
Conference on Disarmament

21 March 2013
English
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Note verbale of 20 March 2013 addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament by the Permanent Mission of Cuba, transmitting the text of the Declaration adopted at the Workshop of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Nuclear Disarmament held in Havana on 12 March 2013

The Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations Office 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 the Declaration adopted at the Workshop of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Nuclear Disarmament held in Havana on 12 March 2013.

The Permanent Mission would appreciate it if the Declaration could be issued as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and circulated to all member States and observer States of the Conference.

Declaration adopted at the Workshop of Cuban Civil Society Organizations on Nuclear Disarmament held at the office of the United Nations Association of Cuba in Havana on 12 March 2013

We, representatives of Cuban and international civil society organizations based in Cuba, meeting at the office of the United Nations Association of Cuba in Havana on 12 March 2013, convinced that the threat posed by nuclear weapons to our planet is growing, that the effects of their use are unpredictable and that the risks of a nuclear war are far more serious than the general public realizes, have adopted the following declaration reaffirming that we:

1. Are deeply concerned about the danger posed to humanity by the existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
2. Support the expeditious and complete elimination of nuclear weapons as the only guarantee against their use or the threat of their use and as a crucial measure to avoid unleashing a nuclear war.
3. Reject the unacceptable doctrine of “nuclear deterrence”, which, far from contributing to nuclear disarmament, encourages the continued possession of nuclear weapons.
4. Reject the policy of States that spend astronomical sums on researching and developing new nuclear weapons when, in the midst of a serious international crisis, over a billion people in the world are starving and over 11 million children are dying every year from preventable diseases.
5. Believe it is important that the international media give priority to providing reliable information on the danger posed to humanity by the possession of nuclear weapons, as “we do not need a nuclear war to make the human race extinct”.¹
6. Support the position taken in the Santiago Declaration, adopted at the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) held in Santiago, Chile, on 28 January 2013, regarding the “commitment to participate actively and adopt a common position at the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament, to be held in New York on 26 September 2013”.
7. Call on both Cuban and international civil society organizations to support efforts to ensure that the high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on nuclear disarmament reaches an agreement that includes a multilateral, transparent, irreversible and verifiable timetable for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

This declaration is open for signature by all individuals and organizations that agree with the principles and aims expressed therein.

Signatory organizations

Asociación Cubana de Naciones Unidas (United Nations Association of Cuba, ACNU)

Movimiento Cubano por la Paz y la Soberanía de los Pueblos (MOVPAZ)

¹ Fidel Castro Ruz, “El Invierno Nuclear”, 23 August 2010, 5.34 p.m., reproduced in *El Derecho de la Humanidad a Existir: Selección de Reflexiones del Comandante en Jefe Fidel Castro Ruz sobre Desarrollo Sostenible* (Editorial Científico-Técnica, La Habana, 2012).

Asociación de Técnicos Azucareros de Cuba (ATAC)

Central de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC)

Federación de Mujeres Cubanas (FMC)

Organización de Solidaridad con los Pueblos de África, Asia y América Latina (OSPAAAL)

Organización Continental Latinoamericana de Estudiantes (OCLAE)

Red en Defensa de La Humanidad (REDH)

Unión de Jóvenes Comunistas (UJC)

Unión Nacional de Juristas de Cuba (UNJC)
