



## International Day of Peace 2021

On the occasion of the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2021, the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA) congratulates the United Nations on its daily efforts to create a more peaceful world. We live in an era of huge challenges for humankind and for the planet. We must unite to find the best solutions.

Trust and solidarity are the basis for peace. For this reason, the year 2021 was declared the International Year of Peace and Trust. During this year, we seek to advance the culture of peace by, among other things, political dialogue, mutual understanding, and, most importantly, concrete collaboration. Peace is a key value, along with human rights and sustainable development, for the continued prosperity, even the survival, of our planet.

This year's Peace Day theme, "Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world," shows the importance of trust built through action and not just words. Wise decisions and firm solidarity in the face of the COVID-19 crisis will build trust in the international community, and will advance peace.

Wise decisions and firm solidarity are likewise necessary to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The culture of peace plays an important role in building bridges among the values of different communities and the values of the United Nations, among them justice, human dignity and tolerance – and thus the principles behind sustainable development.

Languages link people together and convey cultural values and knowledge. In this way UEA seeks to expand the culture of peace throughout the Esperanto community, and advance, through the International Language Esperanto, the ideals of understanding and collaboration among people. In this way, we endeavour to spread the spirit of worldwide peaceful collaboration through our worldwide peaceful language. At the same time we fully understand that words without actions are empty promises.

As UN Secretary-General António Guterres remarked in his report, "Humanity's welfare – and indeed, humanity's very future – depend on solidarity and working together as a global family to achieve common goals."

Along with the United Nations, we invite everyone to celebrate peace, to stand up against acts of hatred, and to advance compassion, clear thinking and hope as we confront the challenges of the present.