

At the Crossroads

"I have no doubt that, if we hope to escape self-destruction, then nuclear weapons should have no place in our collective conscience, and no role in our security. To that end, we must ensure—absolutely—that no more countries acquire these deadly weapons. We must see to it that nuclear-weapon states take concrete steps towards nuclear disarmament. And we must put in place a security system that does not rely on nuclear deterrence."

—Mohamed ElBaradei

The threat of nuclear weapons is not in the past—it is a crisis today.

This crisis is driven by the failure of the nuclear powers to disarm and by the increasing number of other states that seek nuclear weapons.

There are growing fears that rogue governments and terrorist groups will acquire nuclear weapons. The doctrine of deterrence means nothing to terrorists.

It is time to move beyond the myth of nuclear deterrence. It is time to dismantle existing weapons and ban their further development.

The idea that war can produce real "solutions" to human problems is deeply rooted. Violence is part of the fabric of human—particularly male-dominated—civilizations. It can only be overcome by developing an equally strong culture of peace.

