

Healing in a Divided World

PRESIDENTIAL PEACE CONFERENCE

*Hilton Istanbul Bomonti Hotel & Conference Center
Istanbul, Türkiye • 20-22 February 2025*



Register today at rotary.org/istanbul25

Led by Rotary International President **Stephanie A. Urchick**, this presidential peace conference is an opportunity for the Rotary community and our partners to build on Rotary's work in promoting peace by exploring:

- Peace in a polarized world
- Technology, media, and peacebuilding
- Environmental issues in peacebuilding
- Making peace last



The conference also recognizes the opening of the Otto and Fran Walter **Rotary Peace Center** in partnership with **Bahçeşehir University** in Istanbul.



Rotary 

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Stephanie A. Urchick
Rotary International President



Ayça Demet Atay
Near East University,
Rotary Peace Fellow



Mark Daniel Maloney
Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair



Suat Baysan
Past Rotary District Governor



Şafak Alpay
Conference Chair and Past
Rotary International Director



Rose Cardarelli
RI Representative to UNICEF



Heather Ashby
Corner Alliance



Mohamed Delawar
Past Rotary District Governor



Yaşar Atacık
Environmental Sustainability
Rotary Action Group



Nada El Agizy
League of Arab States

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS



Esra Hatipoğlu

President of Bahçeşehir
University



Kumi Naidoo

Human Rights and
Climate Justice Activist



Julie Hawke

Build Up



K.R. Ravindran

Past Rotary International
President



John Hewko

Rotary International
General Secretary and CEO



Elizabeth Spehar

United Nations Assistant
Secretary-General
for Peacebuilding Support



Sheldon Himelfarb

International Panel on the
Information Environment



Yana Abu Taleb

EcoPeace Middle East



Freddy Mutanguha

Kigali Genocide Memorial

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

The schedule includes keynote speakers, panel discussions, and breakout sessions that will:

- Highlight the many ways that Rotary members, program participants, partners, and community leaders can advocate for peace
- Tell stories, share insights, and explore ideas about building peace
- Foster meaningful conversations about promoting peace in our own communities and beyond

All conference programming will take place in the Grand Ballroom, Level M4, Hilton Istanbul Bomonti. The following program is subject to change.

THURSDAY, 20 FEBRUARY

17:00-21:00 **Event Check-In**

19:00-21:00 **Welcome Reception**

FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

07:30-11:00 Event Check-In

09:00-10:30 Opening General Session — Peace in a Polarized World

Masters of Ceremonies

Rotary Peace Fellow Nahla ElShall

Rotaractor and Rotarian Emil Moawad

Speakers

Şafak Alpay

Stephanie A. Urchick

Esra Hatipoğlu

Elizabeth Spehar

Entertainment: Büyükçekmece Municipality Folk Dance Group

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:15 Breakout Sessions

12:15-13:45 Catered Lunch

13:45-15:00 Breakout Sessions

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

**15:30-16:45 General Session 2 — Technology, Media, and Peacebuilding:
From Conflict to Connection**

Speaker

Sheldon Himelfarb

Panel

Moderator: Suat Baysan

Panelists: Heather Ashby, Ayça Demet Atay, Julie Hawke

Entertainment: Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro de Oliveira (cello)

19:00-22:00 Conference Reception & Dinner (ticketed event)

Master of Ceremonies

General Secretary & CEO John Hewko

Entertainment: Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro de Oliveira (cello)

SATURDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

**09:00-10:30 General Session 3 — Sustainable Development:
Environmental Issues in Peacebuilding**

Speakers

Nada El Agizy
Kumi Naidoo
Yana Abu Taleb

Panel

Moderator: Rose Cardarelli
Panelists: Yaşar Atacik, Mohamed Delawar

Entertainment: Rotary Peace Fellow Diego Carneiro de Oliveira (cello)

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:15 Breakout Sessions

12:15-13:45 Catered Lunch

13:45-15:15 Closing General Session: Making Peace Last

Speakers

Mark Daniel Maloney
K.R. Ravindran
Freddy Mutanguha
Stephanie A. Urchick
Şafak Alpay

Entertainment: Mihriban Aviral (flute), Rustam Rahmedov (piano)