

Letter to the government of India accompanying *Fulfil the NPT: From nuclear threats to human security*, the Open Letter to States Parties to the NPT

*December 16, 2021*

Rt Hon Mr Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India  
New Delhi, India

CC: Hon Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Mr. T. S. Tirumurti, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of India to the UN in New York

Dear Hon Mr Modi,

We wish to inform you that [Fulfil the NPT: From nuclear threats to human security](#), an *Open Letter to the States Parties of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT)*, is circulating internationally. It is addressed to the five Nuclear-Weapon States Parties to the Treaty (NWSs). A pro forma version (attached) is being sent to the NWSs at the same time you receive this message.

We are also writing to the Heads of Government of Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan. Our common appeal to the four of you is that you attend the **10<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference (NPT-X)** as observers. Having been indefinitely extended, and with over half a century under its belt, the NPT is going to remain a fixture of the international community until that great day when a nuclear weapon free world (NFWF) is established. As this is our shared objective, we urge you to work toward a constructive relationship with all the States Parties to the Treaty, beginning with attendance at NPT-X. This would not require that you join that treaty as a Non-Nuclear-Weapon State (NNWS). With the world being drawn into a dangerous new arms race, Open Letter aims for NPT-X to make a fundamental course correction. India needs to be part of this process.

As you can see, the very first demand of the Open Letter is that the four NWSs that retain policies of threatening first use of nuclear weapons, jettison those policies in favor of No First Use (NFU). Your presence at NPT-X, alongside China, would remind the world that NFU is as valid a form of nuclear deterrence as their more dangerous formulations. The way India has structured its nuclear forces, lends credibility to its declared policies and provides a model for others to follow.

That said, we are concerned that exceptions to NFU are contemplated for retaliation against chemical or biological attack. The power of NFU resides in the sharp, bright redline that nuclear escalation demarcates. There is nothing sharp or bright about instances of chemical and biological weapon use. There are far better means of responding in such instances that would keep the taboo against the use of nuclear weapons intact, something the world very rightly considers a great treasure. India could make an outstanding contribution to the

cause of nuclear disarmament by narrowing the focus of its NFU policy. What better place to announce such a change, than at NPT-X?

Also, included in the first demand is a final end to nuclear weapon manufacture by the NWSs. It was the refusal of this measure by the NWSs during negotiation of the NPT, which India cited as the reason it could not be party to the NPT. This measure would stop vertical proliferation, and erase the explicit “legal” discrimination between NWS and NNWSs. If India would declare at NPT-X that it would be prepared to join the NPT once this discrimination is fully eradicated, that would powerfully impress the entire world. As a gesture of good faith, India could immediately call a moratorium on fissile material production.

The second and third demands are fully in line with India’s long held position that there needs to be a process leading to a nuclear weapon free world. The *Report of the Informal Group on the Rajiv Gandhi Action Plan* could be submitted to NPT-X as a possible way forward, putting India one step ahead of the fourth demand on submitting action plans before NPT-XI.

The fifth and final demand is to redirecting the vast sums of money spent on the instruments of mass terror to saving our shared home, Earth, from climate change and improving the lot of people everywhere. Would India have any hesitation about making such a pledge?

We trust you agree our cause is noble. You can be assured that we would not be alone in welcoming you as observer at NPT-X. Please consider deeply how India can help make NPT-X the historic turning point of the Nuclear Age.

We take this opportunity to extend our deepest respects and highest considerations.

Yours sincerely,

**NoFirstUse Global Steering Committee:**

**Marc Finaud**, France/Switzerland  
*Initiatives pour le Désarmement Nucléaire (IDN)*  
*Abolition 2000 working group on Nuclear Risk Reduction*

**John Hallam**, Australia  
*People for Nuclear Disarmament*

**Marzhan Nurzhan**, Kazakhstan/Switzerland  
*Basel Peace Office*

**Vanda Proskova**, Czech Republic  
*PragueVision Institute for Sustainable Security*

**Aaron Tovish**, Mexico/Philippines  
*Zona Libre*  
*Abolition 2000 working group on Nuclear Risk Reduction*

**Carlo Trezza**, Italy  
*Former Ambassador of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament*

**Rob van Riet**, Netherlands/UK  
*World Future Council*

**Alyn Ware**, New Zealand/Czech Republic  
*World Future Council*  
*Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*

**Yosuke Watanabe**, Japan  
*Peace Depot*

**Uta Zapf**, Germany  
*Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament*  
*Former Chair of the German Parliament Subcommittee on Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation.*

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