

PUGWASH CONFERENCES ON SCIENCE AND WORLD AFFAIRS

1995 Nobel Peace Prize

THE PUGWASH COMMUNITY

The Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs constitute an independent, international community of scientists, scholars, experts, and current and former policymakers from across regions and continents. United by a shared commitment to humanity's survival and well-being, the Pugwash community seeks to reduce and eliminate the risks of war and existential threats by advancing rational, evidence-based dialogue and cooperation. Through this engagement, Pugwash works to strengthen international peace and security, promote restraint in the exercise of power, eliminate weapons of mass destruction, and ensure that science is applied responsibly and peacefully for human progress. This shared commitment shapes Pugwash's vision of the global future it seeks to advance.

VISION

A world free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and of war, in which science advances peace, security, and human dignity.

MISSION

Pugwash seeks to reduce and eventually eliminate the risks of war and severe threats to humanity from nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and emerging technologies by fostering rational, evidence-based dialogue across divides and cooperation among scientists, policymakers, and experts.

VALUES

Pugwash values and principles are rooted in the Russell–Einstein Manifesto (1955) and its enduring warning that humanity must choose between ending war and ending civilization. From this recognition of existential risk flow the following core values:

- **Humanity**
Humanity is the ultimate moral reference guiding Pugwash's work. It affirms the shared fate of humankind and prioritizes the survival, dignity, and well-being of present and future generations in all considerations related to peace and security.
- **Responsibility**
States, scientists, and other holders of knowledge and power bear a collective responsibility and inescapable accountability to ensure that scientific and technological developments serve humanity and do not cause harm or destruction. This responsibility includes the prevention of war and the elimination of weapons and practices that pose existential risks, in particular nuclear weapons.

- **Rationality**

Decisions and actions in matters of peace and security must be grounded in scientific evidence, reasoned judgment, and careful consideration of consequences.

- **Cooperative Security**

In the nuclear age, lasting security cannot be achieved unilaterally at the expense of others' security. The rejection of war and violence as instruments of policy and the promotion of peaceful resolution of conflicts through open-minded, respectful dialogue and cooperation aimed at reducing risks, building trust and confidence, and developing shared solutions to global security challenges.

Together, these values define the ethical and intellectual foundations of Pugwash's long-term engagement and its intended impact on international peace and security.

INTENDED IMPACT

Pugwash seeks to contribute to long-term changes in the international landscape that reduce and eliminate the risks of war and that minimize the likelihood that nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction are ever used again.

These areas of intended impact reflect the principal domains in which Pugwash seeks to contribute to long-term risk reduction and international security while strengthening multilateralism and international law:

- **Disarmament**

Measurable advances toward the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

- **Conflict Prevention and Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts**

Greater reliance on dialogue and peaceful means to address international disputes, particularly in regions at risk of proliferation.

- **Responsible Use of Emerging Technologies**

Increased restraint and foresight in applying disruptive technologies to military and security systems, ensuring net benefits for stability and society.

- **Stronger Multilateral Frameworks**

More effective international institutions, treaties and agreements, measures and cooperative security arrangements, supported by transparency and accountability.

- **Ethical and Responsible Science**

Scientific and technological progress guided by ethical responsibility, contributing to peace, human dignity, and sustainability.

HOW WE WORK

Pugwash pursues this intended impact through independent dialogue, scientific engagement, and international cooperation. Since 1957, Pugwash has addressed challenges at the intersection of science and international security through conferences, meetings, and publications. It convenes scientists, scholars, and public policy specialists in their personal capacities for solution-oriented dialogue across political, geographical, and disciplinary divides. Participation is open to all who share Pugwash's values, with no formal membership. Pugwash prioritizes impartiality and maintains independence from any political, religious or business interference.

GOVERNANCE

This work is sustained by a light and flexible governance framework and a globally distributed community of engagement.

Overall direction and stewardship are provided by the Pugwash Council. Leadership roles include the President, who is the titular head of the Pugwash Conferences, the Secretary General, who serves as chief executive and is responsible for the organization's operational, administrative, and financial management within the framework defined by the Council, the Chair of the Council, and the Treasurer. An Advisory Board contributes strategic insight and expertise, which supports the functioning of Pugwash and facilitates engagement across international, national, and regional activities.

At the core of Pugwash is a network of Regional, National and Local Groups active in more than thirty countries and regions. These groups operate independently within their national contexts, linking local expertise and initiatives to the wider international Pugwash community and often collaborating across regions and with international Pugwash.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Pugwash's work is further supported by a number of closely associated organizations that share its values while operating independently.

The Pugwash Foundation for Science and International Affairs, based in Geneva (Switzerland), supports fundraising and long-term financial sustainability, helping to ensure that Pugwash remains independent and effective in pursuing its mission.

The International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP) is an independent global and interdisciplinary network of students and young professionals concerned with the intersection of science, ethics, and security. ISYP fosters cross-national dialogue and cooperation and introduces younger generations to the principles and objectives of Pugwash through active participation in meetings, workshops, and conferences. Engagement and capacity-building among younger generations are essential to the continuity and vitality of the Pugwash community.

As an independent organization, Pugwash does not formally affiliate with other institutions but welcomes selective collaboration. Partnerships are pursued on a case-by-case basis, provided that Pugwash's principles, independence, and working methods are fully respected.

FUNDING

To sustain its work, Pugwash relies on diverse and transparent sources of support. These include contributions from National and Regional Groups, project-based and core grants from governments and foundations, individual donations, and in-kind support from academic, educational, and research institutions.

All financial support is accepted in ways that safeguard the independence, credibility, and integrity essential to Pugwash's role as a neutral platform for dialogue.

Endorsed and adopted by the Pugwash Council, 10 April 2026