

For Peace

Date:
June 4, 2020

Subject:
UN Resolution – Establishment of Ministries or Departments and other National Infrastructures for Peace

Dear Colleagues and Peacebuilding Friends,

We seek your input as a peacebuilding actor on the UN Resolution calling for the establishment of Ministries or Departments and other national Infrastructures for Peace worldwide to support the creation of a global architecture for peace and to strengthen the Culture of Peace.

As a collaborative initiative, For Peace is dedicated to an inclusive and participatory drafting process and to consulting with diverse peacebuilding stakeholder groups. We aim to hear as many different voices as possible and to ensure that their experience, expertise, and knowledge informs the drafting and negotiation process of the resolution. Therefore, we welcome and appreciate your feedback, reflections, and concrete suggestions particularly on the issues related to your field of expertise. Please also let us know if you and/or your organization supports the resolution.

For Peace is working in partnership with H.E. UN Ambassador Rodrigo A. Carazo and the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations to introduce the resolution to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We look forward to hearing from you and to incorporate your feedback into the text of the resolution. Thank you for your contribution and dedication to peace.

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Kind regards,
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Founder & Executive Director of For Peace

DRAFT RESOLUTION (04.06.2020)

Establishment of Ministries or Departments and other National Infrastructures for Peace

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, *further recalling* the determination to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world,

Recognizing the constitution and commitment of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization that, since war begins in the minds of people, it is in the minds of people that peace must be built,

Recalling its resolution 217(III) on the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights” of 10 December 1948, its resolution 39/11 of 12 November 1984, entitled “Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace”, its resolution 55/2 of 18 September 2000, entitled “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace, and its resolution 66/137 of 19 December 2011, entitled “United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training”,

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted on 13 September 1999, which serves as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Aware that the world requires transformation towards a culture of peace, which consist of values, attitudes and behaviors that reflect and inspire social interaction and sharing based on the principles of freedom, justice and democracy, all human rights, tolerance and solidarity, that reject violence and endeavor to prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation and that guarantee the full exercise of all rights and the means to participate fully in the development process of their society,

Deeply concerned by the high human cost and suffering caused by armed conflicts and violence, and recognizing the significant number of simultaneous security and humanitarian, social and environmental crises that the world currently faces,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centered set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recognizing that “sustaining peace”, as drawn from the Advisory Group of Experts report, should be broadly understood as a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society, ensuring that the needs of all segments of the population are taken into account, which encompasses activities aimed at preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of violent conflict, addressing root causes, assisting parties to conflict to end hostilities, ensuring national reconciliation, and moving towards recovery, reconstruction and development,

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for the prevention of conflicts, the peaceful settlement of disputes, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, mediation, preventive diplomacy, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, social inclusion, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to a culture of peace,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among people without discrimination and in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace and *taking note* of the commitment of the University for Peace in its support to the work of the United Nations,

Recalling its resolutions 70/262 of 27 April 2016 on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and 72/276 of 26 April 2018 on the follow-up to the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of national governments and authorities in identifying, driving and directing priorities, strategies and activities for sustaining peace, and in this regard, emphasizing that inclusivity is key to advancing national peacebuilding processes and objectives in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account,

Reaffirming the important role of women in peacebuilding and noting the substantial link between women’s full and meaningful involvement in all efforts to prevent, resolve and rebuild from conflict and those efforts’ effectiveness and long-term sustainability, and stressing, in this regard, the importance of women’s equal participation in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase women’s role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding,

Reaffirming also the important role youth plays in the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts and as a key aspect of the sustainability, inclusiveness and success of peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts,

Noting the initiatives of civil society in collaboration with Governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes,

Recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

Conscious of the inter-existence of all Nations and the interdependence of all life on Earth,

1. *Calls for* the establishment of Ministries and Departments for Peace in all Member States to support and develop nationally-owned and inclusive frameworks and strategies for sustaining peace, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, peaceful conflict resolution, and to strengthen social and cultural competencies and capacities for peace and non-violent conflict transformation, including peace education and social healing and supporting the creation of a global architecture for the culture of peace;

2. *Stresses* the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace, which comprises operational and structural measures for the prevention of violence and violent conflict and addresses its root causes;

3. *Recommends* Member States that these Ministries or Departments and other national infrastructures for Peace are established within the executive branch of Government and dedicated to peacebuilding, the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts, reconciliation, social healing and trauma integration, the study and promotion of conditions, capacities, and competencies conducive to the entire peace continuum from inner to international peace, as well as the global culture of peace;

4. *Further recommends to:*

(a) establish peace and peacebuilding as a strategic national policy objective and the primary organizing principle in society;

(b) reduce and prevent violence and social polarization through peacebuilding and building capacities and competencies at all segments of society for effective nonviolent conflict resolution and transformation, social healing, and trauma resilience;

(c) strengthen nonmilitary means of peacemaking and global demilitarization;

(d) take a proactive, strategic approach in the development of field-tested, best practices and policies that promote national and international conflict prevention, nonviolent interventions, peaceful resolution of conflict, structured mediation of conflict;

(e) provide an institutional platform for the growing expertise and evidence-based knowledge in peacebuilding;

(f) support local communities in finding, funding, replicating, and expanding programs to reduce and prevent violence and constructive conflict management;

(g) invest in civil society organizations, including local community organizations, youth, academia, think tanks, media, women's groups, and cultural, educational, religious and indigenous leaders, that have implemented successful initiatives to reduce and prevent violence, both nationally and internationally;

(h) consult with other governmental agencies, national authorities, public and private actors to apply and practice the art and science of peacebuilding in their respective fields of responsibility; and

(i) promote and build a culture of peace in all areas of society including in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector;

5. *Urges* all Member States to promote an holistic, integrated, strategic and coherent approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace within these Ministries and Departments for Peace and across sectors of government, noting that peace, security, sustainable development and human rights are closely interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of national ownership and leadership in peacebuilding, whereby the responsibility for sustaining peace is broadly shared by the Government and all other national stakeholders, and underlines the importance, in this regard, of inclusivity in order to ensure that the needs of all segments of society are taken into account;

7. *Acknowledges* that Ministries or Departments and other national infrastructures for Peace to be established according to the necessities of the specific context and acknowledges further that learning from the local cultural, ethnic and religious context is essential to shape the evolution of a sustainable architecture for peace;

8. *Urges* Member States to increase their financial, technical and logistical as well as sustained political support for establishing Ministries and Departments Peace endowed with the capacity to better implement and promote an integrated and comprehensive approach to peacebuilding and sustaining peace, justice and democratic principles, to expand human rights and the security of persons and their communities;

9. *Underlines* that the scale and nature of the challenge of sustaining peace can be met through close strategic and operational partnerships between national Governments, the United Nations, and other key stakeholders, including international, regional and sub-regional organizations, international financial institutions, regional and other development banks, civil society organizations, women's groups, youth organizations and, where relevant, the private sector;

10. *Strongly encourages* Member States to create safe and enabling environments for civil society, including formal and informal community women leaders, women peacebuilders, political actors, and those who protect and promote human rights, to carry out their work independently and without undue interference, including in situations of armed conflict, and to address threats, harassment, violence and hate speech against them;

11. *Underscores* the importance of women's leadership and full, equal and meaningful participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding, and recognizes the continuing need to increase representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention and resolution of conflict, and the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to sustaining peace;

12. *Calls* upon Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to ensure ways to increase meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in peacebuilding efforts through creating policies, including in partnership with the private sector where relevant, that enhance youth capacities and skills, and create youth employment to actively contribute to sustaining peace

13. *Acknowledges* that healing and integration of collective and intergenerational trauma are essential building blocks for addressing deep root causes of violent conflict, ending the cycle of violence, reducing its disruptive effects on the global culture, and building and sustaining peace on all levels;

14. *Invites* the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, within existing resources, in consultation with Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore and support the establishment of national peace infrastructures, including but not limited to, Government Ministries or Departments for Peace, as well as peace academies, institutes and councils, to strengthen a national and global architecture for peace;

15. *Calls* to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the establishment of Ministries or Departments for Peace and strengthening of peace infrastructures for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and further UN treaties and conventions relevant to strengthening national and global peacebuilding efforts and sustained peace;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the establishment and assessment of Ministries or Departments and infrastructures for Peace that involve local communities, faith-based organizations, Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, and other civil society and private actors and *invites* the Secretary-General to create a link within the UN system to facilitate coordination with the national Ministries or Departments of Peace, in a collaborative effort to promote building and sustaining positive peace;

17. *Calls* on the responsibility of all Member States, politicians, civil society and business actors to take determined and bold action towards the creation of infrastructures for peace and encourages Member States to mobilize and equip civil society with tools and funding for peacebuilding, education and for cultivating peace on individual, local level community-based, collective and institutional level and to harness collective creativity and participation in the co-creation of the global culture of peace;

18. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

19. *Stresses* that a comprehensive approach to sustainable conflict transformation and peace, including promotion of transitional, restorative and intersectional justice, healing and reconciliation, a professional, accountable and effective security sector, including through its reform, and inclusive and effective demobilization, disarmament and reintegration, are critical to consolidation of peace and stability, promoting poverty reduction, rule of law, access to justice and good governance, further extending legitimate State authority, and preventing countries from lapsing or relapsing into conflict;

20. *Underscores* that dedicated support and sustained investments in active and preventive peace infrastructure, preventive diplomacy, people-to-people peacebuilding, and strengthening local civil society, including women- and youth-led efforts for peace and human rights are far more effective and less costly than war and dealing with the after effects of the outbreak of violence and violent extremism;

21. *Is fully conscious* that a genuine and lasting peace depends upon respect for and observance of human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, on the establishment and maintenance of conditions of economic, social and ecological well-being and recognizes that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, the Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part, and accordingly;

22. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.