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October 13, 2016

António Guterres

Former Prime Minister of Portugal and UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Secretary-General elect of the United Nations
United Nations, New York, USA

Your Excellency,

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) congratulates you on your election as the next UN Secretary-General. We wish you all the best as you take up this position in January 2017.

Your election is testament to the skills you have demonstrated, the leadership you have taken and the vision you have put forward for the building of global peace, sustainable development and human security through the United Nations.

We note, in particular, your professional and successful leadership of UNHCR over a time of increasing demands and new challenges to this important UN agency.

We commend your approach of building cooperation between relevant UN agencies and political processes to address this, and other key international issues. Such cooperation is vital in an increasingly inter-connected world – where peace, disarmament, development, human rights and environmental protection overlap and impact on each other.

PNND highlights the specific connections between nuclear disarmament and the achievement of peace, security and the Sustainable Development Goals. The tensions exacerbated by nuclear threat postures prevent the global cooperation required to meet the SDGs. And the \$100 billion spent annually on maintaining and modernizing nuclear weapons systems is sorely needed to instead address climate change and fund the other SDGs.

We agree with your assertion that:

'The UN is the institutional expression of the international community, the cornerstone of our international system and the key actor of effective multilateralism. It is the essential instrument of member States to confront common challenges, manage shared responsibilities and exercise collective action, in an enduring quest for a peaceful, inclusive and sustainably developed world, in which international law and the dignity and worth of the human person are fully pursued.'

As such, PNND is a partner in UNFOLD ZERO, a global platform to promote UN initiatives for nuclear disarmament and UN mechanisms to resolve conflicts and achieve security without reliance on nuclear weapons, or on any threat or use of force.

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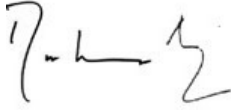
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PNND has welcomed the positive cooperation with previous UN Secretary-Generals, including Mr Ban Ki-moon who made a special point of joining with us to encourage parliaments and parliamentarians to act for the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. We look forward to supporting your efforts in this regard during your term as UNSG.

Yours sincerely



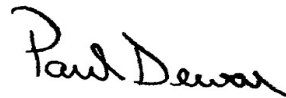
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