

**Message by the High Representative to the
“International Youth Rally: Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons”
4 May 2010**

I am pleased to send greetings to the “International Youth Rally: Let us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons”. There are few sights that I find more encouraging in this troubled world than a large gathering of young people from many countries who share a common interest in nuclear disarmament.

We have a large open door at the United Nations for young people who wish to serve humanity. The UN’s top disarmament priority has been to pursue the elimination of all nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Today, I call upon a new generation to bring its energy and vision to the service of this historic goal.

Too often, we hear that global nuclear disarmament is only a utopian dream. Too often, we are tempted by such claims to pass along the responsibility of achieving this goal to our children and to future generations.

Nuclear disarmament is surely one of the greatest undertakings, and its achievement will not be easy, because of the unique dangers of nuclear weapons and the need to establish the highest standard for compliance. However, these cannot be excuses for inaction, in the interest of humanity.

You are gathered here today to build a stronger solidarity among yourselves for abolition of nuclear weapons. You are consulting the “Cyber School Bus” on the UN’s internet site and learning about what efforts are underway in the field of disarmament. You have participated in the UN’s “WMD-WeMustDisarm!” campaign, using such networking tools as Facebook, Twitter, My Space, and sharing emails. You are circulating and signing petitions. And you are studying disarmament in schools that have adopted courses inspired by the UN’s disarmament and non-proliferation education programme.

The great cause of nuclear disarmament needs your support. The United Nations needs your support. And one day, your own children and their children’s children will look to you for leadership in this field. So I wish to thank you for your interest in nuclear disarmament, and encourage you not to get frustrated by the difficulties you will encounter. The future is truly in your hands. Please accept my very best wishes for a successful meeting.