WMD NATO pre-conference on **Actions to Enhance Global Security,** Zagreb (Croatia), May 3-4, 2013

Session IV : Working Towards a World Free of WMD through the Reduction of Inter- and Intra-state Violence

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The main topic of this sesión was how to deal with violence; more specifically, how to prevent and reduce violence in all its levels: Inter-state Violence , Intra-state Violence, and also, even if it is not explicitly specified in the title of the session, Inter-personal Violence.

The chairman started the sesión giving some definitions of violence and suggesting some eventual causes of it, stressing the role of economy (f.inst., lack of resources) in its triggering. Somebody else questioned its importance as a main cause: many por people show a great peacefullness, and violence is not absent among rich ones either.

We know that war is madness, responsible for much of the suffering that humans experience. We also know that war pollutes our planet and that the almost unimaginable sums wasted on war prevent the happiness and prosperity of mankind. And, besides of that, war is useless, as the president of WAAS, among others, pointed out. War and even possession of nuclear weapons and other kinds of WMD do not solve any confrontation nor guarantee victories in any conflicts. On the contrary, WMD jeopardize the future of humanity because no one can expect to escape from the catastrophic consequences of a nuclear war on the fragile structure of this planet.

The Rapporteur started remembering that violence is biologically avoidable and aggressiveness can be tamed, and consequently a world without war is achievable, as stated by The Seville Statement on Violence (1986). It was also stressed that the concept of peace is much broader than mere absence of war: personal survival, development, health, human rights, lack of corruption and mafias, social justice, and even economy all have a say in this issue.

For preventing the problems of violence and war, it is not enough to stop with the proliferation of weapons or to achieve a disarmament, even if admitting their obvious importance. We have to achieve a culture of peace .How can we do it? The following steps are reccomended:
1) deeping in the understanding of aggression, violence and war, as well as in the real meaning of peace,
2) stressing the importance of peace education, increasing the boundaries of the prosociability to all the humankind given our genetic uniformity (there is room for one group only, "us plus them", instead of the classical "us versus them")**,** fomenting moral values (starting with the main one: respect

the human life), and trust building, through parenting education, schooling of emotions, and learning techniques for non-violent conflict resolution,
3) decisions affecting war and peace cannot be left to military strategists or to governments, no even side-by-side to the civil society; they are indeed the social responsibility of each of us;
4) the main goal for preventing violence and achieving peace therefore should be the development of inner peace.

It was further suggested to consider another quite interesting topic, which represents a threat to human security: Hate. It seems specially appropriate here, given that this meeting is held in the former Yugoeslavia, where unfortunately it has been experienced no so many years ago. The growing intensity of extremist positions based on religious, ethnic or political ideologies, facilitated by the development of global communications systems aggravates the instantaneous dissemination of inflammatory material both within nations and across national borders. Concerted efforts are needed to counter the social and psychological threats to multilateralism and world peace by celebrating all positive initiatives, like the present meeting, to create a more conducive atmosphere for peace and cooperation.

There have also been suggestions that, besides the educational approach previously mentioned, military, political, legal ones, such as their relation with soberanity of nations, should also be considered, as well as humanitarian interventions in order to reducing violence, like peace keeping. Someone else pointed out as a practical message that, even if we have to start within ourselves, nothing can be done in domestic and international relations unless the rule of law is observed.

Even if to solve the conflicts, it is quite important to remove the causes, such as danger of nationalism in new generations, some recomendations less idealistic, and more realistic should be made for including within the coming Split conference. Continuing process of dialogue and good faith negotiations discussing comprehensively practical steps on how to implement new agreements and commitments on conventional forces, nuclear weapons, and mutual cybersecurity, given the risk of cyber attacks and due to exploitable conceptual design and implementation flaws. What we need in cyberspace is not confrontation or war, but rules and co-operation. Together we can build a cyberspace of peace, security and openness, serving the common interests of everyone.

As a final consideration, we have to be aware that these problems essential to human life are not easy to be solved. Facing the reality, we need patience and trust that, even if no single person can achieve the global changes that we need, together "we, the people" can do it.

As a veteran diplomat pointed out, playing with words in a joking way, "even if we are going to Split (where the NATO conference is going to be held this coming week), really we are going to reconcile".