

**YOUTH DELEGATION STANCE ON PEACE
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE**

AND

**RECOMMENDATION ON UPHOLDING PEACEBUILDING
PRACTICES AMONGST YOUTH DOMESTICALLY AND
INTERNATIONALLY**

**PREPARED FOR:
GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA**

**PREPARED BY:
YOUTH DELEGATES OF THE MALAYSIAN DELEGATION TO UNITED NATIONS**

The International Day of Peace or known as Peace Day has been declared by the General Assembly in 1981 under the resolution 36/37. The declaration focuses on ***“commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples.”*** The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. 21 September marked as the day renouncing Peace Day, to achieve and maintain the peace of all nations and people, being celebrated every year since then.

With the rise of uncertainty where it has shaken the cornerstone of humanity, this year's Peace Day theme promotes **“End racism. Build peace.”** This theme focusing on the collective efforts towards a world free of racism and racial discrimination. A world where compassion and empathy overcome suspicion and hatred. A world that we can truly be proud of.

In the words of the Secretary-General of the UN - to achieve true peace by the many, it requires the building of societies where all members feel that they can flourish and not just laying arms down. It involves creating a world in which people are treated equally, regardless of their race.

As an active member of the United Nations, Malaysia has continuously upheld its concentrated effort in maintaining peace through its involvement in various councils ranging to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Conventions, Human Rights Council, Peacekeeping Operations, and former memberships such as through the Security Council, Economic and Social Council and more.

In lieu of commemorating the International Day of Peace, the United Nations Department of Global Communications have organised the International Day of Peace on Youth Observance on 16th September 2022 at United Nations Headquarter, New York, USA.

The programme was attended by more than 100 member states and 5000 audience in-person and physically on the UN Web TV.

The youth delegates accordingly are humbled to participate and represent the youths in Malaysia in providing the following deliverables:

- Presentation on a youth programme conducted by the Malaysian Youth Diplomacy entitled 'Diplomasi Lab' on the correlation of diplomacy exposure in tackling internalized racism,
- Observance was joined among all 4 youth delegates to the event and best practices among the peacebuilding projects presented were taken note of,
- Live coverage on the event was made available on respective social media accounts to spread awareness on the nexus of youth and peace.

YOUTH DELEGATES POSITION ON PEACE

Respectively, the youth delegates have prepared this position paper in light of the commemoration of International Day of Peace to explain the stance that Malaysian youths take towards the agenda of youth and peace. In addition, we also include a recommendation of solutions moving forward for the Government of Malaysia in upholding peacebuilding practices amongst youth domestically and internationally.

We have taken a strong approach in positioning ourselves on the agenda of youth and peace. Guided by relevant principles such as peaceful coexistence and celebrating the thoughts from the youth, our approach has been focusing on the segment of 'Youth, Peace and Security' with the motto of upholding peacebuilding efforts and condemning any form of violence.

We cannot deny there are several factors which may poses threats in maintaining peace be it domestically and internationally such as but not limited to political instability, radicalism and terrorism, energy insecurity, cybersecurity threats, transborder crimes, economic crisis, climate change, mass disinformation and usage of weapons of mass destruction.

On a domestic level, we opt for a strong agenda on youth and peace to be implemented through a collaboration between the National Security Council, joint-ministerial effort and active participation of civil society members. Spearheading this agenda also includes all members especially youth in Malaysia to be exposed with all the facets which concerns peacebuilding not limited to the atypical junctures of peace such as terrorism, but also toward evolving issues such as climate crisis.

On a regional and international basis, we push for the concept of peaceful coexistence which allows us to constructively listen to differing opinions and find points of cooperation for all member states in maintaining the order of peace and security globally. We are optimistic to see Malaysia set its pace in becoming a peace broker and mediator for ongoing conflicts with the extension of youths participation in executing peace diplomacy in summits and conferences especially where Malaysia is a member of the organization such as United Nations, ASEAN, OIC and more.

RECOMMENDATION ON UPHOLDING PEACEBUILDING PRACTICES AMONGST YOUTH DOMESTICALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

Emphasizing the role and importance of youth in promoting and maintaining peace achieved through the inclusion of youth members from diverse communities, and youth groups and organizations in open dialogues aimed at building harmony, peaceful coexistence, and sharing diverse cultures,

Recognising the importance of conflict prevention and maintenance of peace, in order to avoid violence, through educational, cultural, and social programs, including, but not limited to, cultural exchange programs within and across nations, education programs to develop cultural intelligence, and a policy approach of inclusivity in all domestic political affairs,

Urging governments to take proactive steps in addressing peace by promoting harmony within, and across, national borders through programs that reinforce the strength of cooperation, diversity, and multiculturalism to achieve peaceful coexistence, and promote cooperation when addressing international security threats,

Recognising the need to address new and novel security threats presented through cyber attacks, information technology vulnerability, and the advancement of artificial intelligence, to the national security interests of sovereign nations, and the international community by way of global systems such as the global financial network, by improving cybersecurity capabilities, transforming education curricula to equip youth with necessary skills to meet current and future cyber threats, and improving public awareness of such threats,

Condemning any hate speech, speech that incites violence and the breakdown of peace, and/or acts of violence against any and all individuals or groups without prejudice, by all levels of government for all domestic and international incidents,

Reaffirming the commitments pledged on the agenda of 'Youth, Peace and Security' i.e. the resolution 2535 (2020) passed by the United Nations Security Council in July 2020,

1. **Requests** establishing a joint-ministerial youth peace plan to promote peace among youth across various ministries which includes the trajectory plan of domestic and international goals to be achieved in spearheading our first ever big-scale peacebuilding and peacekeeping operations within the nation;
2. **Emphasizes** the need for the Ministry of National Unity to proactively address issues which may disrupt peace and unity within the country which may include but not limited to discriminations faced, racial tensions and socioeconomic differences;
3. **Draws the attention** on the importance of civil society, including community-based civil society, youth, People with Disabilities, women, peacebuilders, and where relevant the private sector, academia, think tanks, media, and cultural, educational, and religious leaders in peace building efforts and sustaining peace, including by increasing awareness about threats towards peace and more effectively tackling them;
4. **Stresses** the importance of increasing the role of SEARCCT in capacity building to tackle physical and digital forms of terrorism by using tools and mediums that are accessible to the general public efficiently;
5. **Calls upon** to increase the attention and awareness surrounding the significance of nuclear non-proliferation within the region and international committee in ensuring peace and security is being made especially with youths as an agent of peace;
6. **Invites** concentrated efforts to *merakyatkan* (ensuring the conversation and process is accessible to the general public regardless of their background) in promoting peace diplomacy domestically, regionally and internationally;

7. **Encourages** for IDFR to expand its training especially in nurturing a generation of youth peace diplomats whereby they will actively engage bilateral and multilateral partners in their capacity as youth to promote Malaysia's core interest on peace and security as outline in the documents related to Malaysia's foreign policy;
8. **Strongly condemns** any forms of measures which threatens the process of promoting peace targeted to youth such as but not limited to interfaith radicalism, political and racial incitement of hate and tension, cyber hate speech, threats of mass weapons of destruction;
9. **Emphasizes** the need to push forward peaceful coexistence and a policy of non-indifference for effective peacebuilding and peacekeeping agendas especially within the region to pursue resilient conflict resolution;
10. **Further recommends** the need for increased collaboration and dialogue regarding Southeast Asian security especially among youths to ensure no one is left behind and an inclusive and effective approach can be taken accordingly;
11. **Stresses** the need to empower youths in the agenda setting for peace by providing youth the opportunities to monitor and track sessions relating to peace, present speeches and involve in the peace negotiations in multi-level engagement process;
12. **Recognizes** the significance of uplifting and underscoring the pledge to work towards peace with youths especially with the working group of women and children, in international organizations and high-level process;
13. **Endorses** the commitment presented by the Malaysian government in championing Sustainable Development Goals and peaceful coexistence, while pushing for a role as a broker of peace internationally.