

## **Leadership to address nuclear risks, threats to peace and the climate crisis**

Statement to the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference  
from Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament

*August 5, 2022*

**Delivered by Bill Kidd MSP**

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Your excellencies, honorable delegates...

My name is Bill Kidd and I serve as the Convenor of the Cross-Party Group on Nuclear Disarmament in the Scottish Parliament and as Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament.

I am personally committed to nuclear disarmament because ....

We meet this month, as the world is slowly emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic only to be faced with three other fundamental threats to human society – the climate crisis, renewed international conflicts (including the Russia/Ukraine war which threatens global security, food & energy supplies and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals), and a renewed threat of nuclear war arising from such conflicts.

Parliaments, governments and civil society must rise to the challenge of these three perils that transcend borders, threaten current and future generations, and require cooperation and common security to resolve – not a further descent into nationalism, confrontation, competition and war.

Aggression, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, can be addressed by legal and political actions and diplomacy, combined with conventional self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, not by increasing the nuclear ante.

This NPT Review and Extension Conference provides an opportunity for us all to shift the predominant security paradigm from one of reliance on nuclear deterrence and the threat or use of force – a paradigm which is unsustainable and which compounds the real human security issues of today – to one relying more on diplomacy, disarmament, conflict resolution, climate protection, sustainable development and the law.

*Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament* welcomes the Open Letter to the States Parties to the NPT entitled [Fulfil the NPT: From nuclear threats to human security](#) which is being presented to you today by Mr John Hallam. The Open Letter has been endorsed by over 1400 influential figures from around the world including former Foreign/Defence Ministers, military leaders and ambassadors from nuclear reliant countries, Nobel Laureates, religious leaders, legislators, scientists/academics, leaders of civil society organizations and others.

It is worth highlighting the four calls to NPT States Parties in the Open Letter:

- End the nuclear arms race by stopping the production of nuclear weapons;
- Phase out the role of nuclear weapons in security policies starting with no-first-use policies;
- Commit to the global elimination of nuclear weapons, no later than 2045, (which would be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NPT);
- Shift budgets and public investments from the nuclear weapons industry to instead support peace, public health, climate stabilization and sustainable development.

The call on States Parties to the NPT to commit to achieving the complete elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045 is supported by the US Conference of Mayors in their resolution [Forging a Path to Peace and Common Security](#) adopted on June 6, 2022, and in the civil society working paper [NWC reset: Frameworks for a nuclear-weapon-free world](#) submitted to this conference by a group of experts convened by Abolition 2000, the global civil society network to eliminate nuclear weapons.

The NWC Reset working paper, which will be presented today by Ms Jackie Cabasso, proposes three options for **full implementation of Article VI of the NPT**: 1) negotiations by all states for a nuclear weapons convention, 2) negotiations by nuclear armed states of protocols to the TPNW, or 3) adoption of a framework agreement which includes the legal commitment to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world and provides a process for agreeing on details over time.

In November last year, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and PNND - in cooperation with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs and others - released a *handbook Assuring our Common Future; a guide to parliamentary action in support of disarmament for security and sustainable development*, which makes the connections between the issues of disarmament, security, climate change and sustainable development, and gives examples of actions taken by parliaments and parliamentarians.

The parliamentary handbook, and follow-up events organized by PNND and IPU, have prompted further parliamentary action. Examples include the:

- [OSCE Parliamentary Assembly declaration](#) (Birmingham Declaration) adopted on July 6, 2022 which includes a call for the adoption of no-first-use policies by all nuclear armed and allied states, and an encouragement to all parties in the Ukraine conflict to use conflict resolution mechanisms and negotiations to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict;
- [Joint statement](#) on March 2, 2022 of the [US Congress Nuclear Weapons and Arms Control Working Group](#), co-chaired by PNND Co-President Senator Edward Markey, condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine and President Putin's nuclear threats in

the conflict, and calling on the United States, Russia, and all nuclear powers to adopt no-first-use policies in order to ensure that conflicts involving nuclear armed states do not escalate into a nuclear war.

- [European Parliament Resolution](#) adopted on Dec 15, 2021 in preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference, which calls on all nuclear-weapon states to reaffirm the principle that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought, condemns the erosion of arms control and violation of international treaties and norms, and supports a number of other measures including the process to establish a Middle East NWFZ.

This is just a small sample of the many actions taken by parliamentarians on these important issues. For more on parliamentary actions, including on the [Climate – Nuclear Disarmament Nexus](#) and the important role of parliamentarians as the bridge between civil society and governments to advance peace and nuclear disarmament, we invite you to attend the side event on August 8 entitled [Legislators' actions for nuclear risk reduction and disarmament](#).

Thank you