

November/December 2006 Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace

Dear Friends,

This year's youth team at the United Nations was again very successful, as described in their brief report attached below. They personally put copies of last year's Civil Society Report and this year's Youth Report into the hands of diplomats from 67 countries. A more extensive report will be put on line on the Decade site in the next month or so (<http://decade-culture-of-peace.org>).

The Youth Report on a culture of peace that was completed this year and put on line on the Decade site as noted in our previous Bulletin was cited as follows in the report to the United Nations by the Alliance of Civilizations at their press conference in Istanbul November 13. Unfortunately the full report was not included as an annex.

"A Global Youth Alliance should be established as a mechanism through which youth can contribute to the implementation of all of the recommendations set forth in this report (not just those under the 'youth' theme). Supported by a Global Youth Solidarity Fund, this initiative could begin with the convening and mobilization of various youth networks and associations to promote dialogue, alliance and a culture of peace. These organizations have already begun working together to organize meetings that would provide the opportunity for young people of diverse backgrounds to set an agenda for action which they can then present to global leaders to win their support and assistance. In addition, a survey has been conducted identifying 468 youth organizations from 125 countries that could be engaged as implementing partners".

The next step in implementation of the fund will depend on a new "High Representative" for the Alliance initiative. At a press conference at UN headquarters on December 18, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, Prime Minister of Spain, announced that a High Representative would be named in one month to move forward with the practical steps.

Meanwhile, the culture of peace advances at other levels.

*** At the meetings of the UNESCO Executive Board in October, a resolution was adopted that returns culture of peace as a priority in UNESCO's Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013. I can send the full copy of the resolution to you if you wish.**

*** On November 23, the Federal Assembly of Brazil created a Federal Parliamentary Culture of Peace Council - a permanent, deliberative body of the legislative branch.**

*** On December 10, the Presidents of South America, meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia, adopted a declaration of unity based on the culture of peace. Quoting from the account in Prensa Latina on the Internet (<http://www.plenglish.com/>) : "The Cochabamba pronouncement states that such South American unification is not only necessary to solve large scourges affecting the region, like poverty, exclusion and persistent social inequality, but also it is a decisive step to achieve an uni-polar, balanced, fair world, based on a peace culture" [in the original Spanish, the phrase is cultura de paz].**

Peace,

David Adams

A YOUTH CHALLENGE TO THE IMMOVABLE REPUTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Convinced that it was within the capacity of the member states of the United Nations and its various organs to strengthen efforts to create a Culture of Peace, in October 2006 twelve youth descended upon the headquarters of the United Nations in New York. We were filled with determination to challenge the seemingly immovable bureaucratic institution to further its commitments to creating a Culture of Peace.

In the first week, we had to overcome several obstacles. There were no funds to support our activities, and the unconventional approach to the mobilization of change was met with resistance. Nevertheless, we found creative ways to skirt the difficulties we faced. Working out of the basement of the UN we took advantage of free wireless internet and telephone booths outside the Committee Rooms in order to arrange meetings with the delegates of the Member States. Meanwhile, for those countries that we could not make appointments to see, we strategically positioned ourselves outside the committee rooms, pouncing upon the representatives for discussion as they made their way out of the meetings.

In the second week, the tides turned. We found ourselves suddenly snowballed with appointments, and we were the ones with whom meetings were sought. Juggling the back-to-back meetings, we lobbied representatives from 67 Permanent Missions, and in many cases we met the Ambassadors themselves. Representatives from several organs of the UN were also met, and advice was received on how the implementation of our proposals could best be achieved.

In two weeks, we moved the United Nations several steps closer towards their vision of a Culture of Peace:

*** The inclusion of the Culture of Peace within the mandate of Peacebuilding Commission, at our proposal, was received and included as an amendment in this year's resolution on the Culture of Peace (A/Res/61/45).**

*** Recognising our efforts to mobilize a change, the Ambassador of Bangladesh, in the General Assembly, said "particular mention ... must be made of the young foot-soldiers of Fundacion Cultura de Paz" .**

*** The number of co-sponsors to this year's resolution increased from 108 to 114.**

*** The Global Youth Report on the Culture of Peace was included in the high-level report of the Alliance of Civilizations, and "as a decisive contribution to the Culture of Peace", the creation Global Youth Alliance is now the first recommendation of the Alliance in its activities in relation to youth .**

*** The efforts of our team were noted by the Media Alert and several official press releases of the United Nations.**

For more information, please email: advocacy@unoy.org, or mail@decade-culture-of-peace.org

September/October 2006 Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace

Dear Friends,

Thanks to the very hard work of a youth team that gathered in July at UNOY in the Hague, Netherlands, the youth report on a culture of peace has been completed in the record time of two months. It is based on responses from 475 youth-led and youth-serving organizations in 125 countries.

Asked to visualize the activities and projects they would like to undertake to promote a culture of peace if funds were available to them, youth present a wealth of ideas, along with important observations regarding the current lack of funding and other forms of support to youth organizations. Based on their ideas and observations, the report proposes the development of a Global Youth Solidarity Fund and Programme.

For a full copy of the report, see the website of the the Decade, <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org> .

The Youth Report, along with last year's World Civil Society Report, will be personally given to UN ambassadors by the 2006 Youth Advocacy Team during the weeks of October 9-20. We are hoping that it will be as successful as the 2005 Youth Advocacy Team whose report remains available on the website at <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/youth.html> .

Peace,

David Adams

mail@decade-culture-of-peace.org

July/August 2006 Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace

Dear Friends,

As a follow-up to last year's World Report, I am working on behalf of the Fundacion Cultura de Paz with the Youth Advocacy Team to conduct a survey of youth organizations. We want your suggestions for United Nations support to youth for a culture of peace. The work is being done in collaboration with the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and UNOY (The United Network of Young Peacebuilders). Results of the survey will be used for a proposal to be included in this year's UN resolution for a culture of peace.

Youth organizations are defined according to UNESCO's criteria as organizations that are youth-led or primarily youth-serving. If your organization meets these criteria, please answer the questionnaire below and send your response back to us by e-mail to mail@decade-culture-of-peace.org.

Please try to respond before August 1, because the proposal must be prepared before September 1.

If you know other youth organizations, please pass on this questionnaire to them and ask them to respond to us also, as long as they work for one or more of the following programme areas of the culture of peace

- * Education for a culture of peace**
- * Human rights**
- * Sustainable development**
- * Democratic participation**
- * Equality of women and men**
- * International understanding, tolerance and solidarity**
- * Free flow of information**
- * International peace and security**

We prefer to receive responses from organizations, but responses from individual members of youth organizations are also helpful and will be included.

Peace,

David Adams

QUESTIONNAIRE

Firstly) Is your organization youth-led or primarily youth-serving? Please

explain briefly

1. INDIVIDUAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

a) If funds were available, what youth activities related to a culture of peace (CoP) would you like to do as an individual?

b) What non-financial support would you need to do these activities?

c) If funds were available, what youth activities related to a CoP would your organization like to do?

d) What non-financial support would your organization need to do these activities?

2. SUPPORT FROM GOVERNMENT AND THE UN

a) What changes in youth policies do you think the government/leadership in your country should make to promote a CoP?

b) What CoP youth activities do you think the UN should carry out?

3. Do you have any suggestions or recommendations for improving youth participation in CoP activities on any level (UN, government, civil society)?

4. What could be done to improve/ensure transparency and flow of information in promoting the CoP?

5. To ensure the best possible benefit of a UN Voluntary Fund for youth on the CoP, how should it be managed/administered?

6. How can youth not yet involved in CoP activities be reached and motivated to get involved?

7. a) Which other organizations do you know of, that work for a CoP?

b) Would you be willing to contact them or may we contact them with the questionnaire? Please specify.

8. My response to this questionnaire is my personal opinion ? ___ / organization's opinion ? ___

May/June 2006 Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace

Dear Friends,

The Youth Advocacy Teams for a Culture of Peace continues their excellent work. Two members of the team, Gert Danielsen and Celina Del Felice, will present their work at the meetings of the International Peace Research Association in Calgary (Canada) in June. Also Hilary Jeune and UNOY have developed a project proposal for funding to advocate national youth policies that promote a culture of peace. The strategy of the Youth Advocacy Teams may be found under the title "role of youth" on the strategy part of our website (<http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/strategy/cgi-bin/ib5/ikonboard.cgi>).

June 2-4 at the Salon des Initiatives de la Paix June 2-4 in Paris I will be working with other members of the Youth Advocacy Teams to make known the World Report on the Culture of Peace and to distribute a flyer about it. The flyer will also be distributed to participants at the upcoming World Peace Forum in Vancouver, Canada, in June.

No doubt you have noticed that the website for the World Report on the Culture of Peace (<http://decade-culture-of-peace.org>) is now complete in French and Spanish as well as English.

The World Report on the Culture of Peace has been published in book form thanks to a grant from the government of Catalonia to the Fundaci n Cultural de Paz. I have mailed out the Spanish version to all who contributed to the Report (please inform me if you are hispanophone and have not received it). The French and Portuguese versions are still being printed. The English version has been mailed to English-speaking participants in most of the world, but a second printing is awaited before copies are mailed to participants in Europe and North America.

As you can see from the part of our website for published news articles, there is still very little attention by the mass media to the culture of peace, especially from newspapers and television. Most of the stories listed are only from internet news services. Below is a list of the media coverage listed so far. If you know of others, please inform us.

Peace,

David Adams

mail@decade-culture-of-peace.org

International

2005 Signis World Congress addresses Culture of Peace (from website of Catholic Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur)

Nurturing A Culture Of Peace: AN INTERVIEW WITH FEDERICO MAYOR (from website of Good News Agency)

Africa

Obasanjo Calls for Peace, Unity - Third International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (Times of Zambia)

Africa Challenged - Third International Institute for Peace Through Tourism (Zambia Daily Mail)

Asia

Dialogue urged to promote true image of Islam in workshop on "Peace through cultures of peace" - (DAWN - Pakistan newspaper)

International workshop on "Peace through cultures of peace" (Pakistan Observer)

Pattaya declared a 'City of Peace': As legacy of 3rd Global Summit on Peace through Tourism (Pattaya Mail - Thailand)

Symposium for a Culture of Peace Organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (Sangsaeng, magazine of Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding, Seoul, Korea)

Europe

La Décennie de la paix - mi-parcours (Non-violence Actualité, France)

Ley de Fomento de la Educacion y la Cultura de la Paz (Europa Press, Spain)

Wide-spread support for a culture of peace (Svenska Dagbladet, Sweden)

Latin America

Independencia: Integracion del Nuevo Cuyo (Nueva Rioja digital, Argentina)

Además, usted puede sumarse a esta iniciativa de la sección Campañas (risolidaria, solidaridad en internet, Argentina)

Cultura de Paz en Guatemala (Prensa Libre, Guatemala)

North America

They had to listen! Lobbying for a culture of peace at the UN (CPNN internet news network, USA)

We have received no mass media reports on the culture of peace from the Arab States or Australia.

February/March Bulletin of World Report on the Culture of Peace

Dear Friends,

The members of the Youth Advocacy Team that presented your report to the United Nations in October (see <http://decade-culture-of-peace.org/youth.html>) have continued their fine work. Here is a review of their recent activities as compiled by UNOY Peacebuilders, based in The Hague, Netherlands.

POSSIBLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA: Josefina Lofgren, David Adams and Alicia Cabezudo met with Ismail Serageldin, the Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt, and they found common ground between the current civil society initiative for the culture of peace and the objectives of the Bibliotheca. A Memorandum of Understanding was drafted as a result which would create a partnership between the Peace Studies Institute of the Bibliotheca, The Women's International Peace Movement led by the wife of the Egyptian president, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, and the Fundacion Cultura de Paz. A special paragraph in the draft Memorandum of Understanding emphasizes the importance of involving youth and women in Culture of Peace projects and processes. Hopefully, it will be completed and cooperation will begin by the time of the next bulletin.

EARTH CHARTER: On 5-9 November 2005, the Earth Charter +5 Summit took place in Amsterdam. Thematic sessions explored the application of the Earth Charter in peace-making, inter-faith dialogue, business, education, local governments, in international law, with one special thematic session on the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. Anika May and Hilary Jeune of the Youth Advocacy Team were a rapporteur and speaker, respectively in the latter session, along with Federico Mayor, former UNESCO Director-General and now President of the Fundaci n Cultura de Paz. A number of other prominent international leaders participated in the meeting including primatologist, Jane Goodall; Jordan's Princess Basma Bint Talal; Ruud Lubbers, former Prime Minister of The Netherlands. For more information visit: <http://www.earthcharter.org> .

AFRICAN STUDENTS CONFERENCE AND A CULTURE OF PEACE: On 19 November 2005 a one day follow up event from the 7th annual African Students Conference was organised by the African Student Committee of the Netherlands and UNOY Peacebuilders. The aim of the conference was to raise awareness of a Culture of Peace and to reinforce the potential of African students to become peace promoters in their home countries.

SPREADING THE MESSAGE OF A CULTURE OF PEACE BY THE YOUTH ADVOCACY TEAM: In November Josefina Lofgren, Alicia Cabezudo and David Adams attended a conference in Alexandria, organized by the Swedish NGO Life-Link Friendship-Schools, in which presentations and workshops on the Culture of Peace, advocacy and participatory peace education were given.

In December, Hilary Jeune (UNOY Peacebuilders) and Henk Zandvliet (NEAG - Alternatives to Violence) organized a workshop on the Culture of Peace at the "Celebrating Non-Violent Resistance Conference" in Bethlehem, Palestine. The conference was organized by Holy Land Trust and Non-Violence International.

In January Gert Danielsen (Rotary World Peace Fellow) spoke as a panellist at the One World Forum at the University of Warwick, on the issue of corruption. In his talk,

Danielsen argued that corruption simultaneously is the cause and result of the culture of war, accepted behaviours which work against the culture of peace. By promoting a culture of peace, especially through transparency, openness, sustainable development and democracy, one will also reduce corruption, he explained. Danielsen also gave a workshop on Building a Culture of Peace at the One World Forum, the largest student organised conference in the world. For more information, see: <http://www.oneworldweek.net/web/?templateID=67&eventid=1>

Meanwhile Anika May of UNOY Peacebuilders has been spreading the Culture of Peace by lectures and presentations to students at Makerere University, Uganda. Anika has also been sharing with the community the activities of the Youth Advocacy Team at the United Nations in 2005 to show how the youth have, and can, play a role in bringing about a Culture of Peace.

After the excellent results of the Youth Advocacy Team in New York during October 2005, new advocacy projects are being prepared. In 2006, a youth advocacy team coordinated by the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (UNOY) plans to visit again country missions to the United Nations in New York, the European Union in Brussels, and Embassies in The Hague and other cities. If you would like to take part, please contact: Hilary Jeune, hilary.jeune@unoy.org

We invite you to share with us your plans and ideas to advance the Culture of Peace in 2006. As you know from the previous bulletin, we have opened new Internet Information Boards for published articles on the culture of peace and for discussion of strategy for the Decade, and we will continue to send out this periodic bulletin. Also please note that a Spanish version of the Summary report is now available through a link on the home page and a French version will be available soon.

Peace,

David Adams
mail@decade-culture-of-peace.org

