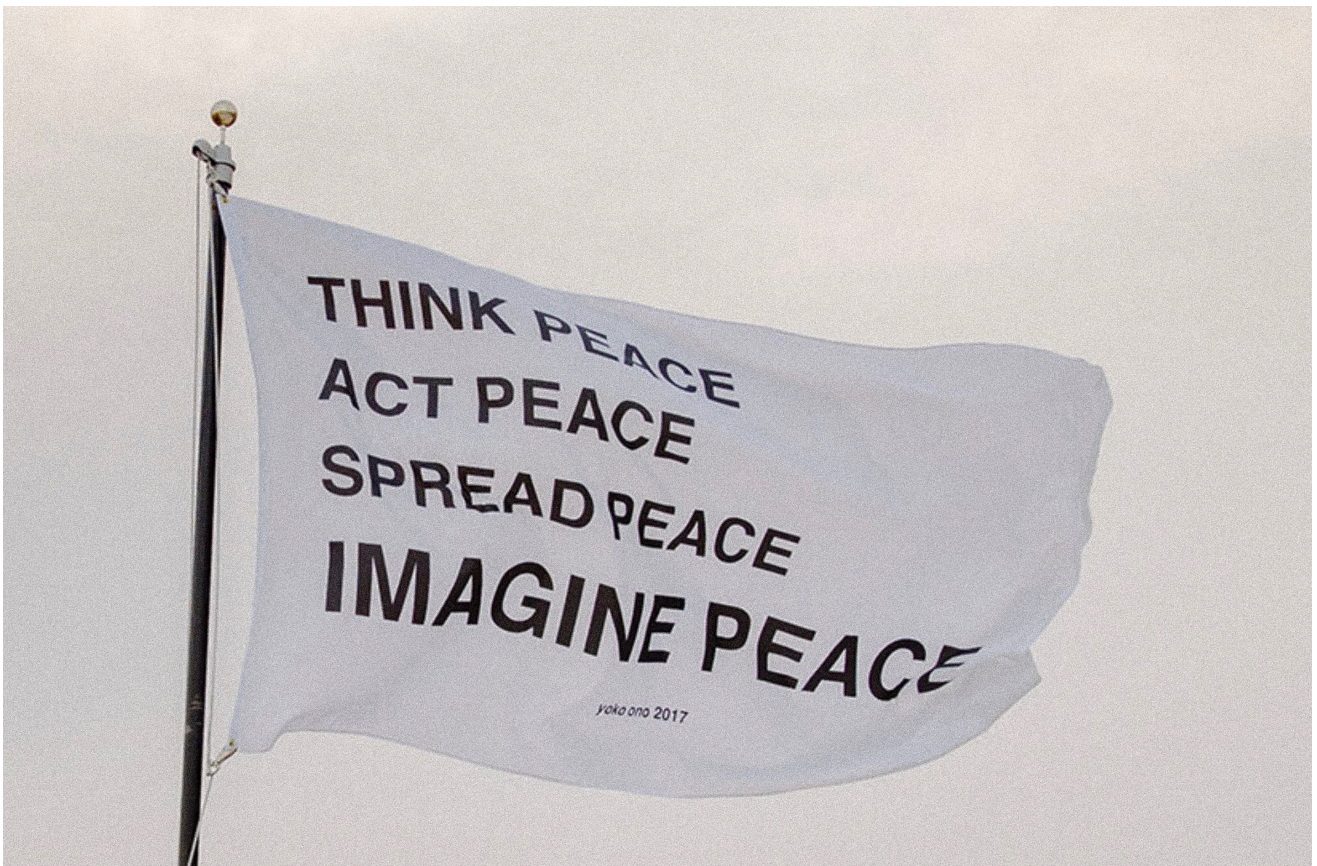




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# PEACEFUL FUTURES: A JOURNEY TO PEACE-BASED CIVILIZATION

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“Either the war is obsolete, or humans are”  
Buckminster Fuller

Today, the world is torn apart by over 30 conflicts on all continents, including the Ukrainian war that disrupted geopolitical and economic dynamics. These conflicts are driven by hegemonic narratives fueled by colonial mindset, historical traumas, populist politics, and private economic interests. The climate crisis and the diffusion of technologies like drones and CRISPR make the possibility of a world with more frequent and more deadly conflicts. We cannot take such risks.

The Peaceful Futures project explores new narratives and new pathways to establish a global peace-based civilization within the next 50 years. This project leverages futures and foresight mindsets and practices to explore new ways to transform the peace-building sector. The project maps out possible pathways toward global peace through social activism, cultural, educational, and future-thinking projects – along with actions that can be undertaken now by social entrepreneurs, artists, educators, and changemakers. As the result of the first stage of the project, contributors from over 30 countries have produced the Peaceful Futures Whitepaper, Roadmap, and the visionary Manifesto that reveal the possibility of making peace prevail on Earth.

“Peace is not everything, but without peace everything is nothing.”  
Willy Brandt

Moving to peaceful futures is a complex and multifaceted process that requires collective learning and coevolution of many social institutions and communities over decades to come. National and global elites cannot engineer peace, it cannot come “top-down” from power structures, and no reorganization of international institutions such as the UN Security Council will be sufficient to make peace prevail. Rather, peace is “everybody’s business” that will require the engagement and commitment of every member of society. Peace can only come from within through bottom-up shifts in consciousness, behavior, and culture that work with and work to transform power structures.

To enact peaceful futures, societies need to focus on three states of peace – and deal with roots of violence and conflict:

STATE OF PEACE	OBJECTIVE OF ACHIEVING & MAINTAINING PEACE
1 Absence of wars	Society prioritizing non-destructive methods of conflict resolution
2 Eradication of systemic violence	Society embracing values of collaboration, care, and love
3 State of tranquil / harmonious being	Society existing in harmony and thriving for all humans & non-human entities (intra- & inter-personal as well as intergenerational)



“War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace”  
Thomas Mann

The Peaceful Futures project has mapped out over 60 initiatives to cultivate global peace clustered into several “action streams” over the next 50 years:

- Political initiatives strengthen citizen and planetary democracy, transform the supranational governance system (including the UN), and make the system more inclusive (e.g. recognizing legal rights of non-human entities).
- Economic initiatives involve demonopolization & “rehumanization” of supply chains (including cessation of the extraction of conflict minerals and fossil fuels), and also the promotion of regenerative & inclusive economic models.
- Socio-cultural initiatives cultivate peace-oriented values and behaviors through education, art, and media, and heal the roots of violence through trauma-oriented work and spiritual practices.
- Technological initiatives tap into the potential of socio-technical systems to induce collective behaviors that are life-affirming, future- and opportunity-creating to all stakeholders (e.g. AI solutions that can “nudge” people to act more peacefully, or help make decisions to minimize potential conflicts).
- Direct elimination of war related practices is a political reorganization and cultural redesign that makes wars unwanted and non-feasible



“Peace represents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is  
far superior to the discords of war”  
Martin Luther King

The next half a century can easily be the most definitive in the history of humankind, as we either “make it or break it” as a civilization and as a species. Risks of global wars, environmental catastrophes and societal collapses are growing, but so does our potential to mitigate them. The collective decision to make wars obsolete (or not) will be the crucial choice that will determine our capacity to survive and thrive. It is why we need to continue defining additional areas and priorities for global governance in the 21st century.

We call to continue and expand dialogues and actions around the vision of Peaceful Futures, including:

- Promoting the Peaceful Futures Roadmap and Manifesto in your organizations and communities.
- Prototyping actionable strategies of the Roadmap that can lead to local and global peace – and sharing your knowledge with others.
- Launching local, national, and global dialogues on the possibility of peace-based civilization led by youth leaders, artists, educators, and members of the civic society – and creating actionable local & national roadmaps to peaceful futures.
- Training partners and stakeholders of peacemaking processes in your area, including social entrepreneurs, educators, diplomats, and civic leaders, to promote the new idea of the universal human security that focuses on creating peace-based civilization within the next generation.

The Peaceful Futures consortium members are there to support your efforts in making these actions real.

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### Project Partners

The Peaceful Futures initiative was founded and realized by the partner organizations and communities:

