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Statement by the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament

The Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament is encouraged by the “Joint Statement on Preventing Nuclear War and Avoiding Arms Races” by China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the USA of January 3, 2022.

A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The affirmation of this important truth by all five NPT nuclear-weapon States collectively is a welcome development, which the Stockholm Initiative strongly supports and expects to contribute to the strengthening of the NPT regime.

Today, dialogue and cooperation between the P5 are more important than ever before to reduce tensions and the risk of escalation. But in order to move closer to the common goal of a world free of nuclear weapons concrete measures towards nuclear disarmament are also urgently needed.

The Stockholm Initiative has presented a feasible way forward in this regard, one that is both realistic and ambitious, through our two joint working papers *Stepping Stones for Advancing Nuclear Disarmament* and *A Nuclear Risk Reduction Package*. We urge all States Parties, in particular the nuclear-weapon States to positively consider our proposals. Pending the achievement of a world without nuclear weapons, we must advance nuclear disarmament and ensure that, in the interest of humanity, nuclear weapons will never be used again.

The Stockholm Initiative will use the time until the postponed Review Conference of the NPT to press for further progress.