**Message from the President, International Network on Appropriate Technology (INAT)**

**15th March 2022**

 These past few weeks, the news is flooded with stories of the conflict in the Ukraine. Warfare is destructive for the masses in the immediate war zone. It is damaging for the masses on a global scale as the effects of shortages, sanctions and supply chain disruptions result in escalating prices and the unavailability of critical goods and services. The obvious solution is peace. Peace would allow the resources devoted to war to be used to improve the quality of life for billions of the most disadvantaged global citizens. Resources could be allocated to technologies to improve water quality, provide sanitation facilities, meet the energy needs, enhance the educational, communication and transportation services for billions that are currently living subsistent and low-quality lives.

 Instead, war has driven countries to allocate more money to warfare technologies instead of appropriate technologies. The USA had already committed 3 billion USD a year to military spending for the state of Israel for a ten-year period. “On February 25, President Joe Biden instructed the State Department to release up to an additional $350m worth of weapons from US stocks to Ukraine.” (source https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/2/28/which-countries-are-sending-military-aid-to-ukraine). The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has expanded into former Warsaw pact countries as well as former states of the Soviet Union. NATO military operations now exist in six countries bordering Russia. The USA has committed more than $1 billion in security technology to Ukraine in the past 12 months. The second week in March 2022, the USA agreed to provide an additional $6.5 billion in military aid to Ukraine. The European Union (EU) is providing over $500 million in arms, Canada is providing lethal military weapons and loans amounting to $394 million. Even former Soviet allies Romania and the Czech Republic are in on the act, contributing $3.3 million and $1.6 million in military aid. Croatia indicated it will send 16 million Euros worth of small arms and body armour. All of this will just escalate the war.

 **The call for peace must be made from all sides and all sources.** The dismantlement of NATO would go a long way in defusing the tensions in Eastern Europe. This would also free up billions in funds that can be used to help the global South and mitigate worldwide climate change. Funding for military technologies and adventures must be stopped. These funds must be used to provide technology to empower people and poor communities across the world. Funds must be diverted from the military industrial complex to address basic needs like water and sanitation. Attention must be given to alternative energy solutions that move the planet away from its dependence on fossil fuels and associated technologies. Numerous scientific reports have proven that the extensive use of fossil fuels has contributed significantly the climate change.

 The damage of climate change is most pronounced in poorer and less developed regions. The current and future predicted droughts in Eastern Africa impact over a hundred million people. This is contributing directly to the lack of safe water, crop failure and food insecurity. The solution is clear. Appropriate technologies can provide low cost boreholes to provide drinking water and crop irrigation. Energy needs can be met through appropriate technologies using solar and wind power. This can be done with just a fraction of the billions used on military technologies.

 The call for peace is to a call to shift global spending from the military industrial complex to appropriate technologies that empower communities and meet the basic needs of the poorest and most oppressed peoples of the world. Dismantle NATO and use the billions to develop and distribute appropriate technologies to improve the lives and empower the communities of the billions of poorest of the world’s people.