

Common security for a sustainable and nuclear-weapon-free world



Joint statement commemorating International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24) and the 175th birthday anniversary of Bertha von Suttner (June 8), the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

May 20, 2018

Joint statement commemorating

International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament and the 175th birthday anniversary of Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize

May 24, 2018

Click here for list of endorsers

On the occasions of International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament (May 24) and the 175th birthday of Bertha von Suttner, the first woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize (June 8), we express our deep concern about the existential threats to humanity and the environment from climate change, nuclear weapons and unresolved international conflicts, especially those between nuclear-reliant countries.

As women legislators (current and former) from around the world we are inspired by peace visionaries like Berta von Suttner to reach beyond our national borders and different political persuasions to embrace the common interest of all humanity for peace and disarmament.

We welcome the peace and security initiative launched today by United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) Antonio Guterres and call on governments, parliaments and civil society to act together to implement it.

Whether we are from Russia or USA, India or Pakistan, North Korea or South Korea, Iran or Israel, East or West, North or South, we share one planet and a common future, making it vital that we use diplomacy, conflict resolution, common security and

law to address security issues, rather than the threat or use of force.

The United Nations was established with an array of mechanisms through which nations can resolve conflicts, negotiate disarmament and achieve security through diplomacy not war. These have been supplemented by additional common security mechanisms such as the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe. We urge governments to make better use of these common security mechanisms, and especially to replace reliance on nuclear deterrence with reliance on common security.

The very first resolution of the United Nations called for the elimination of “nuclear weapons and all other weapons adaptable to mass destruction.” Yet, 73 years later, over 15,000 nuclear weapons remain in the world’s arsenals, threatening current and future generations and costing \$100 billion annually. These funds could instead be used to reverse climate change, eliminate poverty and fulfill other social and economic needs.

We therefore welcome the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to hold a High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament to advance effective measures for nuclear disarmament. We call on all governments to attend the conference at the highest level, and to use the conference to make significant progress on nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament initiatives.

For non-nuclear countries this could include signing the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons – an important contribution by non-nuclear countries to building the framework for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

For nuclear reliant countries (nuclear armed countries and their allies) this could include, among other things, ratifying the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (if they have not already done so), reducing nuclear weapons stockpiles, committing to never launch a nuclear war, cutting nuclear weapons budgets and commencing negotiations on the phased prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons as required under international law.

Globalization in the 21st Century has made the verification and enforcement of disarmament agreements, the abolition of war and the achievement of common security, realistic goals. These processes are enhanced by the involvement of women at all levels of conflict resolution and peacemaking, as promoted by UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

As women representatives we are all proud of our home countries and our national identities. But we also recognize our common humanity and the need to collaborate on building a peaceful, secure, sustainable and just world. We invite you to join us.