

Welcome to

Visions for a New Century

an evening with Brian Eno and friends,
BASIC and Ploughshares Fund

Tonight you will hear about the urgent need for leadership on nuclear weapons reductions and elimination, and how we can best contribute to the broader movement for international cooperation.



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Visions for a New Century launches a new public conversation between opinion makers and policy leaders concerned with nuclear disarmament. Until recently, nuclear disarmament had slipped out of the spotlight as global warming and terrorism had taken centre stage. The world's leaders are now beginning to acknowledge that the continued nuclear threat is preventing effective international cooperation on those very issues. There is a unique opportunity for change this year.

The failure of Copenhagen reminds us just how critical it is for states to cooperate effectively on global issues. Strategic relationships based upon threats of nuclear devastation utterly undermine collaboration.

The next round of the 5-yearly Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) talks happen in May 2010. Without a strong and consensual NPT, the entire nonproliferation system could collapse. Nuclear programmes in Iran and North

Korea threaten stability, but nuclear weapon states must also disarm if global nuclear non-proliferation is to achieve support. Greater commitment from Britain and the United States is key to the success of the talks.

There are signs of hope.

A movement has sprung up in the United States in the wake of articles from veteran statesmen calling for a world without nuclear weapons. Former high-ranking political figures in the U.K. and throughout Europe have since echoed their call. The British government has also made clear its support. Perhaps most notable of all, US President Barack Obama has made this mission a core part of his administration's work. Played right, progress on this agenda could reduce nuclear dangers, and have far-reaching positive impacts, unblocking progress on other areas requiring concerted global action, including climate change and poverty. But the politicians cannot do this alone.

Speakers tonight



Brian Eno is your host for this evening. Brian has been a Board member of BASIC for six years.



Rory Bremner is a political satirist, impressionist, playwright and comedian.



Ellen Tauscher is US Undersecretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. Prior to joining the Obama Administration she served as a Member of the House of Representatives.



Joe Cirincione is President of Ploughshares Fund, a global security foundation, and is author of *Bomb Scare: The History and Future of Nuclear Weapons*.

Des Browne was Defence Secretary (2006-08), when the decision to renew Trident was taken. He is now Convener of the Top Level Group (see over page).



Shirley Williams is a Liberal Democrat peer (Leader 2001-04), the PM's Adviser on Nuclear Proliferation, the UK member of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, and a Professor at Harvard.

Paul Ingram is Executive Director of BASIC, and a weekly talk show host on state Iranian TV.



Now is the time...

The next six months are critical to non-proliferation and disarmament

MAY NPT Review Conference, New York. The **Non-proliferation Treaty** is the most crucial legal instrument governing nuclear weapons. It has 189 members, five with nuclear weapons: U.S., Russia, U.K., France and China. India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea are the only states not party, yet all possess nuclear weapons. The NPT has three pillars:

1. Stopping the spread of nuclear weapons
2. Nuclear disarmament
3. The right to peaceful nuclear energy

NPT Parties meet every five years. 2005 was a failure, and a spirit of consensus and collective commitment is essential if the rules are to be upheld. The NPT regime needs: improved inspection and compliance measures against cheating; an agreement banning nuclear weapons in the Middle East; and genuine action behind global nuclear disarmament. If the conference ends with states blaming each other (à la Copenhagen) we could see further proliferation, and further blocks to disarmament.

FEB-MAY? The **START** agreement between U.S. and Russia limited long range nuclear arms and was signed in 1991. It's just run out. Negotiations on a replacement continue, around cuts in numbers and measures to verify them. Then the treaty has to be ratified by the US Senate and Russian Duma.

MARCH The US Nuclear Posture Review will establish President Obama's intentions around nuclear deterrence, strategy and force make-up. Expected to include the commitment to work towards a world free of nuclear weapons, it will also reaffirm a commitment for now to maintain a 'safe, reliable, and credible' nuclear deterrent.

APRIL The first Global Nuclear Security Summit, to be held in Washington, will seek to secure vulnerable materials worldwide, tackle nuclear smuggling and deter and disrupt attempts at nuclear terrorism.

2010/11? The US Senate needs to ratify a treaty to ban nuclear tests. Some senators appear to see this as an opportunity to wound Obama politically. Other states yet to ratify are China, Israel, India, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt, North Korea and Indonesia.

Continued nuclear threat

Nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever conceived. There remain around 23,000 in the world, more than 8,000 ready to be used on short notice. Their intentional or accidental use could still destroy life on earth.

Maintaining the status quo is not an option. Frustration at the inequity at the heart of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is building. States outside the treaty – India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea – implicitly threaten neighbours with nuclear attack. And if Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, the Middle East would erupt in its own nuclear arms race. The only way to ensure nuclear weapons do not spread and that terrorists are unable to get hold of nuclear materials, is to eliminate all of the world's nuclear arsenals and to tighten international controls on civil nuclear technologies.

Top Level Group

... of UK Parliamentarians for Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation was launched last year. It includes almost all of the foreign and defence secretaries over the last two decades, as well as former Chiefs of Defence. Members include Des Browne and Shirley Williams, as well as General Charles Guthrie, Malcolm Rifkind and George Robertson. The creation of this group shows the shift in approach that those who have been at the heart of national defence policy are prepared to take. We hope others can join TLG members to ensure the disarmament message reaches new audiences.



Some members of the Top Level Group—left to right: Gen Lord Guthrie, Des Browne, Shirley Williams and Malcolm Rifkind.

BASIC

To prepare for this momentous year, BASIC has:

- Organised a high-level cross-party Parliamentary visit to Washington to discuss nuclear disarmament with senior US Administration officials, Senators and staffers
- Hosted roundtables in London and Washington discussing nuclear posture and disarmament
- Published a variety of reports and papers, using them in advocacy for disarmament
- Hosted a Shadow NATO Summit, and focused on NATO's nuclear posture
- Continued behind-the-scenes diplomacy with officials around the world in preparation for the NPT Review Conference in May



Ploughshares Fund

Through grants and advocacy Ploughshares Fund has:

- Convened the first U.S.-Russia joint assessment of Iranian nuclear and ballistic missile potential, helping Obama cancel plans for missile defenses in Europe
- Prevented a billion dollars going to nuclear weapons in the 2009 stimulus package
- Jumpstarted U.S.-Russia nuclear negotiations by convening leaders and experts to generate concrete proposals
- Demonstrated definitively that a nuclear test ban could be verified
- Supported successful advocacy to stop a new generation of nuclear weapons
- Established innovative diplomacy to prevent their spread

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Actions Speak Louder

This is the moment for action. If you have political connections, start conversations with your friends and colleagues. If you have access to the media, reach out to journalists and producers. If you have time or special talents, use them to spread the word about the dangers of nuclear weapons and the importance of seizing this critical moment in history to address a key obstacle to global peaceful and prosperous coexistence. With your help, we can create a powerful change in nuclear policy that will put us on the path to a safer, more secure and nuclear weapons-free world.

“This is the moment to begin the work of seeking a world without nuclear weapons” Barack Obama

Take Action...

...tonight

- Sign your name to the Public Statement—either on the walls tonight or in your e-mail inbox—and send it to your friends and colleagues
- Record a call for action that we can use to virally spread the word about the dangers of nuclear weapons

Photo credits

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 Top Level Group launch: <http://toplevelgroup.org.uk>

... in the near future

- Start a discussion about nuclear threats and the opportunities for broad global cooperation with your friends, colleagues and fans
- Write, co-author or lend your name to editorials and blog posts on nuclear issues
- Tell your friends and colleagues about BASIC and Ploughshares, and join us at future events promoting the nuclear security agenda
- Visit us on the web at basicint.org/visions and ploughshares.org/visions to learn more about how you can stay involved in shaping the public debate on nuclear weapons policy

BASIC

The British American Security Information Council is an independent transatlantic organisation promoting global nuclear disarmament by constructive engagement with opinion makers and spreading public awareness.

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Ploughshares

Ploughshares Fund is the largest US grant-making foundation dedicated to security and peace funding. It develops and invests in initiatives to reduce and ultimately eliminate the world's nuclear stockpiles.

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