



The 61st Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs
“Nagasaki’s Voice: Remember Your Humanity”
1-5 November 2015, Nagasaki, Japan



Statement of the Pugwash Council
November 2015

Seventy years after the city of Nagasaki was obliterated by nuclear attack, the voices of the atomic bombing survivors (Hibakusha) resolutely call for nuclear abolition. The message of hope emanating from this city inspires people worldwide to work without delay to forge a more peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. Sixty years ago the would-be founders of the Pugwash movement released the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. Twenty years ago, the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and one of its founders, Joseph Rotblat, received the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize “for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms.”

In recognition of these anniversaries and on the occasion of the 61st Pugwash Conference in Nagasaki, Pugwash provided its Nobel symbols of peace to the people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and especially to the Hibakusha, as proof that the international community has heard their calls for peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons and to show that even in the darkest of times, dialogue across divides can help to build a more peaceful and less dangerous world.

To further commemorate these important anniversaries, the Pugwash Council issued the “Nagasaki Declaration” which concludes: “As long as nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction exist, their catastrophic consequences cannot be avoided. Recalling the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, sharing the voices of Nagasaki citizens and Hibakusha, standing in the middle of this city with its deep-rooted memory of devastation under the mushroom cloud, the Pugwash Council appeals again as human beings to human beings, ‘Remember your humanity, and forget the rest.’”

The Pugwash Council reaffirms that raising awareness of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons use remains one of the key elements in promoting nuclear disarmament. One hundred and twenty one States have supported or endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge that calls for world leaders to “pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons” and calls on “all nuclear weapons possessor states to take concrete interim measures to reduce the risk of nuclear weapon

detonations.” However, the humanitarian call alone cannot succeed, it must be supported by pain-staking efforts in real verifiable disarmament. The Pugwash Council urged governments to remain seized on these topics, including by convening the planned fourth intergovernmental meetings on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons as soon as possible.

Similarly, steps should be taken to prevent the further spread of weapons of mass destruction, and to universalize the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Biological Weapons Convention, and to severely reduce the salience of nuclear weapons, pending the multilateral negotiation and adoption of effective measures of nuclear disarmament. Most importantly, states possessing nuclear weapons must make significant progress to achieve nuclear disarmament as called for in Article VI of the NPT, the current pace of which could undermine the confidence on this important treaty by non-nuclear states. The US and Russia carry a special responsibility to reduce their overwhelming arsenals drastically. Pugwash is fully committed to facilitate in all possible ways the entry into force of the CTBT. The CTBT is an essential instrument in the preservation of the non-proliferation regime and ultimately in the future elimination of nuclear weapons. Safe management and disposal of weapon-usable materials is another important issue. In particular, stockpiling of plutonium, including civilian materials, should be stopped as soon as possible and then reversed.

Regional conflict and tensions in areas where nuclear weapons are present must be addressed. With a few notable exceptions, the world suffers from a shortage of negotiated restraint, with a growing gap between what is desirable and what is achieved. Pervasive problems of mistrust must be overcome through implementation of confidence building measures. The importance of constructive dialogue, especially interaction and communication between troubled states, remains of paramount importance. Those regimes and agreements that exist to limit weapons of mass destruction and military and dual-use technologies, must be strengthened, expanded and created where gaps exist, including strengthening provisions for addressing violations. Massive migration, which is generated by conflicts and deprivation, has a profound impact on security. If not urgently and adequately addressed with all due responsibility and humanism, it may lead to the proliferation and deepening of divides and the degradation of societies.

In various regions significant challenges exist. A new and forward-looking dialogue between Russia and NATO and among the wider Euro-Atlantic community is needed to overcome the current deadlock, to continue with talks on reliable steps for nuclear and conventional arms control and to find new ways for a sustainable security architecture. The rise of extremism poses additional challenges, particularly in the

Middle East. The Syrian crisis demands immediate focus of the global community. The Pugwash Council condemns the ongoing use of chemical weapons in all its forms in the Syrian civil war, as repeatedly confirmed by the United Nations and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons since 2013, and demands the immediate cessation of chemical warfare in any form. The situation in Palestine remains untenable - serious negotiations on the two-state solution are the only real solution. Most urgently, it is imperative to find structural and sustainable solutions to the urgent humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which should be opened up and the international community should be allowed, without any impediment, to intervene and help in reconstruction. Reconciliation and confidence-building measures are necessary to counteract rising nationalism in Northeast Asia and to provide essential underpinnings for improved security. In South Asia, India and Pakistan must immediately resume, and sustain, a meaningful dialogue on all issues of bilateral importance, including Kashmir and terrorism. Dialogue among all parties is essential and urgent to secure a peaceful future for Afghanistan. The Pugwash meeting held 2-3 May 2015 in Qatar, with the support of the Qatari Government, shows that inter-Afghan dialogue is possible and in fact necessary to bring peace in that troubled region.

Steps to decrease nuclear tensions in various regions are needed:

- On the positive side, the Pugwash Council strongly welcomed the 14 July 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on the Iranian nuclear program. The agreement strengthens the Non Proliferation Treaty, and contributes in important ways to security and stability in the Middle East region. The historic agreement reached between Iran and the six powers proved that cooperation, including on highly technical matters, can contribute toward increased stability. Pugwash worked intensely over the years to facilitate and promote this agreement. It is important that its full implementation by all parties will proceed smoothly, including by removing the sanctions, as specified in the JCPOA. Promoting further progress during the implementation phase of this agreement and beyond will continue to be high on the Pugwash agenda.
- On the negative side, failure to date to convene the Middle East WMD Free Zone conference continues to have negative reverberations. This issue must not fall from the international agenda as it affects not only the region but also raises into question broader issues regarding the NPT Review Process.
- Disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation steps between the US and Russia needs further

action on a range of issues, including ballistic missile defense, nuclear modernization, and the need to reaffirm, reinstate or expand existing agreements and security architectures. Urgently, US nuclear weapons in Europe should be removed, a norm should be established against basing nuclear weapons on foreign soil, and more transparency in the existing stockpiles (including of so-called tactical nuclear weapons in Russia) is overdue. Propagandistic language on both sides especially concerning the threat or deployments of new nuclear weapons in Europe must end, as well as the deployment of new combat forces or large-scale military maneuvers. The Pugwash Council expresses its concern about the on-going controversy with regard to the INF Treaty and calls upon Russia and the US to engage in an honest dialogue with the purpose of strengthening this treaty, including the possibility of extending its scope to sea-launched cruise missiles.

- India and Pakistan remained locked in a crisis prone relationship. India and Pakistan should work actively towards conflict resolution and avoid a strategy relying on "early use of nuclear weapons". There is an urgent need for them to devise a permanent mechanism that allows them to communicate and cooperate immediately in the wake of any incident that has the potential to trigger a crisis. Both countries must also ensure that their nuclear arsenals always remain under the tight control of their respective Nuclear/National Command Authorities. Simultaneously, efforts are needed to mainstream both countries into the global non-proliferation regime.
- Confidence building and crisis management among Japan, China and the two Koreas is needed. The increasing tendency to taking recourse to the idea of military 'deterrence' should be discouraged since this can fuel a regional arms race. Interpretation of history issues and items in the nuclear field such as the Japanese plutonium stockpile, the strategic intentions of China's nuclear weapons program, and the transparency of China's nuclear material are topics for consideration.
- A moratorium on DPRK nuclear testing and/or missile tests with a reciprocal constraint on a US-ROK joint military exercises might open the way to broader normalization efforts, including bilaterally between the US and DPRK. Further steps to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula will require a comprehensive approach as envisioned in the 2005 six-party joint statement. Negotiation of a Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons Free Zone, which would be ratified only when North Korea joins, could serve as a catalyst and legal framework for deconflictization and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

- International cooperation and further dialogue is needed on civilian nuclear energy, energy resources and international cooperation. The Fukushima accident is not over. More than 100,000 persons still cannot return to their homes. Some will never be able to do so. Governments should present the public a more honest evaluation of the possibilities of accidents and the long term health and humanitarian impacts. Up to now, the benefits of nuclear power have been overstated, the costs understated. In view of the potentially enormous cost of an accident, the Pugwash Council recommended caution in starting new nuclear power programs or expanding existing ones. Countries should first seek alternatives, including in dealing with climate change. Nuclear safety and security cannot be considered any longer as exclusively internal affairs of countries concerned.
- Reprocessing to separate plutonium should end in all countries, including all nuclear weapon countries, whether for energy or weapon purposes. All use of highly enriched uranium in nuclear energy programs should end. In view of the international security consequences of fuel cycle decisions, countries need to mutually agree to restrictions on their national sovereignty in making nuclear fuel cycle decisions.

Scientists with the relevant expertise should communicate reliable information with involved politicians, policy-makers, and diplomats in the context of crises, emerging technologies, and existing risks. The promotion of research and the exchange of different views remain vitally important. Action in two such areas are particularly important: 1) There is a need for the creation of a legal norm against lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) and related technologies, and 2) Parties to the 1967 Convention on Outer Space should meet in 2017 (50th anniversary) and agree to further regular review meetings, with a view to creating a forum for discussions on preventing the weaponization of outer space.

Finally, the Pugwash Council supports the call from the International Student/Young Pugwash leaders assembled in Nagasaki, urging Pugwash and the broader disarmament community to help engage, encourage, and embolden young people to take an active role in solving the difficult international security problems we all face. Awareness, education, and intergenerational dialogue are critical aspects of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

The Pugwash Council statement is an overview of key thematic points. Pugwash modus operandi is to welcome views of those from many viewpoints. Not all Council members subscribe to all points.

One-hundred ninety-two participants from 34 countries (including 30 students from 19 countries) gathered in Nagasaki from 1-5 November for the 61st Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs. The Conference was organized by Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs and the Pugwash 2015 organizing committee.

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