

# 63rd Pugwash Conference

Hiroshima  
1-5 November 2025



80 Years After the Atomic Bombing  
Time for Peace, Dialogue and  
Nuclear Disarmament

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL

It was an honour to hold the 63rd Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs in the iconic city of Hiroshima. We gathered here not merely to reflect on the past, but to renew our shared moral commitment to ensure that the tragedy that befell this city in August 1945 is never repeated – anywhere, ever again.

On behalf of the Pugwash Council and the many participants, we thank the Mayor of Hiroshima, the Governor of the Prefecture, and the people of Hiroshima for hosting us. We express our sincere gratitude to all the funding institutions who made the conference possible, and of course to the Japanese Pugwash group for their extraordinary efforts organizing the event.

2025 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russell–Einstein Manifesto. It was the moral shock of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that led the world's leading scientists to issue this renowned document, which called for scientists to gather to discuss the consequences of technological developments and, in particular, the development of nuclear weapons. Their message was clear and timeless: *"Remember your humanity, and forget the rest."* Inspired by this, two years later the Pugwash movement was born.

This year we also celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nobel Peace Prize jointly awarded to Pugwash and its founder, Sir Joseph Rotblat, "for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms".

Over the decades, Pugwash has remained faithful to a spirit of reasoned dialogue and moral responsibility in confronting the dangers of war and the misuse of science. However, nuclear weapons remain and their modernization continues. The risk of their use, whether by design or accident, is rising. The world once again feels the tension of confrontation among nuclear-armed states.

That is why gatherings like this are vital: through plenary sessions and working group discussions, the 63<sup>rd</sup> Pugwash Conference provided a space of dialogue, of openness, curiosity, and courage – where new ideas and connections could emerge, friendships could grow, and the spirit of the Russell–Einstein Manifesto continued to guide our conscience.

Together, the Pugwash Community draws strength from Hiroshima's example: turning remembrance into responsibility and responsibility into action.

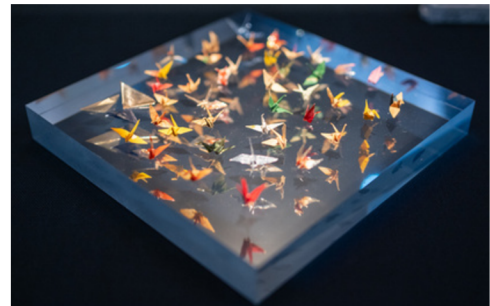


Prof. Karen Hallberg and Dr. Hussain Al-Shahristani at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, adding their messages to the book of remembrance



Represented by (L-R) Tatsujiro Suzuki, Karen Hallberg, Hussain Al-Shahristani, Götz Neuneck and Tomohiro Inagaki, Pugwash laid a commemorative wreath at the Hiroshima Victims Memorial Cenotaph

# THE LEGACY OF HIROSHIMA



A key theme throughout the conference was the shared conviction to remember and understand the devastating impact of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. In opening keynote speeches, the conference delegates heard from the Mayor and Governor of Hiroshima, Pugwash officials, as well as the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, reminding all present of the unfulfilled task of nuclear disarmament.

Plenary sessions were then devoted to hearing the voices of *Hibakusha* and others from Hiroshima who have been affected by nuclear weapons, as well as Nobel Laureate organizations working for their elimination. Speakers underscored the ongoing ethical responsibility of scientists with respect to technology and weapons of mass destruction, a message sharpened by the heightened threat of nuclear weapons use in the current geopolitical climate.

There was great emphasis placed on peace education and passing down survivors' stories to youth to inspire and encourage the role of young people in advocating for nuclear disarmament and world peace. A forceful takeaway was that peace cannot be built on deterrence, fear, or the logic of mutual destruction, but must instead be founded on trust, dialogue, and shared humanity.



Pugwash President Hussain Al-Shahristani speaks with members of ISYP

# THE SIMONS SYMPOSIUM & NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Introducing the sixth Simons Symposium on Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Elimination, Dr. Jennifer Simons warned that “nuclear arming and warmongering threats of nuclear weapons use, rather than nuclear disarmament, is the prevailing state of affairs.”

Panel sessions examined the urgency of nuclear reductions and what practical steps can be taken to create political momentum in favour of nuclear disarmament, noting the danger posed by recent suggestions to resume nuclear testing and the lack of political engagement of key players.



Dr. Manpreet Sethi speaks on the panel “Practical Steps and Instruments for Nuclear Disarmament”

The day also featured discussion on the role that scientists hold in reducing nuclear threats. Focusing on two key vectors of engagement, with politicians and with the public, speakers provided historical and contemporary success stories to inspire and encourage participants.



Prof. David Harel addresses “The Role of Scientists in Reducing Nuclear Threats”

Speakers highlighted the challenges of multilateralizing arms control arrangements, particularly drawing in the nuclear-armed states outside the NPT, amid a worsening international environment.

Several essential steps were proposed that should be pursued by all nuclear armed states and supported by the non-nuclear armed majority of states. These included ensuring the moratorium on nuclear testing is upheld and putting a stop to fissile material production, as well as pursuing dealerting and detargeting measures and engaging on the initiative for No-First Use policy.

The message was clear: a nuclear weapons-free world can be a stable environment, providing security and reassurance to all states and people.



Pugwash Council member Taghreed El-Khodary poses a question from the audience

Prof. Alan Robock then delivered the Dorothy Hodgkin Lecture, providing a detailed technical exposition of the “Consequences of a Nuclear War.” Based on his research and climate modelling, a nuclear exchange would produce significant global cooling, food insecurity and famine. He concluded that avoiding this catastrophic nuclear winter should be achieved through nuclear abolition.



Prof. Alan Robock delivers the Dorothy Hodgkin lecture, “Consequences of a Nuclear War”

# REGIONAL CONFLICTS & NUCLEAR RISKS

The conference addressed regional security issues and the deeply worrying global trend of diminishing reliance on cooperation, diplomacy, and dialogue. A key takeaway was the serious risk of nuclear weapons proliferation if regional conflicts are left to deteriorate without addressing security needs.

In the Middle East, an unprecedented period of war and aggressive military confrontation has shifted the region dramatically. Plenary sessions called for rethinking the security environment in ways that will reduce tension, promote confidence and create a more stable order. Speakers proposed an array of far-reaching proposals to stimulate regional cooperation and greater security for all.



"The future will not be shaped by those who weaponize fear, but by those who dare to imagine and inspire."

**M. Javad Zarif**, keynote address



"The Future of the Palestine-Israel Peace Process" brought former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and former Foreign Minister of the Palestinian Authority, Nasser Al Kidwa, into conversation

The war against the Palestinians in Gaza demands renewed attention to the two-state solution and, following a briefing about the on-the-ground realities in the occupied territories, proposals from former statesmen from both Israel and Palestine outlined political steps required to sustain a ceasefire and advance a long-term solution.

The conference also featured in-depth discussions on the challenges of rebuilding the European security architecture. Although the existing framework has been eroded, dialogue between Russia and European states is essential to define overlapping needs and interests.

There was also much needed attention given to the problems of stability in Northeast Asia, focusing on the need for deepened dialogue among regional states to reduce escalatory pressures and avert potential crises.



Panelists shared their outlook on "The future of the European Security Architecture"

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY

The Pugwash origins and mission lie in bringing scientific insight and reason to bear on threats to human security which arise from science and technology. The present-day landscape is deeply impacted by so-called “disruptive” technologies that could have transformative effects for international, humanitarian and military affairs, especially on the future of warfare in unpredictable and destabilizing ways.



Speakers address the issues of “Disruptive Technologies and Nuclear Weapons”

One plenary session examined the specific threats and vulnerabilities created in the application of Artificial Intelligence to existing weapons systems, particularly nuclear delivery systems.



## A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE



Dr. David Ellwood speaks on the panel “The Pugwash Movement and the Renunciation of War: Dialogue Across Divides”

The final conference session was devoted to a central platform of the Pugwash movement: the renunciation of war. Speakers provided both historical context and regional perspectives to the quest for the world free of war envisaged in the Russell-Einstein Manifesto.

An expert briefing provided the audience with the latest scientific insight on the human, environmental, and economic costs of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident.

“We must educate the next generation about the dangers of nuclear weapons – both their technical aspects and ethical implications. Future scientists, activists, and policymakers must understand these dimensions if progress is to continue.”

**Dr. Hussain Al-Shahristani,**  
President of Pugwash, 4 November address

Across the five days of the conference, more than 180 participants from 41 countries joined the mix of public and closed plenary sessions. Dozens of local and international journalists also joined the open sessions, with press coverage in national newspapers, television and radio, including of several exhibitions that were planned to coincide with the conference.

*“Let the Pugwash Conference in Hiroshima 2025 be a turning point towards dialogue, disarmament, and lasting peace for all humankind.”*

Hiroshima Declaration  
of the Pugwash Council

On 5 November the Pugwash Council issued the “[Hiroshima Declaration](#)”, recognizing the unique setting of the conference to reflect on the current challenges to international security, peace and disarmament.

Across the conference, six working groups met for intensive discussions on the following themes:

1. **Nuclear disarmament and the future of arms control**
2. **Nuclear Energy and Non-Proliferation**
3. **Asia-Pacific and Nuclear Weapons**
4. **Conflict and WMD in the Middle East**
5. **European Security**
6. **Emerging Technologies and their implications for conflict**

The Pugwash Council also released a [statement](#) following the Conference.

Reports of each working group and other conference documents can be found on the [Pugwash website](#).

# INTERNATIONAL STUDENT/ YOUNG PUGWASH (ISYP)

On 30-31 October, the youth network of Pugwash, the ISYP, held their own early-career conference in Hiroshima. Convening 33 participants from 22 countries, “Next-Generation Voices for the Prevention of Nuclear War” featured poster sessions, workshopping action briefs to inject to the Pugwash Conference, and forecasting exercises.

The group were privileged to listen to *Hibakusha* Keiko Ogura share her experiences as a survivor. They also held interactive sessions with members of Pugwash and former policymakers before joining the Pugwash Conference.



## 63RD PUGWASH CONFERENCE



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