Roman Lunkin

Doctor of Political Science, Deputy Director of the Institute of Europe of the Russian Academy of Sciences

Religion, political resolution and arms control

At first I have to appeal to the memory of Sergei Rogov that recently passed away. Rogov was academician of Russian Academy of Sciences, famous scholar and specialist in international relations and security issues. Sergei Rogov invited me several years ago to join the discussions on peace and reconciliation based on religious ethics and with American and European experts, orthodox, catholic, Lutheran clergymen we had talks on the fates of the nuclear control and disarmament. Sergei Rogov had a strong commitment to peace and he died in the days when Russian and American delegations met in Er Riayd.

As a result of new policy of Trump administration appeared the hope that will be a progress in the situation of the arms control that stuck in 2022 when stopped the mutual inspections of the nuclear amrs. On February 2023, Russia suspended its participation in New START (the Treaty on reduction of strategic offensive arms. However, it did not withdraw from the treaty, and clarified that it would continue to abide by the numerical limits in the treaty. Year later just now president Putin said that USA and Russian Federation could think on the future of the New START because he expired on February 2026. Much more will depend on the negotiations between Russia and USA, also concerning the questions of the new European architecture of security.

We have to take in account also the new ideological turn in social and political life in general. It could lead to the improving of some radical and irrational demands of the so called neoliberal wave based on leftist ideas and that rejected every constant identity (and could be named because of that as antiidentist ideology). Trump and Trumpism is only one and not certainly ideal reaction on the antiidentism. But its one of the points to be more tolerant to the interest and opinions, principles and traditions of other countries, peoples, communities.

At that situation the first step will be the stopping of the talks on the possibility of using nuclear weapons, the new negotiations and fruitful results of the arms control and then the spiritually based and justified nuclear disarmament. Russia as usual appeal to the Gorbachev-Reagan formula in 1985 - There can be no winners in a nuclear war, and therefore it should never be unleashed.

The resolution of conflicts is a part of the current dialogue between the Catholic and Orthodox Churches since the Havana Declaration of Patriarch Kirill and Pope Francis in 2016. Its very important to take in account the efforts of pope Francis in peacemaking and participating in that process of the special envoy of Holy See cardinal Mattheo Zuppi that was in Moscow several times.

Thus, a new "ethics of peace" should appear and, in fact, a new language of peacemaking should be developed. Only then is it possible to switch to programs such as Megatonns to Megawatts. The conditions for building new bridges, developing a new language, and overcoming stereotypes are as follows:

Firstly, a scientific academic and religious discussion between representatives of different countries, which will help not only to find new approaches and definitions, but also to feel in time with the help of research intuition where the situation in the world and in certain regions is developing.

Secondly, the most obvious step are the joint humanitarian activities and visits to conflict zones jointly by representatives of academic circles, the Russian Orthodox Church (which is already present in these zones on both sides of the conflict), the Vatican. This kind of complex diplomatic and humanitarian work, including assistance to displaced persons, especially children, has already been started by Cardinal Zuppi in 2023 and have to be continued.

Thirdly, I support the suggestion of that It would therefore be desirable for the EU not only to send a Recommendation to the Member States to establish Ministries of Peace within them, but also to provide for a "Department for Peace and Reconciliation" within its own structure, entrusting its management to an ad hoc Commissioner instead of the arms race and continuing of the war. This is one of the steps to overcome the "sovereignty of war" as one of the speakers said: "For us, for Europe, for the Jews, for the Palestinians, for America, this means only one thing: overcoming and abandoning the Enemy syndrome, on which modern domestic and international politics is built". But is also useul not see enemies in the ideological opponents like identists or sovereigntists, trumpists.

Deterrence is a political thing that caused by fears and Christian ethics have to build the peaceful world without fears.