

MORPHOU DECLARATION ON THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE

Noting that participants of the **International Association of Peace Messenger Cities** (IAPMC) 23rd General Assembly gathered in Limassol (Cyprus) on 7 October 2010 with the support of the Municipality of Morphou (Cyprus) to discuss the topic of "human rights for freedom, security and peace", have decided to convene an special session on the World Campaign for the Human Right to Peace, as conducted by the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL),

Acknowledging the IAPMC's mandate to promote understanding between peoples; to enable the promotion of solidarity between them; to spread the spirit of peace, tolerance and mutual respect; to combat war, hunger and natural disasters in the service of mankind in dignity and respect, to make our governments understand that nuclear disarmament is of primary necessity, as also human rights, liberty and the free circulation of individuals,

Recognizing the conceptual progress made, as well as the development of 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,

Recognizing the pioneering role of the SSIHRL crystallized in the *Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*, adopted on 30 October 2006 by an independent expert drafting Committee,

Welcoming the work carried out by the SSIHRL since the adoption of the *Luarca Declaration* in the context of its World Campaign for the Human Right to Peace (2007-2010) supported by more than 800 NGOs around the world, through which the *Luarca Declaration* has been shared and discussed by independent experts in twenty meetings held in the five regions of the world,

Welcoming the regional and international contributions to the *Luarca Declaration* encapsulated in the regional Declarations on the Human Right to Peace adopted by experts of civil society in La Plata, Argentina (November 2008), Yaoundé, Cameroon (February 2009), Bangkok, Thailand (April 2009), Johannesburg, South Africa (April 2009), Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina (October 2009), Alexandria, Egypt (December 2009) and Havana, Cuba (January 2010),

Recognizing the *Bilbao Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*, adopted on 24 February 2010 by a technical expert drafting Committee, in which inputs received from the different cultural sensitivities of all regions of the world was incorporated,

Acknowledging resolution 406/VIII of the Parliament of Catalonia adopted by the Committee on Cooperation and Solidarity on 26 February 2009; the Declaration adopted by the regional Parliament of the Principality of Asturias on 9 October 2009; the Agreement by the Executive Commission of the Asturian Federation of City Councils on 10 July 2009; and the Agreement by the Cabildo de Gran Canaria of 26 March 2010, by which they adhered to the *Luarca Declaration* and decided to request the State authorities to support the official codification of the human right to peace at the international level,

Welcoming the Declaration by the Ombudsmen Assembly of Argentina of 11 August 2010, in which they joined the World Alliance for the Human Right to Peace; urged other similar Associations of the Continent to show their solidarity and commitment to this valuable and necessary initiative carried out by the international civil society; and requested the Government of Argentina to join the Group of Friends States supporting the international codification process of the human right to peace,

Welcoming the awareness campaign on the human right to peace carried out by the SSIHRL and its associated NGOs since 2007 before the Human Rights Council and other relevant United Nations bodies; recognizing in particular the importance of the fourteen joint written and oral statements on the content and specific aspects of the human right to peace endorsed by more than 800 NGOs worldwide, which are now part of the official documents of the Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee,

Congratulating the SSIHRL for having launched on 19 September 2008, at the occasion of the official commemoration of World Peace Day at the United Nations, a solemn call to all international actors to adhere to the **World Alliance for the Human Right to Peace**,

Welcoming that the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights has convened the workshop on the right of peoples to peace held on 15-16 December 2009 in Geneva; and the workshop's recommendation that the Human Rights Council should establish an open-ended working group with the task of initiating the official codification of the *human right to peace*,

Welcoming the Human Rights Council resolution 14/3, adopted on 17 June 2010, which explicitly recognized "... the important work being carried out by civil society organizations for the promotion of the right of peoples to peace and the codification of that right"; and "supported the need to further promote the realization of the right of peoples to peace"; it therefore requested "the Advisory Committee, in consultation with Member States, civil society, academia and all relevant stakeholders, to prepare a draft declaration *on the right of peoples to peace*, and to report on the progress thereon to the HR Council at its seventeenth session".

Welcoming the Advisory Committee recommendation 5/2, adopted on 6 August 2010, by which it established the drafting group of four members to prepare by January 2011 a draft declaration on *the right of peoples to peace*.

Congratulating the SSIHRL for the organisation of the International Drafting Committee of ten independent experts from the five regions of the world who approved on 2 June 2010 the *Barcelona Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*, by which it acknowledged the international authority of both the *Luarca* and *Bilbao* Declarations,

Welcoming the SSIHRL intention to submit the *Barcelona Declaration* to discussion by the **International Congress on the Human Right to Peace**, to be organized in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on 9-10 December 2010 at the occasion of the World Social Forum on Education to Peace ("Forum 2010"); and that international civil society shall be invited to discuss and adopt a final text of Declaration and to establish the *International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace* in the framework of the SSIHRL,

Noting that the *Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*, which is expected to be adopted on 10 December 2010, shall be submitted by the SSIHRL and its associated NGOs to the Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee in 2011, urging Member States and experts to continue the official codification of the human right to peace, initiated on 17 June 2010 with the adoption of HR Council resolution 14/3,

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

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

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, namely: civil, economic, political, cultural and social rights, as well as the right to development.

III. The right to truth, reparation and justice is a component of the human right to peace, in the context of the *Luarca*, *Bilbao* and *Barcelona* Declarations on the Human Right to Peace. In particular, victims of human rights and international humanitarian law violations have the right to obtain redress through the right to an effective remedy, guarantees against non repetition, satisfaction and reparation.

IV. We fully support the *Luarca*, *Bilbao* and *Barcelona* Declarations on the Human Right to Peace, adopted by independent expert Committees.

V. We recognise that the Declarations have been enriched by contributions from numerous regional expert meetings aiming at taking into account cultural sensitivities of all regions. The outcome universal declaration on the human right to peace should be compatible with the concept of unrestricted universality, interdependence, indivisibility and inalienability of all human rights recognized by international instruments. Furthermore, gender perspective and human rights of women are indispensable to the hermeneutic task of the three Declarations.

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

VII. We also urge the Human Rights Council to take note of the efforts made by international civil society, and to take into consideration the *Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*, expected to be adopted on 10 December 2010, in the context of the official codification of the right to peace, as initiated in 2010 by Human Rights Council resolution 14/3 and Advisory Committee recommendation 5/2.

VIII. We request the General Assembly of the United Nations, upon request by the Human Rights Council, to finally adopt the Universal Declaration of the Human Right to Peace.

IX. We agree to adopt the following additional measures:

1. To enact the "Morphou Declaration on the Human Right to Peace";
2. To invite any person or entity and any international actor who may agree with its contents, to adhere to it;
3. To submit the Morphou Declaration to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Human Rights Council, the President of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, requesting that the United Nations actively support the official codification of the human right to peace.
4. To make efforts to ensure that the Morphou Declaration be disseminated within the allied Cities to civil society, media, professionals and academics, inviting them to implement in their local practices values inherent to the human right to peace.
5. To appeal all international actors and people of goodwill in favour of the international codification of the human right to peace to join the **World Alliance on the Human Right to Peace**, as launched by the SSIHRL at www.aedidh.org
6. To invite allied Cities to send their representatives to the **International Congress on the Human Right to Peace**, to be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain on 9-10 December 2010.

Morphou, 7 October 2010