

Global Zero World Summit

Paris, France
February 2nd – 4th, 2010

***Public Campaign for Global Zero
Remarks***

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Good Afternoon.

My name is Jennifer Allen Simons.

I am President of The Simons Foundation, a Founding Partner of Global Zero and the Principal Sponsor of this Global Zero World Summit.

I would like to acknowledge the generous contributions to this event from Naila Bolus and Joe Cirincione of the Ploughshares Fund; from the World Security Institute, represented here by Dr. Bob Meyers, John Fullerton and Ray Frankel; also Peter Kelnar and, as well, Deb Sawyer of the Telemachus Foundation. This is a practical manifestation of the confidence in the contribution Global Zero is making in rapidly moving forward the agenda to eliminate nuclear weapons.

And I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lawrence Bender, Bruce Blair, Matt Brown - and all those associated with the film - for the fine documentary, and you, Bruce and Matt, for all that you have accomplished in the last fourteen months.

The Simons Foundation served as Principal Sponsor of the Global Zero Inaugural Summit, fourteen months ago. Since that time, I have worked closely with Bruce and Matt - the modestly self-designated co-ordinators. I have observed their strategic planning, their team building, their development and management skills - Global Zero's extraordinary success, and its rapid movement forward. And we, at the Foundation, have every reason to maintain our confidence in the continuing success of the project to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2030 and their prohibition for all time.

The Simons Foundation is a small privately-funded organization with limited resources and Global Zero could accomplish so much more, and at faster pace, with a deeper, broader financial base. So - as Global Zero augments its diplomatic and political activity and presses forward into its Public Campaign and Youth Leadership programme - I do ask those of you with **the means** - and your friends and colleagues also - for financial help in order to support this major effort to eliminate nuclear weapons, and to ensure they are gone forever.

Bruce Blair, once, said to me that Global Zero would be the "*wind behind President Obama's back*" but it seems, at times, we travel at his side. Much work has been done. Global Zero has built support - globally - from all levels, and developed its credibility as an organization. And in fact, any mention of global zero - *lower case* - shorthand for zero nuclear weapons - is assumed to be discussion of the organization, Global Zero.

We are certainly thankful to President Obama for making nuclear disarmament a priority - for his agenda to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, an agenda re-confirmed in his State of the Union Address. Yet, his language is extremely cautious! There may be domestic, strategic, political reasons for this. However, the urgency of the issue is blunted by this caution. In the public realm, his words *perhaps not within my lifetime*

and an *agenda to seek the GOAL of a world free of nuclear weapons* may create the impression that the elimination of nuclear weapons is a concern of the lower order and a matter of little urgency. Moreover, words such as *goals* and *vision* could be detrimental to his own objectives because it places the nuclear free world in the abstract and *beyond history* – rather than the *reality* of concrete action to eliminate nuclear weapons – and within the shortest possible time-frame because the situation requires urgent action.

The Global Zero Action Plan calls for a concurrent process of both *reductions* to zero *and a treaty – the Global Zero Accord* - outlawing nuclear weapons. To date, reductions have been the only politically acceptable way of proceeding.

It is essential that we begin a treaty process banning nuclear weapons, in order to ensure that we do not, merely, engage in an endless process of reductions. And it important to ensure that those, in the public realm, are not lulled and pacified in the belief that a nuclear weapon-free world is on the way *just* because the numbers are being reduced. Reductions are merely the *means to the end - the method used to reach the end*.

And as Richard Falk pointed out: were this same reduction approach applied to Chemical and Biological weapons the absurdity would be apparent - *We agree to each remove one phial of smallpox and one teaspoon of anthrax and its delivery systems* – envelopes were mailed to members of Congress so - *one package of envelopes!!*

We find this absurdity, this incongruity, with regard to nuclear weapons on several fronts. The 1977 Geneva Protocols prohibit targeting or attacking a nuclear power plant. Yet there is no prohibition on targeting or attacking - *with nuclear weapons* - a city deemed of military interest.

A detonation of a 300 kiloton nuclear weapon on Tel Aviv, would surely be *an act of Genocide*. Yet, two nuclear weapons states (US and France) signed the Genocide Convention with attached Reservations that it did not apply to nuclear weapons.

The detonation of a nuclear weapon of even a Hiroshima size bomb - a twentieth of the current magnitude - would kill so many hundreds of thousands that *there is no question* that it would be judged a mass atrocity - *a crime against humanity*. Yet one nuclear weapon state (France) signed the International Criminal Court Convention with an attached Reservation that it did not apply to nuclear weapons.

And how many in the public domain have this kind of information?

The Obama Administration's emphasis - like the Clinton and Bush Administration's - remains on Non-Proliferation and preventing acquisition by terrorists - both extremely important goals. What President Obama returned to the table is *nuclear disarmament*. And it is now Global Zero's task to convince him that disarmament – elimination to zero and prohibition - are equally important.

And further, it is Global Zero's task to convince both President Obama - and the general public - that it is not only possible within his lifetime, but also essential that he aggressively push this agenda.

In the public domain, it is *not* understood that *we have not left behind* the Mutually Assured Destruction of the Cold War. The United States and Russia can still destroy each other within a matter of minutes. Added to this danger is the contemporary situation of some 30 nuclear capable states and, as well, terrorists' attempts to acquire nuclear weapons.

The minute hand of the Doomsday Clock *has* been shifted back by one minute, to 6 minutes to midnight. And, by *only one minute* because the terror of nuclear weapons is still considered *one of the two gravest threats to civilization*. Yet this dangerous situation *does not resonate* in the public domain. And ultimately it is the voices from this domain who will influence lawmakers in Congresses, the Federal Assembly of Russia, the Knessett and Parliaments around the world.

Global Zero is embarking on a major programme to educate and engage the general public. The film is a grand beginning for the second phase. And I have been asked to introduce the Panel for the Public Campaign for Global Zero - the inauguration of Global Zero's *major thrust* to build public global awareness, understanding and involvement to drive political action forward, through its Public Campaign and its Student Leadership Programme and Campus Campaign.

Last year, Dr. Philip Zelikow, Chair of the 9/11 Commission, said that Iran was the crossroads and that if Iran goes nuclear, then - to quote him "*goodbye zero*". It well may be that the young people in Iran, who are - distressingly - putting their lives at risk, will, perhaps, if successful with their Green Revolution - combined with the current dissent at the highest levels - ultimately resolve Iran's nuclear standoff .

There is a historical record of young people who were responsible for, or who have played a major role in successful, world-changing, non-violent and transformational civil movements. Take for example, the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia - the non-violent overthrow by students of an admittedly stagnating Communism.

William Wilberforce was 26 when he began his successful crusade to abolish slavery. Martin Luther King was also a 26 year- old when, in 1955, he led the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the founding action of the US Civil Rights movement. The *Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee* - a driving force in sit-ins, Freedom Rides, the 1963 March on Washington and Voter registration in the southern United States - was one of the principal organizations of the American Civil Rights movement in the 1960s.

Another successful civil movement and one very important for nuclear disarmament was the 1958 St. Louis Baby-Teeth Survey. The testing of baby teeth of children born between 1945 and 1965 showed levels of Radio-active Strontium 90 that had risen a 100-fold; and rose and fell in correlation with atomic bomb tests. The resulting campaign, to

ban testing, acted as a spur to President Kennedy to negotiate a treaty to ban nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space, and in the water.

In the 1980s the United States saw the largest political peace demonstrations in its history, which drew support from 70% of the public. At the same time, five million Europeans demonstrated against the planned deployment of United States intermediate range nuclear missiles on their territories. According to Secretary of State George Schultz, President Reagan was stunned and decided he had to propose nuclear disarmament.

Even without the technology available today enough people were reached in all of these campaigns, to achieve historical and social transformational change.

With today's technology it is possible to revive and regenerate these movements on a scale not dreamed of prior to the internet revolution - to continually multiply, to an immense magnitude, the numbers of people: to engage them, to inform and educate them, and build support. And this is Global Zero's task.

The Simons Foundation conducted international surveys - in 2002 and 2007 - on attitudes to nuclear weapons in nuclear weapons states, host states and two which gave up their capability. From the surveys we learned, first, that there is strong support – 85.3% - for elimination – and, secondly, equally strong support – 87% - for a treaty.

It is essential to find a way to transform these statistics into concrete action to drive political activity forward, into votes, and into law. This is Global Zero's challenge and with the team we have present on this panel, Global Zero can accomplish this.

I will now ask Matt Brown, Moderator of the Panel, to introduce the members of the panel.

Thank you very much!

Moderator: Matt Brown

Special Remarks: Ambassador Shaharyar Khan

Panelists: Galit Gun, Cristina Moon, Ricken Patel, Representative Student Leaders

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February 3rd, 2010