

「9条世界会議」日本実行委員会

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NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

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November 17, 2008

Dear Ambassador,

It has come to our attention that the UN Security Council will be holding an open debate on “strengthening collective security and armament regulation” on Wednesday, 19 November 2008 at UN Headquarters in New York.

We understand that this debate will include discussion on revitalizing Article 26 of the UN Charter, which gives the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee (now dissolved) the responsibility for creating a plan for regulating armaments and reducing military expenditures, **a task it has neglected entirely**. Article 26 reads:

In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

Instead of creating a plan for the control of armament and the reduction of military spending, the permanent members of the Security Council have engaged in weapons profiteering and arms races. These countries, which collectively spent US\$725.2 billion on their own militaries in 2006, also benefit from arms transfers to developing countries and therefore promote rather than regulate or reduce the manufacture and sale of weapons. In so doing, they have failed to fulfill a mandate of the UN Charter.

Costa Rica currently holds the presidency of the Security Council and has called for this open debate to revitalize this neglected Article and to encourage the Security Council to take responsibility for that which it has been mandated to do.

In May 2008, a large international conference was held in Japan, organized by Peace Boat and other Japanese and international civil society organizations as part of the **Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War**. Over 30,000 people gathered in support of Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan, which renounces war as a means of settling

international disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces and other war potential.

This pacifistic clause is not just a provision of Japanese law; it can also act as an international peace mechanism calling for a global peace that does not rely on force. Moreover, it supplements Article 26 of the UN Charter's call for regulating armaments and minimizing the world's resources used on military expenses.

The success of the Global Article 9 Conference represents the world's citizens' voice calling on governments to regulate armament, reduce worldwide military spending and reallocate the world's limited resources to sustainable development and peace promotion.

We urge you to participate in this open debate and contribute positively to the discussion on revitalizing Article 26 and developing a plan for the regulation of armaments and reduction of military expenditures.

Pressure must be placed on the Security Council to deliver the overdue plans. Governments have to take responsibilities for the full implementation of the UN Charter and should not let the military powers of the world silently neglect Article 26. We urge you to:

Call on the Security Council to report on progress made towards a plan to reduce the human and economic resources spent on armaments;

Request that, within one year, the Office of Legal Affairs, Office for Disarmament Affairs, individual governments, and NGOs report on ways and means for implementing Article 26; and

Indicate an intention to evaluate the Security Council's performance and initiatives towards advancing Article 26 in the next General Assembly session.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '川崎 明' (Kawasaki Akira) with a date '11/12' written below it.

Kawasaki Akira
Executive Committee Member, Peace Boat
Secretary General, Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War