

FM/23/0038

H.E Mr. Volker Turk

High Commissioner for Human Rights

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Palais des Nations

CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland

Madrid, 1st February 2023

Your Excellency High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Volker Turk,

First of all, congratulations for your recent appointment as UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is a great honor to have you leading the Office.

I am writing to you on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the specific request of your Office for ideas and suggestions under the goals of 1) **Looking to the future in order** to reflect on breakthroughs for human rights over the next 25 years and looking to UDHR 100 and deepen thinking on future human rights challenges and 2) **Sustaining the human rights ecosystem**. Strengthen the human rights architecture, including a vision for the future of UN Human Rights, build trust, and mobilize more resources.

I am currently the President of the Culture of Peace Foundation. With the Foundation for a Culture of Peace, established in Madrid in March 2000, I am continuing the work undertaken as Director General of UNESCO (1987-1999) to promote the transition from a culture of violence and imposition to a culture of peace and tolerance.

I am also co-President of the University Institute of Human Rights, Democracy and Culture of Peace and Nonviolence (DEMOSPAZ- Autonomous University of Madrid) and President of the Spanish Association for the Advancement of Science (AEAC).

With your request in mind, taking into account my experiences in the areas covered under the UDHR, I would like to propose the inclusion of several topics as items to be taken into consideration in the discussions taking place this year:

- 1- Democratic multilateralism: I would like the UN to organize a debate with a series of experts in order to enhance the current draft of the Universal Declaration of Democracy as the solution to redress the present trends, some of them of irreversible nature. This is a remarkable opportunity for the UN, today unable to adopt decisions to begin a new form of governance without veto and the European Union as well without the requirement of unanimity that gives the veto to every country. As was the case in 1948 with the Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on Democracy will be a big stimulus in the everyday behaviour of citizens as well as in the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. I am attaching in this letter the drafts of the Universal Declaration of Democracy in English, Spanish and French. I am also linking the English version of the article [“Looking ahead with hope”](#).

- 2- There is another subject that I would like to suggest: the Prevention of molecular diseases of irreversible nature with neonate diagnosis and treatment. It is clear that being able to prevent irreversible diseases is an essential human right. More specifically, the idea is that neonatal prevention of diseases that cause irreversible neurological damage be submitted for approval as a human right. This intends make States directly responsible of the number of detections and the way in which they are carried out.

I would highly value that you consider these proposals, and I would like to thank you in advance for your attention. Both of them are supported by relevant institutions (I could give you the list)

If you need any further information, I am at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,



Federico Mayor