

1st edition.
Changes possible



Intercontinental Conference
**Peace, Disarmament and Social
Alternatives to Global NATO**

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Conferencia Intercontinental
**Paz, Desarme y Alternativas
Sociales ante la Otan Global**

Dates: December
13th and 14th, 2012

Fechas: 13 y 14 de
diciembre de 2012

Venue/Lugar:

Palacio del Congreso Nacional
Hipólito Yrigoyen 1835,
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Organizers/Organizadores



Asamblea
Permanente
por los
Derechos
Humanos

*Permanent Assembly for
Human Rights, Argentina*

Círculo
Latinoamericano
de
Estudios
Internacionales
(México)



*Latin American Circle of
International Studies (Mexico)*

International Network / Red internacional

No to War – No to NATO

Nein zum Krieg – Nein zur NATO | Non à la Guerre – Non à L'OTAN | No a la Guerra – No a la OTAN

The *International Network No to War-No to NATO*, together with the *Latin American Circle of International Studies* (Mexico) and the *Argentinian Permanent Assembly for Human Rights* (Argentina), is organizing an Inter-Continental Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina from December 13th to 14th 2012, focused on the global policies and strategies of NATO and their implications for the Global South, especially in Latin America, and the political, social and human alternatives that the Global South offers for peace, security, and the environment.

NATO has never been a source of peace and security, and it is increasingly obvious that this dinosaur exists to preserve the economic and strategic interests of the Western powers, especially the USA. It undermines the UN-system, is undemocratic, aggressive, and perpetuates an out dated and unjust international order that should no longer prevail.

NATO knows it is stuck in a deep crisis of legitimacy, as it attempts to justify itself in order to rationalize its existence. With its new strategic concept adopted in Lisbon, Portugal, in 2010, the alliance has expanded the range of its missions and the geographic regions in which intervenes. In doing so it blatantly violates International Law as enshrined in the UN Charter. It is also establishing "partnerships" with countries and international bodies to reinforce its global domination strategies. And, although nuclear weapons pose the most dangerous threat in human history, and nearly all the world's nations are engaged in an official process for a multi-lateral disarmament through the NPT, NATO insists on relying on its nuclear arsenals as it pursues "deterrence".

NATO's globalization has consequences in Latin America, and very direct repercussions as a result of the US military presence in the South. The Washington Treaty clearly states that all military bases belonging to one NATO Member State can be used in the framework of NATO missions. This means that the US military facilities across Latin America are potential NATO bases, even though they do not officially display the NATO insignia. US and EU driven neoliberal and neocolonialist interventions in the Global South impact Latin American societies, economies and politics, accelerating violence – especially against women –, drug trafficking, arms smuggling, internal migration, and militarization of the region. The women are always a prime target of all types of Human Rights violations; it is blatant in Latin America. These will be discussed and analyzed during the Inter-Continental Conference with the participation of Europeans, Latin Americans and North Americans (from the USA and Canada).

There is another reality, an encouraging and inspiring one that deserves and monitored and nurtured needs: Civil society in Latin America has been taking clear stances and innovative participatory democracy actions. The women are strategic actors in the creation and elaboration of the innovative progressive political, societal, environmental alternatives, especially in Latin America. There are many alternatives in the Latin American society today, ways of living with more solidarity, and in a peaceful relationship with Nature, based primarily on the Indigenous People's ancestral ties to land. Addressing environmental issues from this perspective is important to the region's peace-building. For the Global North, these approaches provide concrete alternatives that can inspire and serve as models.

On the regional level, the conference will focus on the political alternatives, especially regional integration, rising powers like the most recent CELAC, ALBA, and UNASUR, as they represent alternate forms of political and economic links and structures, based on solidarity, and making human needs the priority. They show a totally new conception of regional peace and security structures, of the international relations based on real cooperation, equity, mutual respect, and multilateralism.

The gender aspect is an important issue of the conference and a transversal topic of all the panels and debates on the conference.

Today's predominant model which relies on nuclear weapons and NATO, on wars, aggressive economic and financial policies to appropriate resources is broken. It is time to put the human beings in the heart of the new world that we call for. We, as International Network No to War - No to NATO, are very active on these issues and in proposing credible alternatives. The Buenos Aires events will deepen the global civil society movement for a NATO - free, peaceful and sustainable world.

Conference Program

Note: The whole conference works in plenary sessions. After a panel discussion there will be a public debate.

Day 1: Thursday, December 13th

9:30 - 10:30 **Registration**

10:30 - 10:45 **Greetings and Introduction**

Claire Chastain, France, ICC No to War - No to NATO

Miguel Monserrat, Argentina, Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

10:45 - 11:00 **Greetings and remarks by**

Senator Daniel Filmus, Argentina, Chairman of Senate's Foreign Affairs Committee

11:00 - 11:30 **Opening remarks by**

Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Argentina, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

11:30 - 15:00 Morning session

11:30 - 13:00 **Neocolonialist aggressions against Latin America in the 20th century and today**

- Ernesto Alonso, Argentina, Centro de Ex Combatientes Islas Malvinas
- Obey Ament, France, French Communist Party
- Stella Calloni, Argentina, MOPASSOL

13:00 - 13:30 Coffee break

13:30 - 15:00 **Global NATO: wars of intervention and military bases**

- Rina Bertaccini, Argentina, MOPASSOL
- Enrique Daza, Colombia, Continental Social Alliance (ASC)
- Ana Juanche, Uruguay, Peace and Justice Service in Latin America
- Tobias Pflüger, Germany, ICC No to War - No to NATO, Information Center Militarization (IMI)

15:00 - 16:15 Lunch break

16:15 - 20:30 Afternoon session

16:15 - 17:45 *Role of the USA and European Union in Latin America today*

- Joseph Gerson, USA, American Friends Service Committee
- Isabel Rauber, Argentina, Philosopher
- Marie-Christine Vergiat, France, Member of European Parliament, Front de gauche pour changer d'Europe

17:45 - 18:00 Coffee Break

18:00 - 19:30 *Militarism in Latin America*

- Darío Azzellini, Germany/Venezuela, Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria
- Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza, Mexico. ICC No to War - No to NATO, CLAEI
- Hugo Yasky, Argentina, Secretary General, Central de Trabajadores de la Argentina (CTA)

19:30 - 20:30 *Video and commentaries*

Foreign Military Bases and Human Rights, by CLAEI
Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza, Mexico, ICC No to War - No to NATO, CLAEI

20:30 - 22:30 *Dinner, with opening speeches by some ambassadors in Argentina*

Day 2: Friday, December 14th

10:00 - 15:00 Morning session

10:00 - 11:30 *Political, social, and environmental alternatives for peace in Latin America*

- Socorro Gomes, Brazil, World Peace Council (WPC)
- Mayra Gómez, Bolivia, International Peace Bureau (IPB)
- Pablo Ruiz, Chile, SOA-Watch

11:30 - 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 - 13:15	<i>Peace with Nature</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatiana Roa Avendaño, Colombia, Censat Agua Viva – Amigos de la Tierra • Kristine Karch, Germany, No to War – No to NATO, EcoMujer • Lucas Wirl, Germany, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES)
13:15 - 13:30	Coffee Break
13:30 - 15:00	<i>New and rising alternative powers:</i> <i>MERCOSUR, ALBA, UNASUR, CELAC</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Ambassador (Bolivia or Cuba) • Pedro Páez, Ecuador, former Minister for the Coordination of Economic Policy • Marie-Christine Vergiat, France, European Parliament, Front de gauche pour changer d'Europe
15:00 - 16:15	Lunch break
16:15 - 20:00 Afternoon session	
16:15 - 17:45	<i>Societal concepts and alternatives:</i> <i>i.e. buen vivir and socialism in the 21st century</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Cortez, Ecuador, Latin American Faculty of Political Sciences (FLACSO) • Beverly Keene, Argentina, Jubileo Sur • Wolfgang Gehrcke, Germany, Member of Parliament, Die LINKE
17:45 - 18:00	Coffee break
18:00 - 19:30	<i>Actions for a peaceful and sustainable future</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Luis Bareiro, Paraguay, former Minister of Defence, Centro de Estudios Nacionales e Internacionales (tbc) • Reiner Braun, Germany, ICC No to War - No to NATO • Rigoberta Menchú, Guatemala, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (tbc)
19:30 - 20:00	<i>Closing remarks</i> By Reiner Braun, Claire Chastain, Luis Gutiérrez-Esparza and Miguel Monserrat

Organizational details

Contact in Europe:

No to War – No to NATO
c/o IALANA
Marienstrasse 19/20
10117 Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 206 54 857
Fax: +49 30 206 54 858
Email: kongress@ialana.de



Contact in Latin America:

Asamblea Permanente por los
Derechos Humanos
Av. Callao 569, 3er Cuerpo, 1er Piso
CABA (1022) Buenos Aires, Argentina
Tel y Fax: +54 11 4372 8594/ 4373 0397
Correo-e: apdh@apdh-argentina.org.ar

Círculo Latinoamericano de
Estudios Internacionales
Canada 160 Edif1 Dep 302
Col. Barrio San Lucas
04030 México DF, México
Tel: (+5255) 5336-3235
Email: info@claei.org.mx

Registration:

kongress@ialana.de (for English registration)
info@claei.org.mx (for Spanish registration)
apdh@apdh-argentina.org.ar (for Spanish registration)

No registration fee will be charged.

Conference languages are English and Spanish.

Venue details:

Salón Arturo Illia del Senado, Palacio del Congreso Nacional, Hipólito Yrigoyen
1835, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires

Webpages:

www.apdh-argentina.org.ar
www.claei.org.mx
www.conferenciaporlapaz.org
www.no-to-nato.org