

# **Exiting to a 'Post-Nuclear weapon World' and a Sustainable Future**

## *Visions and Challenges for Transformation and a Just Transition towards the Post-SDGs World*

Hiroshima Organization for Global Peace (HOPE)

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### **Executive Summary**

#### **I. Purpose**

The issue of nuclear weapons has been discussed mainly along the axes of 'peace and security' and 'humanitarianism and ethics'. Here we propose a new axis of 'sustainability' and advocate the need for a three-dimensional view of the nuclear weapons issue and a 'transformation' towards a better future.

#### **II. Our appeal**

The group identifies “Sustainable Peace and Prosperity for All” as a common global goal beyond development. We propose to start discussion to adapt it after the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that expires in 2030. In doing so, we suggest that the abolition of nuclear weapons should also be discussed, as there is no truly sustainable world without the realization of a nuclear weapons-free world, leaving all the nuclear weapons completely behind.

#### **III. Our Views**

##### **A. Transformation to a 'world without nuclear weapon' with a just transition**

The Ukrainian crisis has heightened interest in nuclear weapons, and now is the time to discuss the transition to a 'nuclear-weapon-free' world. If we are to take action only resulting to be a short-term response or postponement within the scope of the current situation, it is merely a 'shifting' of the problems. A concrete 'transformation' based on a broader perspective with a 'fair transition' are required.

##### **B. Three crises**

Our world is currently faced with three crises which amplify each other. These crises are linked to the nuclear weapons issue and only to increase the severity of the crises. If we do not 'turn the corner' now, we fear that we will cross the tipping point towards an 'unsustainable' catastrophe for the planet and humanity.

###### **1. Crisis concerning the 'limits of the Earth'**

Impact of human activity to push the planetary boundary (Anthropocene)

###### **2. Crisis due to 'great division of the world and society'**

Fragmentation of the world and societies has worsened; geopolitical conflicts between major powers intensify, widening inequalities, inequalities and intolerance.

###### **3. Crises due to the 'abuse of scientific and technological innovation'**

Abuse of scientific and technological innovation is a risk factor that may cause disasters for the planet and humanity.

#### **IV. Our Ideas for Change \***

##### **A. 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/SBSTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice), which has scientifically proven that climate change is caused by human activities and incorporated it into the policy-making process, we are committed to policy making based on objective data and evidence.

##### **B. Discussions in three-dimensional networks**

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

##### **C. Presenting a concrete image of a 'world without nuclear weapons'**

What does a 'world without 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 precedents such as the existing nuclear-weapon-free zones in the Southern Hemisphere, together with young people.

With the aim of realizing these, we envisage mainstreaming the abolition of nuclear weapons towards 2030 along two paths - 'civil society' and 'intergovernmental' - in order to position it in the post-SDGs global agenda.

*\* HOPe Working Group is open for more concrete proposals and is planning to hold further discussions to follow in October, 2022.*

*\*\* Full text is available for perusal at the following link in the HOPe Website.*

<https://hiroshimaforpeace.com/en/gasppa/>