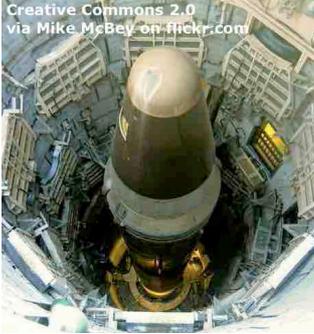


## UN says nuclear annihilation is one mistake away

4th August, 2022



The world is experiencing troubling times. We have the COVID-19 pandemic, a global cost of living crisis, a changing climate, and record heat waves. The United Nations has warned of an increasing danger - nuclear annihilation. UN Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres has warned that one small mistake could lead to a nuclear war. Mr Guterres warned that international tensions were "reaching new highs". He pointed to the Ukraine War, the Korean peninsula, and the Middle East as possible flashpoints. He said, "we have been extraordinarily lucky so far" to have avoided nuclear conflict. He said: "Luck is not a strategy. Nor is it a shield from geopolitical tensions boiling over into nuclear conflict."

Guterres painted a picture of a world close to war. He said the danger level is at its highest since the Cold War. He warned that: "Humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation." Guterres was speaking at a conference for countries signed up to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This started in 1968. He said the conference was "a chance to strengthen" the Treaty and "make it fit for the worrying world around us". He added: "Eliminating nuclear weapons is the only guarantee that they will never be used." He said: "Almost 13,000 nuclear weapons are now being held in arsenals around the world...at a time when the risks of proliferation are growing."

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com) / [dw.com](https://www.dw.com)

### Writing

Nuclear war is the biggest danger to the world today. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

troubling / pandemic / cost of living / crisis / heat wave / nuclear war / tensions / luck / picture / humanity / misunderstanding / treaty / 1968 / weapons / guarantee / risks

### True / False

- 1) The article says the world is experiencing timing troubles. T / F
- 2) The UN Secretary-General said a huge mistake could lead to war. T / F
- 3) The UN Secretary-General said the Middle East was a flashpoint. T / F
- 4) The UN said luck can shield us from global tensions. T / F
- 5) Antonio Guterres likes painting and sketching the world. T / F
- 6) Antonio Guterres said annihilation could come from one miscalculation. T / F
- 7) The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty began in 1968. T / F
- 8) Antonio Guterres said the USA has 13,000 nuclear weapons. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                          |                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. <b>troubling</b>      | a. war            |
| 2. <b>global</b>         | b. frictions      |
| 3. <b>annihilation</b>   | c. toughen up     |
| 4. <b>tensions</b>       | d. destruction    |
| 5. <b>conflict</b>       | e. difficult      |
| 6. <b>humanity</b>       | f. chances        |
| 7. <b>miscalculation</b> | g. the human race |
| 8. <b>strengthen</b>     | h. suitable       |
| 9. <b>fit</b>            | i. worldwide      |
| 10. <b>risks</b>         | j. mistake        |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How close do you think the world is to war?
- c) What do you know about the Cold War?
- d) How do you think nuclear war could start?
- e) Why don't countries destroy all their nuclear weapons?
- f) Which country is the biggest danger to the world?
- g) What will the world look like in 50 years from now?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the UN?

## Phrase Match

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. The world is experiencing         | a. a world close to war       |
| 2. a global cost                     | b. tensions                   |
| 3. boiling                           | c. never be used              |
| 4. geopolitical                      | d. of living crisis           |
| 5. nuclear                           | e. are growing                |
| 6. Guterres painted a picture of     | f. conflict                   |
| 7. Guterres was speaking             | g. troubling times            |
| 8. the only guarantee that they will | h. weapons                    |
| 9. 13,000 nuclear                    | i. over into nuclear conflict |
| 10. the risks of proliferation       | j. at a conference            |

## Discussion – Student B

- What are the most worrying problems in the world?
- How much time do you spend worrying about the world?
- How has the cost of living crisis affected you?
- How has the changing climate affected you?
- What do you think of the world being close to 'nuclear annihilation'?
- How and when will the Ukraine War end?
- How and when will the tensions in Korea end?
- What must happen to bring peace to the Middle East?

## Spelling

- The world is perncixneieg troubling times
- a changing aimclet
- the Korean alnuespin
- Luck is not a gyrttsea
- geopolitical iosstnne
- boiling over into nuclear ocfclint
- the danger elelv
- He warned that utamyhni is just one
- speaking at a cneceenfro
- a chance to rngetesthn the Treaty
- the only tagarneeu
- nuclear oepawsn

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. d	4. b	5. a
6. g	7. j	8. c	9. h	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Ukraine

You think Ukraine is the world's biggest flashpoint. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their tensions aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to solve (and why): US-China relations, the Korean Peninsula or the Middle East.

### Role B – US-China Relations

You think US-China relations are the world's biggest flashpoint. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their tensions aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to solve (and why): Ukraine, the Korean Peninsula or the Middle East.

### Role C – Korean Peninsula

You think the Korean Peninsula is the world's biggest flashpoint. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their tensions aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to solve (and why): US-China relations, Ukraine or the Middle East.

### Role D – The Middle East

You think the Middle East is the world's biggest flashpoint. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their tensions aren't as dangerous. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these to solve (and why): US-China relations, the Korean Peninsula or Ukraine.

## Speaking – Flashpoints

Rank these with your partner. Put the most serious at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |               |                      |
|---------------|----------------------|
| • Ukraine     | • US-China relations |
| • Yemen       | • Korean Peninsula   |
| • Afghanistan | • The Middle East    |
| • Iran-Israel | • India-Pakistan     |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.