

MIDDLE POWERS INITIATIVE
Statement OEWG
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Nuclear Summits to Create Political Will

Thank you to Poul Ingram for an inspiring and thought-provoking presentation. I certainly agree with him that it was in 1995, at the NPT debate on making the treaty permanent, that the non-nuclear weapon states had their moment. Here was the space for bargaining with power.

To create similar bargaining power today would require either a mass walk-out from the next Review Conference or to start an amendment process to the NPT to make article VI more binding and operational. The least all delegates present here could do is to quit praising the NPT for all its qualities and rather underline its role in maintaining the status quo in nuclear disarmament.

The proposal of the MPI deals with how to create political will within the context of the NPT without a walk-out or an amendment process. The Nuclear Security Summits, under the leadership of President Obama, are an example on how to create political will and commitment on a fairly technical and not a media sexy topic, nuclear safety. The process has created awareness not only among politicians but also media and the citizens.

This kind of public attention is also needed in nuclear disarmament, the conditions of which are equally unknown to both politicians and the public. The preconditions for the success of the Nuclear Security Summits was firstly a strong leadership and commitment on the highest level. Secondly, the summits have taken place on the level of heads of state creating both media attentions internationally and public awareness nationally. The continuity provided by a series of

several summits has enabled the review of results and continuous follow-up.

The MPI supports the idea of a series of nuclear summits earlier proposed by the Arms Control Association. The summits should take place at the level of heads of states. There are several options:

- Bilateral US- Russia summits to continue the reductions on the number of warheads and their delivery systems as well as to reduce the operational readiness to use the weapons.
- Summits within the context of the UN, either the Security Council or the General Assembly to address nuclear disarmament measures in UN resolutions and NPT Review Conference results
- Summits initiated by a state, possibly even a nuclear –armed state, or a group of states such as nuclear exit states, middle power states or just a group of like-minded states.

The MPI proposes that a group of like minded states, including some nuclear exit states and nuclear weapon states, should take the initiative in order to

- give political attention and create political will for nuclear disarmament
- adopt legal measures for nuclear disarmament
- to build international and national actions to implement these measures

Here I also support Poul Ingram's proposal to debate the utility of nuclear weapons. What is the utility of these weapons that can destroy our civilization?