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October 10, 2013

Re: Encouragement to renew the mandate of the UN Open Ended Working Group

Your Excellency,

We write to thank you for your support for, and participation in, the UN Open Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations (OEWG). The Chair of the OEWG will report to the current session of the UNGA, at which time the UNGA will have the opportunity to decide whether or not to renew and extend the mandate of the OEWG. We encourage you to ensure the continuation of this exciting and productive process.

After 17 years of stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament, and only limited progress in implementing NPT obligations, a fresh approach to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations was required. The OEWG has demonstrated that it is capable of bridging the differences and building a basis for common action. It should thus continue this important and very productive work.

Representatives of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) have been honoured to participate in the UN Open Ended Work – both as invited speakers and as participants in the deliberations which were open to all governments and also to representatives of international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

We were encouraged and inspired by the OEWG deliberations, and by the final report which identifies key aspects in which further deliberations and work should be undertaken in order to facilitate and support multilateral negotiations to achieve a nuclear weapon free world. A renewed mandate could thus have a more specific focus to explore these aspects more deeply.

Parliamentarians around the world strongly support the OEWG initiative. The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, for example, adopted a resolution at its 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul supporting the OEWG. All parliamentary delegations, including those from NATO countries and nuclear weapon States (France, Russia, UK and USA) supported the resolution.

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The Inter Parliamentary Union at its 129th Assembly in Geneva held a special session on the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world featuring Ambassador Dengo, Chair of the OEWG, as part of its program 'Towards a nuclear weapon free world: The contribution of Parliaments.'

Parliamentarians have also participated in the Open the Door civil society video actions in many countries – see www.openthedoor2013.org – to promote the OEWG.

We look forward to continuing our engagement in a renewed OEWG to ensure the commencement and conclusion of multilateral negotiations to achieve a nuclear weapons free world.

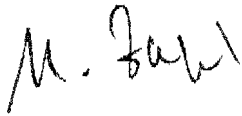
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "susan miller" in a cursive, lowercase style.

Baroness Sue Miller

PNND Co-President

Member of the UK Delegation to the 129th IPU Assembly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "U. Zapf" in a cursive, uppercase style.

Uta Zapf

PNND Co-President

Member of the German Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

Member of the German Delegation to the 129th IPU Assembly

