

The Norwegian Nobel Committee  
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To the Nobel Peace Prize Committee,

I would hereby as a member of the Norwegian Parliament like to nominate 3 combined initiatives in the nuclear disarmament filed: ***Global Zero, Abolition 2000 and Unfold Zero.***

The issue of nuclear weapons came to a peak last week when the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists moved the Doomsday Clock to 2.5 minutes to midnight, reflecting the extreme risks of nuclear conflict.

On the other hand, there are new initiatives by the United Nations - and recent pronouncements by the leaders of China, the US and Russia - that give rise to hope for nuclear disarmament and concrete agreements to establish a nuclear weapon free world.

“If nobody had them, nobody would need them”, is a saying that gains ground. It has now come to be a point that is has been expressed by President Xi in a ground-breaking speech to the Davos World Economic Forum, and by Presidents Putin and Trump who have raised the possibility of a Reykjavik Summit that would finally deliver on the promise of the 1986 Reykjavik Summit between Presidents Reagan and Gorbachev.

In addition, the United Nations General Assembly has decided to convene negotiations in 2017 on a nuclear ban treaty, and to hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in 2018 to build political traction and global support for nuclear disarmament measures leading to a nuclear-weapon-free world.

I believe that the 3 organisations nominated have been instrumental in these positive developments, and their continued work will be vital to the success of the bi-lateral, pluri- and multilateral initiatives mentioned above.

- **Global Zero** – *an organization working with high level former officials and youth chapters in the nuclear armed States.* Global Zero is probably the most effective campaigning organisation for nuclear disarmament in the nuclear-armed states:
- **Abolition 2000** – *the global network for the elimination of nuclear weapons.* With over 2000 member organisations from around the world, this is the biggest nuclear abolition network. Abolition 2000 has had considerable success, especially in building United Nations, government and public support for a nuclear weapons convention – a global treaty to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons;
- **UNFOLD ZERO** – *an international coalition to promote United Nations initiatives and processes for nuclear disarmament.* Among other things, UNFOLD ZERO was instrumental in the establishment and work of the 2013 and 2016 UN Open Ended Working Groups which have led to the UN General Assembly deciding to start negotiations in 2017 on a nuclear ban treaty.

As mentioned above, President Xi, Putin and Trump are now calling for action on the obvious risk posed by nuclear weapons for the survival of mankind. I know that the 3 nominated initiatives have been a crucial player in the run up to the 3 president's recent expressed concern.

Some activities linked to this:

**China.** Abolition 2000 has secured support from China (as well as from other nuclear-armed states India and Pakistan) for their proposal for the commencement of negotiations on a nuclear-weapons convention. China has recently elevated its support for a nuclear weapons convention, including at the United Nations and in the Davos speech. China's backing for the Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) has likely been strengthened by the public support and UN votes for the NWC that have been built up by Abolition 2000 over the past 20 years. In addition to building support from over 2000 civil society organisations for a NWC, Abolition 2000 has worked with key international networks, such as the Mayors for Peace network of over 7000 cities, to promote the NWC as a primary focus for their work. Abolition 2000 commissioned public opinion polls in nuclear armed States showing a sizeable majority of public supported an NWC, and moved the previous UNSG Ban Ki-moon to advance the NWC as the main call in his Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament.

#### **Russia and the USA.**

Global Zero has been very influential with the governments of most nuclear-armed States, and especially with the Russian and US governments. Global Zero leaders include very influential legislators and former officials from both countries (see below). Global Zero produces influential reports and holds effective consultations and meetings in the capitals of nuclear-armed states including Russia and the USA. Global Zero youth have been instrumental in raising the issue through social media, at international conferences (with smart messaging and media savvy actions) and in the US presidential election campaign, where Global Zero youth managed to raise the nuclear weapons issue and secure statements from most of the Presidential candidates on the election trail.

**Global Zero leaders (a sample):** Samuel Berger (US national security advisor from 1997 to 2001), Ambassador Robert Blackwill (US ambassador for conventional arms negotiations with the Warsaw Pact), Bruce Blair (former Minuteman missile launch control officer), Ambassador Lincoln Bloomfield (US former Assistant Secretary of defence), Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski (National security advisor to President Jimmy Carter), Gen. James E. Cartwright (former Vice chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff), Ambassador Ivo H. Daalder (former U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO), Maj. Gen. Vladimir Dvorkin ret. (Russia Strategic Rocket Forces), Ambassador Yuri Dubinin (former Russian Deputy Foreign Minister), Mikhail Gorbachev (Former President of the USSR), Gen. Charles Horner ret. (former Commander of US Space Command), Igor Ivanov (former Russia Foreign Minister), Col. Gen. Viktor Esin (former chief of staff of the Russian Strategic Rocket Forces), Konstantin Kosachev MP (Chair of the Russian Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee), Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev (Vladimir

Putin appointee to the governmental commission on the social protection of the military), Gen. John J. Sheehan( former Supreme Allied Commander for NATO), and many others...

### **United Nations**

UNFOLD ZERO promotes nuclear disarmament at the UN General Assembly, Security Council, International Court of Justice, UN Secretariat, Human Rights Council and other UN bodies. UNFOLD ZERO is also the primary platform for public awareness and promotion of UN initiatives for nuclear disarmament.

Established in cooperation with the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs, UNFOLD ZERO provides the global platform for the annual commemorations of the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

UNFOLD ZERO, and their partner PNND, have moved the parliaments of the world (through unanimous resolutions of the Inter Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security in Europe) to call for the elimination of nuclear deterrence, to support UN negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention and to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

UNFOLD ZERO also promotes the annual anniversary of the very first resolution of the United Nations (which established the commitment of all UN member states to the elimination of nuclear weapons).

UNFOLD ZERO was instrumental in the establishment and work of the UN Open Ended Working Groups (2013 and 2016) which led to the UN General Assembly deciding to commence negotiations in 2017 on a nuclear ban treaty. In addition, UNFOLD ZERO is leading the civil society efforts to ensure success for the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament (HLCND). The HLCND is possibly even more important than the ban treaty negotiations as it will include nuclear-armed states, who have indicated that they will not participate in the nuclear ban treaty negotiations (neither will most of the allied states).

UNFOLD ZERO and Abolition 2000, have also been influential in moving the previous UNSG (Ban Ki-moon) and the new UNSG (Antonio Guterres) to actively promote nuclear disarmament. UNFOLD ZERO made this an issue of the election process for Antonio Guterres. He received the support of the P5 for his candidacy, and then gave a very strong nuclear disarmament speech in Geneva recently where he stated his and the UN's commitment to nuclear abolition.

I know the Norwegian Nobel Committee will give this proposal the best evaluation and consideration. I am at your disposal for any further information you may require.

Best regards,

Thore Vestby

Member of the Norwegian Parliament 31.01.2017.

Attachment: Call for Parliament