

## Proposal of a group of official UNESCO-NGO partners

### Celebration of the 2020 International Day of Peace

#### Peace Festival

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, **“since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed”**...

Recognizing that peace is not simply the absence of conflict, but is a positive, dynamic, participatory process that promotes dialogue and conflict resolution in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation,

Defining the **culture of peace** as a set of values, attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles that reject violence and prevent conflicts by attacking their roots through dialogue and negotiation between individuals, groups and States, ... civil society organizations around the world are encouraged to continue and multiply their efforts and activities to promote a culture of peace (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/137),

Placing the 2020 International Day of Peace as part of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the benefit of the Children of the World (UN Resolution 52/15) would seem a priority in today's world of armed conflicts, economic and societal crises, a world constantly faced with forced migration, extreme poverty,

climate disruption, a world that violates universal values, a world that does not respect gender equality, a world that cannot manage to provide literacy for all its population, a world searching for ways to Live Together ...

**Agenda 2030** for population, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships defines in the context of sustainable development Goal 16 "**Peace, justice and strong institutions**".

The objective is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development as specified in goal (16-1 ), and to significantly reduce all forms of violence around the world ...

Encourage and promote a culture of peace through choral events to express cultural diversity, and to combine artistic and cultural identity. Choral music is an artistic expression primordial among others such as dance, puppetry or ceramics. Choral music needs no expensive tools and develops personal fulfillment, self-esteem, empathy, technical mastery, group awareness and long-term group commitment. It contributes to improving the ability to concentrate, memorize, express oneself in different registers and languages. It contributes to inclusive education for all and to living together in the service of peace.

**Objectives:** The group of UNESCO-NGO partners headed by Michel Thouzeau has organized:

-2014: an international event for the general public, based on a peace scenario performed by puppets. A selection of 10 videos was presented at the International Puppet Festival of Charleville-Mézières, France;

-2018: plastic arts creations on the theme, "Drones and Robots for Peace were presented at International Day for Peace celebration in Tunis, Tunisia;

**2020: a festival of choral performances dedicated to creations or interpretations of choral music or hymns on peace by groups of children, young people, adults or intergenerational groups from all five continents.**

**This 2020 Peace Festival should generate an international dynamic of choral music.** Each choral group contacted by our NGO networks throughout the world is encouraged to participate

in celebrating International Day of Peace, both locally and in the International Peace Festival. The local productions transmitted via the internet to the organizing committee will be validated and uploaded to the UNESCO-NGO liaison committee website. A video compilation will be screened at the event to celebrate the International Day of Peace on **September 19th, 2020 at Tolosa, Guipuzcoa province, Spain at the invitation of TOPIC (TIC) - member of the International Choral Federation and Europa Cantat.**

September 19, 2020 will thus represent a special, symbolic moment to celebrate peace. All participating groups will promote a time to cease violence in all its forms and symbolically celebrate a one-minute peace interlude.

Each NGO can freely choose its creation or interpretation, respecting the values and rights stated above: *see registration form:*

- **create** lyrics and music or **perform a** 3-minute choral rendition on the theme of peace, based on the local or international repertoire in a language of choice, and record it digitally;
- **send the video recording**, including any form of corporal or artistic expression: *see registration form for the peace festival;*
- **send the lyrics**, translated into English, Esperanto, French, or Spanish to the project manager for validation, and video subtitling: *see registration form for the peace festival;*
- **agree to interpret this song, a song common to all and a one-minute peace interlude locally on the official day (September 21) in a celebration of the International Day of Peace and Nonviolence celebration;**

- **after the local celebration, send a written or visual testimony of the local event to the project manager;**
- **An anthology of choral music and lyrics will be compiled in advance and made available during the festival on a website specifically created for this purpose.**
- **A round table on the theme, “The Arts in the Culture of Peace” will accompany this Peace Festival. It will bring together a high-level panel of experts and UNESCO-NGO representatives to discuss with the general public.**

#### **Financial and logistic considerations:**

The International Puppetry Association (UNIMA) representatives have proposed that accommodations and meals for the Round Table speakers, the organizing committee and the chorals from all five continents at the event in Tolosa, Spain be financed by the Tolosa City Council, the Gipuzkoa province, and the TOPIC (CIT) - (Centro International de Iniciativas),

Discussions are in progress with the province and the municipality for the use of the TOPIC rooms (meeting room and platform with technical team, movie screens in the city, theater).

The TOPIC will be involved financially upstream of the event with its choral (call for participation by advanced level chorals from the five continents, communication) and with its public to organize a puppet workshop, choral concerts at hospitals and senior residences, a peace march, a concert...

The Gipuzkoa province agrees to finance transport and accommodations for the steering committee, UNESCO-NGO Liaison Committee representatives and round table speakers, as well as accommodations for international chorals, local transport and communication support. TOPIC is committed to disseminating and promoting this project.

The group of official UNESCO-NGO partners agrees to launch and monitor local commitments to celebrate the International Day of Peace around choral events, to collect short video contributions and compile excerpts of all contributions into a video film, to organize a high-level Round Table in collaboration with UNESCO- NGO Liaison Committee and UNESCO Sciences and Human Science sector (SHS) sector, and **promote this festival for peace and non-violence.**

**This event will take place on Saturday, 19 September 2020. It will be a lively, popular intergenerational event in service of Peace.**