

# Parliamentary Resolutions Supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC)

(or the UN Secretary-General's Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament which promotes an NWC)

Compiled by **Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament** [www.pnnd.org](http://www.pnnd.org)

## 1. Resolutions adopted by national parliaments

### Australia

On 21 March 2012, the Australian **House of Representatives** adopted a resolution introduced by Prime Minister Julia Gillard calling for a number of global nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament steps. It also called for 'exploration of legal frameworks for the abolition of nuclear weapons, including the possibility of a nuclear weapons convention, as prospects for multilateral disarmament improve.'

### Austria

On 25 March 2010, the Austrian parliament unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by PNND Member Christine Muttonen calling on the Federal Government and the Federal Minister for European and International Matters to advance the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan, including in particular the proposal for a Nuclear Weapons Convention during the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

### Bangladesh

On 5 April 2010, the Bangladesh Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by PNND member Saber Chowdhury giving "full support to the Bangladesh government to advance the UN Secretary-General's nuclear disarmament plan and especially the proposal for negotiations to conclude a Nuclear Weapons Convention." The resolution also noted "that the \$100 billion spent annually on nuclear weapons should be channeled instead towards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals as well as the urgent climate change adaption funding needs of the most vulnerable countries."

### Canada

On June 2, 2010, the Senate of Canada unanimously adopted a motion submitted by Senator Hugh Segal (Conservative Party), which endorsed the UN Secretary-General's Five-Point Plan for nuclear disarmament and encouraged the government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). The resolution also endorsed a statement, signed by over 500 recipients of the Order of Canada (Canada's highest public honour) supporting a NWC. A similar resolution submitted to the House of Commons by PNND Canada Chair Bill Siksay was adopted unanimously on 7 December 2010.

### Costa Rica

On 23 February 2010, the Costa Rican Legislative Assembly unanimously endorsed the Parliamentary Declaration Supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The motion to support the declaration was submitted by PNND Council Member Edine von Herold. Outgoing Costa Rican President Oscar Arias noted that the unanimous resolution would help Costa Rica in its efforts to promote the idea of a Nuclear Weapons Convention and the Model NWC at the United Nations. President-elect Laura Chinchilla has called on countries to join Costa Rica in promoting the NWC.

### Germany

A resolution proposed by PNND Co-President Uta Zapf and tabled by the CDU/CSU, SPD, FDP and Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary groups was adopted on 24 March 2010 calling on the German government to "continue to play a pro-active role in the discussions about the various approaches, also by civil society, which aim to achieve full nuclear disarmament, such as the Global Zero Initiative, and in the debate about the proposal for a NWC to ban nuclear weapons.

### Italy

On 23 June 2009, the Italian Parliament adopted by consensus a resolution submitted by PNND Council member Federica Mogherini calling on the government to increase its efforts for nuclear disarmament. The resolution highlights a number of proposals and initiatives including the Hoover Institute plan, Nuclear Weapons Convention, UN Secretary-General's five-point plan for disarmament and European Parliament resolution of 5 June.

### Mexico

On 14 March 2012 the Mexican Senate unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by PNND Co-President Senator Rosario Green calling for greater action by the parliament, government and civil society in advancing a NWC and supporting the establishment of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

### New Zealand

On 5 May 2010, the New Zealand parliament unanimously adopted a resolution introduced by PNND member Phil Twyford calling on the New Zealand government to work with other nations to support the UN Secretary General's Five Point Plan for nuclear disarmament which endorses the goal of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

## **2. Resolutions adopted by Regional Parliaments and Inter-parliamentary organizations**

### **European Parliament**

On 24 April 2009, the European Parliament, in preparation for the 2010 NPT Review Conference, adopted a report and resolution calling on the European Council to actively nuclear disarmament. The resolution, drafted by members of the PNND European Parliament Section noted the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, which has been circulated by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, and called on the European Council to support the Nuclear Weapons Convention and the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Protocol in order to achieve the early prohibition of nuclear weapons and their complete elimination by 2020.

### **Inter-Parliamentary Union**

On 9 April 2009, the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which represents over 150 parliaments, adopted a resolution on the role of parliamentarians to advance the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and promote nuclear disarmament. The resolution calls on parliaments and parliamentarians to ensure universal ratification of the CTBT, and also to promote the UN Secretary-General's five-point plan for nuclear disarmament, and support a number of concurrent steps such as reductions in nuclear stockpiles, establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones, and commencement of negotiations on a fissile materials treaty.

## **3. National parliament resolutions introduced but not yet actioned**

### **Belgium**

On 8 October 2009, PNND member Philippe Mahoux introduced a bill into the Belgian Senate supporting the UN Secretary-General's nuclear disarmament plan and proposing an amendment to the Belgian constitution in order to prohibit nuclear weapons. The bill notes the obligations of non-nuclear weapon States under the NPT not to acquire nuclear weapons, the 1996 International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons, the September 24 UN Security Council Session on nuclear disarmament, the principles of humanitarian law that render the use of nuclear weapons illegal, the requirement of NATO to review its Strategic Doctrine, and the inability of nuclear weapons to address current security concerns including those of terrorism.

### **France**

On 24 December 2009, PNND Council Member Senator Michelle Demessine submitted a resolution to the French Senate, co-sponsored by 23 other Senators, which welcomes the recent initiatives calling for a nuclear weapons-free world, recalls the NPT dual commitments to non-proliferation and disarmament, and calls on the French government to utilise the opportunity of the 2010 NPT Review Conference to support practical steps leading to the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

### **Scotland**

On 7 January 2010, PNND member Marlyn Glen lodged a motion in the Scottish Parliament encouraging parliamentarians to endorse the Parliamentary Declaration Supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The motion was co-sponsored by Bill Butler, Elaine Smith, Jamie Hepburn, Bill Kidd, Patrick Harvie, Hugh O'Donnell, Robin Harper, Malcolm Chisholm, Trish Goodman, Christina McKelvie, Dave Thompson, Cathy Peattie and Cathy Jamieson.

### **United Kingdom**

On 19 November 2009, PNND Council Member Jeremy Corbyn submitted Early Day Motion 144 to the UK Parliament, supported by 103 Members of Parliament. It "notes the forthcoming nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May 2010 and the opportunities it presents for progress on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; further notes growing international support for negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention to outlaw all nuclear weapons; and calls on the Government to give full support to negotiating a Nuclear Weapons Convention and to make this position absolutely clear at the NPT Review Conference."

### **United States**

On 12 June 2006, PNND UN Liaison Dennis Kucinich introduced a resolution to the 109<sup>th</sup> US Congress highlighting the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention "which demonstrates the feasibility of the global elimination of nuclear weapons" and calling on the President of the United States to initiate multilateral negotiations for nuclear abolition.