Ways of Promoting A Culture of Peace for Well-being

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PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE – SOME USEFUL THOUGHTS

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PEACE IN CONTEXT:

Peace is dynamic, a just and non-violent solution of conflicts. It generates equilibrium in social interactions, so that all of the members of society can live in harmonious relations with each other. Peace is good for society. Where there is violence there is no peace. Where there is injustice and absence of liberty, there is no peace. In order for there to be an equilibrium in the dynamic of social interactions, peace must be founded on justice and liberty.

Peace is not only the absence of armed conflict, it is also a dynamic set of relationships of coexistence and co-operation among and within peoples, characterized by the respect for the human values with the concern to provide the greatest possible well-being for all. Peace is increasingly threatened each day by the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, by the great economic and social inequalities that divide mankind, and by contempt for basic human rights and the dignity of the individual which require a greater effort to overcome. It is only possible in a world in which the observance of international law replaces violence, fear and injustice.
A Culture of Peace:

A Culture of Peace involves as a set of values, attitudes, traditions, modes of behaviour and ways of life based on respect for life, ending of violence and promotion and practice of non-violence through education, dialogue and cooperation; full respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; commitment to peaceful settlement of conflicts; respect for and promotion of the right to development; respect for and promotion of equal rights of and opportunities for women and men; respect for and promotion of the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, opinion and information; and, adherence to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among nations.

Strategies for Promoting a Culture of Peace:

Promoting a Culture of Peace involves providing people with an understanding of the principles of and respect for the world that is at the same time unique and diverse. It implies a collective rejection of violence. My concept of a Culture of Peace should have the form of a broad socio-political and cultural movement that implies a global effort to change how people think and act in order to promote peace. It means transforming conflict, preventing potentially violent conflict and rebuilding peace and confidence among peoples emerging from war. It also requires specific measures and the mobilization and participation of all people and involves a profound transformation of institutional structures as well as the values, attitudes and behaviours of individuals and groups in order to address the cultural roots of violent conflicts and wars. It is important to persist on building a culture based on tolerance, democracy and respect for the rights of all. All the levels of society should work together on a wide cross-section of activities. The key word that is to be stressed here is transdisciplinarity since peace can be threatened in many ways, from cultural to political, people of all races, genders, ages, types of jobs and scientific disciplines. In this way, efforts to foster a culture of peace should extend beyond individual sectors, communities, regions and countries to become
global. A Culture of Peace will only succeed if based on mutual understanding and an open and active attitude towards diversity.

**Recommendations For Well-being through a Culture of Peace:**

(i) There is the need to promote general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, taking into account the priorities established by the United Nations in the field of disarmament.

(ii) Draw on, where appropriate, lessons conducive to a culture of peace learned from "military conversion" efforts as evidenced in some countries of the world.

(iii) Emphasize the inadmissibility of acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in all parts of the world.

(iv) Encourage confidence-building measures and efforts for negotiating peaceful settlements.

(v) Take measures to eliminate illicit production and traffic of small arms and light weapons.

(vi) Support for initiatives, at the national, regional and international levels, to address concrete problems arising from post-conflict situations, such as demobilization, readjustment of former combatants into society, as well as refugees and displaced persons, weapon collection programmes, exchange of information and confidence-building.

(vii) Discourage the adoption of and refrain from any unilateral measure, not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations, that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular women and children, that hinders their well-being, that creates obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being and their right to food, medical
care and the necessary social services, while reaffirming food and medicine must not be used as a tool for political pressure.

(viii) Refrain from military, political, economic or any other form of coercion, not in accordance with international law, aimed against political independence or territorial integrity of any State.

(ix) Promoting greater involvement of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts and, in particular, in activities promoting a culture of peace in post-conflict situations.

(x) Promote initiatives in conflict situations such as days of tranquility to carry out immunization and medicine distribution campaigns; corridors of peace to ensure delivery of humanitarian supplies and sanctuaries of peace to respect the central role of health and medical institutions such as hospitals and clinics.

(xi) Promote peace goals as the dominant factor in all forms of art and promote responsibility for the well-being of the local and global community.

(xii) Teach co-operation rather than competition, solidarity for mutual support, and appreciation for the rich diversity of multicultural societies, Combat racism and discrimination, teach respect for human rights, for human life and the dignity of the person.

(xiii) Promote economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights to create conditions for peace, disarmament and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.