

**RESOLUTION
IN SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE ON DISARMAMENT
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Whereas, the United Nations reports that more than US \$2 TRILLION DOLLARS are spent annually worldwide on arms not including the costs of the illegal invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan and current conflicts; and further

Whereas, global expenditures amount to two million dollars every minute for war, draining national treasuries, creating a crisis in funding for essential social services: health, education, infrastructure, food, shelter, environment, simple development, etc.; and further

Whereas, the heightened tensions, exploding in civil strife created by the arms race, heightened by the economic crisis that rages throughout the developed world, have so burdened the undeveloped and developing world, that hundreds of millions of people are suffering from lack of food and shelter, wandering the earth in search of employment, and nation-states are either unstable or failing, wallowing in debt, in the main, created by arms purchases; and further

Whereas, there has been recognition of the need to assist the impoverished South with sustainable development: i.e. the United Nations Millennium goals for alleviating poverty by 50% by the year 2015 by contributions of 0.7% of gross national product by the developed world, only few countries have complied and the economic crisis has placed the entire program in disarray; and further

Whereas, increased expenditures for the development of new weapons of mass destruction, space weaponry, participation in the illegal wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and other areas and the maintenance and expansion of the national militaries have rendered the pledges to contribute for sustainable development of the South as mere empty promises; and further

Whereas, Special Sessions of the United Nations on Disarmament have inspired increased organization and demonstration by the global peace movement, in turn, sparking a new level of peace activity against the dangers of nuclear war; and further

Whereas, the General Assembly of the United Nations, has mandated the Commission on Disarmament to present plans for the International Decade for Disarmament that will encourage both government and civil society discussion of concrete steps to reduce the global arms race;

Therefore, the Executive Board of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, on April 2, 2009, in keeping with its mission, endorses the International Decade for Disarmament, urging all member Cities to initiate programs to bring the message of the Decade to their people; and further

Resolves, that the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, play an active role, together with the global peace movement, to organize public support for the efforts of the General Assembly and the Commission on Disarmament of the United Nations to establish the International Decade for Disarmament; simultaneously plan, with the global peace movement, the organization of a major public expression of support coinciding with the Review of the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in May, 2010.

Therefore, a copy of this Resolution is to be forwarded to all members of IAP MC, urging them to contact their national governments to support the International Decade for Disarmament and a 4th Special Session of the United Nations on Disarmament.