

IXth General Assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Bologna, Italy, September 6 - 7, 1996

"Peace, Family, Education"

Executive Board meeting in New Haven (February 1996) included meeting with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali at the UN Headquarters in New York. International Association of Peace Messenger Cities was invited to participate at Habitat II World Conference at Istanbul, Turkey. Annual conference was organized by the City of Marzabotto, and kindly hosted by the City of Bologna, Emilia Romagna.

DECLARATION OF BOLOGNA

The delegates of 31 Peace Messenger Cities, from 26 countries, express to the City of Marzabotto and to the Province of Emilia Romagna, as well as to the Italian Government, their gratitude for the organisation of the 9th General Assembly in Bologna.

The Theme of the reflexion, i.e.: "Peace, Family, Education" allowed our Association, through several interventions, to take part in the same universal values.

The consequences of these exchanges were to re-dynamise the constant worries with the mutual collection of solidarity and fraternity sent by the important Message of the General Secretary of the United Nations to the Peace Messenger Cities.

Indeed, further to a long experience, our Association has now to assume the definition of a political project about peace, the principal aim being peace, social and economic: development of their populations. To that purpose, it is necessary to reduce at the most of its possibilities the North/South cleavage, which is growing every day. That is why, reaching a new millennium, our Association invites each population of our planet to work so that the 21st century be that of hope and rediscovery of spirit values.

We shall never forget that the rights of human beings are only blowing, like plants in favourable compost, and that the research and the construction of peace tend not only to reduce misery and oppression, but also to broaden all ways of life. It seems thus necessary to establish a constructive dialogue between people so as to expose their points of view and get evident the different opinions in order to institute the necessary confidence to reach a harmonious co-operation. To obtain a climate of peace disarmament remains a major priority. The General Assembly reaffirms its position for a complete abolition of nuclear weapons, land mines and weapons in general. The stopping of the running for armament will allow emerging new human and material resources in favour of the good of humanity. In that context, the duty of the family, basic cell of every human organisation, is to create the conditions of a social and lasting peace. Each citizen should bring his contribution and the city, space of friendship and solidarity, should be its principal aim.

It is therefore important that everybody seeks for the means to break the barriers between mankind in the cities, creating places for encounters to exchange ideas about formation, employment as well as security of the goods and the people. The action of the city is undoubtful. At that level, the final declaration of the Habitat II Conference in Istanbul is calling out to the cities. The same recommendations were made at the Beijing Conference, and confirmed during the recent Stockholm Conference, which leave to the women to develop a culture of peace, through the education of their

children, constructing a favourable environment. The Peace Messenger Cities have taken the decision to put a particular accent on the education and the cultural activities to draw the attention of the young people in favour of Peace.

Furthermore, the General Assembly invites all the Peace Messenger Cities, which were present in Bologna, as well as the 17 cities, which sent a participation message, and all the others, to bring their contribution to all initiatives in favour of education about peace, in conformity with the UNESCO indications (schools and working places). The participation of all territorial communities should be raised up to the materialisation of the first and most noble of the rights of humankind, with Life and Liberty, and desire for Peace. Finally, the General Assembly is returning to the Executive Committee, then studies the following propositions:



At UN Headquarters in New York with Boutros Boutros-Ghali during New Haven Executive Meeting, 1996,

- 1) Actions in favour of the extension of "un-nuclearised " zones
- 2) Appeal to the international authorities in order to eliminate completely nuclear weapons
- 3) To export the travelling exhibition of Nagasaki and Hiroshima 4) To create a Commission for Peace
- 5) To create a Commission in order to promote exchanges between young people in our Cities.
- 6) Organisation of a special round table in order to organise the next meeting of the Executive Committee
- 7) Presentation, before the United Nations, of a resolution for a general disarmament in the Balkans
- 8) Realisation of a peace educational program for our children
- 9) Denunciation/exclusion of any organisation or other entities which dispatch ideals of war

