



FOR PEOPLE, FOR PEACE

In turbulent times, the International Year of Peace and Trust seeks to reinvigorate a global culture of peace

The International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025 A New Chapter in Global Diplomacy

Introduction

On 21 March 2024, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted Resolution A/RES/78/266, proclaiming 2025 as the *International Year of Peace and Trust* (United Nations General Assembly [UNGA], 2024). Spearheaded by Turkmenistan, this observance renews global commitment to dialogue, cooperation, and the values of peace and trust at a time of heightened international tension. It follows the precedent set by the 2021 observance, extending the agenda into a new period of global challenges and opportunities.

A quarter of the world's population, or [2 billion people](#), live in places affected by conflict, according to United Nations Security Council estimates. Delving deeper, the UNDP [Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) found that nearly 40 percent of multidimensionally poor people live in countries exposed to violent conflict.

These figures crystalize what we know intuitively: conflict drives people and countries into poverty, or keeps them there.

Right now, violent conflicts are at their highest levels since the United Nations was founded 80 years ago. To strengthen a global culture of peace and improve the lives of people everywhere, UN Member States have declared 2025 the International Year of Peace and Trust. The General Assembly [Resolution](#) calls on the international community to redouble efforts to prevent and resolve conflicts through dialogue and diplomacy. [\[International Year of Peace and Trust 2025\]](#)

Objectives and Institutional Framework

The 2024 resolution emphasizes that peace and trust are not merely the absence of conflict but require inclusive dialogue, preventive diplomacy, and sustained cooperation (UNGA, 2024). It invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to support implementation, and it encourages Member States, civil society, academia, and the private sector to mark the Year through educational and awareness-raising activities.

A key planned milestone is the 'International Forum of Peace and Trust,' scheduled for December 2025 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, which will aim to consolidate the Year's initiatives into long-term strategies (UNGA, 2024). Key discussions will focus on sustainable development, regional cooperation, and strategies to address contemporary challenges such as energy security, climate change, and transnational threats.

Context and Turkmenistan's Role

The choice of 2025 also reflects a national milestone for Turkmenistan; the 30th anniversary of its UN-recognized status of permanent neutrality (News Central Asia, 2025). Neutrality has been central to Turkmenistan's foreign policy, shaping its approach to preventive diplomacy and regional cooperation. This

includes hosting the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia and promoting the designation of Central Asia as a 'Zone of Peace, Trust, and Cooperation' (EU Reporter, 2025).

By linking its national anniversary with the UN's global observance, Turkmenistan reinforces its role as both a symbolic and practical advocate for peace and trust.

Key Themes and Initiatives

Preventive Diplomacy and Neutrality

Preventive diplomacy is at the core of the Year's mission. The UN and Member States are expected to leverage neutral platforms, such as Turkmenistan's mediation role, to address regional disputes before escalation. This approach aligns with the UN's broader conflict prevention agenda (United Nations, 2023).

Dialogue, Trust and Education

Educational campaigns will aim to foster mutual understanding. UNESCO's anticipated involvement may include integrating peace and trust concepts into school curricula, organising intercultural dialogue programs, and supporting media initiatives that promote constructive narratives.

Multi-Stakeholder Engagement

The resolution calls for broad participation from governments, civil society, youth organisations, and the private sector. Conferences, academic forums, and local peace initiatives will form the backbone of the Year's activities (UNGA, 2024).

Sustainable Development and Peacebuilding

A recurring theme is the recognition that peace and trust are enablers of sustainable development. Initiatives are expected to link environmental stewardship, economic resilience, and social inclusion, reflecting the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2024).

Anticipated Activities and Milestones

The following key events have been identified:

- **17th January 2025:** The official launch ceremony was held at UN Headquarters in New York, led by Turkmenistan, and attended by senior UN officials (News Central Asia, 2025).

Speakers and Topics:

- Representative of Turkmenistan
 - Emphasized the significance of the Year of Peace and Trust, marking Turkmenistan's 30th anniversary of permanent neutrality.
- UN Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča (delivered on behalf of the UN Secretary-General)
 - Highlighted Turkmenistan's leading role in promoting a culture of peace, trust, and dialogue worldwide; thanked them for supporting UN efforts for regional and global stability and security.
 - Noted the relevance of the January 14, 2025, phone call between Turkmenistan's National Leader Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations, Miguel Ángel Moratinos.
- UN Under-Secretary-General and Head of the UN Counter-Terrorism Office, Vladimir Voronkov
- Ivor Richard Fang, Head of the Office of the President of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly
- Diplomatic speeches from mission heads, representing international groupings:
 - Uganda (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement)
 - Iraq (on behalf of the Group of 77)
 - Egypt (on behalf of the Arab Group)
 - Venezuela (on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the UN Charter)
 - Executive Secretary of the Group of Friends of Sustainable Transport

These speakers endorsed the roadmap based on Turkmenistan's concept and expressed readiness for cooperation to strengthen trustful interstate and international dialogue as essential for peacekeeping.

- **Throughout 2025:** Regional peace forums, academic symposia, youth leadership programs, and thematic conferences on trust-building and sustainable development.
- **December 2025:** International Forum of Peace and Trust in Ashgabat; intended as the culminating event synthesising the year's dialogue into policy proposals (UNGA, 2024).



Conclusion

The *International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025* extends the UN's earlier peace-and-trust agenda into a new era, emphasising preventive diplomacy, inclusive dialogue, and global cooperation. Anchored in Turkmenistan's neutrality and supported by multilateral institutions, it represents an opportunity to not only reaffirm shared values but to operationalise them in education, governance, and community resilience.

By combining symbolic observance with concrete initiatives and measurable outcomes, 2025 has the potential to leave a lasting institutional legacy, especially if the year's conversations are transformed into sustained commitments at the international, national, and local levels.

References

- EU Reporter. (2025, January 8). *International Year of Peace and Dialogue 2025: A vision for global harmony inspired by Turkmenistan*. ("International Year of Peace and Trust 2025: A Vision for Global Harmony ...") <https://www.eureporter.co/world/turkmenistan/2025/01/08/international-year-of-peace-and-dialogue-2025-a-vision-for-global-harmony-inspired-by-turkmenistan/>
- News Central Asia. (2025, January 18). *The launching ceremony of the International Year of Peace and Trust took place at the UN Headquarters*. <https://www.newscentralasia.net/2025/01/18/the-launching-ceremony-of-the-international-year-of-peace-and-trust-took-place-at-the-un-headquarters/>
- United Nations. (2023). *Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org>
- United Nations Development Programme. (2024). *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Annual report 2024*. UNDP. <https://www.undp.org>
- United Nations General Assembly. (2024). *International Year of Peace and Trust, 2025 (A/RES/78/266)*. United Nations. <https://documents.un.org>