



## THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE TO SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY PAX CHRISTI,  
“TOWARDS BUILDING THE MOMENTUM FOR NUCLEAR ABOLITION”  
Dublin, 24 November 2010

I am pleased to send my best wishes to all those gathered for the Pax Christi seminar, “Towards Building the Momentum for Nuclear Abolition.”

Some have claimed that abolition is a fantasy.

Yet what are its alternatives? These include dreams of relying indefinitely on nuclear deterrence, ardent hopes that additional States will not seek the bomb, and a boundless faith in good luck to prevent nuclear war.

What is the truth? The dreamers are not the disarmers, and disarmament is not a fantasy.

Nuclear weapons are not only dangerous—they have cost trillions of dollars worldwide. Imagine what could have been achieved in poverty reduction, climate change mitigation, food security, and **women’s and children’s health**—to name but a few global development goals—had even a fraction of those resources been directed to these ends.

Last August, I attended the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony, a poignant reminder of the human costs of using these weapons. I was inspired by the *hibakusha* I met both in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Their hardships and support for disarmament have strengthened my conviction that we must intensify our efforts for a world free of nuclear weapons.

This long-held goal of the United Nations is the basis of my October 2008 five-point proposal on nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, which offers a practical approach to the elimination of such weapons, including through a nuclear weapons convention.

This year, we have seen many positive developments—including a new START Treaty between Russia and the United States, progress at the Washington Summit on Nuclear Security, and advances at the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. I am also heartened that the Nobel Peace Laureates at their recent Summit in Hiroshima expressed their strong support for a nuclear weapons convention. Let us continue to build on this momentum.

Only by eliminating and outlawing nuclear weapons can we eliminate the risks they pose to humankind. This effort is not premature. It is long overdue.

I commend your steadfast dedication to nuclear disarmament and the cause of peace. I wish you a successful seminar.