



Center for Global Nonkilling

www.nonkilling.org

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Life is of primary importance.

So is the life of each and every individual.

Life of the person, in itself without reason or cause simply because the person exists. As much, life of any person because of the love and happiness we may all develop and share. Moreover, life of anyone and of all persons because every individual is, can or should be a bearer of humanity, of human qualities and shall have and be awarded its fair and active part in the well-being of every individual, and of humanity as a whole. Life of the human person as it is proclaimed, recognized and protected be the human right to life.

So is the life of our species.

Life as we choose it. Life as needed to survive and thrive, life as needed to sustain ourselves on Earth, life as needed to overcome the challenges that – at the beginning unknowingly – we created and now face in our Anthropocene: climate change and massive extinctions, loss of biodiversity and limitations to our essential resources; climate, biodiversity and resources as they are needed to sustain life on Earth.

So is the life of our civilization.

Humanity, through care and common sense has reached a high degree of knowledge and capacity, but also an immense wealth of well-being and understanding. *Forgive us for mentioning*, this has only been possible at painstaking costs: numerous lives lost, freedoms crushed and now the need to overcome the risk of annihilation. However great our human genius may be, this is only the beginning of our journey. We need to prove, now and for good that we can all survive, as a species but also as a civilization, giving worth, meaning and dignity to Life and History, to every individual.

The **Pact for the future** shall highlight the centrality of life in all human endeavors.

The Pact shall be conducive creating an environment; a cultural, natural, peaceful, economic and legal background in which every person is safe, and thus enabled to bring the best of life unto itself, for others, to our common planet and for the future of life and human life.

This presentation will focus mostly on the centrality, the importance of life and on comprehensive peace policies, both needed to sustain life, and life in happiness.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The Sustainable development goals are a magnificent program: universal, measurable, life enacting, proactive and unanimous. **The Pact** shall focus as much on fulfilling the SDG's as on envisioning their aftermath under similar ambitions and even greater tools of completion.

Humanity is immensely rich: wealth, resources, quality and understanding of life, knowledge. Fostering such richness, enabling work and prosperity for the good of each and all, is an essential element of the **future brought by the Pact**. Said simply: "Happy people breed a happy world".

To be effective, **the Pact shall give a sense of worth** to our common future – worth of life indeed, worth of participation of course! Giving to all the people sufficient well-being, means and reasons to thrive, will empower everyone to give a meaning to life, theirs and all's, a sense of belonging that will guide future and sustained actions.

To serve the future of humanity people need both material security and a sense of worth.

To give worth to all through the Pact we suggest enacting the "Universal Basic Income" (A/HRC/35/26¹).

From "leaving no one behind" to "living all together".

Chapter II. International peace and security

Peace is of vital importance

Vital is peace for international well-being

I. **WAR IS ILLEGAL: The Pact shall speak it up, loud and clear.**

The Charter is unambiguous about it, yet the wording is so far indirect:

Article 2, paragraphs 3 and 4 are purpose clear: the duty to solve conflicts peacefully and to abstain from using force or threat amounts to forbidding war. This must be said, strongly but gently.

The exceptions to this basic rule of behavior, both personal and institutional behavior, are scarce, numbered. These exceptions need to be tamed, controlled and reduced:

1) There is a limit to what article 51 allows for self-defense. Moreover, as self-defense or self-defense preparation shall not entail any form of threat: i.e. threat to life itself, to life on Earth or to the life of anyone. Article 26 of the Charter, in its essence, shall be recalled to avoid unnecessary or excessive build-up of military might or power.

2) Peace operations may have a military component (Chapter VI of the charter):

a) Under prevention, with "effective occurrence of war reduction"; addressing causes, means and risks of institutionalized violence, the use of military force (or of falling into war) shall progressively disappear.

Through law, understanding and prevention, the Pact shall clearly aim at ending the scourge of war.

It shall express the will of humanity as a whole, of all its instances and of ourselves to dare the ambition, and the necessary means needed to progress and accomplish the foreclosure, the definite ending of war and wars.

b) A reflection is needed on non-maiming, nonkilling ways to run armed conflict, including much greater use of non-lethal weapons. The United Nations has a duty of exemplarity and innovation

in this regard. **Through and for unequivocal respect for the right to life, the Pact shall mention nonkilling and “do no harm”, largely recall the primacy of life.**

c) Similarly, a tighter and more frequent application, and may be a revision, a more humane version of humanitarian law shall be envisioned.

d) It goes with saying that the Human Rights Council shall address direct Human Rights contributions, of all sorts, to the Security Council.

The Pact shall reinforce cooperation among the United Nations entities and reinforce its presence and decentralization of its activities worldwide.

II. Vital is peace for the Nation-State: may the Pact call it “peace policies”

States are not the seed of war; peaceful and peace prone nations², moreover army-less countries prove it. The Members States of the United Nations (and the few contested territories keeping the UN from being universal) have thereupon a beacon of hope, a path of understanding to follow: we can live in peace and overcome the thresholds we face, including living and living well without military clout. **The Pact shall encourage going toward non-militarisation.**

Whatsoever, the State, every State has the high hand on the existence and the means of war, and as such on its abolition. States shall therefore design more robust peace policies and **the Pact shall encourage States to enhance their peace policies in all directions**; that is both locally within the State, and as said in international relations and for planetary survival.

III. Vital are peace policies for the well-being of the people, as for lively serving institutions

Peace will only be achieved and sustained if there is enough will and pressure for it: popular and State pressure alike. Moreover, peace – and the knowledge of peace³ will progress when the needed peace tools, and the peace incentives are at hand, at all levels of society.

Regarding individual peace, the culture and the right to peace are here recalled. Ethics, nonkilling, nonviolence and education⁴, human rights are the overall tools available to all – or to be made available to all to develop thriving and happy personalities, interacting with themselves and their human and natural environments in harmony. From ideals to practices, **the Pact must be easy to read, universally available and empowering for all.**

Regarding social peace, cooperation, participation⁵ and consultation⁶, prevention and peaceful settlements of disputes are of the essence.

“Prevention” means more education, but also more tolerance and forgiveness, welcoming the youth in their inexperience, punishing less and teaching better, accompanying more.

Further, peaceful settlements of disputes shall be made universal or universally available in national law (available as it is in international law – where more than not it is required).

In some circumstances, incapacitation of violence or of potential violence is required.

Through commitment and kindness, the Pact shall that violence, of all forms is unacceptable and shall prevented. And that victims have a right to truth, nonrecurrence and reparation.

In all other circumstances, what is required is mainly non-recurrence. Punishing all too often adds unnecessary burden to the cause, with the risk of using or abusing of state power to crush persons,

instilling rebellion and thus further misbehavior. On the other hand, mediation and restorative justice include conscience raising and reparation participation.

To give peace to all through the Pact, peaceful settlements of disputes shall be made universally available, or call for such peaceful solutions, with means and practices shall be made.

Regarding *political peace*.

The duty to bring life in peace to the people, for the future of Earth, of present and future generations is nothing but logic. It is a political endeavor, and **we trust the Pact to express it.**

It is as well dignity put to its best expression.

“Peace is a bountiful emotion, and the humble expression of wisdom”.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

We envision a future in which science, reason and humanism, technology and digital capacity serve the human destiny with intelligence and generous emotions, plentiful and shared resources.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

Empowerment of youth and future generations is an open avenue for a more coherent, lively and happy future.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

Human rights must be considered, as much as protective mechanisms as empowering and guiding tool available to each and all to lead positive and happy lives. They are also fully needed to assure that institutions are and remain people oriented.

We expect the Pact to reinforce the knowledge and practice of Human Rights.

Democracy is one of these human rights but also of constitutional and institutional coherence for which much more can be done. We support the idea of a Special Rapporteur on democracy, or of any mechanism entitled with reinforcement of democracy as a mandate.

We expect the Pact to be “democracy enhancing”.

The idea of a world parliament, its means and powers, is a long-term goal.

The Pact shall lead the way towards a planetary democracy.

Security council reform is needed to improve representativity of all sorts, countries big and small, gender balance, youth and elders, disabled persons and more systematic participation of NGO’s. Limiting the veto right in case of humanitarian situations seems evident as well.

It will be a great achievement of the Pact for the Future to reform the Security Council.

It will also be a peaceful way to progress and face the future if the Council can be reformed without further strife, conflict or confrontation.

The Pact for the future shall reinforce civil society's participation in all the organs and practices of the United Nations.

Conclusion

Nonkilling is both the first and the last measure of the respect and quality of life, of its fulfillment and sustainability.

It is the first measure of life because it is when life is secured and safe that persons and institutions can thrive and envision the present and the future at their best and, so doing take the serene time and the proper decisions needed to make the future happen, and last.

It is the last measure of life because it is when life is not respected that all other possible trouble and mishappening may arise or happen.

Life is and will remain at the center of any human activity.

Losing sight or understanding of the centrality of life, of the connectedness of all and any life, is erroneous: conversely cherishing and celebrating life close to our hearts is an open door to security and safety, moreover to happiness.

The Pact for the future shall give each and every one, not only the promise, but the means needed to lead a fulfilling life.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/stories/2017/06/basic-income-possible-solution-human-rights-problem-poverty>

² « Peace-loving States » says the Charter in article 4.

³ Charter of UNESCO ... In the minds of men and women.

⁴ SDG 4.7

⁵ Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 25.

⁶ Call for inputs