Mr. President,

I have the honor to introduce, on behalf of the co-sponsors, the draft resolution on "Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace" contained in document A/69/L.34. Bangladesh takes pride to bring this resolution since 2001 at this august Assembly. We are pleased that this resolution has been receiving overwhelming support of Member States and it is adopted every year by consensus.

Mr. President,

A 'Culture of Peace' is very close to all of our heart - a 'culture of peace' is an aspiration of all humanity and it is also the essence of the United Nations Charter. Promoting and inculcating a mindset of a culture of peace is at the core of creative management of differences and divisions. The world today faces too many problems of divisiveness and narrow mindedness that disrupts and derails our shared objective of sustainable peace, stability and progress. Inequalities, discrimination, misunderstanding, intolerance and hatred around the globe are generating new dimensions of conflicts. Undoubtedly, there is an urgency to build and promote a culture of peace across the world, to create a mindset of tolerance, a mindset of respect and love for others; respect for diversities irrespective of caste, creed, color, race, ethnicity and religion. If the world order is to move away from its present pockets of chaotic, uncertain and violent condition, building a culture of peace is the answer. Although we witnessed the completion of a decade for a "Culture of Peace", we need to maintain and strengthen such resolution now even more than we did years back. We have impressive frameworks in papers, but translating these into actions is still a challenging task. Therefore, we still need everyone's strong support and commitment.

Mr. President,

Against this backdrop, my delegation has tabled this annual resolution. We thank the member states and their delegations for their active participation at the negotiation process. We thank them for their valuable inputs and cooperation that enrich this resolution. This year the resolution has been strengthened by incorporating some important references and elements in promoting a culture of peace, for example;

First, it welcomes the successful holding of the High Level Forum convened by the President of the General Assembly of 68th session on 9 September 2014 as envisaged by the UNGA resolutions
68/125 and refers particularly to high level and wide-ranging participation, and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil societies. The resolution also welcomes with appreciation the observance of the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace by the Forum;

Second, the resolution recognizes the role of women and youth in advancing the culture of peace, and in particular, the importance of greater involvement of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in activities promoting a culture of peace, including in post-conflict situations;

Third, the resolution also notes the initiatives of civil society, in collaboration with governments, to strengthen civilian capacities to enhance the physical safety of vulnerable populations under threat of violence and to promote peaceful settlement of disputes;

Fourth, the resolution notes the importance of due consideration to a culture of peace in the post 2015 development agenda.

Fifth, requests the Secretary General to report in the 70th session on activities of Member States and all relevant entities of the UN on the implementation of the Programme of Action on Culture of Peace, within existing budget.

Mr. President,

The High-level Forum organized by the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly on September 9, 2014 provided us with a unique opportunity to bring together the Member States and stakeholders and to reinvigorate our common endeavor for promoting a culture of peace. This Forum was particularly important as it observed the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace and also for its special focus on the role of women and the youth as well as relevance of global citizenship in advancing the culture of peace. The enthusiasm exhibited during the High-level event has inspired the Member States to continue to holding this Forum. Holding such events every year will not necessarily require any additional cost from the UN budget, but it will convey a strong message to the world and especially to the youth that the United Nations is truly committed to nurturing a culture of peace, to help inculcate a mindset of respect and love for fellow human beings away from a mindset of hatred and intolerance, a mindset of misunderstanding, war and violence. We look forward to holding the High Level Forum by the President of the General Assembly in the 69th session and hope that it would have meaningful contribution in furthering a culture of peace for a pro-people, pro-planet, inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world for all.

Mr. President,

This resolution, every year receives support of a large number of Member States. I am pleased to mention that this year around one hundred countries are cosponsoring this important resolution and a significant development this year is that the resolution has received a wide-ranging and cross-regional co-sponsorships. We express our sincere thanks and commendations to all the cosponsors for their support and commitment and particularly to those countries that are cosponsoring the resolution for the first time. It is my belief and hope that one day not only every delegation will come forward to co-sponsor this resolution but more importantly, every nation, every society, every family, every household will practice the spirit and mindset of a 'culture of peace' for our cherished goal of sustainable peace, stability and prosperity across nations.

With this aspiration, I hope, like the past years, we will be able to adopt the draft resolution A/69/L.34 by consensus.

I thank you, Mr. President.