



In special consultative status with the United Nations

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE
17th Session**

Agenda Item 2 b):

Follow-up of reports submitted to the Human Rights Council

I) Promotion of the right of peoples to peace

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

On 1st July 2016, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 32/28, by which it adopted the annexed Declaration on the Right to Peace and recommended it for final approval by the General Assembly. As a result, the fourth Session of the Working Group on the Right to Peace, scheduled from 11 to 15 July 2016, was cancelled.

The Declaration had been submitted by the Chairman-Rapporteur of the Working Group at the end of its third Session in 2015 and was approved by the Council with slight amendments. Resolution 32/28 was adopted with 34 votes in favor, 9 against and 4 abstentions. Therefore, arguments made by the Chairman-Rapporteur to obtain consensus among States were wrong.

Civil society organizations opposed this Declaration because it was emptied of content for the sake of consensus. It did not recognize the human right to peace nor its essential components. Indeed, after a long preamble of 37 paragraphs, it merely affirms in article 1 of the dispositive part that “Everyone has the right to enjoy peace such that all human rights are promoted and protected and development is fully realized”. And article 2 adds the following: “States should respect, implement and promote equality and non-discrimination, justice and the rule of law and guarantee freedom from fear and want as a means to build peace

within and between societies.” The next two articles merely outline the promotion of education for peace among States and other international actors.

It should be reminded that the Working Group on the Right to Peace received in 2012 the Council’s mandate to prepare a draft declaration on the right to peace on the basis of the Declaration approved by the Advisory Committee on 16 April 2012. Unfortunately, the Chairman-Rapporteur overlooked this Declaration because in his opinion it did not represent the consensus of States. He instead proposed an irrelevant text that eventually proved not to enjoy consensus.

On the contrary, civil society organizations pointed out that consensus was impossible since there is a reduced number of developed States, lead by the United States, which reject the existence of the human right to peace. Furthermore, the Declaration of the Advisory Committee could have been adopted in the Human Rights Council by majority in accordance with article 20 of its Regulations, since it does not refer to the need of consensus.

Regrettably the Council approved by majority the Declaration proposed by the Chairman-Rapporteur and not the one proposed by the Advisory Committee. The latter was much closer to the Santiago Declaration on Human Right to Peace, adopted by international civil society on 10 December 2010.

To conclude, we invite the Advisory Committee to confirm the relevance of its own Declaration and to request the General Assembly to take it duly into consideration.

From our side, 351 civil society organizations will stand the relevance of our Declaration, which was updated in March 2016.

Thank you very much.