
Turn back the Doomsday Clock

A parliamentary appeal to the 2024 Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to elevate cooperative leadership and the rule of law in order to prevent nuclear war, resolve international conflicts peacefully and protect the climate for current and future generations

To the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

Your Excellencies,

You are meeting at the United Nations in Geneva from July 22 to August 2, 2024 as the world is embroiled in devastating armed conflicts, an erosion of multilateralism and the rule of law, a renewed nuclear arms race, increased risks and specific threats to use nuclear weapons, increasingly severe climate-change induced disasters and a looming existential threat to humanity from high levels of Green House Gas emissions.

The seriousness of this situation was highlighted by the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists in January this year when they set the hands of the symbolic Doomsday Clock to [90 Seconds to Midnight](#).

As current and former legislators/parliamentarians from around the world, we call on you to use this opportunity to *'Turn Back the Doomsday Clock'* - to elevate diplomacy, cooperative leadership, common security and the rule of law in order to prevent nuclear war, resolve international conflicts peacefully, protect the climate for current and future generations and, in particular, to set in motion concrete processes to achieve the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

The international community needs to place higher priority on building peace and protecting our common future, than on preparing for and conducting war and on maintaining a fossil fuel dominated economy. Governments, for example, collectively allocate over \$2,200 billion to the military annually to prepare for and engage in armed conflict, compared to only \$6 billion allocated to the United Nations to help secure peace and a sustainable world. Governments collectively provide \$7,000 billion per year in subsidies to fossil fuels, nearly 20 times more than collective subsidies for renewable energies.

These priorities should change.

Our predominant security framework should be common security – which focuses on resolving international conflicts and protecting our future through diplomacy, cooperation and the rule of law.

Better use of common security mechanisms to ensure national and regional security - such as the United Nations and International Court of Justice - will enable countries to phase out the reliance on nuclear deterrence, reduce the reliance on military defence and liberate resources to support climate protection and sustainable development.

We welcome the UN General Assembly decision to hold a [UN Summit of the Future](#) in September 2024 to strengthen *'Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow'* and advance the above objectives.

We welcome the efforts made at the 2023 NPT Preparatory Committee to reduce the risk of nuclear war. including to [consider support for unilateral, bilateral and multilateral initiatives on no-first-use and non-use of nuclear weapons](#).

We welcome also the [Vancouver Declaration](#) adopted at the 30th Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on July 4, 2023 which *"Encourages all participating states to redouble international efforts to achieve the global elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework, including by*

negotiating a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention (NWC) or framework of agreements as recommended in the final document of the eight Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or by signing and ratifying the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.”

We are encouraged by the incredibly high rate of success of the International Court of Justice in resolving international disputes that are submitted to it for resolution, as [reported by the President of the ICJ to the UN Security Council](#) in January 2023.

And we highlight the [Luanda Declaration](#) of 2023, adopted at the 147th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (which has 180 member parliaments) on October 27, 2023, which “*reaffirms parliamentarians’ belief in the rule of law, at both the national and international level, as the foundation of conflict prevention and resolution, as well as in dialogue and diplomacy as the only way towards lasting peace*” and encourages “*more frequent use of the International Court of Justice and other international judicial institutions as key tools to resolve disputes between countries peacefully.*”

In this light, we encourage you as States Parties to the NPT, to advance the following at the 2024 NPT Conference and at the UN Summit of the Future:

1. An immediate end to the modernisation and production of nuclear weapons;
2. A collective affirmation that the *threat or use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible* as was [agreed by G20 leaders](#) at their Summit in Bali, and that the *threat or use of nuclear weapons is generally illegal* as was affirmed by the International Court of Justice;
3. Commitments by nuclear armed and allied states to phase out the role of nuclear weapons in security policies starting with no-first-use policies;
4. A global commitment to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045: the 75th anniversary of the NPT;
5. Commencement of a [collective process for the global elimination of nuclear weapons](#), which could involve negotiations for a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention, adoption of a framework agreement for nuclear disarmament, or negotiations of protocols to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to enable accession by nuclear-armed and allied states;
6. Affirmation of the important role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to assist in the peaceful resolution of international conflicts and implementation of the rule of law, and encouragement of all countries to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ as recommended by the UN Secretary-General (currently 74 countries accept such jurisdiction);
7. Affirm the current regional nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) and support the establishment of additional NWFZs including a *Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction* and a *North-East Asia NWFZ*;
8. Actions to cut nuclear weapons budgets and public investments in the nuclear weapons industry, and to re-purpose these resources to instead support public health, peace, climate stabilization and sustainable development.
9. Commencement of negotiations of a [Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty](#), inspired by the NPT, to phase out the extraction of fossil fuels and their emissions.

We appeal to you to rise to this challenge, to reach beyond the dangerous and unsustainable status quo of threat postures and nuclear arms races, and to respond positively to the above recommendations, in the knowledge that your leadership will have strong backing from parliamentarians and civil society globally.

This appeal is being circulated by [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament](#) (PNND), and [Parliamentarians for Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone](#) (P3+3) to be presented to the NPT Prep Com in Geneva on Wednesday July 24, 2024. The Appeal is open to current and former parliamentarians to [endorse](#).

The list of endorsers is posted with the [appeal online](#).