

[Executive summary]

Exiting to a 'Post-Nuclear Weapon World' and Sustainable Future - Visions and Challenges for Transformation and Just Transition towards the Post-SDGs World -

1. Purpose

The purpose of our initiative is to discuss the issues related to nuclear weapons beyond the traditional scopes of 'peace and security' and 'humanitarianism and ethics' by adding the third axis of 'sustainability' to better capture the issues from a more comprehensive, three-dimensional perspective that enables us to envision a total 'transformation' towards a better and sustainable future by exiting to a 'post-nuclear weapon world.'

2. Our appeal

Building on the existing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the group set out the new vision of "Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All" as we start our discussions on the next common global goals (and targets) (at the United Nations fora) in the post-SDGs era before the end of 2030. In doing so, we suggest that the elimination of nuclear weapons must be discussed from the sustainability perspectives, as there is no truly sustainable world without the realization of a 'world free of nuclear weapons,' leaving all the nuclear weapons completely behind.

3. Our Views

(1) Transformation to a 'world free of nuclear weapons' with a just transition

The Ukrainian crisis has heightened the sense of threat with the existence of nuclear weapons. We believe that it is all the more urgent to find the ways to "exit" to the world totally free of nuclear weapons. It requires actions beyond a short-term fixes or procrastination without much changing the status quo. A concrete 'transformation' of our mindsets and behaviors, as well as the ideas for a 'just transition,' need to be explored based on a broader perspective.

(2) Three Existential Crises to Humanities

Our world is currently faced with three existential crises which tend to amplify each other. They are closely linked to the nuclear weapons issue and only to increase the severity of the crises. Unless we 'transform' our course of actions now, we will have a high risk of crossing the tipping point towards an 'unsustainable' catastrophe for the entire planet and humanity.

(i) Crisis concerning the 'limits of the Earth'.

Impact of human activities to overwhelm the planetary boundaries (Anthropocene)

(ii) Crisis due to 'great divisions of the world and society'

Fragmentation of the world and societies has worsened significantly; geopolitical rivalries between major powers intensify while gaps, inequalities and intolerance in societies widening.

(iii) Crises due to the 'abuse of scientific, technology and innovation'.

Abuse of scientific, technology and innovation is a potential risk factor that may cause massive disasters for the planet and humanity.

4. Our Ideas for Transformation

*Open for more concrete proposals and further discussion to follow

(1) Policy-making based on objective data and evidence

We are highly aware that the existence of nuclear weapons cast burden on social costs and environmental impact and the AI and digital technology influence on military and nuclear weapons. Like the IPCC (Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change) and SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice), which have contributed to consolidate scientific findings into the policy-making process, we believe that it is necessary to make policies based on objective data and scientifically proven evidence.

(2) Promote Discussions among three-dimensional networks

We aim to connect diverse actors, including civil society and local government authorities, and build a vibrant three-dimensional network across sectors. Communicating horizontally and vertically, we will create a forum for discussion on nuclear weapons issues and sustainability comprehensively

(3) Presenting a concrete image of a 'world free of nuclear weapons'.

What does a 'world free of nuclear weapons' look like? Would it bring possibilities and prosperity to us humans? We hope to illustrate those concrete pictures through the discussion on human security and reference to some relevant efforts such as the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Southern Hemisphere, together with future generations.

With the aim of realizing these objectives and goals, we envisage the need to mainstream the issues of elimination of nuclear weapons explicitly in the post-SDGs global agenda from the perspectives of sustainability through multi-stakeholder engagement at various levels as we move toward the year 2030.