

UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 55)
EXPERT MEETING ON
“WOMEN & THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE”



United Nations Headquarters North Lawn Building - Conference Room A

New York, 24 February 2011

Moderator: Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations & President of the
UN Security Council (March 2000 & June 2001)

Rapporteur: Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, representative of the SSIHRL,
IOHRP and IAPMC in Geneva

Organizers:
Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL)
and Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)

Sponsorship:
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York



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Spanish Society for the International Human Rights Law

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1. Overview

The Commission on the Status of Women (hereafter referred to as “CSW” or “the Commission”) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of Member States gather at United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.

The Commission was established by ECOSOC resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946 with the aim to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights.

The fifty-fifth session of the CSW took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from Tuesday, 22 February to Friday, 4 March 2011.

2. Introduction

The panel on women and the human right to peace, which took place in the United Nations Headquarters (New York) on 24 February 2011, was co-organized by the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) and the Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) and sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, which provided both logistical and practical support.

The main objectives of the panel were:

- To share the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace with civil society, international organisations, and academics attending the CSW (55)
- To introduce the statutes of the International Observatory on the Human Right to Peace to the civil society organizations and invite them to join this new CSO body.
- To examine the current codification process of the right to peace at the Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee, and in particular the HRC resolution 14/3, of 17 June 2010 and the AC recommendation 5/2, of 6 August 2010 and the recommendation 6/3, of 21 January 2011.



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- To study the role played by women movements in the development and promotion of the human right to peace in both Asia, Europe and Africa.
- To analyse the linkage between the women contribution in the field of peace-building and their participation at all levels of decision-making and its relationship with the human right to peace.
- To examine the GA in its resolutions 3519 of 1975 and 3763 of 1982; and the SC in its resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009).

The Panel's working language was English. It was held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m at the United Nations Headquarters North Lawn Building (Conference Room A) with the following programme:

- First part: Introduction by the moderator, Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury
- Second part: Strengths of the Santiago Declaration aimed at building a sustainable peace from the gender perspective and the role of the International Observatory on the human right to peace as a means to promote the gender equality
- Conclusions: global assesment of the session

The meeting was attended by more than 50 civil representatives and observers from civil society, academia and inter-governmental organizations.

3. Panellists

Under the efficient moderation of Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, the guests specially invited to analyse the linkage between women and the human right to peace were as follows:

- H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations
- Ms. Cora Weiss, President of The Hague Appeal for Peace
- Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Representative of the SSIHRL in Geneva



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- Ms. Bineta Diop, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS), Co-Chair, Civil Society Advisory Group to the UN on Women and Peace & Security
- Ms. Lois A. Herman, Coordinator, Women's UN Report Network-WUNRN
- Ms. Mikiko Otani, Attorney & International Human Rights Lawyer

4. Presentations

Ambassador **Anwarul K. Chowdhury** welcomed participants, stating that it was a privilege for him to moderate the meeting. He declared that it was very encouraging to observe the strong commitment from civil society -900=of civil society organizations-, which has been playing a key role in promoting the human right to peace, to this theme. He thanked the SSIHRL and WUNRN for convening the panel on women and the human right to peace with the sponsorship of the Permanent Mission on Bangladesh.

The first speaker to take the floor was H.E. Dr. A.K. **Abdul Momen**, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations. As Ambassador stated, the protection of human rights of women, girls and children, as well as the elimination of all forms of violence against them and their use as a weapon of war, is important to guarantee peace and security. He recalled that Bangladesh during its Presidency of the UN Security Council in March 2000 steered the adoption of the Security Council's consensus statement which achieved the conceptual and political breakthrough that led to the adoption of its landmark Resolution 1325 later in October 2000. The ambassador paid special attention to gender mainstreaming in the field of peace-building. He welcome the proposals contained in the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace as well as the previous Declarations approved in Luarca, Bilbao and Barcelona. At the end of his statement, he stated that despite many limitations and varied challenges of Bangladesh, including poverty, negative effects of climate change, resource constraints, Bangladesh is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and peace as well as vulnerable population specially women and children worldwide (the full text of the statement can be found in Annex I).

The next speaker was Ms. **Cora Weiss**, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace. She commenced by stating the Declaration on the Human Right to Peace fits into the revolutionary atmosphere we are living in today. She proposed organize their own working groups on the HR to Peace in every country and monitor, and refer to the statutes of the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace. Besides, she pointed out some



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important articles contained in the Santiago Declaration, mainly: the right to inherent dignity, the prohibition of the glorification of war, the gender approach in the peacebuilding processes, the prohibition of discrimination on the ground of gender, the right to education, the right to disarmament or the accountability of mercenaries and private contractors. At the end of her presentation, she proposed that the Declaration on the Human Right to Peace be printed in the same size as the UN Charter, UDHR, HAP Agenda, and US Constitution (the full text of the statement can be found in Annex II).

The next speaker was Mr. **David Fernandez Puyana**, representative of the SSIHRL, the IOHRP and IAPMC in Geneva. He recalled that the *International Congress on the Human Right to Peace*, which took place in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in the context of the World Social Forum on Education for Peace, approved on 10 December 2010 by consensus two important resolutions, the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace and the Statutes of the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace. He also stated the structure and main purposes of the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace. After he recalled that the Human Rights Council resolution 14/3 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". Moreover, it "supported the need to further promote the realization of the right of peoples to peace". In that regard it 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. Therefore, the Advisory Committee (recommendation 5/2, of 6 August 2010) established a *drafting group* of four members which submitted their progress report to the Advisory Committee in January 2011. He indicated that the progress report recognised that the contribution of women to the cause of peace is fundamental to the full development of a country and world-wide welfare. By recommendation 6/3, of 21 January 2011, the Advisory Committee took note of the progress report; increased to six the members the drafting group; and requested it to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all the stakeholders, asking for their input. He finalized by indicating that the SSIHRL and associated CSO welcomed that the proposals of the progress report were also found in the *Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*. However, he added that the *Santiago Declaration* addressed other issues that should be included in the future UN declaration (the full text of the statement can be found in Annex III).

The floor was next taken by Ms. **Bineta Diop**, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS). She affirmed that the Right to Peace is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as fundamental to human existence and is articulated in civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. In the African context, she stated that the mechanisms that protect the right to peace for



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women can be found in legal instruments such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol, article 10). She added that in the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325, prevention will help reinforce the rights to women and that peace as a human right could help to reinforce the prevention of wars, among other matters (the full text of the statement can be found in Annex IV).

Ms **Lois Herman**, Coordinator, Women's UN Report Network-WUNRN, took the floor next and expressed her utmost respect for what is being done, in particular she described the effects of war on women and acknowledged role lead by Ambassador Mr. Chowdury in the adoption of the Security Council resolution 1325. She showed a powerful powerpoint on women in the frontlines of war, in which appears many faces of women and how the fundamental rights and freedoms of women are violated during or after an armed conflict. She focused her attention in widows, gas attack in Afghanistan against girls in the school, the mothers and grandmothers of the May Square in Argentina, girls child soldiers, missing family members in Chechnya, the cases on women in Burma pending at International Criminal Court, the situation of women in the refugee camps or in Somalia, Iraq, Sudan, Congo. She calls upon States to promote and respect the Security Council resolutions 1325, 1888 and 1889 on women, peace and security (to see the full powerpoint presentation, please, go at http://www.wunrn.com/powerpoint/wrp_11.pps)

The last speaker was Ms. **Mikiko Otani**, Attorney & International Human Rights Lawyer. She started her presentation indicating that the concept of peace is found in various international documents as well as in the constitutions of some countries, such as the Preamble and article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, which proclaimed the right to live in peace. She also stated that the Asian Human Rights Charter, adopted by civil society after inclusive three-year consultation process involving over 200 NGOs and individuals in the region, proclaimed that "all persons have the right to live in peace". She recalled The need of women's equal participation and their full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security as reaffirmed in the historic Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security. As Ms Otani proposed, it is crucial to depart the old expression of "the right of peoples to peace" and present the "human right to peace" with a fresh look, which covers both the individual and collective rights dimensions. Finally, she indicated that the adoption of the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace created momentum for further concerted actions by the global alliance involving women and men in all regions (the full text of the statement can be found in Annex V).



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Ambassador **Anwarul K. Chowdhury** in the name of the organizers of the meeting, thanked all participants for their valuable contributions to the meeting. He stated that the discussions had been very productive and important, and had dealt with the different perspectives of gender approach with special focus on both Asia and Africa. The interventions had highlighted the linkage between human right to peace and women. He also thanked the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh for their sponsorship. He concluded by expressing the hope that participants would continue to be involved in the drafting process under the umbrella of the Human Rights Council which is an on-going effort.



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ANNEX I

Dr. Ak Abdul Momen
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN

Mr. Moderator, Distinguished Panellists, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen

I thank the cosponsors of today's event, the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) and Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) for encouraging us in organizing this program.

To protect the human rights of women, girls and children, as well as to eliminate all forms of violence against them and their use as a weapon of war, one needs to guarantee peace and security. Bangladesh is committed to uphold this spirit. During its liberation war in 1971, it experienced that women and girls were the worst victims and therefore, to have sustaining peace and development, it is essential to involve women in the decision making process, it is imperative to have their perspective, full participation and ownership of the process. Not to involve women is not fair and also unwise. We also believe that women are agents of development. Inspired by this perspective Bangladesh during its Presidency of the UN Security Council steered the adoption of the Security Council Resolution no 1325 in 2000. And I must salute the Moderator of today's event, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, my predecessor who led the process as the President of the Security Council at that time.

We strongly feel that states should pay special attention to gender mainstreaming in the field of peace-building. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 and the Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009) mandated women's participation at all levels of decision-making on peace, disarmament and security issues, as well as the need to perform a gender analysis and ensure gender justice in all situations of armed conflicts. Although resolutions have been passed but to get them implemented in the field needs support and push from the civil society and the like, and I welcome you to continue your hard work till these are fully realized.

Ladies and gentlemen,



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We also welcome the proposals contained in the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace as well as the previous Declarations approved in Luarca, Bilbao and Barcelona. The Santiago Declaration, addresses, inter alia, the following: I quote,

a) To consolidate the human right to peace in its double dimension -individual and collective- as a means to foster the right to self determination of peoples and all human rights, including the right to development.

b) To recognize the close relationship between human right to peace and integrity, liberty and security of the person and the refugees law; physical and mental health and well-being; the need to protect victims from uncontrolled weapons of mass destruction and from conventional weapons, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and sexual violence and ensure redress for the victims; to strengthen the exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic rights to enhance social justice, equity and gender equality, and the elimination of extreme poverty, to enable solidarity, peace and friendly relations among all nations, races, ethnicities or religions.

c) To stress that the human right to peace includes the rights to environment and to education on and for peace and all other human rights, as well as the construction of democratic, egalitarian and multicultural societies; and to defend the dialogue and peaceful coexistence among cultures, civilizations and religions or belief, to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Ever since its independence of Bangladesh, it has been endeavouring to ensure the fundamental rights of its citizens, as enshrined in our Constitution. The Constitution of Bangladesh embodies the principles and provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It guarantees the universal, inalienable and inherent human rights and fundamental freedom to all of its citizens without any discrimination of race, religion, caste, color and gender. It has special provisions for the rights of women, children, minorities and other vulnerable sections of the populations.

Bangladesh has already become party to most of the universal human rights instruments, a testimony to her commitment to promote and protect human rights at home and abroad.



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Bangladesh became a member of the Executive Board of UN Women for the term 2011-12. As a member of the UN Human Rights Council, Bangladesh remains engaged in constructive dialogue with the international community in espousing the cause of human rights. In 2010, the National Parliament passed the Human Rights Commission Bill. The Bill empowers the National Human Rights Commission to summon people in person while investigating allegations of rights violation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

While mentioning our efforts to uphold our importance on women and human rights to peace, we acknowledge that we have much to do in future. Despite our many limitations and varied challenges, including poverty, negative effects of climate change, resource constraints, Bangladesh is committed to the protection and promotion of human rights and peace as well as vulnerable population specially women and children worldwide. It is currently the largest contributor to UN Peacekeeping forces to uphold peace and stability.

I thank you.



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ANNEX II

Ms. Cora Weiss

President of the Hague Appeal for Peace

The Declaration on the Human Right to Peace is very welcome. It fits into the revolutionary atmosphere we are living in today with popular uprisings against decades of despotic dictators. We don't know what will happen in the Middle East. We don't know what will happen to this remarkable Declaration. Like the Middle East, the Declaration is a civil society initiative. And like the Middle East, it is a dream. But as Eleanor Roosevelt once said, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." The former Archbishop of Recife, Brazil, Dom Helder Camara, followed by saying, "When we dream alone it is just a dream, but when we dream together it becomes reality."

So, if we work on this Declaration together it can become reality. But if it doesn't get passed by the UN, civil society can and should adopt it and use it.

Constitutions are being written and amended; this Declaration is food for constitutions. We could organize our own working groups on the HR to Peace in every country. We can be monitors, and refer to the statutes of the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace. We could bring this Declaration to our local governments, mayors, and have it grow from the ground up. It gives us an opportunity to hold discussions with people in the environmental movements, the women's movements, human rights organizations, disarmament and anti-nuclear groups. We live in a very splintered world when it comes to social and political organizing. We have a movement or support group for practically every condition. This Declaration can bring us together. We need that.

This is the most genderized document, not focused on women, to come into this house. It must be a model for future resolutions.

1. It offers the most holistic and far reaching definition of Peace.
2. The first key is the right to inherent dignity, we must never humiliate or marginalize or put people down because of their gender, beliefs, color, economic or educational status, etc.
3. It prohibits the glorification of war.

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4. Para.#19. Acknowledges the contribution of women to peace processes and the importance of their(our) participation at all levels of decision making as recognized by SC 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889. Emphasizes the full and effective implementation of Res 1325 on women peace and security.
5. Para.#20. Peace is a shared responsibility of women and men and civil society;
6. The right to peace is to be implemented without distinction or discrimination for reasons of gender or sexual orientation.
7. Peace is a Human Right, and we have the right to peace and human rights education. We are to educate for peace, to unlearn war. Individuals have a right to receive education on and for peace and human rights.
8. The Declaration covers impunity of mercenaries and private contractors...would apply to the current crisis brewing in Pakistan over the contractor for the CIA accused of killing 2 Pakistanis...;
9. It recognizes the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century, and the Earth Charter;
10. The Declaration speaks of rights for gender based differences, and sexual orientation.
11. Art 4. Prohibits weapons that harm the environment including radioactive weapons.

Art 7.1 calls for the Right to disarmament, Art. 7.2 addresses the use of resources freed by disarmament to be allocated for social and economic development (we called that conversion years ago) Art. 7.3 says we must refrain from private contractors for security functions.

The Declaration covers impunity of mercenaries and private contractors. It would apply to the crisis brewing in Pakistan now over the contractor for the CIA accused of killing 2 Pakistanis.

It recognizes the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice for the 21st Century and the Earth Charter.



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Have you seen what the UN Charter, The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Hague Agenda for Peace and Justice and the US Constitution have in common? They are all printed as pocket sized booklets.

This Declaration on the Human Right to Peace should be printed in the same size as the UN Charter, UDHR, HAP Agenda, and US Constitution...pocket sized, handy, easy to reach for and easy to read.

We should try to prevent this Declaration from being tagged as a human rights declaration or a peace declaration.

It is a Declaration for the democratic survival of humanity.



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ANNEX III

Mr. David Fernandez Puyana

Representative of the SSIHRL and IAPMC in Geneva

The establishment of the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace and the international codification process: A gender approach

Thank you, Mr. Chair-person.

Distinguished Ambassadors,

Panelists,

Representatives of civil society organizations,

Colleagues and friends,

I

The Spanish Society for the International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) would like to acknowledge the valuable partnership of the Women's UN Report Network at the organization of this expert meeting; and to thank to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh for its sponsorship.

The SSIHRL welcomed the *International Congress on the Human Right to Peace*, which took place in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) in the context of the World Social Forum on Education for Peace. It approved on 10 December 2010 by consensus two important resolutions:

Firstly, the ***Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace***, which translates into a legal text the peace aspirations of the international civil society. It also paves the way to the official codification of the human right to peace within the UN.

Secondly, the Statutes of the ***International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace***. It will be operative as from 10 March 2011, integrated within the SSIHRL. Therefore,



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it will benefit from the wide experience of the four-year World Campaign on the human right to peace, which has received the support of more than 900 civil society organizations world-wide, as well as numerous public institutions. However, to preserve its autonomy the Observatory will enjoy its own structure, composed of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee, the Bureau and the International Secretariat.

The Observatory will network with local CSO interested in the promotion and defence of human rights, particularly human right to peace. The CSO that are part of the World Alliance on the Human Right to Peace will be especially invited to formalize their incorporation into the General Assembly of the Observatory.

The main purposes of the Observatory shall be the promotion and implementation of the *Santiago Declaration*, as well as to monitor the codification process of the human right to peace within the UN, to ensure that the General Assembly would adopt a Universal Declaration taking duly into account the *Santiago Declaration* and its preparatory work.

Furthermore, the Observatory will prepare field reports; develop reliable indicators to measure the States and other international actors' compliance with the human right to peace in accordance with the normative content of the *Santiago Declaration*; and publish reports on situations of serious, massive and systematic violations of the human right to peace.

Finally, the Observatory is expected to assist States and international Organizations to focus on the development of the three pillars on which the Charter of the United Nations is based, namely: the system of collective security which prohibits the threat or use of force, and promote the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law; the economic and social development of peoples; and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without discrimination. Under these three pillars the human right to peace will be built.

II

The **Human Rights Council** has been working since 2008 on the "Promotion of the right of peoples to peace". On 17 June 2010 it adopted resolution 14/3 explicitly recognizing "... 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". Moreover, it "supported the need to further promote the realization of the right of peoples to peace". In that regard it requested "the Advisory Committee, in consultation with Member States, civil society, academia and all relevant stakeholders, to prepare a **draft declaration on the right**



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of peoples to peace, and to report on the progress thereon to the Council at its seventeenth session".

Therefore, the **Advisory Committee** (recommendation 5/2, of 6 August 2010) established a *drafting group* of four members which submitted their **progress report** to the Advisory Committee in January 2011. By recommendation 6/3, of 21 January 2011, the Advisory Committee took note of the progress report; increased to six the members the drafting group; and requested it to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all the stakeholders, asking for their input. In the light of the comments to be received, the drafting group will submit in January 2012 a draft declaration to the Advisory Committee. Its progress report will also be discussed by the HR Council at its seventeenth session (June 2011).

The **progress report** recognised the important contribution of civil society to the international codification of the right to peace within the United Nations, paying tribute particularly to the World Campaign on the human right to peace carried out by the SSIHRL with the support of more than 900 CSO.

As the *Santiago Declaration*, the progress report suggested to consider peace as the absence of organised violence, the effective protection of human rights, gender equality and social justice, economic well being and free expression of different cultural values, without discrimination. Consequently, it proposed nine guiding dimensions to be included in the future draft declaration¹. Additionally, it recognized that the right to peace has a double dimension -individual and collective-, and that the duty-holders of the right are both peoples and individuals. Besides, it noted that the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of the right to peace requires the application and respect of all human rights for all.

Finally, the progress report recognised that the **contribution of women** to the cause of peace is fundamental to the full development of a country and world-wide welfare. Therefore, all international actors should empower women in their contribution to building, consolidating and maintaining peace after conflicts and to participate at all levels of decision-making process on peace and security issues. To this purpose the gender perspective should be incorporated into a comprehensive peace and human rights education. Furthermore, national laws and policies discriminatory against women should

¹The nine guiding dimensions are as follows: peace as a right of all peoples; disarmament; human security and respect of our environment; resistance to oppression; conscientious objection; private military and security forces; education; development; the rights of victims and vulnerable groups; the obligations of States; and the monitoring and implementation of the right of peoples to peace.

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be reviewed, and legislation addressing domestic violence, trafficking of women and girls and gender-based violence should be adopted.

III

The SSIHRL and associated CSO welcome that the proposals of the progress report were also found in the *Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace*. However, the *Santiago Declaration* addressed other issues that should be included in the future UN declaration, namely:

1. To consolidate the human right to peace in its double dimension -individual and collective- as a means to foster the right to self determination of peoples and all human rights, including the right to development
2. To recognize the close relationship between human right to peace and integrity, liberty and security of the person and the refugees law; physical and mental health and well-being; the need to protect victims from uncontrolled weapons of mass destruction and from conventional weapons, genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and sexual violence and ensure redress for the victims
3. To strengthen the exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic rights to enhance social justice, equity and gender equality, and the elimination of extreme poverty, to enable solidarity, peace and friendly relations among all nations, races, ethnicities or religions.
4. To stress that the human right to peace includes the rights to environment and to education on and for peace and all other human rights, as well as the construction of democratic, egalitarian and multicultural societies.
5. To defend the dialogue and peaceful coexistence among cultures, civilizations and religions or belief, to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
6. To identify further measures to implement the human right to peace in accordance with the UN Charter, the UDHR and the international and regional human rights instruments.
And,
7. To recognize women contribution in the field of peace-building and to stress the importance of their participation at all levels of decision-making, as affirmed by the GA in its resolutions 3519 of 1975 and 3763 of 1982; and by the SC in its resolutions 1325



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(2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009); and to claim a full and effective implementation of the SC resolution 1325 on women and peace and security.

Thank you, Mr. Chair-person.



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ANNEX IV

Madame Bineta Diop

Executive director and Founder of Femmes Africa Solidarite

H.E. Dr. Abdul Momen,

Ms. Cora Weiss,

Mr. David Fernandez Puyana,

Ms. Lois A. Herman,

Ms. Mikiko Otani,

Chairperson Ambassador Chowdhury,

Distinguished Guests,

It is a pleasure to address this audience. Let me again express my thanks to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh, the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, and the Women's UN Report Network for the invitation to speak on this important topic on Women and the Human Right to Peace.

Indeed the Right to Peace is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as fundamental to human existence and is articulated in civil and political rights on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other.

However, despite the existence of these rights, the right to peace and respect for human rights continue to be the biggest challenges for humanity. And in particular, respect for women's human rights.

In the African context, the mechanisms that protect the right to peace for women can be found in legal instruments such as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol). Article 10 on the Right To Peace states that

“Women have the right to a peaceful existence and the right to participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace.”



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There have been other landmark instruments, such as the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, which pushes for parity as a means of getting women's human rights issues to the forefront.

The right to peace exists in general but has not been articulated or fleshed out as the Right to food, the Right to development, the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, etc.

United Nations Security Council 1325 uses a rights-based approach to connect the right to peace to women's human rights.

In the implementation of 1325, prevention will help reinforce the rights to women. The best way to protect is to prevent. The best way to protect is to participate. Yesterday, my organization, Femmes Africa Solidarité, launched a book that highlights different mechanisms of prevention, early warning and human rights in Africa, and how women can effectively utilise these mechanisms to foster their protection.

We would like to commend the efforts of the International Congress on the Human Right to Peace on the Santiago Declaration on the human right to peace and on the establishment of an International Observatory on the Human Right to Peace. As a result, we are one step closer to an articulated universal framework on the right to peace.

Peace as a human right can help:

- Prevent wars;
- Address the roots of conflict (inequalities and lack of effective justice mechanisms);
- Monitor those who create conflict; and
- Bring perpetrators to justice.

Thank you.



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ANNEX V

Ms. Mikiko Otani

Attorney & International Human Rights Lawyer

It is a privilege to be part of this panel and given an opportunity to add some Asian perspective to the discussions on this important topic for us.

Quest for peace is found in various international documents as well as in the constitutions of some countries. Allow me to quote a paragraph from one of such constitutions, which I am familiar with. The Preamble of the Constitution of Japan proclaimed the right to live in peace almost six-five years ago. The paragraph reads “We have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.”

The right to live in peace, together with the Article 9 of the Constitution on renunciation of war, has always received strong support and inspired the movement of civil society and lawyers to materialize this right in our lives in the contexts such as objection against the self-defense force and its dispatch to Iraq, protest to the US military presence in Okinawa and call for abolition of nuclear weapons. While the Japanese government has expressed hesitation to accept the right to peace as an international legal norm, the Japan Federation of Bar Associations and other lawyers’ groups in Japan have reaffirmed the increasing significance of the right to live in peace in the contemporary world.

Looking beyond at the Asia Pacific region, people have struggled for human right to peace in their national contexts and sometimes with the regional or even international dimensions. Call for recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military service has been one of the long outstanding human rights issues in Korea. The World Court Project that led to the Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons was initiated by a civil society group including a woman peace activist in New Zealand. The Asian Human Rights Charter, adopted by civil society after inclusive three-year consultation process involving over 200 NGOs and individuals in the region, proclaimed that “all persons have the right to live in peace”.

We already have strong support of civil society for the human right to peace in the Asia-Pacific region. What we need, however, is to connect existing regional, national and



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local initiatives for the human right to peace to the global alliance and mobilize conscious people to join the global movement to assert the human right to peace in a concrete legal term at the international level.

To this end, I believe that women should play active roles.

The preamble of the CEDAW, Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, recognizes the importance of women's participation in various fields in realizing the potentialities of women in the service of humanity. It also stresses that "the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields".

The need of women's equal participation and their full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security is reaffirmed in more powerful terms in the historic Security Council Resolution 1325 Women and Peace and Security.

Women are not just victims of armed conflict and violence. Women are not just passive beneficiaries of the human rights norms and mechanisms. Women should be active agents for norm-setting at the international level. As a matter of fact, women have already proved their potential and competence to contribute to setting and strengthening norms and the mechanisms for their implementation.

Women appealed to the world that women's rights are human rights when we felt women were not protected from human rights violation. Women successfully claimed that violence against women is an unacceptable form of discrimination against women to make states accountable for failure to take necessary actions to stop violence. Women achieved the individual complaint mechanism for the CEDAW so that women can bring complaint to the treaty body seeking remedies when their rights are denied at the national level. Women succeeded in making the International Criminal Court more responsive to gender justice and more gender sensitive. Most recently women convinced the United Nations General Assembly that we need a new strong UN entity for women.

Women should actively join this exciting global endeavor for recognition of the human right to peace. By playing leading roles in the civil society movement and the decision making process at the national and international level, we will add another example to the history of how women's participation can contribute to strengthening the legal foundation for peace in the human rights framework for the benefit of humanity.

Right to life is the core of all human rights, civil and political, economic, social and cultural. Life is so vital, so central and so fundamental to the enjoyment of all human rights.



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No one doubts that life is existence as human beings. So is peace. Now, we are at the critical corner to turn our quest for peace into human rights norm and commitment of the governments into duty. It is high time to make the right to peace recognized as human rights at the United Nations. To get wider support of the Member States, NGOs and civil society for the recognition of the right to peace, I believe that it is crucial to depart the old expression of “the right of peoples to peace” and present the “human right to peace” with a fresh look, which covers both the individual and collective rights dimensions.

Adoption of the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace created momentum for further concerted actions by the global alliance involving women and men in all regions. I continue to work with you to achieve the goal that the right to peace is formally recognized as a human right at the United Nations.



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ANNEX VI

Biographies of the panellists

Ambassador Dr. A.K. **Abdul Momen** is the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN in New York since August 26, 2009. Prior to that, he was the Chairman of the Business Administration and Economics Department at the Framingham State College, Massachusetts. Prior to that, he worked as a faculty in few colleges in Massachusetts namely the Merrimack College, the Salem State College, the Northeastern University, the University of Massachusetts, Cambridge College and the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. Professor Momen has a PhD in economics and an MBA in business administration from the Northeastern University (Boston), an MPA in public administration, public policy and international economics from the Harvard University (Cambridge), a LLB in Law, an MA in development economics and a BA (Honors) from the University of Dhaka.

Ambassador **Anwarul K. Chowdhury** served as the United Nations Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in New York from 2002 to 2007. Prior to that appointment he completed his assignment (1996-2001) as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York. He also served as Bangladesh's Ambassador to Chile, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela, as well as Bangladesh's High Commissioner to the Bahamas and Guyana. During his tenure as Permanent Representative, Mr. Chowdhury served as President of the Security Council, President of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Executive Board, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 1997 and 1998 and Chairman of the UN General Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee in 1997-98.

He is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award, UNESCO Gandhi Gold Medal for Culture of Peace and Spirit of the UN Award. He is an Honorary Patron of the Committee on Teaching About the UN (CTAUN), New York. In March 2003, the Soka University of Tokyo, Japan conferred to Ambassador Chowdhury an Honorary Doctorate for his work on women's issues, child rights and culture of peace as well as for the strengthening of the United Nations. He is the Chair of the NGO Committee on International Day of Peace at the UN, New York.

Ms. **Cora Weiss** is the President of the Hague Appeal for Peace. She ran the disarmament program at The Riverside Church from 1978-88 during the ministry of Rev. William Sloane Coffin. She was a leader of Women Strike for Peace when it worked to educate public opinion on the perils of atmospheric nuclear testing and became a leader in the Vietnam anti-war movement. She has devoted her life to the movements for civil



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rights, human rights, peace and gender justice. She was the past president of the International Peace Bureau, which she represents at the United Nations. The Hague Appeal for Peace focuses on peace education. The Hague Appeal conference in 1999 had two banner calls: Time to Abolish War and Peace is a Human Right.

Mr. **David Fernández Puyana** is bachelor in Philosophy and Education Science by the University of Barcelona (Spain) and Graduated in Law by School of Law University of Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain); Master in International Studies by University of Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain); Master in International Human Rights Protection by the University of Alcalá (Madrid) and holder of the LLM in International Human Rights Law by the University of Essex (Colchester, UK). He has been the Director of the World Campaign on the Human Right to Peace and is the current representative of the Spanish Society for the International Human Rights Law in Geneva.

Ms. **Bineta Diop** of Senegal is the Executive Director and founder of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS). She began her international career in human rights 27 years ago as Programme Coordinator of the International Commission of Jurists, where she obtained extensive experience in human rights issues not only in Africa but also in Asia and Latin America. Ms. Diop has led Femmes Africa Solidarité in numerous peace-building programmes, including the creation of a strong West African women's movement, the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). In December 2003, the United Nations General Assembly awarded MARWOPNET the UN Prize in the field of Human Rights. She has observed elections in post-conflict areas such as Liberia and facilitated peace talks, particularly for Burundian and Congolese women. As a member of the African Union Women Committee for Peace and Development (AWCPD), Ms. Diop played an instrumental role in achieving gender parity within the African Union Commission in 2003.

Ms **Lois Herman** is Founder-Coordinator of WUNRN, Women's UN Report Network - <http://www.wunrn.com> WUNRN, based on a UN Study, addresses the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the globe. WUNRN's programs include a global, cross-sectoral WUNRN ListServe, considered one of the most expansive gender ListServe's in the world. Ms. Herman is an internationally respected Gender Specialist and presents regularly at the United Nations.

Ms. **Mikiko Otani** is an attorney and member of the Women's Bar Association, the International Human Rights Law Association, attorney-at-law in Japan, specializing in the area of international human rights, and Alternate Representative of Japan at the 60th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. She is Director of the Office of International Affairs of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.



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UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW 55) 2011

PANEL ON

"WOMEN & THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE"

Thursday 24 February 2011

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

United Nations Headquarters North Lawn Building - Conference Room A

Sponsored by

Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York

The Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law - SSIHRL

Women's UN Report Network – WUNRN

Moderated by

Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury,

Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

& President of the UN Security Council (March 2000 & June 2001)



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Distinguished Speakers:

* H.E. Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations

* Ms. Cora Weiss, President of The Hague Appeal for Peace

* Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Representative of the SSIHRL in Geneva

* Ms. Bineta Diop, Executive Director, Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS),
Co-Chair, Civil Society Advisory Group to the UN on Women and Peace & Security

* Ms. Lois A. Herman, Coordinator, Women's UN Report Network-WUNRN

* Ms. Mikiko Otani, Attorney & International Human Rights Lawyer



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ANNEX VIII

List of participants

- 1 Shireen Lateef: Asian Development Bank
- 2 Rozana Majumdar: Bangladesh Mission
- 3 M. Sarwar Mahmood: Bangladesh Mission
- 4 Ardith Toogood: Canadian Federation of University Women
- 5 Nayyar Javed: Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women
- 6 Rita Reddy: UN Department of Peace-Keeping Operations
- 7 Amina Adam: UN Department of Peace-Keeping Operations
- 8 Leah Samakayi: Education International
- 9 Harriette Williams: Femmes Africa Solidarité
- 10 Rima Salah: Former DSRSG, Former ASG
- 11 Nellie Ayodo: Franciscans International
- 12 Regina G. Mwalha: Gender Commission Kenya
- 13 Mabel Msika: Government of Zimbabwe
- 14 Sakina Rizvi: Imamia Medics International (IMI)
- 15 Hilde Jakobsen: Int. Sociological Association
- 16 Jan Marie Fritz: International Sociological Association
- 17 Akiko Sugita: Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- 18 Chikako Morimoto (Fujii): Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- 19 Mitsuko Kawamoto: Japan Federation of Bar Associations
- 20 Nokuzola Tolashe: Malibongwe South Africa
- 21 Annette Lawson: National Alliance of Women's Orgs (NAWO), UK
- 22 Mary Scott: National Council of Women of Canada
- 23 Iris Spellings: Operation Peace Through Unity
- 24 Oliver Rizzi Carlson: Operation Peace Through Unity, UNOY Peacebuilders
- 25 Maya Saoud: Pax Romana
- 26 Anne Mazalla: President's Office Public Service Management
- 27 Esther Eva Albanese: Raising Malawi
- 28 Milena Mihajlović: SDC/FDFA Switzerland
- 29 Hiro Sakurai: Soka Gakkai International
- 30 Mary Mack: Soka Gakkai International
- 31 Emily Aoyama: Soka Gakkai International
- 32 Tatiana Bessarabova: UNASD Women's Equity Council
- 33 Bettina Hausmann: UNASD Women's Equity Council



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- 34 Madelyn MacKay: Voice of Women for Peace
- 35 Connie Gates: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- 36 Barbara Beesley: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- 37 Rita Jankowska-Bradley: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
- 38 Selina Hlabedi: Women in Agriculture and Rural Dev. SA (WARD)
- 39 Mary Szkambara: World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations
- 40 Nina Nayoan: World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)
- 41 Christine Herman: Women's United Nations Report Network, MN
- 42 Dr. Cheryl A. Maloney: Women's United Nations Report Network, MN
- 43 Afton Beutler: Worldwide Organization for Women
- 44 Denise Scotto: Vice President and UN Representative International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (FIFCJ) and UN Representative International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA)
- 45 Mitsuko Sato: attorney at law, Tokyo Green Law Office
- 46 Mihoko Ejiri: Chairperson of the National Women's Committee of the UN NGOs and Coordinator of the International Women's Year Liaison (40 organizations)
- 47 Mavick Cabrera: Chairperson of the Global Network of Women Peace-builders
- 48 Betty Reardon: Columbia University, Teacher's College

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ANNEX IX

Photos of the event

