



Joint Statement in support of Disarmament for Human Security

The international community is in urgent need of a new approach to arms reduction and elimination as comprehensive as the vision needed to meet the face the climate crisis, one of the other great challenges to human security. Since the 1990s, the global community has recognised human driven climate change as a threat to human security and sought to act to confront this gigantic challenge, we must do the same with armaments. With the withdrawal of the US, then Russia, from the INF Treaty, the need for a comprehensive effort to preserve and enhance global disarmament and security building measures is thrown into clear relief. The human security challenge confronting us is made clear by ever worsening situation for civilians in conflict.

We address this Statement to world leaders, calling on all nations to recognise the threat which conflict and armed violence poses to humanity: from the increased threats that the use of nuclear weapons pose, whether by accident or through confrontation; and from the deadly resurgence of large-scale urban warfare to the more than half a million women, men and children killed in armed violence each year across the world.

Now is the time to remember that during the Cold War, and in the decade that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation treaties, together with confidence building and transparency measures designed to reduce fear and build cooperation between adversaries, brought us back from the brink of nuclear annihilation, and have saved countless lives across the years. We need a revamped multilateralism that serves humanity.

To meet the global need to build security through arms control and disarmament a comprehensive vision is needed, and the draft SCRAP Treaty fills this need. A Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation is designed to implement the UN Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda.

In a landmark speech in May 2018 launching his new disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future*, the UN Secretary General said, "My agenda has three priorities: disarmament to save humanity, disarmament to save lives, and disarmament for future generations. Excessive spending on weapons drains resources for sustainable development. It is incompatible with creating stable, inclusive societies, strong institutions, effective governance and democracy, and a culture of respect for human rights... The presence of excessive and unregulated firearms exacerbates gender-based violence and shores up traditional gender roles and power relations. ... We cannot create a safer world for all through uncoordinated action. Disarmament works best when we work together: governments, experts, civil society and individuals."

Let these words not remain merely hopes on paper. Let us live up to the challenge that they pose, take concrete action, and create a world that is safer tomorrow than it is today. These words are a call to action for cooperative and sustainable security that we wholeheartedly endorse.

A new global campaign is needed to realise the Secretary General's vision. This might seem like a daunting task. Fortunately, we know how to control and even eliminate entire classes of weapons. We have worked together before, even when political differences seemed to be unbridgeable, as they do today. During the Cold War a combination of popular movements and global leadership halted an arms race as we seemed to be sliding inexorably into nuclear war.

We can build on previous best practice. UN inspectors proved in Iraq that even Saddam Hussein could not hide weapons of mass destruction. NATO and the Soviet Union exchanged inspectors, watched exercises, and revealed troop movements and arms holdings in transparency measures that built confidence and allowed both nuclear and conventional arms reductions that removed the risk of major war in Europe when the Cold War was at its hottest.

Beyond Europe, arms control agreements such as the ECOWAS Convention in West Africa has done much to reduce problems of armed violence, a model for others who seek security and stability to allow development to build better lives for all. Latin America was a leader in global nuclear non-proliferation stretching back to the 1960s, and a strong champion for the Arms Trade Treaty.

Humanitarian groups, wider civil society and some governments are doing what they can to control the arms trade or to eliminate landmines and cluster munitions, but they do so against an ever more unfavourable background as States move away from the cooperative security building that marked the optimism of the post-Cold War period.

The now abandoned INF Treaty which eliminated a class of ground-launched missiles is a case in point. Rather than simply cooperating to reinvigorate a treaty which in its day was considered wildly ambitious, we need to go much further. The alarm raised by the termination of the INF Treaty, and the threat to cooperation for arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament as a whole, provides an opportunity to set objectives as ambitious as efforts to combat global warming.

This SCRAP Treaty is as a template to use disarmament and arms control to save lives, uphold international law, and to allow development and human security to flourish. We welcome participation from all – movements, NGOs, Parliaments and governments. Arms reductions which significantly reduce the possibility for conflict, and its terrible scope, can be a pathway to prosperity through cooperation and development for every woman, man and child in place of human suffering and inequality.

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