



SECRETARY GENERAL
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Anders Fogh Rasmussen

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Dear General Secretary,

Thank you for the letter that you sent to me on behalf of the World Council of Churches and three of its associated organizations. I have noted with interest the points that you make in your letter and the proposals for restructuring NATO's future nuclear posture in Europe. I also see that you have striven for a balanced approach, which calls not only on the Alliance but also on the Russian Federation to take further steps with regard to nuclear weapons.

You will have seen from NATO's recently adopted Strategic Concept that the Alliance is committed to work to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons, but that it will also remain a nuclear Alliance as long as nuclear weapons exist. We also decided at the Lisbon Summit to undertake a Defence and Deterrence Posture Review and to present the results of this Review to the next NATO Summit in spring 2012. The Terms of Reference for this review were approved by the NATO Defence Ministers last week and we will shortly be embarking on this exercise. It will be a very thorough and far-reaching review. At the same time, we will be assessing how NATO can contribute further to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation as part of its efforts to bring about a more secure and stable international environment. We are not drawing any conclusions in advance and the review will determine whether there will be scope for future adjustments to our overall posture in the future.

NATO also seeks to take into account expertise and contributions from outside groups who have an interest in these issues. Consequently position papers and proposals will be welcome. I know that you have been in touch in the past with the former Head of my Policy Planning Unit, Dr. Jamie Shea. He is among the staff supporting me in NATO's work on the Defence and Deterrence Posture Review. So you may keep in touch with him in the future as he will ensure that your views are communicated to those engaged in this review.

Yours sincerely,

Anders Fogh Rasmussen

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