

The Case for a Nuclear Weapons Convention by Ronald McCoy, Former President, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.

Abstract: Climate change and nuclear war are the two most serious threats to human security and planetary survival. The existence of nuclear weapons risks catastrophic nuclear war, as nuclear deterrence is bound to fail at some point. The failure of nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals has paralyzed the NPT process of nuclear disarmament and stimulated nuclear proliferation. The majority of UN member states have voted for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention to prohibit and abolish nuclear weapons. Experts in law, science, and medicine have drafted and submitted to the UN a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, similar to the treaties which have banned landmines and chemical and biological weapons. This paper makes a case for the abolition of nuclear weapons through different packages of multilateral negotiations.