



**Declaration of Manta and Montecristi
Manabi Province, Ecuador
November 5-6, 2009**

We, the organizers and supporters of the *International Peace Constitutions Conference for Nuclear and Foreign Military Base Abolition* held at the Ciudad Alfaro Civic Center of Montecristi and the Eloy Alfaro Lay University of Manabi in Manta, Ecuador on November 5-6, 2009 hereby:

Commend the citizens of Ecuador whose concerted, unflagging decades of effort were instrumental in achieving the adoption of one of the most progressive peace constitutions in the world; one that establishes the country as a territory of peace, promotes universal disarmament, calls for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, denounces weapons of mass destruction, and condemns the installation of military bases by States in the territory of other States. Enshrined in Articles 5 and 416 of the constitution, these points promise to better protect, serve and benefit not only the people of Ecuador, but all people around the world.

Recognize the success of citizens in Japan in keeping Article 9 of the country's peace constitution--which renounces war as a means of settling conflicts as well as the maintenance of armed forces, and for more than 60 years has prevented Japan from engaging directly in conflict; and the efforts of citizens to truly implement and protect the spirit of Article 9 as an international peace mechanism.

Applaud Costa Rica for establishing great milestones for peace by permanently abolishing its army in 1949 through the adoption of Article 12 into the country's constitution, and serving as a model of how military abolition contributes to the peace and sustainable development of countries.

Honor the Hibakusha—survivors the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki—who transformed their horrific personal experiences of injury, loss and devastation into a call on behalf of all humanity for freedom from the threat of annihilation, for resolution of conflict without the targeting of innocent civilian populations and their cities, and for the elimination of weapons whose lingering effects continue to inflict harm upon future generations.

Express solidarity with those around the world who are struggling to reclaim their land, air, and water from the more than 700 foreign military bases located around the world; those opposing the establishment of new foreign military bases on their territory; and those still trying to achieve justice and indemnification for the environmental, social, and economic damages foreign military bases have left behind even after their closure.

Condemn the excessive amount of the world's resources that are channeled to military purposes that foment, maintain, and exacerbate conflict; deprive innocent civilians of life; contaminate the very earth, air and water that sustain life for all creatures; and condemn the yet unborn to bear the physical, psychological and financial costs of war. Excessive military spending also continues to keep unfulfilled the promise made by more than 140 leaders and heads of state in the year 2000 to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015--goals include the eradication of extreme hunger and poverty, achievement of universal primary education and assurance of environmental sustainability.

Deplore the suspicions, hostilities, and escalation of tension provoked between States by the presence of and the dependence on foreign military bases and nuclear weapons for security.

Encourage the resuscitation and actual implementation of Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, which calls for the establishment of an armaments regulation system with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources; and urges governments to shift priorities in their allocation of resources so as to decrease their military expenditures to invest in financing sustainable development.

Recall the important role of civil society around the world in promoting peace constitutions, disarmament for development, nuclear abolition and the abolition of foreign military bases, as demonstrated by the *Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War* and events such as the *International Conference to Abolish Foreign Military Bases* (Ecuador, 2007), the *Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War* (Japan, 2008), the *Article 9 and Article 12 Conference – Peace Constitutions for Global Disarmament* (Costa Rica 2008), the *Global Voyage for a Nuclear Free World: Peace Boat Hibakusha Project* (since 2008), and the *World March for Peace and Non-Violence* (2009-2010)

Acknowledge the important role that peace constitutions can play in building demilitarized societies, a culture of peace, and fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development and the abolition of war.

Thus, to governments around the world, we call for the following regarding:

Nuclear Abolition

- Take concrete steps for the abolition of nuclear weapons at the 2010 Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference, including discussion of commencement of negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention to comprehensively outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons, as supported by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon's Five-point disarmament proposal of 2008 .
- Encourage all mayors to join Mayors For Peace, an initiative that transcends national borders and gives cities a way to work together for nuclear abolition.
- Cooperate with other governments in adopting treaties that create Nuclear Weapon Free Zones.
- Strengthen international instruments on arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament of *all* weapons by enacting a comprehensive and effective Arms Trade Treaty.

Foreign Military Base Abolition

- Commence foreign military base abolition deliberations and develop negotiations for their universal dismantling, removal, and return to use for civilian purposes.
- Cooperate with other governments in adopting treaties that create Foreign Military Base Free regions.
- Call on the United States to reconsider its plan for the realignment of its military bases, including those of Okinawa, and shift from reallocation and rebuilding to reduction, withdrawal and elimination.
- Oppose any new construction of foreign military bases, especially in the context of counter-terrorism strategies.

Peace Constitutions and the UN

- Adopt a peace clause into their own national Constitutions, similar to those of Ecuador (Articles 5, 416 and others), Japan (Article 9) and Costa Rica (Article 12.)
- Adhere to the peace clauses in Constitutions and rectify their violations, such as the presence of US military bases in Japan despite Article 9's renunciation of the maintenance of land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential.
- Develop and adopt a UN resolution acknowledging the role peace constitutions can play in promoting global security and disarmament for development.
- Recognize the value of and implement Article 26 of the UN Charter, and urge governments to shift priorities by decreasing military expenditures and instead investing in sustainable development, human security and peace.

To citizens around the world, we recommend:

- Listening to the testimonies of Hibakusha, other war survivors, and people harmed by the presence of foreign military bases to understand and feel more deeply why citizens around the world need to add their voices to calls for nuclear and foreign military base abolition, global disarmament, and the spread of peace constitutions to abolish war.
- Participation in and solidarity with the *Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War* and other existing efforts for disarmament and sustainable development.

Signed:

Akira Kawasaki
Executive Committee, Peace Boat

Ximena Gudiño
Coordinator, NO Bases Coalition-Ecuador