



**NOTE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE SPOKESPERSON OF THE PRESIDENT OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
United Nations, New York, 12 August 2009**

The President of the General Assembly, Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, reminded Member States that "today marks the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the four Geneva Conventions. It is fitting that we take advantage of this occasion to remember the scourge of warfare that has destroyed the lives of so many people."

The President paid tribute to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and, in particular, acknowledged the vision and foresight of Mr. Henri Dunant for being the first to promote the idea of bringing States together to agree to the first Geneva Convention in 1863 to protect individuals from the inhumanity of war. President d'Escoto emphasized that Dunant's idea was not merely to make war more humane, but to create laws that would eventually end war forever.

The President of the General Assembly concluded saying "I hope that this ideal still exists today and that ICRC and all nations of these United Nations will recommit ourselves to not only protecting individuals from the inhumanity of war, but also to taking the necessary steps to remove the threat of war. This will require ridding the world of nuclear weapons forever. This will require bringing the all States, including the most powerful, to justice for their wars of aggression and their war crimes. And it will require taking action to ensure that the rule of international law is respected, including one of the most fundamental principles of our Charter of the United Nations is respected: peaceful relations between all States.