

RESOLUTION 24R-21

To request the RI Board to consider supporting the complete elimination of nuclear weapons

Proposer(s): Rotary E-Club of International Peace, WE Rotary, District 5000, USA
Rotary Club of Nakusp, District 5080, Canada and USA
Rotary Club of Winnipeg, District 5550, Canada
Rotary Club of Winnipeg-Charleswood, District 5550, Canada
District 5960, USA
Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin, District 9705, Australia

1 WHEREAS, RI has recognized its responsibility to help respond to the existential
2 threat posed by the climate crisis through its active participation in the 2023
3 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28). Speaking as part of
4 Rotary’s delegation to this meeting, 2023-24 RI President Gordon McNally
5 noted, “Our legacy is not just in the projects we initiate but in the global
6 collaborations we foster for a healthier planet,” and

7
8 WHEREAS, like climate change, the danger of nuclear war is an immediate
9 existential threat, and RI could, as past RI President Shekar Mehta has said, “take
10 stronger positions for nuclear disarmament, as organizations like the Red Cross
11 have already done,” and

12
13 WHEREAS, experts like former US Defense Secretary William Perry have warned
14 that we are closer to nuclear war than we have ever been, and former US Defense
15 Secretary Robert McNamara has warned that we avoided nuclear war thus far
16 only because “We lucked out. It was luck that prevented nuclear war,” and

17
18 WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that a limited nuclear war between India
19 and Pakistan involving just 250 of the world’s 12,500 nuclear warheads could
20 cause abrupt, catastrophic climate disruption and a global famine that would kill
21 over two billion people in its first two years, and that a larger war between the US
22 and Russia could cause an even greater famine, killing over five billion people in
23 its first two years, and

24
25 WHEREAS, working for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons fits
26 squarely into one of Rotary’s seven areas of focus, peace building and conflict
27 prevention, and RI and The Rotary Foundation have committed to divesting
28 Rotary funds from corporations involved in the production of nuclear explosives,
29 and

30
31 WHEREAS, RI supported the recent UN General Assembly resolutions calling for
32 an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of Russian military forces from Ukraine,
33 in keeping with its deep commitment to building peace through dialogue and
34 conflict resolution

1 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
2 International consider supporting the growing international call for the complete
3 elimination of nuclear weapons reflected in the UN Treaty on The Prohibition of
4 Nuclear Weapons, supporting UN General Assembly resolutions endorsing that
5 treaty, and calling on the nine states that possess nuclear weapons to enter into
6 urgent negotiations for a verifiable, enforceable agreement to jointly eliminate
7 their nuclear arsenals according to an agreed upon timeline.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

8 This resolution will further Rotary's commitment to world peace by adding its
9 influential voice to the global effort to achieve the security of a world free of
10 nuclear weapons. It will strengthen our relationship with the United Nations,
11 which is leading this effort, as well as empower Rotary clubs and individual
12 Rotarians to work more effectively toward that ultimate goal.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

13 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
14 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
15 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.