WE MUST ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS BEFORE THEY ABOLISH US
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In Memory of Long-Time Foundation Supporter
Herbert J. Kendall
2022 has been the year of renewal. Renewal of our fears of nuclear war, but also renewal of hope that we can indeed bring about a world free of nuclear weapons. At NAPF, renewal has meant new faces, new events, and new initiatives, albeit all with the same fervor and devotion to nuclear abolition that guided David Krieger and Frank Kelly in founding NAPF 40 years ago. Under their leadership, the Foundation embarked on many long-term initiatives. These include Waging Peace, a 20-year essay project on humanity's future; the Nuclear Zero lawsuits, which in 2014, at the U.S. Federal District Court and the International Court of Justice, exposed the failure of the nuclear weapons states to comply with Article 6 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT); Nuclear Files, a pioneering web-based archive of nuclear history; and participation in the negotiations for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which entered into force in 2021.

In the short time that I have been President, we have built upon those initiatives, focusing on the critical issues of today. When the Ukraine War started in February, we put together a series of virtual events entitled Nuclear Dangers (in Ukraine). We have welcomed to these events the world’s leading thinkers, activists, academics, politicians, and more. We are especially grateful to our Board members, Richard Falk and Cynthia Lazaroff, for their many invaluable contributions to this series.

2022 saw Reverse the Trend – Save Our Planet, Save Our People officially become a youth initiative of NAPF, giving us new opportunities to engage with young people around the world.

We were excited to return to in-person events at our home in Santa Barbara, including the 29th Annual Sadako Peace Day and our First Annual Women Waging Peace Luncheon. Both provided a sense of purpose and empowerment to all who attended. This year also saw a return of in-person meetings at the international level, including the ICAN Forum in Vienna, the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW, and the NPT Review Conference.

As we look ahead, our work will continue to focus on the TPNW as it is our best hope to rid the world of nuclear weapons. We will use many approaches to accomplish this goal and we will not stop until the very last nuclear warhead is destroyed.

We are continually inspired by the power of our community, by the kindness and generosity of our supporters, and by your commitment to a better world, free of nuclear weapons.

With love and peace,
What I Didn’t Get To Say At The UN

It was the last weekend of September. Between a cross-country race for my high schooler, a soccer game for my 6th grader, and saying good bye to my daughter as she headed to Europe to study medicine, I was working on a statement to deliver during the United Nations General Assembly on September 26. My statement would take place at a commemorative meeting for the International Day for Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and I only had three minutes to deliver it. Three minutes is not a lot of time. And I had so much to say.

I wanted to tell the delegates about my amazing kids and husband and dog and why I feel that the biggest gift I can leave to my children would be a world free of nuclear weapons. I wanted to tell them that my main motivation in pursuing the hard work of nuclear disarmament is love. Love for my family, for our beautiful planet, for all life on Earth, and for humanity itself. I wanted to tell them that nuclear weapons, in the words of David Krieger, threaten everything we love and everything we’ve ever known.

We live in a challenging time. I wanted to tell the delegates about the tears in my eyes while in the Times Square subway station just days earlier, on my way to the General Assembly. If you’ve ever been there, you’ll know that it’s not exactly an inspiring location. But thinking about the weight of the world and seeing people singing, holding hands, rushing to wherever they were going, brought tears to my eyes. If a nuclear weapon were to be used in New York City, that subway station would surely be vaporized. And so much more.

Two years ago, an international treaty that bans nuclear weapons – the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) – entered into force. A response of nuclear weapon states to this treaty has been to point out that they would love to get rid of nuclear weapons if it weren’t for the “bad” countries that possess them or aspire to possess them. But there is no such thing as bad or good nuclear weapons. They are all bad. A single nuclear weapon used today would be much more powerful than the bombs the US used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. More likely, multiple weapons would be delivered simultaneously from an intercontinental ballistic missile. And unlike in 1945, there would certainly be a response consisting of more nuclear strikes.
But I didn’t get to say all this. Instead, I focused on the lessons from the past, the current terrifying arsenals and modernization plans, and the future on a planet that currently supports a human civilization, however imperfect it may be, and that may not be able to do so in the future. Some necessary context: the use of nuclear weapons on Japan was not the only time that humanity suffered due to nuclear weapons. The suffering includes a long legacy of nuclear weapons testing on the atolls and islands of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, French Polynesia, and Alaska, to the deserts of the American Southwest, Australia, Kazakhstan, and China, and in other locations around the world.

This legacy consists of decades of health effects, such as increased rates of cancer and negative maternal and mental health impacts, as well as erosion of sustainable and cultural practices.

Some more context: today, nine countries possess nearly 13,000 weapons, about 2000 of which are on what is called a hair-trigger alert. This means that many hundreds of weapons can be launched within minutes in crisis situations. This also means that accidental use or use due to misunderstanding or miscalculation is much more likely. Finally, the use of even small fractions of the current arsenals would result in millions of direct deaths and even billions due to starvation within the first two years, depending on the exact circumstances of the weapons used and their total number. The latter is a consequence of something scientists called nuclear winter more than four decades ago. The results of a recent study of nuclear winter are simply terrifying.

At the UN, I didn’t get to say everything I wanted to. But I had love in my heart and a clear message. Everything we know about nuclear weapons from thinking about the past, the present, and the future, says that the only road ahead is that toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

The TPNW is a landmark international agreement among states concerned about the welfare of humanity. The treaty prohibits the possession, development, deployment, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons and also contains a robust framework for assisting victims of nuclear weapons and remediating contaminated environments. It entered into force on January 22, 2021 and the First Meeting of States Parties was held in Vienna, Austria, on June 21-23, 2022. Here, states, international organizations and civil society supporting the TPNW gathered to respond to the threats and increasing risk of nuclear war. On June 22, the 65 member states of the TPNW issued the strongest condemnation of threats to use nuclear weapons that a U.N. body has ever made, declaring that any use of nuclear weapons would be unacceptable, and setting the bar high for how governments must respond to Russia's threats.

**Universality**

Article 12 of the TPNW states that "Each State Party shall encourage States, not party to this Treaty, to sign, ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, with the goal of universal adherence of all States to the Treaty." NAPF is working to raise awareness about the treaty with the ultimate goal of bringing all state members of the United Nations on board. We must shift the discourse on nuclear weapons towards achieving nuclear zero – a world in which these horrific weapons no longer exist.

**Positive Obligations**

The positive obligations of the TPNW consist of a set of remedial measures mandated under Articles 6 and 7 that require States Parties to assist victims and remediate the natural environment affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons. We are fully committed to advancing and implementing Articles 6 and 7. Christian, our Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, works closely with Kiribati and Kazakhstan, two states parties that are TPNW co-facilitators on the positive obligations.
First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP)

Following the historic entry of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) into force on January 22, 2021 the First Meeting of States Parties (1MSP) to the TPNW was held in Vienna, Austria, June 21–23. The President of the Meeting was Ambassador Alexander Kmentt of Austria. Christian Ciobanu, our Policy and Advocacy Coordinator, was part of a special group of “Friends to the President”, and worked as part of the Kiribati delegation to participate in the proceedings.

We helped bring a large group of youth from affected communities, through our youth initiative, Reverse the Trend (RTT) to Vienna. Additionally, we organized two side-events at the meeting, one, which was co-sponsored by the Republics of Kazakhstan and Kiribati, focusing on the humanitarian provisions of the treaty, spelled out in Articles 6 and 7, and one which focused on the nuclear legacy of the Pacific, with speakers affiliated with RTT and originating from affected communities.

The 1MSP meeting produced two outcome documents: the Vienna Declaration and the Vienna Action Plan. The first is an affirmation of commitments of States Parties to the vision of a nuclear weapons-free world, and the second is a list of 50 concrete steps the States Parties will undertake to achieve this vision. The Second Meeting of States Parties will take place in New York City, November 27–December 1 and we look forward to attending and contributing to these proceedings.

10th NPT Review Conference

During the month of August, the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) took place in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Originally scheduled for 2020, the conference was delayed by the pandemic for two years. Our President, Dr. Ivana Hughes, gave a statement on behalf of NAPF at the civil society session of the conference, speaking alongside disarmament giants, including Ambassador Sergio Duarte, Jackie Cabasso, Jonathan Granoff, Ira Helfand, and others.

We organized and contributed to several side events at the conference and held and participated in special sessions and meetings with diplomats. We also made the case far and wide for the imperative of nuclear disarmament and for nuclear weapons states to be held accountable to communities affected by nuclear weapons use and testing.

Following nearly a month of statements, negotiations, and draft reviews, the conference failed to adopt an outcome document, which was a repeat of the 2015 9th NPT Review Conference. Although a draft outcome document had been produced, it fell far short of concrete goals and steps on nuclear disarmament. We will participate in the next NPT Preparatory Conference this coming summer.
We need every resource of mind, heart, and will to have any realistic hope of addressing the nuclear dangers to the peoples of the world and other life forms with whom we coexist on our beautiful planet. These dangers have been exposed as never before in this century by the Ukraine War and the unfolding global crisis it portends, and yet there is little evidence that the depth of this challenge has been understood, much less acted upon.

Ever since atom bombs were dropped on Japanese cities in 1945, the peoples of the world have lived beneath a dark shadow of a potential nuclear catastrophe. Over the decades, more countries have acquired and developed nuclear weapons and from time-to-time confrontations have raised fears that a war would be fought with these deadly weapons of mass destruction. The Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962 was an occasion on which a horrific nuclear war between the United States and the Soviet Union was averted due mostly to good luck and prudent leadership. Small steps have been taken with the goal of making a nuclear war less likely, but nine countries retain nuclear arsenals and work to refine and make their weapons combat ready. These countries seem as determined as ever to retain this terrifying approach to protect the interests of their own societies and those of their allies.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, since its founding 40 years ago, has stood for a contrasting vision of peace. We have insisted that safety and security of peoples depends on responsible elimination of these infernal weapons, based on trustworthy international supervision. It is our deepest belief – sustained by moral, cultural, and spiritual values – that the only path to peace and genuine security is through a solemn commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.

We must do that before their almost inevitable eventual use tragically blights forever the prospects of the human species and its natural habitat for a brighter, sustainable, and peaceful future.

It is with these thoughts and feelings uppermost in our minds and hearts that we issue this Declaration, which is intended as an urgent call to leaders and people everywhere to heed the nuclear dangers being so vividly exposed by the ongoing Ukraine War and global crisis. We are fully supportive of the rightful defense of Ukraine and protection of its people, in the face of Russian aggression. We also deplore the brutality and criminality of the continuing combat carried out in a lawless manner, indifferent to civilian innocence. Nor can we ignore the monumental dangers arising from the bitterness that now prevails in the relations between Russia and the United States.

To read the Declaration in its entirety, visit https://www.wagingpeace.org/ukrainepetition/.

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NOW, BEFORE WE ARE ENGULFED IN FLAMES, WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME, WHILE WE STILL CAN, WAKE UP!

— DAVID KRIEGER

2022 — 2023 Annual Report
Events • Meetings • Lectures • Gatherings

CLOCKWISE:

Bob Nyosui Sedivy, Sadako Peace Day
Ivana Hughes and Jean-Marie Collin, ICAN France
Side event on victim assistance and environmental remediation at the TPNW 1MSP in Vienna: NAPF’s Christian Ciobanu, diplomats, and civil society representatives.

LA high school students, Susan Strickler, Ivana Hughes and Mitchie Takeuchi, Vow from Hiroshima screening

Father Larry Gosselin, Sadako Peace Day
Events • Meetings • Lectures • Gatherings

CLOCKWISE:

Cynthia Lazaroff and Senator Monique Limón, Honorees, with speakers at the Women Waging Peace luncheon

Megan Lunny and Annamaria Belevitch NAPF interns at NPT Youth Convergence

Yuta Takahashi (No Nukes Tokyo), Ivana Hughes, Benetick Kabua Maddison (MEI), and Christian Ciobanu, General Assembly Hall at the UN

Nuclear disarmament activists, side event in NYC

Matthew John (MEI), Kenneth Chiu (NAPF Intern), Marino Morris (MEI)
2022 marked the second year of our youth initiative, Reverse The Trend, and it's been a time of inspiring growth. We began the year with an event held on the margins of the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW that brought together activists from all over the world, including Japan, Marshall Islands, Fiji, Canada, and the US. In August, RTT actively participated in the 10th NPT Review Conference at which we convened a special youth event entitled “NPT Youth Convergence: An International Youth Orientation.”

A Journey Home, a documentary based on a community poem by Marshallese youth, premiered at the ICAN Nuclear Ban Treaty Forum. It has been entered in both the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival and the Hawaii International Film Festival. RTT is also currently working on a documentary commemorating the 1982 Rally for Nuclear Disarmament.

This year saw many partner organizations help us kick off inspiring advocacy work, including Marshallese Educational Initiative, Peace Boat US, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Peace Action New York State, Youth for the TPNW, and The Prospect Hill Foundation. We organized an important event on “The Twin Existential Threats of Nuclear Weapons and Climate Change.” We helped prepare the international youth statement for the NPT Review Conference. And we held “From the Pacific to the Steppes: Engaging with Frontline Communities on the TPNW.” This event was graciously hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan in New York, with a sizable audience joining virtually as well.

It’s full steam ahead for our youth initiative, Reverse The Trend.
A Journey Home by Marshallese Youth

By Daphne Peter, Marcina Langrine, Joyce Hirose, Neimony Netwan, Trina Marty, Benetick Kabua-Maddison, Marshallese students from high school to undergraduate age, living in Springdale, Arkansas. It is a reflection on the many meanings of home: as Arkansas, as the Marshall Islands, and as Earth, that need to be protected and cultivated for the next generation. Edited by Lovely Umayam, Bombshelltoe Policy x Arts Collective.

A JOURNEY HOME

My feet move through fresh mud after the rain, spring leaves crunch under my shoes, careful not to step on the many-legged creatures that call this place home.

Clouds appear when I breathe out. This Earth is my home too. I find new paths every day, soles full of memories that I have made:

Home is in the stillness of trees that flank the rugged road winding into miles and miles of breathtaking wild.

Home is in the loud hooting during football games—“Woooooow pig sooie!”—and the crisp hiss of a soda can pried open on a summer day.

Home is in the riot of my bedroom, where purple string lights dangle like dancing punk fairies, as I sing along loops of my favorite songs.

I find home when I travel. Like that one time in Seattle, a city that smells of brine brewed from the sea. Skinned fish and home-made cheese sit pretty under the patter of rain and the squabble of seagulls bathing in the bay.

But there is one home I long for: The Marshall atolls, daughters of the ocean, forged by primordial coral. They call my name.

My feet move through sand damp from the waves. They pull me.

Palms seek the cool touch of sea foam like delicate lace.

These islands are my inheritance; Earthly gems under opulent stars.

But I cannot walk further.

The water is a terrifying mood, eating away the island lagoons.

Sea walls battered, now crumbling.

Storms split the leaning palms, the same ones swallowed by nuclear plumes many years ago.

Men gave atom bombs a place in world history.

But what about this home? Smudged out of the story, I fear people only saw the dirty red cloud, and not the bruised Earth below.

In the future, will these island daughters sink to the ocean floor? I fear people only see a drowned land instead of an Earth worth saving.

These questions stump me, but still I stitch a map to connect what matters most: My family, my culture, my Marshall Island home.

A map of the Marshalls not as a place, but a people to guide a future generation whose feet will meet the islands with love, and without fear.

But I long to find a path towards home—the emerald countryside or the blue Pacific tides—that will stay safe, where my children can tumble into a beautiful brightness and feel Earth as stable bedrock under their newly-formed soles, while their little palms, fingers splayed, reach for the sky—a limitless canvas—where time is constant and still.
I wanted the war to be over
So I stepped outside where it is
Mid March in the capital
of a country that fights
only once it is too late. The grass
is matted with mud stirred up
by a late snow, which raged
as if it would last forever
then sank beneath a hard sun
we used to know as mild.
The air here seethes with the smell
of rain and the death of a dictator
whose season has begun to end.
Near the reservoir, thousands
of plum blossoms face the sky
like they won't fall in a matter
of days. Mama ducks teach
their young to swim and know
two earthly truths: it has always
been this way, and it has never
been this way before.
It’s All Thanks To Our Donors

Nuclear weapons costs millions, billions, even trillions of dollars. Doing the hard work of ridding the world of these horrendous weapons has its costs, as well. We’ve come to think of it as the cost of living. To all of you who have helped us with this work, we want you to know – we couldn’t do it without you.

Invest In A Peaceful Future

Your donation will have a tangible impact:

- $100: helps us hold virtual events in our Nuclear Dangers series
- $250: helps us print promotional materials
- $500: helps us cover the costs of events at the UN

Donor Profile

— JILL DEXTER

LONG-TIME FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER, EVENT CHAIR
EXTRAORDINAIRE, UNOFFICIAL MAYOR OF SANTA BARBARA,
BEACH-WALKER, PICNIC-GOER, GLASS ALWAYS HALF-FULL,
A TRUE CLASS ACT.

“There are a million causes to give to, there really are. And so many are worthy. But you have to make choices and I choose the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation because it’s the best way I can make sure that my granddaughter will have a world to grow up in. Her name is Ashley. She’s five. She likes helping anyone who’s not happy.”
With Great Love and Respect

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Pamela Trevisan
Melissa Tseui
Allen Tuilos
Gebb Turpin
Dilinna Ugochukwu
Richard van Dellen
Suzanne Van Leendert
Phillip Vedder
Carol Vesecky
Brad Vickers
Lora Villa
Sunny Vuong
Lauren Walker
Michael Walsh
Anriya Wang
Evan Wang
Danielle Watkins
Robert Wiley
Jocelyn Williams
Soleil Wizman
Diana Woodcock
Diane Woodstock
John Wyand
Glen and Lisa Wysel
Allison Xu
Shirley Xu
Elena Yartseva
Shalom-Enoch Yessuff
Junghwan Yoon
JoAnne Young
Caihua Zhang
Ellen Zhang
Ray Zhang
Yun Zhu
Angelica Zhu
Chengyao Zhu
Joshua Ziarek
Alex and Gina Ziegler
Randy Ziglar
Dong Zunhai
David Zupan
**Financial Report**

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation deeply values the trust of our donors. We make sure that all gifts are used wisely and for their intended purposes.

**DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>48,588.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building &amp; Improvements</td>
<td>525,002.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Office Equipment</td>
<td>72,923.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less (Accumulated Depreciation)</td>
<td>(441,940.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Property &amp; Equipment</td>
<td>155,986.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,363,731.64</strong></td>
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</table>

**SOURCES OF INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Grants</td>
<td>240,373.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>(146,497.78)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>34,896.98</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>128,772.97</strong></td>
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**LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Credit Cards</td>
<td>3,558.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Current Other Liabilities</td>
<td>2,150.46</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,708.73</strong></td>
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**NET ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Designated</td>
<td>804,030.91</td>
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<tr>
<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>553,992.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,363,731.64</strong></td>
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</table>

**EXPENSES BY FUNCTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>245,990.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Administration</td>
<td>154,597.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>74,289.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>474,875.62</strong></td>
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We Must Abolish Nuclear Weapons
Before They Abolish Us

The Ukraine War has resurfaced conversations about nuclear weapons. But are we having the right conversations?

By Ivana Nikolić Hughes, Published in TRUTHOUT
March 12, 2023

As we pass the one-year anniversary of the Ukraine War, we are reminded of the pain and suffering of Ukrainian people whose country has been ravaged by war, Russian mothers whose sons will never return home, and all who have been affected deeply by the global food and energy crisis this war has engendered. While there is little room for optimism in the bleak picture, one possible silver lining is that the war has brought the question of nuclear weapons back into the public conversation.

Many of these conversations have veered from the utterly unreasonable, including veiled and unveiled threats by the Russian regime, to seemingly cavalier discussions by corporate media of the use of tactical nuclear weapons. However, the conversation we should be having is not about their use but global disarmament.

President John F. Kennedy warned that the continued existence of nuclear weapons threatened humanity’s very survival, in his address to the United Nations in 1961, more than 60 years ago. Today our understanding of nuclear weapons and their consequences is significantly better, but the obvious conclusion is the same: they must go.

If Nukes Were Used, Mass Death and Suffering Would Be Unavoidable

Nuclear weapons are now much more powerful than those dropped by the U.S. on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II. Even a single nuclear attack on a city today could kill and sicken millions of people. A nuclear war would likely destroy multiple cities, like a massive earthquake, wildfire, hurricane and nuclear disaster all happening at once, with no possibility of an adequate humanitarian response.

Those evaporated by the blast would be the fortunate ones. We have been told by our government, over and over again, that nuclear weapons have kept us safe. But that is categorically false. Dozens of incidents brought us tremendously close to nuclear weapons use — by accident, miscalculation, or deliberative decision (think Cuban missile crisis). “Luck is not a strategy,” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said last year.

This status quo cannot continue indefinitely.

Nuclear weapons testing programs have also caused tremendous harm to people around the planet. From Pacific islands and atolls of the Marshall Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia, to the deserts of the American Southwest, Kazakhstan, Algeria, Australia and western China, vulnerable and often Indigenous populations suffered physical and mental health impacts, elevated cancer rates, miscarriages, birth defects, contaminated food and water, relocation, loss of tradition and cultural demise. The affected communities have yet to be properly compensated and acknowledged for their loss and suffering.

Today, nine countries have about 13,000 nuclear warheads, of which more than 90 percent are in the arsenals of U.S. and Russia. According to a recent study, if both countries used about one-third of their current arsenals in a nuclear war, more than 5.4 billion people, or more than 68 percent of the global population, would die from starvation. In the case of an India-Pakistan nuclear war, more than 2 billion people would die from lack of food.

The consequence of any nuclear war would be nuclear winter: widespread fires caused by the bombings would inject soot into the atmosphere, block incoming sunlight, reduce temperatures and impair agricultural production. As a result, people around the world would die of starvation.

Given that humanity’s very survival is at stake, all countries, not just those vulnerable to direct attack, should care about this issue.

Prospects for Disarmament

Many countries have stepped up to the plate, negotiating, signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The TPNW bans any and all activities having to do with nuclear weapon, including threats to use them. It also has humanitarian provisions for those impacted by their use and testing.

This historic treaty is our best hope for a world free of nuclear weapons. So far, 68 countries have ratified the TPNW and 92 have signed it. As that number continues to grow, pressure on the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons to finally disarm will continue to rise, eventually leading to removal of the nuclear shadow over all of humanity.

A Scientific Advisory Group to the TPNW, of which I am a member, was constituted in February and held its first meeting on March 1. This group is tasked with advising the states parties on various scientific aspects of the treaty. Our goal is to enable the TPNW to fulfill all of its promises, including on assisting nuclear victims and remediating their environments. Nothing less will do.
“We have the power to make this the best generation of mankind in the history of the world—or to make it the last.”

—President John F. Kennedy