



Comitato  
per una Civiltà dell'Amore



Patrocinio della



CITTÀ DI  
**ASSISI**  
SERAPHICA CIVITAS

## Peace Conference for a *Dialogue Table* for NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

The *New Start Treaty*, the last existing one for nuclear disarmament between East and West?

**25 March 2023**

(9.00 am – 1.00 pm)

*Sala della Spogliazione at the Palazzo Vescovile*  
**Assisi**

### COMMUNIQUE

The gathering in Assisi,

In the place St. Francis stripped himself of all earthly goods, showing the moral strength of a disarmed humanity,

called on all nations to seek practical solutions to address nuclear dangers, and to refrain from the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

A central point of the Assisi meeting was to highlight the need for ongoing dialogue among Russian and American experts together with religious leaders on practical measures to reduce the risk of use of nuclear weapons, which could have catastrophic consequences. Such dialogue is especially important at this historical juncture.

There should be a permanent commission including American and Russians experts, keeping in mind previous exchanges in Rome and elsewhere. This commission can work closely with Catholic and other religious leaders to search for solutions useful to governments that possess nuclear weapons to encourage ways and means to reduce nuclear arsenals and dangers.

As holders of the great majority of the world's nuclear weapons, and with obligations as nuclear weapon states under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States and the Russian Federation have a special responsibility to work together on practical measures to reduce the threat of a nuclear war.

The predictability provided by the New START nuclear arms reductions treaty continues to be essential to peace, to stability, and to avoiding the catastrophe of use of nuclear weapons, even as bilateral relations between the United States and Russia are severely strained.

Persistent dialogue at all levels is essential. The combination of experts and religious leaders adds a special dimension to existing efforts to address nuclear dangers at this perilous time. The religious community can advocate practical measures to reduce nuclear dangers, and help raise public awareness of nuclear risks and opportunities to address them.

Another central hope is to ultimately make use of funds currently expended on nuclear weapons for better human purposes, of particular concern in speaking from Assisi, the native place of Saint Francis, the Saint of Peace and Love for the Poor.