NPT NEWS IN REVIEW

Civil society perspectives on the 2012 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee 30 April–11 May 2012

Reaching Critical Will

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IN THIS ISSUE

The *NPT News in Review* is a daily publication produced by the Reaching Critical Will project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom during meetings of NPT states parties.

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In pursuit of nuclear disarmament

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

In stark contrast to the opening PrepCom of the last NPT review cycle, Monday's plenary saw a swift and painless adoption of the agenda and other procedural items. The room bore a sense of relief as Ambassador Woolcott of Australia gaveled the decisions.

However, it is not clear that the substantive undertakings of the review cycle will go as smoothly. Perhaps most notably on day one, a major divergence over the character of the 2010 NPT action plan became apparent, which will have implications for determining the most appropriate objectives for the 2015 Review Conference.

2010 action plan: a building block for implementing the NPT

Addressing the opening plenary, Ms. Angela Kane, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, argued that the NPT review process "enables States Parties collectively to take stock of progress made, and to identify new achievements that are needed. It is the review process that helps to sustain the NPT as a 'living' Treaty that is periodically assessed in light of the ever-evolving political and strategic circumstances of our times."

Most delegations tended to agree with this vision, highlighting the importance of the current review process to take stock of the implementation of the 2010 commitments and then to move forward by adopting an ambitious and progressive plan of action in 2015. Most countries view the 2010 action plan a stepping stone rather than an end game. The Non-Aligned Movement described the 2010 action plan as a "vital achievement to be built upon," while the Irish delegation said it provides a "solid basis for our work in the 2015 review cycle." New Zealand called it a "reference by which we can measure our collective efforts to implement the Treaty" and the Swiss delegation emphasized that it "should not be viewed as an end in itself, but rather as a means of achieving full implementation of NPT commitments."

The representative of the Holy See pointed out that the action plan's "sometimes broad formulations, lack of specific targets and deadlines on most of the action items, and possible differences in interpretation pose significant challenges for review and assessment." Indeed, as Reaching Critical Will's 2010 NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report demonstrates, it is extremely difficult to gauge the level of implementation of many elements of the plan because it lacks specific mechanisms, timelines, or benchmarks that could serve as a guide or measure. However, this preparatory meeting will require a serious and comprehensive examination of the current state of affairs. As Ambassador Brennan of Ireland argued, the first PrepCom provides "a useful opportunity to assess progress to date on implementing the 2010 follow on actions, to take an initial strategic look at where we want the NPT to be in 2015, and to begin to work out how we will get there over the next three years." He called for an "ambitious agenda" for the 2015 cycle.

For many delegations speaking on Monday, an ambitious agenda would prioritize disarmament, which, as the New Agenda Coalition argued, is falling behind nonproliferation in terms of commitments met. Austria's delegation argued that "this review cycle will determine whether the NPT is a credible framework for nuclear disarmament." If implemented, the action plan would "put us on a right track towards a world without nuclear weapons," said Mr. Johannes Kyrle. Likewise, Malaysia's delegation suggested that this review cycle "would serve as a good avenue for all the nuclear weapon States to substantiate their unequivocal commitment to eliminate their nuclear arsenals and provide positive momentum as we move towards the 2015 RevCon."

Nuclear weapon states on moving forward

However, not all delegations agreed with this vision. While the US delegation sees the action plan as a "point of departure" for this review cycle rather than an ultimate achievement of the NPT process, it prioritizes nonproliferation rather than disarmament as the basis for future work. Ambassador Burk

criticized the action plan for not addressing "some very serious challenges to the Treaty," in particular, "the unresolved cases of noncompliance with the Treaty's non-proliferation obligations." Likewise, the French delegation seems to view withdrawal and "non-compliance" with non-proliferation commitments as the issues most in need of further attention, arguing that it has already undertaken "ambitious, irreversible disarmament action".

The Russian delegation also indicated its expectation that during this review cycle, states parties will collaborate to determine "the 'next' balanced package of measures to strengthen the Treaty." However, Mr. Uliyanov of Russia also argued, "Global events analysis shows the utmost need to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime comprehensively.... A lot of work still has to be done to ensure that the non-proliferation requirements enshrined in the Treaty are respected everywhere."

The UK delegation gave less indication of what it sees as the objective for future work, though it too focused on potential proliferation as the key challenge to the Treaty. In terms of disarmament, Ambassador Adamson in one sentence stated her government's commitment to a world free of nuclear weapons and in the next argued that "only a credible nuclear capability can provide the necessary ultimate guarantee to our national security." As usual, China's delegation offered more rhetorical support for nuclear disarmament, though it too placed caveats on the process, arguing that the US and Russia should first make "drastic reductions" in their arsenals and then, at "an appropriate time," the international community should develop a "long-term plan composed of phased actions" for disarmament.

Beyond the rhetoric

Yet the vast majority of countries in the world, as represented by the Non-Aligned Movement and also the New Agenda Coalition, have expressed disappointment and frustration with the lack of concrete, irreversible, transparent, verifiable, and time-bound progress on nuclear disarmament. While they have undertaken measurable steps to ensure non-proliferation, there is nothing equivalent to guide or assess compliance with disarmament.

As the Holy See's representative argued, "Only the visible expression of an intent to construct a global legal basis for the systematic elimination of all nuclear weapons will suffice. It cannot be considered morally sufficient to draw down the stocks of superfluous nuclear weapons while modernizing nuclear arsenals and investing vast sums to ensure their future production and maintenance. This current course will ensure the perpetuation of these weapons indefinitely."

This NPT review process should be seized by states parties as a chance to finally develop the measurable commitments for a disarmament process that they have been demanding for more than 40 years. The credibility of the non-proliferation regime will hinge on the disarmament actions undertaken. And the international community, not just the nuclear weapon states, have an active role to play in this context. Making demands or complaints in international fora is no longer enough; action is now required.

"The logic of nuclear disarmament will ultimately prevail," argued Mr. Kyrle of Austria. "The question is whether it will happen through a rational, serious political effort by the international community or as a result of a cataclysmic event. How we deal with nuclear weapons is a litmus test for the international community. It will clarify whether we are capable to resolve a fundamental challenge to our very existence through international cooperation." •

Side event report: High school students and disarmament

Katharina Stark | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The Critical Issue Forum, hosted by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, is a high school training and exchange program for disarmament education and non-proliferation. It provides the chance for high school students from the United States, Russia, Austria, and Bosnia Herzegovina to take part in the 2012 NPT Preparatory Committee.

On 30 April, four of these students held a presentation on nuclear energy and weapons. The students focused on the perspectives of both western states and developing countries, discussing current challenges and possibilities of the non-proliferation regime. The Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Ambassador Yukiya Amano, participated in the event and encouraged the students to get more involved in disarmament issues. The Director-General argued that nuclear energy is an important source of energy but stressed that the security and safety of such technology have to be enhanced. The Director-General further mentioned that the IAEA has a role to play in promoting disarmament but that it is not the organization's role to negotiating disarmament agreements.

In addition to the presentation of the students and the remarks by the Director-General of the IAEA, a *hibakusha*, a survivor from the nuclear bomb in Nagasaki, talked about his horrific memories from 9 August 1945. •

News in Brief

Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Disarmament

• The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) called for acceleration of concrete steps for disarmament and urged the nuclear weapon states (NWS) to implement and report on action 5 of the 2010 NPT action plan.
• Switzerland called on the NWS to "significantly intensify" their efforts to realize article VI.
• Egypt raised concerns about continued lack of meaningful progress on nuclear disarmament.
• China stated that NWS should abandon nuclear deterrence policies based on first use of nuclear weapons and publicly undertake not to seek permanent possession of nuclear weapons.
• China called on NWS to negotiate and conclude a Treaty on Mutual No-First-Use of Nuclear Weapons.
• The United States (US) said it is making progress on disarmament and that it will report on these efforts during the PrepCom.
• The United Kingdom (UK) said it is maintaining a "minimum national nuclear deterrent" and will proceed with the renewal of Trident and the submarine replacement programme.
• France stated that it had reduced its airborne component by one third and thereby cut the number of warheads by half in the last 15 years.
• Belarus welcomed the implementation of New START and called for future measures on strategic nuclear weapons to also include a stop of further developments of new types of nuclear weapons.
• Poland highlighted the importance of making progress on non-strategic nuclear weapons.
• Austria and Netherlands argued that further progress on bilateral US-Russia negotiations is expected.
• South Africa noted that while reductions are vital, they do not substitute for concrete, transparent, irreversible, and verifiable nuclear disarmament measures.
• The Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI) called for systematic reductions in all nuclear weapons categories, including non-strategic weapons, reduction of operational status, and diminishing of the role of nuclear weapons in security strategies.
• NAM called upon the NWS and NATO to completely exclude the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons from their military doctrines.
• Austria and New Zealand called for steps to diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons in all military and security doctrines and policies.
• Egypt argued that nuclear sharing and military alliances undermines the objectives of the treaty.
• NPDI, Australia, Netherlands drew attention to the draft report card for the NWS that NPDI developed last year and called for increased transparency measures.

Modernization

• NAM expressed concern that nuclear weapon modernization undermines the minimal reductions agreed upon in New START.
• Egypt argued the development of new generations of nuclear weapons perpetuates non-adherence to the NPT.

• The Holy See argued that it cannot be considered morally sufficient to reducing stocks of "superfluous" nuclear weapons while modernizing nuclear arsenals and investing vast sums to ensure their future production and maintenance and believed that a part of the sums allocated for weapons could be redeployed for the development of economic, educational and health care projects.
• Norway argued that NWS must refrain from developing new types of nuclear weapons.

International humanitarian law (IHL)

• UN High Representative Angela Kane noted that while there is still a way to go in achieving a nuclear weapon convention, it is beyond question that IHL has arrived in the NPT review process and is here to stay.
• NAM and Ecuador argued that use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT would be in violation of the UN Charter and IHL.
• Malaysia argued that nuclear weapons are incompatible with elementary considerations of humanity.
• Switzerland noted that the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament will be a priority for Switzerland in the years to come.
• New Zealand argued that the reference to IHL in the 2010 outcome document was a significant achievement and will be important for future work.
• Norway announced that it intends to host a conference in 2013 on humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and IHL.

NPT action plan

• NAM, Australia, Austria, Malaysia, Switzerland, New Zealand called for the full implementation of the action plan. The US, EU, and France called for implementation in a "balanced" manner.
• The US and France believed that the action plan did not address unresolved cases of non-compliance of non-proliferation obligations adequately.
• France also wanted the action plan to be more ambitious on withdrawal.
• Australia and Austria announced they would report on the implementation of the action plan at this PrepCom and encouraged all NPT states parties to do likewise.
• France stated it was preparing to report on its implementation of the action plan in 2014.
• China argued it was actively participating in the joint P5 efforts to implement the action plan.
• Switzerland argued that the action plan should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means of achieving full implementation of NPT commitments.
• Ireland argued that the 2015 Review Conference must develop a new package of ambitious agreements, supported by concrete and measurable benchmarks.
• South Africa noted that the agreement on the action plan by no means meant states are satisfied with the implementation of previous outcome documents and that the success of 2010 will be determined by the extent to which these undertakings are implemented.

Non-proliferation

• NAM argued that proliferation concerns are best addressed through transparent, multilaterally negotiated non-discriminatory agreements.
• The EU called for compliance with obligations under UNSCR 1540 and 1887 and saw the UN Security Council as the final arbiter of international peace and security.
• The US and South Africa welcomed the 14 states that have brought into force the additional protocol (AP) since the 2010 Review Conference.
• Australia and NPDI called upon states that have not yet done so to adopt and implement an additional protocol.
• The Netherlands announced that it has finalized a EUR 100,000 grant to assist the IAEA to promote universalization of the AP.
• The EU, Australia, NPDI, Belarus, Turkey, France, Ireland, Netherlands, the UK, and South Africa expressed concern that the CD had not managed to start negotiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT)
• NPDI and Australia announced a series of scientific experts' meetings that will be convened by NPDI to feed into the CD's consideration of FMCT issues.
• Egypt, NAM, Thailand, Ecuador, South Africa, and Belarus called for a legally-binding agreement on security assurances.

Iran

• Australia, the EU, and Netherlands expressed concern that Iran's nuclear programme defies many UNSC and IAEA BoG resolutions.
• The EU noted the talks between the P5+1 and Iran in Istanbul.
• China, UK, South Africa, and Egypt welcomed these talks.
• Austria appealed to Iran to use the promising recent restart of talks to do its utmost to address the concerns of the international community about the nature of its nuclear programme.
• France discussed the Istanbul meeting and argued that Iran must urgently make tangible moves to establish confidence in keeping with the resolutions adopted by the UNSC and the IAEA BoG.

DPRK

• The EU, Australia, and Netherlands expressed regret that the DPRK carried out an attempted rocket launch on 13 April.
• China called for resumption of the six-party talks.
• France called upon the DPRK to allow IAEA inspectors back into the country.

Syria

• The EU and France called upon Syria to cooperate with IAEA.

Middle East(ME)

• NAM proposed the establishment of a subsidiary body to Main Committee II of the 2015 Review Conference on the 1995 resolution on the ME.

• The EU highlighted its two seminars on the topic in 2008 and 2011 and announced that it would hold follow-up initiatives.

• Australia, China, Austria, NAM, NPDI, Poland, Turkey, France, Ireland, Russia, New Zealand, Holy See, New Agenda Coalition (NAC), and South Africa expressed support for the ongoing work towards the 2012 conference and for the work of the facilitator.

• Egypt argued that the 2012 conference must launch a process toward establishment of a WMD free zone, including concrete steps and measures to be undertaken within a specific timeframe.

• Egypt argued that any delay in convening the conference could jeopardize its overall implementation.

Universalization

• NAM highlighted the importance of achieving the universality of the NPT and reminded states parties of the 2000 NPT Review Conference affirmation of the necessity of Israel's accession to the NPT and the placement of all its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

• Thailand, EU, Belarus, Ireland, and NAC stressed the importance of universality of the NPT

• NAC called for all states to enhance work on universality, and was the only group that called upon India, Israel, and Pakistan to join the NPT.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

• The EU, Australia, NPDI, Malaysia, France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Ecuador called on all remaining Annex II states to sign and ratify the CTBT.

• China supported the CTBT and stated it was "dedicated to promoting its early entry into force".

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZ)

• Malaysia and Thailand looked forward to the signing of the protocol of the Bangkok Treaty by the NWS at the earliest possible date.

• France stated the P5 had finalized discussions to implement a protocol on the Bangkok Treaty and hoped it can be signed without delay.

Nuclear energy

• NAM expressed concern over undue restrictions on exports of nuclear material, equipment, and technology to developing countries parties to the NPT.

• NPDI urged all states to establish and implement effective export controls to prevent the illicit transfer of nuclear and nuclear-related dual-use materials, equipment, and technologies.

• Belarus promoted an increased role for regimes such as the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Zangger Committee.

• NAM argued that any decision on proposals regarding multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should be negotiated multilaterally and by consensus.

Nuclear safety and security

• The UN High Representative noted that the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit strengthened commitments to enhance security over nuclear materials and highlighted the high-level meeting on nuclear safety and security convened by the UN Secretary-General last September.

• NAM argued that measures and initiatives aimed at strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security should not be used as a pretext or leverage to violate, deny, or restrict the right of states parties to develop nuclear energy.

• China announced it has volunteered to contribute 4 million Euros to assist Ukraine in finishing nuclear safety projects related to Chernobyl.

• Morocco, New Zealand, and Austria noted the Fukushima accident, and Austria and New Zealand argued that states must universally apply the strictest possible standards of nuclear safety and security.

• NPDI, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands called for implementation of the IAEA Nuclear Safety Action Plan.

• Austria reiterated that it has renounced the use of nuclear power in its energy mix, noting that the generation of electricity through nuclear fission is neither sustainable nor safe, nor a viable strategy against climate change. •

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Reaching Critical Will
A project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

777 UN Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017
ph. +1 212.682.1265 | fax +1 212.286.8211
contact: info@reachingcriticalwill.org

Editors: Ray Acheson and Beatrice Fihn

Reviewing the bombs around the corner

Wilbert van der Zeijden and Susi Snyder | IKV Pax Christi, The Netherlands

NATO's nuclear sharing policy has never been reviewed by NPT States parties. Even when doing an article by article review of the treaty implementation, somehow the concerns about NATO's preparations to violate both Articles I and II have been left out of the discussions. It's about time the NPT took a look at the bombs that—from a Vienna perspective—are just around the corner.

Article I of the NPT prohibits nuclear weapon states to transfer nuclear weapons or the control of these weapons to other countries. Article II of the Treaty says the same, but approaching it from the other side: It prohibits non-nuclear weapon states from receiving a transfer of weapons, or control of weapons. There's no lack of clarity on the wording, yet the U.S. keeps about 160 nuclear weapons deployed in five European non-nuclear weapon states.

NATO countries claim there is an implicit exception in the NPT that allows the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. The logic goes like this: The weapons were already there when the Treaty was negotiated and Russia knew about them. Russia signed the Treaty, so apparently it was okay.

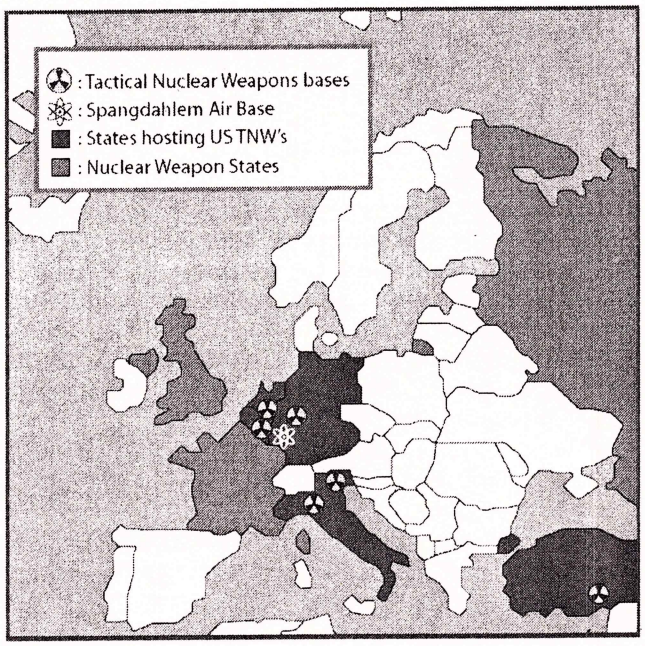
Next to that, some point to a semantic weakness in the formulation. Articles I and II only prohibit 'transfer' of weapons or control over these weapons. But – the U.S. argues: The weapons are still ours and in our control. So, we never 'transferred' anything. Only in times of war will the weapons be transferred to the states hosting the weapons. But by then... the NPT doesn't matter much anymore anyway.

Right. It's like someone picking your pocket and then being smug about it, saying: "Your wallet was technically speaking not 'in' your pocket and besides, your 'pocket' can also be interpreted as a pouch. So I didn't really pick your pocket and you know it." You would smack the thief in the face if it happened like this – but in international politics this faulty sort of argumentation can go quite far.

And it's not as if no one cares. Russia and the Non-Aligned Movement regularly complain about NATO's hypocrisy. And next to that, non-NATO countries have been saying that for them, the countries that host U.S. nuclear weapons cannot be taken seriously in international non-proliferation and disarmament forums. Iran said so recently about the Netherlands for example. The nuclear deployment arrangements undermine the credibility of the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Italy and Turkey.

Now here's an idea: If NATO countries are so sure that their policies are compliant with the Treaty, why not put them to the test? The NPT may have been signed more than forty years ago, but the world- and NATO's relationship with it- has changed dramatically since. The NPT has been reviewed, modified, reaffirmed and practically universalized since its inception. So why not review the status of NATO's nuclear sharing practices? In a spirit of growing transparency, why not be open about it, put it before NPT parties and ask for permission to deploy nuclear weapons (without transferring the control over them) to non-nuclear weapon states (except in times of war). It's a relevant and timely discussion that could influence the discussions on possible Pakistani deployments in Saudi Arabia and on the U.K.'s plan to force the deployment of nuclear weapons on Scotland if it becomes independent.

IKV Pax Christi calls on the NPT to review NATO Nuclear Sharing and the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe. And calls on NATO and its member states to provide the NPT with transparent data on nuclear deployments in Europe and to allow a review of the status of compliance in relation to specifically these bombs. •



The nuclear weapons deployed in Belgium, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands have to be dropped from aircraft that don't go all that far. Even with one mid-air refueling, they hardly make it beyond the borders of NATO territory. An unknowing outsider, when looking at the map, could easily conclude that the most likely targets not inside NATO territory are Geneva and Vienna. Those UN cities can be hit from five different bases in four NATO countries. The bombs in Turkey are equally pointless as there are no aircraft dedicated to dropping them.

Nuclear wordsearch

Puzzles by Lily Gardener

E	T	A	D	N	A	M	D	R	A	E	L	C	U	N
Q	C	O	L	L	A	T	E	R	A	L	T	C	C	T
S	E	E	T	T	I	M	M	O	C	Q	P	H	B	N
Y	T	I	R	U	C	E	S	N	A	G	E	N	D	A
P	S	S	E	N	O	I	T	C	U	D	E	R	G	L
W	C	U	U	J	J	A	N	C	Z	Y	B	G	F	H
E	N	S	U	B	J	C	R	P	S	M	T	X	R	J
A	K	N	O	N	M	M	I	L	I	T	A	R	Y	O
P	D	E	S	T	R	U	C	T	I	O	N	M	I	B
O	A	S	D	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E	N	T
N	G	N	S	T	E	G	D	U	B	I	C	Q	L	Q
S	U	O	X	E	A	B	R	D	Q	X	X	Z	R	L
T	Z	C	S	V	G	F	K	Y	H	E	H	T	W	N
A	Q	Q	C	O	N	V	E	N	T	I	O	N	A	L
L	A	N	O	I	T	A	N	R	E	T	N	I	F	I

NUCLEAR
DESTRUCTION
CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS
MILITARY
BUDGETS
REDUCTION
DEVELOPMENT
SECURITY
COLLATERAL
INTERNATIONAL
CONSENSUS
MANDATE
AGENDA
COMMITTEES

Side event report: The costs of nuclear weapons

Elin Liss | Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

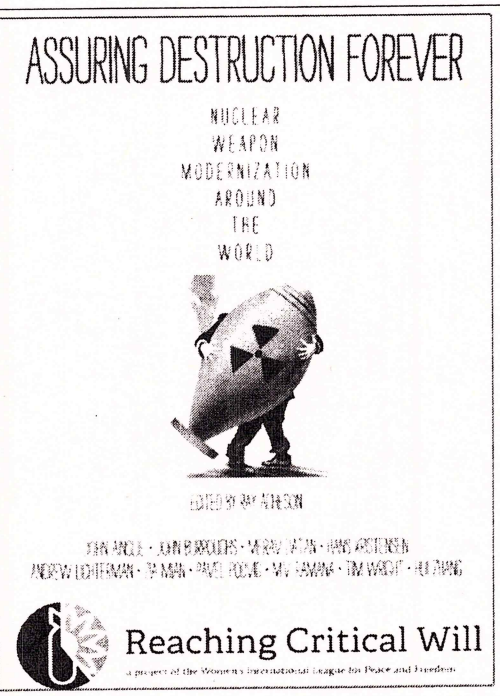
This seminar, arranged by the International Peace Bureau (IPB), featured Ben Cramer, author of *Nuclear Weapons—at what cost?*, Mikiso Iwasa of Hidankyo, Kate Hudson, Secretary General of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), and Tim Wright of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

Ben Cramer emphasized that even though the total estimated spending on nuclear weapons is way too high, the figures do not accurately reflect the real costs related to nuclear weapons. He also addressed the correlation between conventional military spending and nuclear weapons spending, since the two cannot be separated. Six of the ten listed states with the highest spending on conventional weapons are nuclear weapons states. Even though the recent financial crisis might have an effect on nuclear investments because of budget shortcomings, Mr. Cramer argued that the lack of resources for destruction and cleaning up after nuclear weapons is also a result of the financial situation today.

Mikiso Iwasa, survivor of the A-bomb in Hiroshima, shared his and his family's terrifying experience of the humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Mr. Iwasa was sixteen years old when the bomb destroyed his city and he witnessed the death of his mother and sister. His and other Hibakusha's messages give an importance dimension to the costs of nuclear weapons—the humanitarian costs. The implementation of the 2010 NPT action plan and a move towards nuclear abolition is absolutely necessary in order to prevent the catastrophe Mr. Iwasa was forced to witness from ever happening again. The use of nuclear weapons is a violation of international law and a crime against humanity, Mr. Iwasa stressed.

Kate Hudson spoke about nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom in the context of financial crisis and reductions of public spending. She argued that even though the humanitarian costs are a central reason for nuclear abolition, the financial crisis has opened up the possibility to act for disarmament. According to her, putting enormous amounts of money that are being spent on nuclear weapons and the modernization of nuclear programmes in relation to reductions of spending on schools and hospitals provides a strong argument for disarmament.

Tim Wright put the figures in perspective by comparing nuclear weapon spending with budgets of international institutions. According to him, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) budget is equal to the total amount the world's nuclear weapon states spend on nuclear weapons every hour. He also introduced the recently launched ICAN report Don't bank on the bomb, a global report on the financing of nuclear weapons producers. According to Mr. Wright, there is a need to divest in companies and banks that invest in nuclear weapons in order to stop the production in a similar way as divestment in South Africa helped end apartheid. •



Modernization of nuclear weapons: Launch of *Assuring destruction forever*, a new civil society study

In March 2012, Reaching Critical Will published a civil society report on the modernization plans and programmes of the nuclear weapon possessors. This side event will hear presentations from several of the report authors.

- Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will (Moderator)
- John Ainslie, Scottish CND
- John Burroughs, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy
- Andrew Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation
- Tim Wright, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Thursday, 3 May • CR M2 • 13:15–14:45

This side event was made possible with the support of the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs

Hard copies of Reaching Critical Will's report will be available at the side event.

Side event report: The role of science in military-related research

Sofia Tuvestad | Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The seminar was arranged by International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES). It featured Dr. Stuart Parkinson from Scientists for Global Responsibility (UK), Mr. Reiner Braun from INES (Germany), and Mr. Subrata Ghoshroy from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (USA). The seminar was chaired by Ms. Ingeborg Breines, Co-President at International Peace Bureau.

It is a "misuse of brain-power," said Ms. Breines, when scientific research is used to strengthen military sectors. Accordingly, while giving different perspectives on the role of science in the military-industrial complex, the speakers at the seminar called for a substantial change in how governments spend their research and development (R&D) resources.

According to Dr. Parkinson, the UK government spends around £2 billion per year on military R&D, which is over 20 percent of the total public R&D spending. The main areas of military R&D in the UK include future submarines and nuclear propulsion and the majority of military R&D, including research funded by the government, takes place within the industry.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ghoshroy spoke about "the university-military nexus" in the US, as the Pentagon funds 39 percent of all engineering research and supports most academic research in engineering and physical sciences in the country. Research on clean energy and climate science are given far less resources than, for example, research on missile "defence". In addition to this, when universities are so dependent on Pentagon funding for their research, there is a complicated relationship between government interests on the one hand and the idea of independent research on the other.

The speakers pointed towards a critical need to redirect funding from military research towards research that would serve the real needs of people, such as work on education, environmental issues, and health. But few states are ready to sign a governmental code of conduct regarding ethics and science, so there is a need for other strategies. Mr. Braun spoke about working towards universities to make them sign a "civil clause" specifying that all their work should contribute to peace. Some universities in Japan and Germany have already signed such a clause. Mr. Ghoshroy encouraged participants to take action by supporting international campaigns aimed at ending military research at universities in the interest of peaceful science. Ms. Breines emphasized that the issues at hand are strongly connected to a masculine identity. The priorities of states security strategies have to change fundamentally, she said.

The Q&A session included questions about who makes the decisions about military research investments. In conclusion, all speakers emphasized the complex roles involved in processes leading to increased spending on military research. They held out the necessity of sharing information and knowledge in order to establish better transparency and change the present situation. •

Side event report: Nuclear weapons in Europe

Susi Snyder | IKV Pax Christi

The first civil society event that took place during this NPT PrepCom focused on the current nuclear situation in Europe. Hans Kristensen of the Federation of American Scientists provided a detailed overview of nuclear facilities in Europe—not just the US nuclear weapons in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Turkey, and the Netherlands, but also the sites in Russia and the French and UK arsenals.

Kristensen focused on NATO's 'bipolar nuclear disorder'. The alliance is currently split between the dual responsibility of upholding disarmament obligations and reducing reliance on nuclear weapons and, as the 2010 Strategic Concept declared, remaining a nuclear alliance. The view from inside Washington, DC, however, seems to be indicating a step wise plan to remove the weapons from Europe. Decisions about this need to be taken now, before investments are made in modernizing and increasing the usability of the B61 bombs or buying new dual purpose aircraft.

There were also updates presented by Kate Hudson of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and Jean Marie Collin, French Coordinator of the Parliamentary Network for Nonproliferation and Disarmament.

Hudson talked about the Trident system, and how the UK has consistently delayed a decision. Right now, a decision is scheduled for 2016- a year after the next general election. She noted that this is an opportunity to make nuclear weapons, and the excessive projected cost of a new Trident, a key election issue.

In France, elections are currently going on but despite a recent independent poll indicating that 81% of the population supports nuclear disarmament, the government is still very attached to their weapons.

An introduction to French love was presented by Collins. He explained to the group that there are three things—Bread, Berets, and Bombs. There remains a fear of invasion in France, and new thinking on disarmament issues is not often translated into French. Think tanks do not work on the question of how to get to a nuclear weapons free world, but instead focus on whether a nuclear free world would really be in the best interests of the French. Both Kate and Jean Marie noted that the weapons are symbols of power.

Transforming nuclear weapons from a symbol of power to a stigma is one of the many things in which civil society can play a significant role. That might also help to alleviate NATO's schizophrenia. The time has passed where it is acceptable for nuclear weapons states to trade a quantitative reduction for a qualitative increase. Even in France, the public just isn't buying this anymore. •

Opening of the A-Bomb Exhibition

Emma Bjertén | Swedish Section of WILPF

On Monday the opening ceremony of the A-Bomb Exhibition "Under the Mushroom Cloud," hosted by the Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo), took place in the lobby of the UN at Vienna.

Representatives of Nihon Hidankyo, International Peace Bureau, the Austrian government, the Malaysia foreign ministry, and Ban All Nukes generation participated in the opening of the exhibition that tells the story of what the atomic bombs did to the people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Besides the photos and stories there were four bomb survivors present to tell what happened.

Tanaka Terumi, the Secretary General of the Japan Confederation of A-Bomb and H-Bomb Sufferers Organization and a survivor of the bomb underlined the struggle of the Hibakusha for eliminating nuclear weapons. He said that there should be no more Hibakusha and hoped that all the people present at the NPT meeting would be able to see the exhibition.

Ingeborg Breines from the International Peace Bureau said that the victims of the bombs will mark us forever and that nuclear weapons should not be used, physically or in acts of "deterrence". Breines noted that the effect of the nuclear reactor of Fukushima also made us aware of the consequences of nuclear power and emphasized that we need a world without nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

Both Alois Krant, the deputy representative of Austria, and Nina Eisenhardt, BANg, said the exhibition reminds us of why we are here. Referring to the earlier plenary Nina Eisenhardt said it's easy to lose the faith and motivation. She expressed a wish to put the delegates at the same table with the Hibakhusha.

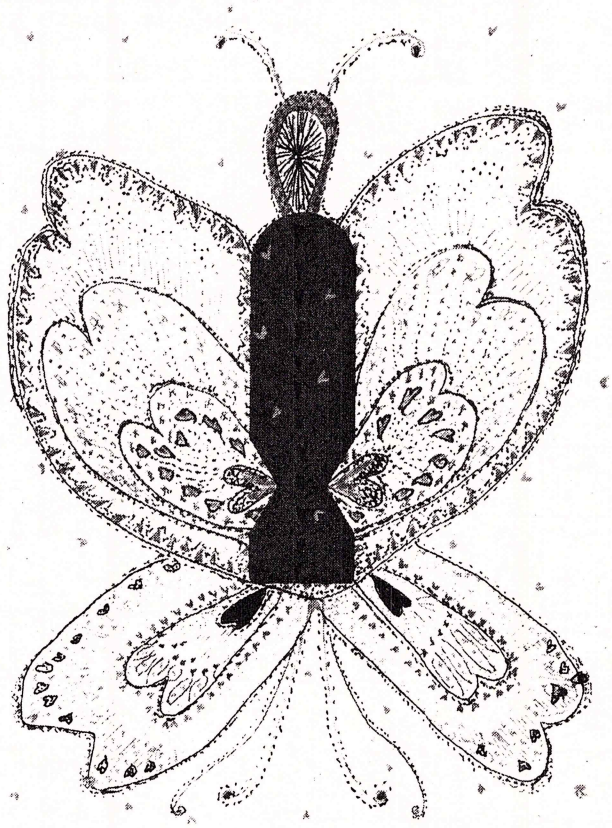
Mr. Krant referred to the accomplishments of the 2010 Review Conference and said that Austria has joined a statement concerning the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. He stated that a world free of nuclear weapon is a shared goal for humanity, not only for us but also for younger generations.

The undersecretary for the foreign ministry of Malaysia, Raja Reza, expressed Malaysia's concern about the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons. He raised the importance of quickly starting to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention.

If you want to listen to the stories of the Hibakusha you are welcome to visit the exhibition before the end of this week. •

Disarmed Bomb of the Day

Susan Roberts (Australia)

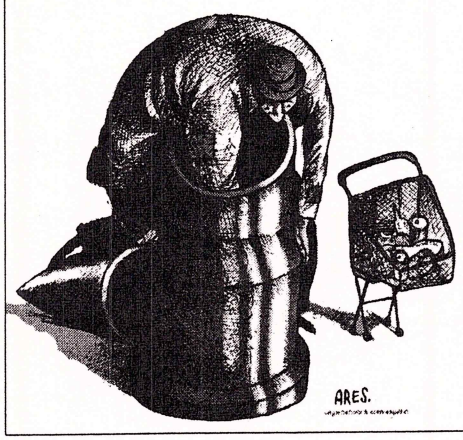


I fluttered by, as the last bomb was dismantled.

Calendar of side events for Wednesday, 2 May 2012

See www.reachingcriticalwill.org for a complete listing of events and regular updates

When	What	Where	Who
7:30	Interfaith prayer vigil	Square outside the VIC	Christian CND UK
8:00–8:50	Abolition Caucus	CR M2	Abolition 2000
9:00–9:50	Government Briefing for NGOs: United Kingdom	CR M2	Reaching Critical Will
9:00–15:00	Critical Issues Forum: high school students non-proliferation and disarmament conference	Diplomatic Academy of Vienna	James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
10:00–13:00	Political economy, social change, and disarmament: NGO workshop	CR M2	Western States Legal Foundation and Reaching Critical Will
10:00–11:30	Tour of the CTBTO *Reservation required*	Meet: M01 Exhibition Area 2	RSVP to pablo.mehlhorn @ctbto.org
10:00–17:00	A-Bomb Exhibition "Under the Mushroom Cloud"	Near main entrace zone of the University of Vienna	Gensuikyo
13:15–14:45	Monitoring the 2010 NPT Action Plan	CR M3	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Reaching Critical Will
13:15–14:45	Europe and nuclear disarmament	CR M2	Abolition2000-Europe
13:15–14:45	NPDI Outreach	CR M1	Permanent Mission of the Netherlands in Vienna
13:15–14:45	IAEA activities on nuclear safety and nuclear security	CR M6	International Atomic Energy Agency
14:00–15:00	Testimony of A-Bomb Survivors at the A-Bomb Exhibition	MoE Exhibition Area	Gensuikyo
15:00–18:00	NGO presentations	CR M1	
15:00–17:50	Nuclear weapons convention	CR M2	IALANA, INESAP, INES, NAPF
18:00–18:50	Preparing for simulated NWC negotiations	CR M2	INESAP, Technische Universität Darmstadt, and Universität Hamburg



Political economy, social change, and disarmament
An NGO workshop event

Sponsored by Western States Legal Foundation and Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

In the context of efforts to advocate for disarmament and broader aspects of human security, there is need for sustained discussion on how to build sustainable political will and momentum for action.

This workshop seeks to elaborate this discussion with members of international civil society. All NGO participants are welcome.

Wednesday, 2 May • CR M2 • 10:00–13:00