

## Concept note

### On the proposal of a group of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO

#### International Day of Peace Celebration

#### “Drones and Robots for Peace “

##### Context:

The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 agenda, adopted on 25 September 2015 by the United Nations' member states, encourage countries to adopt measures aimed at combatting poverty, protecting the earth and ensuring prosperity for all human beings. These goals form an integral part of peace-building in our time (cf. goal 16), a mission UNESCO has undertaken for more than seventy years, stating in its preamble, **“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed.”**

The commemoration of the beginning of World War I included a major event for peace, which was held at UNESCO headquarters in September 2014. Around 50 international NGOs, all official partners of UNESCO, had asked children from the five world regions to express their aspirations for peace through the art of puppetry. More recently, the Sixth International Forum of NGOs that took place in November 2016 in Querétaro, Mexico, emphasized the role of youth in promoting peace. This is the reason why our NGOs are particularly motivated to renew this appeal for peace in 2018, a year that will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I.

Improvements in robotics were made possible through the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Since World War I, while researches led by the scientific community on this theme were essentially targeted to military purposes, the use of robots has been developed to improve our daily life since the 2000s, in the area of industry, transportation, healthcare, human services and education.

In a same way, drones which have become so widely used, notably for monitoring purposes during the Cold War, were then used for humanitarian purposes, for instance in the United States in 2008, in order to rescue populations after the hurricane that struck Louisiana and Texas, or in Haiti after the earthquake in 2012. The French NGO Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) also relied

on drones to fight tuberculosis in Papua and New Guinea in 2014, as well as UNICEF to create a humanitarian drone corridor in Malawi in 2017.

**“Tell me, how do we do to play peace?”** To answer this six-year-old child’s question, our group of NGOs has imagined putting **robots and drones** – so significant in children’s and young people’s daily life – at the centre of an information and education campaign, aimed at promoting sustainable peace. Young people from all regions of the world are thus invited to create paintings, sculptures or scale models, handmade and digital drawings, illustrating the subject of drones and robots for peace.

### **Proposals for the celebration of the International Day of Peace of September 21**

- The works on the theme of “drones and robots for peace” designed by a broad youth audience worldwide will be exhibited locally and will be highlighted in every countries during cultural events encompassing plastic arts, ceramics, music, dance, theatre and puppetry for peace education... Each local organization will demonstrate creativity in order to contribute to peace education on a cultural level.
- These very digital works will be sent to the steering committee of the NGOs, so a digital event can be organized conjointly in Tunisia and at UNESCO headquarters in **September 2018**. A **digital presentation** on wall screens inside or outside, or synchronized presentations on numerous video screens are envisaged.
- No selection is planned for the digital presentation. Only the most popular works will be copied in a **book** to recall the event.
- Meanwhile a **round table** featuring high-level participants, on the theme of Artificial Intelligence, robotics, creative issues, science and ethics will be organized.
- Depending on budget and funding, this international day of peace should be held in a city in Tunisia, accompanied, in theory, by a replica of the event at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

This day is not an end in itself. It forms an integral part of our concern to promote a **Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World and their families**.