

**“Either we will abolish nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons will abolish us”.**

*Speech by dr. Michele Di Paolantonio, surgeon, specialist in Hygiene and Preventive Medicine, orientation of Public Health, specialization in Health Law, President of the AIMPGN, Italian Association for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Italian affiliate of IPPNW, organization Nobel Peace Prize 1985, and ICAN Italian Affiliate, organization Nobel Prize for Peace 2017 ([www.ippnw-italy.org](http://www.ippnw-italy.org)).*

*e-mail: [mdipaolantonio55@gmail.com](mailto:mdipaolantonio55@gmail.com)*

On December 10th, during the ceremony in Oslo for the Nobel Peace Prize 2017, it was definitely stated: "Either we will abolish nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons will abolish us".

A few days ago, the Head of a nuclear state threateningly told his enemy that the nuclear button is at his disposal, and the other nuclear Head of State to which the former was referring replied that his nuclear button is more great of his.

This is enough to understand very simply, also in light of the concerns expressed recently and in public by Pope Francis for the very survival of humanity in front of irrationality compared to the same nuclear weapons, which is the only way to prevent the unthinkable but unfortunately it is still possible to follow the indications of the UN Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty voted on 20 September last, which won the Nobel Peace Prize 2017 at ICAN, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the International Campaign for Abolition Nuclear Weapons was founded in 2007 by the International Nobel Peace Prize Organization 1985, as recalled in its opening by Berit Reiss-Andersen, President of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Nine days after the award, on December 19th, ICAN and IPPNW, at the 38th Parallel, in the Demilitarized Zone between the two Koreas, presented the following appeal / document, the results of which were not long before the reopening of the line red telephone between the two Koreas, and then with the convocation of the meeting of January 9 between the two Koreas for the possible and desirable joint participation in the next Winter Olympic Games at PyeongChang:

**PyeongChang  
Joint Statement for Peace**

*Today, we are issuing, from this Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) that separates the Republic of Korea to the south from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the north, a joint call for peace on the Korean peninsula.*

*War must never again be allowed to break out here in Korea.*

*Leaders of the two Koreas, the USA, China, Japan and Russia must negotiate a durable peace. We are making this effort because we believe that ordinary people can make a difference by giving voice to our yearning for a world without nuclear weapons, and without war.*

*We call on all states to promptly join and implement the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.*

*Now is the time to come together and issue this message of unity with words of hope and encouragement.*

*Soon, 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games, a time when people from across our world are coming together, is to be held here on the Korean Peninsula.*

*For more than 120 years, the Olympic Games have provided athletes around the world with a wonderful opportunity to come together in unity and give of their best.*

*It is our hope that athletes from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will participate in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games.*

*With participation by both Koreas, we believe the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games can help build a peaceful Korean Peninsula and a peaceful global community.*

*We have a firm belief that the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in PyeongChang would truly be held as a Peace Olympics, and would like to once again call on the global community to engage in dialogue and cooperation and to participate in the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympic Games for bringing about peace on the Korean Peninsula and to the world.*

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**Choi Moon-soon, Governor of Gangwon Province  
Min Byoung-chul, Chairman of Sunfull Foundation  
Tim Wright, Asia-Pacific Director of ICAN  
Tilman Ruff, Co-President of IPPNW**

The initiative of the Civil Society that on the one hand brought 122 UN member countries, under the pressure of the International Nuclear War Preventionists, the International Committee of the Red Cross / Red Crescent and International Campaign for the Abolition of Weapons Nuclear weapons, to sign the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty and the other, through the resumption of communications between the two Koreas and the common participation in the Winter Olympic Games, to reopen the hope for peace and against war, shows that today, with the new communication technologies, it is possible to reach results that until yesterday were unthinkable, including the possible unexpected solution of the Korean nuclear crisis on the one hand, and the resumption of a serious global debate on global nuclear disarmament agreements, until the abolition of nuclear weapons themselves.

After the Korean Winter Olympic Games, in order to avoid the war between the USA and North Korea, a road map for the creation of a Denuclear Zone in the Far East needs to be urgently drawn up, on which to base the definitive solution of the instability of the Korean peninsula and of the unnatural now seventy-year state of armistice and not of peace between the USA and North Korea.

If the state of division and opposition in progress in Europe and the Mediterranean since the end of World War II was resolved thirty years ago with the end of the Cold War, the dismantling of the Euro-missiles, the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of the Germany, similar solutions must be found for the unresolved seventy years of Korean destabilization since World War II. We hope in this sense an effective contribution by both Pugwash and Vatican diplomacy, whose leading role in achieving the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty was evident to all and reaffirmed also at the recent Vatican Summit of twelve Nobel Peace Prizes for Nuclear Disarmament, including ICAN, IPPNW and Pugwash.

You, nuclear physicists, scientists par excellence, fathers of the nuclear weapon, you were the first to realize the enormous dangers of nuclear weapons for humanity, and one of your main problems was the impossibility to directly control the use that political and state authority would have made your terrible discoveries. Today, with the new communication technologies, which make it possible, using algorithms, even to quickly change public policies or even parliaments and governments, you can also nourish the desire to take unreliable or even irresponsible decision-makers on your decision to pursue your own directly, the way of the prohibition of nuclear weapons and of the possible paths towards their reduction and their abolition.

We doctors, we prescribe primary prevention in front of scenarios of severe suffering, pain and death that do not allow treatment and palliation.

With the Joint Initiative of International Doctors for the Prevention of Nuclear War and International Committee of the Red Cross / Red Crescent on the impact of nuclear weapons on people and the environment, based on the scientific concepts of Nuclear Winter and Nuclear Famine, and developed through the International Diplomatic Conferences of Oslo, March 2013, Nayarit, Mexico, February 2014, Vienna, December 2014, we have gradually built a front of 137 member countries of the United Nations that led them to convene on December 23rd 2016 the Conference for the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition, which began in New York on March 27, 2017 and closed on

July 7, 2017, with the decision to sign the Nuclear Weapons Prohibition Treaty on September 20, 2017 in Geneva.

In front of the evoked scenario of two billion deaths for Nuclear Winter and Nuclear Famine after a limited nuclear war the only possible medical and scientific response is primary prevention, which in light of the unclear concept of nuclear war, that is by technical error or human or criminal or terrorist will is the only possible: that is the abolition of nuclear weapons, through their dismantling, their disassembly, and their scrapping, general, reciprocal and controlled.

In the immediate future, the urgent goal is to prevent new proliferations, through urgent agreements to ward off proliferation and war.

In this primary scientific medical response, for whose global promotion we founded ICAN in 2007, because we realized we could not do all this on our own, only as health professionals, a great global and crucial intellectual force for the result is yours, scientists of physics and nuclear physics.

I would also personally happy if between IPPNW, ICAN and Pugwash would develop solidarity action towards the stated goal and possible abolition of nuclear weapons or even to intermediate targets, as happened in early 2010 when Pugwash and IPPNW collaborated to start the path that led to the Lausanne Agreement on the Iranian nuclear program.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee, in motivating its decision to award the Prize to us, expressly cited all the urgency of facing the international crisis on the Korean nuclear program. Among the candidates for the Prize were the protagonists of the Lausanne Agreement on Iranian nuclear power, but there was no time to reward and celebrate the past, in the face of the urgent need to prevent a possible tragic future.

Thanks for the attention.