

Message to the International Conference:
“International Disarmament and Non-Proliferation:
World Security Without Weapons of Mass Destruction”

from

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delivered by

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I bring you greetings from the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and have the honour of reading this message on his behalf.

After a decade of stagnation in the field of nuclear disarmament, the international community now has an unprecedented opportunity to achieve tangible and irreversible progress toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We have seen an outpouring of support, initiatives, proposals and campaigns emanating from all sectors of the international community – from Governments and former officials, parliamentarians, civic and civil society leaders, as well as many others.

The two States with the largest nuclear arsenals – the Russian Federation and the United States of America – have just concluded a milestone agreement for further reductions and have expressed interest in continued and expanded negotiations.

This year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Despite some differences over priorities, the international norms enshrined by this Treaty, which is rightly referred to as the cornerstone of nuclear non-proliferation, remains strong.

I look forward to States parties building upon the current political momentum to consolidate recent gains at the upcoming 2010 NPT Review Conference. States parties will have a unique opportunity to strengthen the three pillars of the NPT, to make progress toward achieving its universality and to achieve the full implementation of the Treaty.

In addition, there are new efforts to bring into force the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and I encourage all States that have not done so to sign and ratify this treaty without delay.

I wish you all success as we continue to strive toward realizing our common objective of a world without nuclear weapons.

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