



General Assembly

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Agenda item 50

University for Peace

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Mr. Youssouf Aden **Moussa** (Djibouti)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “University for Peace” and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 7th meeting, on 15 October, and during its joint general debate on agenda items 50 to 63 at its 8th to 14th meetings, on 19, 20, 22, 25 and 27 October and on 1 and 3 November 2021. The Committee took action on item 50 at its 15th meeting on 9 November. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee’s consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records.¹

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General ([A/76/259](#)).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 15 October, the Rector of the University for Peace made a statement, which was followed by an interactive dialogue.

II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.4/76/L.11](#)

5. At the 15th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti,

¹ [A/C.4/76/SR.7](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.8](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.9](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.10](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.11](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.12](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.13](#), [A/C.4/76/SR.14](#) and [A/C.4/76/SR.15](#).



Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tajikistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zambia, introduced a draft resolution entitled “University for Peace” (A/C.4/76/L.11). Subsequently, Albania, Austria, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, China, Czechia, Germany, Iraq, Kuwait, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Montenegro, Mozambique, North Macedonia, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovakia, Suriname, Thailand and Turkey joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

7. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.4/76/L.11](#) without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

8. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

University for Peace

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [73/90](#) of 7 December 2018, in which it recalled that, in its resolution [34/111](#) of 14 December 1979, it had approved the idea of establishing the University for Peace as a specialized international centre for higher education, research and the dissemination of knowledge specifically aimed at training and education for peace and its universal promotion within the United Nations system, as well as all preceding resolutions on this item,

Recalling also that, in its resolution [35/55](#) of 5 December 1980, the General Assembly approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recognizing that in 2020 the University celebrated 40 years of executing the mandate given to it by the General Assembly of educating and training leaders for peace,

Recognizing also the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2018 to 2021 with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the further development and implementation of the academic programme and in expanding its coverage in various regions of the world, and welcoming in this regard the signing of agreements and memorandums outlined in the report of the Secretary General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/90](#),¹ encouraging Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations to maintain and expand their engagement with the University,

Noting with appreciation that the University has reaffirmed its commitment to academic excellence throughout its doctoral and master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, international law, gender equality and women's empowerment, security, the environment and sustainable development, which include two master's degree programmes taught in Spanish,

Noting with appreciation also that the majority of the students and alumni are women, and acknowledging the fact that women play a critical role as peacebuilders at the international, national and local levels,

Noting that the University places special emphasis on the areas of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the peaceful settlement of disputes and that it has launched capacity-building programmes in the areas of access to justice, international human rights law, post-conflict consensus-building and training of academic experts in the techniques of peaceful conflict resolution,

Noting with appreciation the support provided to the University by the host country, Costa Rica,

¹ [A/76/259](#).

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and the need to coordinate efforts for its implementation,

Recalling also the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, in particular its target 4.b, which aims to substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries,

Recognizing the efforts of the University to fulfil its mandate and to meet the challenges it faced because of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic by adopting an innovative hybrid educational model, which facilitated the teaching of all courses through the use of technologies and a pedagogical model adapted to the circumstances,

Noting the University's new initiatives, such as the launch of three new master's degree programmes in 2022 (Ecology and Society; Indigenous Science and Peace Studies; and Religion, Culture and Peace Studies), and the scholarships emerging from government and philanthropic institutions referenced in the report of the Secretary-General,

Taking note of the commitment of the University in its support to the work of the United Nations, and recognizing its contribution through programmes focused on peacebuilding and sustaining peace,

Considering the importance of promoting education for peace that fosters respect for the values inherent in peace and universal coexistence among people, including respect for the life, dignity and integrity of human beings, as well as friendship and solidarity among people irrespective of their nationality, race, sex, religion or culture, in the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations,

Considering also the need for the University to consolidate its development and the relaunch of its activities,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General, in which he outlined the progress made with regard to the administrative and financial stabilization of the University for Peace and through its recent process of academic reform through the implementation of its innovative programmes on critical subjects related to peace and security;

2. *Requests* the University, given its role in developing new concepts and approaches to security through education, training and research in order to respond effectively to emerging threats to peace, to find viable ways to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system;

3. *Reiterates* the request made to the Secretary-General, in its resolution [64/83](#) of 10 December 2009, to establish, under his leadership, a trust fund for peace to facilitate the receipt of voluntary contributions to the University;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to expand the scope for using the services of the University as part of his conflict resolution and peacebuilding effort through the training of staff, especially those concerned with peacekeeping and peacebuilding, in order to strengthen their capacities in this area, and in the promotion of the Declaration and the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace³ and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Requests* Member States to take the lead in supporting the mission of the University by recognizing the institution and, when possible, making financial

² Resolution [70/1](#).

³ Resolutions [53/243](#) A and B.

contributions that will make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them, and by facilitating the University's operations in host countries;

6. *Invites* Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace,⁴ thereby demonstrating their support for an educational institution established pursuant to a General Assembly resolution and devoted to the promotion of a universal culture of peace and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Invites* the University to further strengthen and broaden the outreach of its programmes and activities for cooperation with and capacity-building for Member States in the areas of conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding;

8. *Encourages* intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in the recent substantial transformations with regard to such issues as gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and climate change;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled "University for Peace", and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at that session a report on the work of the University.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1223, No. 19735.