



the Jane Goodall Institute

## OFFICE OF THE FOUNDER

### Statement for the 2016 United Nations International Day of Peace

---

This year, the theme for the International Day of Peace on September 21 is "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace." More than ever before, it seems we all need to come together to address the desperate needs of so many across the globe. We are horribly aware of the problems facing humanity today: poverty, hunger, social inequality and shocking environmental degradation. How can we help create a better, fairer world in which we all live environmentally sustainable lives and thus ensure that future generations have the benefit of the natural world?

It was with this in mind that the United Nations developed the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, each of which addresses a key issue. The aim is that by 2030 we shall have ended poverty, learned to be more protective of our natural environment, and found ways to ensure a secure future for generations to come. These are ambitious goals to achieve in just 15 years. Yet if we delay much longer, it may well be too late. Fortunately, all around the world, there are groups, including enthusiastic and determined young people, working to achieve these goals.

Our Roots & Shoots program, now has about 100,000 groups in some 100 countries, all learning about our dependence on the natural world, discussing the problems we face and how they can be addressed. And, whether they work on a project to help people, animals or the environment, in their local community or for a global cause, they are making a difference – every day. Each project is a step towards a future in which humans can live in peace in an environmentally sustainable way.

Increasingly, the International Day of Peace is an occasion when people come together, physically and electronically, in a show of solidarity. For the thousands of Roots & Shoots groups and their friends, it is an opportunity to share projects and ideas. Many walk together carrying handmade Giant Peace Dove Puppets. Each year, these giant symbols of the peaceful world we all yearn for, fly in ever more countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas. I imagine the time when the great white wings will circle the globe, a shared vision for a peaceful future.

At the Jane Goodall Institute, we believe that every one of us makes a difference every day, and we can choose what sort of difference it will be. Participation in Roots & Shoots activities empowers young people – they see the difference they make, and know they are not alone, but part of a family that is actively making a difference all around the world. And collectively, that difference is huge. But it is only if each and every one of us plays our part; walks our talk; that we can hope to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and move towards a world where we live in peace and harmony with each other and with the wonders of the natural world.

Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE  
Founder, Jane Goodall Institute  
UN Messenger of Peace

the Jane Goodall Institute

1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 550 • Vienna, VA 22182

phone 703.682.9220 • fax 703.682.9312 • toll-free 1800.592.JANE

[www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)



### **About Dr. Jane Goodall as a UN Messenger of Peace**

The United Nations Messengers of Peace are distinguished individuals, carefully selected from the fields of art, literature, music and sports, who have agreed to help focus worldwide attention on the work of the United Nations. Backed by the highest honor bestowed by the Secretary-General on a global citizen for an initial period of two years, these prominent personalities volunteer their time, talent, and passion to raise awareness of United Nations' efforts to improve the lives of billions of people everywhere.

Dr. Goodall was appointed as UN Messenger of Peace in 2002 by then Secretary General Kofi Annan, and later reappointed by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in 2007. In accepting her appointment as a UN Messenger of Peace, Dr. Goodall vowed to carry the message that "to achieve global peace, we must not only stop fighting each other, but also stop destroying the natural world." Dr. Goodall carries her message of peace with the natural world through her worldwide outreach efforts, the mission and work of the Jane Goodall Institute, and especially through the Institute's global environmental and humanitarian youth program, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots.

For more information about Dr. Goodall and the Jane Goodall Institute visit [www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org) and [www.rootsandshoots.org/peaceday](http://www.rootsandshoots.org/peaceday).

### **About the UN International Day of Peace**

The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by resolution 36/67 of the United Nations General Assembly to coincide with its opening session, which was held annually on the third Tuesday of September. The first Peace Day was observed in September 1982. In 2001, the General Assembly by unanimous vote adopted resolution 55/282, which established 21 September as an annual day of non-violence and cease-fire. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace. For more information on the UN International Day of Peace, visit [www.un.org/peaceday](http://www.un.org/peaceday).

**the Jane Goodall Institute**

1595 Spring Hill Road, Suite 550 • Vienna, VA 22182

phone 703.682.9220 • fax 703.682.9312 • toll-free 1800.592.JANE

[www.janegoodall.org](http://www.janegoodall.org)