

**Sample letter to Presidents/Prime Ministers
of non-nuclear countries
urging them to support nuclear disarmament at the
January 18 Special session of the UN Security Council**

Dear President/Prime Minister,

I am/we are alarmed at the tensions and conflicts between nuclear-armed countries, and the increasing risks of nuclear weapons used by accident, miscalculation or intent as a result.

Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic human, economic and environmental consequences. The use of just a small fraction of the 14,000 nuclear weapons in the world's stockpiles could end civilization as we know it.

On January 18, the United Nations Security Council will hold a special thematic debate on the topic of '*Weapons of Mass Destruction and Confidence Building Measures.*'

The debate will be chaired by Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, who has put forward a number of proposals to the United Nations, including a call '*on all Member States, especially the Security Council's permanent members, to set a goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the UN's 100th Anniversary in 2045.*'

In addition, on December 24, 2017 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 72/251 setting the dates and mandate for a *High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament* to take place at the UN from May 14-16, 2018. The principal aim for the conference is to make progress on effective measures for nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament.

We urge you to participate in the Security Council session on January 18, and use the opportunity to promote nuclear-risk reduction and nuclear disarmament by:

- Supporting the goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2045;
- Calling on the nuclear-armed States to adopt policies never to initiate a nuclear war (no-first-use pledge);
- Calling on the nuclear-armed States to **drastically cut the \$100 billion annual nuclear weapons budget**, and re-invest some of these resources in economic and social need (such as the SDGs), as they are required to do under Article 26 of the UN Charter;
- Announcing that you, or your Foreign Minister, will participate in the UN High-Level Conference on May 14-16, and do what-ever is in your power at the Conference to prevent nuclear weapons being used, and to advance the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Thank you
[your name]