



Truman National Security Project Educational Institute

Getting to Zero In One Page: Toward a Nuclear Free World

Getting to Zero should guide U.S. nuclear policy for two reasons:

- 1) Deterrence is decreasingly effective for maintaining U.S. national security – it is a Cold War policy suited to a bygone era and cannot be used against terrorists.
- 2) Terrorists could acquire nuclear weapons, so we are better off without them.

Getting to Zero has Bipartisan and International Support – It's Not Unilateral Disarmament!

- Supported by Democrats (Barack Obama, Sam Nunn, William Perry, Jimmy Carter, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Tony Lake) and Republicans (Henry Kissinger, George Schultz, Chuck Hagel, Lawrence Eagleburger, and Frank Carlucci).
- World leaders who have expressed interest in disarmament include Mikhail Gorbachev, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Nicolas Sarkozy, IAEA Director Dr. Mohamed El-Baradei, and Queen Noor of Jordan.

Getting to Zero will follow a four-step path

- 1) Strengthen and pass international treaties, especially the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the New START treaty between the U.S. and Russia
- 2) Change nuclear strategy to move away from a Cold War posture of massive attack readiness; limit use of nuclear weapons to preventing their use by others.
- 3) International control of fissile material such as highly enriched uranium (HEU) by way of a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT).
- 4) Major reductions in nuclear arsenals, especially by U.S. and Russia.

Getting to Zero will have to overcome several serious challenges

- Dangerous proliferators: Iran and North Korea.
- Inertia of deterrence – it's a long standing policy for many countries.
- India, Pakistan, Israel and others are unlikely to relinquish nuclear weapons soon.
- En route to Zero, maintaining a reliable stockpile and keeping the scientific edge.
- Maintaining a security umbrella for allies such as Japan.
- Dedicated congressional opposition, for example from Senator John Kyl.

Getting to Zero on the Hill: Coming to a Legislative Branch near You!

- The CTBT and New START will need 67 votes in the Senate to pass; the latter was passed to the full Senate for ratification by the Foreign Affairs Committee in September 2010.
- Congress holds the purse strings: Reliable Replacement Warhead (RWW) program was essentially halted because Congress did not fund it in FY2009, but President Obama plans to spend \$180 billion to upgrade the nuclear complex and to sustain associated weapons systems over the next decade, in addition to \$45 billion for missile defenses over the next five years.