



**Statement by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs  
on the awarding of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize to the  
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

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I congratulate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize.

This award recognizes its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its efforts leading to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. This Prize also recognizes once again the vital and indispensable role of civil society in advancing our common aspirations peace, security and a world free of nuclear weapons.

The awarding of this Prize comes at a time of increasing nuclear peril. There is real and growing anxiety over the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons. We continue to be haunted by the spectre of nuclear war decades after the end of the Cold War. The slow pace in accomplishing our long-standing aspirations for nuclear disarmament has left us today with unprecedented dangers.

The achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world continues to be an urgent priority for the United Nations. More than 15,000 nuclear weapons remain in global stockpiles, with many on high levels of alert. Millions of people in North East Asia are living in fear over the dangerous and destabilizing nuclear and ballistic missile activities by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

I therefore hope this Prize serves to inspire new momentum, dialogue and serious efforts by the international community to pursue disarmament as a means for preventing conflict, reducing international tensions and achieving sustainable peace and security.