



32nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 13 June -1 July 2016

Item 5: General Debate

Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23), International Association of Democratic Lawyers and Center for Global NONKILLING welcome the initiative of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to present the text of the declaration on Right to Peace for adoption at this 32nd regular session of the Human Rights Council.

In the past four years, we have actively participated with many other NGOs from all over the world in the negotiation process of the Open Ended Working Group on Right to Peace exercising our duty to bring into that room the voice of the people of the world who are victims of armed conflict, direct, structural and cultural violence, and whose human rights must be respected and protected.

We have called for a Declaration on Right to Peace that may be meaningful, consensual and relevant and may have a significant impact on the lives of these people.

The United Nations were established 70 years ago with the main purpose to prevent the suffering generated by wars and to promote world peace. Peace is a precondition for the respect of all human rights, including the right to development, and the violation of any human right is a threat to peace. In the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, it will be a great achievement to declare the human right to peace. We insist on the need of the human family to have this right declared and to declare it now!

We would like to echo the words of Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Peace in 2014, when He expressed the hope that "there will be an effective application in international law of the right to peace, as a fundamental human right and a necessary prerequisite for every other right".

The international community should exert their utmost efforts to reach a consensual declaration that proclaims in the title and the article one the Right to Peace.

Thank You.