

CNANW 'Call to Action'

by the Government of Canada on Nuclear Disarmament

Even a limited nuclear exchange could result in devastating loss of human life, global famine and climate change.

Yet 15,350 nuclear weapons remain in the arsenals of nine states, approximately 1,800 of which are on “high alert” status and can be launched within minutes.

Terrorist organizations such as Daesh (Islamic State), have also pledged acquire nuclear weapons.

It is increasingly clear that humanity’s best and perhaps only hope of avoiding nuclear catastrophe is to get on with fulfilling the legally binding obligation adopted by 190 countries in the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1970, **“to pursue a treaty on general and complete nuclear disarmament under strict and effective international control”**.

In 2010, Canadian Members of Parliament and Senators unanimously adopted a motion that “encourages the Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a nuclear weapons Convention as proposed by the United Nations Secretary General” and “to deploy a major world-wide Canadian diplomatic initiative in support of preventing nuclear proliferation and increasing the rate of nuclear disarmament”.

Unfortunately, deliberations on the nuclear issue in the Conference on Disarmament (CD) – a closed club of 65 States that operate on the basis of ‘consensus ‘ decision making - have been an abject failure.

For these reasons, the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW) and 44 endorsing civil society organizations call upon the

Government of Canada to **PLAY A GREATER LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**, by:

- I. Sponsoring a resolution in the 71st Session of the UN General Assembly that seeks a mandate to negotiate a comprehensive, legally binding Convention that prohibits nuclear weapons and requires their verifiable elimination;
 - II. Seeking to undertake negotiations as a matter of urgency, as recommended by *Mayors for Peace* representing more than 7,000 cities worldwide, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki;
 - III. Ensuring that treaty negotiations are conducted in a forum that is open to all UN member states, using democratic rules of procedure modelled upon those of the General Assembly; and
 - IV. Ensuring that participating states welcome and encourage the input and engagement of civil society.
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