

Forum II: Towards a world without war and nuclear weapons - International solidarity among parliamentarians and citizens

By US Army Colonel and former US diplomat Ann Wright

I am honored to be on the Parliamentarians panel. I am not a Parliamentarian or as we call it in the United States, a member of Congress.

However, I spend a lot of time in the U.S. Congress confronting members of the Congress during Congressional hearings and following them down hallways asking them questions about their positions on various issues, including the nuclear policies of the United States.

One Congressman stands ahead of the other 424 members of the U.S. Congress on nuclear policies. Representative Jim McGovern has always challenged the U.S. government's nuclear programs.

Just two weeks ago, on July 23, 2025, Congressman McGovern said: "I took to the House floor today with a simple message: we must act now to stop the growing threat from nuclear weapons. Global leaders need to return to the negotiating table to pursue arms control and disarmament. There is no alternative!!"

On April 10, 2025 U.S. Representatives Jim McGovern (MA-02) and Jill Tokuda (HI-02) reintroduced a House resolution urging the United States to return to the negotiating table on nuclear disarmament and to lead a global effort to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons. The resolution, *House Resolution 317*, reaffirms the United States' moral and strategic obligation to prevent nuclear war and calls on the United States to pursue a world free of nuclear weapons as a national security imperative.

Congressman McGovern said, "Nuclear weapons do not make us safer—they put the entire planet at risk. We are closer to nuclear catastrophe today than at any point since the Cold War. We need bold action to stop a new arms race before it's too late. This resolution is a call for courage, diplomacy, and common sense."

Representative Jill Tokuda added, “As a Japanese American, my heritage is deeply tied to the devastating impact of nuclear weapons and the atrocities of war. This resolution is about our moral imperative to achieve nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. It is not only a call for peace, but a commitment to ensuring that such tragedies are never repeated. This resolution represents a vital step toward a safer, more just world.”

The resolution urges the United States to:

- Engage in good-faith negotiations with all nuclear-armed states to halt the buildup of nuclear arsenals and pursue verifiable, time-bound reductions;
- Conclude new arms control agreements with Russia and engage China on nuclear risk reduction;
- Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first;
- End the Cold War-era “hair trigger alert” posture;
- Rein in the production of new nuclear warheads and delivery systems;
- Preserve the moratorium on nuclear testing;
- Protect radiation-impacted communities and workers through full remediation, compensation, and expanded health care, including an expanded Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA); and
- Plan a just economic transition for workers and communities dependent on the nuclear weapons industry.

The renewed push comes amid growing concerns over a global nuclear arms race, the collapse of key arms control treaties, and rising tensions between major powers.

Since the United States and Russia withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019, many fear that hard-won progress on arms control is unraveling.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the United States is projected to spend over \$750 billion on nuclear weapons over the next decade—diverting critical resources away from health care, education, climate resilience, and more pressing national security needs.

The resolution has received massive public support from across the country.

Out of 435 members of the House of Representatives, the House Resolution 317 has on 27 co-sponsors, all from the Democratic Party.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-resolution/317/cosponsors>

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Interestingly, in a recent survey, Americans not only think that US military leaders should be influential in making US nuclear policy, but they also look to the military as a trusted source for information on nuclear weapons.

When asked how much they trust the information they receive from various sources about nuclear weapons, the majority of Americans are more likely to trust information from US military leaders (56%) than from the president (43%) or Congress (37%).

Americans are also about as likely to trust the information they receive from academics (57%) about nuclear weapons as they are to trust information they receive from the military.

This suggests that, at least in surveys, Americans are more likely to trust the information they receive from experts in nuclear power and warfare, rather than political representatives.

<https://globalaffairs.org/commentary-and-analysis/blogs/most-americans-are-uncomfortable-policy-nuclear-sole-authority>

To conclude, U.S. Congresspersons must do more to stop my country's nuclear weapons refurbishment and development which will cost \$750 BILLION dollars.

And Parliamentarians in NATO countries should try to stop the U.S. from convincing their governments that nuclear weapons should be stored in

their countries, the latest example of which is the United Kingdom that after having expelled 110 B61 U.S. nuclear weapons in 2008, in 2025, the British government appears to have accepted these weapons to be stored at Lakenheath Air Force Base. Citizen activists held a very successful encampment this summer to protest these weapons.

<https://lakenheathallianceforpeace.org.uk/about-lakenheath-base/>

Thank you!