



His Excellency
Antonio Guterres
Secretary General of the United Nations
HQ, New York

and in c.c.

Her Excellency
Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu
Under-Secretary-General and High Representative
for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

His Excellency
Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

His Excellency
Volker Türk
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

His Excellency
Gilbert F. Houngbo
Director-General
International Labour Organization

Dear Secretary General, your Excellencies

We are writing to you from Italy on behalf of “Europe for Peace”, a coalition of more than 400 organizations, associations, networks, trade unions, communities who have been collaborating for months now to build peace and reconciliation initiatives within the context of the war in Ukraine (and who are engaged in peace activities in many other war-ravaged parts of the world).

We have always believed (and today we are even more convinced) that our only possibility to save the planet and to eliminate wars, nuclear weapons, all forms of poverty, racism, injustice and climate change, is to establish a loyal collaboration among all peoples, as envisaged in the Charter of the United Nations. Only multilateralism can lead to a truly global democracy, rooted in the desire for peace of the majority of world communities and peoples.

Alas, national, financial and geopolitical vested interests aimed at securing political and military control, as well as exploitation of raw materials and energy resources, prevent us from fully implementing international law and establishing an overarching government for all nations and populations. A government that would be truly democratic and universal, one at last capable of preventing, managing and resolving conflicts among states and individuals, according to the norms of international law.

This lack of governance brings with it the tragedies of wars, dictatorships, forced migrations, violence against women, destruction of the planet, tragedies which affect us all, albeit at different times and in different ways. The invasion of Ukraine is merely the latest example of the current world disorder, greatly magnified by the fact that this war could develop into nuclear war. To defend this indefensible system, the whole world feels threatened and is engaging in a further arms race. We are at war, as the peoples of the poorer nations in the world have known very well and for some time; for some months now even the citizens of richer and more powerful countries have come to realize this, although they turned a blind eye to the situation as long as only other people were affected.

It is with these concerns on our minds that we are writing to you – and we shall encourage many others to write as well. We wish to underscore the urgency and the absolute need for an active role by the United Nations, in order to reaffirm the primacy of international law and universally recognized rights against the rationale of wars, rearmament and military blocs. We pledge our support to the political, humanitarian, cultural efforts of the United Nations within the general framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially upholding the Agenda for Disarmament you launched in 2018.

We ask you to open the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations issuing a strong call to all States – and to civil society as well – to put an end to all wars, to cease all rearmament activities, to eliminate from the face of the Earth all nuclear weapons, to reaffirm all universal human rights.

Ask the General Assembly to convene an international conference on peace, disarmament and development cooperation, one to which Local Governments and international Civil Society organizations may also contribute.

Encourage the Assembly and the Member States to reduce their military expenditure by 2% a year for at least 5 years, as proposed by the Nobel Laureates and distinguished Academics, establishing a global “Peace Dividend” fund to be managed by the United Nations: the fund should be invested in industrial reconversion and sustainable technology programmes, in projects of “disarmed” economies, healthcare security in the face of pandemics, protection of human rights, civilian and nonviolent defense training.

We, as civil society, will back you: we will be in the streets and squares, in schools and workplaces, in places of worship, raising awareness and support for this conference.

The United Nations General Assembly, the only forum where all peoples are represented, can restore trust and hope, for it is the duty of us all to protect humanity and the planet from violence and destruction.

Let us walk forward together now, so that no one will be a victim in the future.

Europe for Peace

Rome, 21 september 2022



**EUROPE FOR
PEACE**



**Европа за Мир
Європа за мир**