Dear Parliamentary Colleagues

A catastrophic use of nuclear weapons by accident, miscalculation or intent, continues to be a very real possibility, fueled by the existence of nearly 17,000 nuclear weapons, the possibility of their spread to additional countries and terrorist groups, and the continuation of regional and international conflicts involving nuclear-armed or nuclear-threshold countries.

We have an historic opportunity to make progress, resulting from a new high-level commitment to the vision of a nuclear-weapons-free world and a growing cross-party consensus that the global abolition of nuclear weapons is both imperative and increasingly feasible.

However, political momentum is required in order to forge the multilateral regime and security mechanisms required to achieve a secure nuclear-weapons-free world.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, in a letter to every parliament in the world, noted that:

*We stand at a watershed moment for the achievement of international security through a world free of nuclear weapons. At a time when the international community is facing unprecedented global challenges, parliamentarians can take on leading roles in ensuring sustainable global security, while reducing the diversion of precious resources from human needs.*

We thus invite you to join *Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)*, an international nonpartisan forum for legislators to share perspectives and develop collaborative initiatives to prevent proliferation and achieve nuclear disarmament.

PNND is an initiative of the Global Security Institute - founded by U.S. Senator Alan Cranston - and the Middle Powers Initiative, which work alongside key countries advancing cooperative security, nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament initiatives.

**PNND provides up-to-date and relevant information** to legislators on nuclear weapons issues, events such as major intergovernmental meetings, and parliamentary actions including resolutions, debates, joint appeals and legislation.

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PNND also provides a variety of forums in which legislators can learn from each other and collaborate on national, regional and international measures. These include conferences, newsletters, seminars, briefings, meetings of other parliamentary networks and contacts with parliamentary colleagues in other countries. We invite you to visit www.pnnd.org for more information on PNND’s work and activities.

PNND has no membership fee, nor any requirement to subscribe to any specific perspective or policy. We are truly non-partisan. To join PNND, send an email with your name, position and contact details to info@pnnd.org.

We look forward to your participation and take this opportunity to extend our highest regards.

Yours sincerely

PNND Co-Presidents:

Mani Shankar Aiyar MP, India
Chair of the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan Group
Member of Global Zero

Saber H Chowdhury MP, Bangladesh
President, First Standing Committee
(Peace & International Security)
Inter Parliamentary Union

Tara Cronberg MEP, Finland
Chair of the European Parliament Delegation
for relations with Iran

Paul Dewar MP, Canada
Vice-Chair Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee

Bill Kidd MSP, Scotland
Co-Convener, Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Nuclear Disarmament

Taro Kono MP
President of PNND Japan
Former Director of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Mi-Kyung Lee MP, Republic of Korea
Secretary-General of the Democratic Party
of South Korea

Rep Ed Markey, United States
Co-chair of the US House of Reps Bipartisan Taskforce on Non-proliferation

Baroness Sue Miller, United Kingdom
Board Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
UK Group

Marit Nybakk MP, Norway
Vice-President of the Parliament of Norway

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

Senator Richard Tuheiva, France
Member, Senate Defence Committee