
Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026

Theme

“Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day - Building Peaceful Communities for a Sustainable and Well-Being-Centred Future”

Date: 21 September 2026 | **Time:** 04:00 pm. Onwards
Venue: ITC Grand Chola

Convened by: Sustainable Development Council (SDC)
Hosted By: CREGU India - Tamilnadu Chapter
In Association With: United Nations Act Now for Peace

1. Background

The **International Day of Peace**, observed annually on **21 September**, represents the collective aspiration of humanity to promote peace, non-violence and peaceful coexistence. The United Nations established the International Day of Peace in 1981, and in 2001 the General Assembly unanimously designated the day as a period of **non-violence and ceasefire**.

For **2026**, the United Nations has designated the theme:

“Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.”

The theme recognizes that peace is not simply the absence of war. It is a foundation for human security, dignity, opportunity and cooperation in everyday life. The UN also highlights the contribution of **“everyday architects of peace”**—people and communities working at the local level to create stability, understanding and lasting peace.

Against this global backdrop, the **Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026** will bring together leaders, diplomats, policymakers, educators, youth, civil society representatives, academics, humanitarian actors, business leaders and community advocates to explore how investment in peace can become an investment in **human well-being, sustainable development and a more inclusive society**.

2. IPWC2026 Theme

Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

Sub-theme:

“Building Peaceful Communities for a Sustainable and Well-Being-Centred Future”

The Congress will translate the global message of the 2026 International Day of Peace into practical discussions and commitments at the national, regional and community levels.

The central premise is:

Peace is not only built in conference rooms or through diplomacy. Peace is built in families, schools, workplaces, communities, institutions and societies—every day.

The United Nations emphasizes that peace is created not only at negotiating tables but also in classrooms, neighbourhoods and places where people meet with openness, compassion, equality and dignity.

3. Rationale

The contemporary world faces interconnected challenges including armed conflicts, social polarization, inequality, discrimination, misinformation, climate-related pressures, displacement, economic insecurity and declining trust between communities and institutions.

These challenges demonstrate that peace and well-being cannot be addressed independently.

A peaceful society requires:

- Respect for human dignity and human rights
- Social inclusion and equality
- Access to education and opportunities
- Dialogue across differences
- Protection of vulnerable communities
- Youth participation
- Gender equality
- Sustainable development
- Mental and social well-being
- Responsible leadership
- Strong and peaceful institutions

The Congress therefore seeks to move beyond symbolic observance and create a platform for **dialogue, collaboration, recognition and action**.

4. Objectives

The Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026 will aim to:

4.1 Promote a Culture of Peace

Strengthen awareness and commitment to non-violence, tolerance, dialogue and peaceful coexistence.

4.2 Invest in People

Highlight education, youth empowerment, health, livelihoods and social inclusion as essential investments in peace.

4.3 Connect Peace and Well-Being

Explore how peace, human rights, sustainable development and individual and community well-being are interconnected.

4.4 Empower Everyday Peacebuilders

Recognize individuals and organizations working at grassroots and community levels to create peaceful and inclusive societies.

4.5 Promote Intergenerational Dialogue

Create meaningful opportunities for young people to engage with policymakers, diplomats, academics, civil society and senior leaders.

4.6 Strengthen Partnerships

Build partnerships among governments, international organizations, civil society, educational institutions, businesses and youth organizations.

4.7 Encourage Action

Transform discussions into practical commitments, initiatives and partnerships that can contribute to peace and well-being beyond the Congress.

5. Key Thematic Areas

The Congress may be structured around the following thematic pillars:

Pillar I – Peace, Human Rights and Human Dignity

- Human rights as a foundation for peace
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Justice, dignity and inclusion
- Freedom and peaceful coexistence
- Human rights education

Pillar II – Youth as Architects of Peace

- Youth leadership and peacebuilding
- Youth participation in decision-making
- Preventing radicalization, hate and violence
- Digital citizenship and responsible technology
- Intergenerational dialogue

Pillar III – Education for Peace and Well-Being

- Peace education
- Social and emotional learning
- Education for sustainable development
- Schools and universities as spaces for peace
- Building empathy, tolerance and critical thinking

Pillar IV – Peace, Health and Well-Being

- Health as a foundation for peaceful societies
- Community well-being

- Mental and social well-being
- Access to essential services
- Health inequalities and social cohesion

Pillar V – Sustainable Development and Peace

- SDGs and peacebuilding
- Climate change and human security
- Poverty and inequality
- Sustainable livelihoods
- Resilient communities

Pillar VI – Dialogue, Tolerance and Social Cohesion

- Interfaith and intercultural dialogue
- Countering hate speech
- Tackling misinformation and polarization
- Building trust between communities
- Promoting compassion and solidarity

Pillar VII – Everyday Peacebuilding

- Community-led peace initiatives
- Women and community peacebuilding
- Civil society action
- Peace in workplaces and institutions
- Local solutions for global challenges

6. Proposed Congress Format

The Congress will be designed as a **high-level, multidisciplinary dialogue and recognition platform.**

Proposed Programme

Programme

- Registration & Networking
- Opening Ceremony
- Special Address: *Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day*
- High-Level Keynote Address
- **High-Level Peace Dialogue:** Peace, Human Rights & Well-Being
- **Youth Dialogue:** Young People as Everyday Architects of Peace
- Peace & Well-Being Recognition Ceremony

- Presentation of the **Chennai Peace & Well-Being Commitment 2026**
- Peace Pledge / Candle or Symbolic Peace Moment
- Networking Reception

The programme can be adjusted based on confirmation of dignitaries and speakers.

7. Proposed High-Level Participants

The Congress intends to invite a distinguished and diverse group of participants, including:

- Members of Parliament and public representatives
- Diplomats and representatives of foreign missions
- Government officials
- Representatives of international organizations
- UN and UN-affiliated experts
- Academics and researchers
- Human rights educators
- Peace and conflict-resolution experts
- Healthcare and well-being professionals
- Youth leaders
- Women leaders
- Civil society organizations
- Faith and community leaders
- Educational institutions
- Corporate and business leaders
- Media representatives
- Social entrepreneurs
- Grassroots peacebuilders

8. “Everyday Architects of Peace” Recognition

Inspired by the 2026 UN International Day of Peace message, a major component of the Congress will be the recognition of **Everyday Architects of Peace**.

The initiative may honour individuals and organizations that have demonstrated meaningful contributions to:

- Peacebuilding
- Human rights
- Youth empowerment
- Education
- Community development
- Social inclusion
- Interfaith harmony
- Women's leadership
- Health and well-being
- Sustainable development
- Humanitarian action
- Conflict prevention

- Digital peace and responsible technology

This recognition will emphasize that **peace is created through everyday actions**, not only through formal diplomacy.

9. Youth Engagement

Young people will be positioned as central stakeholders rather than merely participants.

The Congress may include a dedicated:

Youth Dialogue on Peace & Well-Being

Young leaders will be invited to discuss:

- What does peace mean to young people?
- How can young people counter hate and polarization?
- How can digital platforms become tools for peace?
- What role can education play?
- How can youth contribute to community well-being?
- What investments are needed in the next generation?

A **Youth Peace Commitment 2026** may also be developed and presented during the Congress.

10. Proposed “Chennai Peace & Well-Being Commitment 2026”

As a key outcome, participating institutions and leaders may be invited to endorse a voluntary commitment emphasizing:

1. Promotion of peace and non-violence;
2. Respect for human rights and human dignity;
3. Rejection of discrimination and hate;
4. Promotion of dialogue and tolerance;
5. Investment in youth and education;
6. Advancement of health and well-being;
7. Support for sustainable development;
8. Strengthening community-level peacebuilding;
9. Responsible use of digital technologies;
10. Building partnerships for peaceful and inclusive societies.

The Commitment would provide a practical follow-up mechanism beyond the Congress.

11. Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The Congress will contribute particularly to:

SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being

Promoting healthy, safe and resilient communities.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

Advancing peace education, human rights education and lifelong learning.

SDG 5 – Gender Equality

Recognizing women's leadership in peacebuilding and social development.

SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities

Addressing exclusion and inequality as barriers to peace.

SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Promoting peaceful, inclusive societies, justice and accountable institutions.

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthening multi-stakeholder cooperation.

The UN itself recognizes that international observances can serve as platforms for awareness, mobilizing political will, partnerships and action around global priorities.

12. Expected Outcomes

The Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026 is expected to generate:

- Greater public awareness of the importance of investing in peace;
- A network of peace and well-being advocates;
- Stronger youth engagement in peacebuilding;
- Recognition of grassroots peacebuilders;
- New partnerships between institutions;
- Recommendations for peace and well-being initiatives;
- The **Chennai Peace & Well-Being Commitment 2026**;
- Greater integration of peace, human rights and sustainable development;
- Follow-up initiatives throughout 2026–2027.

13. Proposed Institutional Partnerships

The Congress will seek collaboration with:

International

- UN agencies and programmes
- International organizations
- Diplomatic missions
- Global civil society organizations
- International universities and research institutions

National

- Government institutions
- Universities and educational institutions
- National civil society organizations
- Professional associations
- Corporate foundations

Regional / Local

- Tamil Nadu Government institutions
- Universities and colleges
- Youth organizations
- Community organizations
- NGOs
- Social enterprises
- Peace and human rights networks

14. Organizing Framework

Initiative by

Sustainable Development Council (SDC)

Hosted by

CREGU India – Tamil Nadu Chapter

The Congress will be conceived as a collaborative platform bringing together stakeholders committed to advancing peace, human dignity, sustainable development and well-being.

15. Core Message

Peace is an investment.

Invest in people. Invest in dignity. Invest in dialogue. Invest in education. Invest in health. Invest in youth. Invest in communities.

Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day.

16. Conclusion

The **Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026**, taking place on **21 September 2026—the International Day of Peace**, will provide a timely platform to translate the United Nations' 2026 call to “**Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day**” into dialogue and action.

The Congress will emphasize that peace is not solely the responsibility of governments or diplomats. It is a shared responsibility of **every individual, institution and community**.

By bringing together leaders, young people, educators, human rights advocates, health professionals, civil society, businesses and community peacebuilders, the Congress seeks to build a culture in which **peace, dignity, inclusion and well-being become everyday priorities**.

The ultimate aspiration is to move from **talking about peace to investing in the people, institutions and communities that make peace possible**.

21 September 2026 | Chennai, India

Second International Peace and Well-Being Congress 2026

Invest in Peace – For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day

Concept aligned with the 2026 United Nations International Day of Peace theme and its emphasis on everyday peacebuilding.

[United Nations – International Day of Peace](#)