

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE (The Manila Forum)

26-30 November 1995 Manila, Philippines

RECOMMENDATIONS

We, the participants of the Second International Forum on the Culture of Peace (The Manila Forum), through the sharing of local and national experiences, affirm the following basic principles that should guide the transformation from a Culture of War and Violence to a Culture of Peace and Transformation. These principles should permeate the component processes of peace-building, including healing and reconciliation, continuing management, resolution and transformation of conflict, governance and empowerment, development and economic rehabilitation, and enculturation for peace.

- * Peace is a holistic concept. It is not merely the absence of war but the practice of building a just, equitable, compassionate, multicultural, pluralistic and sustainable society.
 - * Building a Culture of Peace requires the enactment and implementation of societal, international and global reforms that meaningfully and democratically address the root causes of conflict.
 - * A Culture of Peace must be underpinned by values, knowledge and practices of environmental care and ecological sustainability.
 - * A Culture of Peace is sustained by a process that is evolving, participative, reflective, critical, and dynamic.
 - * The peace process must seek a principled and nonviolent resolution of armed and all other forms of conflict based on reconciliation, justice, and dignity for all.
 - * The peace process must be community-based, reflecting the sentiments, values, and principles important to all sectors of society. It must therefore be built on dialogue, negotiations, consensus-building, and cooperation among government and civil society.
 - * The Culture of Peace seeks to prevent social exclusion. It thus involves governmental accountability and the empowerment of social sectors, particularly the poor and the marginalized, so that they may fully participate in defining, designing, and implementing all aspects of peace-building. It thus also means that a strong civil society will ensure authentic participation in and monitoring of the process.
 - * The transformation towards a Culture of Peace requires parallel and complementary development of values, knowledge, and skills at both the individual and institutional or structural levels.
- . It must also draw on the inherent strengths of local and indigenous knowledge, beliefs, and practices for building and sustaining peaceful and just societies. In particular, the expertise, perspectives and rights of women and indigenous peoples* must be recognized and integrated in peace-building.
- . Building and nurturing a Culture of Peace is enhanced by the infusion of spiritual, moral and ethical values in all aspects of individual, national, international and global conduct and relationships.
- . It thus also requires solidarity among all peoples, ethnocultural communities, states, international organizations and all other actors in civil society to address and overcome common problems and obstacles to peace-building. Global and local problems of violence and conflict are so intertwined that their resolution calls for a mutual sharing of resources and strategies.

We therefore call on UNESCO, other Inter-Governmental Organizations, Governments and Non-Governmental Organizations to consider and implement the following recommendations:

1. Support and extend the many existing programmes and activities that are already building a Culture of Peace around the world.

In education:

2. Incorporate peace education at all levels of the formal school system, reinforced by non-formal and informal activities in the society at large.

3. In collaboration with local educators, develop appropriate curricula infused with values, knowledge and skills needed for building a peaceful, just and compassionate society.

4. Design and implement courses and workshops on peace, human rights and democracy education for teachers at all levels, civil servants, security and defense forces, other professionals, parents and government leaders. The courses and workshops should be implemented during both pre-service training and in-service professional development.

5. Prepare and disseminate modules appropriate for enculturation for peace. The design of the modules should be culturally and gender sensitive and involve local inputs drawing especially from expertise in all sectors of civil society. The modules should also integrate peaceful pedagogies and methodologies.

6. As the first step in a long-term programme to address rising violence among youth, pilot projects should be established in a number of schools in communities confronted with violence in different parts of the world employing innovative educational practices, mediation and conflict resolution training.

In communication and culture

7. Conduct campaigns to discourage excessive violence in the media and to discourage the production, sale and purchase of war toys as well as other commercial products which have no other redeeming value and which promote violence, especially among children and youth.

8. Provide training for media owners and media practitioners to encourage the mass media to promote the values of peace, nonviolence, justice and human rights in news reportage, television and film production, books, magazines and other forms of communication.

9. Encourage public celebrations of peace, making use of various forms of artistic expression.

In Conflict Transformation

10. Support the study of sources of conflict, including those associated with ethno-national and religious fundamentalism, scarcity of resources, and degradation of the environment, among others:

11. In order to "arrest the growing culture of violence" associated with drugs, undertake stronger and more coordinated international actions to eradicate drug addiction and stop all drug trafficking.

12. Provide training and capacity-building in conflict management, consultation and consensus-building to enable local governments, non-government organizations and people's organizations to lead their communities in peace-building.

13. Document cases of successful community-based peace efforts as possible models for other areas and facilitate the exchange of experience of peace-builders from different parts of the world.

14. Support the establishment of local and regional centers and mechanisms for capacity-building in conflict-mediation.

15. Study the truth commissions that have been established in the course of implementing national peace accords which provide valuable lessons on the process of healing and reconciliation. Their experiences can be used for further development and use of such institutions.

16. Implement programs which provide the opportunities for former combatants to be active citizens and promoters of peace in civil society, based on principles of justice and respect for human rights.

17. Incorporate in action-oriented research projects the review and exchange of experiences made in the transition from violent conflict to reconciliation with the constructive application of fundamental aspects of human rights. These include the re-establishment of the cultural identity of populations who have suffered from conflict, the provision of personal documentation and access (or the right to) property.

18. Promote the principles and norms of international humanitarian law and develop mechanisms for its supervision and effective compliance, particularly in internal armed conflicts, as a way of diminishing the suffering of non-combatants and building trust between conflicting parties as the base for a lasting peace.

19. Support the establishment of Peace Commissions to draw Government directly into peace-building, and facilitate exchange and sharing between such existing bodies.

20. Facilitate comparative participatory action research on local models of democracy and share the findings broadly.

In development

21. Consider the development of programs to enhance the capacities of indigenous peoples to articulate and defend their development priorities through:

a. collective recovery and documentation of traditional knowledge and practice in governance and natural resources development;

b. promotion of policy dialogues between governments and indigenous peoples, and

c. improvement of indigenous capacity to deal with external development inputs or incentives, including equipping them with skills and abilities to negotiate with private and public service institutions.

22. A dialogue should be promoted between development agencies and aid recipients concerning the paradigm of development, so that aid does not enflame conflicts, but contributes to long-term peacebuilding benefiting all citizens.

23. Strongly encourage regional cooperation among UNESCO national commissions to facilitate cooperation in education, culture, communication, science and technology towards building a sustainable Culture of Peace so that development outcomes would promote and ensure regional social integration.

In general

24. Support the dismantling of the arms trade and the production and testing of weapons of mass destruction as an essential part of the transformation towards a Culture of Peace.

25. Establish an international communication network or join existing networks which will serve as a venue to exchange experiences towards building a Culture of Peace.

26. Conduct evaluation of national Culture of Peace programmes and other programmes with a similar orientation through ongoing, participatory "process documentation" so that lessons can be learned along the way, rather than waiting until they are completed and assessing a final "product".

27. Develop a consensus and coordinate efforts in all national and international bodies to give the highest priority to peace-building activities, including a Culture of Peace.

28. New sources of funds should be sought to finance peace-building, including the possibility of a transaction tax on global finance capital.

29. Hold follow-up fora on a regular basis in different regions to continue the process of exchange and reflection that was begun in San Salvador and further developed in Manila, so that the transformation processes and concrete action programs of the Culture of Peace can be broadened and deepened with the participation of Governments, intergovernmental organizations, experts working in the field, and non-governmental organizations.

