

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON  
THE CULTURE OF PEACE**

San Salvador, February 16-18, 1994

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**FINAL REPORT**

April 1994

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## SUMMARY

The First International Forum on the Culture of Peace was held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from 16 to 18 February 1994. It was organized by the Government of El Salvador with financial and technical assistance from UNESCO.

The Forum examined, from the perspective of countries at different stages of peace-building, the processes being used and the results which can be achieved in constructing a culture of peace. Three keynote addresses and five panel discussions, and a number of background papers provided the substantive background to the Forum.

At the end of the Forum, a number of general conclusions were presented by the Rapporteur. These received the general agreement of the Forum participants.

## BACKGROUND

At its 142nd session in October 1993, UNESCO's Executive Board approved an Action Programme to promote a Culture of Peace, which called for the development of projects which will strengthen a climate of reconciliation, and foster and institutionalize the culture of peace in those countries which are in the process of establishing peace following conflict as well as in areas where conflicts might arise and where UN peace-keeping operations are being carried out.

El Salvador is the first country to participate in the Culture of Peace Programme. Following the signing of the Chapultepec Agreement (1992), El Salvador has assumed the wide-ranging job of reconstructing the country and promoting national reconciliation through concrete actions, so that peace will not be perceived as the mere absence of conflicts, but rather as a permanent endeavour that must be encouraged by all sectors of society. In accordance with this initiative towards consolidating peace, a National Forum of Reflection on Peace, Education and Culture, organized under the auspices of UNESCO, was held in San Salvador in April 1993.

The El Salvador Culture of Peace Programme aims to contribute to the process of national reconciliation and reconstruction of Salvadorian society, affected by 12 years of armed conflict. As the Culture of Peace Programme's "pioneer" country, the Government of El Salvador, with the support of UNESCO, sponsored the holding of the First International Forum on the Culture of Peace in its capital, San Salvador, from 16-18 February 1994. It was seen as an opportunity to share the Salvadorian experiences in peace-building, as well as those of other countries, with the aim of finding elements that will aid in consolidating peace in the minds of men.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

- (a) To contribute, using the Salvadorian experience as well as that of other countries, to the refinement of the concept of a culture of peace.
- (b) To identify objectives, mechanisms and strategies that could support a world-wide culture of peace, which could become a supporting factor in the prevention of conflict.
- (c) To foster the strengthening of the processes of a culture of peace through education, science, culture and communication.
- (d) To encourage reflection on the part of the international community on the importance of promoting, sustaining and supporting a culture of peace.
- (e) To contribute to the development of the Culture of Peace Programme in El Salvador.

## PARTICIPANTS

Representatives of 13 countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation were the chief participants in the Forum. In addition, 31 country delegates and representatives from a wide range of Salvadorian organizations, agencies of the United Nations system and other representatives of the international community participated in the Forum.

## SCHEDULE

The first day of the Forum was devoted to the case El Salvador and a presentation of UNESCO's Action Programme for the Culture of Peace. On each day of the Forum, a keynote address was given. Five panel discussions provided the opportunity for different countries at various stages of peace-building to present their efforts at promoting a culture of peace. Unfortunately, for lack of time, plenary discussions following each panel were limited.

## OPENING CEREMONY

His Excellency Alfredo Cristiani, President of the Republic of El Salvador, opened the Forum.

Former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, took the floor on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor. He pointed out the significance of holding the meeting in El Salvador, as symbolic of the will and desire of a people to cease using war as an instrument to solve political and social conflicts throughout the world.

He said that a motto of the First International Forum on the Culture of Peace might be: "No one is so devoid of reason as to prefer war to peace," which Herodotus said some 2500 years ago.

"Silence the weapons in Angola, Bosnia, Afghanistan, in the whole world, and let man speak," Mr Pérez de Cuéllar said. A new chapter was being written in the history of mankind, calling for words, law, productive work and the solidarity of all people, and this chapter was the "dawn of a culture of peace."

In an audiovisual message projected in the plenary room, UNESCO's Director-General reminded the meeting that "No one, no nation, no human group has ever won a war. It is only possible to win peace." This means not only avoiding armed confrontation, but working with tenacity and intelligence to create instruments that lead to the eradication of the causes of violence -- injustice and oppression, ignorance and misery, intolerance and discrimination.

It is our common duty to see that violence never again prevails. El Salvador began a new stage in its history at Chapultepec, the Director-General said, and he congratulated "all those who had the lucidity and the courage to decide, in spite of the many recent wounds, to walk in the direction of reconciliation and agreement" -- in particular, President Cristiani, the FMLN and "all those who favored the force of reason to the force of strength."

He praised "all those who knew how to be pioneers in the culture of peace." Article One of the Declaration of Human Rights, which says that human beings are born free and equal, is the cornerstone of democracy, accomplished especially through education, science, culture and communication.

President Cristiani then took the floor. "We Salvadorians have suffered the culture of violence...We paid heavily to lay the first bases of a new culture of peace. We believe that the first requirement of a culture of peace is that it stems from the people, the community, from all humankind."

He affirmed that from that perspective, the culture of peace is simply the culture of life. The people of El Salvador, who have been so exposed to the culture of violence --

the culture of death -- would seem to have a "privileged position" from which to understand the urgency of establishing a culture of peace.

Tolerance, the respect for differing opinions, the responsibility for enforcing human rights and the healthy development of individuality are all elements of a culture of understanding and peace.

President Cristiani concluded by saying that the Forum was being held to encourage people to reflect on the concept of peace, not as a utopic ideal, but as a concrete programme to benefit future generations.

# REPORT OF THE FORUM

## I. FIRST KEYNOTE ADDRESS: THE NATURE OF A CULTURE OF PEACE José David Escobar Galindo

Mr Escobar Galindo spoke of the multiple dimensions of a culture of peace in today's world, where there is a permanent presence of a culture of war, as well as the absence of a culture of peace. The effort to consolidate a culture of peace can be reached by three means -- education, democratization and participation.

Moreover, the culture of peace can be viewed as a vehicle for harmonizing the different threads -- moral, political and social -- that make up national identity.

As a moral phenomenon, peace is the result of ensuring basic values -- freedom, democracy, justice, legality and solidarity, achieved mainly through education. As a political phenomenon, peace is the result of the balance between different ways of interpreting historical experience; and democracy is the best method for guaranteeing peace and stability. As a social phenomenon, peace is a synonym of development. Basic human needs must be met before a culture of peace can exist.

At both national and international levels, the culture of peace must mean a commitment to democracy and the overcoming of domination, which can be accomplished above all through changes in attitudes towards education and culture.

Sustainable human development poses a series of choices -- between violence and understanding, arbitrary political power and democracy, marginalization and solidarity, and rationality and irrationality.

Finally, the culture of peace means getting along with each other -- with those who think like you as well as those who think differently.

## II. UNESCO'S CULTURE OF PEACE PROGRAMME

A short presentation of UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme outlined the concepts, objectives, content, methodology and strategies of the Programme. The Programme itself is being further developed and is benefiting from the results of exercises such as the Forum. The major issues highlighted in the presentation are summarized below.

The concept of a culture of peace was elaborated at the International Congress on Peace in the Minds of Men, held in Yamoussoukro in 1989, organized under the auspices of UNESCO. The Congress declared that it should be based on "the

universal values of respect for life, liberty, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human rights and equality between women and men."

In 1992, United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali submitted the report "An Agenda for Peace" to the Security Council. It called for, among other things, a concerted effort at conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building. UNESCO responded to this report when, in October 1992, the Organization's Executive Board called for the establishment of an Action Programme for the Culture of Peace which would strengthen and coordinate on-going UNESCO activities, as well as initiate new practical activities to contribute to conflict prevention and peace-building as demanded by "An Agenda for Peace."

The Culture of Peace Programme has a number of objectives, including elaboration of the concept and methodology for a culture of peace, support for related on-going UNESCO activities, elaboration of new activities in conflict prevention and peace-building, and coordination with the other institutional actors in this area. The Programme provides an integrated approach to the on-going efforts made by UNESCO over a long period of time for the prevention of conflicts. These include efforts such as the wide-ranging "Education for All" Programme, (Jomtien, 1990), research, dissemination of normative instruments and the free flow of ideas.

El Salvador is the first country to participate in UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme. The content and methodology of the Culture of Peace Programme are being worked out in the context of national programmes, such as the one in El Salvador. These programmes call for the participation and concerted action of all the key actors of society in the design and implementation of the programmes. Thus, UNESCO has engaged representatives of the government, the opposition parties, as well as members of the civil society, the United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. They have met in order to design projects in human development, democratic citizenship, national identity, education for peace and human rights, and information and communication for peace. The programme focuses its action on the most vulnerable groups of society, in particular women and youth, with priority on the training of trainers, such as teachers of basic education, cultural promoters and local development agents who already have experience in working directly with the population who will receive ancillary training on matters related to the construction of peace enabling them to become "promoters of peace".

The Culture of Peace Programme is coordinating its activities with those of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations through the establishment of an information and networking system. This will help the Programme to develop a strategy which addresses its objectives, clearly differentiates its activities from those of other programmes in order to avoid inter-agency duplication, and increases its effectiveness through cooperative activities.

### III. THE CASE OF EL SALVADOR

MODERATOR: Mr Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

PARTICIPANTS: Representatives of the Government of El Salvador, the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), the Catholic Church, the armed forces of El Salvador and private enterprise (ANEP).

Participants from the different political parties participating in elections discussed the historical context and present political situation in post-war El Salvador. They said there was a need for educational transformation, as education was the basic instrument for consolidating the new concepts, values and behavior models relating to the culture of peace.

They spoke of the growing climate of understanding and tolerance in the country and noted that the cease-fire had not been violated since its signing. They recognized the legality of the electoral process, in which government and opposition were participating extensively, and all participants confirmed their commitment to the peace process, recognizing the co-existence of different points of view. They agreed that the consolidation of the FMLN as a political party was an important step towards the peace process, and it should be accepted at all levels.

They also agreed that the Peace Agreements were the starting point in a process of national reconstruction, agreement and unification of national efforts -- favoring stability, economic and human development -- leading to a culture of peace. Participants spoke of the institutional changes stemming from the Peace Agreements, such as the Economic-Social Concertation Forum, the reduction of the armed forces and the restructuring of their doctrine and internal educational processes, emphasizing human rights education.

They also mentioned differences in the interpretation of the development of the peace process. They all had different criteria for compliance with the peace agreements. The importance of continuing negotiations regarding the compliance of the Chapultepec Agreement was stressed, even if it proves to be a more difficult task than the signing of the Agreement itself. Some participants wondered if there was a loss of political will or of the strength required to enforce the agreements.

Participants noted that there were some problems, the timing of the First International Forum on the Culture of Peace, during the pre-election period, was inappropriate, a number of significant NGOs were not invited and the Culture of Peace Programme in El Salvador had not been widely circulated.

The peace process is a national task, needing the support of the international community and the United Nations. They stressed that "the construction of peace is a task that never ends and that pertains to everyone."

#### IV. PANEL ONE: THE CULTURE OF PEACE IN ELECTION PROGRAMMES IN EL SALVADOR

MODERATOR: Mr Anders Kompass, Resident Representative of UNDP in El Salvador

PARTICIPANTS: Representatives of the different political parties in El Salvador (Arena, Convergencia Democratica, FMLN, MAC, MNR, Movimiento de Unidad and PCN)

Representatives of seven Salvadorian political parties, referring to the implications of a culture of peace during the electoral period, agreed on the need for a commitment to the peace process, as established in the Chapultepec Agreements in 1992. They also agreed on the need to reflect this commitment in the political, socio-economic and educational domains.

Participants recognized that the strengthening of the democratic process and representative system is the best way to resolve differences, and called for a strengthening of the commitment to democracy.

The participants recognized that, in socio-economic terms, human development was the main building-block of a culture of peace. They referred to the need to "place the human being at the core of development," and not lose sight of the social aspects of economic policies. They also stressed the need to understand the international implications of building a culture of peace.

Varied opinions were expressed regarding education and culture as potential factors for building a culture of peace in El Salvador. Education was recognized as an important means for changing attitudes during the reconciliation and reconstruction stage of national identity-building. Topics such as tolerance, respect for the law and national values must be taught from the first stages of education, and must be extended to include non-formal education as well as other participants actively committed to peace, such as the media.

The participants stated the need for a commitment to building a culture of peace among the political parties, acknowledging that peace, as a national aspiration, is a pre-requisite for the existence of freedom and democracy. They agreed that economic and social stability, and the strengthening of the educational system are the pillars on which a culture of peace can be built.

V. SECOND KEYNOTE ADDRESS: NATIONAL AND REGIONAL  
CONTRIBUTION TO ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF PEACE  
Carlos Alberto Montaner

The speaker indicated that the El Salvador Culture of Peace programme is significant because it shows that Salvadorians have understood the fundamental truth that it is "in the hearts of men, in their values and attitudes where democracy or dictatorship find their roots." It is not the presence of arms or the existence of an army in a country that is the threat to democracy.

He said the great achievement of El Salvador was, therefore, cultural -- not only political and diplomatic -- as it is in cultural values and attitudes that the conditions for either democracy and peace or dictatorship and violence lie.

He described the Culture of Peace programme in El Salvador as "a programme of cultural engineering, by which the values and attitudes of the Salvadorian people, which in the recent past led them to violence and war, will be transformed into forces of democracy and peace." The deliberate effort to transform cultural values into forces of peace and democracy is one of the tools to control the "beast which all of us have inside."

Furthermore, he said, the "adoption of democracy and a free market economy is also important for the preservation of peace and the integrity of a nation" because such a system is able "to reward people with both material and cultural well-being." He said that the Culture of Peace programme should always bear in mind that democratic regimes have to comply with the people's expectations of well-being or they will be put out of power.

VI. PANEL TWO: LESSONS DERIVED FROM EXPERIENCES OF RECOVERY  
AFTER CONFLICT THAT MAY BE USEFUL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
A CULTURE OF PEACE

MODERATOR: Julio Labastida, Secretary-General of FLACSO

PARTICIPANTS: Cambodia - Mozambique - Nicaragua

Representatives identified the roots of the conflict in their countries, and described their experiences in national recovery. Together, they sought elements of a common ground for building a culture of peace.

After describing the process of negotiating and implementing peace accords in their respective countries, they emphasized the importance of long-term efforts to consolidate peace. One speaker said, "there cannot be peace without development and democracy." Problems of hunger, poverty and discrimination have to be overcome before a culture of peace can be established. Various programmes for human development, with an emphasis on those for refugees, displaced people and other victims of war, were described. In each case, an important aspect of the

peace process has been the preparation for multi-party elections, including the process of civic education to prepare people to take part in them.

Participants agreed that special attention had to be given to formal and non-formal education programmes, to restore the material and spiritual values of the people, taking into consideration the socio-cultural characteristics of each country. In addition to peace and civic education in schools and universities, there needs to be distance education, vocational and professional training, and the training of trainers.

The major challenge in the Nicaraguan programme of the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace has been to allow for "development with human dimensions." The Ministry of Education has requested UNESCO to prepare new textbooks of citizen education, with an emphasis on democracy, peace and human rights.

The representative from Cambodia stressed that in post-conflict times, the mental condition of human beings must not be hidden by economic values and concentrated only on the materialistic aspects of development. In that case "a mercantile society will prevail, and its scale of values will allow no room for a culture of peace."

They all stressed the importance of international co-operation. In Mozambique, peace has been maintained thanks to the co-operation of the United Nations in the compliance of the peace agreements.

Finally, the participants agreed on the advantage of reducing their armies, the consolidation of States of Law and the demilitarization of the civil society as important steps towards the consolidation of peace.

## VII. PANEL THREE: LESSONS DERIVED FROM THE EXPERIENCES IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF PEACE

MODERATOR: Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun,  
Special Adviser to UNESCO for the Culture of Peace

PARTICIPANTS: Costa Rica - Egypt - India

The basic instrument for the consolidation of peace is the respect for human dignity. If human rights are not respected in a country peace and development will be affected. Peace and human rights -- which includes the individual's right to safety, social welfare, education and health, among other things -- are indivisible.

Participants agreed that peace can only come out of an environment where the essential conditions of democracy, respect for human rights, development, education, security, disarmament and preservation of the environment are met. Tolerance is an integral part of democracy. It was noted that Mahatma Gandhi's

message of a non-violent struggle for freedom, equity, justice and fraternity has become a permanent source of inspiration and guidance for all countries moving towards an era of peace and harmony.

After years of crisis, violence and wars, Central America is now using democratization processes to establish itself as a region of peace and freedom. Through the peaceful solution of conflicts and national concertation processes, including the signing of peace agreements, a new model for the construction of peaceful societies was being developed in the region.

Some practical measures were suggested for defusing tense situations, discrimination and violence including:

- (a) constitutional guarantees, through a democratic system, for all basic human rights and freedoms;
- (b) planning the education system to promote the fundamental values of peace;
- (c) training and encouraging the media to be active and dynamic;
- (d) encouraging NGOs to play an important role in human rights, democracy, human development, preservation of the environment, etc.;
- (e) encouraging universities, professional organizations and trade unions to play a role in the promotion of culture of peace; and
- (f) finding imaginative and innovative ways to tackle explosive situations which lead to violence.

Finally, participants noted that it was especially fitting that the First International Forum of Culture of Peace be held in El Salvador, where the first Culture of Peace programme has been set up by UNESCO.

#### **VIII. PANEL FOUR: PERSPECTIVES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURE OF PEACE IN AREAS AFFECTED BY CONFLICT**

**MODERATOR:** Mr Francisco Barahona Riera, Vice Rector of the University of Peace

**PARTICIPANTS:** Angola - Belarus - Guatemala

Coming from diverse cultural and historic perspectives, the participants noted the importance of recognizing the particular context of each country when defining strategies for building a culture of peace. National reconciliation was considered a pre-requisite to any strategy and programme of the culture of peace.

The culture of peace was viewed from three possible perspectives: what is desirable; what is possible; and what is beneficial to the interests of the different sectors of society.

Participants agreed on the importance of peace building and strengthening of democratic processes in countries in conflict. A cease-fire agreement and national elections with international supervision do not in themselves guarantee national reconciliation for many reasons, including lack of trust between the opposing parties, lack of emergency assistance for those most affected by the conflict and the absence of disarmament before the electoral process begins.

There are countries where the "colonial legacy" and the imposition of foreign cultural and social systems must be overcome before the challenge of constructing a culture of peace can be met.

Some participants stressed the role of the civil society in taking the initiative to promote dialogue and negotiation, adding that their co-operation was also essential in the signing and compliance of peace agreements. Mention was made of the need to transform or neutralize those sectors of society that benefit from war.

At a time when relationships between countries are changing throughout the world, participants pointed to the need to review the role of the United Nations.

#### IX. THIRD KEYNOTE ADDRESS: INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO A CULTURE OF PEACE

Mr Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, Former Secretary-General of the United Nations

Mr Pérez de Cuéllar began by paying tribute to the people of El Salvador, who showed "good will" in signing the Chapultepec Agreement. The conditions of peace in El Salvador and elsewhere, he said, are justice, democracy and respect for human rights.

He then asked what should be understood by the expression "culture of peace"? He said culture -- that is, the co-existence of different groups and communities with different identities -- is what gives human beings the possibility to evolve towards democracy and peace. Peace is not just the absence of war, or the process of pacification; rather, it is the fruit of a true co-existence and co-operation among different cultures within one country or among nations. Both culture and peace require a respect for human dignity and human rights.

The main goal, therefore, of the culture of peace is to give each individual the chance to contribute to the preservation of justice, democracy and human rights in his or her own country as well as elsewhere in the world.

Today, with the end of the Cold War and because of advanced communication technologies, each individual has the possibility to play a role, even if very modest, in world affairs. Within this perspective, he said, "the culture of peace can be said to be the internationalization of the individual, and his or her transformation into an active subject of international law."

There is a "harmonious convergence" between the culture of peace and the behavior of democratic societies and countries, who solve their conflicts peacefully, and aim to end injustice, which is not the case in undemocratic countries. This provides another of the meanings of the culture of peace -- that "the links and solidarity among human beings should be strong enough to neutralize the undemocratic behavior of governments."

El Salvador should now become a "herald of peace," Mr Pérez de Cuéllar said, and should help other countries to avoid the problems and suffering they went through before the consolidation of peace in that country. "What the international community is preaching through the culture of peace," he concluded, "is that the peaceful solution of conflicts, on the basis of justice, freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, is the best way to deal with them."

## X. PANEL FIVE: CONTENTS OF A CULTURE OF PEACE

MODERATOR: Mr Leslie Atherley, Director, Culture of Peace Programme, UNESCO

PARTICIPANTS: Colombia - Israel - Palestine Liberation Organisation - The Philippines

Several modalities for the resolution of conflict and the peace building process were brought out during the presentations and discussions. Some participants pointed to the need to overcome the causes of violence, whether of a socio-cultural (ideological, ethnic or religious) or economic (redistribution of wealth) nature. A Culture of Peace Programme is made up of a variety of efforts in different fields, all leading towards providing the conditions for sustainable human development. Justice, human rights, educational opportunity, freedom of expression must all be features in the overall programme.

Political parties and the civil society have an important role in the consolidation of peace and must participate in the processes, they said, and use dialogue as a mechanism for the agreements.

Participants expressed the need for consultation and permanent negotiation between all members of society and called for the creation of ad hoc commissions to study different situations, proposing reforms in the law and in constitutions. Peace, they said, must reflect everyone's feelings.

They said a culture of peace must be a collective effort, along with other political, social and economic efforts to ease conflict-solving, offering realistic physical and moral reconstruction, especially to victims of conflict.

They called for international efforts to join with governmental and non-governmental efforts, to give equal importance to tolerance and human rights when creating programmes of education for peace and life under democracy.

The first step towards building a culture of peace must be mutual acknowledgement. Participants said that agreements have not always been satisfactory, as a formal peace (on paper) is not the same as peace in the minds of men.

Participants spoke of ethnic, religious, cultural and linguistic differences as well as economic borders between peoples. They stressed the need to strengthen education for peace, tolerance and human rights.

One participant spoke of a culture of liberation, while another stressed that peace implies a better quality of life for everyone, and the right to reap the benefits of a culture of peace.

Among the different goals to be achieved, they mentioned the need to eliminate exclusivity and ethnic purity, to respect religious differences and to encourage compliance with international law.

## 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.

## CLOSING CEREMONY

The closing ceremony began with the words of a young boy, speaking on behalf of Salvadorian children. He described the hardships suffered due to the war, the hopes of young Salvadorians, and the importance of learning to live in peace.

### ADDRESS OF UNESCO'S ASSISTANT DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR SOCIAL SCIENCES, Ms Francine Fournier

Ms Fournier began by stating that peace resides in the respect of human rights as universal and indivisible. "Universal" does not mean that all institutions must be the same, but rather, that they must adjust to cultural diversity; "undivided" means that civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights must be equally and simultaneously respected.

UNESCO's mandate for peace-building operates through the Organization's fields of competence -- education, science, culture and communication. However, she stressed that the link between them is not automatic, since education, science and culture can all be abused and used to violate human rights or promote violence. It is therefore essential that governments, the civil society and NGOs work together with educators to prevent abuse.

Peace cannot be imposed by repression or force, but can only be attained by making it a way of life -- that is, a culture of peace, which should be assimilated by all societies, and become the basic characteristic of a global society.

The causes of violent conflicts are rooted in injustice and the violation of human rights, and methods to promote dialogue, social integration, education as training for mutual respect and democracy and the free circulation of ideas and information must be developed to confront them.

This Forum had contributed to the advancement of development programmes destined to foster a culture of peace. The central idea to be derived from the Forum is the need to learn from high-level considerations as well as real-life experiences on the path to building a culture of peace.

### ADDRESS ON BEHALF OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES Dr Hector Rosada Granados

Dr Rosada Granados expressed his thanks for the organization of the Forum, which he considered an important step in the development of a worldwide concept of a culture of peace.

A culture of peace begins with the freedom that makes individuals able to reconcile their differences. He said structural changes in society were needed to combat hunger, poverty, unemployment and to create the political climate for democracy.

Now is the time for peace. This requires the unconditional respect of human rights and cultural diversity and the building of a new concept of education which will lead toward the building a new nation.

**REPORT OF THE RAPPORTEUR,  
Dr Anaisabel Prera Flores**

The rapporteur presented a draft report of the Forum. In addition to stressing the importance of the participants' contributions, she expressed her gratitude for the effort, dedication and support she received from the technical team.

**CLOSING ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY,  
Dr Oscar Alfredo Santamaria**

The speaker said that, given the diversity of the participants, as well as the circumstances under which the Forum was carried out, that is, in a post-war period, when people may still be sensitive and mistrustful, the Forum has indeed been a historical event, one of the most important held in El Salvador in recent times.

He thanked the participating countries -- those who have attained peace or are still searching for peaceful solutions to conflict.

UNESCO has guided the reflection on the subject of a culture of peace, he said. Now it was up to the countries to breathe life into it.

He said that El Salvador had adhered to certain guiding principles that can be shared with other countries, including the conviction that active peace calls for the absolute respect for human rights, and that the eradication of poverty shall be an on-going objective.

Whatever definition one gave to the word "culture" there was no doubt that the expression "culture of peace" refers to a set of values, principles and guidelines which lead to the highest forms of human co-existence, including tolerance and co-operation.

He concluded by saying that today more than ever, we must remember that it is in the minds of men that peace must be built.

## FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

San Salvador, February 16-18, 1994

## AGENDA

16 February 1994

08:30 - 09:00

Registration

09:00 - 10:00

Opening Ceremony

Speech by the President of the Republic of El Salvador,  
Alfredo F. CristianiSpeech by the Representative of the Director-General  
of UNESCO

Message from the Director-General of UNESCO

10:15 - 10:30

Recess

10:30 - 11:30

First Keynote Address

11:30 - 12:15

THE CASE OF EL SALVADOR

The Peace Process in El Salvador and the development of  
a Culture of Peace

Mr. Oscar Alfredo Santamaría

12:15 - 14:15

Lunch

14:15 - 15:30

CONTINUATION OF THE CASE OF EL SALVADOR

The role of different sectors within the negotiation process  
and their commitment to consolidate a Culture of Peace

Moderator :

Mr. Augusto Ramírez Ocampo

Special Representative of the Secretary General of the  
United Nations

Participants :

Designated Representative of political parties of El Salvador

Representative of the Private Sector

Representative of the Church

Representative of the Armed Forces

15:30 - 16:15

Questions and answers

16:15 - 16:30

Recess

16:30 - 17:00	Presentation of UNESCO's Culture of Peace Programme
17:15 - 18:15	PANEL ONE The Culture of Peace in election programs in El Salvador
Moderator :	Mr. Anders Kompass, Resident Representative of UNDP
Participants :	Representatives of the different Salvadorian political parties
18:15 - 18:45	Questions and answers
19:30 - 21:30	Reception offered by the President of the Republic of El Salvador, Alfredo F. Cristiani

### 17 February 1994

08:30 - 09:30	Second Keynote Address NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO ESTABLISH A CULTURE OF PEACE Mr. Carlos A. Montaner
09:30 - 10:15	PANEL TWO Lessons derived from experiences of recovery after conflict, which may be useful for the construction of a Culture of Peace
Moderator :	Mr. Julio Labastida Secretary General of FLACSO
Participants :	Cambodia, Mozambique, Nicaragua
10:15 - 11:00	Questions and answers
11:00 - 11:15	Recess
11:15 - 12:00	PANEL THREE Lessons derived from experiences in the consolidation of peace
Moderator :	Mr. Mohamed Sahnoun Special Adviser to UNESCO for the Culture of Peace
Participants :	Costa Rica, India, Egypt
12:00 - 12:45	Questions and answers
12:45 - 14:45	Lunch

15:00 - 15:45

## PANEL FOUR

Perspectives for the development of a Culture of Peace in  
the areas affected by conflict

Moderator :

Dr. Francisco Barahona Riera  
Vice-Rector of the University of Peace

Participants :

Angola, Guatemala, Belarus

15:45 - 16:00

Questions and answers

16:00 - 16:45

Recess

19:30 - 21:30

Reception offered by the Director General of UNESCO

18 February 1994

09:00 - 10:00

Third Keynote Address

INTERNATIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO A CULTURE  
OF PEACE

Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar

10:00 - 10:25

Recess

10:30 - 11:15

## PANEL FIVE

Contents of a Culture of Peace

Moderator :

Mr. Leslie G. Atherley  
Director, Culture of Peace Programme, UNESCO

Participants :

Colombia, Israel, Palestine, Philippines

11:15 - 12:15

Questions and answers

12:30 - 12:45

Closing Ceremony

12:45 - 14:45

Lunch

15:00 - 18:00

Round Table discussion of participating countries and  
United Nations representatives

Moderator :

Representative of France

FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

San Salvador, February 16-18, 1994

SPEECHES AT THE OPENING CEREMONY

His Excellency Alfredo Felix Cristiani  
President of the Republic of El Salvador

Mr. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar  
Former Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Representative of the Director-General of UNESCO

Message from Mr. Federico Mayor Zaragoza  
Director-General of UNESCO

His Excellency Alfredo Felix Cristiani  
President of the Republic of El Salvador

Iniciamos este día los trabajos del Primer Foro Internacional de Cultura de Paz, que auspician de manera conjunta el Gobierno de El Salvador y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura (UNESCO). Es un verdadero privilegio para nuestro país, una responsabilidad muy grande para nuestro Gobierno, y un honor muy merecido para nuestro pueblo, que sea precisamente El Salvador -tierra sacudida por un sismo histórico tan prolongado, luego redimida por el enorme esfuerzo venturoso de una paz que se logró con el triunfo de la razón sobre las armas- el lugar que la máxima organización encargada de promover la cultura universal, ha escogido para esta jornada de reflexión y de proposición sobre el tema de la paz y su irradiación en un mundo que está buscando nuevas formas de entendimiento, equilibrio y convivencia.

Nuestro país saltó del práctico anonimato a la notoriedad internacional, por la vía de un sensacionalismo muy doloroso, la acumulación negativa del pasado nos creó una triste toma de tozudos inmovilistas y levantiscos radicales. La guerra vino de poner ante el mundo nuestra realidad de la manera más cruda y espeluznante. Parecía que

nuestra pequeña nación estaba condenada a ser un nudo gordiano en la red de la guerra fría. Pero de pronto el mundo comenzó a cambiar, nuestra subregión centroamericana empezó a moverse hacia una lenta y dificultosa estabilidad, y el Salvador -beneficiario de esa nueva corriente internacional-- halló el rumbo hacia una solución política del conflicto y hacia la apertura de su horizonte democrático.

Nos ayudaron los amigos de afuera en esa labor compendiosa y, para muchos, de pronóstico reservado. Sin embargo, la principal ayuda vino de adentro, de la actitud estoica, sacrificada e inquebrantable de nuestra gente, que no se dejó seducir por ningún tipo de violencia; por el contrario: fue alejándose de la guerra, y uniéndose en torno a un proyecto de democracia, muy frágil al mismo tiempo muy esperanzador. Los salvadoreños sufrimos la cultura de la violencia, sin uncirnos a ella como pueblo, como nación, pero pusimos grandes cuotas de sufrimiento y de participación activa en sentar las primeras bases de una nueva cultura de la paz. Ese es, en nuestro concepto, el primer requisito para darle vida a una cultura de la paz: que su impulso provenga de la gente, de la comunidad, de los núcleos humanos. La cultura es obra cotidiana, que se manifiesta de múltiples maneras. La cultura no es obra de artífices, encerrados en su gabinete. Surge de la vida, y está destinada a servir a la vida. En ese sentido, los salvadoreños somos pioneros en la cultura de paz que el mundo está buscando construir, desde los cimientos. Y somos pioneros en el mejor sentido de la palabra: no como creadores de teoría, sino como gestores de praxis.

Luego del derrumbe de la gran confrontación bipolar, dirigida por el histerismo ideológico, la humanidad está tratando de ordenar su dinámica histórica sobre contenidos más reales. Las ideologías son abstracciones absolutizadas, y por eso tienen que ver tan poco con la realidad y con la vida. Ahora lo que los seres humanos estamos demandando, en todas partes, es el reencuentro con lo real, la aceptación de los problemas concretos, para encontrarle soluciones, y el reconocimiento de que -más allá de todas las diferencias- tenemos algo que nos une entrañablemente: la misma condición humana.

Desde esa perspectiva, la cultura de la paz es sencillamente la cultura de la vida. Los que hemos estado expuestos con más intensidad y peligro a la cultura de la violencia, es la cultura de la muerte, pareciera que tenemos una posición más privilegiada para comprender la urgencia y el imperativo moral de una cultura de la paz.

Porque nosotros, aparte de su origen en el hombre común y corriente, que siente, que trabaja y que aspira, consideramos que la cultura de la paz es un programa de restauración moral. En esta vuelta universal a una espiritualidad no dogmática ni excluyente, sino profundamente humanista, vemos dibujarse el antiquísimo anhelo de que los hombres vivamos bajo el signo de la solidaridad. O lo que, para nosotros los cristianos, equivale a vivir bajo el signo del amor al prójimo.

La cultura de la paz podría asentarse muy bien en ese indeleble mandamiento de amar al prójimo como a sí mismo. La intolerancia, el fanatismo sectario, la arbitrariedad en la conducta, el desprecio hacia los derechos fundamentales de las personas, la diferencia ante los problemas colectivos, el endiosamiento abusivo de la individualidad, son ingredientes muy efectivos de una cultura del rechazo y de la violencia. La tolerancia, el respeto a las opiniones divergentes, la sujeción al imperio democrático de la ley, la responsabilidad constructiva en la vigencia plena de los derechos humanos, el sano desarrollo de la individualidad, son elementos básicos de una cultura del entendimiento y de la paz.

Sería una miopía histórica reducir este nuevo esfuerzo de cultura para la vida, a una visión genérica, sin basamento en la vida misma. Al ser humano hay que formarlo y educarlo para que no sólo sea humano, sino que actúe como humano, en todas las actividades de la existencia. Por eso pensamos que la cultura de la paz tiene que auxiliarse de una eficaz educación para la paz. Sería ingenuo creer que basta con proponérselo, y que las condiciones sean favorables, para que la cultura de la paz se dé. La paz no es gratuita, ni siquiera en sus expresiones más elementales.

El ejemplo salvadoreño es en este punto, muy revelador. Para nosotros, el acuerdo de paz, es la partida de nacimiento de una nueva etapa en la vida

nacional. Eso no se dió por generación espontánea. Hubo de producirse toda una serie de circunstancias para que el Acuerdo de Paz fuera posible. Algunas circunstancias, constitutivas de aceptaciones muy difíciles. La primera de esas aceptaciones fue llegar a la conclusión mutua, por parte de cada uno de los actores principales del conflicto armado, de que éste ya no podía dar nada más de sí, y que había que resolverlo por métodos políticos que implicaban importantes concesiones mutuas. La paz es gratuita, la paz exige sacrificios, la cultura de la paz no es gratuita. La cultura de la paz demanda aprendizajes muy profundos y reconstructores.

Pero siendo que la paz es un objetivo de tan inmensos alcances, la cultura de la paz merece la mayor atención y un máximo de esfuerzo analítico e imaginativo. Todavía no tenemos muy claro que es la cultura de la paz, y este Foro tan importante tiene, como uno de sus objetivos fundamentales que generar ideas y conceptos sobre la cultura de la paz. Por ser una exigencia moral, la cultura de la paz debe fundarse en valores como la libertad, la legalidad y la solidaridad. Por ser una exigencia pragmática esa cultura debe descubrirse a sí misma como gestora de nuevos enfoques de vida personal y social, a partir de la salvaguarda y protección del ser humano, como destinatario principal de todo esfuerzo de desarrollo: político, económico, social y cultural.

Al desarticularse las ideologías, hemos llegado según algunos al fin de la historia, porque el hombre está en vías de lograr el perfecto de su condición humana en los hechos y en las satisfacciones básicas. Estamos seguros de que esto aún no es así. Al desmoronarse el dominio de las ideologías, se abre un paréntesis inesperado en la historia de la humanidad. Las viejas fórmulas, que parecían infalibles o por lo menos muy sólidas, dejan un vacío muy saludable, pero vacío al fin. Hay que llenar ese vacío y durante la transición. Antes de que aparezcan nuevas formulaciones teóricas con prepotencia hegemónica, hay que aprovechar el tiempo para poner los primeros ladrillos de la cultura de la paz que tanto estamos necesitando.

No puede ser una cultura sectorial ni regional, aunque debe tener en cuenta las diferencias precisamente culturales entre unos pueblos y otros, entre unas experiencias y otras. La cultura de la paz tiene que tener un inequívoco aliento universal, porque se refiere a esa parte profunda del hombre en la que queda en evidencia la identidad sustancial de la naturaleza humana. La cultura de la paz debe ser, por eso mismo, una cultura a profundidad, que se introyecte en todas las formas mentales e institucionales que determinen el manejo de la realidad. Si eso se logra, el aporte de esta generación al destino de la humanidad tendrá carácter permanente. Nuestro tiempo habrá sido no sólo la época de las grandes sorpresas, sino el período del gran salto mortal hacia adelante.

Este foro se realiza bajo esa inspiración y con esa responsabilidad. Pensar sobre la paz, no como hermosa realización lograda, sino como programa de trabajo en beneficio del futuro. Aunque no lo parezca, el vacío ideológico abre el espacio de la imaginación. Plantearnos una cultura de la paz, es asumírnos como seres eminentemente creativos. No nos cabe duda de que en esta jornada eso se pondrá en evidencia. Como salvadoreños y como hombres de paz, eso es lo que esperamos y demandamos de todos ustedes.

Que la proverbial hospitalidad de nuestro pueblo que es pacífico por naturaleza, sirva de marco de este foro, en el cual hay puestas tantas inteligencias y tantas expectativas.

Les deseamos todo el éxito que el trabajo por la paz se merece.

Y que Dios ilumine a los que aquí, ahora y siempre, trabajan por la paz.

DISCURSO DE DON JAVIER PEREZ DE CUELLAR  
PRIMER FORO INTERNACIONAL DE CULTURA DE PAZ  
SAN SALVADOR, 16-18 DE FEBRERO DE 1994

Señor Presidente de la República  
Señor Vice Presidente  
Presidentes de los Poderes del Estado .  
    Poder Judicial  
    Poder Legislativo

Honorables Dignatarios  
Representantes de los Países Acreditados  
Representantes de los Partidos Políticos  
Representantes de las ONGS

Deseo en primer lugar agradecer al Señor Presidente de la República de El Salvador, Lic. Alfredo Cristiani, por su honrosa y amable invitación para que participe en este Primer Foro Internacional de Cultura de Paz, que auspician conjuntamente el Gobierno de El Salvador y la Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura.

Por otro lado me complace traer esta mañana el saludo y los votos de buen éxito de mi distinguido amigo el Profesor Federico Mayor Zaragoza, Director General de la UNESCO.

Permítanme, Señor Presidente y distinguidos participantes que comparta con ustedes algunas reflexiones sobre la tarea a que nos convoca este Foro.

"Nadie esta tan desprovisto de razón como para preferir la guerra a la paz". Estas palabras escritas por Herodoto hace 2,500 años, bien podrían servir de lema a nuestra empresa.

En efecto, la tarea que afrontamos hoy, precisamente aquí, en El Salvador, país que ha padecido como pocos la sinrazón de la violencia, es la de auspiciar el restablecimiento de la sensatez y de la serenidad necesarias para desterrar de todos los confines del mundo, la guerra como instrumento de solución de los conflictos políticos y sociales.

Durante muchos siglos, el número de quienes han buscado dirimir sus diferencias mediante el uso de las armas, ha sido suficientemente elevado para que, dadas las circunstancias de cada época, hayan logrado imponerse a los hombres y mujeres que deseaban la paz. Los clamores de amor y de tolerancia han sido acallados por los sentimientos de animadversión y rencor.

Pero esta ecuación podría cambiar radicalmente -quizá por vez primera en la Historia- en los albores del nuevo milenio, después de la atroz experiencia del Siglo XX que sufrió dos guerras mundiales, seguidas de una Guerra Fría que nos deparó 40 años de angustiosa incertidumbre al borde de la hecatombe nuclear.

El triunfo de los principios democráticos en la Europa Central, la rápida y radical transformación de la antigua Unión Soviética y los acuerdos de reducción del armamento atómico, fueron los signos precursores de que una civilización basada en el miedo y el poderío militar llegaba a su fin. Esa organización de la sociedad en torno a la violencia -posible o efectiva-, eso que Federico Mayor llama "la cultura bélica", ha empezado a declinar y a dar paso a un modo de estructuración política y social diferente, que refleja las aspiraciones de paz, libertad y justicia de mujeres y hombres en todo el planeta.

Al esbozar una posible interpretación bélica de la Historia, Ortega y Gasset señalaba que "el poder social parece repartido en cada época según la calidad y cantidad de los medios de destrucción que el hombre posea". El ímpetu de la democracia en nuestro tiempo, está cambiando radicalmente esta constante histórica. Son los medios de creación y de educación los que determinarán en lo sucesivo el reparto del "poder social"; ya que la libertad y la igualdad para todos están forjando el contexto que hará posible la obtención de nuevos conocimientos y de soluciones inéditas a los problemas actuales.

Una de esas soluciones novedosas, un esfuerzo de transformación verdaderamente revolucionario, tiene lugar actualmente en El Salvador, anfitrión de este encuentro. Pionero en la reconstrucción de un tejido social desgarrado por la violencia fratricida, este país pequeño

por su superficie constituye un gran ejemplo para el mundo. Supo El Salvador, por obra de la enorme voluntad política del gobierno que preside el Lic. Cristiani, por el sincero deseo de diálogo y de negociación de los líderes del FMLN y por el ansia de paz de todo el pueblo salvadoreño, encontrar una solución justa, pacífica y duradera, de la que tuve la inmensa satisfacción de ser testigo. Aquí ha comenzado pues a aplicarse el primer programa integral de Cultura de Paz, auspiciado por la UNESCO y respaldado con entusiasmo por el pueblo y las autoridades salvadoreñas.

Esta tarea multifacética de paz es tan compleja como la sociedad misma. Grosso modo, puede decirse que tiene dos vertientes. Por una parte la erradicación de los factores que propician la violencia en un país: la injusticia social y la opresión política; la intolerancia religiosa y la discriminación racial; el estancamiento económico y la degradación del medio natural y cultural; todos los cuales constituyen la negación de los derechos humanos.

Por la otra, un ordenado esfuerzo político para forjar y difundir valores y actitudes que permitan la solución pacífica de los conflictos y promuevan el respeto de las minorías, el desarrollo integral y ecológico, el cultivo de las libertades públicas y la participación democrática, así como la exaltación de la dignidad plena del hombre, es decir el respeto de los derechos humanos.

Donde impera la violencia, la razón se encuentra reducida a la impotencia y el silencio; ante las armas decía Montesquieu, la ley tiene que callar. Nosotros estamos reunidos aquí para intentar precisamente lo contrario: para hacer callar las armas de una vez y para siempre y para que prevalezcan la justicia y la ley tanto como en el medio interno cuanto en el internacional.

Que callen las armas en Angola, en Bosnia, en Afganistán, en el mundo entero, y que puedan hablar los hombres! Que puedan inaugurar con la palabra, con la ley, con el trabajo creador y con la solidaridad de todos, un nuevo capítulo de la Historia de la Humanidad. Y que este nuevo capítulo sea el alba de una cultura de paz.

## MENSAJE DEL DIRECTOR GENERAL DE LA UNESCO

Han transcurrido cinco años desde que celebramos en Yamoussoukro el "Congreso Internacional sobre la Paz en la Mente de los Hombres"; un año apenas desde que nos reunimos aquí, en San Salvador, en el "Foro de Reflexión Sobre Educación y Cultura de Paz". En este período, hemos visto arraigar y desarrollarse el ideal de una cultura de la paz, que debe iniciar una nueva página en la historia de la humanidad: la de una convivencia pacífica basada en los principios de libertad y democracia; de justicia social y desarrollo económico sostenido; de tolerancia, solidaridad y respeto de los derechos humanos.

Este ideal, que ha empezado ya a hacerse realidad, cobra ahora un perfil más nítido con el aporte de lucidez y experiencia de los participantes en este primer Foro Internacional de Cultura de Paz. Muchos de los países representados aquí fueron duramente castigados por la violencia en el pasado reciente, otros padecen todavía el azote de la guerra. Su contribución será, pues decisiva para orientar el debate y la reflexión en este encuentro.

Al auspiciar el programa de Cultura de Paz en el Salvador, la UNESCO cumple con uno de sus preceptos fundacionales: "erigir los baluartes de la paz en la mente de los hombres". La tarea que nos hemos impuesto es hoy más urgente que nunca. Las expectativas de paz, cooperación y desarrollo acelerado que suscitó el final de la guerra iría sólo se ha cumplido a medias. Es cierto que ha desaparecido el equilibrio del terror y la amenaza de destrucción quedaría implícita en la rivalidad nuclear de las grandes potencias. Pero persisten y se amplían viejos conflictos y surgen otros nuevos que, enraizados en diferencias nacionales,

culturales, étnicas y socioeconómicas, desembocan en la violencia, a veces fratricida.

Nunca más la violencia. Este es nuestro deber común. Esta es la sensación de alivio, de amanecer de una nueva etapa en la vida de El Salvador que emergió en Chapultepec. Quiero felicitar a todos los que tuvieron la lucidez, el coraje y el desprendimiento de decidirse, a pesar de tantas heridas recientes, por los caminos de la reconciliación y la concordia. Al Presidente Cristiani, al Frente de Liberación, a todos los que supieron anteponer la fuerza de la razón a la razón de la fuerza. A todos los que supieron ser pioneros en la Cultura de la Paz, convencidos de que la violencia el conflicto llevan al sacrificio y a la muerte por causas que bien merecen ser vividas. A través de la Educación, la Ciencia, la Cultura y la comunicación de los derechos humanos es, debe ser, la piedra angular de todo edificio democrático: los seres humanos nacen libres e iguales. Y depende de nosotros que siga siéndolo.

Estamos con todos ustedes, Señor Presidente, representantes de todos los partidos políticos, de las ONG para demostrar, a través de un sistema educativo flexible y adaptado a las circunstancias, que nadie ha perdido el tren de su formación en El Salvador. Sólo hay un tren que se pierde siempre: el de la guerra. El de la paz puede ganarse, gracias a un comportamiento cotidiano que puede beneficiarse de las experiencias que en este Foro se expondrán.

Es preciso decir que, en contra de lo que solían enseñar los manuales de historia, nadie, ninguna nación, ningún grupo humano, ha ganado jamás una guerra. El costo moral y material de la guerra es tan elevado, que todos los triunfos bélicos son victorias pírricas. Sólo es posible ganar la paz.

Y ganar la paz no significa solamente evitar la confrontación armada, sino elaborar con tesón e inteligencia los instrumentos que permitan erradicar las causas de la violencia individual y colectiva: la injusticia y la opresión; la ignorancia y la miseria; la intolerancia y la discriminación. Edificar sin prisa pero sin pausa un armazón de valores y actitudes que ocupe el lugar de la cultura bélica que viene modulando desde hace siglos el curso de nuestra civilización. Ganar la paz significa triunfar en el empeño de construir en democracia una nueva cultura de tolerancia y generocidad, que es, en síntesis, una tarea de amor.

## FIRST INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON THE CULTURE OF PEACE

San Salvador, February 16-18, 1994

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Discurso Inaugural	Sr. Javier Perez de Cuellar Representante del Director General de la UNESCO	SAL/94/Doc.2
Mensaje del Director General de la UNESCO	Federico Mayor Zaragoza	SAL/94/Doc.3
Intervención	Sr. Ricardo Orlando Valdivieso Representante Partido ARENA	SAL/94/Doc.4
El proceso de paz en El Salvador y el desarrollo de una Cultura de Paz	Sr. Oscar Alfredo Santamaría	SAL/94/Doc.5
Primera Conferencia Magistral. Los fundamentos de la Cultura de Paz	Sr. David Escobar Galindo	SAL/94/Doc.6
Mensaje	Ing. Roberto Vilanova M. Presidente de Asociación Nacional de Empresas Privadas	SAL/94/Doc.7
El Papel de la Fuerza Armada de El Salvador en el proceso de negociación y el compromiso de consolidar una Cultura de Paz	Gral. Humberto Corado Figueroa	SAL/94/Doc.9
Proceso de Paz en El Salvador y Cultura de Paz	Gregorio Rosa Chavez Obispo Auxiliar de San Salvador	SAL/94/Doc.12

Fundamentos de una Cultura de Paz desde la perspectiva de los derechos humanos	Dr. Francisco Barahona Riera Vice-Rector Universidad para la Paz	SAL/94/Doc.13
Culture of Peace in the Salvadorian electoral process The FMLN's political project	Gerson Martinez Secretary of Electoral Affairs of the FMLN	SAL/94/Doc.14
Background document	Mrs. Kethy Tioulong Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia	SAL/94/Doc.15
Lessons derived from experiences recovery after a conflict that may be useful for the construction of a Culture of Peace	Dr. Jose Bernard Pallais Vice-Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores República de Nicaragua	SAL/94/Doc.16
Cultura de Paz para la patria de todos	Victor M. Valle Secretario General Movimiento Nacional Revolucionario	SAL/94/Doc.17
Intervención	Sr. Alfredo Salvaterra Delegado de la República de Angola	SAL/94/Doc.18
Intervención	Partido Convergencia Democratica	SAL/94/Doc.19
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Statement	Mr. Murlidhar C. Bhandare Member of Parliament - India	SAL/94/Doc.24

Statement	Mrs. Kethy Tioulong Representante Personal del Rey Norodom Sihanouk	SAL/94/Doc.25
Lecciones derivadas de las experiencias de recuperación despues de un conflicto, que puedan ser utiles para edificación de una Cultural de Paz	Lic. Salvador Stadthagen	SAL/94/Doc.26
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