Handing over of memorandum to
Hon. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

From left to right: Hon. Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey (receiving the memorandum), Dr. Krishna Adhikary (Vice President IPPNW South Asia), Dr. Bharat Pradhan (President of PSR Nepal, handing over the memorandum), Dr. Ganesh Gurung (General Secretary of PSR Nepal), Bimal Khadka (International Student Representative, IPPNW)
An Appeal to
The Heads of State and Government of the SAARC Member Countries
From the South Asian Regional Affiliates of International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

November 2014

International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) is an international federation of physicians working together for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the prevention of armed violence, and world peace. Established in 1980 amidst the Cold War, which threatened our planet with nuclear catastrophe, IPPNW was honored with Nobel Peace Prize in 1985 for its global campaign to educate world leaders and the public about the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. It has more than 60 national affiliates worldwide working for peace on different levels.

We member affiliates of the South Asian Region are concerned that possession and development of nuclear weapons, suboptimal relationship between countries prevailing disparity within the societies of each country as well as conflicts on different levels might pose a threat to peace in the region. However, we strongly realize that countries in South Asia have all the potentials to attain peace in the region and meaningfully contribute substantially to World Peace.

We believe that peace in general can not be achieved by suppressing the conflicts by armed forces and conflict cannot be prevented by the development and stockpiling of the weapons. We believe that peace and harmony amongst the people, with a general respect for human dignity, can be achieved through mutual cooperation and socio-economic justice.

Hence, on the occasion of SAARC Summit in Kathmandu on the 26th and 27th of November 2014, we appeal to the heads of state and government of the member countries of SAARC to take serious actions with honesty and full commitment to:

Build harmonious and respectful relationships between the countries and people in the region by fostering common interests of all countries and people,

Abolish nuclear armaments, ban nuclear tests and the storage of nuclear weapons in the region and take a lead in the worldwide campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons, while at the same time reduce other weapons of war,
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Nepal
(Affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Laureate Nobel Peace Prize 1985)

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Work collectively for a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons globally; agree to halt nuclear testing throughout the South Asia region, and show leadership in campaigning for nuclear abolition and reducing other weapons of war.

Divert the resources to development, health, education and social security of people based on the principles of equity and justice as laid down in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.

We believe in a prosperous and glorious future of South Asia through cooperation, mutual trust and equitable development of the region.

Dr. Krishna Adhikary
Vice-President
IPPNW, South Asia

Dr. Bharat Pradhan
President
PSR, Nepal