



Message of the Universal Esperanto Association to the United Nations on the occasion of the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2023

From governments to ordinary citizens, we must all decide on peace. This year's topic for Peace Day is "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the Global Goals". To reach these Goals for Sustainable Development we need peace, and at the same time the Goals propose a basis for sustainable peace among peoples and individuals.

Peace Day is an occasion to unite around the strengthening of a culture of peace. On this day we call for the observance of a ceasefire in wars and conflicts with the goal of a non-violent solution to differences. Let us reconsider military solutions to disputes and support peace on the basis of human rights and an open dialogue across language barriers as the better solution.

As a united humankind, in spite of everything, we face many challenges. Wars, climate change, poverty, disease and hunger are bringing unbearable suffering to millions of people. We need peace and unity to overcome difficulties and to achieve a more just, equal and secure future in which communication is open, honest, and equal.

Wars and hostilities have material and cultural causes. To bring an end to the material causes of conflict, we must reduce inequality. To bring an end to the cultural causes of hatred we must recognize our common humanity and our responsibilities as the common stewards of our planet. To begin this coming together, we have to talk together and, on the basis of that conversation, to act, build and conserve together. The International Language Esperanto, through its common base and its speakers across the entire world, offers a path to that unity in diversity that humankind must pursue.

Esperanto's contribution to a peaceful world lies precisely in its bringing people together through a common language, in addition to local and national languages. In the Esperanto movement, by getting to know one another we at the same time use the language for the peaceful goals of the United Nations and specifically the Sustainable Development Goals. "By the path of peace and harmony we are capable of everything," Zamenhof, the initiator of Esperanto, once said. And he was right. Let us therefore create a better world for everyone, where everyone is welcome and everyone has the same basic rights.