



Women's Major Group

To the attention of
Secretary General of the United Nations
Mr. Antonio Guterres
UN, New York

25 July 2017

Honourable SG, dear Mr Guterres,

The undersigned members of the Women's Major Group and allies from civil society, are presenting you with our petition to **not tolerate pro-nuclear lobbying** at the United Nations head quarters, especially during what is supposed to be a high level **Sustainable Development** policy forum.

Hardly 3 weeks have gone by since the **signing of the historic ban on nuclear weapons**, and already the **biggest exhibition space** in the corridors of the **HLPF** have been occupied by pro-nuclear energy billboards of IAEA.

This might give the impression to participants of the HLPF, that the UN itself is promoting nuclear energy as a sustainable energy source. Of course, the opposite is true, the nuclear energy chain including uranium mining and nuclear waste continues to threaten lives and wellbeing of our populations. It is time that after 60 years of inability to ensure safety and sustainability, the UN reforms its International Atomic Energy Agency.

We call on you, dear Secretary General, to:

- immediately request the **dismantling of the pro-nuclear energy exhibition** in the corridors of the UN
- entirely review the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and **begin a process** that would convert its sole purpose to inspections and safety, and to drop the promotion, of nuclear energy

The Women's Major Group at the UN has been present with a delegation of some 80 persons at HLPF these weeks and 400 signed the petition. We will be glad to send a delegation to meet you to further discuss these and other proposals for a transition to sustainable development grounded in the respect of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

With our best regards,

Sascha Gabizon, WECEF, for the members having signed the petition, enclosed

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/de-de/takeaction/662/612/787/>

PETITION : NO pro-nuclear-energy lobbying at the UN

6 days have gone by since the global governments agreed on [banning Nuclear Weapons](#).

Nevertheless at the United Nations today, during its [Sustainable Development](#) summit and occupying the biggest exhibition space, are panels falsely promoting nuclear energy as a sustainable energy source (by [IAEA](#)).

Why [nuclear energy is unsustainable](#):

- **Nuclear energy waste** (spent fuel) can continue to be used to make [dirty bombs](#)
- **Despite 50 years and billions of subsidies**, the Nuclear industry has [not found a way to safely dispose of its radioactive waste](#), which remains extremely hazardous 100,000 years in the future
- **Nuclear radiation even in extremely low levels is bad for human health**, in particular for [women](#) and children. Studies in the US and Germany have shown that [children living close to nuclear energy plants](#) have higher risks of cancer.
- **Uranium mining**, which mostly takes place in indigenous territories has led to death and disease of local workers and their families such as in the case of the [Navajo tribe](#).
- **Nuclear industry itself counts with severe nuclear accidents** every few decades. In reality we have had very bad nuclear accidents every decade, which have destroyed livelihoods and made use of land for living and agriculture impossible for years to come. The victims of these accidents have suffered discrimination and not been sufficiently supported and they and their children live in fear of cancer and other diseases. (see: [Three Mile Island](#), [Chernobyl](#), [Fukushima](#))
- **Finally, the tax payers end up with the bill** for the full costs of nuclear energy, which is heavily subsidised. Solar and Wind energy are already cheaper. It makes [no economic sense at all](#) to invest in nuclear energy.

We therefore send this message to the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Antonio Guterres, to call on him to dismantle the pro nuclear energy exhibition at the Sustainable Development summit this week, and to entirely review the mandate of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and begin a process that would convert its sole purpose to inspections and safety, and to drop the promotion, of nuclear energy.

Sascha, Hanna and other members of the Women's Major Group who are engaged in the UN process on Sustainable Development

See also WILPF's analysis <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/5445-nuclear-energy>