With the hands of the Doomsday Clock at 3 minutes to Midnight, a setting it has not been at since 1983, a year in which the world nearly ended not once but twice;

With grave warnings of potential catastrophe voiced by former commenders of both US and Russian nuclear forces, most recently yesterday (10May) at an event within this building;

With experts and analysts worldwide warning of the potential for uncontrolled escalation between NATO and Russian nuclear-armed forces;

With those same nuclear-armed forces performing provocative exercises opposite each other;

-- With all of these in mind, the subject of the risk of possible accidental or deliberate nuclear war must be seen as of the very highest priority.

Equally important, in another part of this same building, the Open Ended Working Group is displaying an increasingly acrimonious divide between states that have signed the Humanitarian Pledge, and nuclear 'umbrella states', who say they are 'committed' to a 'progressive approach' that somehow never seems to progress.

However, I would like to suggest that some elements of a nuclear risk reduction package may stand a chance of obtaining cross-factional support. Some umbrella-states (notably my own country Australia and also Poland) already vote in favour of the Operational Readiness resolution, whose purpose is the reduction of nuclear risk.

A suitable date on which nuclear risk - the potential for inadvertent (or advertent) nuclear war, or nuclear war by miscalculation or malfunction - an event - sequence that would destroy much more than civilisation - is Sept 26, which in 2016 will be the 33rd anniversary of Colonel Stan Petrov's brush with the apocalypse.

The risk of large-scale nuclear weapons use is real and continues to increase.

The time to speak and act to increase global safety is now.

You are kindly referred for further reading to NGO13 on Nuclear Risks on both the OEWG and the Reaching Critical Will website.