

## **Open-Letter on the right to peace addressed to the diplomatic community**

Your Excellency,

On July 1st 2016, the Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Right to Peace (A/HRC/RES/32/28). Such Declaration is the result of a common and resolute effort carried out by civil society, governments and UN entities with the purpose of advancing in the construction of a future of peace for all humankind.

Our organizations, together with many other civil society organizations from all over the world, actively engaged all along the negotiation process, raising the voice of the voiceless and countless innocent victims of wars and violence in all its forms.

The Declaration on the Right to Peace will be submitted to the General Assembly for its adoption during the current 71st regular session.

We call upon all UN Member States to support this important initiative and therefore to vote in favor of the Declaration on the Right to Peace when it will be drawn to their attention.

The text, which has been adopted by the Human Rights Council following three sessions of an Open-Ended Intergovernmental Group and an intense dialogue, represents an acceptable compromise between different views and aspirations. As civil society organizations we were aiming at a more articulated and substantive document. Nevertheless, we value efforts made to reach a least common denominator.

In today's world, devastated by armed conflicts, hate and poverty, the recognition and declaration by an overwhelming majority of states that “Everyone has the right to enjoy peace”, would send to Humanity, and in particular to young and future generations, a very much needed message of peace and hope. Our organizations cannot but recognize the great importance of such message. The adoption of the UN Declaration on the Right to Peace will represent a little step forward toward the fulfilment of the solemn promises we made in 1945.

Confident in the support of your Delegation to such historical Declaration, please accept, Excellency, the assurance of our highest considerations.

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