We must escape shadow of these inhumane weapons

By Antonio Guterres
UN Secretary-General

We live in trying times. The climate crisis, state aggression, mass displacement, terrorist attacks, political stress and human rights abuses, and the personal and economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have put our world under greater stress than it has faced in my lifetime.

The existential threat that casts a shadow over the first half of my life is not longer massive the attention it should. Nuclear weapons have faded from headlines and public memory. But the threat they pose remains as high as ever, and is growing by the year. Nuclear proliferation is one of the most pressing global challenges we face today — a threat so acute and global that it defies national, regional, and ideological boundaries and demands a response that transcends them all.

The nuclear landscape is a tinderbox. One accident or miscalculation could set it alight. For the first time since the formation of the United Nations, there are more than 13,000 nuclear weapons held in arsenals around the world, not been used since they incinerated Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. But the end of the Cold War also left us with a dangerous falsehood: that the threat of nuclear war was a thing of the past.

Remind the world's people — especially its young people — that nuclear weapons states.

The review conference must take bold action on six fronts:

1. Address simmering nuclear crises in the Middle East and Asia.

2. Work to strengthen the global frameworks that support non-proliferation, including the IAEA.

3. Protect the peaceful use of nuclear technology for medical and other uses — one reason why the NPT has won the adherence of non-nuclear-weapons states.

4. Promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology and medical and other uses — one reason why the NPT has won the adherence of non-nuclear-weapons states.

5. Continue efforts to eliminate nuclear-armed states.

6. With more than 5,000 nuclear-weapons states, there are many ways to address these crises. And today's multipolar global order means that regional crises can be handled by regional means.

We must seize the opportunity of January's NPT Review Conference to reverse dangerous and growing trends and escape the long shadow of these inhumane weapons.

Israel's military strike against Iran is not a viable option

Arab nuclear antecedent at Vienna deal talks

Tehran upends nuclear ante at Vienna deal talks

Netanyahu, who long targeted Iran. Israel's new premier, Naftali Bennett, has kept that priority. Bennett spoke Thursday with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and described Iran as carrying out “nuclear blackmail” by announcing plans to enrich uranium at its Natanz site after years of tensions over Tehran’s program. Iran has concealed information about its nuclear program,” Obama said. The deal halted all enrichment at Fordo, which sits under a mountain in central Iran.

The deal focused on Fordo because the site long has been a major development facility. The site was discovered in 2009. Iran has embraced the deal under new President Ebrahim Raisi. It may be another hard-line negotiation tactic like the others that saw Iran limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of sanctions.

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