

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE**  
**San Salvador, February 16-18, 1994**

**XI. GENERAL CONCLUSIONS**

The Forum's presentations and debates offered a wide range of suggestions for reasonable directions for a culture of peace. These, together with the many papers presented, yielded a number of valuable conclusions.

(a) The objective of a culture of peace is to ensure that the conflicts inherent in human relationships be resolved non-violently, based on the traditional values of peace, including justice, freedom, equity, solidarity, tolerance and respect for human dignity.

(b) Peace and human rights are indivisible and concern everyone. A guiding principle of peace is that human rights must be respected and guaranteed --not only civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights.

(c) The construction of a culture of peace is a multi-dimensional task, requiring the participation of people at all levels --in their relations with each other and with the environment and at community, national, regional and international levels.

(d) A culture of peace should contribute to the strengthening of democratic processes, taking into account political pluralism, active participation of the civil society, in which people take part in the decisions which affect their lives and the promotion of human dignity.

(e) The implementation of a culture of peace requires a thorough mobilization of all means of education and communication: both formal and non-formal. All people should be educated in the basic values of a culture of peace. This must be a joint effort, including every single person in the society.

(f) A culture of peace requires the learning and use of new techniques for the peaceful management and resolution of conflicts. People must learn how to face conflicts without resorting to violence or domination and within a framework of mutual respect and permanent dialogue.

(g) A culture of peace should be elaborated within the process of sustainable, endogenous, equitable human development and cannot be imposed from the outside. It must be seen as a national process which depends on the country's history, culture and traditions and must be reflected in concrete, daily action. Peace, democracy and development are linked such that no one of them can be sustained without the others.

(h) UNESCO's decision to initiate an Action Programme to Promote a Culture of Peace is timely in the present international context. Its strength derives from its respect for the national and cultural characteristics of the country. Its guiding principles allow it to involve an extensive network of governmental and non-governmental organizations, from all sides of the political and social spectrum. The programme in El Salvador is an inspiration to other countries who seek to prevent violence or consolidate peace.

(i) The realization of a culture of peace will, require the full support of the international community at all levels --social, political and economic. As we enter the 21st century, it is important to ensure that the world's resources are invested in a culture of peace rather than a culture of war .