

**Sample letter to Presidents/Prime Ministers
urging them to participate in the 2018 UN High-Level Conference
and commit to supporting nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament measures
at the conference**

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 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.

For non-nuclear States this can include signing and ratifying the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*, which was adopted at the United Nations on July 7, 2017.

For nuclear-armed and allied States this can 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) call on you to announce that you, or your Foreign Minister, will personally participate in the High-Level Conference, 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]