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المجلس الاقتصادي والاجتماعي

لجنة حقوق الإنسان

الدورة السابعة والخمسون

البند ١٧ من جدول الأعمال المؤقت

تعزيز حقوق الإنسان وحمايتها

نحو ثقافة سلام

مذكرة من المفوضة السامية لحقوق الإنسان

١- طلبت لجنة حقوق الإنسان في قرارها ٢٠٠٠/٦٦ إلى المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان "أن تعمل في غضون السنة الدولية لثقافة السلام، بالتنسيق مع مكتب اللجنة في دورتها السادسة والخمسين، على تكوين وتنسيق أعمال فريق/محفل بشأن ثقافة السلام وتزويده بالموارد اللازمة، بما في ذلك الموارد المالية، بحيث يكون الاشتراك فيه مفتوحاً للحكومات والمنظمات غير الحكومية والمنظمات الأخرى المعنية وبحيث يركز على إسهام عمليات تعزيز وحماية وإعمال جميع حقوق الإنسان في زيادة تنمية ثقافة السلام" (الفقرة ٥).

٢- وفي ١٦ حزيران/يونيه ٢٠٠٠، اتفقت المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان مع جامعة السلم على التعاون على تنفيذ القرار السالف الذكر. وبموجب الولاية المحددة لهذا الغرض، تمت الموافقة على اعتبار محفل ثقافة السلام جزءا لا يتجزأ من الأنشطة التي يجري التخطيط لها للاحتفال بيوم حقوق الإنسان في ١١ كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٠ وعلى الاسترشاد فيه بموضوع "التثقيف في مجال حقوق الإنسان" الواسع النطاق.

٣- وبناء عليه عقدت حلقة دراسية للخبراء بشأن حقوق الإنسان والسلام في جنيف يومي ٨ و٩ كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٠. وعقدت هذه الحلقة الدراسية بدعم من مديرية الشؤون السياسية التابعة للوزارة الفيدرالية السويسرية للشؤون الخارجية، وإدارة الأبحاث التابعة للوكالة السويدية للتنمية الدولية، ومؤسسة الاحتفال بمرور ثلاثمائة سنة على تأسيس بنك السويد. ويأخذ تقرير الحلقة الدراسية في الاعتبار أيضاً العروض المقدمة والمناقشات

التي أجريت في المحفل الحكومي الدولي الذي عقدته المفوضة السامية في يوم حقوق الإنسان (١١ كانون الأول/ديسمبر ٢٠٠٠) حول موضوع "التثقيف في مجال حقوق الإنسان: مساهمة في ثقافة سلام".

٤- ويرد تقرير الحلقة الدراسية للخبراء في مرفق* هذه المذكرة الذي يسبقه خلاصة.

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* المرفق معمم باللغات الإسبانية والإنكليزية والفرنسية فقط.

خلاصة

ينبغي أن تصبح حقوق الإنسان المبدأ التوجيهي الأساسي المسترشد به لتحقيق التنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية السليمة وتوقع التزاعات والحيلولة دون نشوبها وإعادة بناء وتأهيل المجتمعات بعد انتهاء التزاعات. ويجب أن تسود مبادئ حقوق الإنسان في الأنظمة التي تخلف الأنظمة الاستبدادية وفي عمليات الانتقال إلى النظام الديمقراطي وتعزيز الديمقراطية الجارية حالياً. وثمة تحد عاجل أمام المجتمع الدولي ألا وهو دمج السياسات الهادفة إلى تحقيق التنمية الاقتصادية والسياسات الرامية إلى معالجة القضايا الأساسية المتمثلة في العدالة والتنمية الاجتماعية وأمن البشر وحقوق الإنسان والسلام .

ولإحراز تقدم مطرد في النهوض بحقوق الإنسان، يجب أن تنسق المبادرات المتخذة على الصعيد الدولي تنسيقاً فعالاً مع الجهود المبذولة على الصعيد المحلي حيث يخاطر أشخاص متفانون بحياتهم وتتحدى المنظمات غير الحكومية والمنظمات الشعبية الجور والانتهاكات المنتظمة لحقوق الإنسان. ويجب على منظمات المجتمع المدني والجامعات والوكالات الحكومية أن تواصل ممارسة الضغوط لضمان عدم نشوب التزاعات التي تمت تسويتها من جديد بسبب انعدام ثقافة حقوق الإنسان والسلام. ويمكن أن تقوم خطط العمل الوطنية بشأن حقوق الإنسان وآليات الرصد المستمر، مثل أمانات المظالم واللجان الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان والهيئات البرلمانية المعنية بحقوق الإنسان ومراصد حقوق الإنسان، بدور حاسم في هذا الصدد.

ويجب التركيز بصورة خاصة على معالجة المشاكل العاجلة والمعاناة التي يتعرض لها المحرومون والمهددون على وجه الخصوص - ولا سيما النساء والأطفال والمسنون والشباب وسكان أمريكا اللاتينية من أصل أفريقي والسكان الأصليون والغجر والداليت والمهاجرون واللاجئون. إن حقوق الإنسان حقوق عالمية وغير قابلة للتجزئة، لهذا يجب إنشاء ائتلافات استراتيجية وتحسين التعاون على كافة المستويات إذا ما أريد التقدم بخطى ثابتة ومنتظمة نحو ثقافة قوامها حقوق الإنسان والسلام.

ويجب، اليوم أكثر من أي وقت مضى، تعزيز الائتلافات الموجودة بين المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان ووكالات الأمم المتحدة ومنظمات المجتمع المدني لضمان تعزيز وحماية الجوانب المتعددة لحقوق الإنسان التي تشمل الحقوق المدنية والسياسية والاقتصادية والاجتماعية والثقافية.

إن التعليم أداة أساسية لتعزيز السلام وتدعيمه والنهوض بحقوق الإنسان. غير أن من اللازم بطبيعة الحال، أن يكون التعليم مصحوباً بتدابير حازمة وفعالة في مجالات أخرى. ولا يمكن إنجاز المهمة الصعبة المتمثلة في تغيير المواقف والقيم التي تفرز ثقافة يسودها العنف إلاّ من خلال التعليم في جميع المراحل. ويجب على الدول ألاّ تعرض مواطنيها للمعاناة وذلك بإشراب البرلمانيين وراسمي السياسات والمديرين والموظفين والسلطة القضائية وقوات الأمن

والشرطة بثقافة حقوق الإنسان والسلام. وثمة أيضاً حاجة جديدة وملحة لزيادة عدد الخبراء المؤهلين في كافة المجالات المتصلة بالسلم والأمن بدءاً بالوساطة ومنع نشوب النزاعات وانتهاء بإعادة التعمير بعد تسوية النزاعات والمصالحة. ويجب أن يكون هذان التحديان موضع تركيز برامج محسنة بشأن حقوق الإنسان والسلام.

وتوجد حاجة ماسة إلى وضع برامج تدريب عملية وإنجاز أبحاث محددة الهدف تستند إلى دراسات إفرادية عن تسوية النزاعات، والحالات التي نجحت فيها الوساطة، وعمليات المصالحة والانتقال إلى الديمقراطية، ويستفيد منها زعماء المجتمع المدني، والبرلمانيون، ووسائط الإعلام، والمدعون العامون، ورجال الشرطة، والمعلمون، والقضاة، والمحامون، وموظفو الأمم المتحدة.

وقد حان الوقت للشروع في وضع وتنفيذ نهج بديلة وفي الابتكار عند رسم السياسات وتحديد أهدافها بغية تعزيز سياسات حقوق الإنسان ودمجها في السياسات الأخرى المتعلقة بالتنمية الاقتصادية والاجتماعية. ويفترض ذلك اتخاذ تدابير عملية تركز على مجموعة كبيرة من المسائل مثل: توفير "الهياكل الأساسية" اللازمة لحقوق الإنسان؛ وتوفر العمل اللائق الذي يصون الكرامة ويعطي الأمل ويضمن أساساً سليماً للأسرة والمجتمع المدني، خاصة في مرحلة إعادة التعمير بعد تسوية النزاعات؛ وتنظيم حملات لرأب الصدع الاجتماعي وتوعية الجمهور دعماً للسلام؛ وتشجيع تعليم حقوق الإنسان على جميع المستويات بما في ذلك "تدريب المدربين" من خلال التعليم العالي واستخدام أدوات التدريب المتعددة الوسائط؛ وتحفيز وإصلاح القضاء وولايات الشرطة المدنية وأساليب عملها وما إلى ذلك.

وبينت الندوة بجلاء أن تعزيز حقوق الإنسان ضروري بالنسبة لعمليات السلام وتعزيز ثقافة حقوق الإنسان والسلام. وأثبتت الحلقة الدراسية للخبراء بشأن حقوق الإنسان والسلام أن التعاون بين المفوضية السامية لحقوق الإنسان وجامعة السلم وسيلة فعالة لجمع الخبراء الفنيين العالميين ليوضحوا بعض المسائل المعقدة والحساسة.

Annex

**FINAL REPORT OF THE EXPERT SEMINAR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE
(GENEVA, 8-9 DECEMBER 2000)***

I. INTRODUCTION

Background information

1.   At its fifty-sixth session in March 2000, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted resolution 2000/66 in which it requested OHCHR to organize a forum focusing on the contribution of human rights to the further development of a culture of peace. In May 2000, the High Commissioner invited UPEACE to assist OHCHR in the substantive preparations for this forum and in elaborating potential follow-up action-oriented activities related to the further promotion of human rights and education to promote a culture of peace.

2.   Responding to this request, UPEACE convened the Expert Seminar on Human Rights and Peace on 8 and 9 December at the Palais Wilson in Geneva. The meeting involved some 30 leading experts from notable research and academic institutions in different parts of the world, as well as intergovernmental institutions, non-governmental organizations and independent experts. Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun (Algeria) acted as Chair and Professor Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) as Rapporteur.

3.   The Rapporteur, with the collaboration of all participants (see attached list of experts) and a volunteer drafting group composed of Ms. Dina Rodriguez (Peru), Mr. Miloon Kothari (India), Mr. Karl-Eric Knutsson (Sweden) and Mr. Lucas Assunção (Brazil, UPEACE), prepared a preliminary brief note which served as the basis for an exchange of views with government representatives and other participants at the intergovernmental forum held during the celebration of Human Rights Day at the Palais Wilson on 11 December 2000.

4.   This final report, prepared by the Rapporteur together with Mr. Assunção, takes full account of the expert seminar's deliberations and of aspects of the discussions held at the intergovernmental forum between country delegations, heads and senior staff of intergovernmental organizations and CSOs and the experts invited by UPEACE. A number of experts kindly made further comments on the preliminary note and these have also been integrated in the present version.

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* Submitted to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by the University for Peace.

5.   This report comprises four main sections. The first section presents background information and outlines previous and ongoing contributions to building a culture of peace. The second section summarizes the discussions during the expert seminar and intergovernmental forum, as well as the policy notes and case studies commissioned by UPEACE from the independent experts for the seminar. The third section draws some conclusions from the lessons learnt from experience and the final section presents a selection of concrete proposals for action proposed by participants at the expert seminar.

6.   Several Member States present at the intergovernmental forum requested that this independent report be transmitted to the Commission on Human Rights in 2001.

Public awareness at the international level

7.   The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has served as the focal point within the United Nations system for the follow-up to and implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace (General Assembly resolution 53/243). This important statement by the international community stands as a reference guide for specific initiatives by Governments, intergovernmental organizations and CSOs. An important follow-up to the Declaration relates to the forthcoming International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World to commence in 2001. Public-awareness campaigns, academic conferences and the establishment of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Peace, Democracy and Tolerance in universities in all regions of the world are helping advance the goals promulgated in resolution 53/243.

8.   This report has also benefited from the experience shared with the expert seminar by participants from several intergovernmental agencies with a continued commitment to the promotion of human rights and peace such as OHCHR, UNESCO, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organization, as well as from CSOs such as Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and WSP International (formerly, the War-torn Societies Project). Even though numerous initiatives have addressed the building of a culture of peace the expert seminar emphasized that due attention must be paid to the practical implications of those valuable efforts. The dispersion of these efforts must be overcome. More than ever it is necessary to strengthen coalitions between the OHCHR, United Nations agencies and CSOs to ensure the promotion and protection of the multiple facets of human rights comprising civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

9.   Since October 1994 the University for Peace has been conducting in Central America a programme for a culture of peace and democracy coupled with Master's degree courses in the field of Human Rights and in related areas. This programme has accumulated a wealth of experience on the seven Central American countries and has contributed to the peace-building and democratization processes in some cases, particularly through training activities to promote a culture of peace.

10.   The programme has been conducting research, training and education activities and has produced a significant variety of academic texts and didactic materials. It has established a strategy of collaboration and building of partnerships with governmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, community organizations and professional and labour organizations.

11.   At the European Union level, a European Master's Programme on Human Rights and Democratization, coordinated from the University of Padua, Italy, has since 1996 experienced success in the training of mid-career and young professionals in international human rights law. The programme has succeeded in establishing an effective partnership with distinguished academic institutions and research centres in Europe and has counted on concrete contributions from regional governments and sectors of the armed forces in Italy. An expansion of this experience, possibly in association with training programmes under development at the University for Peace, may also benefit students and professionals from other regions.

II. ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE

12.   Human rights, peace, democracy and sustainable development are four aspects in the life of nations that are closely linked and which reinforce one another. These four elements must constitute the foundation for an integrated approach for a culture of human rights and peace. Peace cannot exist or be sustained if human rights are not respected. Likewise, as frequently pointed out by the Secretary-General Kofi Annan, peace is a prerequisite for development - which in itself is a human right. Human rights are attainable within real democracies that, at the same time, favour the conditions needed to generate sustainable development. Faced with this reality, the pursuit of a culture of human rights and peace requires education on all levels and in particular human rights education as a key instrument for change.

On a culture of human rights and peace

13.   A major problem in contemporary societies is the tendency towards a rigid categorization of culture which has led to policies of exclusion and/or of homogenization leading to the disrespect of cultural diversity. Attitudes are moving from tolerance and cooperation towards exclusion, the construction of cultural, ethnic and religious boundaries, gender violence, including the rape of women, and the destruction of whole communities and their cherished cultural heritages and traditions.

14.   As a result we are witnessing in many areas not the building of peace but the spread of violence, which has reached unacceptable proportions. Its consequences on society are multiple. WHO has estimated that in 1998 2.3 million people died from violence in the world. From these deaths approximately 1 million (42 per cent) resulted from self-inflicted violence, 750,000 (32 per cent) from interpersonal violence in homes and communities and 600,000 from wars and other forms of collective violence. Civil wars, endemic violence, racial discrimination and xenophobia provide graphic indicators of this process. The most affected groups include, in particular, women and children, particularly child soldiers, the aged and handicapped, economic migrants, refugees, indigenous peoples and children.

15.   Cultural identities, which are simultaneously inclusive and exclusive, have always existed. In themselves, identities and the cultural traditions on which they are built may not have changed much. What have dramatically changed are the conditions which made it possible and desirable for different identities to live together within a shared social and cultural space. What is new is the threat - indeed the purpose - to invade the identities of others and destroy them.[1]

This underlies the urgency to protect human rights and promote understanding, respect and tolerance for constructive coexistence and peace.

16.   On the other hand, we must acknowledge that the "ethnicization" of conflicts or a *politique identitaire* may also trigger violence: these tendencies reduce solidarity towards the victims of violence. As a result, those victims are seen as foreign and even dehumanized persons. When peoples' identities are narrowed down to a single focus, social divisions become deeper and more rigid. Ethnicity is a deeply emotional basis upon which violent mobilization can be triggered against "the other", often resulting in the dehumanization of the other group. Discrimination against and oppression of specific groups are, in consequence, aggravated.

17.   Fostering understanding and openness to cultural diversity enables one to look into one's own self. The full understanding of the diversity among cultures and among peoples becomes a prerequisite for establishing "peace with one another, peace with our environment and peace with ourselves", as UPEACE President Maurice Strong pointed out in opening the expert seminar.

18.   It is more urgent than ever to focus attention on the responsibilities and duties of the national elites to avoid the perpetuation of social injustice and privileges. Likewise, it is equally important to recall the moral obligation and responsibilities of developed nations for the realization of human rights and the struggle against poverty worldwide. There are positive causal links between the realization of one right and other rights such as the rights to food, to free speech, to education and so on. These rights directly improve human freedom and human development. They can also mutually reinforce each other.

19.   We must look for spaces for the promotion of human rights in areas ravaged by conflict. There is no need to await the end of a war or conflict to support human rights initiatives. Burundi, where the Ministry for Human Rights has supported initiatives to promote and protect human rights in civil society during the ongoing armed conflict in the country, offers a good example. At the same time, for these initiatives to succeed, people must be consulted about the human rights and peace programmes introduced. Genuine and sustained consultation and dialogue with the local communities is essential for the promotion of such programmes. The groups afflicted by conflicts or violence must be able to identify themselves with the priorities proposed in programmes led by the Government and CSOs.

20.   At the level of society, respect for civil and political rights, including the right to elect government freely, allows the disadvantaged to have a voice in the promotion of social, economic and political development. For a political regime to be democratic it must aim to meet the social needs required for the sustainable human development of its population. The challenge is not to launch a few scattered initiatives in favour of the poor but to guarantee all rights to everyone and to strive to achieve this high purpose. The aim of democracy is the effective implementation of all the human rights recognized by the Universal Declaration.

21.   National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights must be supported. Building a wide alliance of public agencies, CSOs, the media, universities and the private sector increases the efficacy of efforts for the advocacy and accountability for human rights. In several countries, CSOs are extremely mobilized and are sometimes even more active than State bodies. In every continent, national human rights commissions strive to ensure that the laws and regulations for realizing the Governments' human rights policies are effectively enforced. According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, of the existing 120 national parliaments today, nearly half have formal bodies dealing with human rights. Their mandates reflect national contexts, but all share the common goal of ensuring that the universal human rights standards are translated into law - and realized in practice.

22.   A culture of peace and human rights is more than the absence of violence. Promoting a culture of peace requires continuity and ongoing attention, before, during and after conflicts. However, the mere promotion of peaceful behaviour will not be enough. It will also require removing the restrictions and social tensions that are created by inequality, poverty, social exclusion, racial discrimination and violations of civil and political rights.

Human security

23.   The objectives of human security are the safety and survival of people and freedom from fear and physical violence. Inequality, deprivation, social exclusion and denial of access to political and civil rights contribute to the breakdown of the social fabric that binds humanity. Not having a fair chance in life is one of the most incendiary root causes of violence and conflict. When human security is jeopardized, the deterioration may be registered in statistical terms, e.g. number of casualties in armed conflict, crime rates, numbers of youth murdered, number of women and children subject to abuse, etc. Such indicators are an important tool to evaluate realization of human rights and peace and an early warning signal for conflict prevention.

24.   A wide variety of approaches are being attempted with a view to reducing current levels of violence. These include the enhancement and respect of human rights, strengthening judicial systems, promoting preventive diplomacy, human rights education and economic development. In operational terms, freedom from fear and physical violence imply basically the existence of the rule of law, public order and peaceful management of conflicts. Their normative basis is the set formed by human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law.

25.   As a consequence, the agenda of human security must take into consideration three main elements. The first concerns the importance of preventive action, the problems faced by such action, and how prevention can be more effective. The second concerns the means of violence, mostly small arms and light weapons - even though it must be recognized that violence is caused by a combination of many and diverse factors. The third element concerns the imperative of ensuring that the efforts undertaken by Governments and by civil society actors are mutually reinforcing.

26.   The seminar has called attention to the fact that prevention of conflict, of violence and of crime, is substantially more cost-effective than repairing the damage in the aftermath, when violence has erupted. This cost-effectiveness is reinforced by moral considerations, recognizing the casualties and suffering that will come about if nothing is done. There is a vital connection between human rights violations and the outbreak of conflicts. Human rights violations are

usually warning signals for the emergence of conflicts. Frequently, there is no lack of early warning signals, but incapacity and unwillingness to take early action. In that respect, there can be no excuse for inaction: "We know what needs do be done. What is now needed is the foresight and political will to do it".[2]

Freedom from fear

27.   No other aspect of human security is so vital in practice as security from physical violence. In both poor and rich nations peoples' lives are threatened by violence which can take many forms, as highlighted in the *Human Development Report 2000*. Peoples' lives are menaced by violence from the State (physical torture, arbitrary arrest and detention); from other States (war, support for oppressive regimes); from other groups of people (ethnic conflicts, crime, street violence, organized crime and terrorism), as well as by threats directed at women and girls (rape, domestic violence) and at youth and children (child abuse).

28.   For years, civil society movements have mobilized public opinion to eliminate such threats and networking with international NGOs has also contributed to strengthening such attempts. At the global level, several international instruments such as the Convention against Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child - ratified by 119, 165 and 191 countries respectively - protect individuals against torture and ensure the security of women and children. Despite such progress, one of the main failures of many contemporary States and societies is their incapacity to ensure freedom from fear to their overall population.

29.   Large contingents of poor people are living today with increased crime, corruption, violence and insecurity amidst declining social cohesion. Few poor people have access to justice and the protection of the police (in many cases the poor are targets for arbitrary repression). In some societies, officials and criminals are often accused of being in collusion and, instead of being seen as protectors, police are largely viewed negatively for their indifference, for their role in intimidation, corruption and crime, and for their ability to instil fear, to harass and to brutalize.

30.   Values and principles of peace cannot prevail and become real in communities threatened in their daily lives by extremely high rates of mortality, arbitrary practices of State agents or the terror of organized crime. Poor people frequently share a general feeling that lawlessness has increased, tending to degenerate into crime. More than ever the State, which has the monopoly of the use of legitimate physical violence, must focus its efforts to play an active role in building peaceful societies.

31.   Peace in modern societies requires close attention to the responsibilities and duties of the national elites to avoid the perpetuation of social injustice and privileges for a few. Likewise, it is equally important to recall the moral obligation and responsibilities of developed nations for the realization of human rights and the concomitant struggle against poverty worldwide. In this regard, the continuation of the outright arms race must be addressed as a major disservice to the promotion and consolidation of a culture of human rights and peace.

Globalization and human rights

32.   Recent massive economic, political and social changes have isolated individuals and fragmented communities in many parts of the world. For the poor, the situation is especially acute because they have less capacity to adapt to dislocation. The increased international flow of trade, capital and information has delivered undeniable wealth and opportunity for many. Global economic integration has indeed created opportunities for people around the world. However, there is a marked discrepancy among countries with respect to gains from expanding trade, as well as access to foreign direct investment and new technologies. Many of the poorest countries are marginalized from these emerging opportunities. The income gap between poorest and richest countries is widening.

33.   There is a widespread uneasiness about some of the associated and parallel ills of rapid globalization. Income inequality is growing, as is the number of people in abject poverty. The current overarching policy goal of liberalizing and promoting trade at any cost leaves little or no room for human rights considerations, even when the ultimate intention is income growth.

34.   Globalization, through the sustained promotion of trade liberalization and heightened competition for new markets, has not resulted in unequivocal gains for all sectors of societies. The fact that not all sectors have enjoyed equally the benefits and opportunities of globalization and the associated increase in communication flows is not conducive to the establishment of a culture of human rights and peace, which fully protects the rights of minorities. Relevant international human rights standards exist but are not uniformly ratified, effectively enforced, or adequately integrated in rules to influence the multilateral trading system.

35.   The debate during the intergovernmental forum called attention to the need for a greater involvement of financial and trade organizations, such as the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, in the commitment for the protection of human rights worldwide. A world economy increasingly integrated through trade interests and capital flows does not necessarily lead to the improvement of human rights. However, such improvement may turn out to be essential for the sustainable development and stability of the world economy and for tangible, widely shared improvements in human welfare.

36.   The number of migrant workers and trafficking victims has grown with international trade, yet abuses against them remain largely ignored. Experience shows that global economic integration is no substitute for a firm parallel commitment to defending human rights. Millions of people who are excluded from the global economy are forced to accept it on unsatisfactory terms. In this divisive debate, human rights offer a promising framework to address the ill effects of globalization.

The quest for decent work in stable societies

37.   Lasting peace depends on a number of social, economic and political measures. Critical among them is access to decent work. Unfortunately, promoting decent work continues to receive inadequate attention in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace-building and

post-conflict communities. The access to decent work is a basic human right and a critical factor in preserving social stability and cohesion. It should constitute a central element in a comprehensive strategy for achieving long-lasting peace.

38. Decent work is work that meets peoples' human aspirations and not only aims at generating income; it is human security for themselves and their families, and should be available without discrimination or harassment, providing equal treatment for women and men.

39. It helps to reorient peoples' minds from conflict and destructive activities to constructive occupations. It also helps improve material welfare and reduce poverty, social exclusion and disintegration, often one of the structural root causes of armed conflicts. Such productive activities provide human and family dignity and a channel for social healing as a means to reduce the plight of vulnerable groups including jobless youth, demobilized combatants, disabled people, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons. Decent work is of decisive importance for female-headed households, whose numbers soar during armed conflicts, and in communities deeply affected by endemic violence and victimization.

The role of human rights education

40. Education is a fundamental element in all processes that aim to build a culture of peace and human rights. It is more than the provision of information; it is a lifelong, value-based process of improving knowledge and action within the framework of the principles and provisions of the international instruments on human rights.

41. This broad capacity-building effort will require more than education for a culture of human rights and peace: people's and communities' participation will be essential, together with the genuine commitment and support - including institutional and capacity-building measures - of Governments, the private sector, the research and professional communities, as well as social movements in civil society.

42. In order for human rights education to be pragmatic, relevant and effective, special efforts should be made to train educators who come from different backgrounds and to develop methodologies that will facilitate their work with diverse groups of students. The training should also promote educational strategies - for educators as well as students - that extend into the community in order to link theory with practical social realities and experiences. Each engaged person may be requested to play a part in effective human rights advocacy in the community through becoming a human rights "educator", "monitor" and "documenter".

43. Human rights education should draw on past successes and failures in the promotion of a culture of human rights and peace. For that reason, education efforts require underlying research activities, documentation on specific cases studies and, to the extent possible, the development of human rights indicators. Due attention must be paid to the "multiplier's role" of certain groups in society such as the media, teachers, public prosecutors, civil police staff, etc.

III. LESSONS LEARNT

Civil society organizations: navigating in uncharted waters

44. The protection of human rights, the building of peace after armed conflicts and the end of endemic violence continue to be the principal challenges for civil society in the search for peace. CSOs are forced to find new ways to search for peace and to define new strategies to create viable mechanisms for the protection of human rights, appropriate for environments where violence and conflict do not take the form of conventional war.

45. For more than a decade, international organizations have promoted the principles of a culture of peace. Human rights and peace activists have bravely endeavoured to confront violence and war. Human rights and culture of peace education have helped them to develop a clear sense of the problems to be addressed. However, most continue to navigate in uncharted waters because they have not been provided with specific strategies to struggle for peace in post-conflict situations and societies in a state of no-war and no real peace either. It is time to address this need, taking into account the specificity and historical background of each context and the obstacles encountered in the formulation of appropriate strategies.

46. The absence of the rule of law and lack of access to the justice system for non-elites; structural racism and racial discrimination; the lack of accountability of Government and the non-implementation of social, economic and cultural rights must all be necessarily tackled to strengthen peace in society. It is critical to raise public awareness of the lawless violence that often plagues countries after the end of conflicts and the return to democracy. It is also of fundamental importance to identify with rigour the serious shortcomings in the performance of the judiciary and the ways in which impunity undermines the rule of law.

47. Today, post-conflict societies and democratic consolidation processes require new linkages between the spheres of civil society and political institutions. In this new context, CSOs face unexpected challenges that go beyond denunciation of abuses through documentation or the promotion of a culture of peace. CSOs are compelled to intervene in the moulding of alternative agendas for the new democratic State, and in democratizing public policies that can contribute to a new environment conducive to sustained peace.

Building awareness and involving people

48. To promote human rights and peace, strategies must be defined at the level of civil society, both to build awareness of human rights violations and to find creative mechanisms to combat them effectively. Local civil society organizations in partnership with State agencies, universities or research centres have a decisive function in monitoring human rights. Citizen participation must be facilitated to encourage civil society to voice its concerns and needs, to incorporate different viewpoints into the agendas of Governments and to enforce the oversight of government agencies and practices. For this purpose, it is essential to create partnerships, networks and coalitions.

49. While Governments have the responsibility to provide security for their citizens, this task also requires the collaboration of key social actors. Such collaboration becomes particularly important when the institutional capacity of States is increasingly becoming weak in the era of globalization, for diverse and different reasons in each country. More than ever, it is necessary to find ways to strengthen the capacity of local institutions to support "bottom-up" social control. Civil society organizations must also develop their capability to establish "early warning systems" to prevent violence and gross human rights violations.

50. Education, monitoring and documentation are vital elements of the process of "knowing and claiming human rights" as necessary steps towards truly sustainable human development. Communities should be encouraged to bring creativity into these processes, using testimony, community and city hall meetings, street theatre, art and informal dialogue forums. The results of monitoring and documentation can then be collected and shared to ensure the inclusion of the full spectrum of the community's individual and collective human rights and to provide a systematic analysis of human rights violations. Vital to human rights advocacy is the creation of mechanisms for accountability. In this respect, innumerable grass-roots organizations have succeeded in mobilizing resources and making them available to poor communities.

51. One of the possible strategies to fulfil these objectives is the establishment of a network of human rights/human development observatories. A pilot project launched in May 2000 has been developed by the Centre for the Study of Violence of the University of São Paulo, Brazil, under the auspices of the Secretariat of State for Human Rights, the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme. These observatories, established as a triangular cooperation among universities or research centres, CSOs and State institutions in charge of accountability, will contribute to building databases and to developing indicators on a selected set of human rights to be monitored. Additionally, observatories can serve as early warning systems.

52. Human rights/human development observatories help to build critical partnerships with existing State institutions (for instance, public prosecutors and auditing courts) so as to exercise "bottom-up" social control over the performance of Governments and the effectiveness of their public policies to reach the poor.

53. Another valuable initiative intending to produce a blend of ethical thinking and action towards influencing public human rights policies is the experience of human rights education and the ongoing formation of a citywide human rights community in the city of Nagpur in central India. In this process two international organizations, the People's Decade for Human Rights Education and Habitat International Coalition and its Housing and Land Rights Committee, have joined efforts with the Indian organization Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action and local community organizations working with issues of the rural and urban poor.

Community-based "ombudsgroup" approach

54. In the discussion of human and child rights, the creation of a national ombudsman institution is often suggested to support government action and focus public attention on the urgent and most pressing issues. This can certainly be an important step. However, it should

preferably be combined with and supported by a wider network of voluntary local "ombuds" groups, which can build up their own capacity over time and serve as advocates and monitors of efforts to promote human rights and peace. Only then can real and radical progress be expected to occur.

55. Combined with centrally based approaches, such community initiatives could become a viable proposition through which the relevant monitoring of progress - or the lack of it - on the local level can be achieved. With the help of simple reporting routines, visits from central "ombudsman" functions, training and exchange of staff and through pragmatic networking with other groups and NGOs, as well as with politicians, officials and independent experts, the efforts can be strengthened and energized. If a sufficient scale could be reached, "community ombudsman groups" could become a crucial tool for long-term and sustainable mobilization and implementation of a human rights and peace agenda.

IV.   PROPOSALS FOR PRACTICAL ACTION

56. For human development to be truly sustainable it requires the mainstreaming of human rights into development and economic policy-making as a regular and necessary component of such policies and also the full integration of the consideration of human rights into international development cooperation. Promoting a culture of human rights and peace is considerably less costly in political, human and financial terms as compared with the remediation of conflicts once they have erupted. With the ultimate goal of contributing to the prevention of conflicts, consolidation of peace processes and overcoming the new forms of violence in modern societies, the expert seminar made the following proposals for practical action:

1.   The international community

57. Governments are called upon to fulfil the commitments made in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993) to prepare national plans of action on human rights and to urge those countries that have already prepared such plans of action to live up to their commitments.

58. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons[3] represents a serious threat to human security. The unchecked spread of these weapons has exacerbated inter- and intra-State conflicts, contributed to human rights violations, undermined political and economic development, destabilized communities and devastated the lives of millions of people. States should strengthen their commitments to implement the principles of international humanitarian and human rights law with respect to the transfer of small arms and the banning of landmines.

59. States should respect and implement United Nations arms embargoes, seeking to destroy the arms seized from such embargoes and effectively prevent their resale.

60. States should seek to develop an international code of conduct governing the licit transfer of small arms. Such codes of conduct should prohibit the sale of small arms to States that consistently violate human rights.

61. Mechanisms to facilitate better understanding and to encourage joint approaches among agencies involved in violence prevention should be developed. It is proposed that a meeting of all United Nations agencies and relevant NGOs working in the area of violence prevention be organized jointly by WHO, UPEACE and OHCHR.

62. Specific projects directly related with the control of violence were discussed during the expert seminar. It was felt that these valuable initiatives should continue to receive support. One such project is the Small Arms Survey, sponsored by the Government of Switzerland in conjunction with other interested Governments. It is a major contribution to international efforts to constrain the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Another project is the World Report on Violence and Health being prepared by WHO with several other agencies, which will be an important contribution to the better understanding and prevention of violence.

63. Peace accords must include provisions requiring full respect for human rights and their inclusion in the national judiciaries in order to ensure accountability and the effectiveness of the rule of law.

64. It is of fundamental importance to foster discussion and promotion of the concept of human security as being equally important to that of State security, and to promote new attitudes to development in the donor community, linking development assistance to conflict prevention. UPEACE is launching a major programme and partnership network, in cooperation with universities in different regions, to promote teaching and research in the field of human security.

65. There is a need to develop practical training programmes drawing on case studies of conflict resolution, targeted research and successes in mediation and healing for civil society leaders, parliamentarians, media, public prosecutors, police corps, teachers, United Nations staff and lawyers. The progress of human rights in many real-world situations comes about through the engagement of individuals and small groups that risk their well-being, and sometimes their lives, to challenge abuses. UPEACE will undertake case studies and analysis to identify different approaches which have been used, integrate this material into courses and make it widely available.

66. It is of paramount importance that, once a conflict has been resolved, the international community keep its attention focused on the post-conflict situation to ensure that the restoration of the society is sustained. The international community must also make serious efforts to ensure that its intervention in conflicts do not aggravate the situation further, as was experienced in Somalia and Sierra Leone.

67. The expert seminar acknowledged that the forthcoming World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, will be an important opportunity to consider ways and means to ensure improvement in the application of existing international human rights law standards and their implementation in order to combat racism and racial discrimination. The World Conference will also contribute to increasing the level of awareness about the scourge of racism and racial discrimination.

2.   National level

68.   Perpetrators of human rights abuses, especially systematic violations of women's rights and the human rights of disadvantaged groups such as children, indigenous peoples and racial and ethical minorities, must be brought to justice.

69.   Civil society organizations, universities and government agencies ought to keep up the pressure to ensure that conflicts that have been resolved do not reappear in the absence of a culture of human rights and peace. National human rights action plans and continuous monitoring mechanisms such as ombudsmen, national human rights commissions, parliamentary human rights bodies and human rights observatories play a crucial role in this respect.

70.   The construction of a culture of human rights and peace must aim to overcome the underlying causes that result in urban crime, social disruption, economic inequities, marginalization, racism, xenophobia, etc.

71.   It is time to start considering alternative approaches and innovating in policy-making and policy-targeting. Focus on the provision of decent work in post-conflict reconstruction and social healing, use of multimedia training tools, positive pro-peace public-awareness campaigns, engagement of the judiciary and reforming of civil police mandates and methods are but a few examples.

72.   In particular, it is necessary to develop a more coherent approach and better coordination between the different ministries, agencies, NGOs and other institutions which together aim to promote human rights and economic and social development. This also requires better horizontal coordination among the international agencies and other actors who seek to assist the processes of conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation in the context of socio-economic development. UPEACE is planning to undertake a project to consolidate and evaluate experience on this aspect, in collaboration with several academic and operational partners.

73.   Human rights principles must be introduced in local, regional and national institutions (human rights infrastructuring).

74.   Full respect for human rights entails the introduction of consistent laws, the creation of specific and permanent institutions and consistent policies supported by educational and civil society networks.

75.   A new role for the military forces should be promoted through the internal democratization of military institutions, reconversion (from war-defence purposes to combating crime in society, ensuring the full respect of civil and political rights) and its enhanced internationalization (based on international law of human rights and humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations).

3.   Education

76.   In order for human rights education to have a significant impact in its contribution towards building and maintaining peace, it is necessary to work with all sectors of society, to expand the coverage of the work, to define appropriate content, to select the most adequate methods and to offer relevant didactic materials. The ultimate goals are: (a) to empower people and increase their self-esteem; (b) to raise awareness about human rights so that individuals themselves can promote and protect them; (c) to transform people's attitudes regarding conflicts; and (d) to enable understanding on how to live with other culturally diverse groups.

77.   In the area of education, strategies should, inter alia:

         (a)   Increase and deepen human rights education and education for democracy and non-violence at all levels - from early childhood education to universities - aiming at the creation of a culture of peace and incorporate such education into school curricula. The education must be organized and carried out in a holistic way, aiming for theoretical, emotional and ethical knowledge and understanding to be internalized, and foster behaviour and action consistent with human rights;

         (b)   Incorporate human rights, a culture of peace and democracy into the basic general requirements of any vocational and university training, with an emphasis on topics related to the diversity in culture, gender and religion, as well as to the issue of access to natural resources as a potential source of future conflicts. The goal should be to enhance competence and capacity on human rights principles and practice in all trades of work and professional specialities;

         (c)   Provide human rights training to civil servants in all sectors, the armed forces, police and representatives of the judiciary system. Such training should also be organized for members and leaders of political parties and for members of parliament and other political assemblies;

         (d)   Promote human rights education among members and leaders of political parties throughout civil society and government for the protection of all. In addition to issues of human rights, peace and democratization, education programmes should also cover the specific circumstances and problems of women, children, youth, migrants, the disabled, indigenous peoples, HIV-affected persons and other especially vulnerable groups;

         (e)   In all these areas of education, the basic legal instruments and documents should be made widely available, including the Earth Charter which provides a coherent presentation of the ethical and practical relationships between economic and social development, the conservation and protection of the environment, human rights, democratization and the prevention of conflict.

78.   UPEACE is engaged in preparing and implementing Master's degree and training courses on many aspects of human rights and peace. It will continue to provide such courses at its main campus in San José, Costa Rica, and it will also disseminate course materials and methodologies to universities, institutions and other concerned groups.

4.   Media

79.   Mass media and journalists have in many situations become the chief chroniclers, the primary scribes of a rapidly changing world. In many societies, newspapers and the news industry are fiercely partisan, but do not engage in objective investigation. Engaging and training the media and other society agents and multipliers becomes a primary strategy to promote a culture of human rights and peace. This issue will be a central focus of the Media and Peace Institute now being planned by UPEACE.

80.   Media organizations must develop codes of conduct and mechanisms to prevent the dissemination of violence. Respect for human rights, peace efforts and reconciliation should have the same or greater standing than conflict and violence in media broadcasting.

81.   The media and journalists should be encouraged - through special training courses and other means - to help overcome stereotypes, prejudices and racism in societies and to help break down the barriers which create exclusion and lead to the stimulation of violence and revenge.

5.   Documentation and research

82.   There is a crucial need - also as the underpinning for the improvement of education on human rights - to strengthen documentation, research and reporting on the nature of conflicts within their different social and cultural contexts. Similarly, research is urgently needed on the progress of human rights implementation as well as on its deficiencies and on human rights violations. It is especially important to publish systematic and consolidated statistical reports on violations of the human rights of women, children, refugees, immigrants, displaced persons, prisoners, minorities, and large groups of impoverished and socially excluded peoples and other especially vulnerable groups. It will also be important to analyse changes and violations of human rights due to political and economic transformations.

83.   This will require reliable empirical data, mapping of experiences and experiments, new efforts of comparative research and, not least, much improved approaches towards interdisciplinary cooperation.

84.   A principal purpose of research and documentation efforts should be to establish a bridge between the academic and research communities and busy national and international officials and decision makers, including business leaders, so as to bring the insights and analysis of scholarship to improving the focus and results of policy.

6.   Tools and indicators

85.   Further improvement of tools and methodologies for the documentation, planning, reporting, implementation and assessment of human rights action represents an important priority. For this reason, research and development need to be expanded on concrete methodological issues, including the creation of indicators, quantitative as well as qualitative. This is also essential for efforts to stimulate research and to improve the theoretical quality of applied research efforts with a view to supporting informed social and economic policy-making.

86.	Indicators enable the consistent organization of information in a measurable and comparative manner. They must be dynamic in order to reflect the permanent changes in the realization or denial of rights, and show the links between human rights violations and insufficient human development. Indicators should ideally be disaggregated according to different categories: gender, income level, race, age group and geographical space.

87.	Indicators of human rights are an important tool to measure progress or regress in the realization of all rights, without grading systems to "score" country performances or index countries by level of performance. The goal of developing indicators is to help monitor more accurately the realization of the rights enumerated in international human rights instruments.

88.	The forum calls attention to the final report of the seminar on civil and political rights indicators which was held in Geneva from 27 to 29 September 1999, under the auspices of the OHCHR and UNDP. That workshop was an important step in a long-term process of developing a final list of technically sound civil and political rights indicators. The workshop resulted in a preliminary list of indicators on the administration of justice, democracy and participation and the security of the person.

<div align="center">Notes</div>

[1] R. Kothari, "Escaping the Trap of Cultural Diversity", *Himal*, 1992, p. 16.

[2] Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/54/1), para. 61.

[3] Small arms are automatic weapons of no more than 20 mm, such as submachine-guns, rifles, carabines and handguns, and light weapons are those which can be carried by an individual or by a light vehicle - including bazookas, rocket-propelled grenades, light anti-tank missiles, light mortars, shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles and hand-placed landmines.