



**Statement attributable to the Spokesperson of the President of the
General Assembly**

President of the General Assembly receives the General Coordinator of the World March

United Nations, New York 16 June 2009 -- The President of the United Nations General Assembly Miguel d'Escoto and International World March Coordinator Rafael de la Rubia met on June 16 at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York to discuss the objectives of the World March.

D'Escoto said he considers favourably the objectives of the World March, noting that it “offers a new paradigm for the 21st century that draws upon the prophetic work of the world figures such as Leo Tolstoy, Mahatma Gandhi, and Martin Luther King, all advocates of creative nonviolence.” He was further heartened by the organizers commitment to the goal of “zero tolerance” for nuclear arms and shared the view that the entire international community should work towards their complete eradication.

He was informed that an international team of marchers is expected to cross six continents starting on October 2, 2009 -- the International Day of Nonviolence -- in Wellington, New Zealand, and arrive on January 2, 2010 at Punta de Vacas, Argentina. Thousands of concerts, festivals, forums, and demonstrations are planned to coincide with the March in over 100 countries.

The World March, an historic milestone, is an initiative of World Without Wars, an international organization that promotes nonviolence and works to prevent war.