Basel Appeal on Disarmament and Sustainable Security

An Open Letter on the INF & START treaties, nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament measures to preserve peace and achieve sustainable security

January 29, 2019

To: Donald Trump, President of the United States
Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation
Jens Stoltenberg, Secretary-General of NATO
Miroslav Lajčák, Chair of the OSCE
Federica Mogherini, EU High Representative for Security and Foreign Affairs
Eliot Engel, Chair of the US House Foreign Affairs Committee
Adam Smith, Chair of the House Armed Services Committee
James Inhofe, Chair of the US Senate Armed Services Committee
James Risch, Chair of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee
Leonid Slutsky, Chair of the Russian Duma Committee on Foreign Affairs
Vladimir Shamanov, Chair of the Russian Duma Committee on Defence
Konstantin Kosachev, Chair of the Russian Federation Council Committee on Foreign Affairs
Viktor Bondarev, Chair of the Russian Federation Council Committee on Defence and Security

CC: Xi Jinping, President of China
Theresa May, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
Emmanuel Macron, President of France

Dear President Trump, President Putin, Secretary-General Stoltenberg, Chair Lajčák, High Representative Mogherini, Mr Engel, Mr Smith, Senator Inhofe, Senator Risch, Mr Slutsky, Mr Shamanov, Mr Kosachev and Mr Bondarev,

Last year, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to 2 Minutes to Midnight citing “the failure of world leaders to deal with looming threats of nuclear war and climate change”, and highlighting the increasingly high risks of a nuclear exchange by accident, miscalculation, conflict escalation or intent.*

We applaud the Korean peace and denuclearization process which commenced since then, and we give our full support for continuing diplomacy to ensure success. And we welcome adoption by the United Nations of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

However, we are extremely concerned about the deteriorating security environment in Europe and internationally during 2018 arising from the erosion of the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty; United States withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear non-proliferation agreement); unresolved conflicts between Russia and the West including over Crimea and Syria and between nuclear armed states in other regions including South Asia and the South China Sea; further development and modernization of nuclear weapons and related military systems; and provocative war games and nuclear threat postures.

On January 24, 2019, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists re-set the Doomsday Clock at 2 Minutes to Midnight indicating no improvement to the extreme risks to humanity from nuclear weapons and climate change.
1) INF Treaty

We are particularly concerned about the unravelling of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, an historic agreement reached in 1987 between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges of 500 to 5,500 kilometres, and to utilize extensive on-site inspections for verification of its implementation.

We call on the United States and Russia to refrain from developing and deploying weapons systems that could violate the Treaty, and to resolve compliance issues through dialogue and through enhanced work of the Special Verification Commission established by the Treaty.

We call on the Russian Duma and U.S. Congress to refuse to authorise, or allocate funding for, the development or deployment of weapons systems which might violate the Treaty, such as the Russian 9M729 missile, or which could provide similar capability as weapons prohibited under the INF Treaty, such as air or sea launched nuclear-armed cruise missiles.

And we call on European member States of NATO to re-affirm their opposition to any deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe.

2) New START Treaty

We are also concerned that the current conflicts may undermine the new START Treaty which provides common-sense limits and verification on the numbers of U.S. and Russian deployed strategic weapons and delivery vehicles, and which is set to expire in February 2021. We call on the US and Russia to extend the New START Treaty until 2026 and to undertake additional cuts to their nuclear stockpiles, either unilaterally or through negotiations.

3) Nuclear risk-reduction including No-First-Use

In order to reduce the risk of nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or escalation, we call on Russia, the U.S. and NATO to re-affirm that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be launched, and to implement such a declaration by adopting policies to never initiate the use of nuclear weapons (‘no-first-use’ policies). And we call on Russia and the U.S. to rescind their ‘launch-on-warning’ policies and to end their high operational readiness to use nuclear weapons.

4) Achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world

We highlight the universal obligation to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world, and we welcome the commitment made by NATO and the United States to ‘create the conditions’ to realise this goal. We call on them to implement this commitment through:

   a) enhanced dialogue and engagement with other nuclear-armed States;
   b) developing an action plan for the comprehensive phase-out of nuclear deterrence and its replacement by common security;
   c) undertaking initial steps by reducing nuclear stockpiles, cancelling nuclear weapons modernisation programs, cutting nuclear weapons budgets and reallocating these funds to support sustainable development; and
   d) joining with other nuclear-armed and reliant States to negotiate a global nuclear weapons convention (to eliminate all nuclear weapons) as already supported by China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and most non-nuclear countries.

We reaffirm that disarmament helps create security, and we commit to acting resolutely for a nuclear-weapons-free and less militarised world. We call on cities, parliaments, governments and civil society around the world to join us in this endeavour.
Endorsers:

The Basel Appeal for Disarmament and Sustainable Security
is endorsed by the following legislators at local, state, national and regional levels (mayors and parliamentarians) and representatives of think tanks and civil society organisations working with legislators:

1. Mayors and city councillors/officials

Jon Askeland (Norway)
Mayor of Radøy

Steve Benjamin (USA)
Mayor of Columbia, South Carolina
President, United States Conference of Mayors

Jackie Biskupski (USA)
Mayor of Salt Lake City, Utah

Cllr David Blackburn (United Kingdom)
Chair of UK and Ireland Nuclear Free Local Authorities

James Brainard (USA)
Mayor of Carmel, Indiana

Sharon Weston Broome (USA)
Mayor of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Mathias De Clercq (Belgium)
Mayor of Ghent, Member Mayors for peace

Kirk Caldwell (USA)
Mayor of Honolulu, Hawaii

Joe Coviello (USA)
Mayor of Cape Coral, Florida

T.M. Franklin Cownie (USA)
Mayor of Des Moines, Iowa
Vice-President Mayors for Peace

Bálint Csontos (Switzerland)
President Grüne Baselland, Municipal Council Ramlsburg

Jakob R. Day (USA)
Mayor of Salisbury, Maryland

Cllr Audrey Doig (Scotland)
Member of the Renfrewshire City Council
Vice Convener of NFLA Scotland

Thor Edquist (Norway)
Mayor of Halden

Josef O. Elorza (USA)
Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island

Stephanie Esswein (Germany)
Mayor of Mutlangen

Cllr John Feely (Ireland)
Vice Chair of Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Karen M. Freeman-Wilson (USA)
Mayor of Gary, Indiana

Cllr Ernie Galsworthy (United Kingdom)
Member, Merthyr Tydfil Local Council
Chair, Nuclear Free Local Authorities Welsh Forum

Quentin M. Hart (USA)
Mayor of Waterloo, Iowa

Philippe Hivert (France)
Mayor of Grigny
Chef de projet chargé de la promotion de la Culture de Paix, de l'Histoire et des Relations Internationales

Thorvald Hillestad (Norway)
Mayor of Re

Cllr. June Hitchen (United Kingdom)
Lord Mayor of Manchester
Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Sylvester James (USA)
Mayor of Kansas City, Missouri

Ivan Knez (Croatia)
Mayor of Biograd na Moru. Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Rick Kriseman (USA)
Mayor of St. Petersburg, Florida

Alain Mathieu (France)
Mayor of Lancy

Josep Mayoral (Spain)
Mayor of Granollers. Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Mark W. Mitchell (USA)
Mayor of Tempe, Arizona

Cllr. Eddy Newman (United Kingdom)
Manchester City Council representative

Richard Northey (New Zealand)
Representing the Waiheke Local Board, Auckland, New Zealand

Lukas Ott (Switzerland)
Former Member of parliament of the Canton of Basel-Landschaft
Former Mayor of Liestal

William Peduto (USA)
Mayor of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Catherine E. Pugh (USA)
Mayor of Baltimore, Maryland

Paul Quilès (France)
Mayor of Cordes sur Ciel
Président d’IDN (Initiatives pour le Désarmement Nucléaire)
Former Defence Minister of France

Daniel Rossellat (Switzerland)
Mayor of Nyon

Stefan Schostok (Germany)
Lord Mayor and CEO of Hannover
Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Asle Schrøder (Norway)
Mayor of Steigen

Odd Haktor Slåke (Norway)
Mayor of Frogn

Richard Thomas (USA)
Mayor of Mount Vernon, New York

Antonio Trebeschi (Italy)
Sindaco di Collebeato (Mayor of Collebeato)

Thore Vestby (Norway)
Vice-President of Mayors for Peace

Nan Whaley (USA)
Mayor of Dayton, Ohio
2. Parliamentarians (current and former)

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Member, Baselland Landrat Canton parliament

Senator Byrganim Aitimova (Kazakhstan)
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Council Member, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)
Former Kazakhstan Ambassador to the United Nations in New York

Mani Shankar Aiyar (India)
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Aytuğ Atıcı MP (Turkey)
PNND Council Member

Senator Ivana Bacik (Ireland)
Leader of the Labour Party in the Seanad (Senate)
Member of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence.

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Member, Swiss Parliament Commission on Education and Culture

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Honorary President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
PNND Co-President

Tamati Coffey MP (New Zealand)
Member, Committee on Economic Development, Science & Innovation
Former TV Host, New Zealand’s Got Talent

Seán Crowe TD (Ireland)
Sinn Féin Spokesperson on Foreign Affairs & Trade with special responsibility for International Affairs & Outreach

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Vice-Chair, Canada-China Legislative Association

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NDP International Development Critic

Pascal Durand, MEP (France)
Member, European Parliament Committee on Constitutional Affairs

Lars Egeland MP (Norway)
Nei til Atomvåpen and member of NATO Parliamentary Assembly

Jill Evans MEP (United Kingdom)
Former Vice-President of the Greens/European Free Alliance

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Former Deputy Chair of the German Parliament Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

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Vice Chair Committee Financial crimes, Tax evasion and Tax avoidance

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Member of the Duma, 2008-2014
PNND Co-President, 2008-2015

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President of the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
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Composer and poet,
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Co-Chair, World Forum of Spiritual Culture
Former Member, Kazakhstan Senate

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Member, Swiss Parliament Commission on Legal Affairs and Security

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Member of the UK House of Lords
PNND Co-president

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Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee

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Former Leader of the Seanad Independent Group

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President, Norwegian Association for Women’s Rights
Former Vice-President of the Norwegian Parliament
Former President of the Nordic Council

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Netherlands Ambassador to Benin (2003-2006)

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Member, Foreign Affairs Committee

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Founder, She Decides

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Gynaecologist at Al Mizar Hospital and New Life Centre.

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Founder, Nilo-Saharan Institute

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Jan Tinetti MP (New Zealand)
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Mikko Tomassoni MP (San Marino)
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Head of Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union

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Member, Advisory Council Finnish Institute of International Affairs
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Member, EP Subcommittee on Security and Defence
Member, EP Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs

Kathleen Van Brempt MEP (Belgium)
Member, EP Subcommittee on Security and Defence

Louisa Wall MP (New Zealand)
Member Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Member, NZ Women’s Rugby World Cup Champions 1998

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Former Chair, Bundestag Committee on Disarmament & Arms Control
Inaugural Co-President of PNND

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3. Representatives of think-tanks and civil society organisations

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Human Rights Campaigner
Right Livelihood Award Laureate 2002

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Former President, Religions for Peace

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Olof Palme Award 2018

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Coordinator, Abolition 2000 Youth Network
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Centre Delàs d’Estudis per la Pau

Frank Otto (Germany)
Ambassador of the World Future Council

Michele Di Paolantonio MD (Italy)
President, Associazione Italiana Medicina per la Prevenzione della Guerra Nucleare (IPPNW Italy)

Jean Pascal-Zanders (Belgium)
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Lorin Peters (USA)
Pax Christi Northern California

Major Todd Pierce (USA)
Dept of Defence Judge Advocate (retired)
[Note: Endorsed in a personal capacity and does not reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.]

Physicians for Global Survival (Canada)
Board Members of PGS Canada

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Right Livelihood Award Laureate 2018

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One of 3 "whistleblowers" named TIME Persons of the Year, 2002

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Nuclear-Free Future Award laureate 2011
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Achin Vanaik, Sukla Sen, N.D. Jayprakash, Lalita Ramdas and Anil Chaudhary
Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace

Václav Vitovec (Czech Republic)
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Founder of the ATOM Museum (former Soviet nuclear weapons depot)

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