

## **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL SECURITY**

**Moscow, February 21, 2017**

**Dmitri Medvedev, Prime Minister of Russia**

**House of Government of Russian Federation**

**Dear Prime Minister,**

The danger of nuclear war is now greater than at any time since the height of the Cold War. Indeed, some senior statesmen in both Russia and the United States believe that the likelihood of nuclear war is even greater today than it was in the 1980's.

The increased tension between NATO and Russia in Europe and the Middle East is matched by rising tensions in South Asia between India and Pakistan, and by the dangerous situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the South China Sea.

This escalating tension comes as a series of recent scientific studies have shown that the use of less than 0.5% of the world's nuclear arsenals would cause climate disruption across the planet, a decade long decline in food production, and a global famine that would put some 2 billion people at risk

In response more than 120 nations which are not armed with nuclear weapons have committed to negotiating a treaty to ban these weapon. It is their hope that this will pressure the nuclear armed states to act on their obligations under Article VI of the Non Proliferation Treaty, and begin serious negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention to actually eliminate these weapons.

We write to you to urge that Russia join these negotiations and provide leadership to this process. There is no greater threat to Russian national security than nuclear weapons in the hands of potential adversaries. Indeed, nuclear weapons pose the only existential threat to Russia's survival as a great nation. It is urgently in her national security interest to see these weapons eliminated.

For decades nuclear armed states have labored under the delusion that nuclear weapons increase their security. The new data showing that even the "successful" use of a small fraction of Russia's or other states nuclear arsenal against an

adversary would cause catastrophic climate disruption threatening her very existence exposes the truth about these weapons: They are suicide bombs, not agents of national security.

Throughout the Nuclear Weapons Era, there have been numerous near misses when Washington or Moscow came within minutes of launching nuclear war. We cannot expect our luck to hold forever, and a hope for continued good luck is not an acceptable policy. These weapons must be eliminated as soon as possible before our luck runs out.

We have been very pleased by your letter as President of Russia to IPPNW Congress in which you supported IPPNW activity. Please use again all your authority and international instruments to diminish this potential risk of humankind suicide.

**Participants of INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL SECURITY organized by Nobel Laureates for Peace:**

**International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and Russian Pugwash Committee under the Presidium of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) — national group of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs**

Moscow, February 21, 2017.

**From behalf of participants of SEMINAR**

Co-Presidents of IPPNW:

Ira Helfand, Vladimir Garkavenko

Chairman of Board of Directors of IPPNW:

Bjorn Hilt

Executive Scientific Secretary of the Russian Pugwash Committee under the RAS

Michail Lebedev