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Memorie della

The nuclear weapons free world

We already live in

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Abstract. We do live in a nuclear weapons free world, already. After a long debate about nuclear weapons the situation today is such that, officially, no governement is in favor of them. The reason is to be found in the strongest moral stigma on nuclear weapons. Moreover the vast majority of the most influencial people share this view.

Key words. Nuclear Weapons: Total elimination - Nuclear Weapons: Free World -

To be or not to be, that is the question
William Shakespeare, Hamlet
(written about 1600)
Act III, Scene 1

1. Introduction

We do live in a nuclear weapons free world, already. As a matter of fact, after august 1945, even the most tense international crisis have been settled without resorting to nuclear weapons. While it is against historical evidence to affirm that "[the xistence of] nuclear weapons have guaranteed peace" it is a fact that war have been waged by all means but nuclear weapons. There are several arguments against nuclear weapons but it is fundamental to distinguish between arguments against: 1) the development and manufacturing (including modernization), 2) the possession (including the hosting of foreign weapons), 3) the threat of use (including the so called deterrence), and 4) their effective use (including planning, preemptive and preventive "postures")

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2. The debate

After an (almost) infinite debate (i.e. debate that has the all the characteristics for being able to go on forever) about (the elimination of) nuclear weapons the situation to date is such that officially no governement, with very few exceptions, is, nor could it be, (openly) in favor of them. The reason is to be found in the strongest moral and juridical stigma (IJC 1996) that the overwhelming majority not only of ordinary but also knowledgeable people put on nuclear weapons. Moreover the vast majority of the most influencial political people share this view. In reality, behind the official positions, a vast and strong web of vested interests and even "good faith" real politik thinking, hold most of the potential progress that both politicians and public opinion already strongly demand.

3. Weapons of mass distrAction

The articulation in the above mentioned four points shoud be used only in order to effectively adress, from a technical point of view, the complexity of the issues related to a real and permanent elimination of nuclear weapons, their relevant infrastructures and related military technologies. It should be at the same time raised awareness about possible (and already ongoing) manipulation operations (Hinde 2007) that use the said articulation in order to create divisions among the people in favor of a total elimination of nuclear weapons, with the aim of undermining the whole process. In a nutshell technical debate must be articulated political debate should not. Nuclear weapons elimination is one and the same process and an effective action will act on it as a whole. Periodically the media alerts about some threat in the field of nuclear armaments in one of the four classes mentioned above. The threat can originate from an official nuclear weapons state or a proliferator. The difference does not really matter. The important point is instead to not disperse the attention on the details since the total elimination of nuclear weapons will render them totally irrelevant. I will hence here refrain from commenting about the modernization and expansion of the chineese arsenals and/or the Iran case other than observing that in the process of a total elimination of nuclear weapons they could be handled much more effectively than in the today double (and triple) standard world of: have (should-not-have but it's okay) and must-not-have.(NPT 1968)

4. The path toward freedom from fear

Effective paths towards a nuclear weapons free world (NWFW) have been devised since long time in several, and equivalent, successive versions by the most competent scientist and technicians of the world either in their personal capacity and within their relevant organizations (Rotblat et al. 1993); (NWC 2008). Political and religious leaders along with intellectuals worldwide have actively supported those initiatives.

5. Conclusion and a call for action

The question is hence not any longer wether a NWFW is desirable and/or feasible (Rotblat et al. 1993), the overwhelming majority is convinced that is both, and this view is supported by strong technical evidence (Rotblat et al. 1993) (NWC 2008) and juridical obbligations (IJC 1996); (NPT 1968), but wether we have enough time ahead before the present window of opportunity will close. Strong forces are already and very actively at work in order to close this window. In order to preserve the status quo in the illusion that they can master the genius in the bottle. But the bottle is already leaking. The real struggle is hence between the competent people who now all too well that unstable processes, by definition, cannot stay steady forever and the apprentice sorcerers who "play with the tail of the dragon" until is too late and the Shakespere question answered for the worst.

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