

Name of the organization: **MAREA (Movement, Art, Revolution, Expression, Action)**

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Submission to Secretary-General's report on Youth, disarmament, and non-proliferation.

MAREA is a youth-led organization that develops artistic and educational projects focused on social awareness and collective transformation. In 2024, we created Desarme Creativo (Creative Disarmament) with the support of UNODA, as part of the UN Youth Champions for Disarmament initiative. We use art and culture as powerful tools for disarmament, peacebuilding, and social justice.

This program was born out of a deep concern for the lack of meaningful youth and child representation in decision-making spaces; particularly in rural and Indigenous communities where historical, geographic, and cultural inequalities remain deeply rooted.

By working directly with over 300 children and young people in three different states of Mexico, we have facilitated creative workshops that combine disarmament education, mental health tools, and artistic expression. Participants create visual testimonies of their lived experiences; turning their stories, emotions, and demands into artworks that travel beyond their communities.

These artworks are not only shared in national and international forums but also exhibited in cultural venues such as museums and community centers. Through these exhibitions, we aim to amplify their voices to decision-makers, foster public dialogue, and promote access to culture as a fundamental right. Art becomes a universal language that connects local narratives with global conversations on disarmament and peace.

Importantly, this work reaffirms to children and youth that their voices matter. It invites them to reclaim spaces that have historically excluded them and encourages them to believe that their ideas can shape policies and reach places they never imagined.

Through Desarme Creativo, we also raise awareness among audiences who engage with the exhibitions: community members, cultural leaders, and authorities; helping build empathy and a deeper understanding of the realities faced by young people in vulnerable contexts. This creates bridges between communities and institutions, fostering more inclusive and representative processes.

We believe that supporting child and youth participation through culturally rooted, creative approaches is not only an act of justice, it is a necessary strategy for sustainable development. Our work demonstrates that when art and education come together, they can open doors, break silences, and inspire long-term change.

Executive summary of your organization's submission.

MAREA is a youth-led organization based in Mexico that develops artistic, educational, and community-centered projects to promote social awareness, human rights, and collective transformation. We work at the intersection of art, activism, and education on social issues, with a strong focus on the inclusion of historically marginalized voices; particularly children, youth, Indigenous peoples, and rural communities.

Through creative methodologies, we empower young people to express their experiences, challenges, and hopes using artistic tools such as painting, theater, muralism, and audiovisual storytelling. Our programs seek to amplify their voices in spaces where they are rarely heard, connecting local realities to broader conversations on peace, disarmament, mental health, and social justice.

Founded by Meylan Ramos, led by young latinamerican women, MAREA believes in the transformative power of culture and art to challenge inequality and spark systemic change. We promote the right to participate in cultural life and the importance of making art accessible, representative, and rooted in community experiences, where creativity becomes a catalyst for both personal and collective change.

*MAREA Organization wishes their submission to be posted on the ODA website.*

