

ASSOCIATION OF WORLD CITIZENS

The Secretary
Culture of Peace Section

Dear Colleague,

This is a few elements on behalf of the Association of World Citizens, an NGO in consultative status with ECOSOC, for the mid-term report on the Decade.

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Mid-Term Culture of Peace Report: Association of World Citizens

The Association of World Citizens, in consultative status with ECOSOC, as its contribution to the Decade, has stressed strategies for non-violent action. Guided by the writings of Gene Sharp of the Albert Einstein Institution in Massachusetts USA, the Association of World Citizens has participated in training for non-violent action and non-violent methods of conflict resolution. It has also encouraged the use of non-violent peace teams or peace brigades in conflict situations.

The recent success of such non-violent methods in Georgia, Ukraine, and Lebanon has encouraged non-violent activists. Thus the second half of this Decade should focus on UN support for non-violent action. Greater emphasis must be given to the analysis of power relations within countries, to the development of strategies, and to training. The increased exchanges of experiences by the internet as well as through face-to-face contacts is an important part of building on the current momentum.

The Association also underlines the role of civil society -NGOs -to overcome the divisions and tensions within societies - divisions which have been used to put tyrannical governments in place.