

One Earth | One Dream

"Imagine Building Together What Comes Next..."



Global message from Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury on the occasion of the United Nations-proclaimed International Day of Peace on 21 September 2026

“On 21 September 2026, let us breathe life into a fractured world and ignite an unstoppable global renewal of hope.

As the International Day of Peace proclaimed by the United Nations in 1981 arrives, our global family stands at a painful, defining crossroads. Humanity is still struggling to silence the drums of war. This year’s sacred theme, “Invest in Peace - For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day”, is not a gentle suggestion. It is an urgent, aching cry from the heart of humanity, inspiring all of us to act.

Look beneath the headlines and remember the true source of our strength. It is our determination to transform peace from a heartless daily jargon into a living, breathing reality.

Peace is not just the end of war or conflict. Real peace means also the end of discrimination, prejudice, injustice, and inequality. This realization offers us the opportunity to make the International Day of Peace meaningful through building the Culture of Peace.

Simply put, the Culture of Peace as a concept, as a motivation means that every one of us needs to consciously make peace and nonviolence a part of our daily existence. We should know how to relate to one another without being aggressive, without being violent, without being disrespectful, without neglect, without prejudice.

Unless we are ready to integrate peace and non-violence as part of our daily existence, we cannot expect our communities, our nations, our planet to be peaceful. In today’s world, more so, the humanity’s creed should be based on inner oneness and outer diversity.

For that, one of the things we can do on a daily basis is to embrace the oneness of humanity and connect with the global community in compassion for each other.

Also, the Secretary-General of the United Nations should prioritize the culture of peace as a part of his leadership agenda. He – or she, as we campaign for his successor would be a woman - should make good use of this workable tool that the UN possess to advance the objective of sustainable peace.

In addition, let me outline that peace education must start in early childhood to root out prejudice before violence can grow.

Let me alert us for the umpteenth time to recognize that without peace, development stalls. Without development, peace fails. But without women, neither is even conceivable.

Also, empowerment of today’s young people should embrace the culture of peace in a way that can not only shape their lives but can also shape the future of the world.

I believe also very strongly that cities and their communities have the potential to shape the future of humankind and to win the battle for sustainable peace and development.

Let us remember that the work for peace is a continuous process. Peace cannot be imposed from outside; it must be realized from within.

Let us embrace the Culture of Peace for the good of humanity, for the sustainability of our planet and for making our world a better place to live for all.

One voice creates a ripple – many ripples make a wave – collectively, our voices for the Culture of Peace can transform the world.”

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN

