



2014 NPT Preparatory Committee Briefing Book



A PROGRAMME OF
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

Index

Introduction – The 2014 Preparatory Committee . . .	3
Progress on the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan	5
Modernization of nuclear arsenals	8
Humanitarian impacts and the prohibition of nuclear weapons	10
How to follow the 2014 NPT PrepCom	15

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Introduction – The 2014 Preparatory Committee

From 28 April–9 May states parties of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will meet in New York for the third and final Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference. This is an important opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the Treaty as a whole as well as the implementation of the 2010 outcome document in particular.

Since the end of the Cold War, the challenges facing the NPT's credibility and sustainability have been growing. In particular, the lack of concrete progress on nuclear disarmament and the problems of implementing agreements on the weapons of mass destruction free zone in the Middle East have affected the credibility of the Treaty and put its future relevance in jeopardy.

A successful 2014 Preparatory Committee and 2015 Review Conference are therefore crucial for the Treaty's future. However, success does not only mean an agreed outcome document. In order for the 2015 Review Conference to be a success, it must show that states are taking credible action to move further away from the retention and reliance on nuclear weapons. Simply rolling over past commitments that have not been implemented is insufficient.

The 2010 action plan clearly stated that states parties should determine next steps in 2014 to fully achieve article VI. Thus Reaching Critical Will

has produced this briefing book to highlight a number of critical issues that states must take into consideration during the 2014 Preparatory Committee, such as the implementation of the 2010 NPT ACTION PLAN, modernization of nuclear weapons, the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and the potential for negotiations of a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

We hope that this briefing book will give all participants at the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee a basis for moving the discussions forward and making concrete recommendations to the 2015 Review Conference.

Progress on the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plan

Background

The NPT Action Plan, adopted at the 2010 NPT Review Conference, was considered an accomplishment at the time. Four years later, however, its partial implementation and relevance for future action must be carefully considered.

The 2010 Action Plan is the latest in a series of agreements reached by NPT states parties over the past decades, including the 1995 principles and objectives, the 1995 resolution on the Middle East, and the 13 practical steps from 2000. None of these agreements have yet been fully implemented.

The 64 actions of the Action Plan address nuclear disarmament (22 actions), nuclear non-proliferation (23 actions), and nuclear energy (18 actions). The Action Plan was carefully crafted as a compromise between all states parties of the NPT, and the language contains varying degrees of concreteness. This makes it somewhat difficult to assess implementation.

Now it seems that polarizing views have emerged regarding the timeframe within which the implementation of the Action Plan should be completed. In the lead up to the 2014 Preparatory Committee, some states parties seem

to think that the 2010 Action Plan should be seen as a long-term roadmap. But most still see it as a short-term plan that was intended to move states parties closer to full implementation of all Treaty provisions over a specified time frame. Failure to implement those actions within this time frame does not justify their indefinite extension, but rather, should serve as a catalyst for developing new approaches and initiatives to achieve the Treaty's objectives.

Current situation

Implementation of actions across the three pillars varies greatly. It is unlikely the Action Plan will be considered adequately implemented by the 2015 Review Conference. According to our 2014 NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report, only 28 out of the 64 actions can be considered fully implemented in 2015. 21 actions are being implemented to some degree and 15 actions cannot be considered implemented at all. Most progress has been achieved on the actions dealing with nuclear energy, while those on disarmament lag far behind.

In 2014, the NPT nuclear-armed states must report on their concrete activities to fulfill action 5 and other disarmament-related actions of the 2010 Action Plan. In accordance with action 5, it is then incumbent on states parties to develop and implement the next steps for the full implementation of article VI and the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The extent to which the nuclear-armed states can report the achievement of meaningful progress in implementing their commitments will be a strong indicator of their intention to serve as willing leaders and partners in this process. None of the public releases issued thus far by the nuclear-armed states has given any reason to expect they have given serious consideration to the implementation of most of those commitments.

Regardless of differing views on what should be considered progress, a review of states parties' activities to implement the Action Plan will have to occur during both the 2014 Preparatory Committee and the 2015 Review Conference. States parties will have to discuss how to proceed in order to preserve the credibility of the NPT itself and make real progress on achieving its goals.

Recommendations for states parties at the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee

- All states should use statements and national reports to highlight their concrete implementation efforts of the Action Plan.
- States parties should discuss how to proceed with regard to the unimplemented agreements from 1995, 2000, and 2010.
- States parties should assess whether the reports presented by the NPT nuclear-armed states at the 2014 Preparatory Committee will suffice to consider their obligations under Action Plan fulfilled.
- All states should resume responsibility for implementing Article VI and clearly signal their intent and resolve to carry forward nuclear disarmament even without agreement from all NPT states parties, following in particular from the conclusions of the Oslo and Nayarit conferences.
- States parties should submit concrete recommendations to the 2015 Review Conference containing additional initiatives and efforts to implement the Treaty and should not simply accept an extension of the 2010 Action Plan as a basis for further work.

To read more about the Action Plan and how it is being implemented, pick up a copy of our 2014 NPT Action Plan Monitoring Report or download it at www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

Modernization of nuclear arsenals

Background

The nuclear-armed states of the world—China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), France, India, Israel, Pakistan, United Kingdom (UK), and the United States (US)—currently possess approximately 17,300 nuclear weapons. All these states are engaged in programmes to develop and modernize their nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and/or related infrastructure.

Current context

While the numbers of warheads are far below those at the height of the cold war, multilateral nuclear disarmament has not occurred. The majority of warhead reductions have been achieved through dismantlement of non-operational warheads or warheads in storage. In addition, nuclear-armed states are investing in their arsenals with the view to keeping nuclear weapons for many decades to come.

In 2012, it was estimated that \$105.9 billion was spent on nuclear weapons, and a recent study from the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies shows that the US alone will spend over one trillion dollars over the next thirty years on maintaining, replacing, and upgrading existing nuclear weapons

systems, while the United Kingdom plans a Trident modernization programme of approximately 100 billion GBP.

Despite signing a commitment to negotiate nuclear disarmament and to end the arms race under article VI of the NPT, these continued investments in modernization of nuclear arsenals undermines the credibility of nuclear-armed states' commitment to that goal. Every ongoing modernization programme moves governments further away from implementing article VI of the NPT and directly contradicts several action points in the 2010 NPT Action Plan.

Recommendations to states parties at the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee

- All states possessing nuclear arsenals should halt research, development, testing, and production of nuclear weapons and delivery systems. They should also declare that they will not design, develop, or produce new nuclear weapons, or modify or modernize existing warheads to add military capabilities.
- States not possessing nuclear weapons should continue to raise concerns about the threat that the existence of nuclear weapons poses for human security and call on nuclear-armed states to halt all modernization projects and implement their commitments to nuclear disarmament.
- States parties not possessing nuclear weapons should also continue to highlight that a world free of nuclear weapons can only be achieved if the nuclear-armed states stop investing in modernizing their nuclear arsenals and thereby extending their existence into the distant future.

For more information on ongoing modernization programmes pick up our latest update to **Assuring destruction forever** or download it at www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Humanitarian impacts and the prohibition of nuclear weapons

Background

One of the most significant achievements of the 2010 outcome document was the specific acknowledgement of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences that would be caused by any use of nuclear weapons. Since then, support for this dimension of the conversation has rapidly increased among governments, international organisations, and civil society representatives.

States have delivered several joint statements discussing the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, the latest one garnering support from 125 states at the 2013 General Assembly's First Committee. In addition, two international conferences on the topic have been held, one in March 2013 in Oslo, Norway and one in February 2014 in Nayarit, Mexico. A third conference is planned before the end of 2014 in Vienna, Austria.

The focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons has also brought to the fore a recognition that the stockpiling and deployment of nuclear weapons presents distinct risks of nuclear detonation, whether intentional or accidental.

The humanitarian dimension will be one of the dominating topics at the 2015 Review Conference and will inform both the debates and the decisions taken. The renewed focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has opened space for consideration of the most appropriate political and legal responses to the continued existence of nuclear weapons. This new discourse has been accompanied by a growing realization that the nuclear-weapon states and their allies cannot be relied upon to accomplish the elimination of their nuclear weapons alone. Some governments and civil society groups have called for the development and adoption of a new legal instrument that would provide a framework for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

Outlawing nuclear weapons would likely entail the development of an international legal instrument prohibiting the use, development, production, stockpiling, transfer, acquisition, deployment, and financing of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance with these acts. It could also recognise the responsibilities of states to ensure the rights of victims of nuclear weapon use or testing, require decontamination and remediation of affected areas, and provide for cooperation and assistance to meet these obligations. It could provide parameters for the elimination of nuclear weapons within agreed timeframes, for those states with nuclear weapons that join or that negotiate other agreements consistent with the treaty.

As stipulated in article VI of the NPT, it is the responsibility of all states to make progress towards negotiations on nuclear disarmament. A ban on nuclear weapons would not undermine the NPT, as its preamble highlights the catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons as the reason why non-proliferation and disarmament are necessary to safeguard the security of peoples. Its stated objectives include seeking an end the arms race, ceasing the manufacture of nuclear weapons, and

achieving the total elimination of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery through good faith negotiations. Any step towards the categorical prohibition of nuclear weapons is fully consistent with the NPT and can only help to achieve its goals. Banning nuclear weapons could be seen as operationalizing the NPT's key objectives and its ultimate aim of achieving both non-proliferation and disarmament.

A treaty banning nuclear weapons could be developed and adopted even without the participation of the nuclear-armed states, and it could succeed despite the opposition of those governments towards such an initiative. However, such a treaty would not be antagonistic towards nuclear-armed states, as it would be an initiative supportive to all disarmament and arms control efforts.

Current situation

More and more governments, international organisations, and civil society groups are starting to call for a treaty banning nuclear weapons. The Chair's summary of the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in February 2014 called for the initiation of a diplomatic process to negotiate a legally-binding instrument against nuclear weapons.

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement—the largest humanitarian organization in the world, with close to 100 million volunteers and staff—has called for a binding agreement to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons. On average, four in five people polled since 2008 in 26 nations have said “yes” to a nuclear weapons ban, including most people in each nuclear-armed state. Since 2010, 20 million petition signatures have been sent to the UN calling for a ban.

History shows that the prohibition of weapons often precedes their elimination. With the emergence of a new discourse around nuclear weapons, governments are now presented with a unique opportunity to make progress through a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

Recommendations for states parties at the 2014 NPT Preparatory Committee

- States should express concerns about the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and draw attention to the proven incapacity from any international or national relief agency to adequately respond to such a disaster.
- States should highlight the risk that nuclear weapons pose to humanity, as their continued possession and deployment means they could be used by accident or design.
- States should welcome the outcomes of conferences in Oslo and Mexico and welcome the announcement by the government of Austria to host a third conference.
- All states should resume responsibility for implementing article VI and clearly signal their intent and resolve to carry forward nuclear disarmament even without agreement from all NPT states parties, following in particular from the conclusions of the Oslo and Nayarit conferences.
- States should call for a process of negotiations for a new legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons to prevent any use of nuclear weapons by accident or design and to fulfil the NPT's disarmament and non-proliferation objectives.
- All governments should this be reflected in the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee to the 2015 Review Conference.

For more information about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and on banning nuclear weapons, please see the following resources:

- **A treaty banning nuclear weapons**, Reaching Critical Will and Article 36, April 2014 (www.reachingcriticalwill.org)
- **Preventing collapse: the NPT and a ban on nuclear weapons**, Reaching Critical Will, October 2013 (www.reachingcriticalwill.org)
- **Ban nuclear weapons now**, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, July 2013 (www.icanw.org)
- **Unspeakable suffering: the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons**, Reaching Critical Will, February 2013 (www.reachingcriticalwill.org)
- **Catastrophic humanitarian harm**, International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, August 2012 (www.icanw.org)

How to follow the 2014 NPT PrepCom

As in previous years, Reaching Critical Will is providing a wide range of services so that everyone can follow the discussions of NPT Preparatory Committee. All of our resources and tools can be found at www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2014.

NPT News in Review

The NPT News in Review is a daily publication produced during NPT Preparatory Committee and Review Conferences. It features summaries and analysis of the day's events, feature articles from NGOs around the world, interviews with diplomats and NGO representatives, nuclear facts, announcements, cartoons, a calendar of events, and more.

You can subscribe to receive our News in Review in your inbox each day during the PrepCom at www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/subscribe.

Access to documents

We will upload statements, working papers, and documents of the conference in real time here on our website for the 2014 NPT PrepCom at www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2014.

Calendar of events

Reaching Critical Will also keeps track of all official meetings and side events at the PrepCom. A list of them can be found in the Calendar of Events on our website at www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2014/calendar.

Twitter

You will find live updates on twitter from the conference room on @RCW_ and we are always ready to engage with people there, so don't hesitate to get in touch.

Also follow:

@nuclearban and the hashtags #NPT2014 and #goodbyenukes

Facebook

In order to see photos and updates from the NPT PrepCom, make sure you follow our page on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/reachingcriticalwill>.

Reaching Critical Will is the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Reaching Critical Will was created in 1999 in order to promote and facilitate engagement of non-governmental actors in UN processes related to disarmament. RCW was designed to increase the quality and quantity of civil society preparation and participation in UN disarmament processes and of NGO interaction with governments and the United Nations; to provide timely and accurate reporting on all relevant conferences and initiatives so that those unable to attend can stay informed, and to maintain a comprehensive online archive of all statements, resolutions, and other primary documents on disarmament.

RCW also produces research studies, reports, statements, fact sheets, and other publications on key issues relevant to disarmament, arms control, and militarism.



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