Everything You Treasure—
For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons

What do we treasure?
This exhibition is designed to provide a forum for dialogue, a place where people can learn together, exchange views and share ideas and experiences in the quest for a better world. We invite you to bring this “passport to the future” with you as you walk through the exhibition. Please use it to write notes about what you treasure, what you feel and what actions you plan to take in and for the future.
The world is a single system connected over space and time. In recent decades, the reality of that interdependence—the degree to which we influence, impact and require each other—has become increasingly apparent. Likewise, the choices and actions of the present generation will impact people and the planet far into the future.

As we become more aware of our interdependence, we see that benefiting others means benefiting ourselves, and that harming others means harming ourselves. Just as we cannot obtain all the things we need without the cooperation of others, we cannot protect the things we treasure alone, in isolation, or in conflict with others. We cannot sacrifice the future to the present, or the present for the future.

Every action has an effect. These effects may be felt in ways and places we cannot imagine.

The desire to protect the things and people we love from harm is a primal human impulse. For thousands of years, this has driven us to build homes, weave clothing, plant and harvest crops...

This same desire—to protect those we value and love from other people—has also motivated the development of war-fighting technologies. Over the course of centuries, the destructive capability of weapons continued to escalate until it culminated, in 1945, in the development and use of nuclear weapons.

How do we protect the things we treasure?
No one is immune. Global threats impact us all.

Freedom from fear, freedom from want

Our planet continues to be wracked by violent conflict. People around the world endure unacceptable burdens of poverty and hunger. Human rights violations and discrimination wound human bodies and hearts every day.

Natural disasters can strike at any moment, instantly robbing people of their lives, undermining the foundations of entire societies. Economic crises create profound disruption in people’s lives, as do environmental degradation and the effects of climate change. The possibility of a deadly global pandemic remains a constant presence.

Catastrophic humanitarian consequences

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reports that there were approximately 15,000 nuclear warheads on Earth as of 2017. The longer these weapons continue to exist, the greater the likelihood they will be used. Any use of nuclear weapons will cause catastrophic humanitarian consequences—instantly killing vast numbers of people, incinerating population centers and disrupting the global climate.

A pyramid of violence

Nuclear weapons—the most destructive by far of all our tools of war—are at the peak of a pyramid of violence. As the pyramid spreads downward it reaches into our daily lives. Conflict and mistrust between communities, crime, domestic violence and abuse—even the biting comment—are all part of the larger culture of violence.

Of all the threats facing humankind, that posed by nuclear weapons is the most acute and catastrophic—and the most preventable.
The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

On 6 August 1945, an American B-29 bomber dropped a nuclear bomb over the center of Hiroshima, Japan. It exploded about 600 meters above the city with a blast equivalent to about 16 thousand tons (kilotons) of high explosive TNT. Although that is only a fraction of the destructive power of today’s nuclear weapons, by the end of 1945, tens of thousands had died from their injuries and radiation poisoning, bringing the total killed in Hiroshima within the year to perhaps 140,000.

Three days after the first bombing, on 9 August 1945, another B-29 dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, directly above the industrial city. The resulting explosion had a blast yield equivalent to 21 thousand tons (kilotons) of TNT. An estimated 70,000 people had died by the end of the year.

The threat posed by nuclear weapons is not a thing of the past—it is a threat we face today.

Many states are developing nuclear energy capacities that would make it relatively easy for them to build nuclear weapons should they decide to do so. The possibility that terrorist organizations will acquire such weapons is also real. The danger that these apocalyptic weapons will be used—by accident, or deliberately, in an act of madness—hangs over all of us.

Everything you treasure could be reduced to ash in a moment.
Civilian casualties of war

The history of war in the 20th century was a history of increasing disregard for these traditions. During World War I, 5% of the casualties were civilians; in World War II, almost half were. Today the proportion has reached 75% or more in internal conflicts.

The massive destructive force of nuclear weapons makes distinguishing between civilian and military targets impossible. The long-term impacts would undermine the social and ecological foundations of future generations of human society.

Effects of a 100-kiloton nuclear bomb

Source: Catastrophic Humanitarian Harm, 2012, ICAN

A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tons of TNT kills everyone.

80 km
Radioactive fallout spreads. Over time, many thousands will die from radiation, sickness and cancers.

10 km
About half die from trauma and burns. Many succumb soon after to fires and radiation sickness.

5 km
The vast majority of people die quickly from blast injuries, asphyxiation or (over weeks) radiation sickness.

3 km
A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tons of TNT kills everyone.

80 km
Radioactive fallout spreads. Over time, many thousands will die from radiation, sickness and cancers.

10 km
About half die from trauma and burns. Many succumb soon after to fires and radiation sickness.

5 km
The vast majority of people die quickly from blast injuries, asphyxiation or (over weeks) radiation sickness.

3 km
A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tons of TNT kills everyone.

80 km
Radioactive fallout spreads. Over time, many thousands will die from radiation, sickness and cancers.

10 km
About half die from trauma and burns. Many succumb soon after to fires and radiation sickness.

5 km
The vast majority of people die quickly from blast injuries, asphyxiation or (over weeks) radiation sickness.

3 km
A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tons of TNT kills everyone.

80 km
Radioactive fallout spreads. Over time, many thousands will die from radiation, sickness and cancers.

10 km
About half die from trauma and burns. Many succumb soon after to fires and radiation sickness.

5 km
The vast majority of people die quickly from blast injuries, asphyxiation or (over weeks) radiation sickness.

3 km
A radioactive fireball hotter than the sun and with the force of 100,000 tons of TNT kills everyone.

In every culture, war has its rules and protocols. Among these is the idea that there is a difference between the conditions of war and peace, that wars should be ended in ways that make peace possible, that a distinction will be drawn between soldiers and civilians, that the destruction and death of war should be limited and contained.

“Cities Are Not Targets!”
—Mayors for Peace

“The right of belligerents to adopt means of injuring the enemy is not unlimited.”
—The Hague Conventions, 1899

In 1961, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution declaring that: “Any State using nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons is to be considered as violating the Charter of the United Nations, as acting contrary to the laws of humanity and as committing a crime against mankind and civilization.”

In 1996, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion stating that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the principles of international law.

In the final document of the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 2010, States parties for the first time explicitly expressed "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons," and reaffirmed "the need for all States at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law."

In 2017, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted at the UN. It prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities, such as developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons, as well as using or threatening to use these weapons.

International humanitarian law and nuclear weapons

In 1993, the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force.

In 1997, the Landmine Treaty was adopted.

In 2008, the Cluster Munitions Treaty came into force.

In 2017, the Nuclear Ban Treaty was adopted.

Treaties banning inhumane weapons

1868
St. Petersburg Declaration (the first formal agreement prohibiting the use of certain weapons in war)

1925
Poison Gas Protocol

1972
Biological Weapons Convention

1993
Chemical Weapons Convention

1997
Landmine Treaty

2008
Cluster Munitions Treaty

2017
Nuclear Ban Treaty

International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement

In April 2010, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Jakob Kellenberger issued an historic appeal regarding nuclear weapons. In his statement, Kellenberger stressed that the organization’s position on nuclear weapons must go beyond purely legal considerations.

In November 2011, the Council of Delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement adopted a resolution titled “Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons,” calling for activities to raise awareness of “the need for concrete actions leading to the prohibition of use and elimination of such weapons.”

“In the view of the ICRC, preventing the use of nuclear weapons requires fulfillment of existing obligations to pursue negotiations aimed at prohibiting and completely eliminating such weapons through a legally binding international treaty.”

In 1925, the St. Petersburg Declaration (the first formal agreement prohibiting the use of certain weapons in war)
“Nuclear weapons are the greatest environmental danger to the planet from humans, not global warming or ozone depletion.”
—Alan Robock
Climate scientist and author of "Climatic Consequences of Nuclear Conflict"

While the danger of war between the US and Russia has receded, the threat remains and the risks of nuclear war involving other countries have increased. Using South Asia as an example, experts have estimated that even a limited regional nuclear war involving 100 Hiroshima-sized nuclear weapons—less than 0.1% of the explosive yield of the global nuclear arsenal—would result in tens of millions of immediate deaths and unprecedented global climate disruption.

Weapons production
The process of producing nuclear weapons, from uranium mining through testing, has polluted vast amounts of soil and water at nuclear weapons facilities all over the world. Many of the substances released, including plutonium and uranium, remain hazardous for thousands, some for hundreds of thousands, of years.

Hanford Nuclear Reservation
The Hanford Nuclear Reservation was created as part of the US government’s efforts to develop an atomic bomb during World War II. The 1,450-square-kilometer site in the United States was once home to three small towns: Hanford, White Bluffs and Richland. In 1943, the US government invoked the War Powers Act and gave the 1,200 people living in the area 30 days to leave their homes. The towns and surrounding farms vanished, and the Hanford Engineer Works was established. The Hanford site is now the most contaminated site in North America, and represents one of the world’s most complex and difficult cleanup efforts. Large amounts of highly radioactive waste have been stored on-site for decades, with estimates of the cost of the final cleanup ranging as high as $120 billion.

Nuclear famine
The smoke and dust from burning cities ignited by fewer than 100 nuclear explosions would cause an abrupt drop in global temperatures and rainfall by blocking up to 10% of sunlight from reaching the Earth’s surface. Sudden global cooling would shorten growing seasons and cause frosts in summer, threatening agriculture worldwide. As many as one billion deaths would result from a nuclear weapon-induced famine, and infectious disease epidemics and further conflict would inevitably follow.

Opposing a new weapons plant
Protestors in Kansas City opposed the use of public funds to support expansion of a nuclear weapons plant. Instead, they proposed converting the bomb factory into a wind energy plant to make use of the area’s abundant wind resources to create “green-collar” jobs that will last long into the future.

Since 2007, climate scientists who worked with the late Carl Sagan in the 1980s—Alan Robock, O. B. Toon, Michael Mills and their colleagues at Rutgers University and the University of Colorado at Boulder—have renewed efforts to estimate the climate effects of regional nuclear war. Their research shows the new reality of the threat posed by even a relatively “limited” nuclear war.

Many individuals and environmental groups are committed to nuclear disarmament. For example, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace have campaigned against the environmental effects of nuclear weapons development and testing around the world.

“Models made by Russian and American scientists showed that a nuclear war would result in a nuclear winter that would be extremely destructive to all life on Earth; the knowledge of that was a great stimulus to us, to people of honor and morality, to act.”
—Mikhail S. Gorbachev
Former President of the Soviet Union (1990–91)
“Next I was diagnosed as having malignant lymphomas. I had surgery, but the tumors continue to appear twice a year, every year.”

—Sueko Takada
Survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki

Radiation damage

Ionizing radiation has high energy, and thus can chemically alter atoms it strikes. Living cells exposed to high doses of ionizing radiation are severely damaged. The resulting radiation sickness can kill people over the course of days, weeks or months. Production in the bone marrow of red blood cells, which carry oxygen, and white blood cells, which defend against infection, is very sensitive to radiation.

Radiation can also damage the DNA in living cells. The affected cells may die or be altered (causing mutations), and may in time become cancerous.

A lethal dose of radiation can involve as little energy as the heat in a sip of hot coffee.

Blast damage

The blast from a nuclear explosion instantly kills people close to ground zero, from incineration, multiple injuries and high levels of radiation. Internal injuries such as lung injuries, ear damage and internal bleeding occur at much greater distances. Shattered glass, bricks, concrete and wood from destroyed buildings are hurled by the blast, and the people themselves are turned into missiles, killing and injuring more people. The lethal area from the blast of an average strategic weapon of 1 megaton is likely to be over 260 square kilometers.

Thermal damage

The explosion also causes severe burns and eye injuries. The heat wave ignites fires that may combine into immense firestorms. Within these areas, even people in underground shelters will die from extreme heat or asphyxiation.

“Nuclear weapons constitute the greatest immediate threat to the health and survival of mankind.”

—The World Health Organization (WHO), 1983

Since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, physicians, other health professionals and scientists have documented the horrifying medical and humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons explosions—often based on firsthand experience of treating the victims.

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) was founded by US and Soviet physicians in 1980. This global federation of physician experts, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, came together to explain the medical and scientific facts of nuclear war to policy makers and the public, and to advocate the elimination of nuclear weapons—prevention—as the only possible “cure” for nuclear war.
Despite renewed commitments by nations to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, all of the nuclear-armed powers continue to invest vast sums of money in these weapons. In 2011, they passed a new milestone by collectively spending more than $100 billion on their nuclear programs.

Opportunity cost

Opportunity cost is a benefit, profit or value of something that must be given up to acquire or achieve something else. What if some of those billions of dollars were spent on other, socially useful purposes? Funding allocated to national disarmament efforts is minuscule by comparison, and the principal UN body responsible for advancing nuclear abolition—the Office for Disarmament Affairs—has an annual budget of just over $10 million.

Don’t Bank on the Bomb

A report released in 2012 by the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) identifies more than 300 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and asset managers in 30 countries with substantial investments in nuclear arms producers.

The study provides details of financial transactions with 20 companies that are heavily involved in the manufacture, maintenance and modernization of US, British, French and Indian nuclear forces. Nuclear disarmament campaigners are appealing to financial institutions to stop investing in the nuclear arms industry. Some have already begun to do so.

“The question is whether the country is earning a good return on its national-security ‘investment,’ for it is clearly an investment in peace and safety, as well perhaps in oil supply and exports. The bottom line is probably not.”

—William Nordhaus
Sterling Professor of Economics, Yale University
“The production, testing, possession, deployment and use of nuclear weapons should be prohibited and recognized as crimes against humanity.”
—UN Human Rights Committee, 1984

Right to life
The protection of the right to life and bodily security are at the heart of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The very existence of weapons that have the potential to kill millions or even billions of people degrades the value of human life and dignity.

Secrecy
A study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) in 2010 shows that whether a given nuclear-weapon state is democratic, quasi-authoritarian or a dictatorship does not determine the decisions it will take regarding nonproliferation, disarmament or potential use of its nuclear weapons. In short, secrecy in nuclear weapon governance persists even in generally open societies.

Democratic control
The potential use of nuclear-tipped missiles is uniquely problematic. The flight time of long-range ballistic missiles is between 15 and 30 minutes, giving the political leadership of the targeted country only a few minutes to decide whether to launch a retaliatory strike. In the case of submarine-launched missiles, this decision window would be even shorter. This makes it impossible for the electorate to participate—either directly or through their chosen representatives—in the most momentous decision that will ever face their society.

Nuclear testing and minorities
Nuclear test explosions have often been conducted on the lands of indigenous and minority peoples, far away from those making the decisions. The affected populations have suffered a wide range of health issues, from birth defects to elevated rates of cancer. Their basic rights and freedoms have been sacrificed in the name of national security.

“As a result of the nuclear testing, all of these communities have suffered dislocation, in one form or another, from their indigenous way of life. Many have become internally displaced persons who are yet to find durable solutions and expressed that they feel like ‘nomads’ in their own country. Many have suffered long-term health effects.”
—Calin Georgescu
UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes

“Disarmament is preeminently a humanitarian endeavor for the protection of the human rights of people and their survival. We have to see the campaign for nuclear disarmament as analogous to the campaigns such as those against slavery, for gender equality and for the abolition of child labor.”
—Jayantha Dhanapala
President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs

In 2003, the International Council Meeting of Amnesty International passed a resolution declaring opposition to the use, possession, production and transfer of nuclear weapons, given their indiscriminate nature.
“Go back to the surface and take better care of the world than we did. Good luck.”

—Berit Lundqvist

Swedish nuclear expert, responding to a question about what advice she would have for humans who, in the distant future, have entered a deep underground storage site for nuclear waste.

Nuclear accidents

In a nuclear reactor, uranium fuel undergoes a controlled fission chain reaction, generating great heat energy, which can be converted to electricity. Controlling this reaction is a complex technical task. If control is lost, the result is a nuclear meltdown, such as happened in the Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986) and most recently Fukushima (2011) accidents, potentially releasing large quantities of radioactive pollution into the environment.

Nuclear waste

Nuclear reactors also produce plutonium, a fissionable material, which can be chemically separated from the highly radioactive spent reactor fuel and used to build a nuclear weapon or radiological dispersal device (“dirty bomb”). A nation seeking nuclear weapons could build a reactor, claiming it was for civilian purposes, and then divert plutonium to weapons use. Such fissile materials could also be stolen by groups seeking to commit acts of terror.

Onkalo

Onkalo is Finnish for “hiding place.” It is the name of a site, about 300 km northwest of Helsinki, where a 48-km-long network of tunnels is being excavated in the bedrock. Eventually, nuclear waste will be deposited here at a depth of 500 meters. Work on this enormous storage facility was begun in the 1970s and is expected to be completed in the 2100s. After the used fuel rods have been deposited at the bottom of the tunnel, the opening will be sealed with multiple layers of steel and concrete.

The European security standard requires that nuclear waste be isolated from all living organisms for a minimum of 100,000 years. (The US minimum isolation period is a million years.) The human species as we know it today is believed to have existed for approximately 100,000 years. The oldest cave paintings date from about 30,000 years ago.

NPT regime

The 1968 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) commits countries already possessing nuclear weapons and weapons technology not to transfer them to other states; and the states which do not have nuclear weapons not to acquire them. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is charged with verifying that the nonproliferation commitments are being fulfilled. On the other hand, there is no process or body under the NPT to implement or verify the disarmament commitment, which is also an integral part of the treaty.

The NPT also guarantees all states the right to the nonmilitary use of nuclear energy. Repeated attempts have been made, primarily in the framework of the IAEA, to study the possibility of establishing international centers to manage the nuclear fuel chain so that peaceful uses of nuclear energy remain peaceful. Thus far, international control of the nuclear fuel chain has not moved significantly toward realization.

Securing nuclear materials

There is an accelerating effort, based on international cooperation, to move existing stocks of highly enriched uranium (HEU) and other materials to more secure locations or to “down blend” this to low-enriched uranium (LEU) which cannot be used in weapons. There remains an estimated 20 tons of HEU in non-nuclear-weapon states. In November 2010, the United States worked with Kazakhstan to move 10 tons of HEU to a more secure cask storage facility, in the east of the country.

Alternative, sustainable energy

Alternative energy refers to such energy sources as biomass, wind, solar, geothermal, hydro, wave and tidal energy technologies. These sources have the advantage that they do not produce large volumes of climate-altering emissions or leave a legacy of long-lasting radioactive waste.
In the 20th century, discoveries in physics regarding the essential nature of energy and matter offered new understanding of the universe we inhabit. At the same time, they made possible the unleashing of forces of previously unimaginable ferocity.

The Manhattan Project, which culminated in the destruction of the two cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, represented a new level of collaboration between scientific and military interests. There was now a direct line from basic scientific research to its application in producing devastation on an unprecedented scale.

1905
Radioactivity discovered by Henri Becquerel.

1914
The first controlled nuclear fission reaction is produced by Enrico Fermi at the University of Chicago.

1932
The atom is split by British physicists John Cockcroft and Ernest Walton.

1934
Hungarian physicist Leó Szilárd realizes the possibility of a nuclear chain reaction.

1938
The first radioactive elements, radium and polonium, discovered by Marie Curie.

1941
In August 1942, motivated by fear that Nazi Germany would develop a weapon based on newly discovered principles of atomic physics, the United States and its Allies launched the Manhattan Project, which brought together many of the world’s leading scientists to develop an atomic bomb.

1942
The Target Committee of the Manhattan Project selects four cities as possible targets for the atomic bomb: Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kokura and Niigata.

1943
July: The first atomic detonation takes place in the “Trinity Test” at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

1945
Aug 6: Little Boy, a uranium bomb, is detonated over Hiroshima, Japan.

Aug 9: Fat Man, a plutonium bomb, is dropped over Nagasaki, Japan. Originally scheduled to be dropped at Kokura, the target was moved to Nagasaki as a result of poor weather.

1945
Roosevelt gives the go-ahead for the development of an atomic weapon and suggests the US should start researching an atomic weapon.

1939
Albert Einstein and Leó Szilárd write to President Franklin Roosevelt, stating: “Now, I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds.”

—Robert Oppenheimer

Technical director of the Manhattan Project

“We appeal as human beings to human beings: Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.”

—The Russell-Einstein Manifesto, 1955

Written and signed by leading scientists and intellectuals seeking to awaken people to the dangers of nuclear war.

The Manhattan Project

Pugwash Conferences

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs is an international organization that brings together scholars and public figures to work toward reducing the danger of armed conflict and to seek solutions to global security threats. The inaugural gathering of the group was held in July 1957 and was attended by 22 scientists, including those from the US, the Soviet Union, Japan, China and France.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted by the UN in 1996; it bans nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere. Although the treaty has not entered into force, it has been key in promoting a de facto moratorium on nuclear testing. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) is charged with overseeing the implementation of the treaty, working with scientists and experts from a wide range of disciplines—from nuclear physics to seismology and atmospheric science.

International Monitoring System (IMS)

The International Monitoring System (IMS) is a worldwide network of observational technology that will help to verify compliance with and detect violations of the CTBT, when complete. The IMS will consist of 337 monitoring facilities. It will be complemented by an intrusive on-site inspection regime applicable once the treaty has entered into force. The CTBTO’s experts are confident that their system can aid in the detection and identification of nuclear explosions anywhere on the planet.
“With nuclear weapons the failure of deterrence means that there is no hope of recovery or recuperation. It is totally final and therein lies the dilemma that I felt to the depth of my being.”

—Gen. Lee Butler  
Former Commander-in-Chief, United States Strategic Command (1992–94)

“Force will be met by force. If the US wants war, that is its problem. The calamities of a war will be shared equally.”

—Nikita Khrushchev  
Premier of the Soviet Union (1958–64)

The modern concept of security has often been centered on the idea of the sovereign state, independent and in competition with other states. The overriding goal of security efforts has been to protect the integrity of states’ borders and ensure the continuity of their political structures.

**Mutual Assured Destruction**

The doctrine of countervailing threats persisted throughout the period of the Cold War, as both Eastern and Western blocs developed massive nuclear arsenals. The ultimate form of deterrence was “Mutual Assured Destruction” or MAD—in which the people of the competing blocs were forced to live a button-push from annihilation. The continued existence of nuclear weapons holds all states and their people hostage to the ultimately fragile proposition that they will never be used.

**Political efforts for nuclear disarmament**

- **1967** The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is adopted by the UN and opened for signatures.
- **1995** The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. Although it has not entered into force, the treaty has encouraged a de facto moratorium on nuclear testing.
- **1991** The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is signed by the United States and the Soviet Union, limiting the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 6,000 each.
- **1987** The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed by the United States and the Soviet Union, eliminates an entire class of nuclear weapons, nuclear missiles with a range between 500 and 5,000 km.
- **1978** The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the key treaty to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, enters into force.

**The Political Challenge**

The overwhelming threat posed by nuclear weapons has brought the dawning realization that states operating under the traditional assumption of complete independence and sovereignty cannot ensure their own security. Political cooperation has come to be recognized as a necessary condition for survival. The result has been a series of agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, seeking to reduce the threat of nuclear war and facilitate cooperation to that end.
“Simply transferring the world’s nuclear weapons to a museum will not in itself bring about world peace. The nuclear weapons of the mind must first be eliminated.”

—Mātā Amṛtānandamayī Devī
Hindu spiritual leader

“While we know you will continue in the future to deal with the legacy of radioactive, toxic waste, we are committed to leave to you a legacy of strength. The battles we fight to protect our land, our future, and our lives will in some way reduce the threat you are exposed to.”

—Jacqui Katona
Aboriginal woman who led a campaign against a uranium mine in the Northern Territory, Australia

“By far the greatest single danger facing humankind—in fact, all living beings on our planet—is the threat of nuclear destruction.”

—Tenzin Gyatso
The 14th Dalai Lama

“All religions agree about the dignity of the human person, the peaceful settlement of disputes, protection of the environment and the preservation of the rights of future generations.”

—Christopher Weeramantry
Former International Court of Justice vice-president

“We need a massive global uprising against nuclear weapons as was done to abolish slavery, to save humanity from annihilation.”

—Ibrahim Ramey
Director of the Human and Civil Rights Division at Muslim American Society (MAS) Freedom Foundation

“From the prophets’ dreams of the time when nations would beat their swords into plowshares to today’s aspirations of a nuclear-weapons-free world, we have sought to avoid armed conflict and not yield to despair in the search for universal peace.”

—Rabbi David Saperstein
Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

“Nuclear abolition is the democratic wish of the world’s people, and has been our goal almost since the dawn of the atomic age. Together, we have the power to decide whether the nuclear era ends in a bang or worldwide celebration.”

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu
General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches

Representatives of the world’s ethical and spiritual traditions have spoken out—whether in the language of religious tenets or from a more secular appreciation of what it means to be human—to condemn nuclear weapons. They make clear that we bear a shared and universal responsibility to protect our fellow humans, our planet and the future from this direct and unacceptable threat.

The corrosive effects of nuclear weapons permeate all societies. They force us to live under the shadow of potentially catastrophic destruction. They embody the obscene proposition that there is some overarching value that can justify the mass slaughter of innocents. Their use would not only erase the past fruits of all human civilization, but would leave present and coming generations confronting a mutilated future.
Birth defects from nuclear testing

On 14 November 1995, Lijon Eknilang, a quiet, unassuming woman from the Pacific island of Rongelap, spoke at the International Court of Justice in The Hague when it was hearing testimony regarding the legality of nuclear weapons.

“Women have experienced many reproductive cancers and abnormal births. In privacy, they give birth, not to children but to things we could only describe as ‘octopuses,’ ‘apples,’ ‘turtles’...”

“The most common birth defects on Rongelap and nearby islands have been ‘jellyfish’ babies. These babies are born with no bones in their bodies and with transparent skin. We can see their brains and hearts beating. The babies usually live for a day or two before they stop breathing.”

—Carol Cohn
with Felicity Hill and Sara Ruddick

“Women, in professional and military settings, have related experiences of realizing that something terribly important is being left out.

“What is it that cannot be spoken? What gets left out is the emotional, the concrete, the particular, human bodies and their vulnerability, human lives and their subjectivity—all of which are marked as feminine in the binary dichotomies of gender discourse.”

—Betty Reardon
Pioneer of peace education

“Every woman is free to take the initiative, take risks, be angry, shout, sing, disobey police and be adaptable. We are always looking for unexpected and unpredictable actions...”

—Di McDonald
Anti-nuclear activist

“More than any other manifestation of patriarchy, the compulsive acquisition and excessive use of weaponry demonstrate the abuse of power by the male-dominated state system. Like all addictions, the addiction to weaponry wreaks negative results on the systems in which it occurs.”

—Betty Reardon
Pioneer of peace education

When it comes to the military and questions of nuclear disarmament, the gender gap becomes the gender gulf.”

—Eleanor Smeal
Former President of the National Organization for Women

Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.

“Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.”

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Since the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1915, it has sought total and universal disarmament as one of its goals. Through the Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women projects, WILPF continues empowering women to participate in this necessary work.

In the disarmament field, WILPF also has been calling for implementation of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October 2000. Resolution 1325 has been taken as an inspiration and basis for increased activism by women’s peace groups around the world.

Greenham Common

At Greenham Common in the UK, over a 19-year period, women camped out to protest US nuclear Cruise missiles being stationed there.

In December 1981, 30,000 women from all over the UK turned up to join “Embrace the Base.”

Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.

“Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.”

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Since the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1915, it has sought total and universal disarmament as one of its goals. Through the Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women projects, WILPF continues empowering women to participate in this necessary work.

In the disarmament field, WILPF also has been calling for implementation of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October 2000. Resolution 1325 has been taken as an inspiration and basis for increased activism by women’s peace groups around the world.

Greenham Common

At Greenham Common in the UK, over a 19-year period, women camped out to protest US nuclear Cruise missiles being stationed there.

In December 1981, 30,000 women from all over the UK turned up to join “Embrace the Base.”

Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.

“Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.”

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Since the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1915, it has sought total and universal disarmament as one of its goals. Through the Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women projects, WILPF continues empowering women to participate in this necessary work.

In the disarmament field, WILPF also has been calling for implementation of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October 2000. Resolution 1325 has been taken as an inspiration and basis for increased activism by women’s peace groups around the world.

Greenham Common

At Greenham Common in the UK, over a 19-year period, women camped out to protest US nuclear Cruise missiles being stationed there.

In December 1981, 30,000 women from all over the UK turned up to join “Embrace the Base.”

Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.

“Women have consistently been at the forefront of grassroots efforts to abolish nuclear weapons. They have used techniques of nonviolence to protest the hideous destructive power nuclear weapons represent. They also often reject the vast investment of resources which could otherwise be constructively used to address social issues.”

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Since the founding of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) in 1915, it has sought total and universal disarmament as one of its goals. Through the Reaching Critical Will and Peace Women projects, WILPF continues empowering women to participate in this necessary work.

In the disarmament field, WILPF also has been calling for implementation of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council on 31 October 2000. Resolution 1325 has been taken as an inspiration and basis for increased activism by women’s peace groups around the world.
2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. How many survivors will be alive five or ten years from now?

The voices of survivors
No group of people have been more dedicated to communicating the realities of nuclear war than the hibakusha, the survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Through their words and actions, in art and in writing, they have confronted and conveyed a past whose horrors most would prefer to forget. In doing so, they have been driven by a commitment to the future, the determination that no one anywhere should ever experience the terror and suffering they have undergone.

“We are looking ahead to make every decision that we make relate to the welfare and well-being of the seventh generation to come.”
—Oren Lyons
Chief of the Onondaga Nation

Waning awareness
A survey conducted by SGI in 2010 showed that only 59.2% of young American people—aged teens to thirties—were aware that the United States possesses atomic arsenals. And only 43.2% of the young people in the UK identified their country as a nuclear-armed state.

Q. Does your country possess nuclear weapons?

Nuclear weapons are now 65 years old. Don’t you think it’s time for compulsory retirement?
—BANg (Ban All Nukes Generation), 2010

Hibakusha Stories
Hibakusha Stories is a disarmament education initiative that began in October 2008, which passes the legacy of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to a new generation, empowering them to build a world free of nuclear weapons.

IPPNW Medical Students
Through the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (NWIP), medical student members of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) seek to raise awareness about humanitarian consequences of security policies relying on military power and nuclear weapons. NWIP workshop organizers also focus on empowering younger generations to undertake disarmament activities on local, regional and international levels.

BANg (Ban All Nukes Generation)
A large number of young people from Europe participated in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York in 2005, delivering a statement to the gathered state representatives. After the conference they set up the European network BANg—Ban All Nukes Generation. Now there are BANg organizations in the United States and New Zealand as well. Each organization works to raise youth awareness of nuclear weapons and seeks a common nuclear-free future.

James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)
The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS), established in 1989, strives to combat the spread of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) by training the next generation of nonproliferation specialists and disseminating timely information and analysis. CNS at the Monterey Institute of International Studies is the largest nongovernmental organization in the United States devoted exclusively to research and training on nonproliferation issues.
“Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living.”

—Omar N. Bradley
(1943–1981) US Army General

“In the final analysis, human security is a child who did not die, a disease that did not spread, a job that was not cut, an ethnic tension that did not explode in violence, a dissident who was not silenced.”

—Mahbub ul Haq
(1934–98) founder of the Human Development Report

The traditional understanding of sovereignty has rested on the state’s monopoly on the legitimate use of violence: in police and law enforcement domestically, and in waging war abroad. Nuclear weapons were developed with the view that a state with access to this ultimate violence would enjoy security.

Under the Cold War regime of deterrence, it was assumed that the threat of devastating reprisal would prevent the opposing state from nuclear aggression because a state, as a “rational actor,” would not engage in suicidal behavior.

The possibility of accidental nuclear war—of states being willing to take suicidal risks—or that terrorist groups might obtain nuclear materials or weapons represents a fundamental challenge to this thinking.

Contemporary terrorism is, more than anything, an expression of despair; it manifests in acts of savage disregard for human life—including the lives of those who carry it out. For such groups, with nothing to protect and nothing to lose, the logic of deterrence means nothing.

Possible forms of nuclear terrorism

- A conventional attack on a nuclear reactor in order to cause a meltdown
- Construction of a nuclear device using black market plutonium or depleted uranium
- Construction of a so-called “dirty bomb,” whereby conventional explosives are packed with uranium or plutonium to spread a radioactive cloud over the target area

In recent years, the nature of threats—military and otherwise—has changed. Most armed conflicts are now internal and it is rare for one country to invade or conquer another. At the same time, people around the world face unacceptable threats to their lives and dignity in the form of poverty, hunger, preventable disease, human rights abuses and environmental destruction. This has led to a reframing of the question of security from a focus on the state to a focus on people—human security.

Global annual military expenditure: $1.7 trillion

An additional $26 billion could reverse the spread of AIDS.

An additional $45 billion could provide universal access to water and sanitation.

An additional $39 billion could provide quality education for almost every child on Earth.

An additional $66 billion could eliminate starvation and malnutrition globally.

Which is safer—the world of heavily armed states and simmering despair, or a world in which people’s basic needs are met and their dignity ensured?
States that have relinquished nuclear weapons

Nuclear states can—and have—given up the development or possession of nuclear weapons. States that have done so include Canada, which was involved in efforts to develop the first atomic bomb but later gave up the nuclear option. Brazil and Argentina abandoned their nuclear weapon development programs. South Africa dismantled its nuclear weapons and joined the ranks of non-nuclear-weapon states. Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine inherited a massive stockpile of nuclear weapons when the Soviet Union broke up. They gave up their weapons in exchange for security guarantees and economic assistance from the United States, Russia and elsewhere.

Landmines ban

The Mine Ban Treaty was drafted by Austria and developed outside of traditional diplomatic channels in a series of meetings in Vienna, Bonn, Brussels and Oslo over the course of 1997. A group of like-minded governments worked in close cooperation with the NGOs of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) and international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to steer what became known as the Ottawa Process. The Mine Ban Treaty was signed by 122 states in Ottawa, Canada, on 3 December 1997. It entered into force less than two years later, more quickly than any treaty of its kind in history.

Cluster weapons ban

The Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on 1 August 2010. The cluster munitions ban process, also known as the Oslo Process, began in February 2007 in Oslo, Norway. At that time, 46 nations issued the Oslo Declaration. Meetings were subsequently held in Lima and Vienna, and, in February 2008, 79 countries adopted the Wellington Declaration, setting forth the principles to be included in the Convention. Delegates from 107 nations agreed to the final draft of the treaty at the end of a 10-day meeting held in May 2008 in Dublin.

Denuclearization of the Northern Hemisphere

There are five NWFZs existing today, with four of them covering almost the entire Southern Hemisphere. This process of denuclearization needs to be expanded to the Northern Hemisphere. NWFZs have been proposed for South Asia, the Middle East, Northeast Asia and Europe.

The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)

The CTBT was adopted and signed by 71 states, including the five nuclear-weapon states, in 1996. It has not become legally binding as it must be ratified by all 44 states with nuclear power or research reactors. There are eight countries outstanding—China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan and the United States.

Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT)

An FMCT would represent a binding international prohibition against the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons purposes, thus strengthening nuclear nonproliferation efforts. While negotiations have not commenced, the idea has been repeatedly discussed in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

“It is time for all governments to come together—with the support of civil society around the world—to chart our course to a nuclear free future by beginning the negotiation of a comprehensive treaty banning the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of nuclear weapons. Now. Not in years or decades. Now.”

—Jody Williams
The founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)
Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

Despite the unparalleled devastation and humanitarian impact they produce, nuclear weapons have long been the only weapons of mass destruction not prohibited by an international treaty. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons globalizes what nuclear-weapon-free-zone treaties have done regionally, prohibiting a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities, such as developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing or stockpiling nuclear weapons, as well as using or threatening to use these weapons.

Support for the Nuclear Ban Treaty

UN Secretary-General António Guterres: “The Treaty is an important step towards the universalized goal of a world free of nuclear weapons: it is my hope that it will reinvigorate global efforts to achieve it.”

Ambassador Elayne Whyte Gómez of Costa Rica, President of the UN negotiation conference: “We feel that we are responding to the crisis of our generation to do our part in a global effort to meet our responsibility as a generation to do a job that previous generations have not achieved; to slow the arms race; and to prevent nuclear weapons from being developed, tested, produced, or possessed regionally, prohibiting a full nuclear-weapons use. Such treaties such as developing, testing, producing, stockpiling nuclear weapons, as well as using or threatening to use these weapons.

Milestones

In 1996, The International Court of Justice handed down an advisory opinion in which it found that the threat of use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to international law. It further stated, “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament.”

In 1996, a model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) was drafted by the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (TALANA), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation (INESAP).

In 1997, Costa Rica submitted this draft convention to the United Nations Secretary-General.

In 2007, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons was launched (ICAN).

In 2007, at the Preparatory Committee meeting of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the three organizations launched an updated version of the draft NWC, later introduced to the UN General Assembly by Costa Rica and Malaysia.

In 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed his support for this idea in his five-paragraph proposal.

In 2010, the NPT Review Conference adopted a final document in which it expressed “its deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons.” Since then several humanitarian initiatives have emerged that have helped shift debate toward greater focus on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons rather than simply the traditional, national security dimension.

Between 2013 and 2014, three international conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons were held in Oslo, Norway, Nayarit, Mexico, and Vienna, Austria.

In 2017, the two rounds of the UN Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards Their Total Elimination were convened in New York. As a result of these negotiations, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was adopted on 7 July and opened for signature on 20 September.

ICAN was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 in recognition of its role in achieving the TPNW.

About the Organizers

Soka Gakkai International (SGI)

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) is a lay Buddhist movement linking more than 12 million people around the world to promote peace, culture and education. SGI collaborates with a range of intergovernmental and civil society organizations to promote public education in the fields of peace and disarmament, human rights and sustainable development. In September 2007, SGI launched the People’s Decade for Nuclear Abolition, a public outreach and education campaign. SGI has been an international partner of ICAN since 2007 and has engaged in a number of collaborative projects toward the realization of a world free from nuclear weapons.

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a global grassroots movement for the prohibition and total elimination of nuclear weapons. Launched by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) in 2007, ICAN now has more than 460 partner organizations in over 100 countries and provides a voice to the overwhelming majority of people globally who support the abolition of nuclear weapons. ICAN has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2017 in recognition of its role in achieving the TPNW.

“I am convinced that human beings are best able to advance, not when driven by fear of catastrophe, but when guided by the prospect of hope-filled objectives.”

—Daisaku Ikeda

President of Soka Gakkai International

SGI and IPPNW

In March 1989, Bernard Lown, one of the founding co-presidents of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and SGI President Daisaku Ikeda met in Tokyo, initiating a collaborative endeavor toward the goal of nuclear weapons abolition. In September 1989, with the support of the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs SGI and IPPNW co-sponsored the exhibition “War and Peace” at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the first collaborative effort by the two organizations.

“There can be no peace without justice. Our work is far from done. It is with you, our future leaders, that the fate of humanity rests.”

—Bernard Lown MD

Founding Co-President of IPPNW

Special thanks to:

Luke Omar
Alan Robock
Kyotaka Shishido
Ban All Nukes generation (BANG)
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
Preparatory Commission
Economists for Peace and Security (EPA)
Hibakusha Stories
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
International Law and Policy Institute (ILPI)

International Peace Bureau (IPB)
International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)
James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS)
Mayors for Peace
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF)
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs
Women’s Initiative League for Peace and World Affairs (WILPF)

Art direction:
Molls Design

© 2017 Soka Gakkai International
“A world without nuclear weapons will make a good base camp for continuing the climb. As any climber will tell you, the destination and the journey are equally important. Nuclear disarmament is both a destination and a process.”

—Rebecca Johnson
Executive Director and Cofounder of the Acronym Institute

The Power of “Zero”
A world without nuclear weapons should not be thought of as our present world—wracked by violence and injustice—with this one particularly hideous aspect removed. The struggle to abolish nuclear weapons is an opportunity to fundamentally alter our relationship among ourselves and with the world.

Consider a person struggling with a terrible addiction: to alcohol, drugs or gambling, for example. For such a person, getting to zero—having no further engagement with their addiction—is the key step. And taking that step necessarily involves a deep review and renewal of past behaviors, habits and ways of thinking about life.

This does not mean that nuclear weapons can only be eliminated after human nature has changed for the better. But they will be eliminated through the cumulative power of individual choices—choices made by each of us.

We should view the struggle for nuclear abolition first and foremost as an opportunity—a chance to transform humankind’s deep-seated impulse to destruction, including self-destruction.

“We cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individual.”

—Marie Curie
(1867–1934) pioneering researcher in the nature of radioactivity

Moral vision
The moral vision and spiritual qualities required to eliminate nuclear weapons do not exist in some distant, lofty realm. They are, rather, the qualities of decency, dialogue, sharing and caring that form the fabric of daily life.

It has been said that war could be eliminated if political leaders could act on the basis of the morality taught to small children by mothers everywhere: tell the truth; respect people, do not hurt them or take what isn’t yours; clean up after yourself...

Self-mastery
The abolition of nuclear weapons means demonstrating self-mastery as a species—showing that we can wisely choose to protect ourselves against the threat posed by these weapons. It will be proof that humans are not the passive victims of our own technology.

If humankind can come together to eliminate this existential threat, this will lay the foundations for shared efforts to meet other challenges, such as ensuring ecological integrity and realizing a world where all people can live in dignity.
Interdependence and collaboration

When we become aware that our lives are fundamentally interdependent, it becomes clear that we cannot harm others without harming ourselves. We understand that it is impossible to construct our happiness and security on the fear and suffering of others.

In a nuclear age, the only viable path to security is through shared effort. Just as, in daily life, we cannot achieve the things we want alone, the goal of security on a global scale will only be achieved when we all—governments and civil society, “realists” and “dreamers” alike—work for it together. This will be even more true in a nuclear-weapons-free world.

By coming together for the future we want and deserve, we can protect the things each of us treasures.

We all care, usually very deeply, about the people and things in our lives. Our values, the things that matter to us, guide our actions. All our waking efforts—to work, to learn, to develop ourselves—are directed at protecting, preserving and passing on the things that we value and treasure.

What is the future you want?
How would you put it in words?
How will you put it into action?

“We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk.”

—Eleanor Roosevelt (1884–1962) former US First Lady