



THE GENEVA DECLARATION

The Executive Board of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities (IAPMC), designated by the General Assembly in commemoration of the International Year of Peace in 1985 for their commitment to the creation of a culture of peace and justice within their borders, gathered in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22nd to 23rd March 2007, in the midst of global turbulence and violence between nations and civil conflict;

We urgently call upon all Mayors and City Councils worldwide to raise their voices of insistence for patient and persistent peaceful negotiations to replace military intervention that threatens to engulf the entire world.

The great majority of the world's population reside now in cities. As leaders of municipalities, we are closest to our people, made aware daily of their needs and aspirations. We face the burden of trying to provide for their good and welfare at a time when over a USD trillion are diverted from national treasuries for the spiraling arms race devoted to killing machines.

We welcome the overwhelming vote of the nations at the General Assembly of the United Nations for the 4th Special Session of Disarmament;

We urge the inclusion of organizations such as IAPMC and the Non-Governmental community in the planning and deliberations of the Special Session on Disarmament;

We demand agreement to serious reductions in arms expenditures by all nations;

We demand the dividends to be used to meet the Millennium Goals set by the collective decisions of the United Nations and solemnly accepted by all members. Only through global disarmament can there be meaningful measures for development and a concerted attack on hunger, disease, homelessness and lack of employment.

Our Association was founded on among other things the mandate to work for the abolition of all nuclear weapons;

We are deeply concerned with the proliferation of nuclear weapons and with the lack of commitment by the nuclear weapons States to abide by their agreement to the provisions of the Non-Proliferation Treaty to negotiate for the total abolition of nuclear weapons. We are mind full that Cities and its residents are inevitably the targets of nuclear weapons;

We call upon all the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, who will be meeting in Vienna, Austria in May 2007, to take immediate steps to set in motion their solemn word. The peoples of the world are frightened, as they should be, by the danger to all humanity by the continued presence and development of even more powerful nuclear weapons;

The Year 2008 will be the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This historic document stands out as a clarion call for all human societies. It sets forth the rights of all people to the opportunities to achieve the human potential. It remains as a beacon hope for most of humanity;

We call upon all Cities to organize widespread dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Schools and universities should be encouraged to use the document in classrooms and lectures. Governments and civil society should engage in national discussions. December 10th, 2008, the Day of the United Nations for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, should be observed in ceremonies dedicated to the achievement of its goals;

Concomitantly, we vigorously uphold the mission and objectives of the Human Rights Council, currently convening its Fourth Session in Geneva;

We resolve to bring the Geneva Declaration to all Heads of States; the Secretary-General and General Assembly of the United Nations; all associations of cities and all members of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities.

Signed,

Executive Board of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities:

1. Brighton & Hove City Council (Great Britain)
2. Geneva (Switzerland)
3. Krusevac (Serbia)
4. Lomé (Togo)
5. Płonsk (Poland)
6. New Haven (United States)
7. Slovenj Gradec (Slovenia)
8. Suwon (Korea)
9. Vancouver (Canada)
10. Volgograd (Russia)
11. Yokohama (Japan)

Observer:

Cambridge (United States)

Geneva, 23rd March 2007