

**24 January 2024**  
10.00 am – 1.00 pm  
ECOSOC Chamber



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The world is seeing a surge of violent conflicts paralleled by a concerning rise of intolerance and discrimination. In particular, hate speech can take dangerous forms that not only causes harm at the personal level and incites group-targeted violence but is also an attack on inclusion, diversity and human rights.

In this context, an active commitment to peace is more urgent than ever. This commitment ought to surpass security and defense measures to prevent or stop conflicts, for peace does not begin where violence ends. Sustaining peace requires a strong foundation of inclusive, democratic and participatory governance, dialogue, solidarity, mutual understanding and cooperation, sustainable development, gender equality and the general realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Education is key to this endeavor. This pertinent role of education ought to reverberate in the ongoing negotiations towards a Pact for the Future to be launched at the Summit of the Future in 2024<sup>i</sup>.

Education for peace needs to be transformative at its core, as jointly underlined by the “Recommendation on education for peace and human rights, international understanding, cooperation, fundamental freedoms, global citizenship and sustainable development”<sup>ii</sup>, also referred to as the UNESCO Recommendation on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, and the report of the International Commission on the Futures of Education<sup>iii</sup> which calls for a new social contract for education.

A transformed and well-resourced education system can be an effective long-term preventative tool that protects, builds and sustains peace before, during and after conflict. Such an education can lay the preventative foundations by helping all learners realize their fundamental human right to accessible and equitable quality education. In period of crises, it is essential to ensure continuity of learning, especially for those marginalized, and mainstream education as part of global peacebuilding efforts. Education can also contribute to reducing inequities, inequalities and injustices by ensuring that all learners are represented and recognized in all facets of their education, and that education is not just redistributive

but also facilitative of post-conflict recovery, justice and reconciliation<sup>iv</sup>. Most importantly, if education is placed at the center of our commitment to peace, it can help empower learners with the necessary knowledge, competencies and attitudes to become agents of peace in their immediate communities. These defenses of peace include cognitive, social and emotional skills, and behavioral competencies as conceptualized in UNESCO's [Global Citizenship Education](#) and related [program to counter hate speech through education](#).

### The International Day of Education 2024 aims to:

- Mobilize Member States and partners to maintain education at the top of the political agenda and deliver on their Transforming Education Summit (TES) and Education 2030 commitments;
- Generate visibility at the local and global levels on the importance of education in strengthening and sustaining peace, as outlined in SDG4 Target 4.7, and other global education efforts;
- Advocate for higher levels of domestic and international financing for education in general, and education for peace in particular, especially through innovative and multistakeholder mechanisms and partnerships;
- Highlight and celebrate the peacemaking role of youth and educators in and through education towards just, inclusive and peaceful societies;
- Provide a platform to discuss priorities and challenges for education for peace;
- Rally influencers and the wider civil society to push forward the movement to bring education into the center of local, national, regional and global peacebuilding efforts;
- Raise awareness for effective approaches in education for peace and mobilize commitment for their implementation.

More information available on <https://on.unesco.org/EducationDay2024>

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<sup>i</sup> [United Nations Summit of the Future website](#)

<sup>ii</sup> [UNESCO adopts landmark guidance on education's cross-cutting role in promoting peace](#)

<sup>iii</sup> [Reimagining our futures together: a new social contract for education](#)

<sup>iv</sup> Novelli, M., Lopes Cardozo, M., & Smith, A. (2017). The 4Rs Framework: Analyzing education's contribution to sustainable peacebuilding with social justice in conflict-affected contexts. *Journal on Education in Emergencies*, 3(1), 14-43. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.17609/N8S94K>

## PROGRAM

### International Day of Education: Learning for lasting peace 24 January 2024, United Nations Headquarters, New York

<b>10:00 – 10:45 am</b>	<p><b>Opening Session</b></p> <p><b>Moderator - Richa Gupta</b>, Young Leader for the SDGs</p> <p><b>Welcoming remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Video-message by H.E. Dennis Francis, Permanent Representative of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations - President of the General Assembly</li><li>• Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations</li><li>• H.E. Martin Kimani, Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations – Chair, Group of Friends for Education and Lifelong Learning</li><li>• Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director General for Education, UNESCO</li></ul> <p><b>Testimony</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H.E. Chernor Bah, Minister of Information and Civic Education of Sierra Leone</li></ul>
<b>10:45 – 10:55am</b>	<p><b>Musical interlude</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jinan Laurentia Woo and Edward Lee, Violinists, The Julliard School</li></ul>
<b>10:55am – 12: 50pm</b>	<p><b>High-Level Panel on strengthening the foundations of peace through education</b></p> <p><b>Moderator - Christopher Castle</b>, Director, Division for Peace and Sustainable Development, UNESCO</p> <p><b>Segment 1: Concrete ways education serves as a prevention strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emeline O’Hara, Dangerous Speech Project</li><li>• Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Global Network of Women Peace Workers</li><li>• Charles North, Deputy CEO, Global Partnership for Education</li><li>• Video message by Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs</li></ul> <p><b>Segment 2: Placing education at the center of global peacebuilding efforts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Robert Jenkins, Director of Education and Adolescent Development, UNICEF</li><li>• Julia Paulson, Dean, College of Education, University of Saskatchewan, Canada</li><li>• Anthony Jenkins, Managing Director, International Institute on Peace Education</li></ul> <p><b>Segment 3: Q&amp;A with Member States</b></p>
<b>12:50 – 1:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Poem by Salome Agbaroji</b>, 2023/2024 US National Youth Poet Laureate</li><li>• <b>Richa Gupta</b>, Young Leader for the SDGs</li></ul>