



Asamblea Legislativa de la República de Costa Rica
Presidencia

San José, 20 de enero de 2015
Presid.-A.L.-642-15

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing on behalf of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, in order to convey a nomination -agreed by a unanimous vote of our Assembly-, of the peoples of Costa Rica and Japan to be jointly awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

The rationale supporting our nomination is the following:

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. *Peace is the supreme value of human coexistence and development;*
2. *Armed forces are a tool, the essential objective of which is war. Therefore, their gradual reduction will contribute in the medium and long-term to an international scenario more propitious to human development, the fight against hunger and poverty, and a more just and equitable, and consequently more peaceful planet;*
3. *The United Nations Charter (of June 26, 1945, which entered into force on October 24, 1945) specifies in article 1 that one of the system's objectives is maintaining international peace and security and expresses in article 3 the importance of "international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion";*
4. *In accordance with that UN mandate, those nations that allocate their resources towards development and education and invest in their people instead of spending on armies and weapons, represent a model of how future societies should evolve;*
5. *The people of Costa Rica enshrined a norm in their 1949 constitution that prohibits permanent armed forces. Article 12 of the Constitution states: "Armed forces as a permanent institution are banned. The police force will provide security and maintenance of public order. Only in case of continental agreement or national defense may armed forces be assembled; in all cases they shall be subordinate to the civilian authorities; they may not participate in politics, or express opinions individually or collectively";*



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6. *With the abolition of the armed forces, the people of Costa Rica reinforced a culture of peace, not only for the country, but also for the region and the world; they established a exemplary education system; created the University For Peace where people from all around the world learn the principles and values of peaceful coexistence; and, amidst tensions and wars between other countries in the region, the nation established its perpetual neutrality and led the peace process in Central America in the 80s. With the conviction that harmony between the environment and humankind contributes to spiritual peace, the country has promoted a respectful coexistence with the environment and aims to become carbon neutral by 2021;*
7. *The people of Japan enshrined a norm into their 1947 constitution that prohibits permanent armed forces. Article 9 of Japan's Constitution states: "Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized";*
8. *With the upholding of this decision, the people of Japan also became an example for many societies in the world, given that in parallel the country has taken giant economic, social and political leaps;*
9. *Both Costa Rica and Japan have preserved these norms for more than six and a half decades, rendering fruitless the efforts of internal minority groups and external forces who might have wanted to reestablish military forces, which demonstrates that the peaceful vocation of the peoples of Costa Rica and Japan is profound and deeply rooted;*
10. *The Nobel Peace Prize was instituted to recognize persons, institutions and peoples who have contributed to peace;*
11. *Costa Rica and Japan are very different countries regarding levels of development, economic structure, history, culture and political organization, which demonstrates that any people on this planet can live and prosper without military forces;*
12. *Awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to the peoples of Costa Rica and Japan would first serve to encourage both nations to maintain these articles in their constitutions; second, encourage other nations, rich and poor, tropical or temperate, old or new, to abolish their armed forces; and third, send a message to the world about the relevance and endurance of the values of peace and the unequivocal advantages of solving conflicts through international law on the basis of principles of rationality and justice;*



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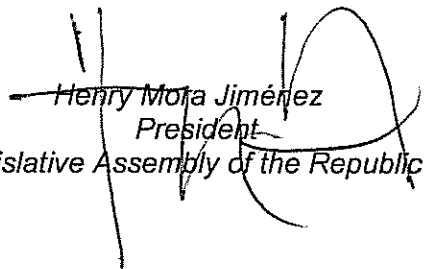
THEREFORE:

This Legislative Assembly agrees to:

Nominate the peoples of Japan and Costa Rica to be jointly awarded the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize.

END OF NOMINATION

Yours sincerely,


Henry Moja Jiménez
President

of the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica

