

Global Zero

- **11th December 2012**

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A TEXT POST

Moscow

Global Zero laid important groundwork in Moscow by hosting an international conference on nuclear weapons and international security in the 21st century, in partnership with former Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and the Russian International Affairs Council. A delegation of U.S. student leaders accompanied the Global Zero team to offer their experiences and assist with the launch of Global Zero's Russian student program.

At the student program launch, students discussed the global problem of nuclear weapons with Global Zero co-founders, Dr. Bruce Blair and Matt Brown; Director of The Russian Academy of Science's Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies, Dr. Sergey Rogov; and Dr. Martin Sherwin, professor of history at George Mason University and long-time Global Zero leader. Following this discussion, Countdown to Zero was screened and a delegation of U.S. student leaders presented about their experiences with Global Zero. Approximately 50 Russian students attended the event, some of whom joined the U.S. team for dinner and further discussion.



The international conference was attended by 300 Russian leaders, experts and students and generated 80 stories in the Russian and international media. Members of the Global Zero U.S. Nuclear Policy Commission, including Amb. Richard Burt, Gen. (Ret.) Jack Sheehan and Dr. Bruce Blair, presented our report calling for the United States and Russia to reduce their nuclear arsenals 80% to 900 total weapons each, paving the way for the first multilateral nuclear arms negotiations in history. Senior Russian officials participated and addressed the conference, including Deputy Premier Dmitry Rogozin, Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov, as did esteemed Global Zero leaders, including former Defense Minister Paul Quilés from France, Amb. Seyed Hossein Mousavian from Iran, former Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami from Israel, Amb. Mahmud Durrani from Pakistan and Amb. Steven Pifer from the U.S.

The event was followed by productive and forward-looking meetings with senior Russian officials, including Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov and Deputy Defense Minister Antonov, among others.



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