

Green Hope Foundation

To celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week, Green Hope Foundation, a youth-run social innovation enterprise, organized an intergenerational webinar on Zoom, on the theme, “Nature, Peace & Harmony: The Role of SDGs” on 2nd February from 11am to 12:30pm EST.

As the world recovers from the debilitating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic that has wreaked misery globally, especially on the weak and the vulnerable, it is critical that the process of recovery takes into account the deep interlinkages between Nature, Peace and Harmony so that we can create a more resilient and equitable world. The SDGs provide an internationally agreed template that can aid this process, yet there remain gaps in several areas, with regard to their implementation at grassroots level.

This webinar, with multidisciplinary experts, discussed the effective role of the SDGs in creating a new normal, built on the pillars of tolerance towards nature, of peace and one of universal harmony.

The webinar was organized and conducted entirely by the youth of Green Hope Foundation, from the pre-webinar preparations to the moderation to the live tweeting.



The esteemed panelists were:

- **H.E. George Papandreu:** Former Prime Minister of Greece
- **Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier:** Chief, New York Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- **Ms. Ukpeme Okon:** Ambassador for Peace, Barrister & Author of *The Values String: A book on Transitional Life, Compelling Fulfillment, and Profound Peace*
- **Ms. Audrey E. Kitagawa, J.D.:** Founder/President, International Academy for Multicultural Cooperation
- **Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.:** Former Canadian Senator and Author of *Hope Not Fear: Building Peace in a Fractured World* and *Recovery: Peace Prospects in the Biden Era*
- **Mr. Alieu J. Pusah:** Chapter Head, Green Hope Foundation Liberia

Lead discussant:

Ms. Pragna Vasupal: Head of Events, Green Hope Foundation

Moderator:

Ms. Kehkashan Basu: Founder-President, Green Hope Foundation

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The quotes from each of the speakers were:

- “We cannot get to the new normal automatically. Nothing will change if we don't change.” – H.E. George Papandreou



- “It is not enough to just have a plan of action – there needs to be a budget attached to it for the actions to be implemented.” – Dr. Chantal Line Carpentier



- “Being at peace with ourselves and with nature will yield enduring harmony and contribute to planetary balance.” – Ms. Ukpeme Okon



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- “We must consider whether our own behaviors are creating a culture of peace & harmony.” – Ms. Audrey Kitagawa, J.D.



- “What does it say about our civilization when governments spend on building the conditions for peace only 2.7% of what they spend on preparing for war?” – Hon. Douglas Roche, O.C.



- “An unequal distribution of resources leads to chaos, which leads to the disruption of peace.” – Mr. Alieu J. Pusah



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- “Every religion has emphasized that the preservation of environment is essential for a peaceful society.” – Ms. Pragna Vasupal



- “The greatest frailty of the modern-day human lies in our misplaced belief that we rule the Earth.” – Ms. Kehkashan Basu



Webinar recording: <https://youtu.be/1Y290nr47qs>

Event website: <https://greenhopefoundation.wixsite.com/wihw2021>

Flyer:

