

RESOLUTION #5 ON DENUCLEARISATION

Proposed by PEN INTERNATIONAL WRITERS FOR PEACE COMMITTEE, SLOVENIAN
AND Japan P.E.N. Club

We, the writers assembled at the 84th PEN International Congress in Pune, note with apprehension:

That while in the past decades the risks of a large scale nuclear war may have declined we are mindful of unacceptable suffering of human, cultural and environmental resources caused by the atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the disproportional impact on women, children and the indigenous people the use of such weapons had during and long after the end of the WW2.

That, together with the present threats of the fast changing climate, human inequality and the postcolonial misuse of the human and natural resources, the nuclear liability presents a continuous and an ever present danger to the mankind regardless of the country, region and the continent of its provenance.

That the nuclear threat apart from being a military and political issue of the utmost concern represents a huge social issue in all the countries involved in procurement, development and maintaining their nuclear capability. While the vast resources the rich states spend on improving their nuclear deterrent could be used for far more beneficial causes at home and overseas, economically vulnerable countries can only afford such arms by severely infringing on the welfare of their peoples and at great expense to their civil liberties and basic human rights.

We are convinced that all peoples have a right to peace and that this right should be recognised by the United Nations as a universal human right and are therefore alarmed by the danger of wide-spread proliferation of nuclear capabilities. Such policies, attitudes and positions threaten to accelerate the nuclear arms race instead of diminishing it and are set to endanger world peace in the short term and long into the future.

Therefore the writers of PEN International call on:

- The UN Security Council to use all necessary means to de-escalate international tension and facilitate the peace efforts.
- The United Nations to reaffirm in their policies the commitment to non-proliferation treaties and to the moratorium on nuclear testing as well as set a biding target of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.
- We call on our members to use their own words to re-engage in developing a PEN culture of disarmament, sadly lacking in agility when – in the words of UN General Secretary António Guterres – ‘the world is more connected, yet societies are becoming more fragmented’ as we speak, and they do so even more if we don’t.