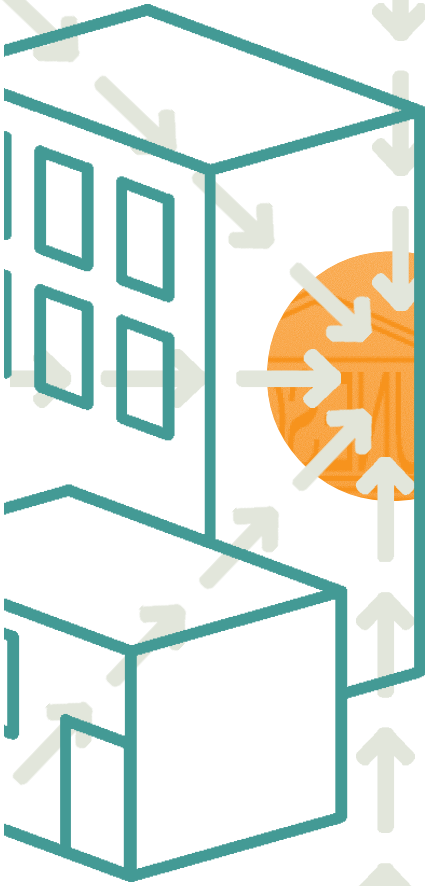




Global Perspective

The UNESCO charter states: “It is in the mind of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed”.

The well-known peace educator, Maria Montessori, believed that: “Education for peace begins in school”.



And the great educator, Mahatma Gandhi, claimed that the educational objectives of peace may be reached through speech and nonviolent action, self-enrichment and personal development, mutual respect, respect for human relations and within cultures. Therefore, education for peace, which is the wellspring of physical, emotional and spiritual inspiration, is achievable through painstaking effort in schools.

The Associated Schools Project of UNESCO (ASPnet) was founded in 1953. UNESCO schools form an international network of more than six thousand associated institutions including four hundred and thirty teacher training colleges.

In 1993, during the meeting held in Germany to mark the fortieth

anniversary of the Network, an announcement was issued stating that maximum resources would be placed at the disposal of the network, so that it might double its size and pursue its vital work. Indeed, since then, the number of schools in the network has doubled.

UNESCO schools are 'unique' laboratories for the development of educational curricula promoting peace and tolerance, for reinforcing inter-cultural relations both within and among nations, for promoting ecological education, and for eradicating racism and violence. Every member state adopts and assimilates them into their curricula as educational programs. This is achievable through studies, exchange of ideas and opinions among national networks, and regional and international conferences.