



ABOLITION 2000

GLOBAL NETWORK TO ELIMINATE NUCLEAR WEAPONS
NO NUKES, NO WAR

Welcome comments from the moderator

10th April 2019

Tony Robinson, Abolition 2000 Committee Member

Good morning or good evening, depending on where you are. My name is Tony Robinson. I am a co-director of Pressenza, International Press Agency and a member of the organization World without Wars and Violence, and I am currently in Santiago, Chile where the time is midnight. I am also a 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 the immediate commencement of negotiations on a verifiable treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons within a time bound framework.

This is the second in our series of webinars planned for this year. I'm very pleased to report that more than 120 people have registered, from 23 countries, split over 2 sessions. The largest number being from the United States.

On January 24, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists kept its iconic Doomsday Clock at two minutes to midnight—the closest it has ever been to apocalypse, stating: *“The current international security situation—what we call the ‘new abnormal’—has extended over two years now. It’s a state as worrisome as the most dangerous times of the Cold War.... This new abnormal is simply too volatile and dangerous to accept as a continuing state of world affairs.”*

At Abolition 2000, we are challenging the “new abnormal.” And one of the ways we are doing this is by networking with everyone working to implement our 11 point founding statement, and other organisations and networks who share our aspirations for a world without nuclear weapons and nuclear energy. This webinar is one of the ways we can deepen this networking.

Before starting, I would just like to inform everyone that we are currently in our fundraising campaign for 2019 which aims to raise 10000 euros between now and the 5th of May. If 200 people give us a donation of 50 euros or dollars each we will make this target. If you can help us with this then we ask you to please visit our website: www.abolition2000.org/donate and follow the instructions there.

Also, we will be holding our AGM on the 5th of May in Manhattan during the Preparation Committee meetings for the NPT review conference in 2020. Everyone is invited who will be in New York on that date and we will be happy to see you in the flesh.