

REINVENTING PEACE

UNESCO – Paris, 15 November 2016

On the 20th anniversary of the Prize for Peace Education awarded to Chiara Lubich

DECLARATION

The dramatic events at the beginning of the third millennium throw into sharp relief the struggles of many peoples and nations that are without peace, access to justice, security, and sustainable development.

We wish to join forces with all who aspire to “re-invent” peace. According to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations peace means *“to develop friendly relations among nations”* (Charter of the UN, Article 1). These relations should reach the point of establishing among States, and among the peoples they contain, that genuine fraternity which forms a solid basis for a world community.

We wish to support UNESCO’s mission to help peoples *“in their understanding of one another.”* We recognize that acknowledging our shared universal citizenship, as well as cultivating *“respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and co-operation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding, are among the best guarantees of international peace and security”* (UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, 2 November 2001).

We wish, therefore, to contribute to nurturing the capacity of people to live together with each other, the capacity we are calling the art of “shared living.” In a time of globalization, this could not be more crucial. It is, *the art of dialogue with all, of taking the first step towards reconciliation even with our enemies, of being open towards others to the point of making their situation our own, of weaving together and continually renewing constructive relationships.* (cf. Chiara Lubich, UNESCO, Paris 17 December 1996). It is, to sum up, the art of forming real community, which brings together, as its living elements, our distinct identities in a relationship of unity.

Thus, with renewed commitment, we unite with all who appeal to UNESCO to promote an extraordinary plan. This, by valuing the potential of the new generations already committed to living for the project of a united world, is directed especially towards:

- encouraging member States, on the basis of their own cultural identity, to contribute **to a worldwide educational project on the art of shared living**, formally including this objective in school curricula and putting in place within educational institutions systems for monitoring its implementation;
- offering member States **in-service training for teachers** on the art of shared living, so as to increase awareness and skills, both within disciplines and on an interdisciplinary basis, which help pupils **seek the truth as a way of initiating dialogue, reconciliation and co-operation**;
- to support, in line with the 11th Sustainable Development Goal 2030, economic, urban, social and cultural policies that promote **communities and cities where the goal of sustainability includes a focus on shared living**, and to foster **city life as a space for the values of a new humanity**, where each human being is called to be open to and to learn from the cultures of the world as a “world person,” a “planetary citizen.”

In putting forward these proposals we trust that co-operation for the sake of peace, by New Humanity and other non-governmental UNESCO partners, may be increasingly dynamic and effective in working alongside the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture.

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New Humanity, representing the Focolare Movement to Unesco