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Global Security Institute

Dear Prime Minister/President

We are writing to encourage your government to ratify the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).

We recognize there are many pressing issues which demand the attention of African governments and that nuclear disarmament might not be at the top of the agenda. Never-the-less, the threat of nuclear weapons use grows daily, whether by a State or non-State actor, by accident, miscalculation or intent. If there is a nuclear weapons use anywhere, it would be disastrous for all countries. In addition, unresolved suspicion of nuclear weapons programmes stimulates conflicts and destabilizes whole continents.

The establishment of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, along with those in Latin America, the Pacific, Antarctica and South East Asia, helps to develop a norm against nuclear weapons and a stepping stone towards a nuclear-weapons-free world. While the other nuclear-weapon-free zones have entered into force, the Pelindaba Treaty waits for the requisite number of ratifications. Once all of the regional zones are in force, the consolidation of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Southern Hemisphere and Adjacent Areas becomes possible, and the collective voice of these regions for a nuclear weapons free world is strengthened.

As parliamentarians from countries which have ratified the respective NWFZ treaties, we believe that ratification is not a complicated process requiring detailed national implementation measures, but can be done quite easily. We stand ready to offer our support to assist you in this endeavour.

Yours truly,

Hon Nick Smith MP
Chair PNND New Zealand

Keith Locke MP
Secretary PNND New Zealand

Hon David Coltart MP (Zimbabwe)
PNND Global Council Member

Hon Marian Hobbs MP (NZ)
PNND Global Council Member
Former Minister for Disarmament
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Hon Dr Raphael Chegeni MP (Tanzania)
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