

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

--

**MESSAGE FOR “NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT RESOURCE FOR RELIGIOUS
LEADERS AND COMMUNITIES”
BY THE WORLD CONFERENCE OF RELIGIONS FOR PEACE**

Of all the many reasons offered for the failure to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons, one of the most common is the “lack of political will.”

Yet what does this mean? How is political will created and sustained? One explanation is found in individual acts of enlightened leadership by states possessing such weapons. Another focuses more on pressure from the international diplomatic community. A third emphasizes the advocacy activities of individuals and groups in civil society.

Political will to achieve global nuclear disarmament is created and sustained at all these levels. A strong case can be made, however, that civil society plays a particularly influential role. Because of their large membership and principled positions, religious groups in particular have enormous potential to advance nuclear disarmament worldwide. While they may differ on other issues, they share a broad inter-faith consensus that nuclear disarmament is both necessary and a just cause. This should not be at all surprising. After all, peace is a core value shared by all the world’s great religions.

Because of the great common ground on which we stand, I commend the continuing commitment of the World Conference of Religions for Peace to strengthen recognition of our common humanity, including through its support for global nuclear disarmament. Its new publication “Nuclear Disarmament Resource for Religious Leaders and Communities” is a welcome step forward on the road to a nuclear-weapon-free world.