

In Madrid, on July 15, 2025

**INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT BY CUEMYC IN DEFENSE OF PEACE, HUMAN
RIGHTS, AND THE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTS THROUGH
NEGOTIATION AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION**

The International University Conference for the Study of Mediation and Conflict (CUEMYC), in accordance with the principles that underpin its existence and its commitment to promoting a culture of peace, respect for human rights, and the strengthening of the rule of law, expresses its deepest concern at the serious deterioration of international legality and the intensification of armed conflicts marked by practices of occupation, extermination, and, in some cases, genocide, which are causing devastating humanitarian consequences in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and other regions around the world.

In this regard, CUEMYC endorses the contents of the Oporto.Manifesto (2024), which reaffirms the need to strengthen the role of negotiation, mediation, international law, and multilateral mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of disputes as pillars for the construction of just, democratic, and sustainable societies. Access to the full document: [Manifiesto-Oporto-CUEMYC-2024.pdf](#)

In view of the alarming degradation of the international order, characterized by the normalization of violence and the systematic violation of humanitarian principles, we firmly condemn the use of human suffering as an instrument of war and control. The deliberate obstruction of access to food, water, medicine, and humanitarian aid constitutes a serious violation of international law—morally unacceptable and legally prohibited. These practices, in addition to exacerbating the suffering of victims, erode the foundations of global coexistence and create a scenario dominated by lawlessness, structural violence, and the supremacy of force over legality.

In this context of a serious civilizational regression, which threatens to dismantle decades of collective efforts for peace, justice, and human dignity, it is essential to reaffirm the value of international law, human rights, and the use of negotiation and mediation as legitimate and effective tools for conflict resolution. Peace is not a utopia, but a collective and urgent responsibility. For this reason, we urge the international community to revitalize multilateralism, strengthen diplomacy, and urgently activate negotiation and mediation mechanisms—even in the most adverse contexts.

From CUEMYC, as a university network actively engaged in promoting mediation, the peaceful transformation of conflicts, and the development of a culture of peace, we clearly state:

1. Our categorical condemnation of all forms of armed violence, especially those that violate human rights and international law, disproportionately affect the civilian population, and prevent any progress toward a peaceful solution to conflicts.
2. Our concern over the instrumental use of military power and the erosion of multilateral diplomatic mechanisms, which undermines the normative frameworks designed to preserve international peace and security.
3. Our firm commitment to the defense of human rights, respect for international law, and the effective enforcement of the multilateral system of the United Nations.
4. Our solidarity with all victims of these conflicts and with those who, from high-risk contexts, defend the universal values of justice, dignity, and peaceful coexistence.
5. Our unwavering support for dialogue, words, and peace. From our professional and ethical responsibility, we feel compelled to speak out against the escalating illegality that rekindles conflicts and endangers the progress made over years of collective efforts in defense of peace and human dignity. Silence is not an option. We have a responsibility to speak out—clearly, ethically, and firmly—to reaffirm that no form of violence can take the place of dialogue, justice, or hope for a peaceful future. The active defense of peaceful conflict resolution is not only possible but necessary—especially in times like these.
6. Our urgent call to the international community to immediately stop the violence, guarantee unrestricted humanitarian access, and reactivate international negotiation processes based on dialogue, legality, and mutual respect.
7. We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the defense of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and the active promotion of global justice.
8. We issue a collective call to act responsibly, not to give in to indifference, and to strengthen all initiatives that promote understanding, cooperation, and the protection of human rights. Because even in the darkest of times, we continue to believe that peace is possible—because it is just, necessary, and deeply human.
9. We reaffirm our institutional commitment to intensify efforts in education, teaching, and research in the fields of peace, mediation, and conflict resolution, from a critical and engaged perspective—thus reaffirming the essential role of the university as an agent of democratic transformation and guarantor of ethical thought.

As a university network committed to peace, we cannot remain silent in the face of the gravity of current events. Silence and neutrality, in contexts of extreme injustice, amount to an unacceptable abandonment of our fundamental values. Force cannot and must not replace dialogue, agreement, and justice. Therefore, we raise our voice from our knowledge, our classrooms, and our civic commitment to remind the world that peace is not imposed: it is built, day by day, through respect, reason, and human dignity.

With hope and determination,

CUEMYC – International University Conference for the Study of Mediation and Conflict