

Calls for action

Promotion of UN-focused initiatives and campaigns

UNFOLD ZERO highlights opportunities to advance nuclear disarmament through the United Nations and provides tools and resources for civil society to advocate for them. Featured initiatives and campaigns include the promotion of a nuclear weapons convention by Abolition 2000 and Mayors for Peace, the Global Zero petition to the UN Security Council on action to eliminate all weapons of mass destruction, the initiative to criminalise the use of nuclear weapons through the International Criminal Court, further action in the International Court of Justice such as the Nuclear Zero case against the nuclear-armed States, and proposals for additional action by the UN Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament.

Sharing actions on September 26

UNFOLD ZERO highlights key UN Days related to the achievement of a nuclear weapon free world. In 2014, UNFOLD ZERO will focus on September 26, the inaugural commemoration of the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. UNFOLD ZERO will provide a platform for governments, parliaments and civil society to post announcements, photos and reports of actions and events to commemorate this day.

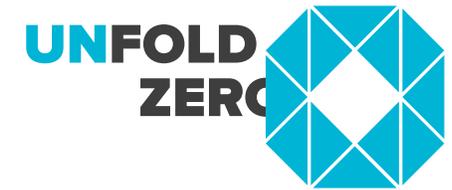
UNFOLD ZERO will also promote other relevant UN days including:

- > January 24 Anniversary of UN General Assembly Resolution 1 (I)
- > April 22. World Earth Day
- > August 29. International Day Against Nuclear Tests
- > September 21. International Day for Peace
- > October 24–30. UN Disarmament Week
- > October 2. International Day of Nonviolence
- > December 10. Human Rights Day

Relationship to other nuclear abolition networks and campaigns

Nuclear abolition will require action at all levels (public, city, national, regional and international) and in many forums not just the United Nations. UNFOLD ZERO aims to complement, enhance and empower existing nuclear abolition networks and initiatives, through action within the UN system.

UNFOLD ZERO also links to platforms for the abolition of other inhumane weapons and weapons of mass destruction, and to platforms for general and complete disarmament.



United Nations, negotiate a nuclear weapon free world!

- > **UNFOLD ZERO** is a new platform for United Nations (UN) focused initiatives and actions for the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world.
- > **UNFOLD ZERO** aims to unfold the path to zero nuclear weapons through effective steps and measures facilitated by the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, UN Secretary-General and other UN bodies.

www.unfoldzero.org

Established by Basel Peace Office, PragueVision, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace.

Zero nuclear weapons

The aim of zero nuclear weapons – the prohibition and complete elimination of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control – was first affirmed by UN General Assembly resolution 1 (I) on January 24, 1946. A reliance on nuclear deterrence by some countries in response to regional and international tensions since then has thwarted the achievement of this goal. However, a number of recent developments bring this goal into sight. These include globalisation, the strengthening of international law, a growing public aversion to all weapons of mass destruction and the increasing effectiveness of the United Nations and other cooperative security mechanisms to address core security issues.

Why focus on the United Nations?

The UN provides the principal environment for the international community to implement the collective obligation and the global common good to achieve a nuclear weapons free world.

The UN brings together all the key players relevant to the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world. This includes the nuclear-armed countries, the countries under extended nuclear deterrence relationships, the non-nuclear countries that have demonstrated the possibility to achieve security without relying on nuclear weapons, and civil society actors engaged in nuclear disarmament.

The UN includes key organs through which nuclear disarmament agreements can be negotiated and their implementation monitored and enforced, including the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council, Conference on Disarmament, UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, and the International Court of Justice. In addition, the UN provides a cooperative security framework for addressing security challenges without recourse to the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

UN initiatives

UNFOLD ZERO highlights accomplishments and current initiatives of various UN bodies including:

- **UN General Assembly.** Key resolutions advancing nuclear disarmament, undertaking reviews/reports, directing negotiating bodies (such as the Conference on Disarmament), establishing other supportive forums (such as high-level conferences and groups of government experts) and taking other action.
- **UN Security Council.** Key resolutions such as Res 1540 (on preventing proliferation) and 1887 (on nuclear disarmament). Special sessions such as on Article 26 of the UN Charter (on the obligation to achieve disarmament in order to release resources for social and economic needs).
- **UN Secretary-General.** Promotion of the UNSG's Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament including the call for a nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements.
- **UN Office of Disarmament Affairs.** Initiatives of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and the UNODA to advance, support and facilitate nuclear disarmament including through public education and support for deliberations and negotiations.
- **UN Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament.** Promoting the Report of the OEWG on taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, highlighting key proposals, and examining further work to be undertaken by the OEWG.
- **Conference on Disarmament** and **Disarmament Commission.** Initiatives to advance nuclear disarmament proposals in the Disarmament Commission and to un-block the Conference on Disarmament which has been unable to negotiate any agreement since the CTBT in 1996.
- **International Court of Justice.** Promoting the landmark 1996 ICJ Advisory Opinion which affirmed the general illegality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons and the universal and unconditional obligation to achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament.
- **Human Rights Council.** Advancing nuclear disarmament as implementation of the Right to Life, enshrined in international human rights treaties.