

# Why Nuclear Weapons Still Exist

## Economic Structure Behind Peace

### Research Background

#### Nuclear Disarmament

- The number of **operational nuclear weapons** is **increasing**.
- **73 countries** have joined **TPNW** adopted in 2017.
- **Japan** has neither signed nor ratified the treaty.

#### SDGs

- The **\$101.1 billion** required to achieve the SDGs is about half of the world's annual military spending.

### Research Methods

- 1.Literature review
- 2.Interview with Ms.Susi Snyder, Program Coordinator at ICAN

### Research Questions

- 1.What factors prevent nuclear disarmament?
- 2.How could the funds saved through nuclear disarmament be utilized?

### Findings

#### Explanation of the Chart

- ① Total global spending on nuclear weapons in 2022: \$82.9 billion
  - ② Flowing to private companies that produce nuclear weapons: \$15.9 billion
  - ③ Spent on **lobbyists** who promote the necessity of nuclear weapons: \$113 million
  - + **Think tanks** (research institutes) influencing policies and public opinion: \$21–36 million
- ➡ As a result, the belief that “more public funds should be spent on nuclear weapons” spreads.

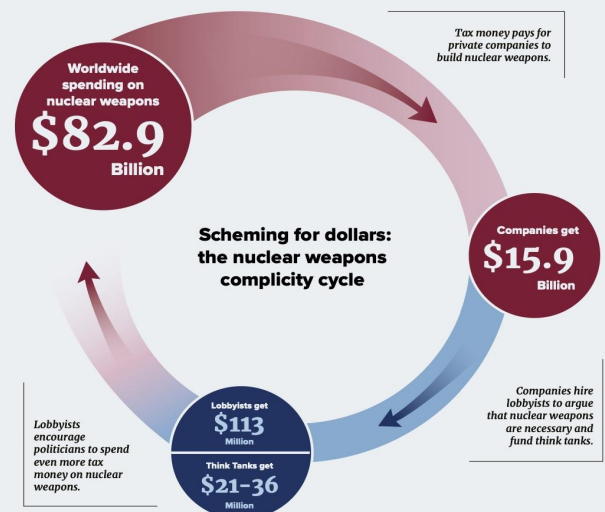
#### Opportunity cost

- ➡ A single day of spending on nuclear weapons could fund efforts to halt the decline of bees and butterflies for 17.12 years.
- ➡ The \$8 billion spent on nuclear weapons in 2022 could have planted 20 billion trees across Africa.

### Future Prospects

It is estimated that around **\$1 trillion** (approximately 150 trillion yen) will be spent on nuclear weapons worldwide over the next decade.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS SPENDING CYCLE | 2022



This report unveils the dirty secret of the nuclear weapons industry: the billions wasted on illegal weapons of mass destruction to maintain an industry dedicated to the deadly theory of nuclear deterrence.

Figure. Flow of Money Related to Nuclear Weapons (Source: ICAN)

### Conclusion and Future Prospects

- ① Governments invest not only in nuclear weapons but also in lobbyists and think tanks, shaping public opinion to justify further funding. This cycle hinders disarmament.
- ② even small cuts in nuclear spending could help address social issues.

### List of References

- <https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?p=142368> • [https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/bd/files/NuclearWH\\_2025\\_JPN.pdf](https://www.recna.nagasaki-u.ac.jp/recna/bd/files/NuclearWH_2025_JPN.pdf)
- Wasted: 2022 global nuclear weapons spending • Opportunity costs | Move the Nuclear Weapons Money