

## Proposal to Abolition 2000 AGM:

*That the Abolition 2000 Annual Meeting release a*

# **Global call for nuclear abolition and the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament**

## **Background**

Abolition 2000 Annual Meetings and/or the Global Council have periodically released calls on specific nuclear disarmament issues. These include the *Abolition 2000 message on the nuclear crisis in Japan and around the world* (2011), *Message to Japan welcoming the shut-down of all the Japanese nuclear reactors* (2012), *Faslane Declaration* (2013), *Call for a Global Ban on Uranium Mining* (2013), *Global Council message for the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons* (2014), and the *Abolition 2000 Message of Support to L.41 Co-sponsors* (2016).

The *2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament* (2018 HLC) provides an opportunity to advance the objectives of Abolition 2000 for a nuclear weapons convention and for incremental and supportive measures on nuclear-risk reduction and disarmament.

Similar UN High level conferences on difficult but important global issues have been very successful. These include the *UN Sustainable Development Summit* (2015) which achieved agreement on 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the *UN Climate Change Conference* (2015) which achieved the Paris Agreement and the *UN Summit on Refugees and Migrants* (2016) which achieved the New York Declaration.

The 2018 HLC provides an opportunity for grass-roots organisations to elevate their public outreach and visibility, enhance their impact on government policies and practices, and to call on governments to adopt a range of measures at the 2018 HLC. These could include:

- Calling on States to sign/ratify the ban treaty at the HLC (it should be negotiated by then);
- Calling on nuclear-armed States to adopt measures or joint statements at the HLC on de-alerting, non-production of new nuclear weapons, deep cuts to current stockpiles;
- Calling on nuclear-armed and other nuclear-reliant States to adopt measures or statements at the HLC on non-use of nuclear weapons, no-first-use and general illegality of use;
- Calling on the nuclear-armed and other nuclear-reliant States to adopt a framework agreement or a political declaration on achieving the complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Calling for the adoption of regional measures such as the resumption of diplomacy and negotiations to address the nuclear threats in North East Asia, and agreement to renew the request to the United Nations to convene a conference for the establishment of a Middle East Zone free from nuclear weapons and other WMD.

See next page for a draft of the proposed Abolition 2000 call:

## *Draft of the Abolition 2000 call*

### **Global call for the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament**

*Released by Abolition 2000 at its annual meeting held in Vienna on May 1, 2017.*

Member organisations of the *Abolition 2000 global network to eliminate nuclear weapons*, meeting in Vienna on May 1, call on governments to participate at the highest political level in the 2018 United Nations High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament (2018 HLC).

We call on governments to use this occasion to adopt measures to reduce the risk of nuclear war, prohibit nuclear weapons, and achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

The risks and catastrophic impacts of the use of weapons by accident, miscalculation, unauthorized access or intent have been highlighted at recent inter-governmental conferences in Austria, Mexico and Norway.

Rising tensions between nuclear powers - including over the Ukraine, in the Middle East and in North-East Asia - have elevated these risks, leading the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists earlier this year to set their 'Doomsday Clock' at 2.5 Minutes to Midnight – the closest the world has come to nuclear catastrophe since the Cuban Missile Crisis.

These risks makes this the most important issue which governments and civil society must address if we are to ensure survival of humanity and sustainability of the earth's resources. In addition, the massive \$100 billion nuclear weapons budget is robbing the world of the resources required to protect the climate and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We call specifically on governments participating in the 2018 HLC to:

- Sign or ratify the nuclear ban treaty which we expect will be negotiated by 2018, and which will prohibit nuclear weapons;
- Announce the commencement of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention which would include a time-bound framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control;
- De-alert all nuclear weapons systems, adopt no-first-use policies and announce deep cuts in existing nuclear weapons stockpiles as interim measures toward the complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons;
- End all funding of nuclear weapons production, including investments in nuclear weapons corporations;
- Highlight the value of existing nuclear-weapon-free zones, and support the commencement of negotiations on additional NWFZs including in the Middle East, NE Asia, Europe and the Arctic.

We invite legislators, religious leaders, scientists, academics, youth and other representatives of civil society to join us to promote the 2018 UN High Level Conference and to take action to ensure its success.