

Preventing the launch of a nuclear war, and threats to do so.

Invitation to governments and NGOs to join a new email communication network on initiatives to ensure that no one starts a nuclear war.

Background:

The vast majority of nations have renounced not only the threat of nuclear weapon use, but the capacity of nuclear weapon use. However, only two of the nine nuclear armed states – India and China – have renounced the option of initiating nuclear warfare. The other seven keep this option “on the table” to counter adverse non-nuclear circumstances. There is, therefore, the possibility that nuclear warfare will begin by an intentional action of one of the armed states, in response to a conventional threat. This is not acceptable.

Furthermore, reliance on such nuclear threats represents a fundamental obstacle to the achievement of a nuclear weapon free world (NFWF). In such a world, no nation would have recourse to nuclear threats or use, thus eliminating the main reason for nuclear deterrence – to prevent others from using nuclear weapons. But countries that insist on retaining the option of **starting nuclear war** will not pursue in good faith the total elimination of nuclear arsenals.

Once the renunciation of the threat to start nuclear war becomes universal (or nearly so), the transition from nuclear deterrence to nuclear abolition can be made, and a robust, verifiable and enforceable disarmament and non-acquisition regime can be established.

The NETWORK

With the end of the Cold War, the case for renouncing the option to start nuclear war became stronger. Russia and China signed a mutual no-first-use agreement. Germany raised the concept within NATO, but without success. The United States identified it as an objective in its 2014(FC) Nuclear Posture Review, but the most recent NPR did not renew it.

More recent work on nuclear weapons risks, and on the humanitarian impact of any use of nuclear weapons, has revived interest and action on the issue. Resolutions have been adopted by various parliaments and inter-parliamentary bodies. Civil society networks within some of the nuclear-armed and allied States have launched national campaigns. However, there has never been a sustained, international focus on this objective to build the necessary **global cooperation** from civil society, legislatures and the diplomatic community.

The new network aims to address this deficiency. It will operate under the aegis of the [Abolition 2000 Working Group on Nuclear Risk Reduction](#). It will be moderated by Aaron Tovish, a veteran of international nuclear disarmament activism.

*There is new momentum in legislatures, among governments and in civil society on initiatives to put an end to all threats to start nuclear war
Keep track of these initiatives. Participate in the discussion.
Join this new, open network.*

To sign up, send an email to aaron.tovish@zona-libre.org . Thank you!

