

*DISARMAMENT AND INTEGRAL HUMAN  
FLOURISHING*

**Nuclear Weapons  
& Killer Robots:  
*Ethical Dilemmas,  
Advocacy***

**We are made in God's image. Humankind is called the crown of creation.**

**Yet the 20<sup>th</sup> century invention of nuclear weapons poses an unprecedented threat to our existence and our home in God's creation.**

**And now, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, armed conflict is being transformed by the increasing autonomy and lethality of remotely controlled weapons.**









Nagasaki, 9 August 1945

# ...Christian beliefs linked to peace...

- All people are made in the image of God.
- God loves all people equally.
- Love God; love your neighbor as yourself.
- Life is a priceless gift.
- Do not kill people.
- Make “swords” into plows.
- Take care of Creation.



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**ATOMIC BOMB VIOLATES ALL THIS**

# Ecumenical position on nuclear weapons and energy:

- Splitting the atom—a cosmic sin? To use the energy of the atom in ways that destroy life is a sinful misuse of God's creation.
- Listen to nuclear survivors. They cry out for exodus from the nuclear age—from mass destruction, genetic mutations, poisoned lands and seas, radioactive threats.
- Live in ways that protect life! “Christians are called not to accept that the mass destruction of other peoples can be a legitimate form of protection for ourselves.”

# *NW & faith?* You see me. Ps. 139



- ✓ You formed my inward parts
- ✓ Knit me together in my mother's womb
- ✓ I am wonderfully made



**From Nuclear Weapons...  
to Killer Robots**

*...Out-sourcing  
the Sixth Commandment*

# CONTROLLING NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS

## a. Martens Clause

In cases not covered by specific international agreements, civilians and combatants remain under the protection of:

- customary law
- “the **principles of humanity**”
- “the **dictates of public conscience**”.



## Lifetime Risk of Cancer Incidence (acute exposure between birth and age five)



2 Boys



4 Girls

## b. Humanitarian disarmament treaties

**Codifying  
the  
power  
of the  
Martens  
Clause**

*Arms Trade Treaty  
Cluster Munitions Convention  
Landmine Ban Treaty  
Chemical Weapons Conv.  
Biological Weapons Conv.  
Blinding laser ban*



**.....?  
Nuclear  
weapons**

# Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

- Will select and strike targets on their own.
- Pre-emptive ban & new international norm is urgently needed.



# AWS: Key Question is “Meaningful Human Control”



- Control critical functions: target selections & attacks.
- Otherwise, AWS are “killer robots”.
- AWS weaponize Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- AI is routinely anthropomorphized via extravagant claims.
- AI is really only computational capacity (SIPRI).

# New Weapons Systems

The history of warfare is shaped by inventions.

Exponential rates of change ahead include:

Land, sea, air, outer space, cyber-space and  
microbiological weapons.

- *Can we protect life and Creation in such a future?*
- *Does our heritage in governance, in law and in arms control equip us for the task?*
- *Where is the moral courage and the multilateral accountability that will surely be required?*
- *What do our new weapons say about us and our era?*



***“FAITH-ACTION”***

**Advocate for common good & rule  
of law**





During NPT  
Preparatory  
Committee,  
Palais des  
Nations,  
UN Geneva

# 2024 Working Group Highlights – Disarmament & Integral Human Security

PCI took part in 4 disarmament conferences in Geneva:

- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty – 2<sup>nd</sup> Preparatory Committee in July, 2024;
- Lethal Autonomous Weapons – Group of Governmental Experts in March and August;
- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons – High Contracting Parties in November.

Plus others in New York. Bi-monthly meetings of the Working Group promoted advocacy measures related to these disarmament treaties and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW): . . .

- Encouraging PCI sections to support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, of which PCI is a long-time member:
  - **Socializing** the TPNW by urging parliamentarians to sign the *ICAN Parliamentary Pledge* and urging city officials to join the *ICAN Cities Appeal*;
  - **Amplifying** the TPNW by urging church-related institutions to join *ICAN's Don't Bank on the Bomb* and divest from nuclear weapons as financial stewardship.
- ICAN's statement to the NPT PrepCom delivered by Pax Christi Flanders staffer Naomi Zoka.
- Finding ways to address the fact that in the 60 countries where PCI has members, 40 have not signed or ratified the TPNW.



THE END





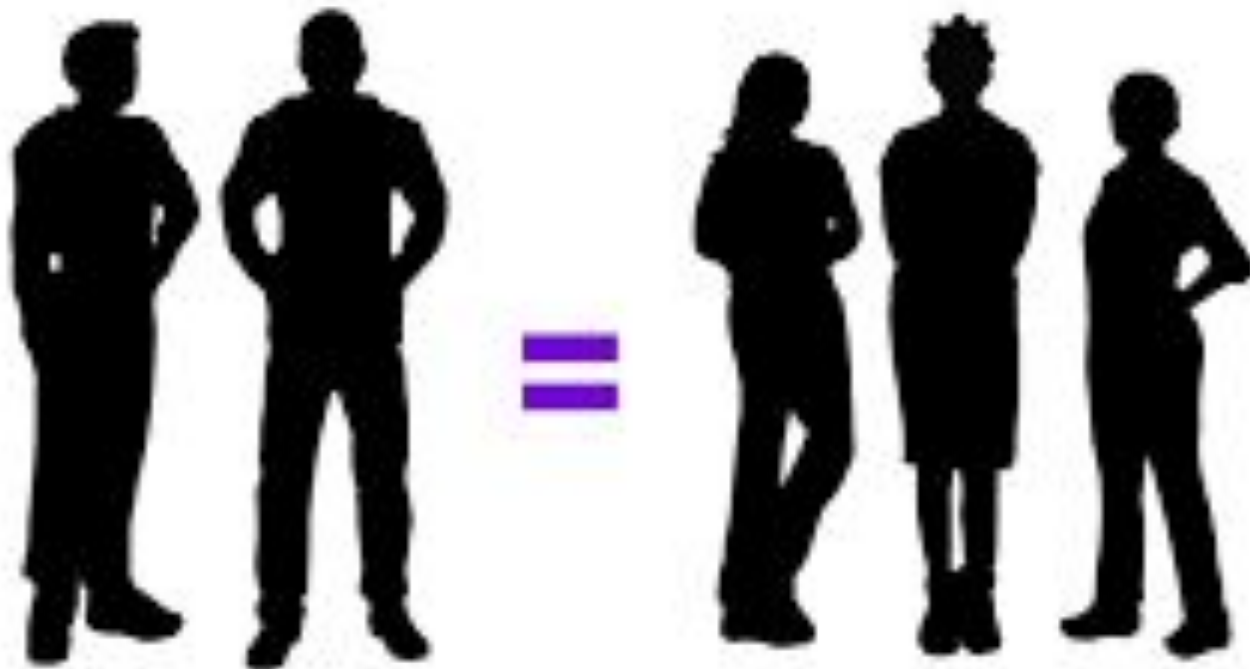
**“All efforts to be sane about the future must be connected to survival and peace”** Tony de Brum, Marshall Islands government

## Nukes kill & injure 4 ways

1. BLAST
2. HEAT
3. RADIATION
4. GENETIC DAMAGE

*How is their power routinely described?*

# Impact of radiation on adults



# Nuclear Weapons & Faith?

“You see me.” Ps. 139

□ Your works are wonderful?

...**MASSIVE  
DESTRUCTION**

□ You are the God of all days?

...**ACROSS TIME**

□ At the end of everything I am with you?

...**ACROSS SPACE**

# Shared values at the heart of international law



- Security for all; indivisible
- Universal Declaration of HR
- Strengthen international rule of law, esp. IHRL, IHL
- Build new norms that protect life
- Transform conflict
- Prevent violence & war
- Recognize state monopoly on / responsibility for the use of force
- Develop law of the future.

# What do nuclear weapons and killer robots tell us about faith?

- Exercise common values of world religions.
- Strengthen the international rule of law.
- Address the global common good.
- ✓ *Seek confidence with humility*
- ✓ *Scale-up public engagement*
- ✓ *One standard for all; no discrimination*
- ✓ *Faithful & worthy with God's gifts of life, humanity and Creation.*

# Civil society including churches mobilize for humanitarian disarmament:



- Address cross-cutting issues from different regions simultaneously
- Lobby with & against groups of states at UN
- Augment the global majority; it's often on the 'right' side of global issues.

**Advocacy: Inter-church, inter-regional,  
inter-disciplinary**

**The risks of nuclear weapons** explosions are “not constrained by national borders” and have “irreversible impacts on health, environment, infrastructure, food security, climate, development, social cohesion and the global economy”.

Humanitarian Pledge, 2015

**>>> *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, 2017***

Helps mobilize majorities for the rule of law

115 countries establish regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones

123 countries vote to negotiate nuclear ban

127&139 countries endorse Humanitarian Pledge

132 countries negotiate treaty ban

156 don't rely on nuclear weapons

159 say nukes "never again"

187 have no nukes

# Help build strength through unity

Voting Started		05-Nov-15		13:17:21	
A/C.1/70/L.13/Rev.1					
Item 97 (bb) <b>WHOLE</b> Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations					
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<input type="checkbox"/> ALBANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CANADA	<input type="checkbox"/> GABON	<input type="checkbox"/> LAO PDR	<input type="checkbox"/> NEW ZEALAND	<input type="checkbox"/> SEYCHELLES
<input type="checkbox"/> ALGERIA	<input type="checkbox"/> CENTRAL AFR REP....	<input type="checkbox"/> GAMBIA	<input type="checkbox"/> LATVIA	<input type="checkbox"/> NICARAGUA	<input type="checkbox"/> SIERRA LEONE
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<input type="checkbox"/> ANTIGUA-BARBUDA	<input type="checkbox"/> CHINA	<input type="checkbox"/> GHANA	<input type="checkbox"/> LIBERIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NORWAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLOVENIA
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARMENIA	<input type="checkbox"/> COMOROS	<input type="checkbox"/> GRENADA	<input type="checkbox"/> LIECHTENSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAKISTAN	<input type="checkbox"/> SOMALIA
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<input type="checkbox"/> AZERBAIJAN	<input type="checkbox"/> COTE D'IVOIRE	<input type="checkbox"/> GUINEA-BISSAU	<input type="checkbox"/> MADAGASCAR	<input type="checkbox"/> PAPUA NEW GUINEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPAIN
<input type="checkbox"/> BAHAMAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CROATIA	<input type="checkbox"/> GUYANA	<input type="checkbox"/> MALAWI	<input type="checkbox"/> PARAGUAY	<input type="checkbox"/> SRI LANKA
<input type="checkbox"/> BAHRAIN	<input type="checkbox"/> CUBA	<input type="checkbox"/> HAITI	<input type="checkbox"/> MALAYSIA	<input type="checkbox"/> PERU	<input type="checkbox"/> SUDAN
<input type="checkbox"/> BANGLADESH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CYPRUS	<input type="checkbox"/> HONDURAS	<input type="checkbox"/> MALDIVES	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILIPPINES	<input type="checkbox"/> SURINAME
<input type="checkbox"/> BARBADOS	<input type="checkbox"/> CZECH REPUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> HUNGARY	<input type="checkbox"/> MALI	<input type="checkbox"/> POLAND	<input type="checkbox"/> SWAZILAND
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELARUS	<input type="checkbox"/> DEM PR OF KOREA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICELAND	<input type="checkbox"/> MALTA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PORTUGAL	<input type="checkbox"/> SWEDEN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BELGIUM	<input type="checkbox"/> DEM REP OF CONGO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDIA	<input type="checkbox"/> MARSHALL ISLANDS	<input type="checkbox"/> QATAR	<input type="checkbox"/> SWITZERLAND
<input type="checkbox"/> BELIZE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DENMARK	<input type="checkbox"/> INDONESIA	<input type="checkbox"/> MAURITANIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REP OF KOREA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SYRIAN ARAB REP...
<input type="checkbox"/> BENIN	<input type="checkbox"/> DJIBOUTI	<input type="checkbox"/> IRAN (ISLAMIC REP...)	<input type="checkbox"/> MAURITIUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REP OF MOLDOVA	<input type="checkbox"/> TAJIKISTAN
<input type="checkbox"/> BHUTAN	<input type="checkbox"/> DOMINICA	<input type="checkbox"/> IRAQ	<input type="checkbox"/> MEXICO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROMANIA	<input type="checkbox"/> THAILAND
<input type="checkbox"/> BOLIVIA (PLURINAT...)	<input type="checkbox"/> DOMINICAN REP...	<input type="checkbox"/> IRELAND	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRONESIA (FS)	<input type="checkbox"/> RUSSIAN FED...	<input type="checkbox"/> THE FYR MACEDONIA
<input type="checkbox"/> BOSNIA-HERZEGOV...	<input type="checkbox"/> ECUADOR	<input type="checkbox"/> ISRAEL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MONACO	<input type="checkbox"/> RWANDA	<input type="checkbox"/> TIMOR-LESTE
<input type="checkbox"/> BOTSWANA	<input type="checkbox"/> EGYPT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITALY	<input type="checkbox"/> MONGOLIA	<input type="checkbox"/> SAINT KITTS-NEVIS	<input type="checkbox"/> TOGO
<input type="checkbox"/> BRAZIL	<input type="checkbox"/> EL SALVADOR	<input type="checkbox"/> JAMAICA	<input type="checkbox"/> MONTENEGRO	<input type="checkbox"/> SAINT LUCIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TONGA
<input type="checkbox"/> BRUNEI DARUSSAL...	<input type="checkbox"/> EQUATORIAL GUINEA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JAPAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOROCCO	<input type="checkbox"/> SAINT VINCENT-GR...	<input type="checkbox"/> TRINIDAD-TOBAGO
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BULGARIA	<input type="checkbox"/> ERITREA	<input type="checkbox"/> JORDAN	<input type="checkbox"/> MOZAMBIQUE	<input type="checkbox"/> SAMOA	<input type="checkbox"/> TUNISIA
<input type="checkbox"/> BURKINA FASO	<input type="checkbox"/> ESTONIA	<input type="checkbox"/> KAZAKHSTAN	<input type="checkbox"/> MYANMAR	<input type="checkbox"/> SAN MARINO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TURKEY
<input type="checkbox"/> BURUNDI	<input type="checkbox"/> ETHIOPIA	<input type="checkbox"/> KENYA	<input type="checkbox"/> NAMIBIA	<input type="checkbox"/> SAO TOME-PRINCIPE	<input type="checkbox"/> TURKMENISTAN
<input type="checkbox"/> CASO VERDE	<input type="checkbox"/> FIJI	<input type="checkbox"/> KIRIBATI	<input type="checkbox"/> NAURU	<input type="checkbox"/> SAUDI ARABIA	<input type="checkbox"/> TUVALU
<input type="checkbox"/> CAMBODIA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FINLAND	<input type="checkbox"/> KUWAIT	<input type="checkbox"/> NEPAL	<input type="checkbox"/> SENEGAL	<input type="checkbox"/> UGANDA
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES: 135</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO: 12</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>ABSTAIN: 33</b>

United Nations Webcast: [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

UNGA vote on Open-Ended Working Group in Geneva that led to ban negotiations resolution at UNGA 2016

“thin” religion?



**“THICK” RELIGION?**