

Letter to the government of Israel 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 Naftali Bennett
Prime Minister of Israel

Dear Prime Minister Bennett

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 Representatives of India, North Korea and Pakistan. Our common appeal to the four of you is that you attend the **10th 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. Israel needs to be part of this process.

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, the Open Letter aims for NPT-X to make a fundamental course correction. Israel needs to be part of this process.

Regarding the first part of our first demand, on No First Use (NFU), might it not be possible for Israel to explain that its stated policy, that it “will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East”, may be interpreted by those who insist on believing that Israel possesses nuclear weapons as analogous to: ‘Israel will not be the first to use nuclear weapons in the Middle East?’ Such a declaration would electrify the NPT-X.

Regarding the second part of the first demand and the third and fourth demands, they could be addressed most directly by finally moving forward with the creation of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East. Israel could participate in good faith in negotiations to that end, while retaining the right to make final ratification of the agreement contingent on a more peaceful region.

The measures and institutions created for the establishment of the zone could provide an outstanding model for the establishment of a NFWF. Even if a capacity to manufacture nuclear weapons has not been used to that end, sustaining such a capacity is very costly. The fifth demand points to the many peaceful purposes such resources could be applied.

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 Israel 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.
