



General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 August 2021

Original: English

Seventy-sixth session

Item 50 of the provisional agenda

University for Peace

University for Peace

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The University for Peace was established by a multilateral treaty, the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, as an academic institution with both academic and financial autonomy. The General Assembly, pursuant to its resolution [35/55](#), approved the establishment of the University for Peace in conformity with the International Agreement and with the Charter of the University for Peace. The International Agreement states that “the financing of the University shall not have any financial implications for the budget of the United Nations or that of the United Nations University. The budget of the University shall not impose any obligatory assessments on the States parties to the present Agreement unless they agree otherwise.” The University’s budget is covered primarily by its tuition costs, the projects it carries out through partnership agreements and the generous contributions of both private foundations and a select group of Governments. The University has been training leaders for peace for the past 41 years, with more than 2,500 alumni – over 60 per cent of them women – from its master’s and doctoral programmes, as well as its short courses and training programmes, working in the interest of peace around the world. The University is an important educational institution in the field of irenology, set out in the pursuit of the mandate in its charter, namely to “provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace and with the aim of promoting, among all human beings, the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress.”

The University for Peace is working towards fulfilling, as part of its mandate, the values and principles of both the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO declares that “since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.” It was on this occasion that UNESCO adopted the vision that peace is much more than the end of armed conflict and that education serves as the most ennobling means by which to



achieve that vision. Education facilitates dialogue and the exchange of ideas. Education creates new opportunities for civic, harmonious coexistence and the edification of peaceful societies. Education has the capacity to transform conflicts and allows us to comprehend the decisive importance of cooperation.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has devastated communities and economies throughout the world, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable. The pandemic threatens not only hard-won development and peacebuilding gains but also risks reinstigating conflicts or fomenting new ones. It has had an impact on all areas of life, including, in a profound manner, education.

The University for Peace has, during the first year and a half of the pandemic, continued its activities from as “normal” a perspective as possible. This has meant that, with a rigid set of prevention measures, it has continued with the academic year, graduations, seminars and conferences. It has also developed a significant number of virtual activities, participating in reflections on topics linked to the pandemic, the Sustainable Development Goals, human development and promoting peace in different parts of the world.

With this, we will be able to overcome the great obstacles tackled by the 2030 Agenda and achieve its goals.

The University recently celebrated 41 years of existence, reaffirming the fundamental value of the University and the importance of its actions in the field of educating future leaders for peace with the skills for conflict resolution and transformation. The University reaffirms, through its daily work, that training in education for peace and non-violence, prevention and mediation constitutes the basic element for harmony at a local level, from which to build peace in an interdependent world.

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 73/90, contains a summary of the progress made by the University during the period from 2018 to 2021 and highlights both its opportunities for growth and its challenges.

2. The present report includes an overview of the main activities at the University's campus in Costa Rica and those carried out by its regional centres and affiliated institutions. It highlights the University's relationships with the United Nations and other United Nations-related bodies, as well as with the host country, in addition to relationships with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector. The report also highlights the University's recent academic achievements, its current financial situation and governance mechanisms, and its development strategy for the next three years.

3. In its resolution 73/90, the General Assembly recognized the important and varied activities carried out by the University during the period from 2015 to 2018 with the valuable assistance and contributions of Governments, foundations and non-governmental organizations, in particular the progress made in the further development and implementation of the academic programme and in expanding its coverage in various regions of the world; noted with appreciation that the majority of the students and alumni are women, and acknowledged the fact that women play a critical role as peacebuilders at the international, national and local levels; recognized the relevance of Sustainable Development Goal 4; took note of the commitment of the University in its support to the work of the United Nations, and recognized its contribution through programmes focused on peacebuilding and sustaining peace; requested the Secretary-General to expand the scope for using the services of the University as part of his conflict resolution and peacebuilding effort through the training of staff; requested Member States to take the lead in supporting the mission of the University by recognizing the institution and, when possible, making financial contributions; invited Member States that had not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace; and encouraged intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, interested individuals and philanthropists to contribute to the programmes and core budget of the University to enable it to continue to perform its valuable work worldwide.

4. In the past year, the University for Peace has faced, together with the rest of the world, serious repercussions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including a reduced number of students for the 2020–2021 academic year, a decrease in the number of projects and initiatives carried out with external partners and a corresponding blow to the financial stability achieved since the publication of the most recent report. However, despite those adverse effects, the University has managed to remain relevant and has continued to pursue the fulfilment of its mandate around the world.

II. The University for Peace in 2021

A. Forty-one years of the University for Peace

5. In 2020, the University for Peace celebrated 40 years of educating future leaders for peace, guided by the Charter of the University and in support of the main objectives of the United Nations in matters of peace and international security, and through the training of new generations of professionals with the ability to transform and resolve conflicts through understanding, tolerance and coexistence.

6. Unfortunately, the University's plans to celebrate this momentous anniversary, through a series of events and initiatives meant to highlight its contributions to peace, were curtailed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The University was able to hold an international seminar on the theme "Latin America: crisis and convulsions in an unstable global context", in January 2020, with the participation of high-level officials, including the former Presidents of Colombia and Costa Rica.

7. The University contributes to the educational training of leaders in the field of peace and conflict resolution, in relation to the four basic pillars of the United Nations: peace, security, human rights and development. More than 2,500 alumni from over 120 countries have leveraged their training, experience and skills to have a positive impact on their communities, countries, regions and the world as a whole. The majority of alumni and members of the student body are women (over 60 per cent). It is also important to highlight the growing number of non-degree training (capacity-building activities) carried out by the University in partnership with United Nations agencies and other international organizations.

B. Institutional changes

8. During the reporting period, the Council of the University for Peace, its governing authority, had a number of new appointments, including Mario Carazo, Member of the Board of the National Bank of Costa Rica, as host country representative (2019); Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, UNESCO, as UNESCO Director-General's representative on the Council (2020); and Carlos Alvarado Quesada, President of Costa Rica, as host country representative (2020).

9. The Council is composed of 17 members, 10 of whom are appointed by the Secretary-General in consultation with the UNESCO Director-General, and 7 of whom are ex officio members. Two positions on the Council are currently vacant. Pending the appointment of those additional members, the Council currently comprises 10 men and 5 women.

10. The current ex officio members are: Francisco Rojas (Chile), rector; Oscar Fernandez-Taranco (Argentina), representative of the Secretary-General; Gabriela Ramos (Mexico), representative of the UNESCO Director-General; David Malone (Canada), United Nations University rector; Mario Carazo, (Costa Rica) host country representative; Carlos Alvarado Quesada (Costa Rica), host country representative; and Enrique Baron Crespo (Spain), chancellor.

11. The current members from the academic community or persons eminent in the field of peace and security are: Fatima Akilu (Nigeria); Jean Arnault (France); Lalla Ben Barka (Mali); Fernando Blasco (Argentina); Ouided Bouchamaoui (Tunisia); Meenakshi Gopinath (India); Hal Klepak (Canada); and Xiaoyu Zhang (China).

C. Rodrigo Carazo campus, University for Peace headquarters

12. The University's Rodrigo Carazo campus, located in Costa Rica, is named after its founder, a former Costa Rican President whose vision and passion for training future leaders for peace materialized with the creation of the University for Peace in 1980. It consists of 300 hectares located within a secondary forest reserve. It is an example of Costa Rica's biodiversity, the protection of which represents a great opportunity for the development of scientific studies on tropical biodiversity.

D. Academic matters

1. Master's degree programmes

13. The University continues to offer innovative master's degree programmes in areas related to peace studies, international law, gender studies, the environment and sustainable development. Currently, 14 master's degree programmes are offered at the main campus in:

- (a) International peace studies;
- (b) Gender and peacebuilding;
- (c) Peace education;
- (d) Media and peace (depending on enrolment, this is offered as a specialization);
- (e) Indigenous science and peace studies (to launch in 2022);
- (f) International law and human rights;
- (g) International law and the settlement of disputes;
- (h) International law and diplomacy;
- (i) Development studies and diplomacy;
- (j) Environment, development and peace, with specializations in environmental security and governance, sustainable natural resource management, climate change and sustainable food systems;
- (k) Responsible management and sustainable economic development;
- (l) Ecology and society (to launch in 2022);
- (m) Conflict resolution, peace and development (taught in Spanish);
- (n) Leadership and conflict management (taught in Spanish);

Diverse perspectives related to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion and class are incorporated into all academic programmes.

14. The University also offers an online master's degree programme in sustainable peace in the contemporary world, an online master of arts degree in international law and diplomacy, and a master of arts degree in development studies and diplomacy, also available as a certificate programme. These last two master of arts degree programmes are available in hybrid format.

15. As part of its strategy to expand its academic offerings, the impact of its programmes and its image, the University has created a series of off-campus master's programmes, including: a master of arts degree in international human rights law, in association with the Costa Rican Bar Association; a master of arts degree in prevention of asset laundering and financial delinquency, in association with the Foundation for the Study of Money Laundering and Crimes; a master of laws degree in transnational crime and justice, in association with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute; a master of arts degree in Peace, Governance and Security, in association with the national police of Uganda; and two masters of arts degree programmes in international law and diplomacy and development studies and diplomacy, in partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

16. Additionally, in 2019, the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies developed a series of certificate programmes, designed for candidates who would like to take

part in the University campus life and learning environment, but are unable to do so for an entire year. These may be working professionals or undergraduate students in the field of peace and conflict studies in their final year of study who are interested in a study abroad opportunity. They are deliberately flexible, allowing for a hybrid option that incorporates both on-campus and online learning modalities.

17. For the 2020–2021 academic year, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University adapted all its face-to-face programmes to a new hybrid modality, allowing the students able and willing to travel to Costa Rica to attend regular classes – under a series of strict protocols aimed at preventing an outbreak on campus – and those unable to do so to participate remotely. With proper advance planning, all courses were delivered, with the use of technology and adaptive pedagogy. This entailed livestreaming of on-campus classes to those joining virtually. A mix of appropriate technologies was used to ensure seamless interaction between the professor, the students in class and the students joining online.

2. Dual-degree and joint programmes

18. The University maintains dual-degree and joint programmes with leading universities around the world. These options enable students to secure multiple degrees in complementary areas of study by studying at multiple institutions. Currently, the University for Peace offers dual-degree and joint programmes with the following partner universities around the globe:

(a) American University, United States of America: a master's degree in international affairs from American University and a master's degree in natural resources and sustainable development from the University for Peace;

(b) Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines: a master's degree in transdisciplinary social development from Ateneo de Manila University and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace;

(c) Brandeis University, United States: a master's degree in coexistence and conflict from Brandeis University and a master's degree in international law and human rights from the University for Peace;

(d) Costa Rican Bar Association, Costa Rica: a master's degree in international law and human rights from the University for Peace, taught in Spanish;

(e) Foundation for the Study of Money Laundering and Crimes, Costa Rica: a master's degree in the prevention of asset laundering and financial delinquency from the University for Peace, taught in Spanish;

(f) Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Republic of Korea: a master's degree from each institution in the fields of law, communications (media) and sustainable development, depending on the students' area of interest;

(g) Pace University, United States: a master's degree in international environmental law from Pace University and a master's degree in ecology and society from the University for Peace;

(h) Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia: a master's degree in human rights and culture of peace from Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, taught in Spanish, and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace;

(i) The Hague University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands: a master's degree in responsible management for a sustainable world;

(j) Uganda national police force: a master's degree in peace, governance and security from the University for Peace;

(k) United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute: master of laws in transnational crime and justice from the University for Peace;

(l) UNITAR: a master's degree in international law and diplomacy from the University for Peace and UNITAR, and a master's degree in development studies and diplomacy from the University for Peace and UNITAR;

(m) Institute for Water Education and Oregon State University: a master's degree in water, cooperation and peace from Oregon State University and a master's degree in environment, development and peace with a specialization in environmental security from the University for Peace;

(n) Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio, Spain: a master's degree in international cooperation or human rights from the Universidad Alfonso X El Sabio and a master's degree of choice from the University for Peace;

(o) Universidad del Rosario, Colombia: a master's degree in international law from Universidad del Rosario and a master's degree in conflict resolution, peace and development from the University for Peace, taught in Spanish; and

(p) Worldwide Indigenous Science Network, Canada: a master's degree in indigenous science and peace studies from the University for Peace.

19. The University will continue, wherever possible, to develop similar programmes to expand its impact around the world with key postgraduate institutions and think tanks whose work supports the mission and values of the University for Peace and the United Nations.

20. The master's degrees in regional studies have allowed the University to better incorporate students from Spanish-speaking countries, in particular from its host country, and students wishing to pursue studies in the development field in Spanish-speaking countries.

3. Scholarship programmes

21. The University is currently the beneficiary of a number of scholarship programmes, including:

(a) Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme: since 2007, the University has been working with Ateneo de Manila University on a capacity-building initiative for Asian professionals. This programme, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation of Japan, offers up to 30 annual scholarships for Asian professionals (15 from Japan and 15 from South-East Asia). In 2014, the University for Peace and Ateneo de Manila University gave the scholarship programme a dual-degree format. This enriched programme offers intensive, specialized language training to facilitate the participation of professionals with lower levels of English proficiency, as well as the hands-on design and implementation of an intensive field project in Asia upon the conclusion of their studies;

(b) China Scholarship Council: in 2018, the University for Peace signed a memorandum of understanding with the China Scholarship Council for the establishment of a scholarship programme for Chinese students interested in pursuing their graduate studies at the University for Peace. The candidates are to be jointly selected by the China Scholarship Council and the University for Peace. During the 2019–2020 academic year, the China Scholarship Council provided 32 scholarships; for the 2020–2021 academic year, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the University for Peace did not receive scholarship beneficiaries for this programme, which is set to resume in 2022;

(c) Costa Rican Bar Association: as part of the academic partnership between the Costa Rican Bar Association and the University for Peace, the Association assigns 10 scholarships to students pursuing the off-campus master's degree in international law and human rights;

(d) German Academic Exchange Service: since March 2018, the University for Peace has been part of a group of higher education institutions in Central America and the Dominican Republic affiliated with the German Academic Exchange Service. The in-region scholarship programme grants scholarships for development-related master's or doctoral studies for individuals who plan to pursue a career in teaching or research at a higher education institution in their home region or in their home country. The number of scholarships is determined on a yearly basis;

(e) Hankuk University of Foreign Studies: this combined programme is offered by the University for Peace and the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and provides full scholarships for Korean students interested in pursuing their graduate studies at the University for Peace;

(f) Rotary International: in 2018, Rotary International designated a series of scholarships (4–5 per year) for students wanting to pursue their master's degree in water cooperation and diplomacy at the University for Peace, carried out jointly with Oregon State University and the Institute for Water Education;

(g) World Bank scholarship programme: the University for Peace has been a beneficiary of this programme since 2020, and has received two scholarship beneficiaries, with two more expected to take part in the next cohort; and

(h) Muslim World League: in 2021, the University for Peace secured a scholarship programme that will offer 15 students belonging to the three main monotheistic religions (five persons of the Muslim faith, five persons of the Jewish faith, and five persons of the Christian faith) a full scholarship to pursue a degree or an online degree at the University for Peace. This degree programme will focus on interreligious and interfaith dialogue.

22. Furthermore, the University offers a series of scholarships in accordance with the following categories: one full scholarship per year to a resident of Ciudad Colón, in consultation with the Mora municipality; 50 per cent tuition for professors from a partner university; 50 per cent tuition for Costa Rican citizens and legal residents; 50 per cent tuition for current full-time United Nations staff members and volunteers; 50 per cent tuition for documented refugees and asylees; 30 per cent tuition for University for Peace alumni interested in pursuing a second degree; 30 to 50 per cent tuition for merit-based scholarship (discretionary); 30 per cent tuition for citizens and nationals of a signatory State to the University for Peace Charter; 30 per cent tuition for students who have received an undergraduate or graduate degree from a partner university; and 30 per cent tuition for students from Spanish-speaking countries interested in the master's degree in Spanish on conflict resolution, peace and development.

23. In 2020, in an effort to incentivize enrolment and contribute to a post-COVID-19 world, the University for Peace launched its COVID-19 Scholarship, which provides Costa Rican citizens and permanent residents with the opportunity to receive a 75 per cent tuition waiver based on their proposal or initiative for a post-COVID-19 Costa Rica.

4. Doctoral programme

24. The University offers a doctoral programme in peace and conflict studies designed for talented researchers who will pursue innovation in the field of peace studies. In addition, practitioners can transform their experiences into scientific

knowledge that can be systematized and disseminated through academic publications. The themes on which the doctoral candidates focus correspond to the most significant current debates at the United Nations and within the international arena.

25. The University is currently working on increasing the impact of its doctoral programme through the design of regional programmes to support different constituencies. In Africa, the University is currently offering a doctoral degree programme in peace governance and development. In 2020, the University's China Centre launched its doctoral degree programme in leadership and sustainable development, with the participation of 10 division directors of Chinese ministries and twenty entrepreneurs.

5. University faculty

26. In 2019, the University faculty and alumni worked side-by-side as part of their participation in the 5th edition of the Georg Arnhold Symposium, which took place in Basel, Switzerland. The purpose of the symposium is to create a platform for education experts with a focus on emancipatory feminist critical pedagogy, in order to question, rethink and reinvent practices and methods that promote sustainable peace and human rights advocacy, providing an outlet for testimonies of human rights violations and exhaustion.

27. In 2020, Sergio Ugalde, Associate Professor in the Department of International Law, was appointed to the International Criminal Court.

28. During this period, the University's Academic Coordinator, Head of its Department of International Law and Director of its Human Rights Centre, Mihir Kanade, was named chair of the drafting committee of international experts for elaborating an international treaty on the right to development.

6. Other academic activities

29. The University has successfully carried out a number of capacity-building programmes since its revitalization in 2001. These programmes range from diploma and certification courses to full-scale master's degree programmes, all tailor-made to meet the needs of donors and partners.

30. In November 2018 and August 2019, the University and the German Agency for International Cooperation organized a series of round tables in Colombia on access to justice in Latin America, within the priorities of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The events were organized within the framework of the regional international law and access to justice in Latin America project and aims to build a platform for dialogue and discussion around the issue.

31. On 27 September 2018, Nepal acceded to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace, dated 5 December 1980. With this act, Nepal became the forty-first State to become a party to the Agreement.

32. In January 2019, the University offered a short course to 31 students and 2 professors from the Higher School of Public Administration of Colombia. The course addressed topics such as peace and development, post conflict, negotiation, conflict analysis and human rights.

33. As part of an international project on capacity-building for renewable energy planning in Cuban higher education institutions, coordinated by the University of Turku, Finland, and financed by the European Union, University resident faculty members visited Cuba in January 2019 and delivered lectures on global environmental change and the Costa Rican experience with regard to environmental sustainability, including renewable energy.

34. In 2019, the University signed memorandums of understanding with the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Panamerican Agriculture University (Honduras), ADA University (Azerbaijan) and the Egyptian Institute for Diplomatic Studies, with the objective of working cooperatively to create academic programmes and modules of mutual interest and to develop academic knowledge and skills, as well as to raise awareness through the implementation of a number of joint educational programmes and initiatives.

35. In March 2019, the University for Peace had the honour of receiving the Vice-President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu, and his delegation on the University campus, where it awarded him a doctor honoris causa degree for his role in promoting the rule of law, democracy and sustainable development in India.

36. In April 2019, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the pontifical university of the Vatican. The University's collaboration will consist of helping to implement courses on studies for peace, which are currently being promoted and coordinated by the pontifical university at its headquarters in Rome.

37. In September 2020, the University for Peace organized a special online course on the Sustainable Development Goals with 22 undergraduate students from Kyung Hee University. The University for Peace has been asked to repeat the course based on the participants' positive feedback.

38. The University's work continues to develop in a holistic and comprehensive manner in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Professors at the University have participated in various activities linked to different Sustainable Development Goals. In 2021, the United Nations Academic Impact initiative selected the University for Peace to become a hub for Sustainable Development Goal 12: responsible consumption and production. As stated by the initiative, the selection was made "in recognition of the research, innovation and scholarship undertaken in support of Goal 12".

39. In 2021, the University launched a new position of Chair on combating and preventing illicit trade and transnational organized crime, coordinated by Mauricio Vieira from Brazil. Although the subject matter of the Chair is closely related to the concept of security, it is intended to use a theoretical and conceptual approach to the impact of organized crime, and the level of conflict that it generates, on the fragility of States and the different types of structural violence. It also launched a Japan Chair, coordinated by Naoko Kumagai, Professor at Aoyama Gakuin University and member of the Global Peacebuilding Association of Japan. The Japan Chair will be dedicated to enabling a greater understanding of Japan and its society, as well as the positions of the country in the multilateral system and its links with various regions. The University is currently in the final stages of agreeing on a Chair on the Middle East, under the auspices of Saudi Arabia.

40. In April 2021, the University welcomed the First Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Choi Jong Kun, to its main campus in Costa Rica, where he spoke to students on the theme "Peace processes in the Korean peninsula", after which he met with University authorities to discuss further cooperation with the Republic of Korea.

41. In May 2021, with the support of the Costa Rican Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Costa Rican Association of Journalists, the University organized a certificate course entitled "Journalism in times of crisis" for journalists from different Costa Rican media outlets and their colleagues from countries of the Central American Integration System, with the financial support of the delegation of the European Union in Costa Rica.

42. In 2021, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) office in Honduras asked the University to create a special training programme for social communicators, members of autonomous institutions, opinion leaders, influential members of society, political leaders and leaders of underrepresented groups within the project to support the electoral cycle in Honduras for transparent and peaceful elections (2020–2022), supported by the European Union, UNDP and the technical support teams of the Honduran Secretary of Cooperation, the National Electoral Council, the Supreme Electoral Court and the Unit for Clean Politics. The training is expected to start in June 2021.

7. Accreditation

43. Since 2005, the University has implemented a continuous and systematic external evaluation of all its master's degree programmes. External evaluators assess the academic quality and performance of each programme and provide recommendations for improvement.

44. The University became a part of the National System of Higher Education Accreditation in Costa Rica in 2008 and immediately proceeded to begin the accreditation of the programmes within its Department of Environment and Development, which were accredited in 2014. In 2016, the programmes within the Department of International Law followed suit and received their accreditation. The programmes within the Department of Peace and Conflict Studies are in the process of being accredited.

45. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, accreditation processes have been delayed, which has not allowed the University to submit further programmes for accreditation, which must have completed a minimum number of cycles in order to be considered. Nevertheless, coordination with the National System of Higher Education Accreditation continues for programmes pending accreditation.

8. Enrolment

46. As is the case with many educational institutions, full-time enrolment at the University's main campus has suffered in recent years. This was especially true for the 2020–2021 academic year, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which the University managed to enrol 102 students, most of whom were able to travel to Costa Rica during the academic year to attend classes face-to-face. A growing number of the applicants cannot afford to pursue their graduate studies at the University without financial support in the form of financial aid and scholarships, which are in increasingly short supply.

47. However, the expansion of the University's programmes, through the creation of certificate and hybrid programmes, and partnerships with other institutions capable of offering University-created programmes, has allowed the University to exceed the goal of having 500 students enrolled per academic year. This has been achieved through the creation of a variety of programmes, venues and formats that allow for more flexible participation. In 2018–2019, 616 students were enrolled; in 2019–2020, 539 students enrolled; and in 2020–2021, 555 students enrolled.

9. University alumni

48. The University's more than 2,500 alumni live and work in every region of the world. The vast majority of them work in a peacebuilding capacity in their home countries and internationally, often on the front line of conflict situations. Currently, the highest percentage of alumni work for non-governmental organizations, but many graduates go on to work within the United Nations system and in various other international humanitarian capacities. Some now teach at the university level and

work for academic institutions, while others have joined national governments in diverse fields, including international affairs, electoral tribunals and environmental policy. Another significant portion of the University alumni are pursuing doctoral degrees.

49. Given the importance of its alumni network, the University is working to build contacts with as many of its alumni as possible through its alumni relations officer. The main tasks of the alumni relations programme focus on planning and implementing programmes that keep alumni connected to one another and to the University, encouraging and promoting alumni's professional development and keeping the alumni community aware of the University's developments and needs, thus allowing them to support its medium- and long-term strategies.

10. Publications

50. The University is constantly promoting the generation of knowledge on behalf of its academic faculty, and the dissemination of knowledge through publications. Through both its online journal, entitled "Ideas for Peace", and the publication of books and other academic materials in collaboration with other institutions, the University for Peace strives to contribute to the global discussion on peace and conflict, international law, climate change and other topics directly related to its areas of expertise.

51. During the reporting period, the University increased its academic production, including the number of publications. Over the past three years, the University has published 11 books, and its faculty – both resident and visiting – have published approximately 50 articles and book chapters.

52. In 2020, the University for Peace published a series of important books, starting with "The difficult task of peace: crisis, fragility and conflict in an uncertain world", which was edited by the rector, with contributions from resident and visiting faculty members, and which provides a holistic view on the topics of peace and conflict, peace education, international relations and regional studies during the end of the second decade of the twenty-first century.

53. In 2020, the University also had the privilege of publishing "In pursuit of what matters: passion for the bottom line", written by former Chef de Cabinet of the Secretary-General and current Dean of the IE School of Global Affairs, Susana Malcorra.

54. Later in 2020, in cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica and UNESCO, the University published a book entitled "National and global actions in the struggle against COVID-19: the Saudis' contribution to this goal as Chairman of the Group Twenty", which focuses on how education contributes to the three pillars of the United Nations and hopes to add constructively to the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

55. Also in 2020, in celebration of the University's fortieth anniversary and the United Nations' seventy-fifth anniversary, the University published "Promoting peace, human rights and dialogue among civilizations", which highlights the actions of the United Nations, its agencies, funds and programmes in the fulfilment of the great principles that guide their multilateral action.

E. Subsidiary centres and affiliated institutions

Regional offices

56. Since the previous report was submitted to the General Assembly, the University for Peace has continued to strengthen and expand its global reach through the work carried out by its regional offices in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

57. The University continues to have permanent observers at United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Office at Geneva. The University also has regional offices in The Hague, Addis Ababa and Beijing.

58. The University considers Asia an important region in its efforts towards achieving its mandate. The region is constantly growing, and education is considered an important priority for governments and institutions alike, as evidenced by the growing number of enrolled students from the region every year. As a result, the University has increased its focus on the region, working with traditional partners and promoting new alliances. The strategy has reached important milestones, such as the creation of the Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship endowment fund and the support of the China Scholarship Council.

59. The University's regional programme for Africa, based in Addis Ababa, works to support peace in Africa as part of the mission of the University for Peace. With active collaborations with more than 30 universities covering teaching, research, publications and community outreach, the University has contributed to strengthening the work of regional organizations and national governments in Africa through capacity-building.

60. In Europe, through its centre in The Hague and the European Centre for Peace and Development, the University has maintained its presence and has focused, in large part, on increasing the University's visibility and recruiting more European students for its residential master's degree programmes.

2. Affiliated institutions

A. Earth Charter

61. The Earth Charter Centre for Education for Sustainable Development implements actions in two main areas: training and research on education for sustainable development for educators and youth empowerment, which correspond to the implementation of the commitments made to the UNESCO Global Action Programme on Education for Sustainable Development. The Earth Charter seeks to inspire a new sense of global interdependence and shared responsibility for the well-being of the whole human family, the greater community of life, and future generations.

B. Human Rights Centre

62. The Human Rights Centre was created in line with the stated mission of the University, as specified in its charter, to promote understanding of, respect for and enjoyment of human rights. The Centre carries out its mission through specialized human rights education, training, capacity-building and awareness-raising activities, and takes a practitioner-based approach to the respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights, while promoting the integration of theory and practice. The Centre has also taken a leading role in promoting the right to development. In particular, the Centre is the lead partner of a joint e-learning project on operationalizing the right to development in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, developed and delivered in association with the Right to Development section of the Office of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health.

C. Centre for Executive Education

63. Located within the University for Peace, the Centre for Executive Education was created in 2007 to offer a platform for engaging with the University and its mission, without undertaking a degree-bearing programme. Over the past decade, the Centre has worked with leaders from around the world to offer transformational educational experiences that are dynamic and engaging while inspiring participants to have a positive influence in an increasingly interconnected world.

D. Local relations

64. Relations with the host country were greatly strengthened during the period from 2018 to 2021, thanks in large part to the nomination of President Carlos Alvarado Quesada to the University Council. Furthermore, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in New York was instrumental in leading the University's attempts to include more countries as parties to the International Agreement.

65. In 2020, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, encouraged by their mutual interest in further strengthening the ties between the two institutions. The memorandum, which will allow the development of closer cooperation ties, is intended to promote, through coordinated action and mutual technical assistance, the strengthening of institutional technical capacities from a comprehensive perspective.

66. For the 2020–2021 and 2021–2022 academic years, as a mechanism to fight for equality, economic recovery and development in the Central American region and as part of its mission, the University for Peace announced the launch of 20 scholarships for Costa Ricans and permanent residents of Costa Rica who have an innovative idea or initiative for a post-COVID-19 Costa Rica.

E. International relations

67. The University has relied on its Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme, sponsored by the Nippon Foundation, for the majority of its presence in Asia. Over the past three years, University leadership has expanded its impact in the Asian region.

68. The Colombian peace process makes Colombia a permanent focus of attention for the University. New agreements with universities and institutions in the country are of continual interest. In October 2019, the University participated in the inauguration of a collaborative programme in international law and human rights with one of the oldest universities in the country, Del Rosario University.

69. During the reporting period, the University signed an agreement with the Compaz Foundation, created by the former Colombian President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Juan Manuel Santos, to work together on the promotion of sustainable peace in the country, with the promotion of educational and training activities with grassroots organizations.

70. In February 2020, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue and the European Public Law Organization.

71. In September 2020, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Emirates Diplomatic Academy through the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations in Geneva.
72. In November 2020, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Egypt.
73. In April 2021, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Jewish Congress with the purpose of promoting peace, dialogue and cooperation among different peoples, faiths and cultures.
74. In May 2021, the University signed a memorandum of understanding with the Diplomatic School of Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Armenia. The agreement will allow for engagement in academic activities and trainings and exchanges of information.
75. In 2021, the Commission for Peace, founded and chaired by Barbara Winston, joined the University for Peace in establishing the Peace Innovation Initiative. The Peace Innovation Initiative is driven by a mission to create a global culture of peace, in which peace-inspired innovation serves as a foundation upon which our global systems of operation are built. The Peace Innovation Initiative, housed at the University for Peace, will serve to promote peace in public discourse, act as an incubator and accelerator for the most innovative ideas in peace and will provide real-time self-evaluations that serve as a constant engine for discovery, renewal and improvement of our systems of operation.
76. The university signed specific agreements with intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities to develop analysis and recommended projects in specific areas, in particular in the area of migration, with an emphasis on people of African descent in Venezuela with the International Organization for Migration, and, in the case of the Ibero-American General Secretariat, in the area of gender, with an emphasis on inequality and the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

F. Relations with the United Nations system

77. The University is continually seeking partnerships, visiting scholars and collaborative activities with relevant United Nations bodies.
78. During the period from 2018 to 2021, the University for Peace participated in meetings of the General Assembly and other United Nations meetings, including the high-level forum on the culture of peace and the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. During those events, the University had the honour and privilege of addressing Member States and pledging its commitment to supporting the work of the United Nations.
79. The University for Peace continues to implement, in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and the Government of Costa Rica, the Protection Transfer Arrangement programme, with the aim of offering quality temporary reception conditions and for the subsequent resettlement in a third country of families of the north triangle of Central America, for a period of three to seven months. The University represents the implementation agency of the programme and has received the High Commissioner's "Living Integration" seal on two separate occasions as a result.
80. Migration and the displacement of persons is a key interest at the University. In 2020, the University became part of the Executive Committee of the Global Compact for Migration in Costa Rica.

G. Community relations

81. The relationship between the University and the local communities of El Rodeo and Ciudad Colón is excellent. University authorities, faculty and students regularly participate in and contribute to the towns' cultural activities. In addition, University students conduct community work throughout the towns and through the municipal authorities and contribute actively to the University by keeping its authorities informed of the work being done and by resolving issues that are critical to the functioning of the University. As part of this relationship, the University provides an annual scholarship to a resident of Ciudad Colón.

82. In the municipal elections held in 2019, University alumnus Alfonso Jimenez was elected mayor of the Mora municipality.

H. Financial situation and governance

83. The University's objective is to be self-sustaining on the basis of income generated by its teaching and training programmes, the support of Member States and donations and special projects to sustain its activities. The University extends its special gratitude to the Nippon Foundation for its significant support of the University through its Asian Peacebuilders Scholarship programme. The University would also like to show its appreciation to the European Union, the Government of Germany through the German Agency for International Cooperation and German Academic Exchange Programme; and the Government of the United States for their partnership in key projects.

84. At the close of the 2020–2021 fiscal period, the University had almost completely eliminated the deficit it had been carrying since 2010, in excess of \$1.5 million. This was achieved through a combination of drastic cost-cutting measures, the implementation of capacity-building initiatives to increase revenue and a series of fundraising efforts. University financial records indicate that, had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on institutional finances, the deficit would have been eliminated by the end of the fiscal period.

I. Development strategy

85. The situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the University to change and adapt its cooperation strategy. The General Assembly issued a request to the University to find viable ways to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. As a result, the institution is working on a renewed approach and targeting new audiences and potential partners.

86. In particular, the University will focus on strengthening its ties with the States parties to the International Agreement, as well as with States that are not parties. The University, as demonstrated in the present report, is in a position to provide training to government officials, civil society organizations, private sector actors and non-governmental organizations. In this regard, the University is strengthening its capacity to fulfil its mandate by adding high-level professionals with extensive experience to its staff and faculty.

87. The University for Peace will coordinate its work agenda with that of the United Nations under the leadership of the Secretary-General in order to seek the synergies necessary to implement the mandate of the University.

88. The University will further focus on its global growth through its representatives in New York, Geneva, Addis Ababa, The Hague, Belgrade, Beijing and Manila, with local political and diplomatic support and the mobilization of the resources necessary to strengthen the mandate of the University in those regions. In its resolution [73/90](#),

the General Assembly invites Member States that have not already done so to accede to the International Agreement for the Establishment of the University for Peace and requests Member States to take the lead in “when possible, making financial contributions that will make it possible for the University to offer its programmes of study to all students who wish to participate in them, and facilitating the University’s operations in host countries”. The University is currently discussing the possibility of expanding its activities in Riyadh and will continue to provide training programmes in Honduras.

89. The University will strive to strengthen training programmes at the University headquarters in Costa Rica and throughout the world, through the promotion, dissemination and support of the work of the University. With the growth of both its traditional academic programmes and more customized training programmes, the sustainability of the work of the University and the pursuit of its mission are better guaranteed.

90. The University will continue to work on increasing its enrolment, in order to maximize the number of beneficiaries of its programmes (as it pertains to its master’s and doctoral degrees, both residential and online, and its special training programmes and opportunities), as it continues to carry out the mandate given to it in the International Agreement in 1980.

III. Conclusions

91. The world will continue to face serious challenges as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic in years to come. The effects of the pandemic are multiple, profound and, in many cases, aggravate pre-pandemic deficits, particularly inequities in different societies and in the international system. The reinstigation of conflicts or fomentation of new conflicts requires future leaders in peacebuilding and people trained to understand, in a holistic manner, the different roots of conflicts and the ways in which they are expressed in different parts of the world.

92. Consequently, the task of the University for Peace is essential and must be strengthened to develop specialized training and to generate better leadership in the construction of tolerance, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The University intends to create “peace capital” capable of producing “peace dividends” supported by new technologies. The University also intends to fulfil the motto of the University, “If you want peace, work for peace.”

93. It therefore becomes essential, for the University to accomplish its mission, that Member States, philanthropic institutions and international organizations take the lead in supporting that mission by recognizing the institution, including through financial contributions that will make it possible for the University to continue educating future leaders for peace.