



Reaching HIGH for a nuclear-weapon-free world Civil society 'virtual' conference. Oct 11-12, 2017

A global 'virtual' conference to build success for the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament October 11-12, 2017

New York and online (series of webinar sessions)

Reaching HIGH for a nuclear-weapon-free world is a global 'virtual' conference to inform and engage civil society in preparations for a successful [2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament \(2018 UNHLC\)](#).

The UN has held successful High-Level Conferences over the past few years on sustainable development, climate change, oceans and refugees, all of which have adopted significant measures. We hope for similar success for the 2018 UNHLC.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has said that 'A world free of nuclear weapons would be a global public good of the **highest order**.' For the 2018 **High-Level** conference on nuclear disarmament, we expect and encourage governments to participate at the **highest** possible level (Prime Minister or President) and to **reach high** for significant outcomes.

Reaching HIGH for a nuclear-weapon-free world, the Oct 11-12 virtual conference, takes place as governments are meeting at the UN for the [First Committee \(Disarmament and International Security\) of the UN General Assembly](#). One of the draft resolutions which will be discussed and then adopted at the end of the session will set the dates

and mandate for the 2018 UN High Level Conference (probably 3 days at the UN in New York in September 2018) and its preparatory meeting.

The virtual conference will involve a series of six webinar sessions over 1½ days, with conference participants joining through webinar sessions.

It will provide opportunities for civil society actors anywhere in the world to join some or all of the sessions, learn about recent developments, discuss ideas and proposals for the 2018 UNHLC, and plan advocacy campaigns to move governments to make the 2018 UNHLC a priority.

Conference format:

Each webinar session will have 1-2 experts opening the topic, followed by a facilitated discussion with input from participants all around the world. The facilitating of the series of webinars will be done from a hub in New York – the office of the Global Security Institute.

Some of the experts will speak from the hub and others from their home locations. The conference is structured so that participants from different time zones are able to participate in sessions held during waking hours in their region.

Conference program:

October 11

1. **10:00 – 12:30. Introduction and State of the Play.** Introductions to the organisations and people running the conference and leading civil society efforts on the 2018 UNHLC. Brief background to the 2018 UNHLC. Dates of UNHLC conference and the preparatory meeting. Nuclear politics and policies, nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament processes/initiatives and their inter-relationship.

Speakers:

Marc Finaud, *Geneva Centre for Security Policy*

Paul Ingram, *Executive Director, British-American Security Information Council*

Alyn Ware, *Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*

2. **14:30 – 16:00. Value of UN High Level Conferences.** Experience from other UNHLCs (climate change, oceans, sustainable development, refugees & migrants).

Speakers:

Bill Pace, *Secretary-General, World Federalist Movement*

Charles Chauvel, *United Nations Development Program*

Paddy Torsney, *Permanent Representative of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to the UN*

3. **16:30 – 18:30. Visions for UNHLC.** Agenda for the UNHLC. Proposed topics and outcomes. Rules of procedure (consensus, vote, 'gift-basket' approach...).

Speakers:

Sergio Duarte, *President, Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs*

Aaron Tovish, *Executive Director, Zona Libre*

Marzhan Nurzhan, *Convener, Abolition 2000 Youth Network*

4. **19:30 – 21:30. Engaging governments and preparatory work.** How to move governments to attend at the highest level. How to move them to adopt concrete measures at the UNHLC. Role of parliaments. Plans for the UNHLC Prep Com. Regional events.

Speakers:

Jonathan Granoff, *President, Global Security Institute*

Peggy Mason, *President, Rideau Institute (invited)*

Alyn Ware, *Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*

5. **22:00 – 23:00. Update and key points from the first day.** Updates on discussions for participants unable to attend earlier sessions. Input and questions for the second day.

Facilitated by Alyn Ware

October 12:

6. **10:00 – 13:00. Engaging key constituencies and building the campaign** – parliamentarians, mayors, scientists, academics, business, faith-based communities, youth, environmental movements, regional events, social media, global actions, coordination of the campaign. Conclusion, announcements, next steps.

Speakers

Scilla Elworthy, Patron, Peace Direct. Member, World Future Council

Bill Kidd MSP, Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament

Kate Alexander, UN Deputy Representative, International Peace Bureau

Kekashan Basu, Youth Ambassador, World Future Council

Background: [Food for thought paper on the NPT, Ban Treaty and the 2018 UNHLC](#)

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Reaching High virtual conference organised by UNFOLD ZERO, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, the Global Security Institute, Basel Peace Office and the Abolition 2000 Working Group on the 2018 UNHLC

