

# ¿What are weapons of MASS DESTRUCTION?

## WHAT ARE THEY?

They are atomic explosive weapons, radioactive material weapons, lethal chemical or biological weapons, and any weapons developed in the future which have characteristics comparable in destructive effect to those of the atomic bomb or other weapons mentioned above

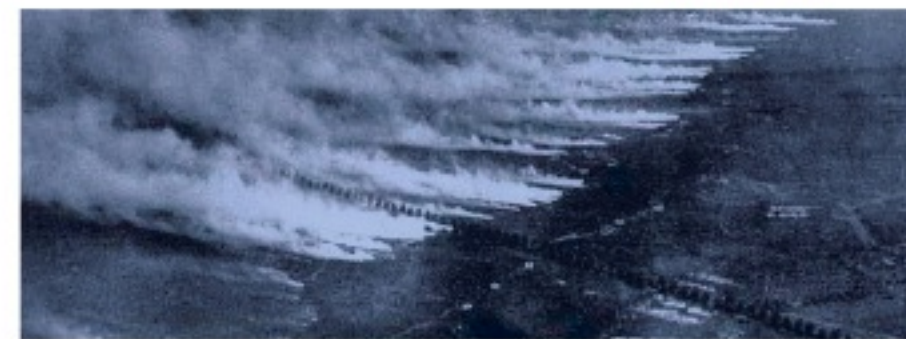
Source: *Lexicon for arms control, disarmament and confidence-building (UNIDIR, 2003)*

	 Conventional weapons	 Weapons of Mass Destruction
 Distinction	Targeted damage	Indiscriminate damage
 Effects	Short term	Short, medium, and long term

## HAVE THEY BEEN USED??

Weapons of mass destruction have been used in different scenarios, including armed conflicts, resulting victims both among combatants and civilians.

Their use, starting in the 20th century left several generations of victims and irreversible environmental damage.



Use of toxic gases during WWI  
*Collier's New Photographic History of the World's War (New York, 1918)*

## HOW IS THEIR USE CONTROLLED?



There are instruments that prohibit their use and seek to prevent their proliferation.



1970  
 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons



1972  
 Biological Weapons Convention



1996  
 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty



1997  
 Chemical Weapons Convention



2017  
 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons