

IPB · Marienstr. 19 – 20 · 10117 Berlin

Remarks to the 2021 World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs.

Philip Jennings, Co-President of the International Peace Bureau.

August 9, 2021. Nagasaki, Japan.

I bring you greetings from the world's oldest peace organization: the International Peace Bureau.

I bring our respect to the tireless work of the Hibakusha to bring their message of peace to the world. They must be the last people to suffer from nuclear weapons.

My message to you is one of solidarity and hope.

Solidarity with your campaign for a world free of nuclear weapons and solidarity with your appeal that Nagasaki must be the last place on earth where a nuclear weapon is used.

Hope because, with a peace wave of action, we have changed the world, we now have a global treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons.

In this scenario, the Tokyo Olympics have shown how sport can be a force for good. Nevertheless, the existence of Nuclear weapons represents a force for evil placing all human endeavours at risk.

The world is on a wrong and dangerous path. We have reached a tipping point. The doomsday clock is at 100 seconds to midnight. Moreover, Military expenditure surged to 1.9 trillion dollars. 72 billion dollars have been wasted on nuclear weapons each year and spiralling up.

In addition, we are facing new fault lines on old nuclear concerns. Military doctrines are embracing the use of nuclear weapons. As a result, mutual assured destruction is closer and closer.

Strategic cooperation between superpowers sidelined replaced by strategic competition which means a downward spiral of division, polarization, xenophobia. A political narrative that slips into hate, discrimination and encourages relentless military expansion.

We have to demolish the case for strategic competition. It means conflict on all fronts over nuclear, military, land, natural resources, economic and political. It weaponizes diplomacy away from peace to confrontation.

The aggressive language from the G7, NATO, and the Wolf Warrior

International Peace Bureau (HQ)

Marienstr. 19-20
10117 Berlin
+49 (0)30 12084549
info@ipb-office.berlin
www.ipb.org

IPB Geneva Office

Maison Internationale des
Associations
15 rue des Savoises
Box 30
1205 Geneva
Switzerland

GCOMS Coordination Office

Centre Delàs d'Estudis per la
Pau
C/. Erasme de Janer 8,
entresol, despatx 9,
08001 Barcelona
Spain
coordination.gcoms@ipb.org

diplomacy from China is a hammer blow to sustainable peace. It threatens war.

We need sustainable peace in Asia as power shifts, rivalries deepen, the new battlefield for strategic competition. From India to Pakistan, the Korean peninsula, China, the USA, and Russia, nuclear expansion is everywhere.

South China Sea military manoeuvres, territorial disputes are all tempting conflicts whether from an accident, miscalculation, or misreading of events.

At the IPB we are assembling our members in Asia with the message we want a sustainable peace. The Southern Hemisphere is a nuclear-free zone, the peace movement campaigned for this, it already includes much of Asia. Those in power listened to the people and made the giant step.

Our call: the time has come for a nuclear-free zone for all of Asia.

At this moment let me also express our solidarity with the people of Myanmar who are fighting for their democratic freedoms. We condemn the military dictatorship as we condemn all those that crush human rights in this region. The IPB will not be silenced.

Friends it is time to Re-Imagine our world. That is the theme of our IPB Global Peace Congress that convenes in Barcelona in October.

The responses to the global pandemic, climate crisis, militarization, inequality illustrate not just our lack of preparation but misplaced priorities in a world running away from sustainable peace. Therefore, we must Re-Imagine our world. We have an alternative vision with peace at its cornerstone.

We have helped to the launch of a new Global Commission on Common Security. Together with the Global Trade Union Movement and the Olof Palme Centre in Sweden. Why? It's because 2022 marks the 40th anniversary of the publication of the Olaf Palme report Common Security: A Blueprint for Survival.

The former Swedish Prime Minister assembled a Global Commission which concluded: "There are no victors in a nuclear war, deterrence cannot be made fool proof, and nations must abandon doctrines and preparation for fighting limited nuclear wars as a matter of deliberate policy".

The Global Commission was clear: "nuclear deterrence cannot provide a long-term basis for peace, stability, and equity in international society. It must be replaced by the concept of common security",

Furthermore, they said then and I am sure the new Global Commission will repeat: "The conclusion is therefore inevitable that nuclear weapons must be eliminated".

We will report in 2022. Our aim is to get the world excited once again about the idea of common security, to put it into practice, to emphasize that collective planetary security rests on our common security.

This is the time to Re-Imagine our world. We must push for nuclear de-escalation. To put brakes on proliferation to reinsert an architecture of control over nuclear weapons.

Russia and the USA have recently reaffirmed that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought – they should go one step further and eliminate their nuclear arsenals. They have launched a strategic stability dialogue. However, the way to achieve stability is by removing thousands of weapons from hair trigger readiness.

The Common Security Commission in 1982 shifted thinking and 2022 aims to do likewise. Help us spark a new debate for common security in Asia.

In conclusion, the campaigning that you have done, the tireless efforts of the Hibakusha from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, messages conveyed across the generations have resulted in a global treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons. 54 nations have already ratified the treaty. Global public opinion is with us. The first meeting of states parties will take place in Vienna in January 2022. The world would welcome Japan signing this treaty before then.

Our struggle continues. We will unite with the new generation, with the climate change and labour movements for with no justice, no green planet there can be no peace.

You will be ready for Vienna.

We will be ready for Barcelona.

Moments of hope, solidarity, and ambition.

The time to Re-imagine our world is upon us.

Let's deliver.