



## Concept Note

### Concert by UNAM's Youth Orchestra Eduardo Mata

#### *"Youth for Sustainable Peace"*



### Background

Today's generation of young people is the largest the world has ever seen. Globally, 1.2 billion younglings aged 15-24 account for one out of six people worldwide. By 2030, the target date for the sustainable development goals, the number of young people is projected to have grown by 8 per cent, to nearly 1.3 billion. Moreover, young people often represent the majority of the population in fragile and conflict affected countries.

The World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY), together with Security Council Resolution 2250 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognize the role of young people as critical agents of change and the importance of addressing key social development issues such as education, health, social protection and job opportunities, as well as active engagement and participation. In particular, the WPAY underscores the importance of leisure-time activities in the psychological, cognitive and physical development of young people in all societies.

Ensuring youth participation in a comprehensive and substantial manner is an imperative for the prevention of violence and the achievement of sustainable peace. Whether young people influence a peace process from the inside, as active participants at the negotiating table, or from the outside, through demonstrations and the use of social media, their contribution is undeniably necessary.

Moreover, their impact to foster peace does not end when a peace process begins. On the contrary, their role becomes more relevant and powerful when they emerge as rebuilders of social trust, social cohesion and reconciliation. Despite these wide recognitions, young men and women continue to be, in many aspects, marginalized, undervalued and insufficiently recognized for their capacity to build and sustain peace.

Prevention matters. It builds a long lasting effect that contributes to sustaining peace. We must therefore search and support ways in which we can create the conditions for young people to progress and to play an increasingly active role in the international community. Music is one of the many catalysts that help young people find opportunities to express their individuality and, in many cases, free themselves from violent and oppressive environments.

### **Objective**

This event serves as a platform to amplify the voice of young people for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world. Music serves to connect young people building solidarity, and to engage in quality education and develop opportunities to become actors and advocates for peace. It also serves as an instrument for building social cohesion and greater tolerance among communities.

### **Agenda**

The event will feature short interventions by Amb. Juan Ramón de la Fuente, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, and other UN officials followed by a performance by the Youth Orchestra Eduardo Mata from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), which is a symphonic ensemble composed of 77 young women and men with outstanding musical talent. The Youth Orchestra has been recognized in worldwide festivals and auditoriums.

### **Date and venue**

- **Date:** October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.
- **Time:** Concert 7:30-8:30; Reception 8:30.
- **Venue:** Trusteeship Council Chamber.

### **Organizers**

The event is organized by the Permanent Mission of Mexico in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.