Pugwash President Emphasizes Need to

Rely on Dialogue to Resolve the Iranian Nuclear Issue

11 June 2012

There should be no resort to force or threat of force in order to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, whether it is force through the use of viruses, whether it is force through the assassinations of scientists, or whether it is force through a military strike. That will be counter-productive and make a bad situation worse. The only way forward is to learn from past mistakes, and to rely on dialogue to find a mutually accepted solution. From the time of its inception in 1957, Pugwash has sought to promote solutions to international problems through peaceful means, particularly through dialogue. We believe the time is ripe now for such a solution on the Iranian nuclear program.

Nuclear enrichment is not prohibited by the NPT, and under Article 4 and other provisions of that treaty, Iran has the right to pursue the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

There are no wrong hands and right hands with regard to nuclear weapons. All nuclear weapons should be abolished and that includes the Israeli nuclear weapons. Any nuclear weapon held by any country poses a danger to global security. We strongly support efforts to promote a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East.

Jayantha Dhanapala
President