

Science for Peace

May 29, 2023

President's Column



Dear Members,

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists was started in 1945 by Albert Einstein and former Manhattan Project scientists immediately after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. One of the missions of this organization is to help the public understand the danger that nuclear weapons pose to humanity. The Bulletin's metaphorical Doomsday Clock represents a symbol of this danger by showing how close to extinction we are. The Bulletin's committee that decides the setting of the clock every year is composed of distinguished scientists including 10 Nobel Laureates. The original setting of the Clock, first published in 1947, was seven minutes of midnight, with midnight representing the nuclear holocaust. The Clock has been set forward and back over the years as the danger of nuclear war changed. In 2023 the Doomsday Clock was set at 90 seconds to midnight, the closest ever to global catastrophe. The main justification for moving the Clock closer to midnight is the war in Ukraine. The Bulletin states that "Russia's thinly veiled threats to use nuclear weapons remind the world that escalation of the conflict—by accident, intention, or miscalculation—is a terrible risk. The possibility that the conflict could spin out of anyone's control remains high".

In agreement with the Bulletin's assessment of the dangerous security environment, Nakamitsu Izumi, the Undersecretary-general and high representative for disarmament affairs at the United Nations, has recently

declared that “The risk of nuclear weapons being used is at the highest level since the depth of the cold war. There is an urgent need to reduce the risk”. It is in this critical context that the Leaders of the G7 (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, UK, and USA) met recently in Hiroshima. The fact that the G7 summit took place in the city that first suffered the catastrophic effects of a nuclear bomb explosion raised the hopes that these countries would announce steps to reduce the risk of nuclear war; (For example, the G7 might have committed to “no first use” of nuclear weapons). However, their Vision statement presented after the summit failed to commit the G7 countries to any new measures to reduce nuclear threats or to advance nuclear disarmament.

Currently, there are nine countries that possess nuclear weapons: USA, Russia, China, UK, France, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea. Five of them are signatories of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). According to the NPT, non-nuclear states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons, and the nuclear states commit to nuclear disarmament. However, since the NPT was signed in 1970, no steps towards the elimination of nuclear weapons have been taken. With the goal of pushing the nuclear powers to fulfill their NPT commitment, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) was established in 2017 with the vote of 122 countries at the United Nations General Assembly. As expected, the nuclear powers are not part of the TPNW. Unfortunately, despite Canada not possessing nuclear weapons, our country is not part of this treaty.

One of the key goals of Science for Peace is to mobilize Canadians to demand that our country becomes a signatory of the TPNW.

Important announcement

Science for Peace will hold the Annual General Meeting on June 15th at 4 PM. Please register [here](#). The AGM will be followed at 5 PM by a Webinar entitled “Might the Ukraine conflict spark a nuclear war? The speaker will be Robin Collins, Co-Chair of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, and Secretary of the Canadian Pugwash Group. Arnd Jurgensen, the Chair of our Nuclear Weapons Working Group will act as chair/discussant. Please register [here](#).

Jorge Filmus
President, Science for Peace

Recent Articles



Richard Sandbrook and Arnd Jurgensen: In Ukraine, Neither Side Is Blameless

One prevalent explanation of the war in Ukraine pins the blame on Russia; the other, which has little institutional backing in the West, but far more outside the West, blames NATO. Proponents of each view largely ignore the opposing interpretation.

[Read more](#)



Judy Deutsch: Emergencies: Delusions of Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Innocence in Elite Groups

There are now cascading interacting factors that bring massive human suffering and death. In a number of powerful and influential groups there are skewed perceptions of reality and grandiose schemes that are inflicted

on societies worldwide.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

VIRTUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 15th, 4-4:50 pm ET



Our Annual General Meeting for Science for Peace is just around the corner. Tune in and contribute your thoughts on where SfP should be heading.

PLEASE NOTE: THE AGM WILL BE FOLLOWED AT 5-6 PM ET BY A DISCUSSION OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE UKRAINE WAR WILL LEAD TO A NUCLEAR EXCHANGE. THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE LED BY ROBIN COLLINS AND MODERATED BY ARND JURGENSEN. YOU WILL HAVE TO REGISTER SEPARATELY FOR THIS DISCUSSION. REGISTRATION LINK TO BOTH MEETINGS BELOW.

AGM Register Here:
<https://tinyurl.com/bdm2awy7>

The Ukraine War Discussion Link:
<https://tinyurl.com/54ub4y7v>

MIGHT THE UKRAINE CONFLICT SPARK A NUCLEAR WAR?

THURSDAY, JUNE 15TH, FROM 5-6PM ET

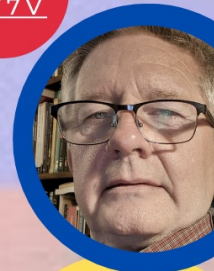
MANY ANALYSTS HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE UKRAINE WAR COULD ESCALATE TO A NUCLEAR EXCHANGE. HOW PROBABLE IS THIS OUTCOME, AND HOW MAY THE RISK BE MINIMIZED?

REGISTRATION LINK:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/54UB4Y7V](https://tinyurl.com/54ub4y7v)

With speaker Robin Collins and chair/discussant Arnd Jurgensen.

Robin Collins is currently Co-Chair of the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons and Secretary of Canadian Pugwash Group. He has published short commentaries about UN reform, disarmament and a variety of global governance ideas.

Arnd Jurgensen lectures in international relations at the University of Toronto, and is also Chair of the Nuclear Weapons Working Group at Science for Peace.



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