

SUMMARY OF THE

Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

2017–2020

The Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World outlines actions that can be taken by parliaments and parliamentarians to reduce nuclear threats, phase out nuclear deterrence, prohibit nuclear weapons and achieve the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The Plan has been developed by *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND)* in consultation with the *Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*.

The Plan takes into consideration the varying security issues of nuclear-armed States, allied States and non-nuclear States, as well as human and global security issues. It outlines a range of complementary actions, and provides a number of examples of actions that have already been taken. Parliaments and parliamentarians can choose those which are most appropriate and effective in their security environments.

The plan draws from reports and resolutions on nuclear disarmament adopted by the IPU in 2009 and 2014, as well as a series of consultations undertaken by PNND in key capitals and UN centres during 2016-2017. The plan complements, and builds upon, the *IPU/PNND Handbook for Parliamentarians on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament* which was published in 2012.

ROLE OF PARLIAMENTARIANS

Parliamentarians and parliaments play a key role in the success of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Parliaments support the implementation of treaties and global agreements contributing to the rule of law and promoting adherence to commitments.

They adopt legislation that increases transparency and accountability, thus building trust, facilitating verification and creating conditions that are conducive to the further pursuit of disarmament.

Letter to every parliament from **Mr Ban Ki-moon**,
UN Secretary-General. March, 2010

TYPES OF PARLIAMENTARY ACTIONS

- Resolutions, motions and legislation adopted by parliament;
- Budgetary decisions in the nuclear armed States on their nuclear weapons programs;
- Budgetary decisions in all parliaments on supporting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament treaties, mechanisms and initiatives;
- Questions, hearings and debates in parliament;
- Parliamentary commemorations of key days;
- Hearings, debates, panels and resolutions in interparliamentary bodies including the Inter Parliamentary Union, NATO Parliamentary Assembly, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States;
- Participation in government delegations to sessions of the UN, treaty negotiations and treaty review/ implementation conferences (such as the NPT Review Conferences);
- Joint letters/statements with parliamentary colleagues regionally or globally;
- Joint events with civil society constituencies;
- Social media actions and promotion.

Summary of parliamentary actions

1. Nuclear posture reviews

Parliamentarians in nuclear armed States and in nuclear alliances (such as NATO) can positively influence their nuclear posture reviews by advancing nuclear-threat-reduction and disarmament as priorities in the revised policies. They can do this through parliamentary debates, joint statements and public events.

2. NPT Review Process

Parliamentarians can play an important role to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conferences by promoting the implementation of key elements agreed in 1995, 2000 and 2010. Parliamentarians can also participate as observers in the NPT Review Conferences and the annual preparatory meetings.

3. Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons

Parliamentarians in countries which sign the treaty can act to ensure the adoption of strong national implementation measures, possibly including some that go beyond the requirements of the prohibition treaty, such as prohibitions on transit and financing of nuclear weapons. Parliamentarians in countries that have not signed the treaty can encourage their governments to do so.

4. 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

Parliamentarians can help ensure a successful UN High Level Conference in 2018 by encouraging their governments to participate at the highest level, initiating debates and parliamentary resolutions in support, and promoting key measures that could be adopted at the HLC.

5. Nuclear tests

Parliamentarians in countries that have not yet ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) can encourage their parliaments to do so. Parliamentarians can also ensure that the CTBT Organisation has sufficient resources to undertake its verification tasks, and they can organize commemorative events on the International Day Against Nuclear Tests to promote the CTBTO and an end to nuclear tests globally.

6. Nuclear-risk-reduction

Parliamentarians can act to lower the operational readiness to use nuclear weapons, expand the Presidential decision-making time in any nuclear crisis, require parliamentary/congressional approval for the first use of nuclear weapons, and establish crisis-management and confidence building measures between nuclear armed States.

7. Stockpile reduction

Parliamentarians in nuclear-armed States can promote unilateral reductions in stockpile numbers, bilateral negotiations between Russia and the United States on stockpile reductions, and P5 negotiations to implement the 2010 NPT commitment to rapidly reduce nuclear weapons stockpiles.

8. Eliminating nuclear deterrence from security doctrines

Parliamentarians in nuclear armed and allied countries can promote the elimination of nuclear deterrence from their security doctrines, including by highlighting alternative means and mechanisms to resolve conflicts and maintain security.

9. Establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones

Parliamentarians can support the establishment of a Middle East Zone free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and can explore the possibilities for establishing NWFZs in North East Asia, Europe and the Arctic.

10. Negotiations for nuclear weapons convention, framework agreement and/or package of agreements

Parliamentarians can promote negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention (or package of agreements) in their parliaments, in inter-parliamentary forums and by endorsing joint statements such as 'A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good.' Parliamentarians can urge the nuclear-armed and allied States to adopt a framework agreement at the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

11. Nuclear weapons spending

Parliamentarians in nuclear-armed States can act to reduce nuclear weapons budgets. Parliamentarians in non-nuclear countries can act to divest public funds and banks from corporations manufacturing nuclear weapons and their dedicated delivery systems.

12. Conventional arms control

Parliamentarians are encouraged to evaluate and advance the ideas and proposals for conventional disarmament measures as put forward in the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament and in the Strategic Concept for the Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP).

13. Public education and promotion

Parliaments and parliamentarians are encouraged to commemorate key dates relating to nuclear disarmament, including the anniversaries of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Aug 6 and 9), UN International Day Against Nuclear Tests (August 29), and the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons (September 26).

14. Role of the United Nations

Parliamentarians are encouraged to make use of the UNFOLD ZERO platform which highlights UN initiatives for nuclear disarmament, and provides information on how parliamentarians and civil society can be engaged.