



With breaking stories and  
newswire products from

**UN NEWS CENTRE**



## **UN advocate Michael Douglas urges young artists to draw for peace**



Actor Michael Douglas addresses a press conference at United Nations Headquarters. UN Photo/  
E. Debebe

21 February 2012 –

The United Nations Messenger of Peace and two-time Academy Award winner Michael Douglas today appealed to children from around the world to bring to life their artistic impressions of what a world without nuclear weapons would look like.

Mr. Douglas, who has served as a UN Messenger of Peace since 1998, released a video message in which he called upon young artists from the age of five through 17 to use their creative talents

and draw, paint or sketch their visions of a world without nuclear weapons, bombs or wars for an international art contest.

“Art is the universal language; art speaks to our hearts and minds; art can make a difference and so can you,” Mr. Douglas said in a [video](#) message already airing on UNTV and made available to broadcasters around the globe. In addition, it is available for viewing online.

The contestants are allowed to utilise a wide array of tools – including pens, pencils, crayons, charcoal, oil, acrylic paint or water colours – and are then encouraged to upload their artwork to the initiative’s website, [www.unartforpeace.org](http://www.unartforpeace.org).

In an effort to make the contest truly global, the flyer campaign promoting the initiative to children and teens has already been translated into 22 languages – Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, English, Filipino, Finnish, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

More language versions of the flyer are expected to be added since a call went out encouraging UN staff to help translate the promotional material into as many languages as possible.

News Tracker: past stories on this issue

[Ban hails Latin American nuclear weapon-free zone on 45th anniversary](#)