

# NOBEL LAUREATE ASSEMBLY FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR



## The Nobel Laureate Assembly Declaration for the Prevention of Nuclear War

In this 80<sup>th</sup> year of the nuclear age, the world finds itself at a reckoning point. Distrust and discord mark the international discourse, and the volume of challenges facing the global community is overwhelming. But there is only one challenge that could end civilization in an afternoon.

In 1955 and 2024, Nobel Laureates gathered at Mainau to issue warnings to the world about the existential threat posed by nuclear war. Tremendous progress has been made in reducing global nuclear stockpiles and nuclear risks, but we are now heading in the wrong direction. Poised at the beginning of a new, complex, and dangerous nuclear arms race, Nobel Laureates and nuclear weapons policy experts must now speak together.

We do not deny that the fear of nuclear war has played a role in preserving some stability among nations, but a global security structure forever dependent on fear is ultimately a reckless gamble. Despite having avoided nuclear catastrophes in the past, time and the law of probability are not on our side. Without clear and sustained efforts from world leaders to prevent nuclear war, there can be no doubt that our luck will finally run out.

While the only way to truly eliminate the risks of nuclear war is to eliminate nuclear weapons, there are important, timely steps that can support the longer-term effort to achieve nuclear disarmament. With this in mind, the undersigned Nobel Laureates and nuclear weapons policy experts call on world leaders to use their power, abilities, and influence to implement this non-exhaustive list of pragmatic actions:

*On the 80th anniversary of the Trinity test, recalling the grave consequences of nuclear testing for human health, the environment, and international peace and security, **we call on all states to reiterate their commitment to a moratorium on nuclear explosive testing and do what is necessary to secure the prompt entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.***

*Recognizing that the strategic stability and nuclear risk reduction measures and agreements are a global public good, **we call on Russia and the United States to immediately enter into negotiations on a successor to the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, remain committed to the treaty's central limits in the meantime, and expand dialogue to address their full nuclear arsenals. We call on China to immediately enter into substantive and sustained discussions on their rapidly expanding nuclear arsenal. All nuclear weapons states must engage in nuclear discussions without preconditions or preconceived notions of outcomes. We further call on all states and their leaders to engage in bilateral and multilateral dialogues on nuclear risk reduction.***

*Seized by the unprecedented and serious risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) and other emerging technologies, **we call on all states to engage in increased cooperative dialogue on the scientific, legal, and military implications of these technologies. Acknowledging the fallibility of AI, we call on all nuclear***

**armed states to ensure meaningful and enhanced human control and oversight over nuclear command and control, and increase decision-making timelines for determining the reliability of information received and the prudence of any decision on whether to use military force.** Further acknowledging the fallibility of human beings, **we call on all nuclear armed states to institute the "two-person rule" that ensures at least two individuals are involved in any decision about the use of nuclear force.**

Understanding the destabilizing nature of attempts to undermine the viability and effectiveness of strategic offensive nuclear arsenals, **we call on China, Russia, and the United States to acknowledge the interrelationship between strategic offensive and defensive arms and forgo massive investments in strategic missile defense.**

Recognizing space as a global commons and the extreme danger posed by the potential placement of nuclear weapons in space, **we call on all nations to reaffirm the principles and obligations of the Outer Space Treaty and work to update this pivotal agreement to account for new and evolving technologies.**

Accepting the potential for nuclear accidents and miscalculations, **we call on all nuclear armed states to expand secure communications lines between and among them and increase the number and frequency of multilateral dialogues on tools and mechanisms for crisis prevention and management.**

Affirming that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the cornerstone of the international arms control and nonproliferation architecture, **we call on every nation to publicly recommit to all nonproliferation and disarmament objectives and obligations in the treaty and reject and condemn proliferation by any state, including allies. We further call on all states to enhance and expand political and substantive support for multilateral nuclear diplomacy and the institutions that uphold it.**

Reflecting on the devastation wrought by the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the grave humanitarian consequences of nuclear war, **we call on all states to increase investments and cooperative research on the environmental, social, military, and economic impacts of nuclear conflict, including limited or regional scenarios, and to support the upcoming UN Independent Scientific Panel on Nuclear War Effects.**

Understanding that the lack of political will impedes the reduction of nuclear risks, **we call on scientists, academics, civil society, and communities of faith to help create the necessary pressure on global leaders to implement nuclear risk reduction measures.**

There is no greater obligation than to prevent the catastrophe of nuclear war. These actionable and attainable steps will aid global leaders in this solemn task. We ask that they each be guided by the words of Nobel Laureates Bertrand Russell and Albert Einstein: "We appeal as human beings to human beings: remember your humanity, and forget the rest."

*Our survival and the survival of future generations are at stake.*

