

Questionnaire on the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, addressed to NGOs maintaining official relations with UNESCO:

**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)**

1. Background

At its 53rd session in 1998, the United Nations General Assembly (resolution A/53/25) proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World”, following on from the year 2000 as the “International Year for a Culture of Peace”.

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (resolution A/53/243), defining eight areas of action for the construction of a culture of peace and non-violence. The eight action areas are:

- Fostering a culture of peace through education
- Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- Promoting respect for all human rights
- Ensuring equality between women and men
- Fostering democratic participation
- Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- Promoting international peace and security

The complete text of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace is available at : <http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/kits/53243A.pdf>

In 2001, the Executive Board of UNESCO invited the Organization’s Member States and all partners of UNESCO to continue and deepen their commitment to a culture of peace in the framework of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (document 161 EX/3.6.1). In the same year, the annual NGO conference at UNESCO headquarters adopted its own action plan for the International Decade. It can be accessed online via the following link: http://www3.unesco.org/iycp/kits/uk_reso_ong.pdf

2. Objectives

The present survey has the following aims:

- To gather information on implemented projects or projects in progress, and to find out about the difficulties encountered and the overall conclusions drawn by non-governmental organizations maintaining official relations with UNESCO;
- To integrate the NGO contributions into the mid-term report which UNESCO will submit to the UN General Assembly in its capacity as lead agency for the International Decade;
- To identify main areas of action and to receive input regarding the direction of activities undertaken in the second part of the International Decade.

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
 - o Beneficiaries
 - o Location of activities
 - o Resources
 - o Results

For an overview of activities, see document CPY.06.E.05

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

The main difficulty is the lack of financial resources. To be able to set up broad programmes that encompass the different elements of the areas of action in a coherent way requires time and money.

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?

In order of importance:

- o Promoting international peace and security
- o Promoting respect for all human rights
- o Fostering a culture of peace through education
- o Ensuring equality between women and men
- o Advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity
- o Promoting sustainable economic and social development
- o Supporting participatory communication and the free flow of information and knowledge
- o Fostering democratic participation

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)?

The decade surely contributed to raising the awareness of the necessity of promoting a culture of peace. Many organisations, which were working on one or more of the action areas, found a framework to logically link up their activities, or to link up with organisations dealing with other action areas. In the past, the different areas of action were approached separately, with almost no crosscutting activities. This has changed, and the challenges emerging from situations of conflict are now more dealt with in an integrated approach: security, human rights, social development, gender equality are now seen as parts of a broader policy, not as separate entities. Other organisations have added the promotion of a culture of peace their work plan. Furthermore, a wide range of educational materials dealing with a culture of peace has been published, often in multiple languages. This is important in order to reach a wide audience.

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

1. Lack of adequate funding for creative and innovative projects
2. Increasing levels of intolerance, lack of dialogue
3. Difficulty to find new ways to overcome (sometimes centuries old) stereotypes
4. Promotion of 'gun-culture' in some countries

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.

Yes, through evaluation meetings following the projects and programmes we can monitor the results of, and progress made in, the projects and programmes we are engaged in.

We are well aware that working towards a culture of peace is a long-term work, of which the results will be visible only in the years to come. For instance, changing attitudes of schoolchildren is time consuming, but when successful influences their thinking and acting for the rest of their life. It is clear that measuring such progress cannot be done immediately at the end of a project, or independent from measuring the impact of other projects in the same region.

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.

Pax Christi International is linked with different international NGO networks and coalitions, most of which are focused on the promotion of a culture of peace within their respective focus, including topics related to security, peace building and human rights.

These partnerships have not necessarily been created in the framework of the decade, but contribute to achieving the decade's aims and objectives.

Moreover, on a national level almost all of our 80 Member Organisations in over 40 countries worldwide are actively involved in partnerships with other civil society organisations and faith based groups. These partnerships are being created based on specific needs. Some of them have existed long before the decade, and will continue to exist after the decade ends.

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?

We are well aware of this website. It provides us with useful background information on the projects and activities done by different organisations. It also serves as a good starting point for our Member Organisations, or individuals involved in our Member Organisations, to learn more about the decade.

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 will continue to promote a culture of peace in different activities, which will be built upon and continue the work done in the first five years of the decade, as described in document CPY.06.E.05.

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

No, the domains are all important.

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