



# Facilitating the global abolition of nuclear weapons no later than 2045

Submission from Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Basel Peace Office, UNFOLD ZERO and World Future Council

*Peace and Security theme, Global Futures Forum and UN Summit of the Future*

## Proposal:

We propose that the *Global Futures Forum* and *Peoples Pact for the Future* highlight the importance of the global abolition of nuclear weapons, and that the *Pact for the Future*, to be adopted at the UN Summit of the Future<sup>1</sup>:

1. **Reaffirms** the legal obligation to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons under strict and effective international control<sup>2</sup>;
2. **Commit** to commencing negotiations no later than 2025 on the comprehensive prohibition of nuclear weapons, taking into consideration genuine security needs of all states, with the objective to achieve the global elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations<sup>3</sup>.

## Background:

The [very first resolution of the UN General Assembly](#), adopted by consensus on January 24, 1946, established the goal of the global elimination of nuclear weapons. However, the ensuing Cold War led not to nuclear abolition, but a nuclear arms race, which has continued even until today. There are now nine nuclear armed states, and another 30 states that rely on extended nuclear deterrence for their ‘security’ (including NATO countries, South Korea, Japan and Australia). The nuclear arms race collectively costs [over \\$100 billion per year](#) and continues to place the world at such a high level of risk of nuclear war, that the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists recently moved the hands of the Doomsday Clock [even closer to Midnight](#).

The elimination of nuclear weapons is a political imperative to protect current and future generations from the possibility of a catastrophic nuclear war. Nuclear abolition is also a universally binding legal obligation, as affirmed unanimously by the [International Court of Justice in 1996](#) and again by the [UN Human Rights Committee in 2018](#).

The UN Summit of the Future should set timelines of 2025 for the commencement of multilateral negotiations for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and no later than 2045 for the full implementation of this obligation through the verified elimination of all nuclear weapons.

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## Footnotes:

1. These proposals are supported in [Protect People and the Planet: Appeal for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free World](#), which UNFOLD ZERO presented to the UN in Disarmament Week October 2022, and which will also be presented to the UN Summit of the Future.
2. The obligation was affirmed unanimously by the [International Court of Justice in 1996](#) and again by the [UN Human Rights Committee in 2018](#).
3. The possible diplomatic processes for achieving this by 2045 are outlined in [Abolition 2000 NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), a working paper submitted to the 10<sup>th</sup> Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, August 2022.

## **Nuclear disarmament and security for all**

The nuclear armed and allied states have security needs - some genuine and others illegitimate - that give rise to their reliance on nuclear weapons. These security needs are one of the reasons that they have not **unilaterally relinquished nuclear deterrence** and joined the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#). However, their genuine security needs can be met through better use of the Common Security mechanisms provided by the United Nations and through negotiations of a multilateral [Nuclear Weapons Convention](#), as proposed by successive UN Secretary-Generals and promoted by resolutions of the UN General Assembly, adopted with vast majorities.

## **The need for a timeline**

In 2010, the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (190 countries including the P5 nuclear armed countries and all the nuclear allied countries) agreed to “*make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons*” noting “*the Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes inter alia the consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments backed by a strong system of verification.*”

However, they have not followed up on this commitment. The lack of a timeline means that the governments can continue to procrastinate, arguing that ‘*the time is not ripe for nuclear disarmament*’. If the *Pact for the Future* adds a timeline to implementation of this obligation, it will help focus attention, build political momentum and achieve results.

A more detailed outline of multilateral approaches to nuclear abolition and the timeline proposed above can be found in [Abolition 2000 NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World](#), a civil society working paper submitted to the [10th Review Conference of States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#).

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## **About the organizations:**

### **Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace**

[www.facebook.com/nzpeacelaw](http://www.facebook.com/nzpeacelaw)

Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace (ALP) is an organization of lawyers and law students from Aotearoa (New Zealand) working to abolish nuclear weapons, increase respect for international law and abolish war. ALP is the New Zealand affiliate of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, and is a founding partner of UNFOLD ZERO, which promotes United Nations initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

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### **Basel Peace Office**

[www.baselpeaceoffice.org](http://www.baselpeaceoffice.org) [www.facebook.com/BaselPeaceOffice](http://www.facebook.com/BaselPeaceOffice)

Basel Peace Office is a coalition established by five Swiss and four international organizations to advance the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Basel Peace Office makes connections between inter-related issues – including peace, the climate, nuclear disarmament, human rights and sustainable development - and builds cooperation amongst key constituencies including mayors, parliamentarians, religious leaders, academics, youth/students, women, lawyers, medical professionals, government officials and UN entities.

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### **UNFOLD ZERO**

[www.unfoldzero.org](http://www.unfoldzero.org) [www.facebook.com/unfoldzero](http://www.facebook.com/unfoldzero)

UNFOLD ZERO is a platform established by a coalition of eight international organizations for promoting United Nations initiatives and processes for achieving the peace and security of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

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**World Future Council**

[www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org) [www.facebook.com/wfc.goodpolicies](https://www.facebook.com/wfc.goodpolicies)

The World Future Council (WFC) was established to promote effective policies to ensure a peaceful and sustainable future. WFC consists of 50 eminent global change-makers from governments, parliaments, civil society, academia, the arts and business who have already successfully created change. They are supported by a staff of experts that work with the councillors to identify, develop, highlight and spreading effective, future-just solutions for current challenges humanity is facing.

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