



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS AGAINST NUCLEAR ARMS

dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons

NGO in consultative status (Category II) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
Member of the Coordinating Committee of the Hague Appeal for Peace 1999

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Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
United Nations, New York

Dear Mr. Secretary-General:

I write to commend you for your excellent address on 24 October to the East-West Institute conference, "The United Nations and Security in a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World." On behalf of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), of which I am president, I assure you of our strong support for your groundbreaking initiative.

The speech is thoughtful, eloquent and forceful throughout. Let me note some points of which IALANA is particularly appreciative.

The first is the recognition of the centrality of disarmament to the identity of the United Nations.

The second is the highlighting of the imperative of fulfillment of the NPT obligation of negotiations for nuclear disarmament. It is important that you have recognized that this involves not only discrete measures, but also a comprehensive approach encompassing a framework of instruments or a nuclear weapons convention. In this regard, we recall the unanimous conclusion of the International Court of Justice, on which I then served, in its 1996 Advisory Opinion: "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

The third is the explanation of how the United Nations can be effectively used to advance disarmament. In particular, for too long, the Security Council has been on the sidelines when it comes to disarmament, and you point out ways in which it can take up its responsibilities regarding international peace and security in this regard. We also agree that the Conference on Disarmament needs to be revitalized.

IALANA has been working on a number of the initiatives highlighted in your speech, including promotion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

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IALANA supports Global Action to Prevent War

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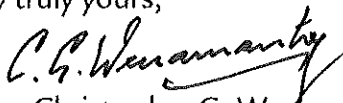
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UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
10 November 2008

We are honoured that you mentioned the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention for which we coordinated the drafting before it was submitted to the United Nations by Costa Rica and Malaysia.

Your speech has already served to stimulate renewed efforts on disarmament, and IALANA will do its part to ensure that your five-point action plan is widely disseminated and acted upon.

I close by reiterating our congratulations and support for your initiative.

Very truly yours,



Judge Christopher G. Weefamantry
President, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms