



PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
Engaging legislators worldwide in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament initiatives

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Speech given by Dennis Kucinich at Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference United Nations, New York, May 2005

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This statement was given to a parliamentary conference at the UN. Representatives from the following nations were in attendance: France, Turkey, Germany, Norway, Russia, New Zealand, Canada, UK and the United States.

I want to thank the Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament for making possible this gathering at the United Nations.

Here, at the United Nations, where this structure was built to give expression to achieving human unity through enhanced cooperation, we are called upon to confirm that the world community is taking positive steps toward expressing principles of interconnection and interdependence.

Nation states achieve their legitimacy not simply through ballot exercises, but through addressing the practical aspirations of their respective constituents for life's basic necessities: Food, water, shelter, and clothing, I would add peace to that list.

Peace is not just the absence of war, It is the active presence of a capacity for love and compassion, and reciprocity. It is an awareness that our lives are not to be lived simply for ourselves through expressing our individuality, but we confirm the purpose of our lives through the work of expressing our shared sense of community in a purposeful and practical way; to sustain our own lives we sustain the lives of others., in family, in a community of neighborhoods called a city, and in a community of nations called the world.

The Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty recognizes the essentiality, the practicality of nuclear disarmament and nuclear abolition. The principle of human unity seeks expression in such agreements, It does so out of healthy awareness that if we protect another person's life, we protect our own.

The 2005 NPT Review may not produce a final, agreed upon document, but the very process of reviewing the status of our world wide nuclear dilemma brings from around the world people of good will in an exemplification of human unity.

Our presence here today, as representatives of our governments and as citizens of the world, speaks for itself, is authentic in and of itself and is an expression of a physical and spiritual force at work in the world which sustains the world.

Official resistance to nuclear disarmament, is consequential in terms of this conference. It is regrettable that representatives of my own government deny commitments the US made to facilitate disarmament, and, even worse, to nullify this forum through noncooperation.

As the nation which possesses the largest nuclear arsenal, the United States has a clear responsibility to lead the way toward nuclear disarmament. The unwillingness of our Administration do to so cannot be pinned on Iran and North Korea. We must take responsibility for the effects of our own actions in canceling the ABM treaty, in setting aside the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, in failing to negotiate a verifiable fissile material cutoff, in enunciating a nuclear first strike doctrine, in trying to build a missile shield, in building new nuclear weapons, in announcing the intention to dominate the world through offensive and defensive weapons in outer space.

Non nuclear states are good students. They look to the nuclear states for example

Our government has given an example, of proliferation and other states will learn well from such conduct. In the wake of the war against Iraq, which, we in the US were told, was about destroying nuclear weapon-making capability, Iran and North Korea may logically decide they are next and take steps to acquire retaliatory capacity.

Nuclear weapons have become a means for the projection of military power and for imposing the force of will upon others. I would suggest, that we have reached a place in human history where such thinking is archaic and not expressive of the spiritual and material development which has taken place in the world.

A new model is evolving from the NPT. And we see the exemplification of it in the organization Mayors for Peace. Whereas the NPT depends upon the agreement of member states, we come forward with a model for nuclear disarmament and abolition, which depends on the agreement of members of those states. As congressional representatives and mayors we declare our intention, our work is to create and confirm between ourselves the fact of human unity, representative of a global group consciousness for peace, an articulation of new structures for peace and an organized global activity for peace which includes a new structure to rid the world of weapons which would destroy the very physical basis for human unity.

As we work to create new models for enhancing cooperation between participants of nation states, a new model is evolving in the world of diplomacy. Wherever and whenever nation states fail to reconcile their differences, a new citizen diplomacy arises: Citizen diplomats summon the power of their own hearts and confirm their own humanity through reaching out and discovering their brothers and sisters speak other languages, have other colors and other religions and share a common desire to live out their lives in peace and tranquility. The work of nongovernmental organizations is equally urgent in saving this planet.