



International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms
NGO in consultative status (Category II) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council
Member of the Coordinating Committee of The Hague Appeal for Peace 1999

IALANA • Schützenstr. 6a • 10117 • Berlin • Germany

**Final Declaration of the General
Assembly of IALANA,
Szczecin, 19th of June 2011**

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**IALANA General Assembly issues an urgent call for a
world without nuclear weapons and nuclear energy**

“Nuclear weapons and nuclear energy are the two sides of a Damoclean sword. We are sharpening the cutting edge to make it even more dangerous through our research and improvement of nuclear weapons. The blunt side of the sword is also being sharpened to a dangerous level through the proliferation and maintenance of nuclear reactors. The fibers of the thread by which the sword is suspended are being cut one by one through the increasing number of nuclear states, the availability on the internet of knowledge regarding nuclear weapons construction, the availability of materials from the waste of nuclear reactors, and the activities of terrorist organizations who would love to acquire a bomb. The sword of Damocles is being made more dangerous every day.”

These were the key words of the speech of Judge Christopher Weeramantry, former Vice-President of the International Court of Justice and UNESCO Peace Education Laureate, held on Saturday June 18, 2011 in Szczecin, Poland.

There the General Assembly of IALANA, the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, was held from June 16-19, 2011, under the leadership of its newest member, Pasquale Policastro, professor of constitutional law at the University of Szczecin. IALANA's President, Judge Christopher Weeramantry, former Vice President of the

Laureates of the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize:

Christopher Gregory Weeramantry (2007); Alyn Ware (2009)

IALANA European Office: Schützenstr. 6a, 10117 Berlin, Germany;

Tel.: +49-30-20 65 48 57; Fax: +49-30-20 65 48 58; Email: info@ialana.de ;
homepage: www.ialana.net

Bank details: Account number: 1 000 668 083 Bank Code: 533 500 00 Bank:
Sparkasse Marburg-Biedenkopf IBAN: DE64 5335 0000 1000 6680 83 BIC:
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International Court of Justice of the UN in The Hague, gave the key note speech.

Following lively presentations and debate, the following conclusions were reached:

1. Despite many pious commitments to an eventual nuclear weapons free world, the situation concerning nuclear weapons is less stable and the risk of nuclear weapons being used, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, is greater than ever. As a result, IALANA is determined to redouble its efforts to bring about the commencement of preparatory work for a nuclear weapons convention at the earliest possible date.

2. In this connection, IALANA stresses the legal obligation, unanimously declared by the International Court of Justice, to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

3. Given its expertise in legal aspects of nuclear weapons, IALANA is uniquely qualified to present to policy makers and to the general public the one incontrovertible argument for the elimination of nuclear weapons: their total incompatibility with international humanitarian law, as demonstrated by the Vancouver Declaration of February 11, 2011.

4. IALANA reaffirms the use of international mechanisms for the resolution of conflicts and achievement of security without recourse to the threat or use of force, which would also assist in achieving a world without nuclear weapons.

5. IALANA expressed its condolences on the tragedy of Fukushima to its Japanese members and fully endorsed their call for the elimination of nuclear energy as well as nuclear weapons.

6. IALANA decided to call for the worldwide abolition of nuclear energy. We need a complete change to renewable energies and to the democratization of energy production.

7. IALANA agreed to bring its message to bar associations and universities and to law students and young lawyers, to carry on the work which it has been pursuing since 1988, to carry to the general public the message of the total illegality of nuclear weapons, and to further peace education at all levels.

Additional information about the proceedings of the conference will be available on the next IALANA newsletter.