

**Sample letter to Presidents/Prime Ministers
of nuclear-armed 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 use the opportunity of the Security Council session on January 18 to reduce the risks of nuclear war and advance global nuclear disarmament by:

- Supporting the goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons by 2045;
- Announcing or affirming a policy never to initiate a nuclear war (no-first-use pledge);
- Announcing that you, or your Foreign Minister/Secretary of State, 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]