

Nuclear weapon modernization project

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

Project description

Statement of need and intent. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, all states party to the Treaty agreed to an action plan to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Action 1 of this plan stipulates: "All States parties commit to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the Treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons." Furthermore, at the 2005 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences, the nuclear weapon states espoused an unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Despite these agreements, all of the five NPT-recognized nuclear weapon states—and the nuclear weapon possessors outside of the Treaty—are engaged in or have plans to modernize their nuclear arsenals and related facilities over the coming decades. Reaching Critical Will and several NGO partners intend to research and analyze these programmes in order to reveal their scope and provide concrete information for non-nuclear weapon states to assess the nuclear weapon states' compliance with article VI of the NPT. The report will also provide examples of the type of information that could be provided by the nuclear weapon states in accordance with their reporting and transparency obligations in the context of action 21 of the NPT Review Conference action plan.¹

Furthermore, in the interest of maintaining pressure for the universality of the Treaty and global disarmament, the report will include chapters on the arsenals and any known modernization plans or programmes in the non-NPT nuclear possessors Israel, India, and Pakistan. We are not aware of such a project, that addresses the modernization plans and programmes of all nuclear weapon-possessors, being undertaken now or in the past.

The second part of the publication will include critical essays by the researchers and others that provide insights into relationship between nuclear weapon modernization and disarmament, security, and political economy and that offer possible strategies for civil society and non-nuclear weapon states to counter the trend of modernization.

Intended partners. This project will be collaborative. Reaching Critical Will's funding for this project will include consultancy fees for NGO experts not employed by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. RCW will hire consultants to conduct some of the research and write specific country chapters, including:

- Jacqueline Cabasso, Western States Legal Foundation (United States)
- John Ainslie, Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (United Kingdom)
- Hans Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists (France)

¹ Action 21 states: "As a confidence-building measure, all the nuclear-weapon States are encouraged to agree as soon as possible on a standard reporting form and to determine appropriate reporting intervals for the purpose of voluntarily providing standard information without prejudice to national security. The Secretary-General of the United Nations is invited to establish a publicly accessible repository, which shall include the information provided by the nuclear-weapon States."

- Pavel Podvig, Stanford University (Russia)
- Hui Zhang, Harvard University (China)
- Merav Datan, Sharon Dolev, and Dominic Moran (Israel)
- M.V. Ramana, Princeton University (India)
- Zia Mian, Princeton University (Pakistan)

RCW will also award consultancy fees to several experts to write overview chapters examining different aspects of nuclear weapon modernization and disarmament and non-proliferation.

Methods and timeline. This project will include three stages: research and writing, producing the publication, and launching the final product.

1. *Research and writing*: April–December 2011
2. *Production of publication* (editing, layout, printing): December 2011–March 2012
3. *Launch event*: May 2012 at the first Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference

If the product is deemed valuable by users, the research could be extended and an updated version of the product would be produced for the 2014 Preparatory Committee.