

*"Peace cannot be guaranteed exclusively by political, economic or military agreements. In the final analysis it depends upon the unanimous, sincere and sustained engagement of peoples. Each one of us, no matter what our age, sex, social position, religious affiliation or cultural origin is called upon to create a peaceful world.*

*Peace can only be achieved through our behaviour, attitudes and everyday acts.*

*The culture of peace is the universal culture that is shared by all peoples.*

*It is essential to our common humanity.*

*Together, let us cultivate peace. Let us each ask ourselves, 'what can we do for peace today?'"*

*Koïchiro Matsuura  
Director - General  
of UNESCO*

## **"Peace is in our hands"**

The symbol for the International Year for the Culture of Peace illustrates and evokes the culture of peace. The two hands that are interlaced can be seen to represent exchange and agreement. They can also be seen as continents that are embracing and within which two islands, symbolised by the spots, are incorporated.

One can also interpret the symbol as two people, or two groups of people - two villages - which share a common head and are merged one with the other. Or as a union between the North and the South, represented by the two thumbs pointing up and down, and achieved by the integration of various cultures, represented by the fingers that are interlocked.

