The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs,
The New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
The European Leadership Network,
The Nuclear Threat Initiative
And
Global Zero
would like to invite you to a side-event on

“2,000 Nuclear Weapons to De-Alert – Reducing Operational Readiness on the Way to Global Zero”

Thursday, October 9, 2014
1:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Conference Room 7 General Assembly Building (CR 7 GAB),
UN Headquarters, New York

Programme

Introductory remarks by Ambassador Benno Laggner, Head of the Division for Security Policy and Ambassador for Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland

Lord Des Browne, former UK Secretary of State for Defence, former MP, NTI’s Vice-Chairman, Chair of the Executive Board of the European Leadership Network

Bruce Blair, Co-Founder, Global Zero

Concluding remarks by Ambassador Dell Higgie, Ambassador for Disarmament and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

With thousands of U.S.-Russian nuclear weapons on high alert, the probability of their use – particularly in times of increasing tensions – is higher than we imagine, and the consequences are greater than ever. It is critical to lower alert levels and address these risks. The trends are disturbing: Other countries – besides the United States and Russia – are raising their launch readiness; the nuclear superpowers are failing to come to grips with their own risky practices; and cyber attack is emerging as a new threat to launch-ready nuclear forces that will fly the moment they receive a short stream of computer signals.

This side-event will feature two highly renowned experts and highlight the growing risk that nuclear weapons will be used, to catastrophic effect. It will also mark the beginning of a new initiative by Global Zero, the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons, to build credible political support and public pressure for de-alerting nuclear weapons and getting the global disarmament agenda back on track.