



Reach High for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

*Youth appeal to world leaders to participate constructively in the
2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament*

Participants of the Reaching High conference* in Prague, November 27-29, 2017 express our;

1. *Alarm* at the risks of nuclear weapons use by accident, miscalculation or intent, especially in these times of increasing conflict;
2. *Concern* at the catastrophic human, economic and environmental consequences the use of nuclear weapons would have, possibly ending civilization as we know it;
3. *Sorrow* at the extensive impact already caused by the production and testing of nuclear weapons on human health and the environment, and the fact that such impact will last for generations;
4. *Agreement* with the notion that 'There are no right hands for wrong weapons' and that nuclear weapons are wrong weapons as they could not be used without affecting civilians, the environment and future generations;
5. *Opposition* to the \$100 billion spent annually on nuclear weapons, when such funds are sorely needed for climate protection, to achieve the sustainable development goals, and for other social and economic need;
6. *Support* for efforts to slash nuclear weapons spending directly through budget allocations and indirectly through ending investments of public funds and banks in nuclear weapons corporations;
7. *Affirmation* that the goal of nuclear disarmament is a universal goal that transcends differences in politics, nationalities, religions, cultures and ages;
8. *Insistence* that nuclear weapon states and their allies fulfill their obligation to nuclear disarmament by replacing nuclear deterrence with common security approaches, such as those outlined in the UN Charter of diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, adjudication and application of international law;
9. *Highlight* the important role of civil society, including all ages from youth to seniors, in the promotion of nuclear disarmament and participation in international disarmament forums such as the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament;
10. *Encourage* governments to work with civil society organisations to educate and engage public in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as agreed by governments in the final report of the United Nations Study on Disarmament and Nonproliferation Education.

And in particular we call on:

1. **All governments to participate at the highest level (Prime Minister, President, Foreign Minister or Minister for Disarmament) in the 2018 UN High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament;**
2. **Non-nuclear countries to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at the 2018 UN High-Level Conference, if they have not already done so, in order to secure 100 signatories by the end of the conference;**
3. **Nuclear reliant countries (nuclear armed countries and their allies) to adopt a declaration at the conference to never use nuclear weapons first, and to ensure that all nuclear weapons systems are taken off high-readiness to use, and to commit to negotiations on phased nuclear disarmament.**

* The *Reaching High for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World conference*, held at the Charles University in Prague, included university students, young academics, policy analysts and activists from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Portugal, Russia, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the United States. The conference was organised by the Abolition 2000 Youth Network. Co-sponsored by the Basel Peace Office, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNN), Prague Vision Institute for Sustainable Security, Centre for Security Policy at Charles University (SBP) and UNFOLD ZERO.