

***Human Rights and Nuclear Disarmament, a side event during the Human Rights Council 58<sup>th</sup>***

Dear Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Amidst ongoing wars, the escalating climate crisis, and global instability, the political decisions made today mark a critical juncture in history. The urgency to address nuclear disarmament is not merely a legal or political issue—it is a moral imperative and a human rights obligation. It is also about shaping the future—our future and that of generations to come, as affirmed for example in the Pact for the Future.

Nuclear weapons play a pivotal role in this equation, but they must be evaluated within a broader framework. Our political landscape is not defined solely by crises but by our commitment to a world where peace, human rights and common security prevail, as we presented to the NonProliferation Treaty Prep Com last August in the interfaith appeal Pursuing Peace, Security and Nuclear Disarmament through our Common Humanity. Given their catastrophic potential, nuclear arms require us to reassess our trajectory through both a historical lens and a forward-looking vision. The choices we make today will be inherited by future generations, and we must recognize our shared obligations—grounded in universal values upheld by major religions, cultural traditions, and international law.

**Common security** provides this collective solution that focuses on ensuring that everyone's security needs are met, and that the methods for achieving security in one country do not undermine the security of other countries, including that of potential adversaries. It is based on diplomacy, conflict resolution and international law as expressed in the UN Charter.

**Embracing common security** is especially crucial today, as many young people perceive climate change as a more immediate threat than nuclear disarmament. Having not experienced the Cold War, our generation struggles to fully grasp the dangers of nuclear weapons. Youth Fusion bridges this gap by engaging young people in both climate action and nuclear disarmament, demonstrating how common security provides a unified framework to tackle both challenges.

This is very important as a significant proportion of countries (including the P5) continue to rely on nuclear deterrence for their security, in particular to prevent aggression and/or the use of nuclear weapons against them

But to ensure Human rights it is crucial its essential **no-first-use policies** are adopted now to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used in armed conflict,

Beyond immediate containment, committing to the global elimination of nuclear weapons by **2045** would serve as a focal point for international cooperation, phasing out nuclear deterrence and negotiating the necessary agreements—including a framework convention or a nuclear weapons convention—to support this historic goal. This deadline is particularly significant as it coincides with the **100th anniversary of the end of World War II** and the **75th anniversary of**

**the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**, reinforcing the moral and historical weight of this commitment.

Establishing clear goals for the future aligns with the principle of common humanity and is enshrined in long-standing international law. It also resonates with the recently acknowledged **Declaration on Future Generations**, adopted at the Summit of the Future, which calls for full endorsement of the **UN Special Envoy for Future Generations** and adherence to exemplary models already in place. These include:

- **Affirmation of the International Court of Justice (ICJ)** as a vital instrument for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the implementation of the rule of law, urging all nations to accept its compulsory jurisdiction, as recommended by the UN Secretary-General (currently accepted by 74 countries).
- **Expansion of nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs)**, building on existing regional frameworks and establishing new NWFZs, including a **Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Weapons of Mass Destruction** and a **North-East Asia NWFZ**.

Moreover, in the current global climate, **social** responsibility ( which is derived from interfaith and values based principles) must not be overlooked. Ensuring that every individual's basic needs are met and that no one is left behind is fundamental. In this spirit, governments must **end investments in nuclear weapons**. The estimated **€100 billion** allocated annually for nuclear weapons development could instead be redirected toward achieving the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, such as eradicating poverty, improving public health, and protecting our environment.

The **Institute of Economics and Peace** has calculated that the economic impact of violence reaches **US\$19.1 trillion annually**—an amount that far exceeds the funding gap needed to fully implement the SDGs. This staggering figure underscores a sobering reality: our resources are not being used to build a better world but rather to fuel conflicts that undermine progress and threaten our collective well-being.

The time to act is now. By shifting priorities toward disarmament, diplomacy, and development, we can create a future defined not by nuclear threats, but by peace, sustainability, and shared prosperity.

- To achieve this, we must engage youth in shaping a world where human rights, nuclear disarmament, and common security are not just ideals, but the foundation of our collective future, which Youth Fusion works towards!!