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**REPORT ON THE**

**ALEXANDRIA MEETING OF ARAB EXPERTS ON  
THE HUMAN RIGHT TO PEACE**

**BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA, ALEXANDRIA (EGYPT)**

**7 DECEMBER 2009**

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## 1. Introduction

The Alexandria Expert Meeting on the Human Right to Peace was convened in Alexandria, Egypt on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009, at the initiative of the Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law (SSIHRL) and co-organized by the SMWIPM Institute of Peace Studies (IPS). The meeting was sponsored by the Government of Catalonia (Office on the Promotion of Peace and Human Rights and Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation), and held with the support of UNESCO Etxea and the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (BA), which provided both logistical and practical support.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. To share the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace with civil society, international organizations, and academics from the Arab and Islamic World.
2. To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the Luarca Declaration with the purpose of promoting sustainable peace in the Middle East and the Arab World.
3. To contribute to the elaboration of a draft universal declaration on the human right to peace which should represent the interests of international civil society as a whole, including that of people from the Middle East and the Arab World.
4. To examine, in the context of the Middle East and the Arab World, the close relationship between the respect for all human rights –civil, political, social, economic and cultural - and the fulfillment of the human right to peace.
5. To highlight the close relationship between the observation of the human rights of women and children on the one hand, and the human rights to peace on the other.

The Expert Meeting's working languages were English and Arabic and it extended from 9:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

The meeting was held at the BA Conference Center and adopted the following program:

- The *Opening Session* with two welcoming addresses by Dr. Ismail Serageldin, the Vice Chairman of IPS Board and the Director of the BA, and by Mr. Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries and representative of the SSIHRL.
- The *First Session*: a talk by Dr. Ismail Serageldin entitled "The Promotion of the Human Right to Peace as a means to Promote Human Dignity and Peaceful Relationships between Cultures, Religions and Civilizations", followed by a discussion.
- The *Second Session*: entitled "The linkage between gender and peace" with two keynote speakers: Mrs. Nagwa Shoeb, Director General of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, and Dr. Maha Maaz, Consultant, IPS.



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- The *Third Session*: a Power Point presentation by Mr. Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, entitled "Strengths and weaknesses of the Luarca Declaration to consolidate a sustainable peace in the Arab Region", followed by a discussion.
- The *Closing Session*: A discussion of the Alexandria Declaration, Conclusions and Recommendations.
- *Closure*

The meeting was attended by 23 experts and observers from civil society, academia and inter-governmental organizations (see Annex I).

## 2. Opening Session

**Dr. Ismail Serageldin**, the Vice Chairman of IPS Board & the Director of the BA launched the meeting by welcoming the guests and participants, and gave a brief introduction to the main purpose and focus of the meeting.

**Mr. Jose Luis Gomez del Prado**, member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries and representative of SSIHRL, proceeded with preliminary observations about the meeting, setting the keynote for subsequent discussions and providing a background for the process that accompanied the drafting of the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace. He pointed out that in a world disrupted by wars and military conflicts; it might seem unrealistic to propose a declaration of Human Right to Peace. However, the reasoning behind this Declaration and the meeting held towards the finalization of its drafting is the human desire for peace and the preservation of the environment. There is no doubt that peace is a necessity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in the light of illicit trafficking in arms, drugs and humans, which is one of the main causes for the eruption of new wars. A further threat, as stated by Mr. Gomez del Prado, is the outsourcing of public security to private companies. He also stressed the fact that there has been a shift from an international confrontation between East and West to what he termed "a false global confrontation termed the clash of civilizations". In the light of these aspects, there is no doubt that humanity is heading for a predictable world catastrophe.

He then moved on to point out the significance of the venue of the meeting in terms of the symbolic dimension of the BA. He then outlined the holistic response to a world globalized by economics, and how we are spurred by common sense when we see that the most advanced military hi-tech fails to subdue the resistance in the poorest countries in the world, such as Afghanistan.

Mr. Gomez del Prado elaborated that as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, it is possible to observe how it has consolidated peace in the area. Since the



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end of the Cold War, however, the number of victims resulting from military actions has risen drastically.

Highlighting the main aim for the meeting, he pointed out that the Human Right to Peace encompasses Human Rights in other areas, entailing the elimination of all forms of violence and the establishment of a new economic order, not simply the right that all forms of conflict, armed and otherwise, should cease.

In conclusion, he stated that the working group is bringing their campaign to a closure in Egypt, describing it as the cradle of civilizations and the meeting point of the old world. Indeed, it is not only significant that the termination point for the campaign is Egypt, but also that the venue for the meeting is the Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, both considered since ancient times, the beacon of learning and enlightenment. Even in ancient history, Alexandria was centuries in advance. He concluded with remarks about Hypatia and her achievements, stating that "under such auspices we open the meeting on Human Rights to Peace".

He expressed thanks to the BA and the IPS for organizing this meeting at such short notice, with special thanks to the efficient organization and hard work of the IPS team. He also pointed out that the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation and the Office for the Promotion of peace and Human Rights made the resources necessary for the meeting available. Mr. Gomez del Prado also welcomed the participants to this meeting and encouraged them to offer suggestions and comments on the draft text of the Luarca Declaration as it stands.

Finally, he informed the meeting that on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009, there will be a workshop held at the UN in Geneva, during which the possibility of establishing a new mandate on this issue will be proposed, extending an invitation to Egypt to participate.

**Mr. David Fernandez Puyana**, representative of AEDIDH and UNESCO Etxea in Geneva, offered a brief welcoming and appreciation address, and hence proceeded to introduce the first session.



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### 3. First Session

#### 3.1. The promotion of the Human Right to Peace as a means to promote human dignity and peaceful relationships between cultures, religions and civilizations.

Dr. Serageldin opened his speech with a reference to Article I of the Human Rights Declaration (HRD), which raises the question of what these rights are. He added that is no doubt that the Article recognizes things to be rights that were never before considered as such, and thus, a number of philosophical issues need to be addressed, to expand the concept of human rights to what we know today. A major key-point according to Dr. Serageldin, is that human rights, by definition, are pre-existing, i.e. they are rights endowed by virtue of human beings being human and cannot be granted or withheld arbitrarily.

There have been various attempts to define rights. One such definition characterizes rights as being positive or negative. Positive rights require active interaction to meet such rights, be they social, political or economic. In terms of expectations, these rights may be defined as what makes efforts fair in the strife to such rights, a notion that is relative.

It is the act of adequately responding to the requirements in health and education for example, as opposed to the negative rights, such as not being haphazardly arrested or imprisoned. These rights are largely political and civil rights.

Though positive rights cannot be judged in a court of law, what may be called negative rights have implicitly significant positive rights. Not torturing someone, for example, requires that you maintain a judicial system. However, these are all considered positive resourcing processes. Dr. Serageldin then posed the challenging question: Is there not an obligation to level the field? To elaborate, he provided the contrasting example of a battalion of legal representatives rallied for the defense of O.J. Simpson, as opposed to the over-worked and underpaid legal representative assigned to take up the defense of a poor person.

The second main point raised by Dr. Serageldin was that after 61 years since the adoption of HRD, we have seen the expansion of these rights to include rights of children and women.

The third key-issue was the notion of describing the Human Right to Peace as a "third generation" of Human Rights. The categorization was described as interesting, pointing out that it entails the existence of a first and a second generation. However, there is a problem in splitting Human Rights into generations, namely the concept of the *indivisibility of rights*. This division, unfortunately, undermines the indivisibility of rights.



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A fourth point raised by this talk was *the Right to Intervention*, i.e. interfering in the internal affairs of sovereign states under the pretext of upholding Human Rights. There is no doubt that the purpose of the existence of the state is the well-being of the citizen. A case in point is Somalia, where the law of the jungle prevails, and the social contract has fully collapsed. *The extension of suffrage* constituted the fifth point in the speech. There were boundaries to suffrage by age, gender and race, but gradually, most of these boundaries have been removed, though the boundary of age still remains. However, once the legal criterion is met, people have equal rights by law. Yet, if the fundamental concept of rights is that they are pre-existent not granted, then the rights pre-exist the organization of government, and governments should recognize this fact.

The sixth point raised by Dr. Serageldin discussed *the definition of the term peace*. There is no question that peace is more than the mere absence of war. Yet it is a concept based upon opposing contradictions: on the one hand, it is definable as the harmony between nations. On the other hand, it is not about peace between nations, but amongst the individuals within the nation. In other words, it is synonymous to the concept of security. In addition, it cannot fit any concept of human dignity, that a well-run police-state, is allowed to harm some of its citizens and live in peace with the rest. Human Rights are the rights of individuals that precede the state, and in fact remain after the state ceases to be.

If rights, then, are not sovereign rights, the state is there to enable the exercising of these rights. This requires that the state DOES certain things, such as the provision of legal systems, etc.

The seventh point was the notion of *Activists for Improving Society*. Dr. Serageldin argued that if we live in a democratic society, then the elected representatives of the society are intended to uphold the rights of the citizens and enforce them. The question then is: what is the role of the civil society? Experience has shown that it is not possible to have a democracy without the active involvement of an active and vibrant civil society.. However, notions of democracy today are flawed. In a discussion with Egyptian Minister of Communications, a man with firm convictions in computers and cyber-space, he stated that computers can take over, and soon there will be no need for parliaments. However, representative democracy remains highly significant because societies have become very complex. A tax code, for example, cannot be downloaded and studied by each individual. It is essential to select representatives, who then exercise the functions delegated to them. Similarly, the global society has become more complex due to the complexity of global transactions. Hardly anyone could predict the magnitude of the recent financial crisis the world faced. Even now, with all the instruments available, dealing with this complexity remains a major difficulty.

A dialogue established with the whole, the civil society, and the structures put into place to run this society, are bound to cause conflicts. There are activist groups that are



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concerned with various individual issues, whereas the state has to deal with all of these collectively.

The eighth point was the notion of a utopia. The concept of a utopia as perceived by Plato, El-Faraby, Thomas Moore or even more recent utopian visions, are in fact an error. Up to a point it may be appealing to spend time on designing what a perfect society may look like. However, it makes more sense to debate in each imperfect case how to move towards a better state. For example, if there is a flawed educational system, how can it be improved, rather than designing the perfect educational system? If this view is accepted, then no doubt an objective is stated which functions as a compass point draw up a roadmap for each state, depending on its specificity.

Therefore, the purpose of a declaration is both to set up the compass point and the expectations along the road towards that point. This, then, becomes a space for the monitoring by civil society to determine what has been achieved towards that desirable goal. The Human Right to Peace is thus a right, and by its very definition as a right, no government can withhold it. They can organize it, improve it, but not withhold it.

The step taken through the Luarca Declaration is a step that transcends the state and focuses on the individual. Peace is there to grow and achieve the full potential, rather than just a state of no-war.

In conclusion, Dr. Serageldin pointed out that the work is cut out, and focuses on a very important topic with profound ramifications.

### **3.2. Debate on the first session**

Mr. Fernandez Puyana opened the session by highlighting the main aims for the discussion to follow. These may be summarized in the following points:

1. Share ideas with civil society in the Arab and the Islamic World
2. Define strengths
3. Collect comments and suggestions that contribute to the Luarca Draft
4. Examine the close relationship between all aspects
5. Study the role played by all parties
6. A closer look at a gender approach to peace



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Mr. Fernandez Puyana then moved on to highlight that this year, the International Day of Peace coincided with the 20 anniversary of the end of the Cold War which, as indicated by the Secretary-General, was supposed to “provide a peace dividend and free up resources” for the future of our planet such as human development, climate change and a new international economic order.

He added that the concept of clash of civilizations, cultures, ethnic identities or religions has been the new front of the cold war theorists. This ideology has not only shaped the world view of a growing number of influential politicians and media leaders, but it also became a new paradigm for some intellectuals and academics. The ideological paradigm was based both on the use of the defence of national identity and security, and the creation of an enemy in the process of the construction of a national identity.

In their contributions to the Durban Review Conference the African Group stated that, against the culture of fear, is necessary to promote dialogue, peace, cultural diversity and mutual understanding; and the Latin American and Caribbean Group concluded that the promotion of tolerance and cross-cultural values is closely linked to the spirit of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

He recalled that the UNESCO *Declaration and Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy* indicates that education should develop nonviolent conflict resolution through the promotion of peace, tolerance, solidarity, compassion, sharing and caring. Consequently, human rights and peace education should aim to build a universal culture of human rights through the encouragement and promotion of attitudes directed to peace building and maintenance.

**Mr. Saeed al Mousawi**, Representative of the Human Rights Network in Iraq, opened the discussion with thank-you remarks. He then stated that he comes from a country where the most serious breaches of Human Rights are taking place in modern history. The cause of the chaos in Iraq is well-known: the US occupation of Iraq and the destruction of a whole country and its institutions. His question was: Why could the international community not prevent this unilateral intervention? Why could they not stop the destruction taking place after the occupation? The answer to these questions is related to the items and topics concerned with the need of the international community for peace and security. **Mr. Mousawi** proceeded to criticize the “no-action taken” by the international community to enforce international institutions which are seeking to prevent criminal wars. In light of this, he posed his second question: How can we enforce international instruments to enforce peace and security? **Mr. Mousawi** further referred to Mr. Gomez del Prado's statement that the main item is to avoid entering this domain. The reason for this may be that it is a question that cannot be tackled by everyone. He concluded by agreeing with Mr. Gomez del Prado, stating that the latter rightly pointed



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out that the largest financial investment of the US could not conquer the resistance in Afghanistan or Iraq.

**Amb. Aly Maher**, Advisor to the BA, spoke next, stressing his belief that this is an essential topic for the future of all human beings. He pointed out that though the right to peace may sound utopian today, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seemed in 1948 utopian, too. However, today it is fully accepted, even if not all people act upon it. The topic, thus, should be emphasized. **Amb. Aly Maher** reiterated the problematic of a definition for peace. He restated that it is not only the absence of war, but rather the presence of equilibrium between rights, dignity and the interests of the people involved. Peace must be qualified so that it is not provisional and then war is resumed. Peace is the organization of the society, within the society and on the international level. It is not an easy task, and we have to work hard because peace is a concept that has been used for political purposes for ages, serving personal interests. We, therefore, need to ensure the implementation of peace, qualify it, and understand the requirements for it.

Commenting on the Luarca Declaration, **Amb. Aly Maher** stated that it is very detailed and elaborate, and needs to be studied in a comprehensive way. He pointed out that some of its aspects make him wonder whether they would put in danger the concept of the state and organized society, such as the right to paying taxes, the right to oppose scientific research that might end in armament. These topics should be dealt with very responsibly and with total understanding of the implications for our society as we know it today. **Amb. Aly Maher** concluded with the hope that the discussions today will end in a declaration on which we all agree, and which will be conveyed to the academic and political worlds.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** responded first to the Iraqi monitoring net, pointing out that there is awareness of this fact. He also called upon Mr. Mousawi to bear in mind what Dr. Serageldin had said, namely that peace is based on two contradictory concepts: peace between nations, but also peace within the civil society. In other words, peace as it exists among the individuals living in a society. This may not fully respond to the issue raised by Mr. Mousawi – the unilateral action without any corresponding action by the international community. However, this intervention cost the UN Secretary General his job, because he reiterated that it was an illegal action. In response, **Mr. Gomez del Prado** referred to Article 16 of the Luarca Declaration. That article may not be an answer to everything, but if paragraphs 5 and 6 were fully implemented the situation would drastically different. The Security Council, he said, is not a democratic institution, whereas the General Assembly is, but without any binding power. Changes are needed in order to finish with this monopoly of power by the nations that won the Second World War.. **Mr. Gomez del Prado** emphasized again what Dr. Serageldin had said, namely that we live in an imperfect world, and we have to struggle through civil society to achieve



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change. The universal draft Declaration we are elaborating will provide some mechanisms to allow the international community for necessary changes .

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** drew the analogy with what happened in the 1950s, when Human Rights were not yet fully recognized. He said he remembered that at the time countries did not accept the visit by UN special rapporteurs to visit the country in order to assess and monitor the human rights situation. Presently, the UN human rights procedures are universally accepted . We are endeavouring today to introduce new standards to be applied worldwide in order to achieve needed changes which are extremely important in the globalized world in which we live if we want our planet to survive . That is why it is so extremely important to raise the awareness in civil society. Governments do not change anything unless civil society push them to act in the right direction..

The next speaker was **Prof. Nabil Hilmy**, Professor of Law at the University of Menoufia. He commenced by stating that this is a good effort and very promising for the promotion of Human Rights. However, **Prof. Hilmy** stated that the working group should not be addressing the Islamic society only, but the African society at large. He pointed out that Africa is in dire need for peace. He also stated that the title of the Declaration may confuse us with the Human Rights Declaration, and that it carries no obligation. **Prof. Hilmy** insisted that he would like to see more obligation and enforcement. To achieve this aim, he suggested to change the legal word of "declaration". He moved on to point out that individual Human Rights were issued in the wake of World War Two, and after the establishment of the UN. Though this is a very important point, he preferred the use of the term "collective rights", especially since there is no reference to the Rights of African Peoples. This tenet is in agreement with the objectives of the meeting.

The next point **Prof. Hilmy** raised was *self-determination* and its necessity for peace, in conjunction with the rights for development. These items need to be included in the Charter.

A final point **Prof. Hilmy** raised for consideration and possible inclusion in the Draft was the distinction between *peace in peace* and *peace in armed conflict*. The more important point is the Human Rights in peace during armed conflict.

Both **Mr. Fernandez Puyana** and **Mr. Gomez** replied in turn to these points. **Mr. Puyana** first answered that the working group has organized many meetings in Africa and that he fully agrees on the *collective dimension* to peace, since today at the UN we face the challenge to recognize the individual right to peace. He stressed that there is a wish for a convention, but this is a very difficult process. Though there is hope that in twenty years maybe we will be able to see a convention for rights to peace, it is now very difficult to attain.



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Next **Mr. Gomez del Prado** thanked **Prof. Hilmy** for his comments regarding the Declaration. He then proceeded to explain the procedures followed at the UN: you start with an instrument, which is usually a declaration before a binding instrument (convention or treaty) is negotiated, adopted and ratified by Member States. Declarations do not contain mechanisms of implementation. Such mechanisms are foreseen in the treaties or conventions.. One innovative thing regarding the draft declaration on the human right to peace is that it contains already a sort of monitoring mechanism which will be following the implementation of the provisions contained in the declaration, once this is adopted by the UN, until a universal convention on the human right to peace is adopted. . Civil society has been the initiator of this Declaration, and we should be aware that it is a very long process. All instruments start with a declaration, and from there they move forward. It is on the basis of a declaration that Member States of the UN negotiate an international instrument which becomes obligatory for those states that ratify it.

At this point **Prof. Hilmy** commented that it is possible to start from a different point, namely to start by adopting the Declaration and the Geneva Conventions, which would speed the process up.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** replied that there is a complementarity between the International Humanitarian Law and the draft declaration on the right to peace which is being developed . Swiss are very pragmatic. Switzerland and the International Committee of the Red Cross are the prime movers in the development of the International Humanitarian Law (ius in bello). IHL does not forbid wars: IHL is meant to protect the rights of all persons involved in an armed conflict: combatants and civilians, even mercenaries have some rights under IHL (though they are not treated as prisoners of war). The UN approach and the one adopted in this draft declaration of the human right to peace is different. United Nations were created in order to finish with wars and only those wars which may be considered legitimate (ius ad bellum) may be conducted (although the reality is far from those nice principles).

The next speaker was **Prof. Saeed el Dakkak** – professor of International Law, Legal Advisor to the BA, Member of the National Council of Human Rights in Egypt. He opened by greeting this initiative for a new generation of Human Rights and proceeded to elaborate his points in Arabic. He pointed out that to succeed in this initiative it is essential to be aware of the challenges we face. The first challenge is the discrepancy between what we perceive and reality. The UN Charter states that the main objective of the UN is to establish peace. Peace is premised upon the ban of the use of force in international relations. **Prof. Dakkak** wondered if any of this has been implemented since the issuance of the Charter, for the use of force has never ceased. The second objective of the UN is to establish international security and promote developmental efforts. However, the gap between the rich and the poor countries is constantly widening. In fact there are various forms of exploitation of poor countries adopted by the rich



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countries, of which the totally unjust GATT and TRIPS agreements are adequate examples.

The third point raised by **Prof. Dakkak** dealt with the UN Declaration on Self-Determination. He again wondered if this has been achieved, pointing out that the most prominent example is manifested in the Palestinian people, who are armed by a legitimate justification, namely their right to self-determination. Fourthly, **Prof. Dakkak** questioned the tenet that the dialogue between cultures and civilizations be based upon an understanding between the peoples of the world. He was skeptical about whether this has been achieved, or whether dialogue has come to mean the adoption of the views of the others.

**Prof. Dakkak** concluded by stating that all these points have to be tackled and that the present Declaration should include a mechanism that allows us to truly attain a Human Right to Peace.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** responded to these comments stating that he fully agreed with the tenet that the Right to Peace is a fundamental right recognized by the charters. He also thanked the speaker for linking between the Human Right to Peace and the Human Right to Development.

The floor was next taken by **Amb. Hagar Islambouly**. She thanked the working group for bringing this initiative they had launched in Spain to the BA. She went on to elaborate that although peace, as a Human Right, serves as an anchor for a new generation of Human Rights, such a step takes us into a region fraught with problems. These include problems of self-determination, failing states such as in Somalia, unilateral intervention such as what happened in Iraq. Therefore, the commitment has to be on ALL sides, so as not to be tarnished by creating disobediences against the structure of the state. She expressed her fear that we may be adding to the failing of the states and stated that the term used by Condoleezza Rice, "creative anarchy" does not in fact work. Since we find ourselves in a state of evolution, it is essential to have a focus that explains clearly the balance between the different concerned parties in the region. **Amb. Islambouly** went on to stress the fact that we have to focus on the articles chosen, and there is a need for the establishment of an environment conducive to the creation of peace. Her objection was that none of these points are found in the Declaration. She concluded by pointing out that when we are required to endorse something, it is essential to ascertain that it helps in our region which is full of hotspots. These spots need to be cooled, followed by a process of building consensus to back-up the construction of peace. Finally, she stressed that the issue of justice is of paramount importance and should be included in the Declaration.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** responded to this intervention, thanking Amb. Islambouly for her comments. He pointed out that the Declaration would be discussed at a later point



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and that anything suggested and deemed important by the participants may be included in the Draft. He maintained, however, that this document is issued by civil society and will be adopted by the UN. Hence many of the items in it will be interpreted differently, though the Declaration does in Article 4 stress upon the right to rebellion and resistance.

**Ms Sarah Hussein** took the floor next and expressed her utmost respect for what is being done, in particular as Arab activists have been fighting for peace for a long period of time. Her questions revolved specifically around Articles 11 and 14. She asked how feasible Article 11 is, and commented that Article 14 lacks a lot of clarity and definition.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** thanked Ms. Hussein for her viewpoint, then he gave the floor to **Ms. Margaret Maffai**.

**Ms. Maffai, representative of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**, commented on the shape of the Declaration in the context of armed conflicts. She pointed out that often, in the name of compromise, we see the possibility of peace taking precedence over humanitarian law. Article 10 addresses remedies; however it is highly individualized and does not address the problem in the light of humanitarian law. She believes that this aspect should be determined by the parties involved in the conflict. **Ms. Maffai** further touched upon the relation between Human Rights and peace education, relating both to the future of the document, expressing her belief that the implementation of the Declaration is a generational thing. An essential point that should be taken into consideration is to provide future leaders with ideas for peaceful interaction.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** thanked Ms. Maffai for introducing the link between the Declaration and education. He then gave the floor to **Dr. Mohamed Sherine Hamdy**, Faculty of Law – University of Alexandria.

**Mr. Sherine** thanked the organizers and raised two questions: What is the international reaction to some of the Articles such as Article 5.2 and Article 16.5? He wondered what the working group, as international experts working in the field, expected the reaction of the international states and the leading members of the UN to be. His second question focused on the possibility of making reservations to the Declaration. In the light of the fact that it is a mechanism that becomes a Declaration and hence may become a convention, as mentioned by Mr. Gomez del Prado, **Mr. Sherine** asked if it is possible for states to make reservations, or whether it will be an indivisible package?

Concluding the session, **Mr. Fernandez Puyana** reiterated the fact that the Luarca Declaration is a second attempt at codifying peace. Many countries welcome the concept, while others oppose it. The main idea is to attain a consensus. He then announced a coffee-break.



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## 4. Second Session

### 4.1. Gender Perspective and peace

**Mrs. Nagwa Shoeb, Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement**, began her talk by expressing her happiness to participate in this meeting, then went on to talk about some of the achievements of the Suzan Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement (SMWIPM). **Mrs. Shoeb** said that she will discuss some of the issues raised in the Declaration as she proceeded with her presentation. The notions of Human Security are basics of the SMWIPM. Her Excellency Mrs. Mubarak founded the Movement in 2003 to ensure the rights of all people to a life of dignity. It is a non-profit NGO, and has attained consultative status with the UN. **Mrs. Shoeb** moved on to stress yet again the definition of peace as not just the absence of war, but rather as a catalyst for development. She also pointed out that in 2004 the movement partnered with the Swiss, and that over 500 representatives of various bodies came together to consolidate the termination of violence. The main objectives can be summarized in the following:

1. The involvement of women in all steps taken towards the establishment of peace
2. The protection of women and children from violence
3. Combating trafficking
4. Launching numerous initiatives
5. The promotion of a culture of peace, to teach the values and attitudes, and to teach respect for diversity through dialogue
6. Launching a cyber-space initiative for youth

**Mrs. Shoeb** highlighted that one of the proudest achievements of the Movement is the founding of IPS, the institution that has organized today's meeting. She then proceeded to list the work already achieved by the Movement.

First, in light of UN Resolution 1325, the Movement has partnered with several UN agencies to organize workshops and other meetings, through which commitments to the advancement of women's rights and their empowerment to achieve their full potential as active participants in society were attained.

Secondly, the Movement works with young people to teach them about these issues, and how to respect differences as well as gender equity



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Thirdly, the Movement modeled UN simulations at four universities to alter attitudes and values, and to emphasize that there is a need to start at a very young age.

Fourthly, the Movement works on gender mainstreaming, highlighting the different responsibilities of men and women.

**Mrs. Shoeb** then moved to the work achieved with 1325 regionally. The Movement launched a new program called *Safe Cities*, where the Movement works very holistically to ensure the enjoyment of people of a good life, education, work, etc.

Further, **Mrs. Shoeb** stated that peace does not function in an abstract space, but rather is an entry-point through development.

In 2004, the Movement turned its attention to human trafficking. She described trafficking as one of the worst abuses against the most vulnerable groups. It represents an extreme violation of Human Rights where people are treated as a commodity, and it is the third most profitable illicit activity world-wide and very low-risk as well.

In response to this situation, Mrs. Susan Mubarak launched a program entitled "*End Trafficking Now*". The program is a means to capitalize on the breadth of reach to combat trafficking. Businesses were called upon to commit to zero-tolerance of trafficking. **Mrs. Shoeb** invited participants to visit the Movement's website for further information, and then quoted the following from the *Athens Ethical Principles*:

We, Members of the business community, Being deeply concerned that the scourge of trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, inflicts enormous suffering in the world today, consider it unacceptable that millions of people are treated as commodities and slaves, and therefore denied their basic human rights and dignity, Welcome the efforts of the international community to eradicate human trafficking, through the use of public-private partnerships, and envisage this initiative as an additional means to complement and reinforce such efforts, Recognize the significant potential of the business community to contribute to the global fight against human trafficking and are inspired by business community members who are already applying ethical policies and codes of conducts concerning human rights, Dissociate ourselves from such illicit practices by launching the following ethical principles in which we will:

1. Demonstrate the position of zero tolerance towards trafficking in human beings, especially women and children for sexual exploitation.
2. Contribute to prevention of trafficking in human beings including awareness-raising campaigns and education.
3. Develop a corporate strategy for an anti-trafficking policy which will permeate all our activities.



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4. Ensure that our personnel fully comply with our anti-trafficking policy.
5. Encourage business partners, including suppliers, to apply ethical principles against human trafficking.
6. In an effort to increase enforcement it is necessary to call on governments to initiate a process of revision of laws and regulations that are directly or indirectly related to enhancing anti-trafficking policies.
7. Report and share information on best practices.

**Mrs. Shoeb** went on to state that to date the Movement has 15000 businesses world-wide that have signed the petition and it is becoming a very forceful instrument. The attention of businesses has been brought to their workforces and they are becoming aware and more careful in selecting their people. When these businesses identify victims, they take time to rehabilitate them, train them and they take care of them. In addition, these businesses are now actively involved with the Movement to raise awareness. They help in lobbying for more stringent laws in their countries. **Mrs. Shoeb** further pointed out that there are many best practices introduced at conferences. In the light of these, the Movement launched a help-line in Geneva and is working on establishing a network of help-lines. The Movement is at the moment in the process of drafting a special human trafficking law. In Egypt, the National Council of Childhood and Woman has dedicated hotlines and a department to the combating of trafficking. The Movement also launched a cyber-space initiative using the Internet as a tool to promote peace, but it is also seeking to raise awareness of Internet safety, fighting pornography, child abuse, and stopping these at the source. It is also working on raising awareness of the dangers of the Internet. **Mrs. Shoeb** stressed the fact that it is important to acknowledge the problem and face it. Once this initial step is taken, a lot of people joined.

In conclusion, **Mrs. Shoeb** stated that the Movement's vision entails the creation of human security and the security of societies, empowered to create peace and in which the rights and dignity of individuals are protected.

**Dr. Azza ElKholly**, the moderator of the session, thanked Mrs. Nagwa Shoeb for her presentation, and next introduced **Dr. Maha Maaz**, the second speaker.

**Dr. Maha Maaz**, Lecturer of Anthropology, University of Alexandria, decided to conduct her presentation in Arabic. Pointing out that her work takes an anthropological approach rather than a legal one, she focused on the forms of violence women in Egypt are exposed to. She said her presentation tackles the Rights of Women in Egyptian society vis-à-vis a social background, in other words in a society with all aspects of violence and problems. She stressed that what we see in social reality is totally different from what we see here in conference halls.



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**Dr. Maaz's** presentation dealt with the Rights of Women as perceived through violence. She defined violence as any act of aggression resulting from gender discrimination. The Egyptian society, no doubt, still suffers from a gender gap, resulting in various forms of violence. **Dr. Maaz** identified in her presentation three sources of violence: the misinterpretation of religion, cultural heritage which demeans women, and the prevalent patriarchal culture.

First, commenting on the misinterpretation of religion and Quranic Verses, **Dr. Maaz** pointed out that violence existed in pre-Islamic societies. Interpretations of religion are made to fulfill the needs of the men, and unfortunately it becomes the fixed interpretation in the minds of people.

Secondly, she commented on cultural heritage which is full of contradictions that allow for the occurrence of violence on all levels: language and proverbs (such as a proverb that literally translates into "If you break a girl's rib, she grows two in its place"), thus fraught with instigations for violence against women. Other levels of violence include concepts of female honor, male offspring, and backward habits such as marriage at a young age and female genital mutilation.

Thirdly, **she** elaborated on the concept of a prevalent patriarchal culture, which elevates the status of the male, while at the same time marginalizes the role of women in society. This aspect of the problem increases in Upper Egypt and other rural areas.

**Dr. Maaz** next tackled three main forms of violence: familial, institutional and societal. Being pressed for time, she summarized the familial form of violence as the violence practiced by the father, the brother or even the mother at home. The worst forms of familial violence, as she pointed out, are the domestic acts of violence. Institutional violence is manifested in the discrimination codified in some legislations and penal laws, most prominent of which is the discrimination in the law of adultery. Finally, societal violence is observable in the work-place, educational settings, the street and other public areas, in acts of harassment and injustice against females.

Referring to the legal system, **Dr Maaz** pointed out that there are many legislations for the protection of women, however there is a gap between these legislations and their activation for the actual protection of women. A case in point is the laws banning marriage at a young age, hence the presence of unenforced laws. There are a number of reasons for this as enumerated by the speaker.

First, there is a culture of silence that enshrouds Egyptian women. Egyptian women suffer from a severe fear of speaking about what happens to them. Therefore, they never rebel against the violence they are submitted to, nor do they demand their right for protection.



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Second, the culture of those entrusted with the enforcement of the law. Law enforcement officers need to be educated about the law and the means of implementing it in the protection of an entire sector of the society for the protection of whom the law was issued. Ignorance of the law, the immensity of the phenomenon, or sheer negligence are causes that hinder the adequate enforcement of the law.

Third, the cultural context: It is essential to provide a firm grounding and a sound cultural context for the interaction between the instrument and its functions on the one hand, and the legislations and their enforcement on the other. This cultural context maintains that women need to be safe in their societies. This, however, is the most difficult thing to achieve, for it is not easy to change a culture.

Fourth, the woman herself has a problem. She lacks self-esteem. The simple woman does not have the strength to rebel against her situation, since she has internalized the sense of her own weakness. She has been raised to perceive of the revelation of the violence she is exposed to as a process of self-exposure.

Drawing to a close, **Dr. Maaz** stressed that to overcome this problem it is essential to set up a complete paradigm which consists of four main dimensions: the woman herself, the media, law enforcement officers, and culture.

In conclusion, **Dr Maaz** pointed out that women in ancient history enjoyed an elevated status. This can be observed in ancient mythologies, for example, which reflect women's superior status. Her final statement condemned women's loss of their elevated status as a result of men's main occupation, namely the waging of wars.

#### 4.2. Debate on the second session

**Prof. Azza ElKholly** then opened the floor for discussion.

The first comment was made by **Prof. Nabil Hilmy**, who addressed **Mrs. Shoeb**. He pointed out that if we speak about Human Rights for Peace, the first point that needs to be addressed is the selling and buying of human beings. The National Council for Human Rights has arranged seven workshops on human trafficking, which is evidence to the fact that the picture is very bleak. He commended the fact the Mrs. Mubarak is working on this issue as well, and recommended that the point be included in the Declaration.

He next addressed himself to **Dr. Maaz**, pointing out that there are two projects in process at the moment. The first is the revision of the laws to exclude what may be in violation of Human Rights. The committee undertaking this project is chaired by Dr. Zeinab Radwan. He added that one of the articles mentioned by **Dr. Maaz** as discriminating against women is included in the committee's report.



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**Prof. Hilmy** moved on to comment on the issue of law enforcement. He stated that they have already started offering educational courses for police officers and all those implementing the law. Also, for the first time we see officers going to jail for violating the law.

As for **Dr. Maaz's** objection to the humiliation suffered by women who have to provide a medical examination to prove their exposure to violence, **Prof. Hilmy** pointed out that both men and women have to submit to it, as it is a standard legal procedure providing proof that a violation occurred.

In conclusion, **Prof. Hilmy** pointed out the importance of civil society in changing the prevalent culture. He maintained that it is impossible to change the culture without the help of civil society, since people follow the civil society more readily than they follow the government.

The floor was next taken by **Amb. Ali Maher** who praised the session as balanced between positive aspects highlighted by Mrs. Shoeb and negative points discussed by **Dr. Maaz**. He pointed out that the first step for curing a disease is to diagnose the problem, but maintained that the balance is very interesting.

He then moved on to another aspect of the problem: the lack of statistics in the presentations given. He further related the points raised by the above presentations to peace and the role of women in peace. He believed that the peace movement is very important and is the first in the area of such magnitude, working on the empowerment of women to work on peace.

## 5. Third Session

### *5.1. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Luarca Declaration to consolidate a sustainable peace in the Arab region.*

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** opened his presentation by stating the purpose and the title for his talk. The purpose was mainly to give a summary of the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace (LDHRP) and the process it went through, entitling the presentation "Strengths and Weaknesses of the Luarca Declaration to consolidate a sustainable peace in the Arab region. He also thanked the speakers who came before him, and promised that the issues raised would be discussed later in the afternoon.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** started by establishing a link with the speech given by **Dr. Serageldin** earlier in the morning, stressing again that we live in an imperfect situation. He said that he remembered when he was a child, many of the issues raised by **Dr. Maaz** were happening in Spain. He pointed out that he was not claiming Spain had today



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attained any state of perfection, but rather that the situation is changing and that there is much awareness in Spain now.

He then moved on to the LDHRP, highlighting that it is but a draft and that the title will change. It is called the "Luarca" Declaration, because it started in a small place called Luarca in Spain. The process of a codification was started by a number of experts sponsored by several bodies and regional governments in Spain. It was launched in Guernika in 2005, the first city in the world that suffered an air strike by the German Luftwaffe against the civil population: the target of the planes was not a military one but the civil population. This type of bombardment against civilians which occurred during the Spanish Civil War 1936-39 would be repeated many times during the Second World War and has become nowadays a common practice. Such atrocities had been immortalized by Picasso in his famous painting "Guernica". Then the working group held a number of seminars and meetings in many other cities in Spain with representatives of civil society and academics. Finally on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006, the Declaration was adopted in Luarca.

The LDHRP is based on and deeply rooted in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, both documents being universally accepted. These two documents should then be borne in mind when the LDHRP is discussed.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** stressed that the LDHRP takes into account the preamble, the purposes and the principles of the UN Charter. He read out Article 28, highlighted on the screen, stating that "Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized". The LDHRP is also based on the Statute of the International Court of Justice and the UNESCO Constitution. The LDHRP further reinforces the universality, the indivisibility and the interdependence of Human Rights.

Focusing on the LDHRP, **Mr. Gomez del Prado** stated that a chapter-by-chapter analysis of the Declaration shows that there are rights that did not exist before, and that were not consolidated in previous documents. Article 5 is a case in point, which states "The right to disobedience and conscientious objection for peace", Article 6 which states "The right to resist and oppose barbarity", and Article 11 which states "The right to disarmament". He pointed out that these new articles may raise problems due to their innovative character which call each of us to implement individually moral values of social consequences for mankind, but that it is advisable to look forward to the future, not be limited by the present reality and keep these articles as broad as possible. It is not advisable to start out by cutting things and practicing self-censorship. The time would come when states would negotiate. It should not be forgotten that the LDHRP addresses the basic needs of all human beings.



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**Mr. Gomez del Prado** moved on to discuss a number of further basic rights, such as the Right to Food, highlighting that there are over 1020 million hungry people in the world. The second basic right is the Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation, since there is great injustice in the distribution of both in the world. The situation is as unfair in the case of the Right to Health. The injustice in the Right to a Safe and Healthy environment was linked to causes of pollution, atomic waste, the situation in Somalia, among others. Another basic right is the Right to Housing.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** further stated that the LDHRP addresses the elimination of all forms of violence. He pointed out that there are over 40 armed conflicts in the world called the new wars. Unfortunately, the population suffers the most. At the same time, **Mr. Gomez** highlighted the relationship between poverty and civil war. The probability of a civil war in a poor country is much higher than in a country with rich resources.

The next point raised by **Mr. Gomez** del Prado was anti-personal mines producing countries, as well as military expenditure in comparison with developmental aid. He maintained that there is a need to change these trends, and this instrument of a declaration on the human right to peace aims particularly at achieving this change. **Mr. Gomez** del Prado stressed the fact that violence produces millions of refugees, for there are some 25 million refugees in the world today, in addition to another 25 million of internally displaced persons. There is no doubt that structural violence also generates poverty and hunger.

At the same time there are fortresses against migration, in a world that counts 200 million migrant workers. **Mr. Gomez del Prado** showed that there are resultant casualties of individuals trying to enter the European fortress. In light of these issues, the LDHRP seeks to emphasize the need to establish a new international economic order based on the general disarmament of all states. A fair distribution of the resources freed by disarmament should go to the needs of the poorest countries and vulnerable groups.

The next point tackled by **Mr. Gomez del Prado** was arms exports. He pointed out that most exporting states are from the first world. The LDHRP aims at changing this distribution. To elaborate he referred to the Obama administration which was at the beginning strongly opposed to war, but is now withdrawing funds from assistant studies to support wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He concluded this point with a graph showing the first ten arms dealers in the world.

The next section of the presentation focused on the structure of the LDHRP. Visualizing the LDHRP as four embedded circles, the core component is the stakeholders of the Declaration, namely individuals, groups and peoples. **Mr. Gomez del Prado** stated that Dr. Serageldin had been right when he pointed out that the Rights cannot be perceived in terms of generations of rights. However, the term is used because they appeared



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historically in this order. Articles 1 to 15, containing the rights in the declaration are followed by the Obligations (Article 16). The final component is the outer-most circle, the Implementation. This component is an innovation in a declaration because this instrument provides for a mechanism of follow up or monitoring mechanism.

As for the rights and articles of LDHRP, **Mr. Gomez del Prado** pointed out that Article 3 is of great importance. It is the article on Human Security, and should be read in connection with many other rights. He described it as an interconnected right. He also stressed that Articles 5 and 6 do not exist in any other document.

Article 16 includes the Obligations for the realization of the Human Right to Peace. This Article is divided into three parts: duties, responsibilities and the UN. He then read out part of the Article, saying that this is the new aspect he had referred to in the morning: "Security Council to be reviewed to ensure proper representation, transparency and participation of civil society."

Articles 17 and 18 describe the implementation of the Declaration, which is also a new aspect. The paragraphs of these Articles circumscribe the Working Group, the Functions of the Working Group, and Final Provisions. The Working Group consists of 10 experts.

In the next section of the presentation **Mr. Gomez del Prado** focused on the steps followed by the working group to attain the LDHRP. The process started with a world campaign launched to promote the LDHRP. The working group held meetings all over the world, with the actual cities highlighted on a map shown on the screen. At the UN, more than eight joint written statements were submitted to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva by a community of 203 NGOs supporting those documents. There were also over 11 oral statements made to the UN Human Rights Council. UN Parallel meetings for various participating bodies were held, 14 of which were convened in Geneva, and 3 in New York. The next step was the adoption by consensus of the declarations on adhesion to the LDHRP. The most important point here is that the Catalanian and Asturian parliaments adopted the Declaration in 2009. Two collective publications were issued in the wake of discussions with the civil society.

Another step taken was the establishment of a group of friend-states which are members at the UN, and a network of 12 NGOs in Catalonia to promote the Declaration. In 2008, the World Alliance on the Human Right to Peace was launched ([www.aedidh.org](http://www.aedidh.org)).

The last section of **Mr. Gomez del Prado's** presentation focused on the remaining steps of the process. The working group collects the views, comments, suggestions and amendments of all the participants taking part at all the regional meetings, to be used in the revision of the LDHRP. These amendments are then integrated into the articles, and the LDHRP becomes a Draft of the Universal Declaration of the Human Right to Peace. The



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deadline for this stage is the NGO World Peace Conference due to be held in Spain on 9-10 December 2010.

Once the NGO community has adopted the new text of the Declaration, and the International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace is established, then the working group submits the Declaration to the UN General Assembly via the Human Rights Council. The International Observatory of the Human Right to Peace will be an NGO. It aims at conducting field studies, to prepare reports on situations of grave violations, and to develop indicators to measure the degree of compliance by member states.

In conclusion, **Mr. Gomez del Prado** stressed that the important thing is that member states of the UN are becoming more conscious of this Movement. A workshop is scheduled for the following week in Geneva based on an initiative by member states. There is no doubt, then, that this trend is gradually taking shape, and the member states are becoming more and more aware of the problem. Finally, he made a call for Egypt, who will hold the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement to engage in this process aiming at the adoption of a universal declaration on the Human Right to Peace.

**Prof. ElKholly** brought the session to a close thanking **Mr. Gomez del Prado** for his enlightening presentation and remarks. She then announced a lunch break, pointing out that the floor will be opened for discussions after lunch.

## 5.2. Debate on the third session

**Amb. Ali Maher** opened the session for discussion by welcoming everyone back and giving a quick review of the morning and noon sessions. He also made an announcement concerning the distribution of the new draft of the Alexandria Declaration to the participants, to be discussed in the Closing Session. He then opened the floor for the participants to voice their comments, suggestions and queries.

The first speaker to take the floor was **Mr. Mohamed Abushaqra**, a specialist at IPS. Referring to previous comments, **Mr. Abushaqra** pointed out that he was under the impression that the Declaration is slightly out of touch with the political reality we live in today, in particular if we start out with the concept of peace. In other words, if we seek a global peace structure, we need to take into account the political reality. He also commented on the strangeness of some terms used, such as the term "Semi-Europeans" and "aggression". The third point **Mr. Abushaqra** raised was the necessity to consider the concepts of International Law regarding self-defense and the necessity for using military power, in particular in terms of the criteria justifying the use of military measures.



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**Mr. Gomez del Prado** responded by stating that these are very important points, and if they are not reflected here, this is because there are a number of instruments that deal with these issues. There is, therefore, no need to redefine such concepts and terms. He further pointed out that there is a General Assembly Resolution about this issue. At the same time, if it is not included in the Luarca Declaration, it will be in the final draft since this meeting is intended to add what is not there. However, if a point is covered by a General Assembly Resolution, which was adopted by the majority of the General Assembly, then there is no need to restate the point here.

As for the enforcement measures, **Mr. Gomez del Prado** reiterated that it is not possible to add any such measures in a declaration. UN procedures follow a different track. In 1948 the UN adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There was no enforcement mechanism in that Declaration. The current declaration is at the same stage. However, a follow-up mechanism is established, and though it may take a number of years to attain a convention on this issue, it is possible to negotiate at the member state level later on. **Mr. Gomez del Prado** concluded by stressing that he fully agreed with the addition of the other point.

**Amb. Aly Maher** agreed with Mr. Gomez del Prado, stressing that reality is very different, but that this meeting is intended to CHANGE reality. Change may take a long time, but it starts in the minds of men and then there is a need to convince men. He also stressed that it is important to refer to the concept of aggression. He suggested that the participants draft a sentence or two, to be proposed for addition in the draft. This Document should be adopted in a democratic way.

**Mr. Mousawi** took the floor stating that the Human Rights Network in Iraq is an NGO, and as such there is no need to abide by certain diplomatic terms. He maintained that there is a need to be more explicit; for example, the right to resist barbarism. There is a need to be more explicit and state that it is a right to resist intervention, to resist violence, and so on.

The second point **Mr. Mousawi** raised was the issue of pornography. He considers it a violation of Human Rights, peace and security. In his opinion, Western societies have a flexible concept of Human Rights, while in our society pornography is prohibited both religiously and morally. Pornography is banned at the borders, but is allowed to infiltrate through the Internet. He thus called upon the peace movement to propose to the Egyptian government to filter Internet content.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** responded by saying that there is an artillery of terminology and it is possible to go back to an arsenal of resolutions for definitions. He said that he remembered a resolution from 1970, about peaceful relations among countries, which is truly relevant. He restated that if it is not already there, it should be incorporated.



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**Amb. Maher** added that the topic of foreign occupation is not only a matter of principle; it is closely related to peace. He stated that it is inconceivable to have occupation and peace. Referring to the comment made by Mr. Mousawi, he said the latter mentioned Iraq. However, what we witness in Palestine is beyond doubt a 60-year old occupation. In addition, part of Syria and Lebanon are occupied. He stated that it is inconceivable to hope for peace when this situation is going on, indeed when the Israelis are refusing to concede that these are occupied territories. The Declaration states that peace must be built upon justice and human dignity. However, we perceive every problem through a prism of our long conflict with Israel. Egypt signed a peace-treaty with Israel, but this did not put an end to the enmity. It should at least have been followed by peace treaties concluded with other Arab states. He then gave the floor to **Mrs. Nagwa Shoeb** to comment.

**Mrs. Shoeb** summarized her point in the form of a direct question about the definition of "barbarity" as used in the articles.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** replied that Mrs. Shoeb has a valid point there, as "aggression" has a widely accepted definition that established itself through a UN Resolution. However, for barbarity there is no definition, and suggested that it may be best to refer to the drafters and ask them to include a definition.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** added that in 1945 the countries agreed to include in Paragraph 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a definition of "cruelty". There were lengthy discussions, but finally the definition was adopted by consensus.

To which **Mr. Gomez del Prado** added that this should maybe taken into consideration. He suggested that the term "barbarity" be either defined, refined or a definition derived from the existing definition of "cruelty".

The floor was next taken by **Ms. Sara Hussein**. She commented that there are many terms that are undefined in the document. In addition, the wording of some items may cause a problem in the implementation of the Declaration.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** answered this by saying that there are not many definitions stated in the International Law. Therefore, we don't have definitions about the crime of aggression, minorities, corruption or terrorism. The point is that the International Community has to codify these in the direction of implementing them.

**Ms. Hussein** objected saying that the lack of a clear-cut definition of terms makes it hard to implement a declaration.



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**Amb. Maher** responded by pointing out that the decisive point is whether we are talking to experts or to the general public.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** stated that it is everyone's wish to provide a definition. However, if the definition of "indigenous peoples" is taken as an example, we find that it is possible to discuss the definition of the term for years. He recalled the working papers of the UN Declaration on Indigenous Peoples to explain that there existed two positions regarding to the need for having a definition on indigenous peoples, those permanent missions which agreed to have a definition on this concept and those others which preferred to adopt a UN declaration without having a previous definition because of difficulty of achieving a definition upon consensus. Having said this, he did agree with the need for definitions.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** added that there are a number of points. He said that he is currently working with another instrument that seeks to provide some control of security. The instrument has already reached UN level, and there are items that may need to be excluded. Obviously, some of us want to define everything, including terms such as Human Rights for instance. However, everyone knows what Human Rights are. It is essential therefore to be selective in terms of what to define and what not. Terms such as intergovernmental organizations have already been defined and there is no need to reinvent the wheel. On the other hand, words such as "aggression" may necessitate a reference to the relevant UN resolution. .

**Amb. Maher** added that the term "terrorism" for example is still very controversial.

Introducing a new focal point, **Prof. ElKholi** commented that the purpose of the meeting is to give the Declaration a local aspect. However, the Luarca Declaration does not touch upon this. Topics such as "terrorism", "military occupation" and "xenophobia" are very much our concern. It is our right to peace to be protected. If the cultural aspect is not brought in, there is no need to discuss this.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** responded that there is indeed a need for a concrete proposal. There are aspects particular to the region that are not included in the Declaration. He called upon the participants to work together on producing a wording that is sufficiently strong and agreed by all participants which will refer to the situation in the region and which would become an article suggested for insertion into the Declaration of Alexandria . **Amb. Maher** reiterated the invitation for the participants to draft a paragraph and propose it for inclusion into the Declaration.

The floor was next taken by **Mrs. Shoeb** who thanked the speakers for bringing up this issue as it is one that is of great concern. However, she said that she wanted to take issue with **Mr. Mousawi** for saying that the West is very lax about pornography. The SMWIPM



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has held many meetings and conferences, which resulted in a consensus on the need to protect our children from pornography. The West is just as concerned as the East.

**Mrs. Shoeb** pointed out that there are many laws in Egypt that criminalize pornography. The problem, however, is multi-faceted, for there are several bodies involved and the business as such is very lucrative. One way to deal with this is to work with the technical providers to apply filters.

The second issue touched upon by **Mrs. Shoeb** was the concerns for the freedom of speech and the freedom of access to information, which have to be taken into consideration. The work that needs to be done is mainly to raise people's awareness and alert them to the dangers. There is no doubt that the topic is very complicated, but there is a consensus to combat it. Monitoring and policing does not always work, and the SMWIPM is very active in this respect. However, she stressed that this is not limited to this part of the world.

**Mr. Fernandez Puyana** replied to this stating that **Mrs. Shoeb** introduced a very important point, and this may be linked with the notion of "xenophobia". He then moved to the Beijing Declaration and read out Article 113, which provides a definition for gender-based violence:

The term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

He stressed that this Article is very important and needs to be taken into consideration.

**Amb. Hagar Islambouly** commented that this is a very inclusive Article but it misses the terms "aggression" and "military occupation". Thus if this article is taken, other illegal practices need to be added.

**Amb. Maher** suggested that **Mr. Puyana** may want to add this.

**Ms. Margaret Maffai** made a brief contribution, pointing out that foreign occupation and border insecurity increase trafficking.

The floor was next taken by **Mr. Amina el-Halawani** – TA at the Faculty of Arts, University of Alexandria and IPS student. She commented that there is no question about the necessity to endorse a long-term policy for peace, but there is also need for short-term solutions to resolve pressing conflicts. She argued that if we do not pause and resolve these issues, there will be no culture of peace. **Ms. Halawani** pointed out that we



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all realize that the concept of peace is very abstract. However, she wondered when power comes into play, some declarations are put aside and violated by states, but sometimes also on the social level.

**Amb. Maher** responded that he sees **Ms. Halawani's** point, stressing that this is what we have to do to attain a better world. He stressed again that we are just trying to make the world less imperfect. If we just accept fatality and wickedness, then hope is lost. Some people's reaction to meetings like the current one is that it is mere talk, but we are not in a position to take measures. It is possible to push matters through the proper international channels and instruments. He also stated that talk is useful when done in a systematic organized manner. Determination and convictions can lead to results. He concluded by stressing that he not only is convinced that peace is the right thing, for it conditions our lives and future, but also that it is a necessity for our children.

**Ms. Halawani** commented that this is what she had meant when she said that there is a need to push for short-term measures.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** added that it is also a question of mobilizing the international community. He pointed out that there are other parallel actions taking place, but this is not the place for short-term solutions. Drawing on examples such as the measures taken against apartheid, he pointed out that there were many actions taken. However, they did not prevent the violent actions in South Africa. There are channels for short-term solutions other than the current channel, which aims for the establishment of norms and is a long-term instrument.

**Mr. Mousawi** commented next that he had noticed that this Declaration lacks a short paragraph explaining or codifying the Human Right to Peace to the readers of the document.

**Ms. Sara Hussein** made two comments concerning Articles 11 and 14. She wondered how feasible Article 11 would be, and whether it may prevent states from adopting the Declaration. The notion of complete disarmament may not pass or receive great support. As for Article 14, she said it lacked clarity and failed to identify the violence targeting minority groups.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** replied first to the question concerning Article 11. He pointed out that at this stage the sky is the limit. He stressed that we should not start out with self-censorship. The Article is needed. There shouldn't be so many billions spent on armament when there are millions dying. The negotiation of the terms by the states is not our concern. Our concern is that the world cannot continue like this.



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He then asked for elaboration on what is not clear in Article 14. He wondered if the English was not well-structured, and if so, asked to be provided with the corrected structure.

The next speaker was **Ms. Wegdan Hussein** IPS student and BA staff member. She dealt with Articles 3, 4 and 5. She first commented on Article 5, saying that the previous call for a general approach to its statement is disturbing for her. She expressed her belief that we should be more specific as to the notion of civil disobedience. She further pointed out that peace has throughout been described as not being merely the absence of war. She then asked what about non-armed conflicts? She wondered if these did not constitute part of the peace-sustainability. As for Articles 3 and 4, she said they needed further elaboration.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** commented that they are linked, calling again upon the speaker and the participants to provide any alternative formulation they may want to suggest for Article 5.

**Mr. Mohamed Sherine** stated that he had produced an amendment of the formulation of Article 14, and has offered his suggestion to his colleagues.

Next **Amb. Ali Maher** posed a direct question: Who attended the Luarca meeting? **Mr. Gomez** explained that the process started as an awareness raising campaign, and as an association for the protection and promotion of Human Rights. It then moved into the area of developing a culture of peace, then it disappeared. Then there was an effort to relaunch the project, and meetings were held all over Spain. After that the academics and NGOs met and adopted the document, and this was still in Spain. The next step was to go international. He then called upon **Mr. Fernandez Puyana** to elaborate. The latter explained that the process is now in the stage of civil consultation with the five regions. This stage will end in 2011.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** added that this issue of the Human Right to Peace for peoples is currently being discussed at the UN. In a week's time there will be a meeting in Geneva hosting people from all over the world, in which governments represented in the UN Human Rights Council will discuss the issue.

**Amb. Maher** concluded this discussion by commenting that the culture of peace did not disappear entirely, because the civil society has been active in Egypt in cultivating the culture of peace. He pointed out that the quest is to continue the work of Federico. He then proposed to move on to discuss the draft of the Declaration of Alexandria, suggesting that he would read the draft paragraph by paragraph, allowing the participants to comment. He then allowed a ten-minute break for the participants to prepare their amendments and suggested formulations.



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## 6. Discussion of the Declaration of Alexandria

After initial suggestions by **Mr. Mousawi**, both **Mr. Gomez** and **Amb. Maher** again called upon participants to provide a wording of their suggestions and amendments, and then hand them in writing in to Mr. Gomez for consideration.

**Amb. Maher** then proceeded to read out the amended Declaration of Alexandria paragraph by paragraph, allowing the participants to discuss the choice of words, the wording and the inclusion and/or exclusion of items. The most significant changes introduced may be summarized in the following points:

1. **Prof. ElKholy** suggested the inclusion of an Article with the following wording:

1. "Recalling the UN GA resolution 3314, on 14 Dec 1975, concerning the definition of aggression and emphasizing the natural legal right of states to self-defense in compliance with international law"

2. **Mr. Mousawi** suggested the following amendment:

2. "... victims of human rights violations and international humanitarian law breaches, including illegal wars, military occupation, unilateralism...."

3. **Prof. ElKholy** proposed the following addition:

3. "Emphasizing the need to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the ME, we endorse the right of all peoples to self-determination and to end foreign occupation. We reiterate that justice is *sine qua non* for peace and security, and support the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 529 in 2003."

4. **Mr. Mousawi** provided the following wording for a new paragraph on nuclear weapons disarmament:

4. "We support the efforts to establish a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the ME as an important step towards peace and security."

At the end of the discussion of the draft, **Mr. Fernandez Puyana** asked about the possibility of translating the Declaration of Alexandria into Arabic. **Amb. Maher** added that the Declaration would be disseminated to the media as soon as it is finalized. He proceeded to thank everyone for the hard work achieved in Alexandria, but also in other places. He stressed that this is a most fruitful cooperation between the IPS and the working group.



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## 6. Closure

**Prof. ElKholly** offered concluding remarks on the logistics of a translation into Arabic. She thanked the participants and expressed special thanks to the chairperson, Amb. Ali Maher.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** added that Amb. Ali Maher did a wonderful job and was a wonderful chair. He thanked all the participants and the organizers who made this event possible in such a short time. He stressed that he has attended many meetings, but this one was very successful.

**Mrs. Shoeb** made a concluding remark, stating that the idea of Declaration on the Human Right to Peace is very inspiring and that she hopes it would reach the final codification and approval soon.

**Mr. Gomez del Prado** expressed appreciation and thanks to the interpreters for a wonderful job. In conclusion he stated that it was a privilege to hold this meeting at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

Finally, **Amb. Ali Maher** brought the session to a close and concluded the meeting.



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## PROGRAM

	<p><b>7 DECEMBER 2009</b></p> <p><b>BIBLIOTHECA OF ALEXANDRIA</b> <b>EGYPT</b></p>
09.00-09.15	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OPENING SESSION OF THE EXPERT MEETING</b></p> <p>Welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Vice Chairman of IPS Board &amp; Director of Bibliotheca Alexandrina</li> <li>• Mr. Jose Luis Gómez del Prado, member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries and representative of the SSIHRL</li> </ul>
09.15 – 09.45	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIRST SESSION</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Promotion of the Human Right to Peace as a means to Promote Human Dignity and Peaceful Relationships between Cultures, Religions and Civilizations</b></p> <p>Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Vice Chairman of IPS Board &amp; Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina</p>
09.45 – 10.45	<p style="text-align: center;">Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. David Fernandez Puyana, Representative of AEDIDH and UNESCO Etxea in Geneva</p>
10.45- 11.15	



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	Coffee Break
	<b>SECOND SESSION</b>
	<b><i>The linkage between gender and peace</i></b>
11.15 – 11.30	Mrs. Nagwa Shoeb. Director General of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement  Dr. Maha Maaz. Consultant. Institute for Peace Studies
	<b>THIRD SESSION</b>
	<b><i>Strengths and weakness of the Luarca Declaration to consolidate a sustainable peace in the Arab region</i></b>
11.30 – 12.00	Mr. Jose Luis Gomez del Prado, representative of the SSIRRL: <i>The Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace and the World Campaign for the Human Right to Peace</i>
12.00– 13.00	Discussion Moderator: Dr. Azza El Kholly, Deputy Director –Institute for Peace Studies
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-16.30	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations (Declaration of Alexandria)</b> Moderator: Ambassador Aly Maher El Sayed, Advisor, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
16.30	<b>Closure</b>
16.30	<b>Tour of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina</b>



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	<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>
1	Adel Thabet	Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Commerce, Alexandria University
2	Nabil Hilmy	Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Zakakik University
3	Nagwa Shoeb	Executive Director, The Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement
4	Hagar Islambouly	Ambassador, Director, External Relations Sector, Bibliotheca Alexandrina
5	Aly Maher	Ambassador, Advisor Bibliotheca Alexandrina
6	Saeed El Dakkak	Professor of Public International Law, Faculty of Law, Alexandria University
7	Margaret Maffai	Programme Development Coordinator, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
8	Fawzi Mekheimer	Al Akhbar Newspaper
9	Mohamed Sherine	Graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
10	Wegdan Hussein	Senior Translation Specialist, Manuscript Center, Bibliotheca Alexandrina & IPS Student
11	Amina El Halawani	Graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
12	Sara Hegazi	Graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
13	Yamen Hamdi	Graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS



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		studies
14	Azza ElKholy	Deputy Director, the Institute for Peace Studies
15	Shahinaz El Hennawi	Head of Unit, the Insitute for Peace Studies
16	Nadine El Sarrag	Specialist, the Institute for Peace Studies
17	Maha Maaz	Advisor, The Institute for Peace Studies
18	Muhammad Mostafa Abushagra	Specialist, the Institute for Peace Studies
19	David Fernandez Puyana	Representative of AEDIDH and UNESCO Etxea in Geneva
20	Jose Luis Gomez del Prado	Member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries and representative of the SSIHRL
21	Sara Hussein	Arabic Network for Human Rights Information
22	Saeed al Mousawi	Director of the Monitoring Net of Human Rights in Irak
23	Muhsen Khalil	Director of the Commission for Human Rights in Irak



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### **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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 2006<sup>1</sup>, 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:

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<sup>1</sup>The 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 Desarrollo 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> )



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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.

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 2003<sup>2</sup>.

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 regions<sup>3</sup>. The universal declaration on the human right to peace

<sup>2</sup>Text 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-

<sup>3</sup> 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



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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.

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(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 (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

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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](http://www.aedidh.org))

Alexandria, Egypt, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### Signatories:

1. **Ismael Serageldin**, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina and vicepresident of IPS
2. **Hind Hanafi**, President of Alexandria University
3. **Ahmed Hindi**, Dean of the Faculty of Law, Alexandria University
4. **Adel Thabet**, Professor of Political Science, Faculty of Alexandria
5. **Wael El Assad**, Ambassador, Arab League, Director of the Multilateral Relations Department
6. **Nabil Hilmy**, Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Zakakik University and member of the National council for human rights
7. **Nagwa Shoeb**, Executive Director, The Suzanne Mubarak International Peace Movement Women's
8. **Hagar Islambouly**, Ambassador, Director, External Relations of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
9. **Aly Maher**, Ambassador, Advisor of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
10. **Saeed El Dakkak**, Professor of Public International Law, Faculty of Law, Alexandria University
11. **Margaret Maffai**, Program Development Coordinator, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies



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12. **Bahey El-Din Hassan**, Director General, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
  13. **Moataz el Feigery**, Executive Director, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies
  14. **Layla Morsi**, Professor of international relations, Alexandria University
  15. **Fawzi Mekheimer**, journalist of the Al Akhbar Newspaper
  16. **Mohamed Sherine**, graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
  17. **Wegdan Hussein**, graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
  18. **Amina El Halawani**, graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
  19. **Sara Hegazi**, graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
  20. **Yamen Hamdi**, graduated by the Alexandria University and IPS studies
  21. **Azza ElKholly**, Deputy Director, IPS
  22. **Shahinaz El Hennawi**, Head of Unit, Institute for Peace Studies, IPS Staff
  23. **Nadine El Sarrag**, Specialist, Institute for Peace Studies, IPS Staff
  24. **Muhammad Mostafa Abush**, Specialist, Institute for Peace Studies, IPS Staff
  25. **David Fernandez Puyana**, Representative of AEDIDH and UNESCO Etxea in Geneva
  26. **Jose Luis Gomez del Prado**, member of the UN Working Group on the use of mercenaries and representative of the SSIHRL
  27. **Hoda Abdelwahed**, Director, Arab Centre for the Independence of Judges and Legal Professions
  28. **Abdo Abdel Aziz Hamada**, staff of the Arabic Network for Human Rights Information
  29. **Saeed al Mousawi**, Director of the Monitoring Net of Human Rights in Irak
  30. **Muhsen Khalil**, Director of the Commission for Human Rights in Irak