

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 77

Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of
Nuclear Weapons.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 31, 2023

Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. JAYAPAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

RESOLUTION

Embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the
Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Whereas since the height of the Cold War, the United States and Russia have dismantled more than 50,000 nuclear warheads, but 14,500 of these weapons still exist and pose an intolerable risk to human survival;

Whereas 95 percent of these weapons are in the hands of the United States and Russia and the rest are held by seven other countries: China, France, Israel, India, North Korea, Pakistan, and the United Kingdom;

Whereas the use of even a tiny fraction of these weapons could cause worldwide climate disruption and global fam-

ine—for example, a limited nuclear war in south Asia involving just 250 Hiroshima-sized 15 kiloton warheads could result in 52,000,000 direct fatalities, loft 37,000,000 tons of soot into the upper atmosphere, and cause climate disruption across the planet, cutting food production and putting an estimated 930,000,000 people worldwide at risk of death due to famine over two years;

Whereas according to scientific studies and models, a large-scale nuclear war could kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage and catastrophic climate disruption by dropping temperatures across the planet to levels not seen since the last ice age; under these conditions much of humanity might face starvation and humans might even be at grave risk as a species;

Whereas despite assurances that these arsenals exist solely to guarantee that they are never used, there have been many occasions when nuclear armed states have prepared to use these weapons, and war has been averted only at the last minute;

Whereas the current nuclear weapons policies of the United States do not inherently prevent their use;

Whereas in the 2003 documentary, “The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons from the Life of Robert S. McNamara”, former Defense Secretary Robert McNamara said, when describing the Cuban Missile Crisis, “It was luck that prevented nuclear war”—yet the nuclear policy of the United States should not be based on the hope that “luck” will continue;

Whereas the United States intelligence community’s January 29, 2019, annual assessment of worldwide threats warned

that the effects of climate change and environmental degradation increase stress on communities around the world and intensify global instability and the likelihood of conflict, causing the danger of using nuclear weapons or nuclear war to grow;

Whereas, in October 2017, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Nuclear Modernization Plan to upgrade and enhance nearly every element of the nuclear arsenal of the United States would result in costs of more than \$1,200,000,000,000 over 30 years, not adjusting for inflation;

Whereas, in May 2021, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projected that the plans for nuclear forces delineated in the Department of Defense's and the Department of Energy's fiscal year 2021 budget requests, submitted in February 2020, would cost a total of \$634,000,000,000 over the 2021 to 2030 period, for an average of just over \$60,000,000,000 a year, a 10-year total that is 28 percent higher than CBO's most recent previous estimate;

Whereas a February 6, 2018, report by the Government Accountability Office report warned that the "National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) plans to modernize its nuclear weapons do not align with its budget, raising affordability concerns", thereby increasing the pressure on the defense budget and the implicit trade-offs within that budget, diverting crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of the American people and the ability to respond to global crises and priorities, increasing the potential risk of nuclear accidents, and helping fuel a global arms race;

Whereas, on February 2, 2019, the United States and the Russian Federation withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, signed in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev, which has prohibited the development and deployment of ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges of 310 miles to 3,420 miles, and has resulted in each country dismantling more than 2,500 missiles and has kept nuclear-tipped cruise missiles off the European continent for three decades, thus sparking increased concern in a renewed nuclear arms race between the two countries and other nuclear-armed nations;

Whereas, on July 7, 2017, an alternative global nuclear policy was adopted by 122 nations by signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which calls for the elimination of all nuclear weapons;

Whereas the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons entered into force on January 22, 2021;

Whereas, on January 24, 2023, the Science and Security Board at the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists set their iconic Doomsday Clock to 90 seconds to midnight, the closest it has ever signaled how close humanity is to self-destruction, and urged governments to take action to make the world safer; and

Whereas the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation has increased the danger and potential of the use of nuclear weapons and nuclear war: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that the United States—

3 (1) calls on the President to embrace the goals
4 and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of

1 Nuclear Weapons and make nuclear disarmament
2 the centerpiece of the national security policy of the
3 United States; and

4 (2) calls on the Secretary of State, the Sec-
5 retary of Defense, all other Federal and congres-
6 sional leaders of the United States and the Amer-
7 ican people to lead a global effort to move the world
8 back from the nuclear brink and to prevent nuclear
9 war by—

10 (A) actively pursuing and concluding nego-
11 tiations on a new, bilateral nuclear arms control
12 and disarmament framework agreement with
13 the Russian Federation before 2026 and pur-
14 suing negotiations with China and other nu-
15 clear-armed states on an agreement or agree-
16 ments for the verifiable, enforceable, and
17 timebound elimination of global nuclear arse-
18 nals;

19 (B) renouncing the option of using nuclear
20 weapons first;

21 (C) ending the President's sole authority
22 to launch a nuclear attack;

23 (D) taking the nuclear weapons of the
24 United States off hair-trigger alert; and

1 (E) canceling the plan to replace the nu-
2 clear arsenal of the United States with modern-
3 ized, enhanced weapons.

○