

UPEACE WEEKLY SUMMARY



IN THIS EDITION

UPEACE Reaffirms Commitment to Civilian Protection at the Second International Conference on EWIPA

International Recognition: UPEACE Academic Joins IDB's External Panel on Access to Information

UPEACE Drives Key Outcomes at the European Policy Dialogue Forum Closing

UPEACE Promotes Regional Coordination at the 11th Round of the Quito Process in Ecuador



Pictured: UPEACE Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas Aravena and Vice Rector Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz Borgo during the Second International Conference on EWIPA in San José.

UPEACE Reaffirms Commitment to Civilian Protection at the Second International Conference on EWIPA

The University for Peace (UPEACE), represented by Rector Dr. Francisco Rojas-Aravena and Vice Rector Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, actively participated in the *Second International Conference on the Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences Arising from the Use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)*, held in San José, Costa Rica, on November 19 and 20, 2025.

The gathering brought together governments, international organizations, and specialized agencies to advance the implementation of this declaration, which aims to limit the use of explosive weapons in urban areas and mitigate their devastating effects on the civilian population.

During its participation, UPEACE presented an official statement, reaffirming its institutional commitment to the protection of civilians and the promotion of sustainable peace. In its message, the University underscored that the use of explosive weapons in populated areas continues to cause severe humanitarian consequences, including loss of life, forced displacement, destruction of essential infrastructure, and long-term damage to social cohesion and development. UPEACE also announced its adherence as a signatory to the EWIPA Political Declaration.

In a significant gesture, the University for Peace announced that it will award its *"International Peace Promotion Prize"* to the Governments of Costa Rica, Ireland, and Norway, recognizing their historic leadership in the creation and advancement of the EWIPA Declaration and their unwavering commitment to the protection of civilians and human security.

[Read the statement HERE](#)



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International Recognition: UPEACE Academic Joins IDB's External Panel on Access to Information



Pictured: Dr. Garrido with members of the External Panel: Roberto Saba, Vanessa Luyo, and Francisco Ciscomani, as well as Gerardo Corrochano, Secretary of the IDB, and Marcelo Cerna, Chief of the Access to Information Section.

The University for Peace (UPEACE) proudly celebrates the recent designation of Dr. Mariateresa Garrido, Associate Professor in the Department of International Law and Coordinator of the Doctoral Program, as a member of the prestigious *External Panel on Access to Information of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*.

Last week, Dr. Garrido participated in her first official training alongside the other members of the panel—an independent body that serves as the second instance of review for information requests that have been denied by the Bank, as established in the IDB's Access to Information Policy.

The panel is comprised of internationally recognized specialists: Roberto Saba, Vanessa Luyo, and Francisco Ciscomani. Also participating in the session were Gerardo Corrochano, IDB Secretary, and Marcelo Cerna, Head of the Access to Information Section.

UPEACE congratulates Dr. Garrido on this important appointment, which highlights and validates her distinguished career in transparency, international law, and access to information.

[About the Panel](#) 

UPEACE Drives Key Outcomes at the European Policy Dialogue Forum Closing

The University for Peace (UPEACE) had the honor of participating in the closing of the *European Policy Dialogue Forum (EPDF)*, a high-level event organized by the International Dialogue Centre (KAICIID) and held at the prestigious headquarters of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Geneva. The Forum brought together a diverse and strategic group of participants, including religious leaders, public policy makers, and civil society representatives, reinforcing the need for comprehensive collaboration to address global challenges.

Representing UPEACE was Ambassador David Fernández-Puyana, Permanent Observer of the University to the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna. Ambassador Fernández-Puyana highlighted the fundamental role of multi-stakeholder dialogue in building more inclusive and peaceful societies.



Pictured: Ambassador David Fernández Puyana represented UPEACE at the closing ceremony of the European Policy Dialogue Forum in Geneva.



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UPEACE Promotes Regional Coordination at the 11th Round of the Quito Process in Ecuador



Pictured: Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz Borgo, Vice-Rector of UPEACE, during his participation in the plenary session and academic panel of the 11th Round of the Quito Process, held in Quito, Ecuador.

The University for Peace (UPEACE) reinforced its commitment to regional processes on human mobility by participating in the *XI Round of the Quito Process – “Quito Chapter IV”*, held in the city of Quito, Ecuador.

UPEACE Vice Rector, Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, intervened as a panelist in the academic segment dedicated to the analysis of human mobility and applied research in the region. In his address, he emphasized the need to strengthen coordination among States, academia, and international organizations to develop more effective and humanitarian public policies to address migratory challenges.

Furthermore, Dr. Sainz Borgo participated in the XI Round's plenary meeting, where member countries reviewed progress, challenges, and shared commitments to improve the protection, integration, and assistance for people in mobility across Latin America and the Caribbean.

During his participation, he underscored the strategic role of higher education in training professionals capable of designing sustainable responses and promoting an approach based on human rights, evidence, and a culture of peace.

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