

**Follow up of the side event on the Human right to peace.
19th of March 2010. United Nations. Human rights Council.**

Christophe Barbey

Peace is a legitimate desire. Everyone in the human community has a right to peace as war is illegal, or moreover as it is mandatory to refrain from the use of force or threat and mandatory to solve conflicts by peaceful means (UN Charter art. 2). This rules peace and provides for, or shall provide for peace for the International Community and for all States, as they are now all members of the UN.

However, the goal of peace still seems distant; armies still exhort their toll on populations and resources if not in all, in many countries of the world. Most countries are still very reluctant to lower their level of militarization, or to give it up altogether, yet it would also be in their interests at large to strengthen the tools of peace.

And in the long run, why have an army if war is illegal and the UN responsible for peace?

A human right to peace and a people's right to peace would highly help countries to achieve, to fulfill the goal of peace of the UN charter.

Such a right would also help to them to turn their own constitutional order and texts towards peace prone policies. And not only towards limiting war or military force and use, but also to promote conflict prevention and alternative conflict resolution, peace by peaceful means, preferably at all levels of society.

More generally speaking, a human right to peace will greatly help to solve the environmental and social conflicts that may lie ahead.

Can a human right to peace be implemented peacefully? This is a question of the essence. But if States are willing – because they need to and because it is a right! – to progress towards peace, in good faith, surely the human right to peace will be easier to achieve. Or mover, it might naturally fall into place. Peace is a legitimate desire.

And it is the best tool for a sustainable world, for each and all.

Participating in this event was a “formidable” experience, thank you to all participants for a very constructive share. But it is only one of the first and numerous steps towards a world campaign for peace and for a human right to peace. I hope that all the NGO's committed to peace will grasp the importance of the human right to peace, discuss it thoroughly and forward this campaign all over the world.

Thank you.