

Vernor Muñoz Statement on occasion of the UN HLPF2024 Official session on SDG 16 and interlinkages with other SDGs – Peace, justice, and strong institutions
Thursday, 11 July 2024, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, Conference Room 4
Global Campaign for Education/Education & Academia Stakeholder Group

Guiding question: What is the role of education in the realization of global peace, the establishment of justice, and the strengthening of institutional frameworks?

Thank you Chair,

The Education & Academia Stakeholder Group and the Global Campaign for Education express deep concern over the escalating impact of violence and wars. We also strongly condemn the ongoing genocide in Gaza.

We hold the conviction that the surge in violence, authoritarianism, and threats to democracy must be addressed at their roots. This is the rationale behind our belief in peace education, which has been historically associated with the pursuit of structural solutions to conflicts.

Frequently, wars are further fueled by racism, intolerance, and various other forms of discrimination. Therefore, we are steadfast in our belief that enduring peace is unattainable without justice.

To reduce illicit financial and arms flows, we contend that implicated affluent nations must forsake their hypocrisy of promoting peace while their governments simultaneously enable substantial profits from the arms trade.

Education is aimed at transforming the dynamics of abusive power that poison people's minds from early childhood. Thus, it will be very difficult to transform global governance in the medium and long term, and even more so, to achieve international peace and security, if the structural causes are not addressed through education.

Peace education is not an invitation to docility or submission; rather, it advocates for the creation of environments that resist violence, exploitation, and hatred. Pedagogies of resistance are essential to foster conditions conducive to egalitarian decision-making processes. This, in turn, demands the establishment of an ethic of equality that encompasses a robust vision of gender equality and a keen awareness for engaging with individuals across all ages, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds.

The Global Campaign for Education calls to embrace education considerations in all HLPF sessions and also in the Summit of the Future and to include them in the Pact for the Future and the Declaration on Future Generations.