



Comitato per una Civiltà dell'Amore

***INTERNATIONAL PROPOSAL OF NEW RESOURCES FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT***

***From the Conversion of the Nuclear Weapons into Projects for the development
in the South of the world***

"MEGATONS TO DEVELOPMENT"



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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The International Presentation of the Program of Nuclear Conversion for the Development is based on the Feasibility Study presented to the Convention "Takes up Europe for the Peace" on 11th November 2004 in Montecitorio in Rome, and on technical and economic studies presented to international conventions held in Italy, in particular on the first Feasibility Study (Rome 1992) and on the Summit of the Peace in the World in Assisi in the year 2002.

The present document still aims at an international presentation of the Program for an effective contribution to the international efforts to fight the risk represented by the great number of nuclear warheads still present on the planet and above all for the generation of new economic resources for the development of developing countries.

The quantity of nuclear warheads still to be converted is higher than 40.000 units: such number corresponds to more than 1.000 ton of HEU (high enrichment uranium for military purposes). These warheads are object of disarmament agreements only: no agreements have been still stipulated about their conversion in fuel for nuclear power plants.

The proposal of the Committee is that a second agreement about the conversion of military HEU in fuel for pacific purposes should be stipulated, after the "Megatons to Megawatts" project (still in progress).

The new project is "Megatons to Development": it concerns about further 8.000 nuclear warheads to be converted in resources for the development.

The estimate of the Economic Dividend for the developing countries could be of more than 500 millions of US dollars, every year for 10 years. Furthermore it must be considered the economic benefit of the disarmament of the warheads and the environmental advantage of the missed introduction of about 64 millions of ton/year of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

In the present proposal it is also envisaged the use the waste of uranium, resulting from the enrichment and the reprocessing of nuclear fuel as diluting of the uranium coming from the nuclear disarmament, in the realization of fuel for nuclear power plants: so, besides the nuclear warheads, to give as a consequence more financial resources for the development of developing countries.



2 THE CHALLENGE OF POVERTY

The absolute poverty which constitutes the daily experience of a great part of the worldwide population is a challenge which must not be ignored. The data concerning the absolute number of poor men show that the most part of the people living in poverty is in Asia: 490 millions in the southern Asia and 260 millions in eastern Asia and the Pacific.

However the greatest incidence of poor mans is in Africa, where the 47% of the population - 300 millions of people - lives in conditions of absolute poverty. The causes of this poverty are two: firstly the very modest economic growth that these countries have experienced in this decade and, furthermore, the persistence of the inequality, that in fact excludes a large part of population from the participation to the benefits of the economic growth.

In ninety years, the inequality increased: in 1991 the income of the poorest 20% of world population was 1,4 % of the total world income; at the end of ninety this percentage was 1,1 %

The ratio between the income of the richest 20% of the world population and the income of the poorest 20% passed from 60 to 78.

The data concerning the public helps to the development show that the advanced countries are reluctant, for many reasons, to allocate the resources and do it slowly. On average, in the advanced countries the allocations for helps to the developing countries are very far from the 0,7% of their national income.

The world annual expense for the defence, not for the development, amounts at about 1000 billion of dollars, the subsidies to the agricultural production in developed countries are beyond 300 billion of dollars, but only 50 billion dollars are allocated for the developing countries.



3 THE ENGAGEMENT "MILLENNIUM GOAL" OF ONU

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG), adopted by the United Nations in the autumn of 2000, represent the most recent formulation of total development purposes: they have been formulated with specific reference to quantitative indicators of the reduction of the absolute poverty, of the improvement of the access to the health and to the education, to water and to the infrastructures, of the improvement of the women and children situation and of the good quality of the environment to be reached within 2015.

All these aims must be concurrently pursued in order to allow the poor to escape from the situation of deprivation they are chained to: because of that additional resources are needed. In particular, additional resources are necessary for a lightening action: allocations to reduce the international debt of the poorest countries. This action began but it needs to be supported in the next years.

What amount in financial resources for the development is to be considered as indispensable and urgent to collect? The more credible estimates show that the helps for the development should be double in order to reach the aims of development of the millennium: in point of fact, it is necessary an annual allocation of further 50 billion dollars.

At the conference of the United Nations "Finance for Development", held in Monterrey in 2002, the donor countries undertook to provide a greater annual allocation of 16 billion dollars starting from 2006: it is a significant amount but it is absolutely insufficient for the purpose.

The achievement of the Development Aims of the Millennium, the lightening of the burden of the international debit, the allocation of helps and the grant of loans for the development depend, as necessary condition even if not sufficient, from the availability of adequate financial resources.

The effort to identify innovative forms to collect resources to be destined to the financing of the development is, in fact, so important and urgent.



4 NEW AGREEMENT OF NUCLEAR CONVERSION: INNOVATIVE TOOL TO FINANCE THE DEVELOPMENT

The first estimate initially assumed by the international scientific community was of about 60.000 nuclear warheads in USA and Russia: this data corresponds to about 1500 ton of HEU.

Only a third of this nuclear material, 20.000 warheads, is object of the first plan of conversion "Megatons to Megawatts" between USA and Russia.

We envisage the realization of a second program of conversion of other 8.000 of the remaining nuclear warheads declared in disarmament (about 40.000): this plan could be named "Megatons to Development" just to show that its aim consists in providing new resources for the development.

Such initiative would extend for a 10 year minimum, with possible expansion to other nuclear warheads for beyond 10 years, and therefore we would obtain a strong economic contribution and wide horizons of the program of nuclear conversion and development in the world.

In the following part of present document it will be shown that the economic dividend that is possible to gain from the conversion of the military HEU and to allocate for developing countries, represents a significant amount in the current allocations on behalf of these countries.



5 THE OCCASION FOR A STRONG ETHICAL ACTION

The nuclear warheads are tools of death with a huge power, so high that we may define at planetary level: the nuclear conversion for the development changes such terrible tools of death in tools of development for millions of poor people in the world.

In fact such plan eliminates the true nuclear threat which comes above all from the presence of the nuclear warheads, everyone of which can instantaneously kill up to a million people, making such operation of primary importance to the security and peace purposes.

"Megatons to Development" is, at the same time, a huge operation of environmental importance and an important promotional activity of the development for the poor countries that, because of their poverty, in the current international situation can be attracted in the orbit of the terrorism.

From this point of view the economic dividend of the nuclear disarmament allocated for developing countries could be a further element of security and peace besides the promotion of the development.

In point of fact the security and the peace can be promoted through the development, in energy field too. The availability of energy due to the present conversion program would produce a price control effect in the energy transition of the developed countries, giving a tangible benefit to their economy.

The safety of the nations, and after all a more lasting peace in the world, will really find new economic resources/energies from the development of the process of the nuclear conversion.