

**CONFERENCE:**

**PARLIAMENTARIANS, EUROPE'S NUKES AND A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE WORLD: DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO NUCLEAR DOCTRINE AND THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY?**

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First of all I would like to commend "Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non Proliferation and Disarmament" and the "Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation", for their initiative to celebrate this Conference and letting me to present my personal ideas in such honorable conference.

Peace and disarmament walk hand in hand. So to participate in such a conference gives me a chance to share with all of you, a little of what is going on my country Costa Rica in relation to nuclear disarmament.

I'm a citizen of a country so small that many don't even know where to find it on a map but at the same time a country that is an example to all nations, as a country that abolished forever its army forces 62 years ago in 1948.

I grew up in Costa Rica, a country that believes in negotiating conflicts in a peaceful way. We do not know how to do otherwise. I come from a culture

that has taught its people to believe in peace as a way of living, since the armed forces were abolished on our Political Constitution in 1948.

In Costa Rica's Political Constitution three important values stand out:

1. The abolition of war by the abolition of army forces and nuclear weapons.
2. The search for peace.
3. The protection of human rights.

In my country, the long-standing philosophies regarding the importance of connections between human rights, peace education, environmental protection, democracy, sustainable development, and equal opportunities for all people are fundamentally tied to the principles underlying the abolition of the armed forces, abolition of war, and consequently abolition of nuclear weapons.

All these factors are linked. In 1948, these values were revitalized among the Costa Rican society, resulting in the constitutional abolition of armed forces, and to result in reject nuclear weapons and the policy of nuclear deterrence.

Furthermore Costa Rica's policy on the abolition of armed forces and nuclear disarmament has persisted for nearly 62 years, in a region where most other States have drastically increased their military expenditures.

The unique perspective stemming from its abolition of armed forces sixty two years previously inspired Costa Rica's use of other, non-military means to maintain its national sovereignty always, empowering the country to spearhead the promotion of peace, abolition of army forces, abolition of

nuclear weapons and protection of human rights at regional and universal level.

Today in the absence of armed forces, and rejecting nuclear weapons Costa Rica relies on the instruments of international law to pursue peaceful settlement of international disputes, and to promote cooperation and friendly relations among all countries and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

I believe that Costa Rica sets an example for the world, proving that it is possible for states to exist peacefully without maintaining armed forces and mass destruction weapons, and that our civil societies has the power to influence the path to peaceful coexistence, and peaceful settlement of disputes, using the international law instruments without resorting to military actions or the deterrence provides by weapons of mass destruction.

Based on that, Costa Rica submitted to the U.N. General Secretary in 1997, a "MODEL NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION" which is a global treaty created to abolish nuclear weapons. The Treaty explores the legal, technical and political elements for achieving and maintaining a nuclear free world, and follows the 1996 "INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE CONSULTATIVE OPINION", that concluded that:"THERE EXISTS AN OBLIGATION TO PURSUE AND BRING TO A CONCLUSION, NEGOTIATIONS IN GOOD FAITH ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT...".

The Treaty also agreed with the nuclear weapons States declaration, during the 2000 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE, by which all of the NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES, accepted an unconditional obligation to

achieve nuclear disarmament, as it was declared in point 6 of the 13 disarmament steps. This shared vision always empower us, to promote the values of the “MODEL NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION” to the whole world and achieve in a short period of time a nuclear disarmament treaty, as it was declared initially by the “U.N. Final Report of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission” in 2006; by the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s, in New York, on October 24,2008 in address to East –West Institute, and more recently early this year by the U.N. General Secretary five points plan for nuclear disarmament.

The Model “MODEL NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION”, translates now to different languages, has been release by Costa Rica to the 2007 NPT Prep Com in Vienna, the 2010 NPT Review Conference in N.Y. and the 2007-2008-2009 United Nations General Assembly, and was promoted around the entire world in different meeting and conferences like this. All of these efforts had the intention, that all the States will take advantage of this, to reinforce their efforts to begin negotiations leading to complete nuclear disarmament, and also to extend the exploration and development of the legal, technical and political elements required for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

The model nuclear weapons convention prohibits development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. States possessing nuclear weapons will be required to destroy their arsenals in a series of phases over fifteen years. The treaty also prohibits the production of weapons usable fissile material and requires delivery vehicles to be destroyed or converted to make them non-nuclear

capable. The treaty includes an agency that will be established to implement the treaty. The Agency will be responsible for verification, ensuring compliance, and decision making, and will cover a Conference of States Parties, an Executive Council and a Technical Secretariat. The treaty verification that will include declarations and reports from States, routine inspections, challenge inspections, fixed on-site sensors, satellite photography, radionuclide sampling and other remote sensors, information sharing with other organizations, and citizen reporting. The treaty also includes provisions for consultation, cooperation and fact-finding to clarify and resolve questions of interpretation with respect to compliance and other matters. A legal dispute may be referred to the International Court of Justice by mutual consent of States Parties. Likewise the treaty provides incentives for compliance plus a series of graduated responses for non-compliance beginning with consultation and clarification, negotiation, and, if required, sanctions or recourse to the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council. The treaty obligations will apply to individuals as well as States. Procedures for the apprehension and fair trial of individuals accused of committing crimes under the treaty are provided for. The treaty outlines a series of five phases for the elimination of nuclear weapons. Steps in these phases include gradual reductions in stockpiles, taking nuclear weapons off alert, removing weapons from deployment, removing nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles, disabling the warheads, removing and disfiguring the "pits" and placing the fissile material under international control. The treaty obliges nuclear weapon states to cover the costs of the elimination of their nuclear arsenals, but establishes an international fund to assist states which may have financial difficulties in meeting their

obligations. Finally the treaty prohibits the production of any fissionable material which can be used to make a nuclear bomb, including plutonium and highly enriched uranium. Low enriched uranium is permitted for nuclear energy, but the treaty includes an optional protocol which would establish a program of energy assistance for States Parties choosing not to develop nuclear energy or to phase out existing nuclear energy programs.

The “Model Nuclear Weapons Convention” had been drafted by a consortium of lawyers, scientists and disarmament experts. The “Model Nuclear Weapons Convention”, demonstrates the feasibility of nuclear disarmament and aims to stimulate governments to think about the plan for, and start negotiations for complete nuclear disarmament. It also helps us to decide the framework for a nuclear weapons free world.

We all have the responsibility and obligation to do our part to promote in general all disarmament especially nuclear disarmament. You don't have to belong to any political organization or group of any kind. We are all gathered here today because we share the same vision to live in a world in a peaceful way, because we believe that conflicts can be resolved and negotiated without violence and in a peaceful manner.

I believe that with faith, and the combined power and influence of the civil society and government the vision to live in a world free of armed forces will be possible some day.

This conference is an inspiration and motivation to make these common visions a reality.

Let's take the challenge and work together to promote at a national and international level this peace vision to live in an armed free world. Please have faith, we can do it!

We often think that we can't possibly make a difference in our community, society or country but if we all thought like this nothing will probably get done. Had I thought like this I would not be part of the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention. Even though our goal is still far away we are closer today than we were yesterday. We maintain our strength and hope with courage and optimism that if not us, others will keep the cause alive.

We must be aware that humanity requires small and large efforts from each and every one of us to make any dream come true.

Please think that you can make a difference so don't let this keep you from acting on reaching your goals and dreams from coming true.

Thank you very much.

