

2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs

International Meeting – Session 3

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Dear friends,

We are living in the most dangerous decade since 1945. The situation is coming to a head dramatically due to the many wars and conflicts, not only the war in Ukraine, the modernization of the aforementioned new nuclear weapons, the struggle for the future world order, and the ever-accelerating climate crisis and scarcity of resources. Everywhere, the previous model of progress and prosperity is losing its power, and new coalitions are forming internationally. Europe is in danger of being pushed to the brink. The arms control system of the 2000 years has failed, unrestrained rearmament determines the global political agenda.

The dangers of nuclear war and the escalation dynamics of existing wars and conflicts are inextricably linked. We can sum up the threats to peace we face, among others, because of the war in Ukraine, the conflict in Korea, and the threats of murderous weapons up to and including nuclear weapons, in the South China Sea as a confrontation simply in two words: doomsday clock.

The scenario of all these and more threats to humanity is certainly frighteningly summarized in the "doomsday clock" of nuclear scientists and the "bulletin of atomic scientists". We are 90 seconds before midnight -it says there: we are threatened by the double suicide fast by the nuclear disaster, slowly by the climatic disaster with all its effects.

We want to save the planet politically, socially, ecologically, economically and humanly from nuclear death! This is the challenge for the peace movement - worldwide.

This requires a fundamental political alternative to nuclear weapons, confrontation, and war - the politics of common security.

The core ideas of the Olof Palme Report are as follows: "All states have a right to security and this security is only possible with each other and not against each other. Nuclear weapons have changed not only the scope of the war effort but also the nature of war itself. In the nuclear age, war can no longer be a means of policy, but only an occasion for destruction on an unprecedented scale. A concept of common security must take the place of the present deterrence by high armaments. Peace in the world must be based on a commitment to common survival rather than the threat of mutual extinction. Peace and security are only possible with each other and not against each other, and all states have legitimate security interests (compiled from the Report of the Independent Commission on Disarmament and Security, Berlin 1982)."

These are also the core ideas of the 2nd Olof Palme Report of April 2022 "our shared future", which was developed jointly by the World Federation of Trade Unions, the Olof Palme Center and IPB with many experts.

Compared with the first of 1981, this has two expanded core ideas.

Common security requires globalization of the common security policy and regionalization.

- Globalization means that only on the basis of the acceptance of mutual security and a common understanding of security worldwide can the global challenges such as climate, food, water, waste be solved together in dialogue and international cooperation. Only then - cooperatively - a world without nuclear weapons is possible! Everything else are unpolitical phantasies!
- Regionalization of common security means the application of the principles of common security to regional conflicts and wars. Principles are cooperation, reciprocity, dialogue, negotiations, respect and trust, arms control agreements and disarmament. Hopefully, these will also enable more nuclear-weapon-free zones and states.
- A policy that includes at least steps in the direction of common security will enable an end to nuclear sharing. Nuclear weapons must no longer be stationed on the territory of non-nuclear-weapon states. Because this is also a violation of the NPT treaty.

Disarmament - nuclear and conventional - is a central element: it is no longer acceptable under social, ecological and economic conditions that we spend 2 trillion dollars on armaments every year, that the so-called modernization of the nuclear triad in the USA is to

cost over 1 trillion dollars, while a billion people go to bed hungry, the number of poor people worldwide has increased by 200 million in 2022, none of the SDGs can even be realized. Rearmament and nuclear weapons are no longer ethically and morally justifiable, they are part of the prevailing political double standards.

Disarmament for development and the abolition of all nuclear weapons are central challenges!

These dramatically dangerous developments take place on the background of tectonic geostrategic constellations of forces, perhaps only comparable to those of 1815 or 1945. In short, the 500 years of rule of the "white colonial man" is over, the emancipation of the South politically, structurally, economically but also in the understanding of its political leaders replaces the Western hegemonic system under the dominance of the USA. Inclusive multilateralism instead of Western hegemony!

These tectonic shifts have been further dynamized by the war against international law and the NATO proxy in Ukraine.

They have implications for everything, including and especially for the work of the peace movement. There is no alternative to mobilizing people for peace, across generations - as difficult as it may be individually.

What is necessary from my point of view?

-- We need a new internationalism of the peace movement against nuclear weapons, war and destruction. More common ground against nuclear weapons and wars must lead to more common, jointly agreed actions.

-- We are developing new kinds of coalitions and cooperation with the governments of the Global South- coalitions of reason. This can enable many more countries to join and ratify the TPNW. We are developing regional requirements for a policy of common security and for regional zones without nuclear weapons. Again and again, we advocate a revival of arms control agreements!

-- Since nuclear weapons threats and deployment plans and real wars are two sides of the same coin. We demand ceasefire and negotiations also and especially for the war in Ukraine. We advocate comprehensive linguistic disarmament and demilitarization of speech and

writing. We reject war propaganda, media clamor for more weapons as well as propagandistic nationalism and arrogance. We oppose sanctions on principle and intensify contacts with the people and civil societies of countries that are sanctioned in violation of international law. Our solidarity is with conscientious objectors and deserters worldwide.

-- We coordinate our international activities better. Examples were the actions on the Iraq war in 2003 but currently also the two peace waves and the Conference in Vienna on peace with Ukraine - there is much more but still too little joint international action of the peace movement!

Let me end: Creativity and courage, commitment and civil courage is necessary in the face of hatred, slander, enemy images, and wars in the world! Our vision is a world without nuclear weapons and war, in the traditions of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, Berta von Suttner, Martin Luther King and Albert Einstein.

Sincere thanks