

Draft Resolution on Nuclear War Effects and Scientific Research

The General Assembly,

PP1 Gravely concerned by the devastation that would be visited upon humankind by a nuclear war and the consequent need to make every effort to avert the danger of such a war,

PP2 Expressing deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons,

PP3 Acknowledging the scientific evidence that exists for nuclear war to result in long-term, large-scale, environmental, physical and socio-economic effects, due to radiation, blast, fire and other phenomena, including nuclear winter, and which could see the deaths of hundreds of millions from the direct effects and the deaths of billions from the indirect effects,

PP4 Noting the recognition in 1985 by the USSR and the United States that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, later reaffirmed in 2021 by the Russian Federation and the United States and in 2022 in the Joint Statement by the leaders of the five Nuclear-weapon States of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

PP5 Recalling its resolutions 40/152 G of 16 December 1985, 41/86 H of 4 December 1986, and the subsequent publication in 1989 of *Climatic and other Global Effects of a Nuclear War*,

PP6 Noting the major advances in climatic and scientific modelling and the evidence base since then, and the need for updated information on the potential effects of a nuclear war,

PP7 Re-affirming the central role and primary responsibility of the United Nations, in accordance with its Charter, in the sphere of disarmament,

PP8 Recognising the importance of the nuclear non-proliferation, arms control, and disarmament instruments in achieving a world free of nuclear weapons,

PP9 Reaffirming that the most effective guarantee against the danger of nuclear war and the use of nuclear weapons is nuclear disarmament and the complete, verifiable, and irreversible elimination of nuclear weapons,

1. *Calls upon* all States to renew their commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation given the devastation that would be visited upon humankind by a nuclear war;

2. *Decides* to establish an independent Scientific Panel on the Effects of Nuclear War, consisting of 15 members to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General on the basis of a public call for candidates, with a Chairperson selected from among this group, tasked with examining climatic, environmental, radiological, and physical effects in the weeks-to-decades following nuclear war, including impacts on societies and global socio-economic systems, cities, agriculture, and ecosystems, and further tasked with reviewing relevant studies and publishing a comprehensive report, including various modelling scenarios, key conclusions, and identifying areas requiring future research;
3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene this Panel and provide full support to it, in the fulfilment of its mandate, with the Panel members, participating on a voluntary basis, selected on the basis of leading scientific and technological expertise across relevant disciplines, while ensuring equitable geographic diversity and gender balance;
4. *Decides* the Panel shall meet regularly in a closed, informal format to advance its work, making use of hybrid and remote working methods, and operating on the principles of objectivity, impartiality and transparency, free from political influence, on the basis of collective peer review, drawing on lessons learned from other international expert mechanisms;
5. *Calls upon* the panel to consult with the widest range of scientists and experts, and for the Secretary-General to facilitate those consultations, including through the provision, as required, of virtual meeting spaces, webcast and meeting room facilities at UN premises, and encourages these experts to contribute presentations, written reports and published material to assist the Panel in its work;
6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and relevant agencies to support the Panel's work, including the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organisation, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Trade Organisation, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, and others, including to contribute expertise, data and papers;
7. *Encourages* Member States, relevant international and regional organisations, and others to support the Panel's work, including by facilitating and hosting Panel meetings, including regional meetings, providing available scientific data and analyses, and making voluntary budgetary contributions, or in kind contributions;

8. *Decides* that the Panel shall engage and receive inputs from the International Committee of the Red Cross, civil society, affected communities, and peoples from around the world, in order to understand local, regional and global perspectives on the effects of a nuclear war;
9. *Also decides* this Panel shall take this Resolution as its Terms of Reference;
10. *Requests* the Panel's Chair to brief the General Assembly on its progress at its eightieth (2025) and eighty-first (2026) sessions;
11. *Decides* to consider the Panel's final report regarding the catastrophic, long-term effects of nuclear war, including the nuclear winter scenario, at its eighty-second session (2027).