

Universal Declaration of Peace

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Preamble

We, the peoples of the world, reaffirming our faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, Acknowledge the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family as the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Recognize that peace, encompassing harmony, mutual respect, and freedom of belief, is a fundamental aspiration shared among all peoples worldwide, regardless of their creed, convictions, or cultural backgrounds. Understand our profound connection to the planet and all life it sustains, recognizing that sustainable environmental stewardship is essential for lasting peace. Strive through this Declaration to establish a common understanding of the principles necessary to safeguard the civil liberties, well-being, and peaceful coexistence of every individual and community.

Article 1: Right to Peace

Every individual, community, and nation possesses the inherent right to live in peace. This right encompasses freedom from fear and want, security from all forms of violence (including physical, psychological, structural, and cultural violence), whether arising from internal tensions, external hostilities, or systemic oppression. This right includes both negative peace (the absence of direct violence and conflict) and positive peace (the presence of justice, equity, attitudes, institutions, and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies and the necessary conditions for human flourishing), and the entitlement to cultivate relationships based on understanding, tolerance, and goodwill.

* Legal Backing / Principles (Examples): * Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Article 3 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * UN General Assembly Resolution 39/11 (Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace) <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/79666>

Article 2: Right to Justice, Equality and Non-Discrimination

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of solidarity. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. Recognizing that structural inequalities and discrimination based on attributes such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or other status are significant drivers of conflict and undermine peace, we affirm the importance of fairness, social and economic justice for cultivating harmony.

* Legal Backing (Examples): * UDHR, Articles 1, 2, 7 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Articles 2, 26 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights>

Article 3: Freedom of Thought, Conscience, Religion or Belief

Every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; this right includes freedom to change their religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in

public or private, to manifest their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance. This includes the right not to adhere to any religion or belief, and the freedom to hold atheistic, agnostic, secular, or humanist convictions. No one shall be subject to coercion which would impair their freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of their choice. No one shall face discrimination, hostility, harm, restriction, or tribulation on the grounds of their beliefs or lack thereof. Public institutions and policies shall maintain neutrality regarding religion and belief, ensuring that no individual is advantaged or disadvantaged due to their adherence or non-adherence to a particular creed or worldview.

* Legal Backing (Examples): * UDHR, Article 18 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * ICCPR, Article 18 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights> * UN Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/declaration-elimination-all-forms-intolerance-and-discrimination-based>

Article 4: Right to a Dignified Existence and a Sustainable Environment

All human beings are entitled to a standard of living adequate for their health and well-being, including food, clothing, housing, medical care, and necessary social services. This requires equitable access to resources and opportunities. Recognizing the interdependence of human well-being and environmental health, and informed by the scientific understanding of planetary boundaries, environmental preservation, restoration, and sustainable development are essential for peaceful coexistence and intergenerational equity. This entails a commitment to collective action and international cooperation (as outlined in Articles 7 and 10) to manage resources sustainably and ensure the rights of future generations are not compromised.

* Legal Backing / Frameworks (Examples): * UDHR, Article 25 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (Principle 3) https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_CONF.151_26_Vol.I_Declaration.pdf * UN Human Rights Council Resolution 48/13 (The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment) <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G21/270/79/PDF/G2127079.pdf?OpenElement>

Article 5: Commitment to Non-Violence and Peaceful Conflict Transformation

We affirm that dialogue, pluralism, inclusiveness, compassion, empathy, negotiation, mediation, judicial settlement, and other non-coercive methods of conflict transformation best serve the causes of justice, reconciliation, and sustainable peace between diverse peoples and interests. Commitment to resolving conflicts through such non-violent means shall be paramount. The threat or use of force shall only be considered as a measure of last resort, exercised strictly in accordance with international law, notably the principles of the United Nations Charter concerning individual or collective self-defense and collective security measures authorized by the Security Council.

* Legal Backing / Principles (Examples): * UN Charter, Preamble, Articles 1, 2, 33, 51 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/charter-of-the-united-nations> * UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance <https://legal.unesco.org/en/fonds/annexes/databases/details/88/>

Article 6: Freedom of Opinion, Expression, Information and Digital Rights

Every individual has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers. This includes the freedom to express oneself creatively and participate in cultural life. Access to information and digital technologies should be equitable and inclusive. Recognizing that this right carries special duties and responsibilities, it may be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary: (a) For respect of the rights or

reputations of others; (b) For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law. Addressing digital divides, combating misinformation and disinformation, and preventing online abuses that incite violence or hatred require concerted efforts, including the promotion of media and digital literacy.

* Legal Backing (Examples): * UDHR, Article 19 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Articles 19, 20 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-civil-and-political-rights> * UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions <https://en.unesco.org/creativity/convention>

Article 7: Economic Justice and Equitable Resource Distribution

Recognizing that severe economic inequalities, lack of opportunity, and unjust resource distribution fuel instability and conflict, all people are entitled to social security and to the realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for their dignity and the free development of their personality. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. International cooperation should promote fair trade, debt relief for developing nations, poverty eradication, and financial inclusion, implementing policies aimed at progressively reducing disparities in wealth, income, and opportunity. Economic systems should prioritize human well-being, social equity, and environmental sustainability (within planetary boundaries) over mere profit accumulation.

* Legal Backing / Frameworks (Examples): * UDHR, Articles 22, 23, 25 <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> * International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-covenant-economic-social-and-cultural-rights> * UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially Goals 1, 8, 10 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Article 8: Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

States shall pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. Recognizing the scientifically established catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of their use, the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as other weapons of mass destruction, shall be prohibited and existing stockpiles eliminated. States shall promote transparency in armaments and reduce military expenditures to enhance security and redirect resources towards sustainable development and peacebuilding.

* Legal Backing / Principles (Examples): * Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), Article VI <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/> * Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) <https://www.opcw.org/chemical-weapons-convention> * Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/biological-weapons/> * Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) https://treaties.un.org/pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXVI-9&chapter=26&clang=_en

Article 9: Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Recognizing that certain groups face heightened risks of violence, discrimination, and marginalization, particularly during conflict and instability, special protection and attention shall be afforded to ensure their rights and well-being. This includes, but is not limited to, children, women, refugees, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers, migrants, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, and members of ethnic, religious, linguistic, or sexual minorities, as well as others facing systemic discrimination or violence. Their specific needs and perspectives must be included in peace processes and societal structures.

* Legal Backing (Examples - Non-Exhaustive List): * Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child> * Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women> * Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its Protocol <https://www.unhcr.org/about-unhcr/who-we-are/1951-refugee-convention> * International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/international-convention-protection-rights-all-migrant-workers-and-members-their-families> * UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html> * Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html>

Article 10: Global Cooperation and Solidarity

The complex and interconnected challenges to peace, including poverty, inequality, climate change, pandemics, and transnational threats, require enhanced multilateral cooperation, effective global governance, and genuine solidarity among nations, peoples, and diverse actors. States, international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and individuals share a responsibility to work together in a spirit of global partnership to achieve the common goals of peace, justice, and sustainable development.

* Legal Backing / Frameworks (Examples): * UN Charter, Chapters IX, X <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/charter-of-the-united-nations> * 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal17>

Article 11: Ethical Governance of Science and Technology

Recognizing the profound impact of science and technology on peace and security, states and all relevant stakeholders shall promote their development and application for the benefit of all humanity. Particular attention must be paid to the potential risks posed by emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, biotechnology, and cyber technologies. Precautionary measures, ethical guidelines, robust governance frameworks, and international regulations shall be established and implemented to ensure their development and use align with human rights, serve the cause of peace, prevent harm, and do not exacerbate conflict, discrimination, or inequality. Emphasis shall be placed on developing and deploying technologies, including ethical and responsible AI, that can support peace-building, conflict analysis, early warning systems, verification, humanitarian efforts, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

* Relevant Principles / Frameworks (Examples): * UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/ethics-recommendation> * Discussions within the UN Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE LAWS) <https://disarmament.un.org/topics/lethal-autonomous-weapons-systems/>

Article 12: Implementation and Accountability

States bear the primary responsibility to promote, protect, and ensure the realization of the rights and principles set forth in this Declaration. They shall take all necessary measures, including legislative, administrative, judicial, educational, and budgetary measures, to this end. Effective mechanisms for monitoring, reporting, and accountability shall be established and strengthened at the national, regional, and international levels, involving civil society participation. Promoting education for peace, human rights education, and fostering a global culture of peace are essential for the effective implementation and long-term sustainability of this Declaration.

* Legal Backing / Frameworks (Examples): * Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (Part II. E) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/vienna-declaration-and-programme-action> * UN Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (A/RES/53/243) <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/287399>