



2014

INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
**NUCLEAR  
DISARMAMENT**

**SPEECHES BY:**

**RAMESH JAURA**

IPS DIRECTOR GENERAL

**THALIF DEEN**

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**H.E. MR. SAM KAHAMBA KUTESA**

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**HIROTSUGU TERASAKI**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEACE AFFAIRS FOR SOKA GAKKAI  
INTERNATIONAL, WITH MESSAGE FROM SGI PRESIDENT DR DAISAKU IKEDA

**DR LASSINA ZERBO**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE  
COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION (CTBTO)

**GABRIELE KRAATZ-WADSACK**

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE OF THE UN OFFICE FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS WITH  
MESSAGE FROM ANGELA KANE, UNODA HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

**H.E. PALITHA KOHONA**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SRI LANKA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY MR JAYANTHA DHANAPALA**

**2014 INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR  
NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT**

**PRESENTED TO**

**JAYANTHA DHANAPALA**

**UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DISARMAMENT  
AFFAIRS (1998-2003)**

***"For championing a world free of nuclear weapons."***

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(UNCA)

## RE-LAUNCH OF IPS INTERNATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**I**PS-Inter Press Service decided to re-launch the prestigious international achievement award to mark its 50th anniversary and focus it on nuclear disarmament as a logical corollary of the growing awareness worldwide of the need to usher in a world without nuclear weapons.

The re-launch of the award after six years was made possible by Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a lay Buddhist organisation based in Tokyo with 12 million members around the world, which agreed to sponsor the coveted prize.

In doing so, SGI added a new dimension to its media project with IPS, which since 2009 has been providing in-depth news, analysis and opinions on efforts under way to move towards a nuclear-weapon free world.

The decision to focus the award on nuclear disarmament was guided by the fact that the production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear forces takes vast public resources away from health care, education, climate change mitigation, disaster relief, development assistance and other vital services.

According to Global Zero, the nuclear-armed nations spend nearly US\$300 million a day or US\$12 million an hour. An estimated US\$105 billion are spent on atomic weapons every year. The World Bank forecast in 2002 that nearly half that amount would suffice to alleviate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals as stipulated by 2015.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has pointed out that spending on nuclear weapons in 2010 was more than twice the official development assistance to Africa and equal to the gross domestic product of Bangladesh, inhabited by some 160 million people. The Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) – the principal UN body responsible for advancing a nuclear-weapon-free world – has an annual budget of \$10 million, which is less than the amount spent on nuclear weapons every hour.

This amply illustrates the compelling logic behind abolishing all nuclear weapons and focusing the award on nuclear disarmament, which IPS initially established as the International Journalism Award in 1985 to honour outstanding journalists whose efforts, and often lives, contributed significantly to exposing human rights violations and advancing democracy.

Six years later, IPS decided to broaden the scope of the award to reflect the tremendous worldwide changes taking place in the aftermath of the historic collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War. The Award, renamed the International Achievement Award, was established to honour the work of individuals and organisations fighting for social and political justice in the “new world order”.

Recipients of the award included the Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, UN Secretary-Generals Boutros Boutro-Ghali and Kofi Annan as well as Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva. The 2014 award was conferred on Jayantha Dhanapala, UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs until 2003, who has remained committed to the goal of a nuclear weapons-free world since leaving his post, and presiding since 2007 over the Nobel Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.



**RAMESH JAURA**  
IPS DIRECTOR GENERAL

“The decision to focus the award on nuclear disarmament was guided by the fact that the production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear forces takes vast public resources away from health care, education, climate change mitigation, disaster relief, development assistance and other vital services.”

## DHANAPALA A RELENTLESS ADVOCATE FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS-FREE WORLD

Jayantha Dhanapala, a former U.N. Under-Secretary General for disarmament affairs (1998-2003), has been a relentless advocate for a world free of nuclear weapons,

Perhaps his continued determination to achieve his longstanding goal was best characterized by Dr Randy Rydell, a former senior political affairs officer at the U.N. Office for Disarmament Affairs.

“Short of actually dismantling nuclear devices himself,” said Rydell, “Jayantha has contributed enormously in constructing a solid foundation upon which the world community will one day fulfill this great ambition.”

Jayantha, who is currently president of the Nobel Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs (since 2007) and a former Sri Lankan ambassador to the United States, played a crucial role in the 1995 Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

Douglas Roche, a former senator, an ex-Canadian ambassador for disarmament, and visiting professor at the University of Alberta, said: “When the Non-Proliferation Treaty was indefinitely extended in 1995, the person most responsible for making nuclear disarmament a permanent legal obligation was Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala.”

He said Dhanapala’s “masterful diplomacy” – threading a course between the powerful nuclear weapons states and the non-nuclear world – was responsible for delineating three specific promises.

First, the systematic and progressive efforts towards elimination of nuclear weapons; second, a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty by 1996; third, an early conclusion of negotiations for a fissile material ban.

On a personal note, I have known Jayantha for over four decades, and have at least three things in common with him.

We are from the same country: Sri Lanka. We were contemporaries at the University in Sri Lanka: he was one year senior to me. After graduating, we worked on the same newspaper, the Sri Lanka Daily News.

And then Jayantha switched professions – abandoned journalism, and went on to join the foreign service to distinguish himself as a Sri Lankan ambassador in Geneva and Washington DC - while earlier serving as a senior diplomat in London, Beijing and New Delhi.

I always began to wonder: what if Jayantha continued to be a newspaperman and I ended up as a diplomat.

But then he may have achieved the ultimate in journalism: winning a Pulitzer Prize. And as one of our mutual friends remarked: And I may have helped trigger World War III.

In the absence of a Pulitzer, Jayantha is the recipient of the 2014 IPS International Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament.

And rightly so.



### THALIF DEEN

IPS UN BUREAU CHIEF

“Short of actually dismantling nuclear devices himself,” said Rydell, “Jayantha has contributed enormously in constructing a solid foundation upon which the world community will one day fulfill this great ambition.”

It is a great pleasure to join you this evening to honour Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament, and recognize his invaluable contributions towards nuclear disarmament. I would like to thank our host, Inter-Press-Service for bringing us together on this occasion, as well as Soka Gakkai International, the sponsor of this award.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to you, Mr. Dhanapala, for this well-deserved Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament.

A man of peace, you have dedicated most of your career to promoting disarmament and arms control. You presided skilfully over the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference, a landmark event in disarmament history. You were at the helm of the Department of Disarmament Affairs of the UN Secretariat from 1998 to 2003, spearheading UN efforts to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to reinforce arms control norms. Your hard work and dedication have contributed to building a safer and more peaceful world.

At the beginning of the 69th session of the General Assembly, we celebrated the inaugural International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The Assembly proclaimed this day to raise awareness of the threat of nuclear weapons and to mobilize international efforts towards achieving our collective goal of a nuclear-weapon free world.

In this regard, I cannot overstate the essential role of civil society, including non-governmental organisations, press, and academia. The work of organisations such as Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs - which Mr. Dhanapala presides over; Inter-Press Service, our host this evening; or Soka Gakkai International, the sponsor of this Award, contributes to raising awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons and to advocating for their total elimination.

The issue of nuclear disarmament has long been prominent on the agenda of United Nations since the adoption of its very first resolution in 1946. The General Assembly has adopted numerous resolutions, reflecting our collective aspiration for a world free of nuclear weapons. Last year, the Assembly held its first high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, almost seven decades later, the threat posed by nuclear weapons to our common humanity remains.

We know all too well that the stakes are incredibly high. Should nuclear weapons ever be used again, the humanitarian and environmental consequences would be of such magnitude that they could threaten the very survival of humankind. In addition, one cannot overlook the real danger of nuclear arms falling into the hands of non-state actors and terrorist organisations.

In the face of such grave risks, the status quo is not an option that can be sustained. In this regard, the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference will present an opportunity to further strengthen the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The elimination of nuclear weapons is not only a matter of peace and security. It also has socio-economic ramifications. We live in a world where nearly a billion people living in extreme poverty struggle every day to make ends meet. Can we really afford to maintain extensive nuclear arsenals that could destroy humankind in the blink of an eye? In September next year, world leaders will gather here in New York to adopt the post-2015 development agenda, including Sustainable Development Goals that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals. We look forward to a new era of sustainable development, in which both people and the environment can thrive and prosper.



UN Photo/Mark Garten

## H.E. MR. SAM KAHAMBA KUTESA

PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

But let us make no mistake. If we are to turn this vision into a lasting reality for the present and future generations, we must once and for all free our world from the dreadful threat of nuclear weapons.

“A man of peace, you have dedicated most of your career to promoting disarmament and arms control.”

Credit: Roger Hamilton-Martin / IPS



Credit: Katsuhiro Asagiri | IPS Japan.





Credit: Roger Hamilton-Martin / IPS



Credit: Alister Ramirez-Marques | IPS Japan



This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of IPS. On behalf of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) members in 192 countries and territories and together with our distinguished friends gathered here today, I would like to express our heartfelt felicitations on this auspicious, historic occasion.

I understand that today's award finds its roots in the International Journalism Award established by IPS in 1985 to honour outstanding journalists whose efforts contributed significantly to exposing human rights violations and advancing the cause of democracy.

In 1991, following the break-up of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, IPS expanded the scope of the award to reflect the dramatic changes taking place in the world. Renamed the International Achievement Award, it has been conferred in particular recognition the work of individuals and organisations who continue to fight for social justice under the "new world order."

The focus of this year's award is nuclear disarmament, and as a supporter of this significant award, it is our great joy to see that Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala has been chosen to be its recipient.

Ambassador Dhanapala is widely recognised an accomplished diplomat, peace-builder, disarmament expert and proponent of a global order based on international law universal norms.

As the President of the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference, Ambassador Dhanapala used his outstanding diplomatic leadership and skills to overcome the odds and realise the indefinite extension of the NPT. As UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs from 1998 to 2003, Ambassador Dhanapala played a key role in advancing efforts to stop and reverse the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, anti-personnel landmines, conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

Since 2007, he has assumed the role of the President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, and continues to actively advocate within the international community to advance the nuclear disarmament agenda. For these reasons, it is hard to imagine anyone more deserving of this award than Ambassador Dhanapala.

Today, our globalised world requires us to recognise the depth and extent of our interdependence and interconnection; that our prosperity requires the prosperity of others, and that harm done to others ultimately rebounds to us.

In today's world, it is impossible to achieve security and wellbeing for oneself while compelling others to live in suffering and fear. Further, from an ethical perspective, this is entirely unacceptable. Nuclear deterrence is premised on such morally impermissible terror—any use of nuclear weapons will produce catastrophic consequences for humankind everywhere.

To quote Eleanor Roosevelt: "We have to face the fact that either all of us are going to die together or we are going to learn to live together, and if we are to live together we have to talk."

Ultimately, the only way to counter the threat of nuclear weapons and realise genuine security is through dialogue. The answer lies in fostering a shared awareness that we are all in fact neighbours sharing this Earth with no other option than to cooperate and coexist. Sources of global vulnerabilities are becoming increasingly diverse and complex: ecological degradation, poverty, inadequate public health and hygiene infrastructure as well as natural disasters. More than ever, cooperation is required to achieve human security.

The path towards a safer world begins when all the stakeholders—governments, international organisations, civil society, media, both the "realists" and the "ide-



Credit: Seikyo Shimbun

**DAISAKU IKEDA, THE FOUNDER AND CURRENT PRESIDENT OF SOKA GAKKAI INTERNATIONAL (SGI), SENT A MESSAGE THAT WAS READ OUT BY HIROTSUGU TERASAKI, SGI'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PEACE AFFAIRS**

alists"—stand up and work together with a sense of shared purpose and vision. It is imperative that the voices of ordinary citizens yearning for peace be mobilised if we are to free the world from the threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Next year marks the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In this sense, it is especially timely and significant that the IPS International Achievement Award will be conferred this year and next on individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of nuclear disarmament.

It is our hope that from today's gathering a clear message for a nuclear-free world will be powerfully communicated to the world.

In closing, allow me to express my sincere prayers for the continued wellbeing and success of all those in attendance today.

**D**ecember 1938 was a decisive month in human history: In Germany, the scientists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann discovered that when bombarded with neutrons, the atomic nucleus of uranium would split. The discovery of nuclear fission laid the basis of nuclear technology with all its manifestations - in the short-term, the most destructive weapon ever devised and used a few years later in the Second World War.

But God is fair, He unleashed a force of good at the same time: Back in 1938, nearly the same day that Otto Hahn publicised his discovery, a very special boy was born on the other side of the planet in Sri Lanka. His name: Jayantha Dhanapala. In the town of Pallekelle, which later became home to one of our monitoring stations – but to that later.

Today we honour Jayantha Dhanapala, former Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and champion of non-proliferation and disarmament.

Jayantha Dhanapala's life story is linked closely to that of nuclear arms control, and in particular to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, in short CTBT, that my organization is tasked with implementing. I am therefore very grateful to Inter Press Service and its Director-General Ramesh Jaura for inviting me to speak at today's event.

Throughout his soaring career, as a diplomat and in the UN, Jayantha has worked with persistence and eloquence to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction.

In 1995, Jayantha chaired the landmark review and extension conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He masterminded the central bargain, a package of decisions that balanced the seemingly irreconcilable interests of the nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states.

A critical part of this bargain was the promise that the CTBT, which was still being fiercely negotiated at the time in Geneva, would be finalized no later than 1996, prompting the adoption of the Treaty by the General Assembly on 10 September 1996. So in a way, Jayantha actually fathered the CTBT. Shortly later, from 1998 to 2003, he served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. This was a crucial time for nuclear disarmament, particularly for the CTBT as the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan flouted the still young Treaty.

Jayantha is active in probably all of the world's most important advisory boards and international bodies; notably, he is the President of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, and a member of the Governing Board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). For these reasons and more, I invited him to join the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM), which I launched in 2013 to ensure an innovative and focused approach to advancing the CTBT's entry into force.

Although we have not yet reached this goal, the Treaty has played an important role in making our planet safer. Although technically labelled a "provisional" secretariat, there is nothing provisional about our work. To paraphrase Hans Blix, another member of the GEM, it is a Treaty that has not legally entered into force, with an organization that is more accomplished in verification than everything else we have seen. This is in part due to the global network of stations we are building to detect signs of nuclear tests anywhere on the globe. Nearly 90% of this system of over 300 stations is complete, including the one in Jayantha's home town of Pallekelle.

The system which was recently hailed by US Secretary of State John Kerry as "one of the great accomplishments of the modern world" has the proven capability to detect nuclear tests at a fraction of the yield of the first nuclear weapon test in the



UN Photo/Mark Garten

**DR LASSINA ZERBO**  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
OF THE PREPARATORY  
COMMISSION FOR  
THE COMPREHENSIVE  
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN  
TREATY ORGANIZATION  
(CTBTO)

desert near Alamogordo in July 1945. The international community forcefully condemns any violations of this norm today, as has been the case with each of North Korea's tests – the only ones to be conducted in this millennium.

Consistent progress has also been made in the area of on-site inspections. This is the CTBT's ultimate verification measure and involved a team of highly specialized experts searching the ground using a wide range of state-of-the-art technologies. In fact, I am just coming from Jordan where I visited our second full-fledged on-site inspection simulation, the Integrated Field Exercise 2014, which is currently being conducted on the banks of the Dead Sea in Jordan.

Jayantha and I both come from countries in the developing world. One of the most persuasive arguments he has consistently made is the opportunity cost a developing country incurs when embarking on a weapons of mass destruction programme. In particular, a nuclear weapons programme re-

quires vast resources that could have been allocated to support development and infrastructure – every nuclear test, every warhead represents a school, a hospital or a major road unbuilt.

In Pakistan, for example, where the anniversary of the 1998 nuclear tests is officially celebrated each May, we increasingly observe voices questioning the value of a nuclear weapons programme when parts of the country lack basic necessities such as clean water and electricity.

Developing countries also have much to lose from a nuclear conflict, even one far from their borders. A recent study has shown that even a limited nuclear exchange would “disrupt the global climate and agricultural production so severely that the lives of more than two billion people would be in jeopardy”. This would result in unprecedented famine and starvation far beyond the directly affected areas, especially in the developing world.

It is encouraging to see that Jayantha is actively promoting the CTBT especially

in his home region of South Asia, where India is one of the countries that have yet to sign the CTBT. To me, Jayantha formulated the most eloquent rebuttal ever to India’s criticism of the CTBT:

“Opposing the CTBT because it fails to deliver complete disarmament is tantamount to opposing speed limits on roads because they fail to prevent accidents completely.”

In conclusion, the world we live in today would be less safe and less civilized were it not for Jayantha Dhanapala.

It is certainly a great pleasure and honour to congratulate our colleague and friend, Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala, on receiving the 2014 IPS International Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament. I would also like to pay tribute to the work of IPS which should be commended as well for their important work on raising awareness of the challenges in disarmament and non-proliferation – a role unfortunately not often provided by other media.

Today’s ceremony has even more meaning due to the fact that Ambassador Dhanapala is a former Under-Secretary-General, having led the Department for Disarmament Affairs from 1998 to 2003 during a very challenging period for disarmament diplomacy.

Many major events during this period have continued to shape the future of disarmament. This included the extraordinary disarmament and verification efforts in Iraq, overseen by various United Nations bodies. During his tenure, he also had to contend with the emergence of new nuclear powers and growing concerns over the spectre of nuclear terrorism.

Despite these challenges, as the top official responsible for disarmament at the United Nations, his tenure was marked by a high level of dedication, enthusiasm, and productivity. His efforts laid the ground work for many of the significant activities and developments in disarmament and non-proliferation that his successors have inherited—including, I am pleased to mention, his enlightened work in establishing a department-wide Gender Action Plan. Through his strong personal commitment to implementing all of his Office’s disarmament mandates, Ambassador Dhanapala won the deep respect of all his colleagues.

Ambassador Dhanapala’s important work in the field of multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation merits nothing but praise. Throughout his long and distinguished career both as a national and international diplomat, Ambassador Dhanapala has always shown his dedication and strong commitment to the cause of multilateral disarmament, particularly to nuclear disarmament. You may recall among his many diplomatic successes, his successful leadership as President of the 1995 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference. Even after his retirement from active service, Ambassador Dhanapala has continued to remain actively involved in various disarmament issues through his membership in many prestigious academic or civil society institutions.

The awarding of the International Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament to Ambassador Dhanapala gives fitting and well-deserved recognition to his important contributions in championing the cause of a world free of nuclear



**GABRIELE KRAATZ-  
WADSACK** OFFICER-  
IN-CHARGE OF THE  
UN OFFICE FOR  
DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS  
WITH MESSAGE FROM  
ANGELA KANE, UNODA  
HIGH REPRESENTATIVE

weapons. In receiving this award, he joins an illustrious group of previous recipients which includes political leaders and diplomats, as well as two former United Nations Secretaries-General. This award recognizes the importance of his continuing work and our hope to see more of his energetic leadership and guidance in the field of disarmament for many more years to come.

It gives me great pleasure, as the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka, to introduce Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala, who is being honoured with the 2014 International Achievement Award for Nuclear Disarmament sponsored by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and hosted by the UN Correspondents' Association.

I have known Jayantha for many years and I always considered him to be a role model for myself. He was a model student, outstanding sportsman, exceptional diplomat and international statesman. Of course, he also hails from the same town as myself - Matale, Sri Lanka.

Jayantha has experienced a stellar career. Educated at Trinity College, Kandy, he joined the Sri Lanka Foreign Service in 1965 which he served with a great distinction. As a diplomat, he served at a number of posts which are of critical importance to Sri Lanka. He was posted in London, Beijing, Washington DC, New Delhi and Geneva and was Sri Lanka's Ambassador in Geneva and in Washington DC. During his diplomatic career, Jayantha was proactively engaged in a range of diverse matters, including disarmament, economic and trade relations, human rights, and cultural matters. The range of subject matter that he dealt with is an inspiration to any young diplomat. It was in disarmament affairs that he really shone as an international figure.

Jayantha was the Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva for a while where he directed policy oriented research. At UNIDIR, he expanded its range of work to include non-military threats to security, prepared hand-books to assist delegations to the Conference on Disarmament, provided opportunities for training of researchers from developing countries and networking of research institutes in the region. It was during his tenure of UNIDIR that I first came across Jayantha and he left a profound impression on me.

In my view, one of Jayantha's outstanding achievements was as the chair of the 1995 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review and Extension Conference. I had just joined the UN at the time. Jayantha was instrumental in crafting a package of decisions, balancing the twin objectives of nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament, addressing both the concerns of nuclear weapon states and the non-nuclear weapon states. It was a very difficult negotiation and on many occasions delegations feared that their efforts would collapse. That they would leave New York empty handed. But Jayantha pulled it off. The outcome was adopted without a vote. I recall the headline in the Herald Tribune the next day – It screamed, "A star is born". He was later invited by the Australian Government to serve as a member of the Canberra Commission together with a group of 17 eminent international personalities chaired by another great diplomat, Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans. Later, he was hand picked to head the Office of Disarmament Affairs by Secretary-General, Kofi Annan. As the Under-Secretary-General, Jayantha was a pioneer in promoting gender equality at the UN. He will certainly be remembered for his proactive initiatives in this regard.

Jayantha has continued to publish in a number of areas, in particular, on disarmament matters. He has also been on the academic boards of a number of distinguished think-tanks and universities. If I were to list all of his publications, we may have to be here for a long time. Suffice it to say that his academic contributions will be quoted by practitioners for years to come.

There are many other comments I could make about this eminent but self-effacing Sri Lankan. I think that you would like to see him receive the coveted award rather than listen to me.



**H.E. PALITHA KOHONA**  
PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SRI  
LANKA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS

“As the Under-Secretary-General, Jayantha was a pioneer in promoting gender equality at the UN. He will certainly be remembered for his proactive initiatives in this regard.”



**A**nuclear weapon free world can and must happen in my lifetime. This may seem a bold and wildly Pollyannaish statement for me to make after a lifetime of work in peace and disarmament.

But consider some of the key global threats facing us today – 25 years after the Berlin Wall fell symbolizing the end of the Cold War and on the cusp of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations – this centre for harmonizing the actions of 193 nations mandated by the Charter to maintain international peace and security.

There is the Fifth Assessment Report of the Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) conveys the unambiguous message that climate change is caused by human action and that unchecked it will lead to catastrophe;

There is inequality of income as a feature throughout the world, where the poorest 1.2 billion consume just 1% while the richest billion consume 72%, causing increasing frustration and tension especially among the youth who are 26% of the global population;

There is religious extremism, racism and the bestial violence of ISIS, Boko Haram and other anarchic groups which challenge our shared values and civilized societal norms;

There is the state terrorism of Israel waging unequal war against the Palestinians while occupying their territory and depriving them of their statehood in violation of international law;

There are more than 50 million who are currently displaced by war and violence – some 33.3 million in their own country and approximately 16.7 million as refugees – the highest number since World War II; and

There are the problems of hunger, disease, poverty and violations of human rights that continue to disfigure the human condition.

Is the nuclear weapon ever going to be a deterrent to combat these threats let alone be used to solve these problems? Or is it not more likely that in a skewed world of nuclear “haves” and “have-nots” we are going to have increasing proliferation including by terrorist non-state actors? Scientific evidence is proof that even a limited nuclear war – if those confines are possible – will cause irreversible climate change and destruction of human life and its supporting ecology on an unprecedented scale. We the people have a “responsibility to protect” the world from nuclear weapons by outlawing them through a verifiable Nuclear Weapon Convention overriding all other self-proclaimed “R 2 P” applications.

Despite this overwhelming evidence the world has 16,300 nuclear warheads among nine nuclear weapon armed countries with USA and the Russian Federation accounting for 93% of the weapons. Of this about 4000 warheads are on a deployed operational footing. The spectre of the use of a nuclear weapon through political intent, cyber attack or by accident; by a nation state or by a non-state actor is more real than we, in our cocoons of complacency, choose to acknowledge. At a time of declining resources for development a huge amount of US \$ 1747 billion continues to be spent on arms in general and nuclear weapons modernization. In the US alone, in a glaring contradiction of President Obama’s promises, nuclear weapon modernization will cost \$ 355 billion over the next ten years. A far-sighted military general twice-elected President of the USA, Dwight Eisenhower, warned over 50 years ago about the insidious influence of the “military industrial complex” in his country. That influence driven by an insatiable desire for profit has spread globally stoking the flames of war even as the United Nations and other peacemakers try to find peaceful solutions in terms of the Charter.

## **JAYANTHA DHANAPALA** UNDER-SECRETARY GENERAL FOR DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS (1998-2003)

I am proud that the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, which I am privileged to lead today, has campaigned assiduously for over five decades seeking the total elimination of nuclear weapons based on the 1955 London Manifesto co-signed by Albert Einstein and Lord Bertrand Russell. Sir Joseph Rotblat, one of Pugwash’s founding fathers who walked out of the Manhattan Project as a conscientious objector, shared the Nobel Peace Prize with Pugwash in 1995. Pugwash is but one of the many citizen movements who have since 1945 urged the abolition of nuclear weapons. It was pressure from civil society that finally led to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and other significant milestones on the road to outlawing nuclear weapons. The world has already accomplished a ban on two other categories of weapons of mass destruction – biological and chemical weapons. I salute the Marshall Islands for taking the nine nuclear weapon states to the International Court of Justice accusing them of violating their legal obligations and look forward to the outcome at next year’s hearings.

Two NGOs -ICAN and PAX - have painstakingly researched the money behind nuclear weapons and have revealed in their “Don’t Bank on the Bomb” report that since January 2011, 411 different banks, insurance companies and pension funds have invested US \$402 billion in 28 companies in the nuclear weapon industry. The nuclear-armed nations spend a combined total of more than USD 100 billion on their nuclear forces every year. Let me quote from the report – “The top 10

Credit: Katsuhiko Asagiri | IPS Japan

investors alone provided more than 175 billion US dollars to the 28 identified nuclear weapon producers. With the exception of French BNP Paribas, all financial institutions in the top 10 are based in the US. The top 3 – State Street, Capital Group and Blackrock – have a combined US\$ 80 billion invested. In Europe, the most heavily invested are BNP Paribas (France), Royal Bank of Scotland and Barclays (both United Kingdom). In Asia, the biggest investors are Mitsubishi UFJ Financial and Sumitomo Mitsui Financial (both Japan) and the Life Insurance Corporation of India.”

I appeal to all of you present to make your own practical contribution to nuclear disarmament by joining the divestment campaign. The faded rhetoric of President Obama’s celebrated Prague speech in April 2009 about a nuclear weapon free world has little to show as results unless civil society acts.

The world has scaled many heights in my lifetime. Colonialism which enslaved my country for 450 years was dismantled in my lifetime liberating numerous countries including mine; the civil rights movement in the USA ended segregation, racial discrimination and other indignities imposed on black Americans; I have seen the end of the odious apartheid regime and the peaceful transition to a non-racial democracy in South Africa; and, finally, we have witnessed the end of the Cold War with its global tension and rivalry. These are inspirational achievements of which humankind can be proud. Through all these achievements we remember gratefully the exemplary leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela. It was their unswerving dedication to non-violence that ensured victory over evil and injustice.

Nuclear disarmament is likewise an achievable goal and not the mirage that the nuclear weapon states would have us believe. The successful conclusion



of a final agreement on the Iran nuclear programme and the forthcoming NPT Review Conference in 2015 are opportunities for us all to halt the proliferation of nuclear weapons by eliminating the weapons themselves. I fear that the longer we wait for nuclear weapon states to act the anger of impotence may lead to extremist groups seizing control of nuclear weapons.

We are fortunate to have in Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon a global leader dedicated to the cause of nuclear disarmament and his Five-point Plan remains a lodestar for the global community.

The Inter Press Service (IPS), our hosts this evening, must be congratulated on their 50th anniversary. Serving the cause of the developing world, IPS has held aloft important principles of equity and justice in international relations calling for an end to unequal exchange in all its forms.

I am deeply grateful for the award conferred on me today. I have long believed in the dictum of Jean Monnet - the European Union’s architect and visionary - that “Nothing is possible without men, but nothing lasts without institutions.” Thus this award honours the organizations with which I have been associated in a long struggle to rid the world of the most inhumane and destructive weapon ever invented. I take this opportunity to rededicate myself to this noble cause and its early fulfillment.

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