

Imagining Nuclear Weapons Net Zero

Omar Alansari-Kreger

Posted to the World Orders Forum: 1 October 2026

Omar Alansari-Kreger (Omar Kreger) is a postdoc at the University of Minnesota specializing in social physics. He is an activist for bringing nuclear weapons under supranational control to achieve a world liberated from the scourge of nuclear war. Omar has been published by the *Minnesota Star Tribune*, *Pioneer Press*, *Minnpost*, *Isonomia Quarterly*, and *Institute for Global Policy*. Additionally, he contributes reflective articles to UN-Aligned under the auspices of New Solutions with Omar and independently publishes editorial articles on his site, the New Columnist. Some of his recent books include *Epistemology Beyond Materiality* (2022), *Reason Renewed Reason Restored* (2022), and *Conceptual Idealisms Practical Truths* (2023).

Not long ago, a short-lived Golden Age for the destruction of nuclear weapons ended. The dismantlement of nuclear warheads was offset by a general moratorium on the testing and production of nuclear weapons between the newly formed Russian Federation and the United States after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This understanding was never adopted as official policy by the United Nations Security Council. Rather, it shadowed a mutual consensus reached between Moscow and Washington as one of the quieter victories shared by the two former Cold War rivals. In Michael Krepon's article, "The Golden Age of Nuclear Arms Control," he identified 1987-2000 as that time frame before appetites for nuclear rearmament reemerged post-9/11. This was interrupted in 1998 when Pakistan and India conducted back-to-back testing of their respective nuclear weapons programs. We have not returned anywhere near since. [Sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan over the reactivation of nuclear arms testing was lifted by congressional approval under George W. Bush's Administration to secure Islamabad's and New Delhi's cooperation in Washington's War on Terror](#). Did the Nuclear Freeze Campaign that began in the 1980s retreat to an obscure space of idealistic irrelevance in 2026?

Unsurprisingly, there is no United Nations agency dedicated to the incremental elimination of nuclear weapons for purposes of achieving total nuclear disarmament. One has yet to be made into a separate agency under United Nations jurisdiction either under the Security Council or General Assembly. [Arguably, the provisions of resolution 687 are perhaps the closest equivalent to such an agency and was formed as the United Nations Special Commission](#). It was recognized as the body tasked by the Security Council to destroy Iraq's suspected nuclear weapons program immediately after Operation Desert Storm. This was done under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency. [For the first time in United Nations history, weapons inspectors were provided with the materials, resources, and authority to destroy nuclear weapons, related components, and facilities responsible for the production and sustainment of a national nuclear weapons program](#). Resolution 699 was further passed to grant the commission continuous authority to perform its objectives so long as the Security Council suspected Iraq under Saddam Hussein of harboring a nuclear weapons program.

To outsiders unfamiliar with the politics of nuclear disarmament in the years leading up to Operation Iraqi Freedom, it is difficult to determine where the authority of the International Atomic Energy Agency ended and the United Nations Special Commission began with independent jurisdiction. By 1999, the United Nations Special Commission was officially dissolved and replaced by the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission. This was done to improve on the inefficiencies and crippling bureaucracies of its predecessor ultimately dissolving on June 27th, 2007 by the Security Council due to the events and findings of the 2003 Iraq War. The enduring legacy of both commissions proved what can be achieved when afforded the resources and directive to eliminate a nuclear weapons program. This observation remains true despite being built on a bedrock of failed intelligence attesting to its botched attempts and failures in declaring Iraq categorically nuclear weapons free.

Despite successes made in the name of nuclear disarmament, the actual work of dismantling and destroying nuclear weapons and their arsenals is initiated and overseen by the same nations that possess weapons of mass destruction in the first place. Would it be a far-fetched hypothetical to imagine one permanent Security Council member exploiting an elaborate disarmament campaign as elaborate cover to rebuild and expand their nuclear weapons program while claiming to be destroying them simultaneously? [In findings from May of 2026, The Arms Control Association reported the United States is actively modernizing, replacing, and expanding its nuclear arsenal to achieve theater capabilities.](#) Such massive scales of modernized nuclear rearmament have not been seen since the end of the Cold War with costs slated at 516 billion.

It therefore becomes all too feasible to imagine such a possibility during episodes of resurgent far-right populism as witnessed post-2016 in the United States where superpowers in various states of decline prioritize rearmament over transparency. It would be no stretch of the imagination to suggest far more nuclear weapons have been manufactured than decommissioned. This is made most evident when disclosing the current statuses of their nuclear weapons programs post-9/11. How does this not constitute a conflict of international interest at the United Nations considering the often divergent positions taken on the legitimacy of nuclear weapons when comparing past and proposed resolutions between the General Assembly and the Security Council?

The formative vision of the United Nations Special Commission should inspire wider international mobilization for total nuclear disarmament with members of the nuclear club leading the charge for a world liberated from the scourge of nuclear war. This calls for the necessity of a United Nations Nuclear Disarmament Agency dedicated to a nuclear-weapons-free world jointly overseen by the Security Council and General Assembly. Once ratified via United Nations Charter Amendment, the agency will require each nation with a nuclear arsenal to target a minimum percentage of its arsenal until completely destroyed. This percentage will remain the minimum standard until a new resolution passes in the General Assembly to change said percentage. A future date designated as nuclear weapons net zero will be set by the Security Council with incremental milestones set along the way made with the expectation that each nation with a nuclear arsenal must realize.

Otherwise, economic sanctions will be imposed on the offending nation under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter by the Security Council. The agency will be formed under the condition that no permanent member of the Security Council will have the ability to veto any minimum percentage set by the General Assembly to realize nuclear weapons net zero. The ban on the veto will also apply to the legislative formation of the agency with the requirement that only a majority vote of the Permanent Five need be reached to effectuate the establishment of the United Nations Nuclear Disarmament

Agency. However, the General Assembly must first pass a resolution requiring the Security Council to cast a vote on the formation of the agency. What is described here is best recognized as a preliminary conceptual sketch proposed to achieve gainful albeit achievable progress made in the name of total nuclear disarmament requiring the cooperation of both the General Assembly and Security Council.

It must be emphasized the current Charter of the United Nations has no chapter or article on nuclear disarmament. The realization of a United Nations Nuclear Disarmament Agency will require nothing short of a permanent amendment to the Charter to achieve a binding call to action against nuclear weapons with the Security Council setting the precedent. There must come a time when the most powerful nations in the room are asked by the silent majority of nations to do the unexpected and unthinkable in the interest of advancing the cause of international law for humanity.

No nation, permanent Security Council member or otherwise, should have the power to derail or deny a future free from nuclear weapons.