

Consigliere Federale
Ignazio Cassis, DFAE
Bundeshauswest
CH- 3008 Bern

Geneva , 28. April 2023

Dear Minister Ignazio Cassis,

I am addressing you today because we are all facing a threat that we have long considered almost impossible, the threat of a nuclear war.

The war in Ukraine and the associated threats of the use of nuclear weapons fill us with great fear. In December last year, 14 Nobel Prize winners and well-known scientists (more than 1500) wrote an appeal "No first use - never any use of nuclear weapons" together with the Science4Peace Forum, IPPNW and other organizations.

It says: "In the face of the potential for vast and hardly imaginable global destruction or a regional catastrophe with planetary consequences, we as scientists cannot stay silent: Any nuclear attack from any side will create responses and retaliations from other nuclear powers, and in a short time millions of people could be killed, huge areas of land and sea destroyed and contaminated. The atmosphere would carry radioactive elements and soot, which could lead to nuclear winter and a global famine. Scientific studies demonstrate clearly that, once nuclear weapons are fired, there is very little time left for clear thinking and there is no way back from decisions made in haste."

While preoccupied by war in Europe and the nuclear threat, we continue to face serious and dangerous crises which need to be resolved - especially the climate crisis - with storms, floods or droughts in many countries, threatening millions. Global food, eco-system, social and energy crises are already seriously affecting low-income countries.

Instead of engaging in wars, we need to put all our efforts and resources to resolve these issues. As scientists we are committed to research for the benefit of humanity and to press for a peaceful world in which every living being has a future.

The appeal demands from all governments, especially those with nuclear weapons and those in military alliances with them:

- Urgently declare publicly that you subscribe to the no-first-use policy for nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, and refrain from any use of these weapons;
- Join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons launched by the United Nations.

Especially if Switzerland chairs the UN Security Council in May this year, it could be of great importance to put the topic of "no first use" but also the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the agenda.

The world is facing immense problems and challenges, we must put all our strength to create a peaceful world, stop the climate catastrophe to enable a life for all.

With kind regards

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Link to the Appeal: <https://science4peace.com/Petitions/Entries/2022/11/appeal-no-first-use-never-any-use-of-nuclear-weapons.html>

