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# Conference on Disarmament

1 June 2012

English

Original: Spanish

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## **Note verbale dated 30 May 2012 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting the text of the final statement of the Meeting of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, adopted on 24 May 2012 in Havana**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations based in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament and has the honour to transmit herewith, in English and Spanish, the final statement adopted on 24 May 2012 by the Meeting of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Peace and Nuclear Disarmament.

The Permanent Mission of Cuba would be grateful if the present statement could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and distributed to all member States of the Conference and to all States participating as observers in the Conference.

## **Meeting of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Peace and Nuclear Disarmament**

### **Final statement**

Meeting in Havana, the representatives of 80 Cuban civil society organizations and international organizations based in Cuba,

Conscious of the need to suppress all acts of aggression and to promote peace and a just and an equitable world order based on the Charter of the United Nations and international law, we emphasize our deep concern for the threat to the survival of mankind posed by the existence in the world of over 20,000 nuclear weapons, and we express our strongest support for government actions leading to the achievement of nuclear disarmament and the prohibition and total elimination of such weapons from the face of the earth,

The Cuban Civil Society Organizations taking part in the Meeting on Peace and Nuclear Disarmament proclaim the following:

1. Sixty years ago, the United Nations Organization urged: “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction”.
2. The total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or the threat of their use. It is therefore necessary and urgent to achieve nuclear disarmament as soon as possible.
3. It is unacceptable that, in today’s world — which has been hard hit by a severe and deepening global economic crisis — the astronomical sum of 1.74 trillion dollars should be spent on arms production, while 1.02 billion people suffer from hunger and 11 million children die each year from preventable diseases.
4. The unacceptable doctrine of “nuclear deterrence” must be abandoned once and for all, since far from contributing to nuclear disarmament, it merely encourages the perpetration of those weapons.
5. Concrete steps must be taken to achieve general nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons in accordance with a multilateral, transparent, irreversible and verifiable timetable.
6. We support the proposal made by the Non-Aligned Movement to establish a specific timetable for the gradual reduction of nuclear weapons until securing their total elimination and prohibition by no later than 2025.
7. We also express our support for the statement adopted by the Summit of the Community of the Latin-American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in December 2011, which stressed the strong commitment of all the countries in our region to work towards convening a high-level international conference aimed at identifying ways and means of eliminating nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date.
8. The Cuban non-governmental organizations join in this international effort and call upon all people of goodwill and peace-lovers throughout the world to redouble their efforts to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons. Our present and future generations have the right to live in peace.

9. This statement is open to signature by all persons and organizations who agree with the principles and aims stated herein.

Havana, 24 May 2012  
“Fifty-fourth year of the Revolution”

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