Human Rights Council
Fourteenth session
Agenda items 2 and 3
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development

Joint written statement* submitted by the International Alliance of
Women (IAW), the Commission of the Churches on International
Affairs of the World Council of Churches (CCIA/WCC), Brahma
Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU), the International
Association of Soldiers for Peace, Zonta International, the
International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres
(IFS), the International Council Of Women (ICW-CIF), the
International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
(ISMUN), the Women’s Federation for World Peace International
(WFWPI), Soroptimist International (SI), the Asian Legal Resource
Centre (ALRC), non-governmental organizations in general
consultative status, World Young Women’s Christian Association
(World YWCA), the Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of
Preachers), the Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción
de los Derechos Humanos (España), Interfaith International, Pax
Romana (International the Catholic Movement for Intellectual and
Cultural Affairs and the International Movement of Catholic
Students), the Temple of Understanding (TOU), the Women’s
International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the
Women’s World Summit Foundation (WWSF), the International
Federation of University Women (IFUW), Femmes Africa Solidarité
(FAS), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Worldwide

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-
governmental organization(s).
Organization for Women (WOW), the Union of Arab Jurists, Rencontre Africaine pour la Defense des Droits de l’Homme (RADDHO), the Foundation for the Refugee Education Trust (RET), the International Bridges to Justice (IBJ), the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC), the American Association of Jurists (AAJ), the Lassalle-Institut, the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia, the Anti-Racism Information Service (ARIS), the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women’s Association (PPSEAWA), the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, the International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples (UFER), the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), the International Federation of Women in Legal Careers (IFFCJ), the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), the International Association for Women's Mental Health (IAWMH), the International Women’s Year Liaison Group (IWYLG), the African Services Committee, Inc., the International Federation of Family Associations of Missing Persons from Armed Conflict (IFFAMPAC), the Institute of International Social Development, African Action on AIDS, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS), the Lama Gangchen World Peace Foundation (LGWPF), the Pax Christi International, International Catholic Peace Movement, the Tandem Project, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW), the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), Solar Cookers International (SCI), the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH), the United States Federation for Middle East Peace, Network Women in Development Europe (KULU), North-South XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD), Latin American Committee for the Defense of Women’s Rights (CLADEM), the United Nations Association in Spain (UNA-Spain) (ANUE), Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, the International Forum for Child Welfare, the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Federation of Iraqi Women, the International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW), the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, the Peter Hesse Stiftung Foundation, the Comite International pour le Respect et l’Application de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l’Homme et des Peuples (CIRAC), the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS), the World for World Organisation (WFWO), the Universal Esperanto Association (UEA), the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW), the Council of American Overseas Research Centres, Zenab for Women in Development, Inc., The Grail, UNANIMMA International, Association for Democratic Initiatives (ADI), the Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, the Centre for Development Studies and Action, Deniz Feneri Association (Light House Aid and Solidarity
Association), the Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (ACIJLP), the Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA), the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), the General Arab Women Federation (GAWF), the National Alliance of Women’s Organisations (NAWO), MADRE, Inc., the National Council of Women of Great Britain, the Centre Independent de Recherches et d'Initiatives pour le Dialogue (CIRID), the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT), Guild of Service, Universal Peace Federation, the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW), the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), Comision Colombiana de Juristas (CCJ), COJEP International (Conseil de Jeunesse Pluriculturelle), the Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD), the Center for Migration Studies of New York (CMS), the World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation (WAPR), the Droit a l'Energie SOS Futur, the Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research, the Institute of International Social Development, the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), the Salvation Army, the Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Inc., the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, the Federation for Peace and Conciliation (IFPC), the World Association for the School as an Instrument of Peace, the International Society for Human Rights (ISHR), the Institute for Planetary Synthesis (IPS), the International Peace Bureau (IPB), the UNESCO Centre Basque Country (UNESCO ETXEA), the 3HO Foundation, Inc. (Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization), the Dzeno Association, the Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN), the Association Nigerienne des Scouts de l'Environnement (ANSEN), the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), the International Progress Organization (IPO), the Gray Panthers, the European Federation of Road Traffic Crash Victims (FEVR), the World Christian Life Community, Servas International, the Fondation Idole, the Arab NGO Network for Development, non-governmental organizations on the roster

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[17 May 2010]
Working Group on the codification of the human right to peace

I.

The Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) welcomed on 30 October 2006 the adoption of the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, which was drafted by a Committee of independent experts. It was the culmination of a process of extensive consultations within the Spanish civil society.
On 15 March 2007, the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace was firstly presented to the fourth session of the HR Council in an oral statement. Since then, the SSIHRL and more than 500 NGO have organized many parallel meetings at the Palais des Nations during the subsequent sessions of the HR Council1 and submitted oral statements before the plenary, in order to analyse specific questions regarding the content and scope of the human right to peace.

At the same time, the SSIHRL has developed its four-year World Campaign on the Human Right to Peace organizing workshops and expert meetings on the human right to peace in all regions of the world2, sharing the content of the Luarca Declaration, and receiving new inputs from different cultural sensibilities.

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1 On 15 March 2007 both the SSIHRL and the International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt) convened an open Information Meeting on the Luarca Declaration; on 16 March 2007, the SSIHRL organized a Technical Meeting with NGO and human rights experts with a view to building a common strategy for a world-wide campaign on the human right to peace; on 11 June 2007, both UNESCO Etxea and SSIHR organized an additional parallel meeting on the relationship between peace and solidarity rights; on 12 September 2007, the SSIHRL in collaboration with the UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva organised a Roundtable on the legal content of the human right to peace; on 21 September 2007, the SSIHRL organised the commemoration of the International Day of Peace in the Council Chamber of the Palais de Nations; on 7 March 2008, the SSIHRL, the International Society of Human Rights (Frankfurt) and UNESCO Etxea organised a Roundtable on the relationship between extreme poverty and the human right to peace; on 4 June 2008, the SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea organised a Roundtable on the right to education on peace and human rights; on 12 September 2008, the SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea organised a Roundtable on the human right to peace and indigenous peoples; on 19 September 2008, the SSIHRL, UNESCO Etxea and the NGO Liaison Office of UNOG organised the commemoration of the International Day of Peace in the Council Chamber of the Palais de Nations; on 17 March 2009 the SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea organized a roundtable on the human right to peace and racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; on 3 June 2009 the SSIHRL, Women's United Nations Report Network and UNESCO Etxea organized a roundtable on migration and peace; on 17 September 2009 the SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea organized a roundtable on peace and disarmament as solidarity rights; on 11 March 2010 the SSIHRL and UNESCO Etxea organized a roundtable on codification of the human right to peace.

2 Conferences and expert meetings have already taken place in the following places: Bilbao and Geneva (November 2006); Mexico (December 2006); Bogotá, Barcelona and Addis Ababa (March 2007); Caracas and Santo Domingo (April 2007); Morelia, Mexico (12 May 2007), Bogotá (12 May 2007), Oviedo and Santa Fe (New Mexico, USA, 16-17 May 2007); Washington (14 June 2007), Nairobi (15 June 2007), Geneva (28 June 2007); Feldkirch (Austria, 31 August 2007); Geneva (11, 12 and 21 September 2007), Luarca (28 September 2007); Madrid (23 October 2007); Monterrey, Mexico (1st November 2007), Mexico DF, Geneve, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Zaragoza and Navia, Asturias (December 2007); on the occasion of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York (February 2008); Geneva (March 2008); Parliament of Catalunya, Barcelona, Geneva, Dakar, Madrid and Valencia (April 2008); Rome and Gwangju, Republic of Korea (May 2008); Geneva and Bilbao (June 2008); Cartagena, Spain, and Geneva (July 2008); Paris, Geneva and Montevideo (September 2008); Oviedo, Turin, New York and Basque Parliament, Vitoria (October 2008); La Plata and Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Bosco Marengo, Italy (November 2008); Luxembourg, Geneve and Barcelona (December 2008); Geneve and Barcelona (January 2009); Yaoundé, Cameroon (February 2009); Figaredo, Asturias, Geneve and New York (March 2009), Johannesburg, Seville, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela and Bangkok (April 2009), Trevi, Italy, Mexico and Seville (May 2009), Geneve (June 2009), Mexico City and Morelia (July 2009), Donostia-San Sebastián (August 2009), Geneve and Valdés (September 2009), Case, Cangas de Onis, Acalca de Henares and Sarajevo (October 2009), Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, University of Berkeley (USA) and Geneve (November 2009), Alexandria, Egypt (with IPS) and Geneve (December 2009), Havana, Cuba and Geneve (January 2010); Geneve (Switzerland) and Bilbao (Spain), February 2010,
The Luarca Declaration was reviewed in the light of the contributions received from various regional expert meetings on the human right to peace. A new drafting committee of independent experts approved on 24 February 2010 the Bilbao Declaration on the Human Right to Peace. This new Declaration will be submitted to the International Drafting Committee (ten experts from the five geographical groups), to be held in Barcelona on May 31-2 June 2010, with the purpose of drafting an updated Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace inspired in the interests and aspirations of the international civil society as a whole.

The Barcelona Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, which is expected to be adopted on 2 June 2010, shall be submitted to the International Congress on the Human Right to Peace, to be organized by the SSIHRL in Santiago de Compostela (Spain) on 9-10 December 2010. Civil society shall be invited to discuss and adopt a final text of the Declaration that will represent their aspirations in the codification of the human right to peace. It shall also be invited to establish an International Observatory on the Human Right to Peace within the SSIHRL.

Finally, the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, which is expected to be adopted on 10 December 2010, shall be submitted to the HR Council in 2011, urging its Member States to initiate the official codification of the human right to peace. This submission will close the four-year World Campaign of private codification on the draft Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace carried out by the SSIHRL.

II.

The HR Council adopted in 2008 and 2009 resolutions entitled “Promotion of the right of peoples to peace”, requesting the High Commissioner to convene an expert workshop on the right of peoples to peace, which took place in Geneva on 15-16 December 2009. The HR Council was closely informed by the SSIHRL and more than 500 NGO on the results of the workshop. The report of the OHCHR summarizes the discussions held during the expert workshop.

The SSIHRL actively collaborated with the OHCHR and the sponsors of the resolution in the organization of the workshop, and encouraged the active participation of other NGO.

The workshop recalled that in the 2005 World Summit Outcome the General Assembly acknowledged that peace and security, development and human rights were the foundations for collective security and well-being. Moreover, peace and respect for human rights, along
with the right to the rule of law and gender equality, among others, were interlinked and mutually reinforcing. In accordance with different declarations and human rights treaties, it could be affirmed that peace is the previous condition for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as the respect of human rights is essential for the promotion of development, peace and security. Moreover, it was affirmed that the progressive development of international human rights law had favoured the emergence of solidarity rights, such as the right to development and the human right to peace.

According to the experts, the collective dimension of the right to peace is proclaimed in the Preamble of the UN Charter when it underlines that the responsibility to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war belongs to peoples. Furthermore, it was recognised that peace must be seen as an enabling right to empower individuals to enjoy civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, it was confirmed that the transition from negative -as absence of armed conflict- to positive peace requires strengthening the security of individuals. Experts concluded that human right to peace has two dimensions, both individual and collective.

Mr. Cançado Trindade contended that “the peoples’ right to peace was justiciable, and that there was a path to be pursued to that end in the years to come”. He focused on the jurisprudence elaborated by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the International Court of Justice to demonstrate that peoples’ right to peace had been acknowledged and asserted before contemporary international tribunals. In particular, the ICJ recognised in several occasions the peoples’ right to live in peace.

Ms. Dah recalled that, in accordance with the Preamble of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, “discrimination among human beings was an obstacle to friendly and peaceful relations among nations and could jeopardize peace and security among peoples and harmonious coexistence.”

Although the right to peace was not sufficiently elaborated in the human rights instruments, it was mentioned repeatedly in the Preamble of the UDHR and the preambles of the two human rights covenants. The linkages between human rights law and peace and security and disarmament might be useful in situating and further understanding an emerging right to peace. Mr. Sareva added that the right to peace included an important disarmament

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9 Opening statement by the Deputy High Commissioner, A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 6
10 UDHR, Declaration on the Rights of Peoples to Peace and the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 4 and 11)
12 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 6
13 Statement by Mr. Mario Yutzis (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 25)
14 Statement by Judge Cançado Trindade (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 33)
15 Statement by Mr. Alfred de Zayas (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 15)
16 Statement by Mr. Thierry Tardy (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 19-20)
17 Statement by Mr. Cançado Trindade (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 38)
18 Ibidem, paragraph 36
19 Ibidem id, paragraph 37
20 Statement by Mrs. Dah (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 45)
21 Statements by Mr. Jarmo Sareva (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 22) and Mr. William Schabas (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 41)
22 Statement by Mrs. Vera Gowlland-Debbas (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 14)
dimension, because there was a connection between national security and the right to life. And Mr. Schabas recalled that the Human Rights Committee, in its General Comment n°14 on nuclear weapons and the right to peace, drew a clear link between the prohibition of war and the right to life.

The workshop noted that there was currently some momentum to clarify the legal nature of the human right to peace. Having an in-depth academic study from a human rights perspective could help the HR Council decide how to ensure that the right to peace found its place in international law. Moreover, it was supported a systemic approach to future consideration of the theme, relating the peoples’ right to peace to other rights of peoples, and further relating the human right to peace to rights of peoples.

The SSIHRL and other NGO advocated that on the basis of the most recent studies of the doctrine and latest developments within civil society, one could identify the contents and scope of the human right to peace as an emerging right. Civil society contribution can be found in the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, as well as through their active participation in the context of the HR Council discussions on the right of peoples to peace.

Ms. Dah concluded that there was an urgent need to codify the right of peoples to peace, and that all actors should support moves in that direction, in particular States participating in the non-aligned movement. In that respect, she supported the idea to invite the Council to create an open-ended working group charged with the codification of such right.

Mr. de Zayas concluded by suggesting that the HR Council could establish the mandate of a special rapporteur or independent expert on the right to peace.

Mr. Yutzis concluded that the HR Council should “initiate the codification of the human right to peace through the establishment of an opened working group, open to the participation of civil society organizations”; it should invite its Advisory Committee to prepare “elements for the elaboration of an universal declaration on the human right to peace and to propose guidelines, norms and principles aimed at protecting and promoting that right”; and it should invite “human rights treaty bodies and special procedures to contribute to the development of the right to peace from the perspective of their respective mandates.”

The Mr. Yutzis's proposals were then accepted by all experts in the room (i.e. Ms. Dah, Mr. de Zayas and Mr. Tiburcio), as well as by participating NGO.

Accordingly, it could be summed up that the workshop recommended to the HR Council the establishment of an open-ended working group (representatives of States), with the task of initiating the official codification of the human right to peace. Civil society representatives shall also be invited to participate actively in such a working group.

**Recommendations**

1. We invite the HR Council to consider the conclusions and recommendations of the expert workshop on the right of peoples to peace, particularly those related to the

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23 Ibidem, párrafo 23
24 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 43
25 Statement by Mr. William Schabas (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 52)
26 Statement by Mr. Cançado Trindade (A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 38)
27 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 58
28 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 47
29 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 54
30 A/HRC/14/38, paragraph 57
establishment within the HR Council of an Open-Ended Working Group on the codification of the human right to peace.

2. The Working Group shall endeavour to:

   a. Recognize the relationship between human right to peace and rights to life, integrity, liberty and security of the person; physical and mental health and well-being; the need to protect victims of uncontrolled weapons of mass destruction; the need to examine the possibility of disarming all weapons; the right to know the truth of human rights violations; and the exercise of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic rights to enhance social justice, equity and gender equality.

   b. Stress solidarity rights, peace education, and the construction of democratic, interactive and egalitarian multiculturalism, as well as the promotion of dialogue and peaceful coexistence among cultures, civilizations and religions.

   c. Affirm the realization of the human right to peace as contained in the UN Charter, the UDHR and the international and regional human rights instruments.

   d. Take into account the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace of 2006, as reviewed by the Bilbao Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, adopted on 24 February 2010, in line with of the SSIHRL World Campaign for the Human Right to Peace (2007-2010), taking into account the reports of the expert meetings organized in the five regions of the world and the regional Declarations on the human right to peace adopted by experts of civil society in La Plata, Yaoundé, Bangkok, Johannesburg, Sarajevo, Alexandria and Havana. In addition, joint NGO written and oral statements on the content and scope of the human right to peace prepared with the support of more than 500 NGO and submitted to the successive sessions of the HR Council (see http://www.aedidh.org); and

   e. Further recognize the need to enhance gender mainstreaming in the field of peace-building as requested by the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women of 1995 and to promote women’s participation at all levels of decision-making on peace, disarmament and security issues, as provided for in Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), 1880 and 1888 (2009), as well as the need to perform a gender analysis in all situations of armed conflict and post-conflict societies.

3. We also invite the HR Council to authorize the Advisory Committee’s expert’s study. In particular, the expert should be asked to identify the elements which will contribute to the elaboration of a draft Universal Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, and further to formulate guidelines, criteria, standards and principles aimed at promoting and protecting this right.