

Lisa Clark, Keynote speech, Opening session, PyeongChang Global Peace Forum, 9 February 2019

I would like to thank the national ministries and the local government institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations for making this Forum possible.

I am here as Co-President of the International Peace Bureau, founded in the 1890s to provide a coordinating secretariat among the different peace societies that were developing in several countries. There were, in fact, many societies striving for peace and justice but there was a need for them to be able to reflect and work together.

In 1910 the IPB was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition for this networking activity: building bridges, which as you all know is the opposite of building walls, which seems to be a fashionable activity these days. And building bridges is also the reason that we are all here today.

Nowadays the IPB concentrates its energies on disarmament, in all of its aspects. A peace education perspective: showing that weapons and militarization are the cause of increased violence and injustice in the world, and not the solution. As Malala Yousufzai told us – when she was only 16 – with weapons you can eliminate a terrorist, but it is only with education that you can eliminate terrorism.

Over the years nonviolent peace activists have elaborated the notion of human security: we contribute by researching into the costs of weapons and wars, while highlighting what else such enormous funds could better be spent on. Those human needs that are increasingly being neglected, and in many of the richest countries of the world considered too expensive. Every year, around the publication date of Sipri's report on military spending, we coordinate a vast web of actions under the Global Days of Action on Military Spending. In 2017 the world's nations spent 1,739 billion dollars on weapons and the military: just 6% of that figure would be enough to meet the needs of countries in the South of the

world in addressing and mitigating climate change (UN SDG 13), and just 3.2% (i.e. 54 billion) would be enough to cover SDG 3, achieving universal primary and lower secondary education.

These are just some examples, but it is not only a matter of money: the overwhelming power of the military in some countries suggests that might means right. And think of the damage it does to our societies when some among the most brilliant brains are enticed by huge amounts of money to design new, deadlier weapons, instead of putting their gifts to the service of humanity as a whole.

Building a future world of peace, of human rights and mutually enriching coexistence is the goal we strive towards. Along the way we have already promoted many international legal instruments banning the most hideous of weapons: landmines, cluster munitions, chemical and biological weapons, and prohibiting nuclear weapons in more than half of the planet.

We are one of ICAN's international partners and fully embraced the idea of achieving a ban on nuclear weapons by stressing the catastrophic consequences of those weapons, regardless of who possesses them, of who is allied with whom, of whose hands are purportedly safer. This is what we mean by human security. It's the only kind that counts. We rejoiced when the campaign deservedly was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2017, especially since the Norwegian Nobel Committee actually motivated the prize using the same value categories we have always upheld: praising the civil society-led process that ICAN adopted to achieve its success, echoing the words "We, the peoples..." from the UN Charter; stressing the paramount importance of a legal instrument banning even the possession of nuclear weapons (the UN asked for negotiations aimed at preventing their use in its very first resolution in January 1946); and steering a process within the UN – to draft and approve the Ban Treaty – that restored some of its missing democracy.

Here, in the Korean Peninsula, I am in great admiration of your peace process, which is inspired by the Sunshine Policy (how absolutely

wonderful that a 20th century Asian President adopts a policy based on a 6th-century BC Greek story-teller: it makes my networking efforts look paltry), by the Candlelight revolution, by last year's Olympic diplomacy, by the Panmunjom Declaration. I am sure that European and international movements could willingly become active partners. For, remember, the embrace of international civil society can offer strong support.

I believe that the best thing we can all do for peace in the world right now is to support the people-driven peace process in the Korean Peninsula, promoting a treaty to end the Korean War, demanding that governments implement the conditions they have already agreed to, so as to open the path towards the construction a true, positive peace: one established through comprehensive regional cooperation in all fields, where loyal collaboration in social, economic, cultural and humanitarian sectors, will make the establishment of the North East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone seem merely like a logical extension of all that we are doing already.

Your successes in this region will allow us, in other continents, to take giant strides forward on the road to peace. Let me thank you in advance and congratulate you on your successful peace process!