Nuclear disarmament and human security: Reducing nuclear risks and advancing nuclear disarmament to protect our common future

Webinar co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) and the World Future Council

Third international parliamentary event in follow-up to the publication of Assuring our Common Future

Session 1 - Timed for Asia/Pacific: 19 January 2022 - 7:00 – 8:30 CET
Session 2 - Timed for the Americas/Europe/Africa: 19 January 2022 - 16.30 – 18:00 CET

In January 2021, the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set the hands of the symbolic ‘Doomsday Clock’ to 100 Seconds to Midnight. This gave an indication of the extremely high risks and existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate change. The Bulletin pointed to an erosion of global governance, an escalation of the nuclear arms race, an increase in conflicts and tensions between nuclear-armed countries, and the collapse of some key arms control agreements such as the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty.

However, efforts on the international scene are concretizing. On the 22 January 2021, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force for the 53 countries which had ratified it. In June this year, the US and Russian Presidents met for the first session of a renewed Strategic Stability Dialogue, and announced that “a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought.” More than 110 countries have joined regional nuclear-weapon-free zones, and the UN has initiated a Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction. In addition, there are emerging global campaigns and policy measures to: a) advance No-First-Use as a transformational measure in reducing nuclear risks and facilitating nuclear disarmament, and b) shift the sizeable budgets and investments in nuclear weapons to instead support human security, including public health, climate protection and sustainable development. The 10th Review Conference of the NPT has been again postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic – and is now to take place in August 2022. However, States Parties to the NPT and civil society are already active on concrete policy proposals on key NPT issues.

Leaning on recommendations from the Nuclear Weapons section of the joint publication “Assuring our Common Future”, this webinar will make use of the recent developments, to assess the roles and opportunities that parliamentarians have in promoting nuclear disarmament.

Objective of the event:
1. Increase awareness about the connections between military spendings on nuclear weapons, peace, public health and pandemic management;
2. Outline key treaties and international mechanisms for nuclear risk reduction, non-proliferation and disarmament, and highlight the role parliamentarians can play in implementing them;
3. Highlight the humanitarian impact of nuclear arms races, and discuss the human security benefits of nuclear disarmament and common security approaches that do not rely on nuclear deterrence.

Language: The event will take place as an online webinar. Session 1 in English and Session 2 in English and French via simultaneous interpretation.

The registration links are
January 19, Session 1: Timed for Asia/Pacific 7:00 - 8:30 CET (English): https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdemttqD0pHNxbwW80oAMXoeut_3QVr81
January 19, Session 2: Timed for the Americas/Europe/Africa: 16.30 - 18:00 CET (English and French): https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIqf-2vrD8rGNaIcW8aZoSPlyRLaGlTTF24C