VOTES ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT RESOLUTIONS WELCOMED

Written by John Hallam Thursday, 30 October 2014 13:00 - Last Updated Sunday, 08 February 2015 22:04

PEOPLE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT NSW

HUMAN SURVIVAL PROJECT

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The Human Survival Project (HSP) and People for Nuclear Disarmament (PND) have welcomed votes taken yesterday in the United Nations General Assembly First Committee on nuclear disarmament. (The Human Survival Project is a joint project of People for Nuclear Disarmament and Sydney University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies).

In particular, HSP and PND have welcomed the outcome of the vote on Operational Readiness of Nuclear Weapon Systems, which went from 145 yes, 4 No, 19abstentions in 2012, to 163-4-10 in 2014.

Mr John Hallam of HSP and PND whose lobbying gave rise to the resolution via a statement signed by 44 nobels and 364 NGOs in 2006/7, said of the vote:

"Operational Readiness of Nuclear Weapon Systems is all about reducing nuclear risk and in particular about decreasing the risk of nuclear war bought about by miscalculation and/or malfunction in a situation of crisis such as that which has recently prevailed between the US, NATO, and Russia. Lowering the operational readiness of nuclear weapon systems as the resolution calls for, has been called by a 2008 article in the prestigious Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists the single step that will do most to ensure short-term human survival."

"The increased support given to this vital resolution this year is thus some cause for optimism in an otherwise grim year. It does however, indicate increased levels of concern over the global situation by the 163 governments that now support the Operational readiness resolution in First Committee."

"We heartily congratulate the governments that sponsor this resolution and all who gave it their support. We can only hope that steps will be taken before too long to actually do what the resolution suggests"

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