



FIGHTING FOR OUR FUTURE

IUF 28TH CONGRESS
Geneva, June 13-16, 2023

23 Peace and nuclear disarmament

This 28th Congress expresses grave concern that the war by the Russian government and its state and private military forces against the people of Ukraine has increased the risk of nuclear war, putting humanity at risk.

The use of nuclear weapons would cost millions of lives and cause radioactive contamination of the atmosphere, poisoning our planet and contaminating food systems throughout the world.

We recall that the principles of the IUF as stated in the IUF Rules Article 1 d) commit all IUF affiliates as the basic progressive force in society to utilize all appropriate means to secure freedom, well-being, security and peace.

The urgent need for comprehensive nuclear disarmament is central to this commitment to peace and security and the well-being of working people throughout the world.

We must recall the devastating and tragic cost to human life caused by the use of nuclear weapons on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th August 1945. This must remain the last time that a civilian population was subjected to such horrific weapons of mass destruction.

Nuclear deterrence is based on the fundamentally flawed assumption that states act rationally, and that decision-makers make fully-informed, logical decisions. We live in a world of irrational, illogical political leaders willing to put this planet at risk. The fact remains that a simple mistake or miscommunication could easily escalate and lead to a nuclear disaster if nuclear weapons are available. Only nuclear disarmament can prevent this.

The rise of far-right wing political parties and the resurgence of fascism significantly increases this threat to humanity.

The resurgence of militarism and extreme nationalism is also driving an arms race in several parts of the world, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, that could lead to a renewed nuclear arms race.

Our commitment as affiliates of the IUF is to:

- Educate our members on the risks that nuclear weapons pose to humanity and the planet, and the urgent need for nuclear disarmament.
- Mobilize members to participate in and support movements for peace and nuclear disarmament in their countries and regions.
- Counter the shift to extreme forms of nationalism and support for militarism that justifies nuclear armaments as a source of national pride, and instead promote international solidarity and peace.
- Ensure that as trade unions we promote policies and programs based on a fundamental understanding that economic and social justice needs peace; and peace needs economic and social justice.