



Comitato
per una Civiltà dell'Amore

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Bruxelles, 31 maggio 2022

International Conference

Nuclear Disarmament: Opportunities for Peace and Work for Europe and the World

Bruxelles, May 31, 2022

International Trade Union House

Appeal to the European Union and its Member States for Disarmament and Nuclear Conversion

The undersigned Civil Society Organizations,

sharing the objectives of the Conference organized by the Committee for a Civilization of Love in Brussels on May 31, 2022, at the International Trade Union House, on "*Nuclear Disarmament: opportunities for Peace and Work for Europe and the World*";

Given the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which entered into force in 1970;

Noting that at the NPT Treaty Review Conference held in 1995, the States parties to the Treaty agreed on its indefinite extension and decided that the Review Conferences should continue to be held every five years;

Recalling the success of the Megatons to Megawatts Program, completed in December 2013, the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States of America on the Disposition of Highly Enriched Uranium Extracted from Nuclear Weapons, dated February 18, 1993, following which 20,000 nuclear warheads have been converted into Peace Energy;

Noting the concerns expressed in the NPT Review Conferences about delays in progress towards nuclear disarmament, including the paper presented at the 2005 Review Conference by the Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States;

Pointing out with concern that at the Treaty Review Conference which ended on 21 May 2015, the Parties States failed to reach a consensus on the adoption of a Final Document;

Noting that the Tenth NPT Treaty Review Conference, postponed in 2020 due to the concomitant Covid pandemic, will take place from 1 to 27 August 2022;

Also acknowledged that, based on concerns about the slowness of the nuclear disarmament process and the continued use of nuclear weapons in military and security concepts, doctrines and policies, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was adopted in July 2017 (TPNW), which was subsequently opened for signature on 20 September 2017 and entered into force on 22 January 2021, but which currently none of the nuclear-armed Powers, nor most of the Industrialized Countries, currently participate in it;

Noting that the work of the Conference on the follow-up to the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty (TPNW) will begin on 21 June 2022;

Expressing appreciation for the Conclusions of the Council of the European Union of 15 November 2021 which reiterated the EU's unequivocal support for the NPT as the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-

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proliferation regime, an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament under the Article VI of the NPT;

Noting with satisfaction that the 5 Nuclear powers of the Security Council signed, on January 3, 2022, shortly before the unfolding of the crisis in Ukraine, a document according to which nuclear disarmament must be pursued under the NPT Treaty;

Underlining the need to safeguard, on the one hand, the commitments undertaken by the Powers equipped with nuclear weapons and by the other States Parties under the NPT Treaty and, on the other hand, to identify forms of dialogue and connection between the objectives of the NPT Treaty and those of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), so that the action of these instruments, which constitute the main worldwide defense against the risk of a nuclear apocalypse, is not mutually weakened;

Therefore noting the need for an initiative by the European Union to guarantee nuclear Peace in the world and prevent the nullification of the objectives of the two aforementioned NPT and TPNW treaties, also given the multiplication of Countries that are acquiring nuclear weapons, in addition to five Permanent Member States of the United Nations Security Council;

Underlining the role of Civil Society - in compliance with the principle of horizontal subsidiarity, which has worked so much for a real democracy in many countries - for the construction of a lasting Peace, aware of the close link between nuclear disarmament, control of the proliferation of arms and creation of conditions of sustainable development and dignified life for all the Countries of the World,

Aware that "if we want to build Peace we must indicate concrete paths of Peace",

INVITE THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES, TO BE PROMOTERS:

a) **the proposal to hold an International Conference on Nuclear Peace**, aimed at establishing a permanent Nuclear Disarmament Working Table, in the awareness of the absolute need to avoid the risk of a failure of the two TPNW and NPT Treaties, taking into account the prospect of an imminent resumption of negotiations within them in June and August respectively, in order to avoid a re-occurrence of the impasse recorded in previous negotiations;

b) The Conference should be attended by both the Member States of the aforementioned Treaties and, possibly, the States that are not party to them (in particular for the NPT, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea), with particular attention to the Developing Countries;

c) This Table should be the facilitator of the "construction" of the decisions to be taken in the context of the Implementation Conferences of the two UN Treaties mentioned, the TPNW and the NPT, enhancing the connecting elements and developing the necessary synergies;

d) The Table, once established, could be divided into specialized working groups on concrete nuclear disarmament initiatives, by geographical area and / or type of nuclear weapons, as well as aimed at also taking into consideration the social and economic aspects related to the topic, including the use of disarmament proceeds to fight hunger and the development gap and the role of Civil Society.

e) Since our Europe has a Christian soul of freedom, equality and fraternity, lived in an interreligious spirit in our now globalized world, the aforementioned Civil Society organizations propose that the aforementioned International Conference for Nuclear Disarmament be held **in Assisi , City of Peace and of the Patron of Integral Ecology, San Francesco.**

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