

UPEACE WEEKLY SUMMARY



IN THIS EDITION

UPEACE Welcomes High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi During His Farewell Visit to Costa Rica

UPEACE Co-organizes Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Culture of Peace, Interreligious Dialogue, and Education

Education in the Age of AI: UPEACE Rome Academic Director Dr. Sergio Bellucci Addresses LUMSA University

UPEACE and ICDO Advance Strategic Cooperation for Global Peace and Disaster Resilience



Pictured: High Commissioner Filippo Grandi received the UPEACE Institutional Medal from Rector Francisco Rojas, accompanied by and Vice Rector Juan Carlos Sainz Borgo, UN Resident Coordinator Allegra Baiocchi, and Deputy Minister Alejandro Solano.

UPEACE Welcomes High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi During His Farewell Visit to Costa Rica

The University for Peace (UPEACE) had the honor of welcoming Filippo Grandi, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), on a significant visit facilitated by the Costa Rican Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UNHCR Costa Rica. This meeting held special significance for our institution, as it marked Mr. Grandi's final visit to the region before the conclusion of his term.

UPEACE Rector, Dr. Francisco Rojas-Aravena, and Vice Rector, Dr. Juan Carlos Sainz-Borgo, welcomed the High Commissioner. Mr. Grandi was accompanied by Allegra Baiocchi, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System in Costa Rica, and Alejandro Solano, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

During his dialogue with the United Nations Country Team, the High Commissioner shared invaluable insights on global forced displacement, international protection, and the escalating challenges faced by refugees around the world.

In recognition of his lifelong dedication to the rights of people on the move, UPEACE awarded Mr. Grandi the Institutional Medal. The visit concluded with the planting of a tree in UPEACE's Bicentennial Forest, a symbolic gesture representing hope, renewal, and a shared commitment to peace and human dignity.



UPEACE Co-organizes Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Culture of Peace, Interreligious Dialogue, and Education



Pictured: Representatives of UPEACE, KAICIID, Religions for Peace, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community during the Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Culture of Peace, Interreligious Dialogue, and Education.

This week, the University for Peace (UPEACE) hosted the *Latin American & Caribbean Conference on Fostering Cultures of Peace*, in partnership with KAICIID, Religions for Peace, and the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

Over two days, the *Latin American & Caribbean Conference on Fostering Cultures of Peace* convened educators, faith leaders, policymakers, and practitioners to explore how interreligious dialogue and education can strengthen social cohesion in the region.

Day 1 centered on four plenary sessions examining the transformative role of dialogue, innovative pedagogies, the institutionalization of interreligious education, and the links between freedom of religion or belief and inclusive learning environments. Day 2 brought participants into focused working groups, where they developed practical recommendations on integrating interreligious dialogue into formal and non-formal education, addressing hate speech, and promoting social inclusion.

The conference closed with shared reflections and a strong call for continued regional collaboration, emphasizing the need for ethical leadership, culturally grounded educational practices, and sustained multisector alliances to build more peaceful and resilient communities across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Education in the Age of AI: UPEACE Rome Academic Director Dr. Sergio Bellucci Addresses LUMSA University

Dr. Sergio Bellucci, UPEACE Rome Academic Director, was invited to deliver a key lecture at LUMSA University (Italy) by the Chair of General and Intercultural Pedagogy. The insightful address was entitled “*Digitalism and AI: Opportunities and Risks for Education and Work.*”

The academic meeting provided a crucial platform for high-level dialogue on the profound and rapid changes that the era of digitalism and Artificial Intelligence (AI) is bringing about in both education systems and the global world of work. During his comprehensive speech, Dr. Bellucci thoroughly analyzed the critical ethical, pedagogical, and social challenges intrinsically associated with these major technological transformations.



UPEACE and ICDO Advance Strategic Cooperation for Global Peace and Disaster Resilience



Pictured: ICDO Secretary General Arguj Kalantarli with UPEACE Ambassador and Permanent Observer in Geneva Dr. David Fernández-Puyana during the meeting.

The Secretary General of the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO), Arguj Kalantarli, recently held a high-level meeting with the Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the University for Peace (UPEACE) to the United Nations in Geneva and Vienna, H.E. David Fernández-Puyana.

The meeting was centered on exploring new strategic opportunities for collaboration in critical areas, including civil defense, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), emergency preparedness, and specialized peace-related capacity building. During the productive dialogue, both institutions evaluated possible joint initiatives—such as advanced training programs, specialized workshops, and academic exchanges—and formally agreed to proceed with the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize future cooperation.

The ICDO also delivered a detailed presentation on the vital role of its International Coordination and Monitoring Center (IMCC). The presentation specifically focused on the IMCC's capabilities in real-time information exchange, early warning systems, and coordination among its member states.

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