

DC White Paper on Diplomacy and Peace

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DC White Paper on Diplomacy and Peace Introduction

With regards to the urgency of the current situation in the field of world peace and diplomatic issues, DC UN Commissioner for International Affairs Jamal Qaiser issued the DC Peace Paper in September 2017. With this in mind and to move further in this crucial area, the Diplomatic Council (DC) has appointed a DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace to intensively work on this very priority toward sustainable peace through diplomacy.

Diplomacy and peace are convenient to analyze when apprehended from a wealthy and joyful life point of view. While new challenges emerge with globalization, climate change, human right issues and terrorism, the world population continue to grow exponentially. This crucial factor is to be addressed urgently. A short analysis of the figures shows that about 30% of the world population are under 15 years old on average. Most of these young people are born in areas where the word peace is meaningless to them.

Current structures overwhelmed by multiple priority tasks

How does it feel to grow up, for example, in Somalia, Syria, or Mali today? To have little or no drinking water, barely anything to eat, or no electricity? Some have the chance to live in stable families. Others have nothing, and have above all lost their parents through wars, climate catastrophe or other reasons. Some of them end up in refugee camps, other steal food or any items to survive, if they don't sell their organs or body... Some join paramilitary groups, and become child soldiers... There is no word to describe what millions of these little souls have to face on a daily basis. And their number is growing. Our civil society has the duty to show them the path to peace.

Peacemakers from all over the world are presently overwhelmed by the numbers of multiple tasks in Africa, Central-Asia, the Middle-East and in so many other places. And when peacemakers leave the place after having achieved their duty, there is no fertile ground to build peaceful life and businesses. Many of the youngsters and their families living on this ground ravaged by war are not necessarily bad guys or girls. Most of them would like to stay in their home country. But the soil where they would like to enjoy life is full of war remnants such as anti-personnel land mines or cluster explosives, munitions, and unexploded bombs. This is the case all over the world, not only in Bosnia, in Vietnam or in Lybia.

And the most effective methods to get rid of this war remnant is manual clearing by specialists. But there are not enough mines clearing teams while crisis regions proliferate and trapp population in their home country so that they can't move anymore. Thus, they have to flee with or without family in any welcoming country or somewhere in huge refugee camps separated from their beloved ones in the middle of nowhere. The UNHCR releases each year their growing numbers, and helps where it can. Many charities and aid organizations are active on the spot on our behalf; the representatives of their homeland are as well overwhelmed by works of a kind and in conditions hardly to imagine. The current UN Secretary General, António Guterres, knows this well since he served from 2005 to 2015 the UNHCR as High Commissioner for Refugees.

Global solutions to global problems

And he has made this very issue one of his main priorities. Ahead of the 72nd UN General Assembly, António Guterres said that the UN has to be “an instrument for a surge in diplomacy for peace”. Further, he explained that since we are living in a world with global issues, we cannot solve them on a country level only, for only global solutions can solve global problems. Thus multilateral organizations like the UN, and many others, such as the Diplomatic Council are all necessary to join forces and address the issues that are threatening each of us.

Consequently, his office released on September 19, 2017, the “Chapter II:B on Maintenance of international peace and security” explaining that the UN instead of reacting only to a crisis has as well to be proactive in building relationships between national and regional partners to prevent conflict. For conflict prevention needs “addressing the root causes of conflict across the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and inclusive development”, he adds.

In this perspective António Guterres will review his General Secretariat to make the UN more “agile and able to deliver results in complex environments. He is also breaking new ground with the creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 71/291). After highlighting the importance of the women and youth peace as well as the security Agenda, he further proposes his “good office for preventive diplomacy and mediation.” Its aim is to support democracy, and build a real crisis management toward sustaining peace to build partnerships.

The prevention of conflict and work toward sustainable peace need a practical assistance brought to the countries in achieving the sustainable development goals. Since the relation between inclusive sustainable development and prevention of violence is not well understood, he highlighted that a “joint United Nations-World Bank flagship study on how development and political processes interact for the prevention of violence, the first of its kind, is under way and will examine the evidence on how grievances linked to inequality and exclusion increase the risk of violent conflict.” The UN, led by the Department of Political Affairs, UNDPA, will provide an adequate support system for successful conflict mediation.

DC Expertise and Competency to Serve UN Economic and Social Council

Compared to many universal organizations, the Diplomatic Council is already a flexible and fast growing organization with presently more than 6,000 members from all around the world. Established in the year of 2012 as a Global Think Tank with the objective to serve as a bridge between diplomacy, economy and society, its members believe that economic diplomacy provides a solid foundation for international understanding and a more peaceful interaction amongst nations. Today DC enjoys the special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council and adheres to the charter of the UN.

As His Excellency Mr. Buddhi Athauda, Diplomatic Council Founding President, writes in the DC principles: “Members of the DC are highly skilled and their expertise plays a key role in consulting the members ambassadors on how the economic principles can be employed in the global diplomatic network. On the other hand the ambassadors use their diplomatic competency to ensure that economic activities promote understanding amongst nations and safeguard peace.” [H.E. Mr. Buddhi K. Athauda is currently Ambassador of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to France, Portugal and Spain, and Permanent Delegate of Sri Lanka to UNESCO.]

DC Commissioner for UN Affairs Jamal Qaiser DC Peace Paper

In this spirit DC Commissioner for UN Affairs Jamal Qaiser released on September 19, 2017, a DC Peace Paper for “Being the world’s sole truly universal organization, the DC is the foremost forum possessing tendency to address issues that transcend national boundaries... it has the force to take actions against issues confronting humanity, thus establishing a framework for international peace and security promoting sustainable social and economic progress worldwide. From the refugee crisis to economic slowdowns in emerging markets, from ever rising number of terrorists to interstate crimes, all are partly a result of spillover effects of insecurity and conflicts.” Jamal Qaiser pointed out many possible elements for conflict diminution, and peaceful negotiations. Since “Being members of the Diplomatic Council we need to assist affable dialogue for amicable negotiated settlement creating a global atmosphere conducive to international peace and world wide harmony.”

DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace

To move further into this crucial area the Diplomatic Council has appointed a DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace to intensively work on this very priority toward sustainable peace through diplomacy. Thereby the DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace will within the Diplomatic Council join forces with all members, diplomats and business leaders to achieve higher expertise for diplomacy and peace to serve the overall goals of the UN. All over the world numerous current and future DC member diplomats work on a daily basis on highly sensitive, demanding, and multiple tasks toward the well of their fellow citizen as well as building good business relations with local and global business leaders. They have sometimes to move to another location, and need a proactive and highly expertise support to further build their network of business partners and thus work toward sustainable peace.

Tasks of DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace

The DC Business Consul for Diplomacy and Peace work will become even more important as future world landscape changes rapidly and requires more new and flexible responses. She regards her office as a connecting place for all members, diplomats and business leaders as well as a plate-form for a knowledge laboratory for evidence-based research and practice, and as a docking station for all those who are as well looking for solutions through genuine dialogue. Hence her office will support and participate in diplomacy and peace projects and scientific studies, it will

deliver content work like white papers, reports, interviews on diplomacy and peace that will be carried out in the DC forums, directorates, initiatives and programs as well as through her own worldwide network.

Conclusion

There are few better works like the Diplomatic Council to access and deliver expertise as well as know-how relevance for diplomacy and peace. This underlines the DC role as Global Think Tank with its high knowledge and practice laboratory. Time is running fast. The UN and the DC Agenda have many priorities with regard to our urgent issue of diplomacy and peace. The DC is active in many ways, and present at the Geneva Peace Week with a special event. They are so many tasks to work on together. We need each of our members to address the challenges of sustainability. Let us activate the flame of the youngsters and their families with our flame of joy and fulfillment and thereby increase it with every activity taken toward diplomacy for sustainable peace.