

DECLARATION OF ALEXANDRIA ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE

Noting that participants of the expert regional meeting on the human right to peace gathered at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria (Egypt), on 7th December 2009 and that the meeting was organised by the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement-Institute for Peace Studies (IPS) and the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) with the support of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and the sponsorship of the Government of Catalonia (Office on the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights and Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, Spain),

Recognizing the progress made on the level of the concept as well as international instruments and institutions with active commitment of the international civil society in its desire to move towards the necessary codification of the human right to peace at the international level,

Welcoming, in this context, the work performed by the SSIHRL since the adoption of the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace on 30 October 2006¹, as well as its leading role in the Global Campaign on the Human Right to Peace (2007-2010), supported by two hundred NGOs around the world,

Acknowledging the Institute for Peace Studies' mandate to promote the Culture of Peace and Human Security with the approach that lies sustainable development to Security, and stressing its role in educating for peace

Acknowledging the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the promotion and protection of peace and all Human Rights: civil, political, economic, social, cultural and the right to development,

Recalling UN General Assembly Resolution 3314 on 14 December 1974, concerning the definition of aggression and emphasising the natural legal right of states to self defense in compliance with the UN Charter,

As a result of our discussions and agreements we adopt the following Declaration:

I. The human right to peace is an integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women and men and should be considered as such by the international community. The human right to peace has a holistic approach, as well as an individual and collective dimension.

¹The Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace was adopted on the 30th of October 2006 by the Spanish Society for the advancement of the International Human Rights Law, with the support of the Agencia Catalana de Cooperacion al Desarrallo de la Generalitat de Catalunya and the collaboration of the Consejeria de Seguridad Publica y Relaciones Exteriores del Principado de Asturias, the University of Oviedo and the Ayuntamiento de Valdes. The full text can be founded at (<http://www.aedidh.org/?q=node/660>)

II. The respect and guarantee of the full enjoyment of the human right to peace is a fundamental prerequisite for the exercise of other human rights, such as civil, economic, political, cultural and social rights, as well as the right to development on the basis of respect of the right of peoples to self determination and to sustainable development.

III. The right to truth, reparation and justice is an essential component of the human right to peace. In particular, victims of human rights violations and international humanitarian law breaches including illegal wars and military occupations, have the right to obtain redress through the right to an effective remedy, guarantees of non repetition, satisfaction and reparation.

IV. Emphasizing the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East, we endorse the right of all peoples to self determination. We reiterate that justice should be a *sin qua non* for peace and security, and support the full implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 529 of 2003².

V. We support the effort to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East as a step toward peace and human security

VI. We take note of the Luarca Declaration and recognize that it has been enriched by contributions from numerous regional expert meetings aiming at taking into account cultural sensitivities of all regions³. The universal declaration on the

²Text of a road map to realize the vision of two States, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security, as affirmed by the Security Council resolution 1397 (2002). The text was prepared by the Quartet -USA, the European Union, Russian Federation and the United Nations-

³ International conferences and regional meetings conducted by SSIHRL:

Geneva (World Conference of NGOs for the Reform of International Institutions, November 2006), Mexico (December 2006), Bogota, Barcelona and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2007), Caracas and Santo Domingo (2007), Morelia (Mexico), Bogota, Oviedo, and Santa Fe (New Mexico, United States) (2007), Washington, Nairobi, Kenya and Geneva (June 2007), Feldkirch, Austria (August 2007), Geneva (11, 12 and September 21, 2007), Luarca (September 28, 2007), Madrid (October 23, 2007), Monterrey (1 November 2007), Mexico City, Geneva, Las Palmas of Canary Island, Zaragoza and Navia, Asturias (2007), during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women of the UN, New York (February 2008) Parliament of Catalonia, Barcelona, Geneva, Dakar, Madrid, Valencia (April 2008), Rome and Gwangju, Republic of Korea (May 2008), Bilbao and Geneva (June 2008), Geneva and Cartagena (July 2008), Paris, Toledo, Geneva, Zaragoza, Montevideo and (September 2008), Oviedo, Alcalá, Turin, New York-Vitoria and Basque Parliament (October 2008), La Plata and Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Bosco Marengo, Italy (November 2008), Luxembourg, Geneva and Barcelona (December 2008), Geneva and Barcelona (January 2009), Yaounde, Cameroon (February 2009), Geneva and New York (March 2009), Johannesburg, Seville, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela and Bangkok (April 2009), Trevi, Italy, Mexico and Seville (May 2009), Geneva (June 2009), City of Mexico and Morelia (July 2009), Donostia-San Sebastian (August 2009), Geneva and Valdés (September 2009), Caso, Cangas de Onís and Alcalá de Henares, Sarajevo (October 2009), Las Palmas of Canary Island, University of Berkeley and Geneva (November 2009)

Acknowledging the adoption of the regional Declarations on the Human Right to Peace of La Plata (Argentina, November 2008), Yaounde

human right to peace for which we are striving should be compatible with the concept of universality, interdependence, indivisibility and inalienability of all human rights recognized by international instruments. Furthermore, the gender perspective and human rights of women are indispensable to the task of the Luarca Declaration.

VII. We support the SSIHRL's launching of the **International Congress on the Human Right to Peace** of civil society, scheduled on 9-10 December 2010 during the World Social Forum on the Education to Peace ("2010 Forum"), to be held in Santiago de Compostela (Spain). The International Congress will be invited to discuss and adopt the final draft Declaration on the Human Right to Peace that should satisfy the expectations of the international civil society.

VIII. We also urge the General Assembly of the United Nations to take note of the efforts made by international civil society, and to ask the Human Rights Council to initiate as soon as possible the process of the official codification of the human right to peace. The official codification should finalize with the adoption by the General Assembly of the *Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*.

IX. We particularly welcome the Human Rights Council resolution 11/4, adopted on 17 June 2009 and its Advisory Committee recommendation 3/5, adopted on 7 August 2009, by which they requested the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize an **expert workshop on the right of people to peace**, to be held on 15 and 16 December 2010. We therefore invite all international actors to fully participate in the expert workshop.

X. We agree to adopt the following additional measures:

1. To disseminate widely the "Declaration of Alexandria on the Human Right to Peace" to civil society, academic, governmental, intergovernmental, national and international organisations, and to submit it to the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the UN Human Rights Council.

2. To appeal to all international stakeholders and people of goodwill to support the international codification of human right to peace, to join the **World Alliance on the Human Right to Peace**, as launched by SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea on the occasion of the International Day of Peace (www.aedidh.org)

Alexandria, Egypt, 7th December 2009

(Cameroon, February 2009), Bangkok (Thailand, April 2009), Johannesburg (South Africa, April 2009) and Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 2009) by experts of the international civil society

Signatories:

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2. **Hind Hanafi**, President of Alexandria University
2. **Ahmed Hindi**, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Alexandria University
3. **Adel Thabet**, Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Alexandria
4. **Wael El Assad**, Ambassador, Arab League, Director of the Multilateral Relations Department
5. **Nabil Hilmy**, Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Zakakik University and member of the National council for human rights
6. **Nagwa Shoeb**, Executive Director, The Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement Women's
7. **Hagar Islambouly**, Ambassador, Director, External Relations of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
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25. **Abdo Abdel Aziz Hamada**, staff of the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information
26. **Saeed al Mousawi**, Director of the Monitoring Net of Human Rights in Irak
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