



**The Stadtschlaining Appeal  
To Promote Human Rights, Peace, Democracy,  
International Understanding and Tolerance**

adopted by the International Meeting of  
Representatives of UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Peace, Democracy  
and Tolerance

Stadtschlaining, Austria, 25 April 1998

We, the participants of the meeting, representing UNESCO Chairs on Human Rights, Democracy, Peace and Tolerance, as well as human rights research and training institutes, universities, foundations and non-governmental organizations,

*Convinced* that the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an occasion to reinforce activities aimed at the implementation of all human rights for all, at the strengthening of peace and security, at the consolidation of democracy and at the promotion of tolerance,

*Mindful* that peace, democracy, development, human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

*Persuaded* that governments, international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, educational institutions and all actors of civil society, should join their efforts in order to end violations of human rights, to eradicate terrorism, extreme poverty, to eliminate discrimination, to stop the deterioration of the environment, to tackle the sources of armed conflicts and strife in order to prevent them and to ensure full respect of humanitarian law,

*Welcoming* the adoption by the 54th Session (1998) of the United Nations-Commission on Human Rights of the Draft Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders),

*Bearing in mind* the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, the World Plan of Action on Education for Human Rights and Democracy, the Declaration of the Principles of Tolerance and the Follow-Up Action Plan of the United Nations Year for Tolerance, the Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy, the Declaration on the Responsibilities of the Present Generations towards Future Generations and the Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,

*Acknowledging* the UNESCO Plan of Action for the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

*Noting* the proclamation of the Year 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace (General Assembly resolution 52/15),

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*Welcoming* UNESCO's efforts aimed at the promotion of a culture of peace,

*Emphasizing* that a culture of peace can become a reality if there is a change of paradigms in the concept of security: less investments for war and more investments for peace.

*Address this Appeal to governments, parliaments, national and local administrations, intergovernmental organizations, educational and academic institutions, universities and research centres, national and international institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, non-governmental organizations, both international and national, foundations, mass media professionals, and all those who are interested in the promotion of human rights, peace, democracy and tolerance, inviting them to join their efforts in order to adopt legislative and practical measures aimed at:*

1. The implementation of all human rights for all without exception with due regard to the principle of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelationship of all human rights.
2. The eradication of all forms and manifestations of discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, language, religion or belief, or any other grounds whatsoever.
3. The realization of the principle of genuine equality between women and men in all spheres of life and the total elimination of discrimination against women and girls.
4. The elimination of extreme poverty and social exclusion which are detrimental to human dignity and to the implementation of all human rights: civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.
5. The guaranteeing to everyone the right to live in peace and security without any threat to liberty or attacks upon honour and dignity.
6. The promotion of tolerance and non-violence and stemming the increase of intolerance, xenophobia, racism and extreme nationalism.
7. The guaranteeing of the right to a healthy environment which is crucial for the sustainable development and implementation of all fundamental human rights.
8. The guaranteeing of the right to education for all children in full conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the right to quality education for all people, bearing in mind the utmost importance of education for realizing all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
9. The implementation of the right to development which is universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights.
10. The further elaboration of the concept and relevant instruments concerning cultural rights and academic freedom, bearing in mind their importance as such and close relationship with all other rights and freedoms.
11. The establishment of social and international order in which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized.
12. The consolidation of a culture of peace, which should be expressed, *inter alia*, in the readiness of the States to provide adequate resources and to create conditions for its full implementation.