

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE "SCIENTISTS FOR PEACE" held in Città della Pieve, Italy, on October 19-21, 2018

Science has an important role to play in promoting and achieving peace on Earth. The main question which we ask in this respect is, why are scientists and engineers, highly educated individuals, willing to violate basic humanistic principles by developing and producing weapons? This is mostly due to a limited ethical consciousness, whereby each human being is seen as an isolated individual, and the wider implications of one's work for society and for humankind are usually belittled.

To change this state of affairs we must become conscious of the fact that humankind can only thrive in peace if it is able to live up to universal ethical principles. Peace on Earth can be fostered and maintained; a world without wars can be developed, where peaceful relationships of responsibility and respect among peoples and individual human beings are properly cultivated.

How can this vision be achieved? What is the proper role for scientists and engineers to fulfil this vision?

We are committed to a view of science as an invaluable resource to promote peace in all areas of life.

Accordingly, as a meaningful step towards realizing Peace on Earth, we submit to the United Nations the following recommendations, directed to the world of science and engineering:

 Schools and universities should be strongly invited to offer courses addressing the social responsibilities of scientists and engineers, especially concerning the potential and actual warfare applications of their work. Along with their professional expertise, science and engineering students should develop the ability to raise societal awareness about the threats that existing and prospective weapons systems pose to the survival and flourishing of humankind, especially in connection with weapons of mass destruction.

- It should be made clear that scientists and engineers consciously
 participating in the development, production, distribution and use of
 weapons of mass destruction go against the fundamental ethical
 principles that should be at the core of science and engineering.
- Everybody shall have the right to refuse to obey when it comes to the use of weapons of mass destruction and should be protected accordingly.
- It should be continually reaffirmed that mass media and other sources
 of information which advocate the view that waging war is an
 acceptable way to solve conflicts betray universal ethical principles
 enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the prohibition of
 propaganda for war asserted in the United Nations International
 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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