

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

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Part I

Pathways To Peace (PTP) is an international Peacebuilding, educational and consulting organisation. The primary mission of PTP is to contribute to the evolving mission of the United Nations by expanding the substantive expression of “Peace” and Peacebuilding, and to build a Culture of Peace by uniting and enhancing the strengths of existing organisations and programmes, locally and globally.

In its capacity as International Secretariat for the “WE THE PEOPLES” INITIATIVE (WPI), a UN-designated Peace Messenger Initiative, Pathways To Peace continued during 2001-2004 to work closely with international non-governmental organisations in all the world’s regions, in order to build co-operation amongst UN INGOs and with the UN in the context of the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World. In preparation for the mid-Decade review, a special WPI report was presented to the Office of the Secretary-General. Over 300 international Participating Organisations from nations worldwide observed the annual highlight of WPI, the UN International Day of Peace.

Throughout the period 2001-2004, PTP participated in numerous UN conferences and events, including the “UN World Summit on Sustainable Development” in Johannesburg (2002), and “Toward a Democratic United Nations For the 21st Century” in San Francisco (2004). PTP was an active participant in the annual DPI/NGO Conferences 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 as well as the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). PTP also attended meetings of the NGO Committee on UNICEF.

ECOSOC Quadrennial Report of Activities for the period 2001-2004

Part II

In 2001, PTP representatives participated in a series of events focusing on children. PTP attended the “UN Special Session on Children”, which took place on September 19-21, as well as the preparatory meeting in June. In August, there was a special performance entitled “Children and Armed Conflict: Wounded Children Reclaim their lives”, sponsored by the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Pathways To Peace, and performed by the Ithuteng Tung Children from South Africa.

PTP also participated in the “Special Session of the General Assembly for an Overall Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Habitat Agenda – Istanbul+5” at UN headquarters in NY on June 6-8.

In May 2002, a special invitation was given to PTP’s President to attend the “Forum for First Spouses on Women’s Leadership for Children”, hosted by Mrs. Nane Annan. PTP representatives also attended the “Special Session of the General Assembly on Children” at UN headquarters.

Later in 2002, PTP made presentations and participated in the “World Summit on Sustainable Development” in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 26-September 4. PTP participated as well in preparatory meetings and post-summit meetings with delegations from Taiwan, Brazil, Korea, India and various African countries.

As part of its Peacebuilding work, PTP co-sponsored “Building a Culture of Peace from the Ground Up” at UN, New York. Guest speakers included Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, USG for Least-Developed Countries and Mr Olara Otunnu, Special Representative to the SG for Children and Armed Conflict. The program concluded with an interfaith Peace offering and a call for observance of the UN International Day of Peace on September 21.

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One of the “pathways to Peace” is the environment, which was the subject of the opening event, “Peace and the Environment”, for the 2002 “Season for Nonviolence”, held in the ECOSOC Chamber, UN Headquarters on January 31. PTP assisted in organizing the program, which included presentations by H.E. Patricia Durrant, Chair of the General Assembly Special Session on Children, Dr. Wangari Maathai of Kenya, and Mr. Adnan Amin, Director of UNEP’s NY office.

PTP UN representatives participated in UN sessions on ensuring sustainable development of oceans and coasts, by showing how “water purification” is a key to good health. The subject of Peace through environmental health continued in 2003, with PTP participation in “Water of Life: Fresh Perspectives on the World’s Water Crisis” (16 October) at UN, NY, co-sponsored by DESA and DPI, with speaker Marcia Brewster of ECOSOC and Xolisa Mabhongo.

On March 3-14, PTP attended the “Fifth World Conference on Women and the 2005 CSW Review of the Beijing Platform for Action” – discussions by NGOs at the 47th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women, at UN headquarters in NY. Another event focusing on women was the ecumenical consultation on the role of women in peace processes (March), related to seeking nonviolent solutions to enmity and violence, and included a presentation on UN Resolution 1325 on women, decision-making and peacemaking.

In May, PTP was invited to participate as observer in the Second Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UN New York.

PTP worked with the New Dimensions World Broadcasting Network, to create and air the program “Peace is a Verb” in September 2003, to increase civil society awareness of, and participation in, the UN International Day of Peace.

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To increase participation in the UN International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, PTP was involved in the Parliament of the World's Religions event in Barcelona, Spain, as well as the preparatory conferences (2003-2004) leading up to the event. PTP worked with other organisations to introduce a link to the UN at this historic gathering, and arranged for UN representatives to attend.

Every year, PTP mentors young Peace leaders from diverse countries and introduces them to the UN. For example, at a DPI/NGO Briefing in March 2004, PTP introduced Jacqueline Murekatete who spoke on the topic of "Rwanda Ten Years After: Overcoming a Genocide". Murekatete, an 18-year-old student, witnessed the ethnic conflict that claimed most of her family.

Following UNICEF's Annual Meeting, a PTP Representative reported widely on the keynote address of Zahra Aydan from the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, regarding the outcome of the Cardoza Panel.

In June 2004, in San Francisco, PTP co-sponsored a special conference dedicated to the UN 60th Anniversary and the Millennium Development Goals, entitled "Toward a Democratic United Nations For the 21st Century".

In 2003, the UN Secretary-General mandated the establishment of a UN System Steering Group for the International Day of Peace, co-chaired by DPA and DPI. One seat on this UN IDP Steering Group was assigned for a UN NGO. Pathways To Peace was selected as the non-governmental organisation to represent civil society, and to report on the activities of the IDP NGO Committee of which it serves as founder and Co-Chair.

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