reflection and practical exercises in educational events.

The project presented below focusses on Youth and Children while it may be exclusive only to Children, as well as to all categories of people in any society in general (See Proposal below).

1.-Fostering a culture of peace through education

- Education for all in general and for Children in particular forms an appropriate framework to enhancing and fostering a Culture of Peace. The benefits resulting from Culture of Peace through Education will find their way in covering many fields of human activities, namely politics economics, social activities, business, entertainment, sport, etc..., giving the possibility

to reinforcing public awareness about the very meaning of Peace in the daily life of the society. Fostering a culture of peace through education requires from the educators real will and resources into programme implementation which will generate impact on skills, values and attitudes of those undergoing education process.

2.- Promoting sustainable economic and social development

- In any forum or meeting organized by Youth and Children (preferably at their initiative and sponsored by government or any highly responsible body), Sustainable Economic and Social Development should be thoroughly discussed, focusing on the importance of the people participation (including Youth and Children) in the development process of their country, attaining a successful result of which would be impossible without an atmosphere of peace, security and stability. Sustainable economic and social development should go simultaneously with sustainable policy of culture of peace. Learning peace should be understood as building a future of progress and prosperity.

3.- Promoting respect for human rights

- Youth and Children should be educated about the concept of indivisibility of Human Rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights) as well as about the provisions enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since they are in many occasions subjected to, and victims of abuses, exploitation, trafficking, ill-treatment, violence, wars and many sorts of conflicts. Education of Youth and Children should give priority to the respect of these rights as a fundament of culture of peace.

4.- Ensuring equality between women and men

- It should be inculcated to the Youth and Children that Men and Women should equally share the responsibility of caring for their children, to be equally beneficiary of social and economic advantages which would create an atmosphere of peace and security within families and communities as well for children. Sustained education (including culture of peace and gender issue) should be regularly conducted in this respect.

5.- Fostering democratic participation

- Educational formation for Youth and Children should give priority to the active participation of all categories of population including Youth and Children in the process of taking part in the development of every country (participatory democracy), in the battle against poverty, illiteracy, diseases, famine. Peaceful conduct of this battle is likely to produce expected positive result. Wars, conflicts and other confrontations divert resources for security reasons.

6.- Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity.

- Youth and Children should be educated about Tolerance and Solidarity which are important factors of Culture of Peace. It should be stressed to them that intolerance may lead to create insecurity and instability, situation conducive to violence and confrontations.

7.- Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

- Youth and Children should be taught that they are able physically, mentally and intellectually to use their energy, their buoyant and fertile imagination in the process of participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge, which in turn, would generate mutual understanding and confidence-building likely to create peaceful atmosphere.

8.- Promoting international peace and security

- Emboldened by the previous seminars mentioned above, which they should have organized and in which they should have taken part, Youth and Children have the ability and the capacity in Promoting international Peace and Security among people worldwide. Peace and Security are among the factors relevant to the matters related to the eight areas of action. It would be useful in this respect to urge Youth and Children to thoroughly study objectives and activities of other institutional bodies dealing with Peace., mainly the United Nations' ones.

PROPOSAL:

In light of all the above, the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation would wish to propose the following:

o To call on government of every country to organize every year (or twice a year) a **"Month of Education"** for Youth and Children in a practical event as workshop, seminar, training for their formation and information, and based on, and dedicated to the eight (8) areas of action.

o To conduct project of sustained didactical nature, by including the eight areas of actions into the programmes of schools, colleges, or universities.

o Reinforcement of their information and knowledge by means of seminars or workshops would be conducted. It should be underlined in this connection that Youth's and Children's consciousness is sought to be highly receptive with regard the practical exercises related to those eight areas of action. Other activities supportive to these matters should be encouraged.

o Special attention should be given to education of people in countries in the situation of wars, conflicts and post-conflicts. Obviously, this will require tremendous efforts and action aiming at addressing the necessity to shifting such a situation to be favorable to peace. Tackling the issue of disarmament, demobilisation and re-integration (re-insertion) into the society is crucial in this respect.

Moreover, this also would represent a greater opportunity to educate Children about the global concerns of child enrollment as soldiers, a situation which has a severe impact on their health, consciousness, behavior, mentality as well as their future. The organisation of seminar or other important gatherings for this purpose is highly recommended.

In CONCLUSION, one can say that EDUCATION serves as a means to narrow the socio-economic gap between peoples and between countries. It is instrumental in alleviating poverty; in generating opportunities of health care, of creating jobs, of enriching knowledge and skills.