



CH-3003 Bern, FDFA, IC

A-Post

Mr.

Dr Hannes Jung
Science4peace Forum
Nokestr. 85
22603 Hamburg
Germany

Bern, 1 June 2023

Threat of Nuclear Weapons

Dear Dr Jung, dear Prof. Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 28 April 2023. Your commitment to raising awareness of the impact of nuclear weapons and for nuclear disarmament is important. The global and humanitarian consequences of a possible use of nuclear weapons also strengthen my conviction to strive for a world without nuclear weapons.

The suggestions you have made largely correspond with the Swiss position on nuclear disarmament and nuclear security as outlined in the Federal Council's "Arms Control and Disarmament Strategy 2022-2025". At the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) last August, I could reaffirm our conviction that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, and I stressed that Switzerland wants to see a world free of nuclear weapons. Moreover, Switzerland is committed to work towards a global no-first use policy. We have also been able to play an important role in nuclear risk reduction as the driving force behind a package of risk reduction measures which was supported by around 30 states.

With regard to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Switzerland is an observer state and we are currently evaluating our position. The considerations expressed by you in your letter regarding the consequences are taken into account in the re-evaluation as well as Switzerland's traditional role in the promotion of peace. However, against the backdrop of Russian aggression against Ukraine, foreign and security policy factors have become key considerations.

Regardless of the re-evaluation's outcome, the Federal Council is committed to strive for a world without nuclear weapons and Switzerland will continue to play an active role in disarmament.

Yours sincerely,

Ignazio Cassis
Federal Councillor