



CARTAGENA DECLARATION ON ART AS A TOOL FOR PEACE AND AFRO CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION

Participants from South East Asia/Pacific, South Asia, Central Asia, Africa, Europe, USA and Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and especially from Colombia, attended the Cartagena Conference on Art as Tool for Peace and Afro Caribbean Integration conceptualized and organized by the South-South Cooperation Council (SSCC) and its team of global leaders chaired by SSCC Chairman, Dr. Viktor Sebek, on 26 November 2018 at the Adolfo Mejia Theatre . The conference discussed (a) the modalities of fostering peace processes through art, and (b) forging stronger links between Sub-Saharan countries and the Caribbean.

The Conference received greetings and messages of support from:

- The Hon. Ernesto Macias, the President of the Senate of Colombia;
- Mrs. Carmen Ines Vasquez Camacho, the Colombian Minister of Culture;
- H.E. Vinicio Cerezo, the Secretary General of the System of Central American Integration (SICA), the former President of Guatemala;
- H.E. Epsy Campbell Barr, the Vice President and the Foreign Minister of Costa Rica;
- Mrs. Mirta Colón, the President of the Organization of Black People of Central America (ONECA);
- H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, the President of Sri Lanka;
- Hon. Jose Vicente Sotto III, the President of the Senate of the Philippines;
- H.E. Jose Ramos Horta, Nobel Peace laureate and the former President of Timor Leste, currently Minister of National Security of Timor Leste
- H.E. Ivonne A-Baki, the Ambassador of Ecuador to Qatar;
- Mr. Heherson Alvarez, the senator from Isabella, Philippines, Earthsavers Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Climate Change Institute and
- Monseñor Jorge Enrique Jiménez Carvajal, Archbishop of Cartagena

The guiding spirit of this Declaration are:

1. Promotion of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
2. Recognition of the designation by the UN of the International Decade of Afro Descendants (2015-2024);
3. Recognition of the contribution of the UNESCO Slave Route Project to the culture of peace;
4. Designation and celebration of the UN Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013/2022);
5. Creation of a better and safer future for youth, including through the comprehensive and systematic implementation of UNESCO's policy of education for all;
6. Utilization of effective heritage-based cultural communication and education to popularize science as a strategy for confronting the twin existential challenges: violent conflict and catastrophic climate change.

The participants declare:

1. We firmly believe that the colonial legacy is responsible for erasing or diminishing the cultural identity and national pride of most countries previously under colonial rule in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
2. We consider that restoring the awareness of the immense cultural wealth and heritage of countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean ought to be a priority for the international community, as it will also strengthen the link between mother Africa and the Caribbean countries with large afro-descendant population.
3. We recognize the proposal of the international peace movement (acting not with coercion but rather through art) under UNESCO Patronage and endorsed by the President of the Philippines, to involve and mobilize a "rainbow" creative army of artists, teachers and media leaders as champions of peace (as was enshrined in the Manila Declaration of May 19/23 2018, and forged at the Art Speaks for Peace Fest-Forum hosted by the Philippines' Senate). The torch has now been passed on to the Cartagena Conference with a view to taking it further to Sub-Saharan Africa in the near future¹.
4. Specifically, we recognize that art can also be used as a tool for facilitating the eradication of the drug problem across the world, a strategy that has already been piloted in an innovative Techno Art methodology by the UNESCO Dream Center for the rehabilitation of drug addicts and for the healing of traumas faced by refugees. This strategy has been tried in the Philippines for the Asian Pacific region

¹ The text of the Manila Declaration 2018 is annexed below

in collaboration with Colombia, and coordinating participants from the Americas, who have adopted an inclusive human rights values-based life-long learning approach.

5. We express our full support for the acceptance of the Phoenix Settlement in Durban, where the Mahatma Gandhi world movement of freedom through nonviolence to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will liaise with appropriate Governments and agencies, as well as with UNESCO, to ensure that this goal is achieved.
6. We call for the convening on a biennial basis of an Afro Caribbean Fest in Cartagena, starting the second week of January 2021, which will bring together musicians and performers from Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean (stretching from the USA to Brazil) to actualize the strong cultural bonds that exist between these two cultures.
7. We welcome the institutional support already secured from UNESCO, and will work closely with African countries, countries of the Caribbean, including Central America, and especially with Colombia and relevant authorities and institutions in Cartagena.
8. We propose that the United Nations declare Afro Caribbean week; and the SSCC will make every effort to ensure that this Declaration materializes.
9. We support the UNESCO-led and inspired project Art Camp, which transfers knowledge of the strengthening of peace through the visual arts, especially painting, at the global level in Andorra, and the Malta Art Camp for the Mediterranean, to the Caribbean, Central and South America, and in Colombia. It is proposed that the first Art Camp will coincide with the Afro Caribbean Fest in the second week of January 2021.
10. We acknowledge that the sculpture Tree of Peace by Hedva Ser is a telling monument of the power of art to be used as a tool for peace, and will support its dissemination in the Americas and elsewhere.

Annex:

Manila Declaration of 2018

We, ambassadors, educators, parliamentary members, and performing, visual and media artists of nations across the globe, as the delegates and participants in the global launch of the peace movement, “Not by Force, but by Art” under the patronage of UNESCO and the endorsement of the UNDP in celebration of UNESCO International Arts Education Week and marking the 70th Anniversary of UNESCO’s responsive post-World War II creation of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), while observing the ASEAN Decade of Marine and Coastal Resources Protection, convened from May 20th to 23rd, 2018, convened for the Art Speaks for Peace Festival-Forum, organized by the Earthsavers UNESCO Dream Center Artists for Peace and held at the EAC Theatre and the Senate in Manila, Philippines, *Recalling the UN’s Universal Declaration on Human Rights, Declaration on a Culture of Peace, UNESCO’s World Declaration on Education for All and Framework for Action to Meet*

Basic Learning Needs, UNESCO's Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist, the Hangzhou Declaration Placing Culture at the Heart of Sustainable Development Policies, the 2030 Incheon Declaration and Framework for Action, The Paris Agreement, and other relevant international instruments of the United Nations system, such as that which formed the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC); *Acknowledging* that “a key role in the promotion of a culture of peace belongs to parents, teachers, politicians, journalists, religious leaders and groups, intellectuals, those engaged in scientific, philosophical and creative artistic & sports activities, health and humanitarian workers, social workers, managers at various levels as well as to non-governmental organizations,” (*Declaration on a Culture of Peace*); *Reaffirming* the UN’s declaration that art, under the greater umbrella of culture, is a human right, “fundamental to human dignity and identity,” and that “everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits” (Article 27 of the *Declaration of Human Rights*), *In concurrence* with UNESCO’s *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, that “respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security”; *And recognizing* the constant and ever-pressing need for peace in our globalized world, as devastating deaths, destruction and disunity caused by war has been witnessed in all parts of the world; the Philippine Encounter is an antidote to violence against mankind and Mother Earth;

Do hereby affirm this declaration:

Art is the universal language of humanity, a perennial bonding agent, and an empathic communicative unifier which can bring together the greatest adversaries together regardless of creed, race or political affiliation, to affirm friendship and regional solidarity that can open platforms for collaboration to mitigate or prevent armed conflict.

“The safeguarding and promotion of culture is an end in itself, which has contributes directly to many of the [Sustainable Development Goals],” with the unique capability to concretize, clarify and transmit complex messages like the SDGs and popularize scientific data to confront the global warming danger to the survival of people, planet, peace and prosperity through partnerships.

The essential role of art, which links the ethos of environmental issues to the pathos of universal citizens, effective in informing and motivating current and future generations to confront climate change towards a more ecologically aware and sustainable global society. As such, the arts carry a great potential power for various socially cohesive endeavors, and thus may and should be utilized toward helping to alleviate social ills which plague communities, including poverty, inequity, addiction, inter-group conflict, disaster preparedness and environmental concerns. An essential ingredient in governance is that of cultural communication, by which the local cultures are considered, respected and utilized as an instrument and bridge among peoples and their governments.

Thus, it is appropriate and necessary for governments to foster artistic creations and to protect the freedom of artistic expression through material and environmental empowerment of artists in every sphere, including but not limited to: music, dance, theatre, literary, visual arts, media arts, martial arts with other related forms of sport, and all other

artistic endeavors within the womb of culture. Furthermore, cultural intercourse within among nations should not be hampered by political changes in administration, prejudice or bias.

We, the signatories of the Manila Declaration, abide by our declarations and hereby affirm our dedication to its consequent responsibilities. We thus further propose a **10-point Framework Agenda for Action**, to be carried out on the local, regional and global levels, for the achievement of this vision of peace and global citizenship, based on our own national experiences, with proof in the results of methodological artistic action and cultural mediation within our various communities. We have arrived at this declaration after extensive conference and consideration of various cases of successful application of art as a means towards the ten objectives which follow in our Framework Agenda for Action.

We additionally propose that annually, during International Arts Education Week, UNESCO patronage will be given to hosts for continuation of the International Peace Movement “Not by Force but by Art”, subsequent hosts within 2018-2019 have been identified Colombia, Sri Lanka and Namibia.

We submit this declaration to UNESCO, our state governments, appropriate local government agencies, the media, concerned business firms and foundations, other persons and bodies that can act on the issues mentioned above, in particular, the ASEAN Secretariat for Social-Cultural Community Department, SEAMEO and United Nations Resident Coordinator of each country.

This declaration and the Action Plan which follows were agreed upon in principle by participants individually and/or in behalf of their respective organizations in the year 2018, in observance of UNESCO International Arts Education Week.

Signed on behalf of 217 Participants

Mohammed Al Afkham

President of the ITI

Audrey Azoulay

Director General of UNESCO

Cecile Guidote-Alvarez

Director of Earthsavers UNESCO Artist for Peace

Framework Agenda for Action

Fulfilling the Objectives of the Manila Declaration

The solution to the problems which confront this nexus of society in our increasingly globalized world, must be a peaceful means which addresses its multifaceted nature. As the new wave of dynamic application of the arts, we hereby **declare our goal** to utilize the comprehensive value of art as a bridging mechanism in all areas of society—including but not limited to: governance, education, environmental learning and disaster prevention rehabilitation, and conflict resolution—and **pledge our commitment** to dedicated work alongside our national governments, our various partner organizations and corporations, for immediate and effective legislation and action towards:

Local/Governmental Action

1. *Providing open, collaborative artistic environments which cultivate mutual respect, challenge stereotypes, and promote inclusivity and diversity, in order to foster interfaith dialogue, ethnic conflict resolution and inter-class collaboration,*
 Prompting interfaith dialogue and collaboration by providing a shared space in which the unifying similarities of beliefs are recognized and highlighted to build the values of compassion, caring and sharing to engender equity, social justice and adherence to truth;
 Teaching conflict resolution to youth through various artistic, sports and cultural genres, addressing issues of bullying, discrimination, depression and social isolation;
 Allocating public works spaces for creativity throughout all regions, especially rural, impoverished, or underserved localities, in order to encourage artistic discovery within and among all cultures and peoples;
 Fostering unity & solidarity between conflicting groups by promoting collaboration toward a common vision, creating a safe through cultural mediation, rehabilitation and reconciliation environment to address disputes and disagreements;
 Coordination with local government units to ensure that they will enable policies and mechanisms for collaborative interactive arts to thrive in their communities with pride of habitat heritages, history, language and indigenous arts & crafts;
2. *Promoting creative industries to stimulate impoverished or developing communities' economies,*
 Utilizing traditional arts and crafts, the nation's intangible heritage and techno-arts skill training for expression of needs & aspirations of a community, from the poor rural town, to urban slums;
3. *The organization of both extensive and intensive awareness campaigns which promulgate art as a vital tool for intercultural learning among the masses, utilizing the internet, television, radio, cinema, social media and all possible platforms as a means to extend the offer of artistic and cultural works beyond their immediate community of creation,*
 Dissemination and mainstreaming of indigenous artistic and cultural practices, not only across one's country but also overseas, through broadcast, cinematic and social media, to provide opportunity for the greatest number of people to appreciate them;
 Actively promoting the use of social networks towards nurturing the demand for socially responsible arts in the society;
4. *Reintegration, revitalization and renewal of the arts into the agenda of educational curricula and lifelong learning programs, thus fulfilling academic curricula with the necessary components of creativity, passion, and skill, as well as knowledge of world cultures,* Building the concept of public service through public artistic workshops aimed at serving those on the margins of each community;
5. *Further private as well as governmental capital investment in the arts and other cooperative cultural endeavors, while incorporating the arts as a means to success and collaboration, into the corporate social responsibilities of corporations within the private sector,*

Not only recognizing the arts' contribution to commercial entertainment, but also asserting its role as a rich and worthy enterprise for societal cohesion and economic stimulation;

Formulating franchise grants which incentivize corporate networks to dedicate a percentage of airtime to public service projects in the arts;

6. *Promoting the Right to Culture of every citizen, applying art's inherent therapeutic qualities to healing and rehabilitation processes for all individuals--especially those facing psychological challenges resulting from delinquency, drug addiction, displacement, disability, climate catastrophes, trauma, imprisonment, and other difficult circumstances,*

Increasing the accessibility of cultural caregiving services and quality arts training;
Activating artistic workshops within communities for the physically and mentally differently-abled or handicapped, thus improving the quality of life, facilitating their active societal integration and participation, and helping them to discover their further potential as *handicapable* artists;

7. *The material and raising the status of artists, as the conduits of social change and cultural diplomatic initiators, thereby providing facilitation for visa requirements,*
Elevating the status of artists and granting due respect for their travel, so that their entrance into countries is not prevented by changes among political relations, thus upholding the value and importance of culture for peace and sustainable development;

Collaborative Global Action

8. *Actively engaging and facilitating the cooperation of artists, educators, engineers, religious officials and civic leaders to synergize the efforts of different sectors of society toward common goals,*

Co-integrating art and technology—utilizing performances, visual, broadcast, and social media—as a means to popularize and actualize the Sustainable Development Goals;

Advocating through art for the protection of the ocean as a carbon sink and a global commons for free access to the sea lanes, with the importance of abiding by the rule of law;

9. *Encouraging the governments of all countries to host regional and global events, utilizing the UN observance of International Arts Week as a focal point of celebration with other relevant occasions, yet not limiting its promulgation in duration or distance,*

Examples of such relevant occasions including: World Theatre Week, International Dance Day, Earth Day, United Nations Week, World Peace Week, International Day for Persons with Disabilities, Indigenous Peoples Day, Human Rights Week;

10. *Forming linkages between and among individual nations' projects, thus furthering the global citizenship paradigm and unify our vision for a sustainable world through the Assembly of UNESCO Goodwill Ambassadors and Artists for Peace,*

In November 2018, the Art Speaks for Peace Movement will be continued in Colombia through cooperation with the South-South Cooperation Council;
Focusing on South Asia and small island states in the Pacific, Sri Lanka will host the following forum of the Peace Movement “Not by Force but by Art,” through the ITI social change network with Janakaraliya;
In liaison with InSEA, a following Peace Movement will be held in Namibia in 2019.