March 28, 2016

Sustainable nuclear security requires universal non-proliferation controls and nuclear disarmament measures

Open Letter from
Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament
to the 4th Nuclear Security Summit, Washington DC, March 31-April 1, 2016

Dear Head of State – Delegates to the Nuclear Security Summit,

We welcome the forthcoming Nuclear Security Summit scheduled for March 31 – April 1 in Washington DC and thank you for attending.

The existence of bomb-grade nuclear materials creates the risk of the fabrication and use of a nuclear weapon or radiological (‘dirty’) bomb. Any such use would have catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences, causing immeasurable suffering. This must be prevented.

We are heartened by the spirit and practice of cooperation on behalf of all humanity exhibited by heads of state and governments through the Nuclear Security Summits and follow-up actions to secure nuclear materials.

We commend President Obama for initiating this effort following his historic speech in Hradcany Square, Prague on April 9, 2009. And we commend the USA, South Korea, and the Netherlands for hosting the four Nuclear Security Summits.

However, sustainable nuclear security requires a similar high level effort to implement the other key focus of President Obama’s Prague speech – the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Only by abolishing nuclear weapons will we eliminate the risk of nuclear weapons being used by a terrorist – or a state – whether by accident, miscalculation or madness.

We believe that nuclear disarmament is a global common good which requires efforts at every level – local, national, regional and global – to be achieved.

We therefore strongly urge you to pledge at the Nuclear Security Summit to support a similar high level process for nuclear disarmament.
We commit to support such efforts in our respective legislatures, inter-parliamentary bodies and multi-constituent networks.

We attach in support A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: Our Common Good, a joint statement of parliamentarians, mayors and religious leaders from around the world.

Yours sincerely,

PNND Co-Presidents:

Saber Chowdhury MP (Bangladesh)
President of the Inter Parliamentary Union

Paul Dewar (Canada)
Former Opposition Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs

Natalia Diaz Quintana MP (Costa Rica)
President, Foreign Affairs Committee

Phil Goff MP (New Zealand)
Former Defense Minister

Bill Kidd MSP (Scotland)
Co-chair, Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament

Senator Edward Markey (USA)
Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Baroness Sue Miller (UK)
Former Minister for Social Development

Christine Muttonen MP (Austria)
Vice-President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Senator Laura Rojas (Mexico)
Vice-President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
PNND Council Members and Special Representatives:

Mohamed Anwar El Sadat MP (Egypt)
Member Egypt House of Representatives
Human Rights Committee

Prof Dr Aytug Atici MP (Turkey)
Member International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

Agnieszka Brugger MdB (Germany)
Spokesperson for Security Policy and Disarmament
Parliamentary Group BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN

Tony A de Brum (Marshall Islands)
Former Foreign Minister

Blaine Calkins MP (Canada)
Co-Chair, PNND Canada

Agnieszka Brugger MdB (Germany)
Spokesperson for Security Policy and Disarmament
Parliamentary Group BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN

Tarja Cronberg (Finland)
Chair, Middle Powers Initiative
Former Chair, European Parliament Contact Group with Iran

Ute Finckh-Krämer MP (Germany)
Vice-Chair, Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament and Arms Control

Barbara Gysi MP (Switzerland)
Vice-President of the Finance Commission

Senator Yassin Al Husban (Jordan)
Former Director-General of Al-Hussein Medical City

Marian Hobbs (New Zealand)
Former Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Birgitta Jónsdóttir MP (Iceland)
Vice-Chair Movement 2010 Party

Caroline Lucas MP (United Kingdom)
Leader of the Green Party
Christa Markwalder MP (Switzerland)
President of the National Council

Senator Awad Al Masaid (Jordan)
Former Director General of Civil Defens

Senator Hassan Abu Nemeh (Jordan)

Holger Nielsen MP (Denmark)
Former Foreign Minister

Prof Dr Andreas Nidecker (Switzerland)
President, Basel Peace Office (PNND Head Office)
Board Member, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Senator Nan Grogan Orrock (Georgia, USA)
President, Women Legislators' Lobby

Douglas Roche O.C. (Canada)
PNND Founding Chairperson
Former Senator and Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament

Hon Johannes Raseriti Tau MP (South Africa)
Deputy Chair, National Council of the Provinces
Former President, IPU Standing Committee on Peace and International Security

Torstein Tvedt Solberg MP (Norway)
Chair, PNND Norway

Alyn Ware (New Zealand)
PNND Global Coordinator

Christer Winbäck (Sweden)
Special Representative, Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons