

Living Together in Peace

Challenges and perspectives

Fifty years after the first walk on the moon, it is finally time to walk towards each other. The time has come for the reconciliation of the human family.

To take a step into the right direction:

- that of a true universal fraternity where each and everyone has a full place in the human community,
- that of a sustainable peace with oneself, with one's neighbours, near or far, as well as with the earth that sustains and nourishes us.

It is urgent today that humanity rise up and proclaim its rejection and disgust to all those who, out of political or economic interest, support and fuel destructive conflicts in the world. It is imperative that we realize that our destiny is linked to the preservation of all creatures on our planet and this requires us to act by strengthening the bonds of Living Together.

How?

By transforming this concept into actions, so that it becomes a shared, widespread and taught reality.

Thus, the Living Together in Peace is to be invented, on a daily basis, by drawing inspiration from the experience of others, by experimenting with new actions, new projects. It is another way of seeing the world and understanding it. It is a call to all, citizens of the world, political and religious leaders, States, international institutions to opt once and for all, in any place and at any time, for peace and dignity of every human being, of every living creature.

An alternative is possible if everyone participates. If everyone sincerely takes action.

Living Together is:

- **A mission with global challenges**, a necessity for us and for future generations.
- **Bringing together** our assets, our powers, our knowledge, our resources, our willingness.

- **Investing** together in a project: building the house of Peace, whose foundations are first and foremost the culture of Peace.
- **To promote** civic engagement in our cities and countries, a shared vision of our community of destiny and to enable our institutions to join a movement recognized at the local, national and international levels.
- **To act in synergy** through concrete actions for the development of each individual, in mutual respect for differences.
- **Invest in sustainable development** through a solidarity-based economy that takes into account the needs of the most disadvantaged for the well-being of all.

The challenges of living together in peace:

- **To promote the essential values** to which a large part of humanity aspires: pluralism, equity, justice, the sacredness of life, respect for the environment and the preservation of species.
- **Prevent the radicalization** and terrorism that flourish on the ground of injustice and inequality. It means understanding these issues from a different perspective than the security approach.
- **Giving a soul to globalization** and ensuring that the essence of being is preserved: its virtues and qualities. Its future depends on it!
- **To offer an education** that preserves the richness of cultural diversity and social ties for a "Better Living Together" that reconciles us with **all living beings**.
- Avoid conflicts through **preventive and remedial mediation**.

An opportunity: the International Day of Living Together in Peace

On December 8th, 2017, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the International Day for Living Together in Peace (JIVEP) by its Resolution A/RES/72/130, which, at the initiative of Sheikh Khaled Bentounes, Honorary President of the International NGO AISA, is now celebrated on May 16th each year around the world.

The sense of this day

No, this is not just another International Day. It is a real opportunity, in a world in crisis, to federate and build the society of Living Together and Acting Together. The International Day

of Living Together in Peace (JIVEP) is a moment of reunion, of meeting, of "gathering without resembling each other", a moment of joy and of sharing the richness of our differences. Indeed, the attempt to impose on the rest of the world the ideals and values of a single civilization, a single power, leads us to the ruin of all cultures because cultures, by definition, bear within them the witness and heritage of all aspects of the diversity of human civilization from the very beginning of humanity to the present day. Wanting to oppose or reduce them leads us to deny that they have, throughout history, fertilized each other. On the contrary, we must **do everything possible** to ensure that they survive us and **demonstrate** that their religious, cultural, philosophical, gastronomic, architectural and spiritual diversities are only the multiple facets of a **one and complete humanity**. Denying is the certain death of the ancestral values of human genius.

The objectives of the International Day of Living Together in Peace

- **To name a Capital City of Living Together in Peace** every year or two years, as was the case in 2019 in Córdoba, Spain, and to encourage cities to join the International Observatory of Mayors of Living Together.
- **To create the momentum** of an internationally recognized federating movement.
- **To create houses of peace**, places of dialogue, mediation and learning of wisdom, they are at the service of the common interest.
- **Introduce** "peace education" into school curricula in primary, secondary and university education by 2030.
- **Promote** the rights of nature to shift awareness towards environmental protection.
- **To make known** and apply United Nations resolution A/RES/72/130 to all the peoples of the signatory countries.
- **Involve** national and international media, as well as social networks, in spreading the message of the International Day of Living Together in Peace.
- **Call on** States to hold an international conference to establish policies that promote living together and peace among all citizens of the world in the next few years, given the urgency of the situation.

International support for the International Day of Living Together in Peace

Extract from the UN Proclamation

The General Assembly

1. Proclaims May 16th as the International Day of Living Together in Peace.

2. Emphasizes that the International Day of Peaceful Living Together will be a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community for peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity, and an opportunity for all to express the deep desire to live and act together, united in difference and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world based on peace, solidarity and harmony.

3. Invites all Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe the International Day of Living Together in Peace, with due respect for culture and other local, national and regional particularities or customs, including through educational initiatives and awareness-raising activities.

Extract from the inter-ministerial meeting of the non-aligned countries - 21 July 2019

The ministerial meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the **Non-Aligned Movement** (NAM), which includes 120 countries, in Caracas in July 2019, underlined the importance that its member States attach to the promotion of living together:

"The Ministers welcomed the adoption of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 72/130 of 8 December 2017, submitted by Algeria, which proclaims 16 May as the International Day for Living Together in Peace, aimed at promoting peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.

Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement must further promote reconciliation in order to contribute to peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, religious leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliation measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals."

Pope Francis

Among the many supporters of the IDLP, there is also the statement of **Pope Francis**, shared on social networks, where he "welcomes the initiative, allowing the construction of bridges between people while respecting their differences, and promoting the advent of a true universal fraternity and a civilization of love".

The Observatory of Mayors for Living Together

On May 16th, the Observatory was at the heart of the celebrations for the International Day of Living Together in Peace, notably through an event organized at UNESCO.

We thank the Mayor of the City of Düsseldorf for hosting this year's 2nd International Summit of Mayors on Living Together and all members of the Observatory for their efforts to promote Living Together and JIVEP and congratulate all mayors of the cities that signed the Düsseldorf Declaration.

Extract from the Düsseldorf Declaration by the members of the Observatory - August 31, 2019 :

"Promote the International Day of Living Together in Peace, which will be held every May 16th. The International Observatory of Mayors on Living Together, in collaboration with the organizers of this international day, will designate a capital of living together, a city named each year to host the main activity of the world celebrations of this day."

Sheikh Khaled Bentounes

Honorary President of the International NGO AISA