

Committee VI Declaration

Peace, the environment, and human rights have been sacrificed in Okinawa, Korea and in many other areas, in the name of national security. Instead of prioritizing the safety of the nation, we call for “genuine security” that prioritizes the safety and human rights of every person in each region. We strongly oppose the division of communities, destruction of our environment, and violation of human rights caused by militarization.

In order to realize genuine security, we will make the following efforts: 1) Promote renewable energy as a measure to eliminate nuclear power generation and stop global warming. 2) Restore community management of local forest, ocean, and other areas. 3) Promote environmental education in each community. 4) Increase production of food, energy and other necessities, to increase our economic independence, resist structural discrimination, and increase our communities’ capacity to exercise our self-determination rights.

In addition, we acknowledge our historical contributions to Feng shui cultural traditions that our ancestors practiced and adapted to landscape management in an area stretching from southern China to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Okinawa and Korea. These traditions formed the foundation for local innovations, and we, particularly as youth, wish to promote exchange programs. Thus, we can continue to learn about each areas’ unique history, culture and language, as we build on our respect for each other. Such educational opportunity should be guaranteed by every government, investing more funds in education, social security and people, instead of more unnecessary expenditures on excessive public works and on militarization that needlessly accelerates arms races.

We should recognize the wisdom in traditional community resource management systems of the Ryukyu archipelago dating back to the Ryukyu kingdom era. As we evaluate our current management systems, we must consider these in the context of local traditions. We need to scrutinize modern practices in Okinawa. In particular, we must reexamine the effects of shifting from traditional, local management of “commons”, such as “Iriaichi” common land areas and local coastal areas, to policies that followed the allotment and nationalization of common areas after Japan's annexation of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

We must not allow the military-industry-government-academic-media complex that profits from bloodshed and wars, to prey upon the people of Asia, particularly our communities in East Asia.

We must remind ourselves not to be agitated and driven into militarization, turning against our neighbors in other countries. Rather, it is important that we work together, hand-in-hand, with people in neighboring countries in our region on environmental initiatives and others.

We have entered a new era that urges us to start making efforts to shift our security framework from the current U.S. - Japan Security Alliance and U.S. - Korea Security Alliance, that strengthen bilateral military cooperation, to a “genuine security” that sensitively treats rights to peoples’ self-determination, human rights, environment, and more in multiple nations and regions of Asia. Moreover, we have come to the time that we must work toward establishing an Asian Union.

We, the people, must acknowledge that we own our rights to self-determination. As young people especially, we have the capacity and responsibility to change the present and future by charting a better course. We call on the people, especially the young people of Asia, to join our collaboration for peace and sustainable development in each of our communities and Asia.

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Ginowan, Okinawa, Japan