



ADVOCACY PACKAGE

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

April 2010



INTRODUCTION

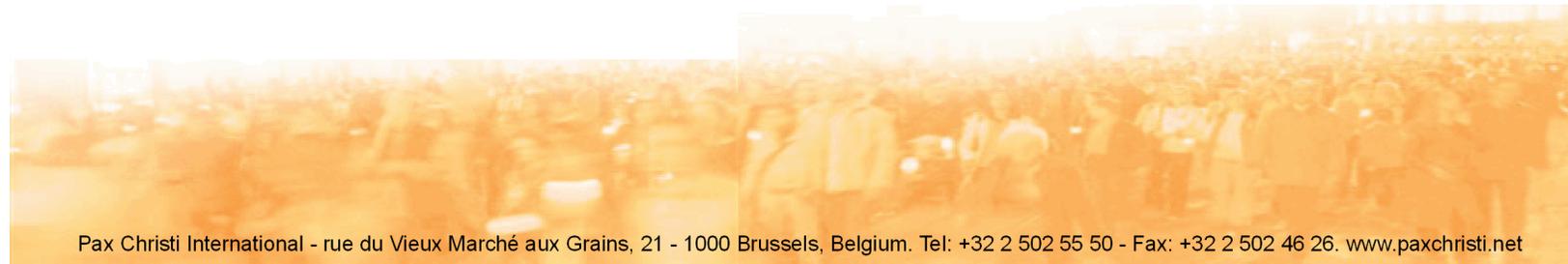
For the past few decades, Pax Christi International has been campaigning for a nuclear weapon-free world by repeatedly and consistently calling for disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical or biological. Pax Christi's work on the issue is inspired by the Gospel and social teachings of the Catholic Church that continuously and tirelessly pleads for the abolition of nuclear weapons:

"...The protection of creation is indeed an important element of peace and justice! Among the many challenges which it presents, one of the most serious is increased military spending and the cost of maintaining and developing nuclear arsenals. Enormous resources are being consumed for these purposes, when they could be spent on the development of peoples, especially those who are poorest. For this reason I firmly hope that, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held this May in New York, concrete decisions will be made towards progressive disarmament, with a view to freeing our planet from nuclear arms."

Pope Benedict XVI on January 10th, 2010

"Today's world demands a courageous leadership in reducing those arsenals to a complete zero. In order to achieve this, States need trust and security. Nuclear-weapons-free zones are the best example of trust, confidence and affirmation that peace and security is possible without possessing nuclear weapons. The Holy See thus encourages the nuclear-weapon States and those which possess such weapons to ratify all the protocols to the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone treaties and strongly supports efforts to establish such a zone in the Middle East."

Archbishop Dominique Mamberti
The Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States₂





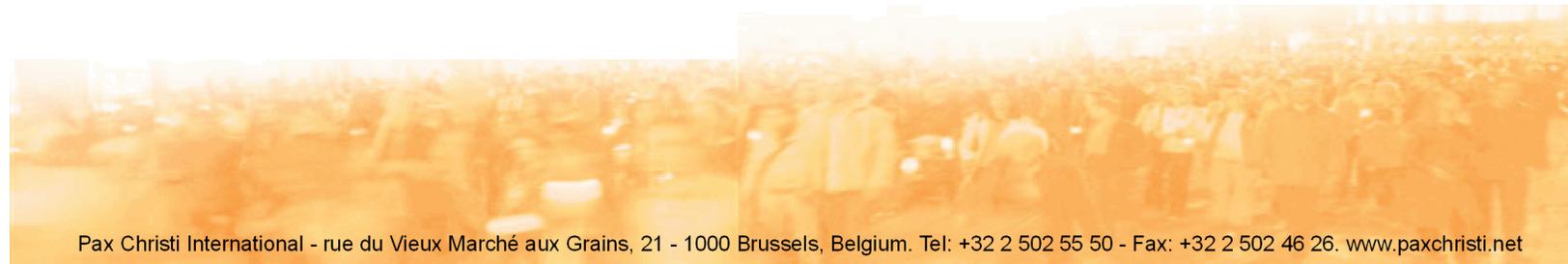
UN Security Council, New York, 24 September 2009

“The Holy See emphasizes that the peace we seek in the 21st century cannot be attained by relying on nuclear weapons...nuclear weapons assault life on the planet, they assault the planet itself and in so doing they assault the process of the continuing development of the planet.”

Archbishop Celestine Migliore
Vatican Representative to the U. N
May 4, 2005

“From its birth as a fellowship of Christian churches the WCC has condemned nuclear weapons for their “widespread and indiscriminate destruction” and as a “sin against God” in modern war (First WCC Assembly, 1948), recognised early that the only sure defence against nuclear weapons is prohibition, elimination and verification (Second Assembly, 1954) and, *inter alia*, called citizens to “press their governments to ensure national security without resorting to the use of weapons of mass destruction” (Fifth Assembly, 1975).”

World Council of Churches, Assembly meeting, 2006





In 2009, Pax Christi International issued the following statements: “Towards Global Zero of Nuclear Weapons Now,” July 2009; and “Call For Governments to Show Progress Before the NPT Review Conference,” November 2009. In 2006 Pax Christi International issued a statement ‘*Get rid of nuclear weapons through disarmament, legal accountability and good faith*’. The content of the statement is as relevant today as it was three years ago. Only the urgency of addressing this matter has changed and constantly keeps rising. After observing a new momentum on the international scene, with diplomats, parliamentarians or security and army experts finally sharing our vision and joining our call for a ‘zero solution’, we decided to ‘arm’ our member organisations with an advocacy package. A package that would summarise the key facts of the ‘nuclear problem’, explain the sudden rise of optimism and hope, and give concrete examples for advocacy action.

The Advocacy Package on Nuclear Disarmament is divided into four parts. The first section briefly sheds light on the current situation, identifying a list of ‘nuclear states’ and explaining the nuclear sharing problem. Section two is dedicated to the clarification of the reasons for a new momentum for nuclear disarmament. Part three gives concrete tips for your advocacy work, while a list of useful websites on nuclear disarmament can be found in part four. The two annexes attached provide advocacy letters drafted by IKV Pax Christi, our Member Organisation in the Netherlands.

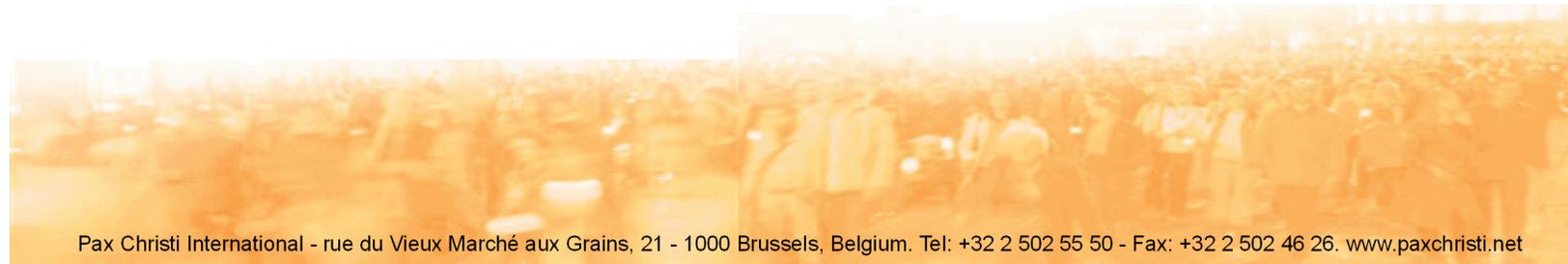
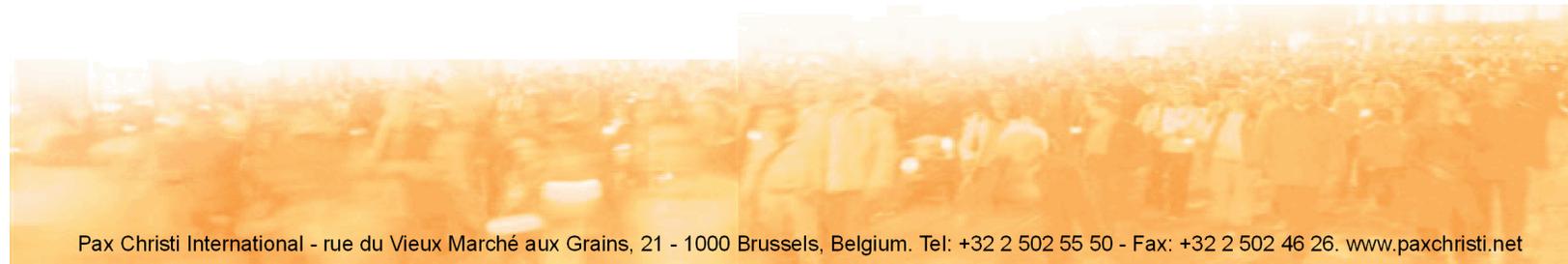




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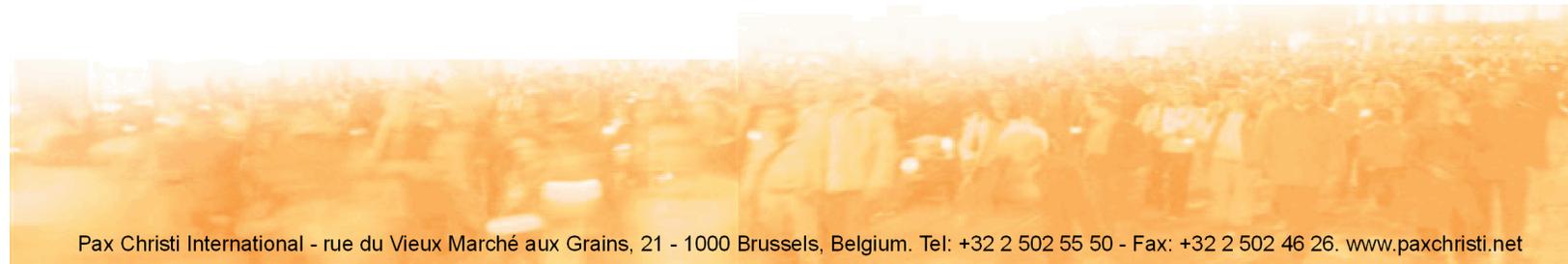




I. OUR NUCLEAR NIGHTMARE

Just 60 years after the Hiroshima/Nagasaki genocide, and 20 years after the end of the Cold War, there are still more than 23.000 nuclear weapons in the world - thousands of which can be launched within moments. It is only a political will that can effectively get rid of them. And it is our will – as citizens of this planet – to push the politicians to free our world from the nightmare of a nuclear war. As a former Prime Minister of India pointed out in 1988 *‘Nuclear war will not mean the death of a hundred million people. Or even a thousand million. It will mean the extinction of four thousand million: the end of life as we know it on our planet earth.’* We believe that continuous reliance on weapons that may lead to an ultimate destruction of a human life is simply morally unacceptable.

During the Cold War era nuclear weapons were the means of deterrence of the enemy, being a part of a so called *Mutually Assured Destruction* (MAD) strategy. Since the end of the Cold War, parts of the large nuclear arsenal of the United States and the Soviet Union were dismantled. However, nuclear weapons still play a role in many countries’ military strategic planning today. A rising number of countries possessing or aiming to possess nuclear weapons is dramatically increasing the risk that nuclear weapons will inevitably be used. More importantly, given the current fragile geo-political situation, the possibility of non-state actors or terrorists getting access to the nuclear weapons is alarming.





1) NUCLEAR STATES

Currently there are **9 countries** that possess nuclear weapons (listed according to the approximate amount of their nuclear stockpile)

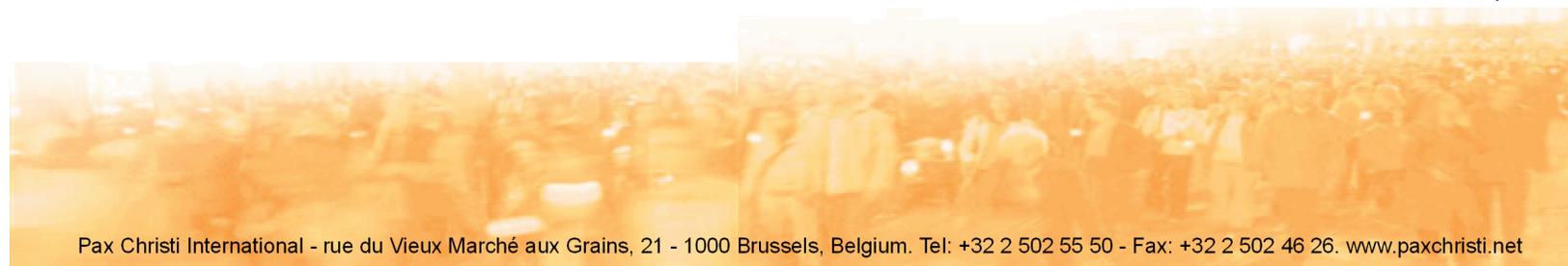
- Russia (7,200-16,000)
- United States (5,735-9,960)
- China (400)
- France (350)
- United Kingdom (200)
- Israel (75-400 – the nuclear programme is confirmed nor denied, the amount of the nuclear stockpile can be only estimated)
- Pakistan (60)
- India (40-45)
- North Korea (1-10)

2) NATO

There are **150-240 US nuclear weapons stored in Europe** at the military bases of NATO member states:

- Italy
- Turkey
- Germany
- Belgium
- Netherlands

Storage of these nuclear weapons is a part of so called **nuclear sharing** – a NATO policy



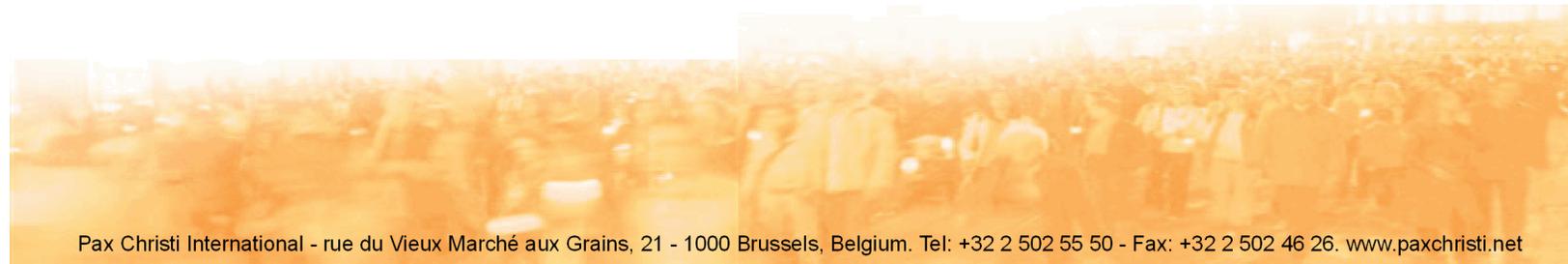


of involving member states with no nuclear weapons of their own to participate in consultations and common decisions on nuclear weapons policy, maintain technical equipment and expertise required for the use of nuclear weapons and store nuclear weapons on their territory.

It is highly questionable whether such storage does not breach the **Non-Proliferation Treaty** (for information about this treaty please see below) as Article 1 of the treaty explicitly prohibits transfer of nuclear weapons: *"Each nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty undertakes not to transfer to any recipient whatsoever nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosives or devices directly or indirectly..."* Such blunt disrespect toward the binding nature of the Non-Proliferation Treaty can hardly serve as an encouragement for other parties to stand up to their own commitments arising from the treaty.

In 2009 NATO celebrated its 60th anniversary. In the fall of 2010 NATO-member states will review the **Strategic Concept** – a core mission statement that is reviewed every 10 years. The actual statement has been reviewed in April 1999. In this document NATO member states asserted that nuclear weapons provide the ‘supreme guarantee’ of Alliance security: *'The presence of United States conventional and nuclear forces in Europe remains vital to the security of Europe [...] Nuclear weapons make a unique contribution in rendering the risks of aggression against the Alliance incalculable and unacceptable. Thus, they remain essential to preserve peace.'*

Preamble to the review of the Strategic Concept, a shift in the nuclear policy of NATO is at stake. 5 NATO members (Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg and Norway) stated a joint declaration in which they are pleading for a review of NATO's nuclear strategy and an examination of the several initiatives of nuclear disarmament. The German and Dutch governments interlinked this declaration to a discussion on the





retreat of NATO's tactical arms in Europe. (More information on this movement, see below).

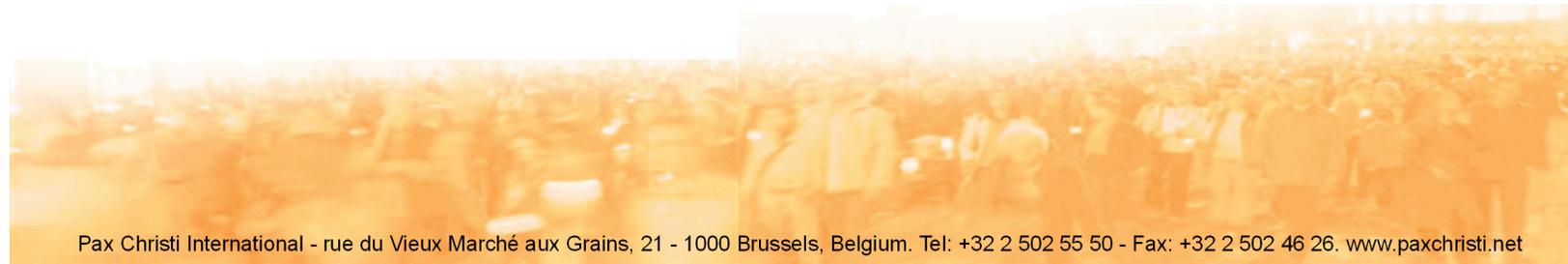
II. BACK ON THE AGENDA

In the late 1970s and 1980s nuclear disarmament was the primary topic on the peace movement agenda. The situation largely changed after the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (IFN) banning short and long-range nuclear weapons systems and introducing strict verification regimes was signed in 1987.

We consider it as a very positive development that nuclear disarmament is back on the world agenda. First and foremost, due to a dramatically changing geo-political situation as mentioned in the previous part. Secondly, thanks to political and civilian initiatives and important actual and upcoming events (described in detail below) a historical momentum has been created and should not be missed. It is believed by analysts, public opinion and politicians that 2010 will be crucial in the future of global nuclear policy.

1) 'THE GANG OF FOUR'

In January 2007, an op-ed article titled 'A World Free of Nuclear Weapons' by four high-level US Security veterans (Henry Kissinger, Sam Nunn, William Perry and George Schultz) was published in the Wall Street Journal. By proclaiming 'zero nuclear weapons' as the only possible solution to avoid an uncontrollable proliferation of nuclear weapons and technology towards states and non-state members, this article shook up the mainstream arms control community and made abolition of nuclear weapons a legitimate agenda item at international conferences. About two





thirds of all former US Secretaries of State, Secretaries of Defence and National Security Advisors have supported this proposal.

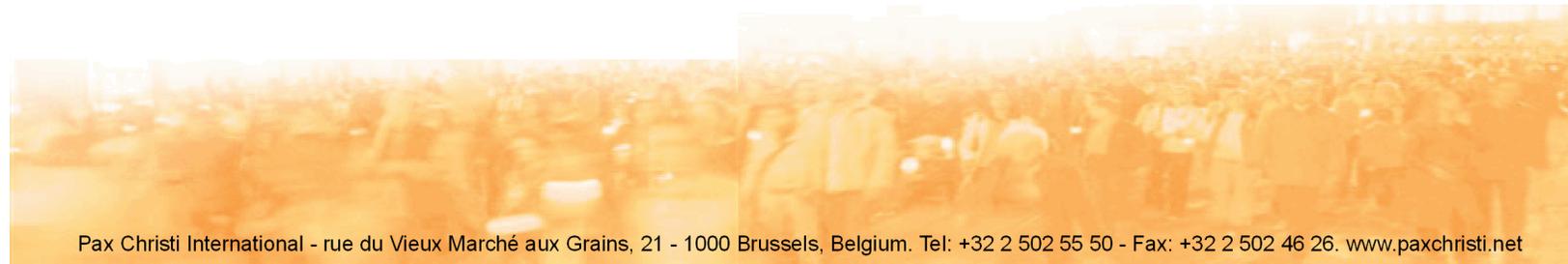
These four diplomats came to be known as the '*gang of four*' or '*four horsemen of the apocalypse*'. Similar '*gangs of four*' soon appeared in a number of European countries, including former diplomats (Foreign Secretaries, NATO Secretary General, Chancellor etc.) with a considerable experience of high politics.

2) CHANGE IN THE US POLICY

US President Obama has brought a considerable change in the White House's approach to the arms control issue. In a historical speech in Prague in April 2009, President Obama said all nations had to strive for a nuclear-free world and stated that the U.S., being the only state ever to use a nuclear weapon, had a moral responsibility to lead. The Obama administration aims to fulfil these challenges:

- ✓ Secure nuclear materials
- ✓ reduce global nuclear arsenals
- ✓ reduce the role of nuclear arms in defence strategies
- ✓ Expanding the No First Use policy
- ✓ strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty

Although the plan of the Bush administration to place US missiles in Poland and a radar base in the Czech Republic has not been cancelled by the US government, the missile defense was not an obstacle to US-Russian cooperation on arms reduction. A new nuclear arms control agreement, successor of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (**START**), has been signed on April 8th 2010 in Prague. In this treaty, both the United States and Russia commit themselves to reduce the number of nuclear warheads from 2200 to





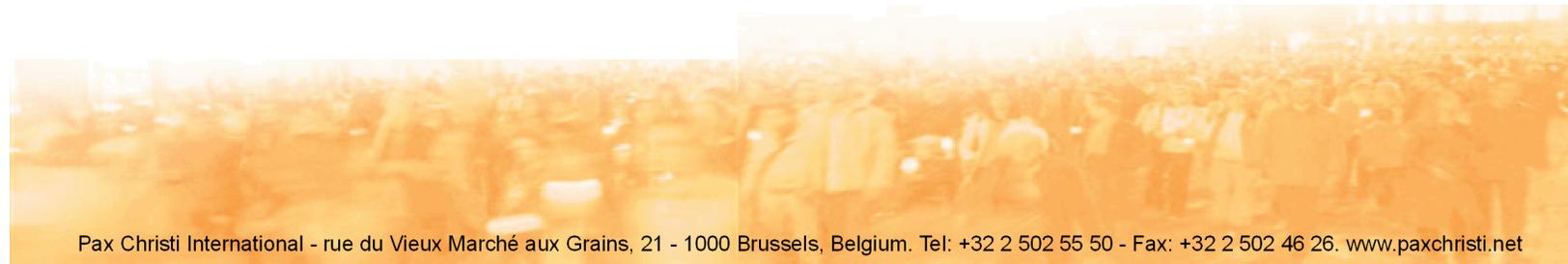
1550 each and to reduce the number of launching rockets to 700. The United States president also stated a new Nuclear Policy Review that expands the No First Use Policy to all countries complied with the Non Proliferation Treaty and narrows the conditions in which the United States would use nuclear weapons in a military confrontation.

3) NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was signed in 1968 and entered into force in 1970. In 1995 the member states decided to extend the validity of the treaty indefinitely. 189 countries are party to this treaty. The NPT prohibits 'non-nuclear states' from building or acquiring nuclear weapons and at the same time obligates 'nuclear weapon states' (US, UK, Russia, France and China) to work on arms control and disarmament and to share nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. India, Pakistan and Israel – countries that possess nuclear weapons - declined to sign the treaty, arguing its discriminative nature. It restricts the legal possession of nuclear weapons to the states which had tested nuclear weapons before 1967 (US, UK, Russia, France and China). North Korea signed the treaty in 1986, but withdrew in 2003 and executed nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Every five years a **NPT Review Conference** takes place that aims to bring together parties to the treaty to discuss the process of its implementation. The 8th conference will take place this year, **2010** (3rd May – 28th May) in New York. After the failure of the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the momentum created by civil society and politicians, the stakes are high.

Main challenges and objectives for the 2010 NPT Review Conference are:





The formulation of a multilateral agreement to further non-proliferation and disarmament by the nuclear states. This is a reinforcement or confirmation of the 13 Points towards disarmament agreed to at the 2000 NPT-Review Conference.

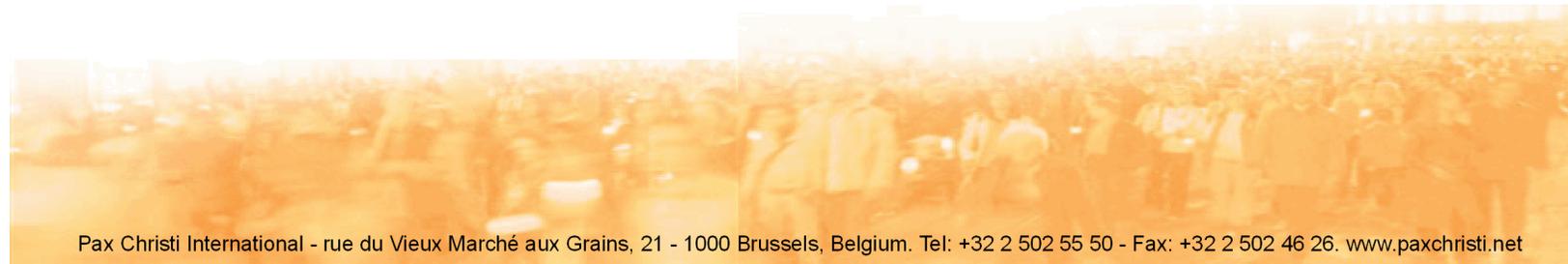
- ✓ The establishment of a durable solution for the Middle East (a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone) to limit the potentiality of a violent confrontation between Israel and Iran.
- ✓ Multilateral engagement by the non-recognized nuclear states Pakistan, India and North-Korea.
- ✓ The outcomes of the 2010 NPT-Review Conference will influence global nuclear policy in the future.

4) NATO'S STRATEGIC CONCEPT

The role, mission and strategy of NATO are determined in NATO's core document, the Strategic Concept. The Strategic Concept establishes NATO's strategy and is periodically updated, according to the evolution of security challenges.

The current Strategic Concept was established in 1999. A new Strategic Concept is being discussed since the NATO-summit of Kehl-Strasbourg of 2009. The process leading to the new NATO strategy will be concluded with the establishment of the new Strategic Concept towards the end of 2010.

It is in the Strategic Concept that NATO's military strategy and vision on proliferation is determined. Five European member states are demanding a discussion on the role of nuclear weapons in NATO's security policy and the possible withdrawal of the US strategic weapons.



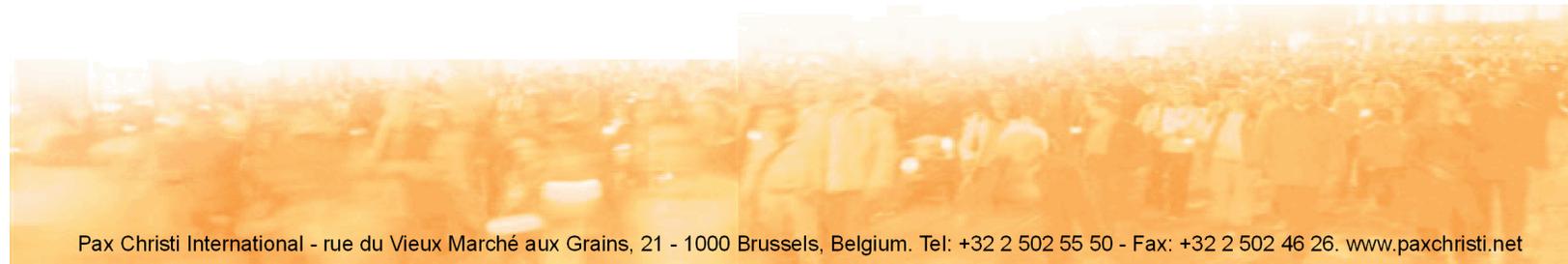


Pax Christi would like to use the opportunity of the new Strategic Concept to urge NATO to:

- ✓ end the political and military role of nuclear weapons in NATO's security policy
- ✓ end nuclear sharing as part of NATO'S Strategic Concept
- ✓ withdraw all US nuclear weapons from Europe by 2012
- ✓ work closely with Russia on the retreat and elimination of tactical nuclear weapons

5) NON-PROLIFERATION IN THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL CONTEXT 2010.

The situation of Europe as a political actor in the disarmament question is unique. The European Union is demonstrating little unity in this matter and appears to lack the political weight to enforce a breakthrough. The European Parliament ratified in March 2010 a resolution condemning nuclear arms and demanding the removal of all US tactical nuclear arms out of Europe. Nevertheless, France and the UK show no plans to get rid of their nuclear weapons even though both are parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and NATO seems to overrule the EU as the decision body on a common European nuclear policy. At this moment, five European NATO member states (Germany, Norway, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxemburg) are pleading for a discussion on the role of nuclear arms in the new Strategic Concept. Italy and EU-candidate member Turkey, both having US tactical arms, did not join this movement. At the end of April, the European Union did formulate his common position on the 2010 NPT. In this statement the EU did not explicitly endorsed president Obama's new nuclear policy (probably due to French opposition). Although, the EU is encouraging the United States and the Russian Federation to further develop unilateral and bilateral initiatives and agreements to reduce the number of both strategic and non-strategic nuclear arms in the arsenals of





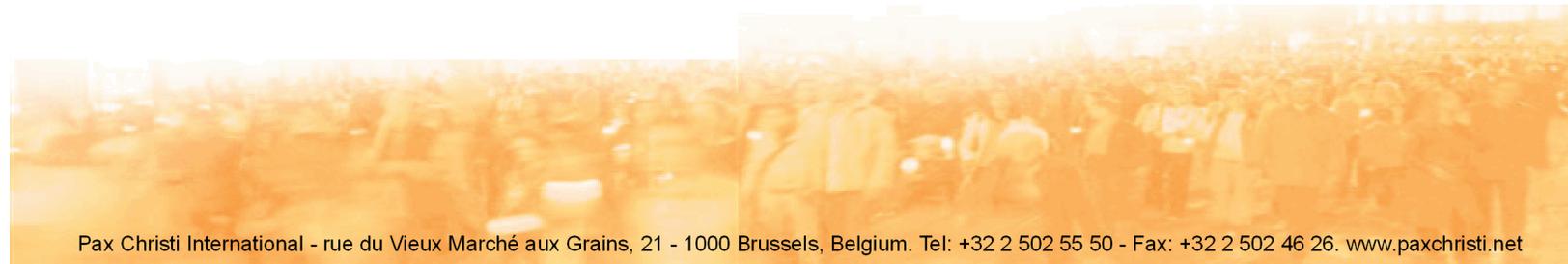
both states. It is clear that this statement is also referring to NATO's tactical nuclear arms in Europe.

We believe that a nuclear-free Europe is an important step towards a nuclear-free world. Primarily, the European Union must become a nuclear weapon-free zone. British and French nuclear arsenals should no longer be modernised and US nuclear weapons on European territory must be withdrawn. Europe should take the lead in the global nuclear disarmament process, particularly for the establishment of the global convention against nuclear arms. A Nuclear-free Europe by 2015 is a feasible goal.

6) START AND IT'S SUCCESSOR

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) is an integral part of the bilateral nuclear relationship between Russia and the United States. It was signed after almost 10 years of negotiations in 1991 and entered into force in 1994. Often described as the most effective arms control accord in history, START led to the removal of more than two-thirds of all strategic weapons and limited each side to the then-radical ceiling of 6,000 warheads deployed on no more than 1,600 delivery systems. It is valid for 15 years and may be extended by five-year intervals by agreement of all Parties to the Treaty.

The successor of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (**START**) was signed on April 8th 2010 in Prague. In this treaty, both the United States and Russia engage to reduce the number of nuclear warheads from 2200 to 1550 each and to reduce the number of launching rockets to 700. This means a reduction by one third of the US and USSR nuclear arsenal. The numbers stated in this agreement are not much lower than in the **STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE REDUCTIONS TREATY (SORT)** between both countries in 2002. The value of this agreement is therefore in the assured mutual verification mechanisms





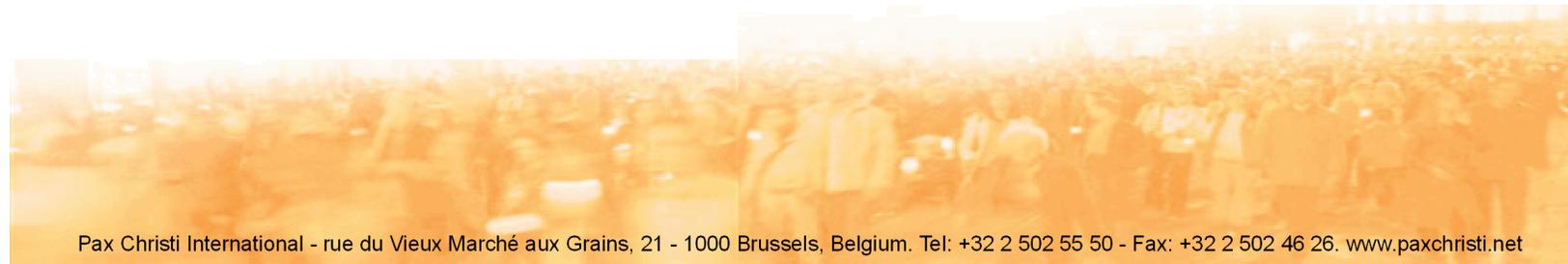
that are designed to follow up the reductions in both countries nuclear arsenal.

7) COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY

The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was adopted in 1996. It bans all kinds of nuclear tests (unlike the Partial Test Ban Treaty signed and entered into force in 1963) and establishes a worldwide monitoring system to monitor the underground, the waters and atmosphere for any signs of a nuclear explosion. To date 177 countries are party to this treaty. 44 countries, each having various degrees of nuclear capability must sign and ratify the treaty for the CTBT to enter into force. The treaty, though being signed 13 years ago, is still waiting to enter into force. Signature/ratification from nine key states is still missing: United States, China, Israel, India, Pakistan, North Korea, Iran, Indonesia and Egypt.

Although Bill Clinton was the first world leader who signed the CTBT, ratification of the treaty was later rejected by the US Senate. Consequently, in response to the US policy, some countries that signed the CTBT, such as China or Israel, have delayed their ratification processes. Others, including India and Pakistan, have yet to sign the treaty and are unlikely to do so unless the US and China finally ratify. US ratification might clearly have a positive influence on other countries and thus create a chain reaction that would possibly lead to the CTBT entering into force. Plans announced by the new US administration to *'actively pursue ratification of the CTBT'* bring another positive sign of a historical momentum for nuclear disarmament efforts.

8) SUCCESSFUL RISE OF INITIATIVES AND NETWORKS ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT





The numbers of anti-nuclear weapons networks have risen since the 1980s, targeting a slightly different audience and using varying methods of pursuing their objectives, though all of them focusing on the very same goal – a world free of nuclear weapons. The list that follows is far from being absolute, though it offers some good examples of successful anti-nuclear initiatives in the past years.

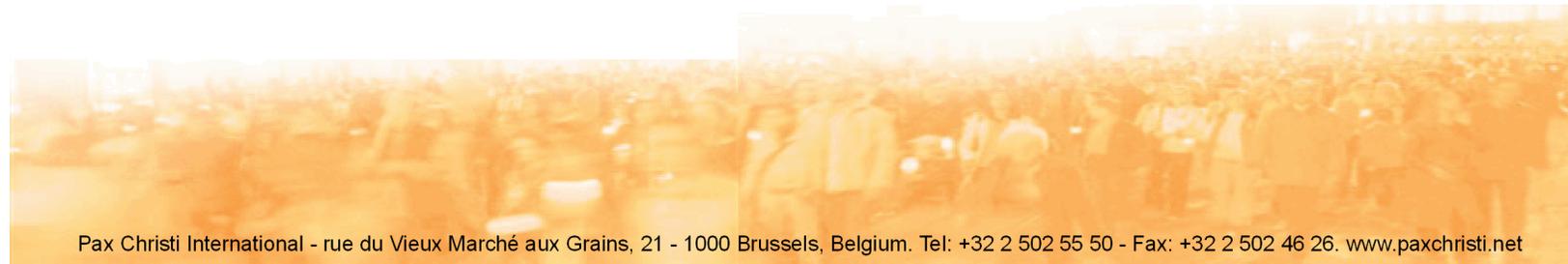
MAYORS FOR PEACE

- Initiated by the Mayor of Hiroshima, Takeshi Araki in 1982 – in the UN he presented a new *Program to Promote the Solidarity of Cities toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons*; subsequently, the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki called on mayors around the world to support this program
- To date, More than 2777 cities in 134 countries and regions have formally expressed support for the program Mayor Araki.

ABOLITION 2000

- A network of over 2000 organisations in more than 90 countries worldwide working for a global treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons
- Created during the *Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and Extension Conference* in 1995 as a protest against the fact that the issue of the nuclear abolition was left out of the agenda
- Aims to provide a forum for the exchange of information and the development of joint initiatives
- In its Founding Statement proposes an *11-point program for nuclear disarmament*

VISION 2020



- 
- Mayors for Peace campaign launched in 1997
 - Aims to achieve a nuclear-free world by the end of 2020 (in 3 phases, 1996-2000, 2000-2010, 2010-2020)
 - Campaign secretariat is in Ypres, Belgium

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT (PNND)

- Global network of over 500 parliamentarians from more than 70 countries
- Initiated in 2001
- The goal is to provide parliamentarians worldwide with up-to-date information on nuclear weapons policies and to help them become engaged in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament initiatives

ICAN - INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

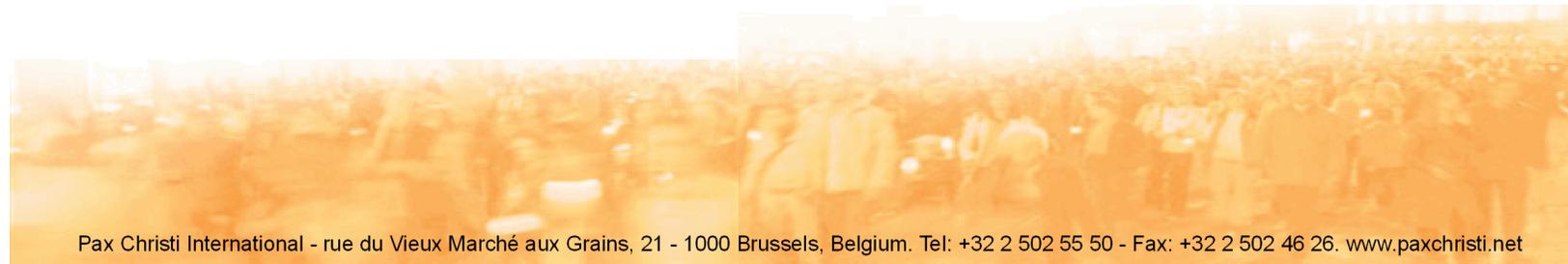
- A global grassroots movement calling on governments to negotiate a *Nuclear Weapons Convention*
- Launched in 2007
- Initiated by the *International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War*
- Has partner organisations in about 60 countries
- Its international partners include Abolition 2000, Mayors for Peace and other international initiatives calling for nuclear disarmament

GLOBAL ZERO

- An international initiative launched in Paris in December 2008 by 100 political, military, business, faith and civic leaders



- Developed the *Global Zero Action Plan*, a step-by-step policy plan for the phased elimination of nuclear weapons
- Campaigns for a *Nuclear Weapons Convention* that would ban all nuclear weapons worldwide
- The key aim is to build public support for the issue in the way that activists have helped put climate change on the agenda; including a need for more public information, particularly to educate the post-Cold War generation for whom the dangers of nuclear weapons may be more remote.





III. WHAT YOU CAN DO

There are number of initiatives you may choose to help to reach a nuclear-free world. Please, feel inspired, not limited by the list below; your own ideas are of course welcome! When campaigning, please do keep in mind the following **timeline**:

- nuclear-free NATO – by **2012**
- nuclear-free Europe – by **2015**
- nuclear-free world – by **2020**

1) Appeal to the Government

As a part of its ‘No Nukes’ campaign IKV Pax Christi prepared an *Appeal on Nuclear Disarmament* urging governments to take action towards a nuclear-free world, explicitly pointing out 10 steps to be followed. You can find this appeal in **Annex 1** of this advocacy package. Please feel free to adapt this appeal to the specific situation of your country or use it as a basis for a petition to be sent later to your government.

2) Open Letter to NATO Member States

In **Annex 2** of this advocacy package, you will find an *Open letter to NATO member states*, as drafted by the IKV Pax Christi. It calls upon NATO to end nuclear sharing and withdraw the US tactical nuclear weapons from Europe as a step towards working with Russia to eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons and to implement existing agreements.

In case your country is a NATO member state, your organisation is encouraged to translate the attached letter (if necessary) and send it to your government. If possible, please do so before the NPT-Review Conference or the establishment of the new NATO Strategic Concept.

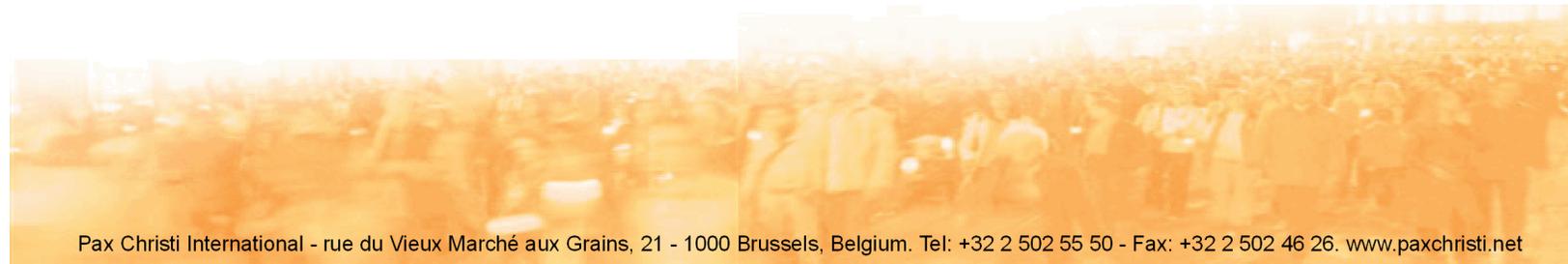


3) Create a ‘Gang of Four’

Find four well known and respected specialists in your country, whether diplomats, security experts, religious leaders or journalists who support the abolition of nuclear weapons and create your national **‘gang of four’**. A newspaper article in which they urge the government of their country to work towards a nuclear-free world should be published.

4) Write an op-ed

You may send a so called op-ed to one of the major newspapers in your country. An op-ed is an abbreviation from ‘opposite the editorial page’ and it is a column or essay published in the opinion section of a newspaper. This way you can inform people about the problem of nuclear disarmament and about the situation/position of your country, indirectly address government representatives of your country and at the same time raise public awareness and mobilise readers to support your goal – the world free of nuclear weapons.





IV. INTERESTING WEBSITES

2020 VISION CAMPAIGN

<http://www.2020visioncampaign.org/pages/100/Home>

ABOLITION 2000

<http://www.abolition2000.org/>

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH

<http://www.foeeurope.org/>

GLOBAL ZERO

<http://www.globalzero.org/>

GREENPEACE – Where are the Weapons of Mass Destruction?

<http://archive.greenpeace.org/wmd/>

ICAN - INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS

<http://www.icanw.org/>

INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

<http://www.ippnw.org/>



IKV PAX CHRISTI

www.nonukes.nl

MAYORS FOR PEACE

<http://www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/index.html>

NATO STRATEGIC CONCEPT

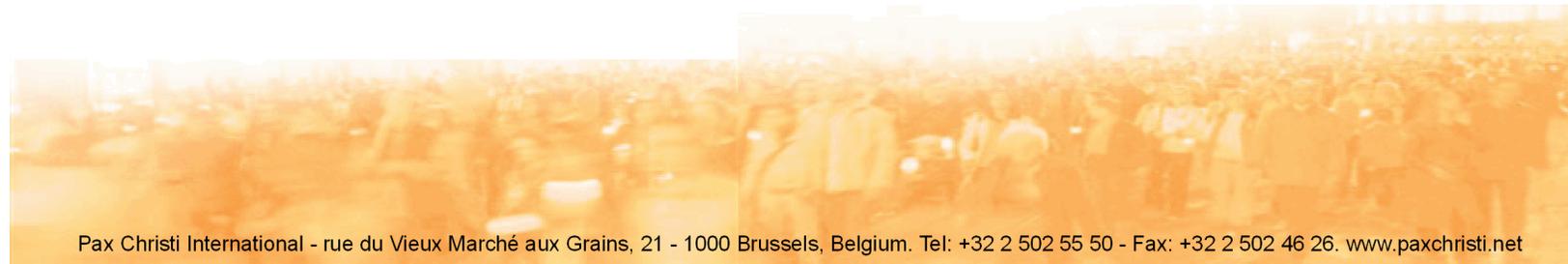
<http://www.nato.int/docu/pr/1999/p99-065e.htm>

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT

<http://www.gsintitute.org/pnnd/>

REACHING CRITICAL WILL

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/>





ANNEX 1

Appeal for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons

The world still lives under the threat of nuclear weapons. Despite the end of the Cold War, there are still more than 25,000 nuclear weapons. Thousands of them can be launched within moments. 9 countries now possess nuclear weapons. There is a growing danger that terrorists will obtain nuclear materials.

Today, forty years after the Cold War, the promise that the nuclear powers made in the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to work toward a world free of nuclear weapons has yet to be fulfilled. Their military planning and foreign policies foresee retaining nuclear weapons far into the future. The role of nuclear weapons in tense international situations is again expanding. The costs are enormous, more than 50 billion dollars annually in the United States alone.

We consider continued reliance on the threat of nuclear destruction of human life morally unacceptable. A world free of nuclear-weapons does not lie beyond the politically possible. It is a question of political will. And there are new opportunities. It is heartening to note that, since the end of the Cold War, many nuclear weapons from what used to be much larger arsenals have been dismantled. It is encouraging that the United States and Russia are cooperating on additional reductions. It is significant that they have performed no nuclear tests in recent years.

Former foreign secretaries Kissinger and Shultz now call upon the United States to develop a new policy aimed at freeing the world from all nuclear weapons within the foreseeable future. They have now gained the support of at least two thirds of all

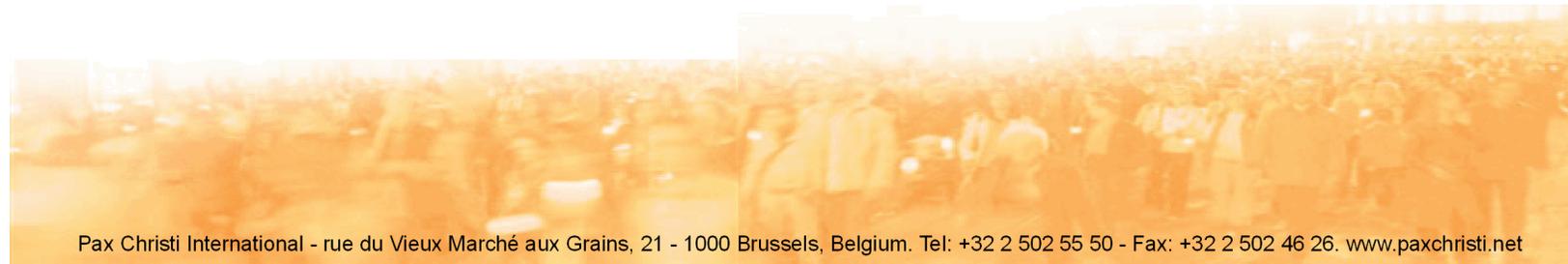


former US defence and foreign affairs ministers and national security advisers. Their effort is no longer aimed at reducing nuclear weapons but at eliminating them radically. Moreover, President Obama has made clear that he will put nuclear disarmament high on his agenda. We support the call issued by aforesaid former foreign secretaries and secretaries of defense. We believe that a world free of nuclear weapons is a moral obligation and a political necessity.

We are convinced that we now have a historic opportunity to fulfil the promise of a world free of nuclear weapons, and this no later than 2020. This will be possible if government leaders clearly speak out NOW in no uncertain terms and if they take irrevocable steps in this direction.

We urgently ask our government to take action now by:

1. Declaring officially that it supports the call for a world free of nuclear weapons by 2020 latest.
2. Seeking support for this call from all European countries and NATO allies.
3. Urging at the 2009 NATO summit to end the political and military role of nuclear weapons in NATO's security policy.
4. Speaking out in favour of a Europe that will be free of nuclear weapons no later than 2015, taking steps to achieve this and ending the nuclear task of the Dutch Air Force.
5. Advocating that nuclear warheads no longer be kept on hair-trigger alert but stored safely and apart from their delivery systems.
6. Promoting the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) no later than the 2010 NPT Review Conference.





7. Discouraging any further modernisation of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems.

8. Promoting agreement in 2010 on a treaty that forbids production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons.

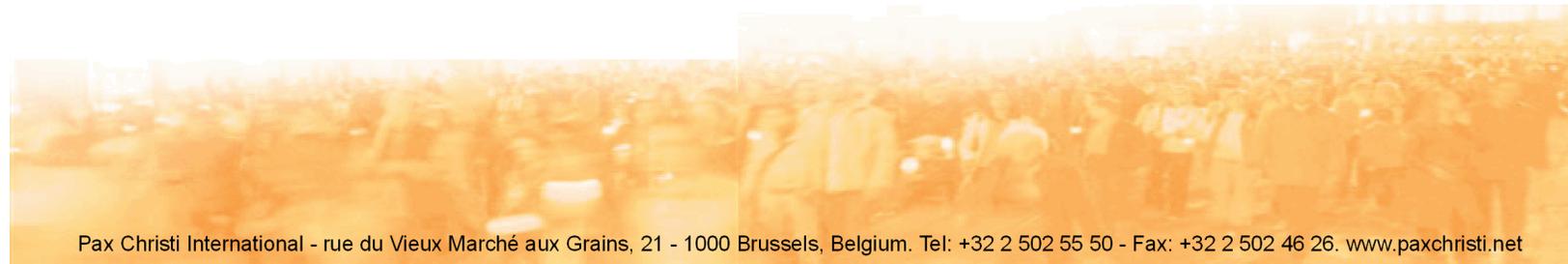
9. Promoting supranational control of the entire fissile material cycle of nuclear materials, also as a way to prevent nuclear terrorism.

10. Urging the governments of the United States, Poland and the Czech Republic to refrain from deploying a missile defence in Europe.

11. Taking the initiative for an independent and authoritative international technical investigation into all aspects relating to the worldwide abolition of all nuclear weapons. When taken by a resolute vanguard of countries, these steps can move states with nuclear weapons within their own alliance as well as Russia and China to free the world of nuclear weapons by 2020. This can also get the nuclear powers like India, Israel and Pakistan that are not part of the NPT to follow suit. That is why we ask governments, religious leaders, civil society organisations and citizens to support this appeal. The hope for a world free of nuclear weapons will be more than a dream if enough people lend it their support.

ANNEX 2

Open Letter to NATO Member States



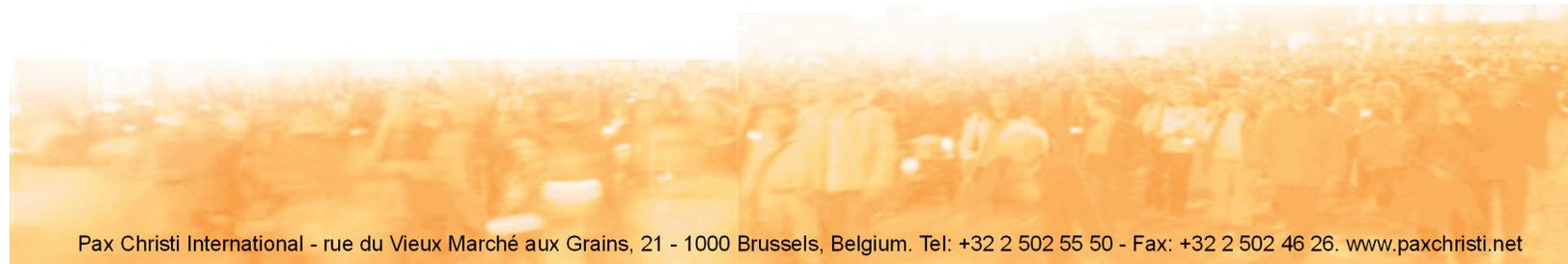


Now is the time to denuclearize NATO!

NATO's sixtieth anniversary summit in April 2009 (Strasbourg/Kehl) addressed the security challenges of the 21st Century and started the revision of NATO's outdated Strategic Concept. NATO needs to end the Cold War practice of nuclear sharing and should withdraw its tactical nuclear weapons from Europe, as a step towards working with Russia to eliminate all tactical nuclear weapons and implement existing agreements. Eminent statesmen and former generals from the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy have called for accelerated action to free the world from nuclear weapons. NATO's current nuclear policies and the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons in Europe have no justifiable role in the post Cold War world and stand in the way of our broader security interests. With a new US president in the White House who recognizes the security advantages of a nuclear-free world, NATO members need to reshape NATO policies in order to reduce nuclear dangers, enhance European security, and strengthen the non-proliferation regime.

- In conjunction with the upcoming NATO Summit, we call on the governments of the NATO member states to:
- affirm their unequivocal undertaking to totally eliminate nuclear arsenals and achieve a world without nuclear weapons
- revise NATO's Strategic Concept to end the role and value ascribed to nuclear weapons
- remove US nuclear weapons from Europe by 2012 and end the policies of nuclear sharing and deterrence based on the potential first use of nuclear weapons

A Cold War Anachronism that Undermines the NPT

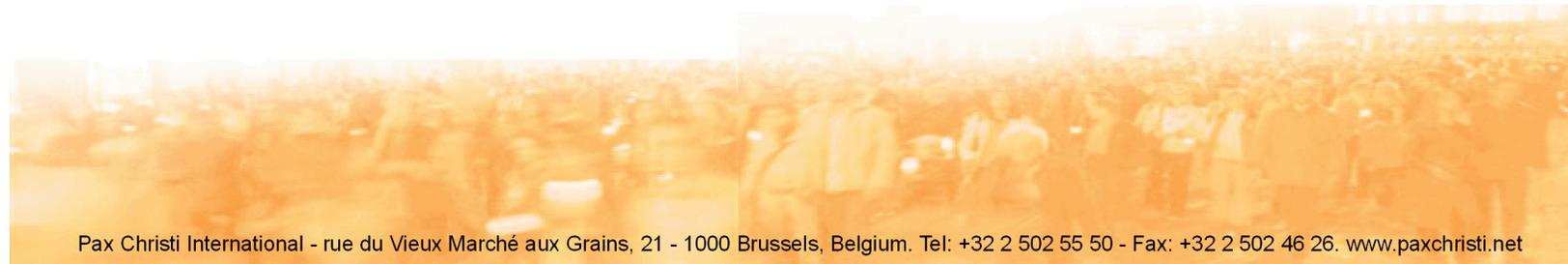




Even before the end of the Cold War, NATO and Russia had begun to reduce the number of nuclear weapons deployed in Europe, but they have retained weapons, doctrines and policies that are unnecessary for security and counterproductive to efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation regime and build more stable and constructive relations with Russia.

NATO's 1999 Strategic Concept asserts that nuclear weapons provide the "supreme guarantee" of Alliance security and states that war prevention requires "widespread participation by European Allies involved in collective defence planning in nuclear roles, in peacetime basing of nuclear forces on their territory and in command, control and consultation arrangements". Three NATO members – the United States, Britain and France – together possess over 10,000 nuclear weapons. (France does not at present participate in NATO's Nuclear Planning Group.) Five NATO members that are formally non-nuclear weapon states parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) – Belgium, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands and Turkey – maintain "nuclear sharing" arrangements under which some could be given wartime use of up to 200 American-owned nuclear free-fall bombs believed to be still stored in Europe. For some of these, nationally-owned military aircrafts have to be equipped to carry nuclear weapons and a number of pilots from non-nuclear countries are trained to control and use the US nuclear weapons if required. NATO bases this policy on the view that nuclear sharing is legal because the NPT would cease to be binding in time of war. This argument legitimises proliferation in time of war and undermines the credibility of the NPT.

In addition to strengthening European security, denuclearizing NATO at this time would also be financially advantageous for the United States and those European nations confronted with the need to replace their ageing fleets of aircrafts over the next decade. They could use this opportunity to reorient defence budgets and security tools while giving up the anachronistic nuclear role.



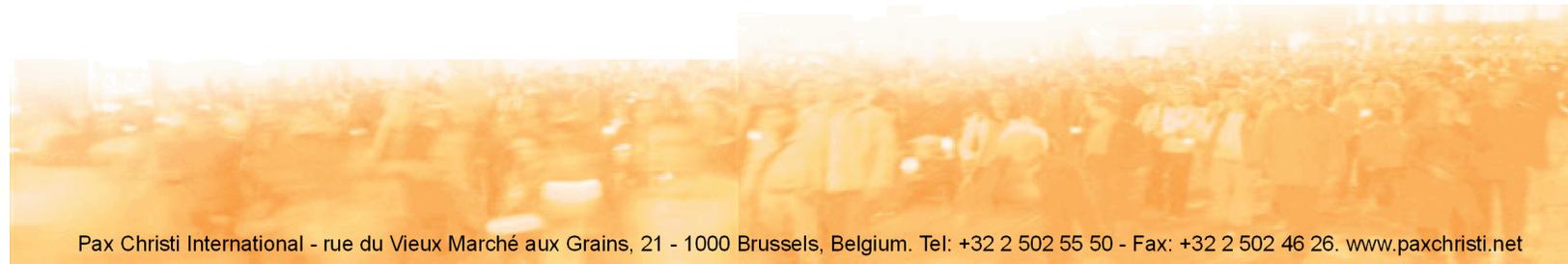


Denuclearizing NATO would strengthen the NPT and enhance European Security

Nuclear weapons are increasingly recognized as an international problem and not a security asset. The US nuclear bombs deployed in Europe are particularly vulnerable and counter-productive. The doctrine of nuclear deterrence based on the potential first use or retaliatory use of nuclear weapons is less convincing and more destabilizing than deterrence approaches based on a mix of other political, diplomatic and military tools available to NATO countries. Denuclearizing NATO would demonstrate to the world (and would-be proliferators) that nuclear weapons are unnecessary for deterrence and harmful for security.

The Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament adopted as part of the decisions to extend the NPT in 1995 contained a number of commitments relevant to the Alliance, including the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones and further steps to assure non-nuclear-weapon States party to the Treaty against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. NATO's current nuclear policies are an obstacle to achieving these objectives and also run counter to much of the Programme of Action adopted by NPT states at the 2000 Review Conference (and endorsed by NATO itself in December 2000), notably the commitments to transparency, further reductions in non-strategic weapons, reductions in the operational status of these weapons, and a diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies.

In addition to the strong security and non proliferation case for eliminating nuclear weapons from Europe, we consider the continued reliance on the threat of nuclear destruction of human life and the environment to be unacceptable. We believe that a





world free of nuclear weapons is both a political necessity and a moral obligation. Achieving the abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020 is practically, technically and internationally feasible, but requires political commitment and leadership. We now have a historic opportunity to rid Europe and then the world of these weapons of terror. We urge NATO countries to work with Russia to eliminate all portable, short range nuclear weapons responsibly and verifiably. We call on our governments to show leadership at the NATO Summit and initiate the process of denuclearizing Europe.

<http://storage.paxchristi.net/2010-0233-en-gl-SD.pdf>

