

Parliamentary action plan for nuclear-risk reduction and achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world

Roundtable dialogue organized by UNFOLD ZERO and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) in cooperation with IPU

136th Assembly of the Inter Parliamentary Union
Monday April 3. 13:00 and 14:00
Windy Town Room: Banghobundho International Conference Center
Dhaka, Bangladesh

The risks and catastrophic impacts of the use of weapons by accident, miscalculation, unauthorized access or intent have been highlighted by recent inter-governmental conferences in Austria, Mexico and Norway. Rising tensions between nuclear powers - including over the Ukraine, in the Middle East and in the South China Sea – have elevated this risk, leading the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists on January 24th this year to set their ‘Doomsday Clock’ at [2.5 Minutes to Midnight](#).

The 130th IPU Assembly adopted a resolution [Toward a Nuclear Weapon Free World: The Contribution of Parliaments](#) welcoming the inter-governmental conferences on the impact of nuclear weapons and highlighting the importance of nuclear disarmament. The resolution calls on parliaments to work with their governments to reduce nuclear risks, eliminate the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and policies, and support multi-lateral negotiations for nuclear disarmament.

The United Nations has decided to commence multilateral negotiations in 2017 on a treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons, and to hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in 2018 to assess progress and take further action on multilateral nuclear disarmament. In addition, the Review Cycle for the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) resumes in 2017.

The roundtable will explore the roles of parliamentarians to engage nationally and in the multilateral processes to reduce nuclear risks and achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world. It will consider a draft *Parliamentary Action Plan for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World*, which draws from the IPU resolution *Toward a Nuclear Weapon Free World*, as well as from subsequent discussions at IPU assemblies, and from a series of consultations in key capitals organised by PNND and UNFOLD ZERO.

Parliamentarians are encouraged to consider and discuss the following questions in the roundtable:

1. What national legislative measures have been taken, or could be taken, in your parliaments to support nuclear-risk reduction and the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons?
2. What outcomes could we expect from the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament?
3. Should parliamentarians be included in government delegations to the relevant forums including the NPT meetings, UN nuclear disarmament negotiations and the 2018 UN High Level Conference?
4. What actions can parliaments and parliamentarians take to enhance public awareness and engage with public on issues of nuclear disarmament?
5. Are there confidence building measures in place, or which could be developed, in your region to reduce tensions and support nuclear disarmament?