



## Nuclear Challenges in the Baltic region and the role of the public.

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Kon'nichiwa!

Dear participants of the conference! Today I am talking to you from the shores of the Baltic Sea, not far from St. Petersburg, Russia. I remember what happened 75 years ago in Japan, 7 thousand kilometers away from me.

In today, the United States and Russia possess approximately 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. The likelihood of its use has increased more than ever since the end of the Second World War. One of the hot military confrontation line between NATO and Russia runs across the Baltic Sea. Non-members of NATO – Finland and Sweden – are deeply involved in this confrontation.

The experts from the Russian state universities published the report “Security in the Eastern Baltic”<sup>1</sup> It was concluded in the report that the probability of confrontation in the near future is 90% and the likelihood of a local military conflict is 4 times higher than the likelihood of “*difficult and lengthy, potentially effective negotiations on security and confidence-building measures in the region with the code name 'Helsinki'.*”

Any military conflict in the Baltic Sea region would most likely lead to the collapse of the life of 90 million people in 9 countries (including Baltic Russia) around the Baltic Sea. It is impossible to guarantee that more than 30 nuclear reactors at the nuclear power plants in the region, as well as storage facilities for spent nuclear fuel, will not become targets for attacks with conventional weapons, in a worst-case scenario with nuclear weapons.

I would like to note some key facts related to the use of military and peaceful nuclear technologies in Russia:

- Russia could be the first to use nuclear weapons – the official doctrine, adopted in 2020;
- Ministry Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation declared: “*The prohibition of nuclear weapons is contrary to the national interests of Russia*”;
- President of RF demonstrated the psychological readiness to use nuclear weapons. He personally launched during the military exercise 4 transcontinental missiles from submarines, air and ground-based facilities;
- Russian state nuclear corporation Rosatom have agreements to build 36 nuclear power units in different countries. Consumers of the nuclear electricity from this NPPs outside of Russia may be investors in Russian military programs, because the part of the fresh fuel for this NPPs planned to fabricate from the spent nuclear fuel of the nuclear submarines.

Thus, Russian top-level politicians are ready to use nuclear weapons and develop nuclear infrastructure outside of Russia for support of Russian military programs.

Dear friends, I would like to highlight some of the new challenges that the COVID19 pandemic has created.

All countries, including nuclear weapons countries, were powerless against the new virus. Covid19 stimulated the development of the economic crisis. Leaders of nuclear countries use the crisis to find enemies outside the country.

Thus, instead of joining forces against the virus, the political confrontation between countries deepens.

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<sup>1</sup> Yu. Zverev, N. Mezhevich, Security in the Eastern Baltic, 2019 (Rus.)  
[https://interaffairs.ru/i/Bezopasnost\\_v\\_Vostochnoj\\_Baltike.pdf](https://interaffairs.ru/i/Bezopasnost_v_Vostochnoj_Baltike.pdf)

What is the possible strategy of international peace movement?

We are part of the sick planet Earth. We do not have planet B!

I think we need now, not only to protect our planet from nuclear weapons, but also

- reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- to stop “civil nuclear” expansion - the construction of NPPs; civil nuclear technologies are part of the military-industrial complex;
- to provide safety decommissioning of more 400 nuclear reactors on our planet;
- to promote of the sustainable development of our countries.

It is reasonable in future to develop the cooperation of peace movement with our colleagues from NGOs working in the field of

- protection of traditional lifestyles of indigenous peoples;
- against of climate changes;
- against the export of nuclear power plant projects.

The politicians of our countries are trying to make us enemies 75 years after the Second World War. Let's hold hands, friends, in Russia, USA, Japan, Europe, China.

**We are friends, not enemies!**

Arigato!