



## **United Nations Centers for Sustainable Global Peace: UN-University Partnerships**

*Sharing, Scholarship, and Service for sustainable peace for our global human community, guided by the UN-inspired recognition that “we” must mean all of us.*

### **Two Proposals**

#### *1. Establish UN Centers for Nonviolent Conflict Prevention at select Universities*

There is a critical need to promote interfaith and intercultural understanding through dialogue. Imagine if several of the great universities of the world hosted UN Centers for Nonviolent Conflict Prevention where intercultural and interfaith dialogue and experiences could be promoted. The cost would be very low and the prestige and value high for the participating institutions. Such centers could help create a critical mass of educated people who are committed to a global norm of tolerance and pluralism. The UN would benefit from this increased outreach and the participating universities would benefit with heightened prestige and useful programs. The Centers could serve to support UN work such as the Millennium Development Goals, peacebuilding, and nuclear disarmament.

#### *2. Establish a UN Center for Nonviolent Conflict Prevention and Resolution at UN Headquarters*

A Center for Nonviolent Conflict Prevention and Resolution as part of the UN headquarters could utilize all available means of mediation, negotiation, conciliation, and nonviolent conflict prevention and resolution in addressing current and potential conflicts fueled by ethnic or religious intolerance. The Center would fully utilize the good will of many of the world's religious leaders. The UN Center for Nonviolent Conflict Prevention and Resolution could reinforce the regional offices at which on-going multi-cultural, interreligious, and inter-ethnic dialogue can take place as a method of preventive diplomacy. It could take full advantage of the world's religions and could be utilized to preempt cycles of misunderstanding, fear, and violence.

### **Contact information**

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## Goal

To cultivate sustainable global peace by jointly harnessing the human, intellectual, cultural, spiritual, technological, and practical resources and energies of the United Nations and university communities around the world.

## Objectives

1. Raise awareness of the mission and work of the United Nations among scholars and students at universities around the world and in surrounding communities.
2. Promote “Sharing, Scholarship, and Service” undertaken for the benefit of the global human community and guided by the UN-inspired recognition that “we” must mean all of us.
3. Facilitate knowledge-sharing and local, regional, and global application of promising ideas to cultivate sustainable peace through UN-university, inter-university, and university-community linkages.
4. Support creative academic investigation of the world’s cultural and spiritual traditions as actual and potential resources for cultivating sustainable peace—locally, regionally, and globally.
5. Foster cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue at all levels to promote mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance.
6. Provide a clearinghouse to preserve and disseminate success stories and promising ideas that can contribute now and in the future to sustainable global peace.

## Three-fold Focus – *Collaboration, Appreciation, Inspiration*

*COLLABORATION* for environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, and nonviolent conflict prevention.

*APPRECIATION* of local, regional, and global cultures of mutual respect, compassion, and harmony.

*INSPIRATION* from the world’s cultural, spiritual, and wisdom traditions.

## Three-fold Approach – *Sharing, Scholarship, Service*

*SHARING* experiences, insights, and inspiration; devotional and meditative practices; teachings on virtue and ethics; and nonviolent conflict-prevention strategies from our cultural, spiritual, and wisdom traditions through university- and community-based cross-cultural and interfaith dialogue to foster mutual understanding, respect, and tolerance.

*SCHOLARSHIP* in and across academic disciplines to investigate ways in which the world’s diverse cultural and spiritual traditions have served and can serve to cultivate sustainable peace—locally, regionally, and globally—and ways in which such lessons can be applied in specific contexts in our contemporary world.

*SERVICE* through developing and implementing cross-cultural and interfaith projects to promote environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, and nonviolent conflict prevention—locally, regionally, and globally.