



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

4 June, 2014

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to Resolution 53/243 of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, and to all subsequent annual resolutions, including Resolution 68/125, entitled Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, adopted on 18 December 2013.

Recognizing the importance of the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and the need for strengthening further the global movement to promote a Culture of Peace, I have the pleasure to inform you that I will convene a High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace on Thursday, 11 September 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters.

This one-day event, which will be devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, aims to provide an informal setting for Member States, representatives of UN entities, civil society, academia, the media and private sector for the exchange of views and ideas in an interactive and inclusive manner.

Attached is a copy of the Background Note for the High-level Forum which is also available on my website at: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/events/>. A detailed draft Programme will be circulated in due course.

In order to benefit from the wide range of views throughout the membership, I extend an invitation to your Government to be represented at the highest possible level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ashe".

John W. Ashe

All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York

Background Note

High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace

Introduction

On 13 September 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted, by consensus, Resolution 53/243 on the **Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace**. Among other things, this Resolution provided the driving force for the implementation of the UN-declared **International Decade for Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010)**. Asserting and re-affirming the commitment of the totality of the United Nations membership to building a Culture of Peace, the General Assembly has been adopting resolutions on the subject every year since 1997.

The General Assembly, through its annual substantive resolutions, has highlighted the priority it attaches to the full and effective implementation of these visionary decisions which are universally applicable and sought after by the vast majority of all peoples in every nation.

In keeping with the success of the two annual High-level Forums on the Culture of Peace that were held in 2012 and 2013, which included Ministerial level participation, the 68th session of the General Assembly adopted, by consensus, Resolution 68/125 on “Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace”, which was co-sponsored by 105 Member States.

In its operative paragraph 14, Resolution 68/125 states, “*Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September.”

Objective

Recognizing the need for continuous support to the strengthening of the global movement to promote the Culture of Peace, as envisaged by the United Nations, particularly in the current global context, the day-long General Assembly High-level Forum will be an important opportunity for Member States, UN entities, civil society, including NGO's, media, and the private sector, and all other relevant stakeholders to have an exchange of ideas and proposals on ways to build and promote the Culture of Peace, as well as to highlight emerging trends and policies that can significantly impact the implementation of this Culture.

Format and Outcome

The one-day High-level Forum will take place on 11 September, 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. It will comprise of an opening segment and two multi-stakeholder interactive panels and a brief closing segment. The two panels will focus on: (1) the role and contributions of women and the young to the Culture of Peace; and (2) global citizenship as a pathway to the Culture of Peace.

A summary will be issued at the conclusion of the High-level Forum.

Participants

Member States are invited to participate at the highest possible level. Representatives of United Nations agencies and of the civil society, major groups, including women and the young, and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

Further information on the High-level Forum, including Programme details and questions to be addressed during the interactive panel discussions, will be made available at a later stage.