

Questionnaire on the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

**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)**

Contact Information

Please provide all necessary contact information for your Organization :

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Information requested

General guidelines

1. The questions are open-ended, thus allowing you to tackle the issues that you consider most important.
2. Your responses should address both successes and problems so that UNESCO, its Member States, and the UN System as such can learn from your experiences.

I

ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION WITH REGARD TO PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE

1. Please describe briefly the activities launched by your organization with a view to putting into practice the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace since the beginning of the International Decade (2001). You may find it helpful to comment on the following aspects:

o **Objectives:**

The Italian Federation has accomplished number of initiatives, following the guidelines proposed by UNESCO. When the programme was launched by UNESCO, I immediately decided, in my quality of President of the Italian Federation, to propose to all the Italian Clubs and Centres a “common work” on this subject As a matter of fact, I was immediately convinced of the great importance of this programme and I was not wrong: the proposal found an enthusiastic answer from almost all the Clubs and Centres member of the Federation (nowadays these are more than 100 , working in their local territories as interpreters of UNESCO ideals).

o **Beneficiaries**

Through the several initiatives organized by the Italian UNESCO Clubs and Centres, we have reached thousand of persons in each town involved: young people and adults, pupils and teachers and all the people interested in this subject .

o **Location of activities**

The programme and the different initiatives took place in the different towns or villages where the Clubs and Centres are active. Located often in official governmental buildings, or in conference rooms, schools and in the Clubs and Centres headquarters, anyway it is important to note that the following main projects have found different locations in order to make possible the best realization:

- special results were obtained by the project “Reading to build Peace”, which was promoted and organised by the UNESCO Centre in Florence , containing a translation into Italian of the leaflet “Manifesto 2000 – for a culture of peace and non-violence”, which had been diffused by the majority of the Clubs, asking all the people to sign it during public debates and through internet points. Thousand of signatures have been collected and sent to UNESCO – Culture of peace . A special translation into

Italian was made by the students of the Liceo Machiavelli-Capponi and Liceo Michelangelo in Florence (to cite only the more active participants).

These projects are in the framework of the Programme "Reading to build peace", addressed to young people in various countries, Italy, Tunisia, Morocco, Croatia, Spain, Slovenia using both books and new technologies, which is still on progress. The project is going on with the objective to prepare a database open to the contribution of the different states participating. We did a lot in order to take part in the project, which requires in our opinion a very important commitment in education of technology.

- In this framework we have also proposed the programme "Monuments and sites for a culture of peace", about which you will find enclosed a special report, which has represented a basic contribution in the education to peace, launched by UNESCO, inviting all the Clubs and the citizens to indicate which monuments could be considered as symbols for a culture of peace. In my quality as president I considered this project a very valid one, therefore I presented the programme to all the Italian Clubs inviting them to indicate the monument in their town they consider the most relevant in this regard. The proposal had to be accompanied by the motivation and signatures of people proposing this mention. UNESCO was also asking a project for the future, the Clubs appreciated immediately the proposal and sent their motivations as requested (you will find enclosed all the documentation). The motivations enclosed are an important proof of this commitment of UNESCO). As you know I have already sent to you from time to time all the documentations and motivations in order to be inserted in your database, but I think it will be useful to send you again the list.

o Resources

This is a very delicate point, as resources are very limited. Therefore the voluntary work of every Club and Centre has always been the fundamental resource for the activities. All the Clubs did their best in order to collect local funds.

o Results

We are proud to underline that the results of the projects have been excellent. Regarding the Manifesto initiative, we have received thousand of answers and adherences. We have presented the proposal of UNESCO and the results of the activities in the Bulletin of the Italian Federation of UNESCO Clubs (I enclose a copy), and we have distributed the leaflet "Heritage for a culture of peace" during the national assemblies.

2. What were the key difficulties encountered in your organization's activities for a culture of peace?

As already said the key difficulties come from the modest resources at our disposal, added to the difficulties in some cases to find strong partners.

In addition to that, considering the field of technology education as a pillar element in our activities, we need adequate resources to reach our objectives.

3. Which of the eight areas of action listed on page 1 have been most important for your work and why do you consider them important?

The areas which have been mostly important for our work are as follows:

- fostering a culture of peace through education
- promoting respect for all human rights
- advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge

II

GENERAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE

4. Have you seen any progress towards a culture of peace (and its eight action areas) during the first five years of the International Decade (2001-2005)?

Taking into consideration all the activities organised by the UNESCO Clubs and Centres we can surely say that we have obtained visible and durable progresses, and that thousand of persons have been reached by the message of UNESCO and have been thus able to understand the importance of engagement for a culture of peace.

5. What do you consider to be the major obstacles for the promotion of a culture of peace and

non-violence?

Surely the lack of information and a right education are the major obstacles to reach such an aim, since UNESCO says that it is in the spirit of man that peace starts.

6. Have you been able to develop any ways of measuring medium- or long-term progress as a result of your activities? If so, please specify.

All the Clubs and Centres have been asked to send reports and all the documentations (photos ..) concerning the activities organised: through this reports we can say that the medium-term progresses have been reached and we hope to reach the long-term ones in the same way.

Therefore this programme will go on with special attention to the international exchanges between young people, and also trying to get a connection with the solidarity Programme of the UNESCO.

III

PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

7. To a great extent, the creation of a culture of peace depends on the development of partnerships and cooperation among various actors. Have you created such partnerships in the process of working for a culture of peace? If so, please describe.

The main bodies with which we have a strong and continuous cooperation are surely the UNESCO Commission and the Italian National Commission. Moreover, being active through the Clubs and Centres in several towns, we started successful cooperation with the governmental public bodies.

8. Are you aware of UNESCO's website on the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (www.unesco.org/cp)? To what extent are its resources and tools (calendar of events, project database) useful for your organization?

Of course we are aware of its importance and it has always been a fundamental resource for our activities (see the project "Reading to Build Peace"), but it is surely a mean that not everybody until now is in condition to utilize: therefore we must train young people in new technologies education.

IV

COMMITMENT TOWARDS NEW INITIATIVES AND NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE

9. Please list the new projects planned by your organization to promote a culture of peace in the next five years.

We envisage to continue the path we have been following until now, above all in the field of education addressed to young people on the theme of peace and of methodologies and approaches to achieve it, with the project "Reading to Build Peace".

I had already the opportunity to discuss about this programme with the Italian National Commission and to the Tunis Club: we would like to enlarge this project to Maghreb countries (Tunisia, Libia) and Croatia. After having consulted our partners in Florence and other Italian Clubs, we intend to give space to new programmes concerning nature.

10. Do you think there are any priority domains amongst the areas defined in the Programme of Action? If so, please specify.

Surely the domain of fostering a culture of peace through education.

11. Please describe briefly how you envisage the approaches to a culture of peace and the promotion thereof over the next five years.

The main goal remains education, as it is through it that we can reach reach the objectives we proposed.