

## Global Alliance of Leaders for Nuclear Security and Nuclear-Weapon-Free World (GAL)

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### Chapeau

Open Letter of the GAL Strategic Planning Group on the Need for Meaningful Nuclear Confidence-Building Measures

### Chapter II. International peace and security

The world is in danger.

A new arms race is underway and plans for accelerating it are being prepared. The mechanism of threat exaggeration and overreaction, which fed the previous rounds of the nuclear arms race, has again been set in motion.

A clear recognition that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought is giving way to the rhetoric of nuclear war-fighting – such as “using all available means” and “defeating the adversary”.

New technologies could further destabilize the situation. Hypersonic missiles reduce response times. Improvements in accuracy could heighten fears of a disabling pre-emptive attack. Rapid development and implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into established military structures rightly raises disturbing questions.

- moving towards a policy of **No First Use of nuclear weapons** through steps such as de-alerting nuclear weapons and renouncing “launch-on-warning”. Decisions that could lead to the death of millions of people must not be made within minutes;

- resuming **full operation of Nuclear Risk Reduction Centers** and devising additional transparency and security-building measures that could be extended to other nuclear-weapons states;

- discussing nuclear doctrines with a view to **diminishing the role of nuclear weapons** in their national security policies;

- **discussing new threats to strategic stability**, including those associated with the rapid development of artificial intelligence, to ensure that there is always positive human control over the use of nuclear weapons;

- pledging to **avoid inflammatory war-fighting rhetoric** concerning possible use of nuclear weapons.

All nuclear weapon states should reaffirm their commitment to their nonproliferation and disarmament obligations pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

All nuclear weapon states should demonstrate support for Nuclear Weapons Free Zones by signing and ratifying Protocols that give legally binding assurances that they will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against NWFZ member States.

These and other steps to reduce the danger of nuclear conflict could pave the way to re-energizing the nuclear disarmament process.

Christine Muttonen, former President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Co-President of the Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)

Urban Rusnak, Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic, former Secretary General of the Energy Charter

Les Simms, Founder and Executive Director, International Forum for Understanding (IFOUND)