



# Soka Gakkai International

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## **Inputs for the UN SG's report: resolution 79/241 "Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects"**

Soka Gakkai International (SGI) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the “Comprehensive study of the question of nuclear-weapon-free zones in all its aspects”. Strengthening, expanding, and creating Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones (NWFZs) represents critical progress toward nuclear disarmament and a world free of nuclear weapons, especially at a time of increasing nuclear threats and arms races.

### **Addressing the Humanitarian and Environmental Consequences of Nuclear Weapons**

Nuclear-weapon-free zones are excellent forums to highlight the devastating humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons, including their use, testing and production, to ensure population safety. Existing zones should utilize their activities to discuss humanitarian consequences, and explore the impact of such weapons relevant to their mission and the international community as well as regional contexts and concerns. The 2023 Conference on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone held in Kazakhstan is an excellent example of such an activity. In addition, all UN Member States should acknowledge that the concerns for humanitarian and environmental impacts of nuclear weapons should encourage governments to establish or join Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, underscoring the tangible benefits for regional safety and stability.

### **Complementarity with Other Disarmament Treaties**

Our view is that NWFZs complement and reinforce treaties such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). The TPNW, in particular, strengthens the norms established by NWFZs at a global level. SGI urges states in NWFZs to sign and ratify the TPNW.

### **Comprehensive Disarmament Education**

SGI believes that nuclear-weapon-free zones have the potential to strengthen and promote comprehensive disarmament education initiatives, coordinating closely with the UNODA and utilizing existing resources. This will reinforce commitments to nuclear disarmament and build resilience against potential regressions. In addition, their significance should also be promoted to

those countries outside of the current NWFZs.. We also encourage collaborations among existing zones to share resources and best practices (such as the OPANAL-led disarmament education activities targeting students and diplomats), cooperating with civil society, academia and other stakeholders for developing and implementing such educational initiatives. Such educational efforts should also include, but not limited to, promoting awareness of the complementarity between the zones and other treaties including the TPNW.

### **Conclusion**

To challenge nuclear deterrence logic and prevent nuclear weapon use, existing NWFZs must be reinforced, and new ones promoted in regions like Europe, the Middle East, and North East Asia. Strengthening disarmament education within NWFZs will ensure that future generations remain committed to nuclear abolition. A sustained focus on education is key to securing a world free of nuclear weapons.