



ABOLITION 2000

GLOBAL NETWORK TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS
NO NUKES, NO WAR

Welcome comments from the moderator

17th January 2019

Jacqueline Cabasso, Abolition 2000 Committee Member

Good morning or good evening, depending on where you are. My name is Jackie Cabasso. I am the executive director of Western States Legal Foundation in Oakland, California where it is 10:00 am. I am a “founding mother” and Coordinating Committee member of the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, which was founded nearly 25 years ago during the 1995 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference to call for immediate commencement of negotiations on a verifiable treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons within a timebound framework.

This is our first webinar. I’m very pleased to report that more than 135 people have registered, from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Scotland, Sweden, US, UK, and Russia. The largest number is from the US.

On January 25, 2018 the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists moved the hands of its “Doomsday Clock” to 2 minutes to midnight, as close as it’s ever been set since its inception in 1947, citing “the failure of world leaders to deal with looming threats of nuclear war and climate change” and stating, “the world is not only more dangerous now that it was a year ago; it is as threatening as it has been since World War II.”

US President Trump’s announced intention to withdraw the United States from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty is another sign of deepening crisis among the nuclear-armed states. Following the 2002 U.S. withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, it imperils the entire structure of arms control and disarmament, including prospects for extension of the New START Treaty which expires in 2021, and could lead to new, unpredictable rounds of arms racing.

Our webinar is very timely. A week from today, January 24, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists will announce where the hand of the Doomsday Clock now stand.

It’s worth reflecting that on that date, January 24, in 1946, the United Nations General Assembly adopted by consensus its very first resolution, which established a commission of the UN Security Council to ensure.... ‘the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.’

It seems that the nuclear-dependent states are going in the opposite direction.

We will have four presentations, followed by an opportunity to ask questions. I will introduce each of our speakers in more detail before they speak, but they are: Andrew Lichterman from the United States; Pavel Podvig from Russia; Dave Webb from the United Kingdom; and Regina Hagen from Germany. I will be assisted with the controls by Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee member Tony Robinson and Abolition 2000 Coordinating Committee secretary Malte Albrecht.