



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES VILLES MESSAGÈRES DE LA PAIX
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PEACE MESSENGER CITIES

SOCHI DECLARATION

Resolution of the 21st General Assembly of
the International Association of Peace Messengers Cities

We, members of the International Association of Peace Messengers Cities, gathered at the 21st General Assembly in Sochi, Russia, a special multicultural city of the Russian Federation where more than 100 nationalities live together in peace and harmony, a city that places high emphasis on the development of international links and joint projects, a city that was honored to host the 22nd Winter Olympic and 11th Winter Paralympic Games in 2014, commemorate the 60th anniversary of THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS and confirm that today the UDHR is more relevant than ever.

We firmly believe that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Declaration is the foundation of international human rights law, the first universal statement on the basic principles of inalienable human rights and a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. As the UDHR approaches its 60th birthday, it is timely to emphasize the living document's enduring relevance, its universality, and that it touches all of our lives.

It was the UDHR, almost 60 years ago, that first recognized what have become nowadays universal values: human rights are inherent to all and the concern of the whole of the international community. Drafted by representatives of all regions and legal traditions, the UDHR has stood the test of time and resisted attacks based on "relativism". The Declaration and its core values, including non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality, apply to everyone, everywhere and always. The UDHR belongs to all of us.

More than ever, in a world threatened by racial, economic and religious divides, we must defend and proclaim the universal principles --first enshrined in the UDHR-- of justice, fairness and equality that people across all boundaries hold so deeply.

Human rights are not only a common inheritance of universal values that transcend cultures and traditions, but are quintessentially local values and nationally-owned commitments grounded in international treaties and national constitutions and laws.

We, members of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, appeal to the Governments of all countries to respect human rights, take positive action to facilitate the enjoyment of basic human rights, realize the responsibility to protect individuals and groups against human rights abuses.



History affirms there can be no peace without justice as there can be no justice without peace. Peace is the embodiment of the hopes of humanity. The struggle for peace is the struggle to realize the fullest development of the human personality of all peoples. To that end, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights becomes the framework, the goal, of humanity.

We address our appeal to the United Nations Organization, to the world community, to all state, public, political, religious figures and all organizations of civil society to strictly advocate and observe the principles incorporated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to provide its tenets to each and every person and its validity to all societies.

We collectively declare the intention *to direct* this resolution to all Heads of States, Missions to the United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to Non-Governmental Organizations and the media.

Debated and adopted in Sochi, November 15, 2008.

International Association of Peace Messenger Cities