

IPU Committee on United Nations Affairs  
Item 5

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4 October 2012

**LAUNCH OF THE HANDBOOK: SUPPORTING NUCLEAR  
NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT**

**24 October 2012, 12 noon**

In April 2009, the Inter-Parliamentary Union adopted a consensus resolution entitled *Advancing nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and securing the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty: The role of parliaments*. In February 2011, following up on his Five-Point Proposal on Nuclear Disarmament, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a letter to all parliaments in which he emphasized the key role that parliaments and their members play "in the success of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts." The expert debate *Nuclear Weapons — the Road to Zero*, held on the occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> IPU Assembly (Bern, October 2011), further explored what parliamentarians could do to fashion the legislative agendas needed to advance these goals.

As a follow-up to these initiatives, the IPU and PNND agreed to pool relevant findings and produce a Handbook that would highlight existing examples of good practice in the area of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and offer recommendations for further parliamentary action.

The Handbook was written by Rob van Riet (World Future Council) and Alyn Ware (Global Coordinator, PNND), in close consultation with an Advisory Group consisting of prominent parliamentarians, experts, and institutions, including the United Nations, CTBTO and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Production of the Handbook was made possible thanks to a generous contribution from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.



Programme:

- Screening of a video message from MPs from around the world
- Saber Chowdhury, MP (Bangladesh), President of the IPU's First Standing Committee on Peace and International Security
- Tibor Tóth, Executive Secretary, Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO)
- Randy Rydell, Senior Political Affairs Officer, UN Office for Disarmament Affairs
- Hélène Laverdière, Member of the Canadian Parliament, Co-Chair Canada chapter of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND)
- Rob van Riet, World Future Council, co-author of the Handbook

Workshop:

The launch will be followed by a *Workshop on new tools to promote nuclear disarmament*, co-organized by the IPU, PNND and the CTBTO. The workshop will include examples of parliamentary action, ideas for using the IPU Handbook, and demonstrations of online and social media tools.