

Workshop on Relationship Between Human Rights and Human Security
San Jose, Costa Rica, 2 December 2001

The undersigned, meeting in the city of San Jose, Costa Rica, on December first of the year two thousand and one, summoned by the Commission on Human Security, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, and the University for Peace, and as a contribution to the work undertaken by the Commission on Human Security have agreed on the following.

**DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT
OF HUMAN SECURITY:**

1. We applaud the initiative to generate efforts to determine the meaning and scope of Human Security and we commit our wholehearted support to the work undertaken by the Commission and to its action mechanisms.
2. We reaffirm the conviction that Human Rights and the attributes stemming from human dignity constitute a normative framework and a conceptual reference point which must necessarily be applied to the construction and implementation of the notion of Human Security. In the same manner, while acknowledging that norms and principles of International Humanitarian Law are essential components for the construction of Human Security, we emphasize that the latter cannot be restricted to situations of current or past armed conflict, but constitutes a generally applicable concept.
3. We recall that the 1993 Vienna Declaration, adopted at the II World Conference on Human Rights, laid out an unavoidable course when it stipulated the universal and comprehensive nature of and interdependence among human rights, and when it underlined that the effective exercise of all such rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, individually or collectively considered, is a condition for the development of the peoples and for legitimacy of systems of government. This universal, comprehensive nature and interdependence must enrich the concept and practice of Human Security.
4. We call for necessary progress toward ways to promote the enforceability of all human rights, through actions by national institutions, the system of justice, and international protection mechanisms, both universal and regional.
5. We maintain that human rights and the effective application of mechanisms for their exercise and protection play a key role in preventing and resolving conflicts.
6. We renew our certainty that democracy is an indispensable condition for the effective exercise of human rights and to establish the foundations for harmonious social relations which foster Human Security. In this regard, we salute, in the Americas, the recent approval of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

7. We affirm that protection of individual and collective security in face of crime and violence is an essential component of the concept of Human Security, and it stems from the responsibilities of the State as guarantor of the rights of those who are in its territory. In this same manner, we affirm that Human Security demands public policies which tend to eliminate all forms of exclusion.
8. We recall the existence of the right to development, stated in the international instruments of the universal system, and we highlight the links among development, effective exercise of human rights, and Human Security. We underline the importance of globalization taking place under conditions which facilitate the growth of international trade but which also ensure that there is a balance between the interests of producers and those of consumers, between workers and employers, between large and small economies, between investment and job creation, between growth and income distribution. The search for fair terms of trade and the existence of real opportunities for the countries' development are significant components of Human Security at an international level.
9. We express our concern over the current scale of growth of poverty and of the phenomenon of migrations throughout the world and in the Americas, and especially over the scope of forced internal displacement, and we recognize the importance of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacements which have resulted from the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations.
10. We affirm that non-discrimination and respect for diversity are an essential and first order condition for the effective exercise of human rights and for the achievement of Human Security. Therefore, overcoming de facto inequalities based on, shielded by, or derived from gender, ethnic identity, religion, language or any other social condition must be a high priority.
11. We hope that, together with the task of conceptualization, work on human security will make it possible to conceive useful measures to evaluate its impact and evolution.

**ADOPTED AT THE SEAT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, ON DECEMBER FIRST OF
THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND ONE.**

Antonio Augusto Cançado Trindade
President
Inter-American Court of Human Rights

Roberto Cuéllar M.
Executive Director
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

François Fouinat
Executive Director
Comission on
Human Security

Claudio Grossman
President
Inter-American Comission
of Human Rights

Leila Lima
Resident Representative
United Nations
High Commissioner
for Refugees in
Colombia

María Elena Martínez
Member of the Board of Directors
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Pedro Nikken
Member of the Board of
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Elizabeth Odio B.
Vicepresident
Council of the
University for Peace and
Member of the Board of Directors
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Sonia Picado S.
President
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Michael Reed Hurtado
Legal advisor
United Nations
High Commissioner for
Refugees in Colombia

Víctor Rodríguez
External Consultant
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Rodolfo Stavenhagen
Vicepresident
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

José Thompson
Director
Center for Electoral Advice
and Promotion (CAPEL)
Inter-American Institute
of Human Rights

Víctor Valle
Director
Human Security and
President of the
Academic Administration of the
University for Peace