

Sample letter to your government urging them to participate constructively and at the highest level in the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, and to support NGO participation.

Dear

On January 25, 2018, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists yesterday moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock to *2 minutes to Midnight*, indicating the frighteningly high risk of nuclear weapons conflicts.

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.

This makes *United Nations High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament*, scheduled to take place at the UN from May 14-16, 2018, of utmost importance.

I (we) call on the government to participate in the UN High Level Conference at the highest level, and to take action at the conference to reduce the risks of nuclear weapons being used, and to advance the phased prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

This could include signing and ratifying the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, which was adopted at the United Nations on July 7, 2017.

Or it could include adopting policies never to initiate a nuclear war (no-first-use pledge), reducing numbers of nuclear weapons, and replacing nuclear deterrence with safer and more sustainable approaches to security, emphasizing common security, conflict resolution and the rule of law.

I (we) also call on the government to support the participation of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other representatives of civil society in the High-Level Conference.

At the moment, the UN is restricting such participation to only NGOs that already have ECOSOC accreditation.

This is a step backwards from the procedures for other UN disarmament meetings, such as the NPT Review Conferences and the UN Negotiating Conference for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Most disarmament NGOs are accredited at the UN through the Department of Public Information not ECOSOC. They were allowed to participate in the other disarmament meetings but will be barred from the UN High Level Conference, unless this restrictive provision is scrapped at the March 28 organisational meeting for the Conference.

Yours sincerely,