

Enacting the Prague Vision

**Joint letter from parliamentarians of NATO countries
to US President Obama on the occasion of the 4th anniversary of his 2009 Prague speech**

Prague, April 4, 2013

Dear Mr. President,

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of your groundbreaking Prague speech, we send you warm congratulations on your reelection as President of the United States of America.

Four years ago in Prague, you put forward a vision of a world without nuclear weapons that gave a new hope to all of us who strive for a better future of humanity. This vision was warmly welcomed by the international community and has been affirmed by high-level statements in thirteen NATO countries including Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, United Kingdom and United States, as well as in Russia. It has given much needed fresh breeze to disarmament efforts. During your first term we have been encouraged to watch you translating this vision into concrete steps – including the New START treaty negotiated with Russia, and the adoption of a Nuclear Posture Review that lowers the role of nuclear weapons, advances non-nuclear aspects of regional security arrangements and commits the US to a comprehensive national research and development program to support continued progress towards a nuclear-weapons-free world.

As parliamentarians from NATO countries we recognize the commitment of the United States, and the valuable role that the United States has played, in supporting the security of its allies. With the prospect of further proliferation of nuclear weapons, the risk of a nuclear weapon being used by non-state actors, and the emergence of new security challenges that require global cooperation, it is becoming clear that the nuclear status quo is no longer sustainable – and that the achievement of a nuclear-weapons-free world has become a new imperative. Therefore we welcome NATO's commitment to "create the conditions for a nuclear-weapons-free world" through the NATO Strategic Doctrine and we will work with our governments on paving the way by promoting mechanisms and approaches in NATO for achieving security without nuclear weapons.

Dear Mr. President,

In your first term, you were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for embracing a vision that unlocked the door to a world free from the most destructive weapons humanity has ever seen – in your own words, "*the most dangerous legacy of the Cold War.*" Your second term gives you an opportunity to make history by leading the world through that door.

We appeal to you to use the anniversary of your Prague speech to undertake further deep reductions in nuclear stockpiles; to continue work in the P5 process agreed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference; to explore and further develop the conditions and cooperative security frameworks that would support the establishment of a nuclear-weapons-free world, and to participate in good faith in multi-lateral nuclear disarmament processes – especially the

United Nations High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament being held in New York in September this year and the open-ended working group that will commence work this year in Geneva to “*develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.*”

In 2009 in Prague, you said: “*As the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act. We cannot succeed in this endeavor alone, but we can lead it, we can start it.*” We declare our full support for your vision of nuclear-weapons-free world and we pledge to join you in this endeavor. Encouraged by your call to “*ignore the voices who tell us that the world cannot change*”, we join you in another Velvet Revolution – one that will rid the world of the last relics of the Cold War. Supported by public opinion that shares our common goal, working with our parliamentary colleagues around the world, and assisted by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, we will promote concrete non-proliferation and disarmament measures leading to a secure nuclear-weapons-free world.

Together, we can achieve this in our lifetimes.

Yours sincerely,

Senator Alena Gajdůšková, 1st Vice-President the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Senator Zdeněk Berka, Czech Republic

Senator Jaroslav Doubrava, Czech Republic, Vice-Chair of the European Affairs Committee, Member of the Czech Delegation to IPU

Senator Jaromír Jermář, Czech Republic

Senator Miroslav Krejča, Czech Republic, Chair of the European Affairs Committee

Senator Hassan Mezian, Czech Republic, Member of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security

Senator Eva Syková, Czech Republic

Radek John, MP, Czech Republic

Kateřina Konečná, MP, Czech Republic, Vice-Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Dirk Van der Maelen, MP, Belgium, Vice-Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, Deputy Member of the National Defence Committee

James Bezan, MP, Canada, Chair of the Canada House of Commons Committee on National Defence,

Paul Dewar, MP, Canada, Vice-chair of Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development

Mogens Lykketoft, MP, Denmark, Speaker of the Danish Parliament, Former Minister for Foreign Affairs

Zenia Stampe, MP, Denmark, Member of the Defence Committee, Member of the Danish Delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Tõnis Kõiv, MP, Estonia, Head of the Estonian Delegation to IPU, Member of the European Union Committee

Hans-Josef Fell, MP, Germany, Member of the Bundestag Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

René Röspel, MP, Germany, Alternate Member of the Bundestag Committee on the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Paul Schäfer, MP, Germany, Member of the Defence Committee, Member of the German Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Ulla Schmidt, MP, Germany, Vice-Chair of the German Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Former Federal Minister for Health

Uta Zapf, MP, Germany, Chair of the Bundestag Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation, Member of the German Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Benedek Jávor, MP, Hungary

Vilmos Szabo, MP, Hungary, Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Former State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Birgitta Jónsdóttir, MP, Iceland, Member of the Iceland Delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Hallgeir Langeland, MP, Norway, Member of the Norwegian Delegation to the Assembly of Western European Union

Truls Wickholm, MP, Norway, Member of the Norwegian Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Maria Ritomska, MP, Slovakia, Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee

Caroline Lucas, MP, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Graeme Dey, Member of Scottish Parliament, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

James Dornan, Member of Scottish Parliament, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

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Rob Gibson, Member of Scottish Parliament, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Member of the Scottish Parliament Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament

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