

To: Non-Permanent Member States of the UN Security Council*

From: Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice†

Letter to support CBMs

at the January 18 Special session of the UNSC

January 17, 2018

Dear President/Prime Minister,

The past years saw that, though the successful treaties of the Confidence Building Measures to nuclear-weapons-free zone and disarmament and non-proliferation; playing a leading role in arms control dynamic, and progressing in comprehensive cooperation, or advancing toward a nuclear-weapon-free-world, there was not a substantive effort.

We are, lamenting this history, as well as alarmed at the recent nuclear tensions and political conflicts between nuclear-armed countries, and at the increasing risk of nuclear weapons used by accident, miscalculation or intent as a result. Any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic human, economic and environmental consequences. The use of just a small fraction of the 14,000 nuclear weapons in the world's stockpiles could end civilization as we know it.

On January 18, the United Nations Security Council will hold the special session on the theme, "*Weapons of Mass Destruction and Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)*." This theme will be chaired by Kazakhstan President Nazarbayev, who has put forward a number of proposals to the United Nations, including a call "*on all Member States, especially the Security Council's members to set a goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons by the UN's 100th Anniversary in 2045.*"

On December 24, 2017, in addition, the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 72/251 setting the dates and mandate for a *High-Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament* to take place at the UN from May 14-16, 2018. The principal aim for the conference is to make progress on effective measures for nuclear risk-reduction and disarmament.

We urge you to use the opportunity of the January-18-special session of the Security Council to reduce the risks of nuclear war and advance global nuclear disarmament by:

- Supporting the Goal of the Global Elimination of Nuclear Weapons by 2045;
- Calling on the nuclear-armed States to adopt polices never to initiate a nuclear war (no-first-use)

- Calling on the Nuclear-armed States to *drastically cut the \$100 billion annual nuclear weapons budget*, and re-invest some of these in economic and social need (such as the SDGs), as they are required to under Article 26 of the UN Charter;
- Announcing that you, or your Foreign Minister/Secretary of State, will participate in the *UN High-Level Conference on May 14-16*, and do what-ever is in your power at the Conference to prevent nuclear weapons being used, and to advance the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

For the nuclear-armed countries, establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones, in particular, defusing the risk of regional nuclear arms races, or decreasing the risk of nuclear weapons falling into the hands of non-state actors: all those are increasingly important considerations as not only a regional security but also their national security strategy in fundamental momentum and sustainable peace.

We should be highly obliged it.

Respectfully yours,

Sunchul Yun
Secretary General
Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice
South Korea

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† This letter is contributed by the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (NGOs in the Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC), a member of the Abolition 2000 Working Group on the 2018 UN High-level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.