“IF WAR IS A CHOICE, PEACE CAN BE TOO”
A Side Event on Young Leaders’ Contribution to Peace and Security
organized by Rondine with the Permanent Missions of Italy, Costa Rica and Monaco to the United Nations with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

5 December 2023, 11:00 am to 12:30 pm
United Nations Headquarters, New York, Conference Room 8

CONTEXT

Rondine’s World House students launched the global “Leaders for Peace” campaign on 10 December 2018. At the time, young peacebuilders coming from areas of conflict felt the urgency to start an advocacy and mobilize action amid a resurgence in violence and conflict around the globe. The campaign is a call to action for all UN Members to invest more in education for peace, to structurally integrate the teaching of Human Rights in national education systems, and to devote a symbolic amount from their budgets to scholarships for outstanding young leaders of peace.

Since 2018, Rondine and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations have been jointly promoting an annual follow-up event at the United Nations Headquarters, where Rondine students discuss international developments in the fields of peace, human rights and transformative peace education together with diplomats, policymakers, and experts from all over the world. Through these events, youth participants highlight recommendations on identifying warning signs, focusing on how to defuse new and re-emerging tensions, and how to support youth peace leadership in an increasingly fragile post-pandemic world.

THE EVENT

In the fifth iteration of the series, Rondine and its student community reaffirm their commitment to a world free of armed conflict and violent extremism through peace education, workshop trainings on youth leadership for peace, and by promoting the values outlined through the “Leaders for Peace” global campaign in line with the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.
Together with the Permanent Missions of Italy, Costa Rica, and Monaco to the UN, with the support of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), Rondine’s students reiterate their call to action to the international community to join efforts to promote youth-led initiatives in the areas of peace education and peacebuilding in line with the recent Policy Brief of the UN Secretary General on Meaningful Youth Engagement, which has recognized youth as “positive and constructive social agents who play an essential role in building sustainable peace.

In 2023, Rondine signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) to develop collaborations on their mutual interests in peace education and intercultural and interreligious dialogue. UNAOC’s activities are fashioned around the five pillars of Education, Youth, Migration, Media, and Women as peace mediators in identity-based settings. Through its youth programming, UNAOC recognizes and empowers young people as essential partners in fostering mutual understanding and building sustainable peace.

The event will also set the stage for the launch of the campaign’s main output, the “Global Leaders School” project, which is slated to start in 2024. Moreover, it will serve as an occasion to announce the extension of the campaign until 2030, aiming to transform “Leaders for Peace” into a permanent instrument of peace advocacy for young people from all over the world, with a view to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030, and more specifically the advancement of SDG16 on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

*Opening Remarks*

**Miguel Angel Moratinos**, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and High Representative for the UN Alliance of Civilizations  
**Maurizio Massari**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations  
**Maritza Chan**, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations  
**Daphné Le Son**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations  
**Gabriele Giordano Caccia**, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations
Panel: “Investing on transformative peace education”

Franco Vaccari, President and Founder, Rondine – Cittadella della Pace
Nnaemeka Phil Eke-okocha Student from Rondine’s World House international campus
Giulia Tariello and Lukas Svana, EU Youth Delegates to the United Nations
UNAOC Young Peacebuilders Programme (YPB) Representative
UN Youth Office Representative

Interventions from the floor and Concluding Remarks