

FIRST COMMITTEE MONITOR

NGO Reporting on the United Nations
General Assembly First Committee on
Disarmament and International Security
7 October–5 November 2014

NO. 3
20 October 2014



FIRST COMMITTEE MONITOR

2014 No. 3

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

777 UN Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017
ph. +1 212 682 1265
email: info@reachingcriticalwill.org

Editors: Ray Acheson

The views in this publication are not necessarily those of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom or the Reaching Critical Will programme.

Reaching Critical Will is the disarmament programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the oldest women's peace organization in the world. Reaching Critical Will works on issues related to disarmament and arms control of many different weapon systems; militarism and military spending; and gendered aspects of the impact of weapons and of disarmament processes.

Reaching Critical Will is your primary source for information, documents, and analysis about the United Nations General Assembly First Committee and other multilateral disarmament conferences and processes.

On www.reachingcriticalwill.org you can find:

- A calendar of events for this First Committee;
- All editions of the *First Committee Monitor*;
- Statements, documents, and analysis from meetings of the First Committee, Conference on Disarmament, nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Arms Trade Treaty, Programme of Action on small arms, and more;
- Research and analysis of critical issues related to disarmament and arms control; and
- News and information about civil society engagement on disarmament and arms control.

In this edition:

Editorial	3
Nuclear weapons	4
Interview with Ambassador Alexander Kmentt on the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons	5
Biological and chemical weapons	6
Fully autonomous weapons and drones.	6
Depleted uranium weapons	7
Explosive weapons in populated areas	8
Cluster munitions and landmines	8
Small arms and light weapons	9
Arms Trade Treaty.	10
Information technology and security	11
Outer space	11
Gender and disarmament	12
Disarmament and development	12
Disarmament machinery	13
Calendar of events	14
Side event report: Disarmament and non-proliferation education	15
Side event report: Innovating verification.	15
Side event report: Weapons, technology, and human control	16
Side event report: International Code of conduct as a contribution to transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space.	17
Side event report: Briefing on the forthcoming Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons	18
Side event report: Book launch of <i>Unmaking the Bomb: A Fissile Approach to Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation</i>	20
Side event report: Briefing on the preparatory process for the First Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty	20
Side event report: Gender and disarmament	21
Side event report: Ending the use of cluster munitions: the urgency of the global ban.	22



Reaching Critical Will

EDITORIAL: THE COURAGE TO

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

At the end of her general debate statement, Argentina's representative expressed hope that at the conclusion of First Committee we can quote Bob Marley's refrain that "everything's gonna be alright".

Does everything seem alright inside the conference room? We are more or less on schedule, a rarity for First Committee. But is that really the best we can say about this forum after all these years? Most statements have reflected established positions and perspectives, though a few have sought to raise new concerns or offer innovative solutions. In the meantime, delegations are seeking co-sponsors and support for their resolutions—but do these texts advance the issues? Will they have practical implications for the "real world"?

And how about the "real world"—does everything seem alright outside the conference room? There is ongoing human suffering from the use of small arms, explosive weapons, armed drones, depleted uranium, and more. There is ongoing modernisation and large scale investments in nuclear weapons and related infrastructure. There are ongoing challenges regarding the implementation of arms control and disarmament instruments across sectors.

But neither the struggle to advance issues within the conference room nor the struggle to end violence without mean that everything is lost. We have the opportunity to address these challenges. We just need to have the courage and the confidence to do so.

Signs of this courage and confidence are visible at First Committee.

We have seen courageous efforts by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago in working with other dedicated states to promote a strengthened resolution on women, disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The updated text includes language reflecting the women, peace, and security agenda; encouraging action to prevent arms transfers that could be used to facilitate gender-based violence, including through implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty; and encouraging better understandings of the impacts of armed violence and weapons on women and girls. These are meaningful changes to the text that could facilitate more effective action on preventing gender-based violence and addressing the needs of all people in situations of armed conflict and armed violence.

Delivering a bold statement for the first time in many years, the Swedish delegation announced that it supports the joint statement to be delivered by New Zealand on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Ambassador Mårten Grunditz argued that the continued existence of nuclear weapons contravenes the development of an international framework that aims to ensure the safety and security of all. Nuclear weapons "pose an inherent risk to the continuation of human life on the planet—a risk over which the majority has no say," he noted, welcoming the upcoming conference in Vienna.

This is why more than 150 states have signed onto the joint statement so far. The original iteration of this statement, in 2012, had 16 signatories. It took courage for states to speak out against the dominant narrative on nuclear weapons and reject the purported "strategic value" and "security benefits" of these weapons of mass destruction. Support for this approach has grown because the majority has confidence in the moral, political, legal, and humanitarian position it represents.

Some states have also had the courage to talk about next steps. The African Group, CARICOM, and CELAC have all called for a treaty banning nuclear weapons as an effective measure for nuclear disarmament. "Naturally, the talk of banning nuclear weapons is the next logical step," said Kenya's delegation. "It should not cause anxiety."

Taking this step may indeed cause anxiety to some, especially those that possess nuclear weapons or incorporate them in their security doctrines. But adopting a comprehensive, legally-binding prohibition against nuclear weapons is an important part of the process to fulfill the commitment and obligation that all states have to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

States, international organizations, and civil society need courage to address the stark challenges posed by weapons and war. We also need confidence in our positions and actions. We should seek these things in each other, and in the goal we share of a safer, more humane world. We should, as the Austrian ambassador said, "unite around the humanitarian imperative that underpins all of our work." •

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Nuclear disarmament continued to be the most frequently raised issue during the second week of general debate. While some statements were recitals from previous years, others have incorporated the developments of this past year and looked at the way ahead, beyond the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

Similar to last week's debate, states and others talking about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons welcomed the conferences on issue held in Oslo and Nayarit as well as the third conference to take place in Vienna from 8–9 December 2014.

UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, welcomed the UNIDIR study *An Illusion of Safety: Challenges of Nuclear Weapon Detonations for United Nations Humanitarian Coordination and Response* and encouraged all states to attend the Vienna conference.

The President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Sam Kutesa of Uganda, asserted that "by focusing on the humanitarian dimensions of nuclear weapons, we can provide greater impetus to achieve nuclear disarmament." In that same context, Sweden underlined that disarmament efforts so far did not meet its standards and highlighted that the discussion around the humanitarian consequences could provide "new energy to the debate, impetus to accelerate disarmament and information to the new generations on the dangers of nuclear weapons."

Austria, as the host of the December conference, explained that the discussions in Oslo and Nayarit had

resulted in a better understanding of the broad range of humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Additionally, new information on the risks associated with nuclear weapons have become available. Therefore, both aspects factored greatly in the decision to continue and deepen the discourse and host the third conference on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. Austria stressed that as treaty-based regimes face credibility and effectiveness challenges, "the international community should unite around the humanitarian imperative that underpins all of our work."

For Kenya, the great interest of all stakeholders in the debate represents the growing opposition to the threat of nuclear weapons. Every citizen of the world community has the right and duty to oppose the existence of nuclear weapons. "Naturally, the talk of banning nuclear weapons is the next logical step," Ambassador Anthony Andanje of Kenya concluded, a view that was shared by CELAC and many others.

Members of the Non-Aligned Movement again called for the commencement of negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention in the Conference on Disarmament, in connection to last year's UN Resolution 68/32. Many speakers also called for states to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, in particular those listed in Annex II, so that it could enter into force as soon as possible. Likewise, a number of states regretted the failure to hold the conference on the establishment of the zone in the Middle East free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. •



INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR ALEXANDER KMENTT ABOUT THE VIENNA CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Since the 2010 NPT Review Conference outcome document included a reference to states parties' "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons," the debate around this issue has received increased attention among the international community. Two conferences on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons were held in March 2013 in Oslo, Norway, and February 2014 in Nayarit, Mexico. The next will be held in Vienna, Austria in December 2014, so we caught up with Ambassador Kmentt of Austria to discuss this issue and the upcoming conference.

RCW: The debate around the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (HINW) has received a growing interest in the international community over the past two years. Could you give your assessment of why this issue resonates with so many in the international community?

AK: In the consensus part of the NPT Review Conference in 2010, all member states expressed their deep concern about the humanitarian consequences that would result from the use of nuclear weapons. It may seem like an obvious point but it is actually the core motivation behind all our efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation: to prevent such catastrophic consequences from happening. Since then, a range of international and national activities, discussions and research provide compelling insights into the breadth and global dimension that nuclear explosions would cause and the risks that such events could occur. The conclusion for most is obvious: we need to give much more urgency to collective efforts to move beyond nuclear weapons. UN Secretary General recently referred to the era of nuclear weapons as a "historical nightmare". I think he is entirely right. We need a wake-up call and the focus on the humanitarian impact of and risk associated with nuclear weapons should help us to wake up. Unfortunately, this sense of urgency is not sufficiently apparent in the current diplomatic nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation efforts, which are dominated by political divisions. However, I believe that the humanitarian imperative is something that the international community should be able to rally around. The two previous conferences in Norway in and Mexico clearly demonstrated this growing support. Austria will host the third Conference from 8 to 9 December 2014 in Vienna, and we hope that this meeting will continue this important discussion and provide further impetus for urgent progress.

RCW: The conferences held on the HINW in Oslo in March 2013 and in Nayarit in February 2014 helped develop the debate and offered vital background information it. What motivated Austria to host the next conference in Vienna in December?

AK: The Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons is being organized by Austria out of its deep concern that the dangers and risks from nuclear weapons show little sign of diminishing. Proliferation of nuclear weapons is a serious concern but it can only be prevented with legitimacy if the international community and states that believe they need nuclear weapons achieve a credible move away from their reliance in these weapons. Unfortunately, nuclear disarmament is languishing. Moreover, large scale investments, modernization and replacements programs of nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons infrastructure are in place in most if not all nuclear weapons possessing states. This points to an intention to rely on these weapons for generations to come. We would see such long term reliance as a real threat to the treaty-based collective security system. These trends and developments are our motivation. The conference in Vienna will take place just a few months before the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The timing is, thus, very good to focus our attention on these crucial issues.

RCW: What are your hopes for the Vienna Conference?

AK: Austria seeks to strengthen the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and generate momentum for concrete progress on nuclear disarmament. The better the international community comprehends the scale of these consequences and of the risks involved, the clearer the case and the greater the urgency for the elimination of nuclear weapons. The consequences of nuclear weapons explosions would be devastating and unmanageable and the risks are considerable. We hope that the very pertinent presentations and discussions that we are planning for Vienna will make this case ever stronger and we will build upon the substantive discussions of Oslo and Nayarit. We hope for a greater sense of urgency, momentum, and awareness. •

BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Sampson Oppedisano | NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security

As the general debate continued, delegations urged states to sign and ratify the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). In this vein, Myanmar announced it has been making domestic preparations to ratify the BTWC. States also continued to commend the destruction of chemical weapon stockpiles in Syria, as well as express their concern over recent evidence from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that alleges use of chlorine-based weapons in Syria.

The Hungarian delegation stated how the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria serves as a “concrete example of how practical cooperation between international organizations can achieve tangible results.” The delegation also noted its yearly draft resolution on the BTWC. It expects it to be adopted as it has been in previous years. The Austrian delegation also commended the work of the UN and OPCW in Syria, calling the joint effort an “example how the international community should respond to such grave breaches of

international law and international humanitarian law.” However, the delegation was “gravely concerned” about the recent evidence regarding alleged chemical weapons use in Syria. The Austrian delegation stated that “such horrific acts fit into the overall degradation or loss of respect for basic International Humanitarian Law principles and the protection of civilians in armed conflict that is apparent in Syria.”

The delegates from Jamaica, Estonia, and Sweden also expressed concern over the OPCW reports. Estonia stated, “we firmly believe that all perpetrators of war crimes in Syria, including the use of chemical weapons, must be held accountable.” The Swedish delegation strongly condemned the recent findings of chemical weapon use in Syria, calling it “abhorrent and unacceptable”. The delegation also noted that it was pleased to have supported the UN and OPCW in their investigations. Dr. Ake Sellstrom, a Swedish national and expert in chemical weapons, helped lead the investigation. •

AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS AND ARMED DRONES

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Once again, these emerging technologies received limited attention during the second week of general debate of First Committee. Those speaking on both weapon systems called for continued debate on the requirements of and compliance with international humanitarian and international human rights law.

In that connection, Austria expressed its strong doubts about the possibility of the compliance of fully autonomous weapons systems with international law. Austria also highlighted that such weapons have the potential “for lowering the threshold to resort to force, for proliferation to irresponsible users, and for the instigation for new weapons race,” and, thus pose a risk for international peace and stability.

For continuing discussions on fully autonomous weapons systems, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) suggested the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), while Austria and Pakistan also signaled their openness for this debate to take place in all relevant UN fora or the UNGA and its First Committee, respectively.

The ICRC recalled the discussions over the past year in the CCW and other forums that have led to a better

understanding of some of the implications of autonomous weapons and highlighted the lack of a universally accepted definition of these weapons. However, for the ICRC, the autonomy of these weapons systems would manifest in “the ‘critical functions’ of searching for, identifying, selecting and attacking targets.” Increasing autonomy in these “critical functions” carries the danger of substituting human decision-making with that of machines, which poses significant legal and ethical concerns. Therefore, the ICRC stressed that there is a need to “ensure appropriate or meaningful human control or judgment over the use of force, including the use of lethal force against human targets.”

With regard to armed drones, Pakistan stressed that it considers their use in the territory of another state outside the zone of conflict as contrary to international law. Apart from challenges for the security and sovereignty of a state, the use of armed drones also has serious human rights and humanitarian implications arising from the indiscriminate killing of innocent civilians in the attacks. Speaking also about fully autonomous weapons systems, Pakistan concluded that “[t]echnology must follow the law and not the other way around.” •



DEPLETED URANIUM IN IRAQ: A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE FIELD

Wim Zwijnenburg | PAX

Since 2011, PAX has been conducting fieldwork in Iraq to assess the impact of depleted uranium (DU) weapons, first used in the country in 1991 by the US and UK. On numerous occasions, our partners in Iraq, where PAX has worked since 2002, had expressed concern over the potential impact of DU on health and the environment. However there seemed to be little interest among international NGOs active in the country in taking up the issue. The programme began with a roundtable in Amman, which brought together Iraqi health professionals, the former Iraqi Minister of the Environment, humanitarian demining organisations, ICBUW, and local NGOs.

My first visit to Iraq left a deep impression. Travelling through the desert near Basrah, we were welcomed by a landscape filled with oil refineries flaring gas, and on approaching and entering the city, destroyed tanks and other military vehicles were still present. Over the last three years, we have visited huge military scrap metal storage sites, still easily accessible despite the presence DU contaminated vehicles. In them, scrap metal collectors strip the wrecks for valuable metals. Local residents regularly discussed their concerns about the hazards associated with the vehicles. Unprompted, they talked about the health problems in their villages and how they link them with the storage of contaminated scrap. They had all heard about DU, but needing an income to support their families, and even with the exposure risks it entailed, processing scrap was the only option open to them.

Similar concerns emerged during consultations with local and international NGOs operating in the area. The ICRC had been approached by tribal leaders, who argued that the need for the clean-up of DU “exceeded any other humanitarian concerns” in their communities. Similarly, doctors in Basrah reported that they were struggling to deal with the increased rates of cancers and birth defects they were witnessing. Although there are many risk factors for these health problems in Iraq’s environment, it is indisputable that fear of the presence of toxic and radioactive DU in these areas is having a significant impact on the wellbeing of Iraqi civilians in the south.

At the governmental level in Baghdad and Basrah, representatives from the Ministries of Environment and Science and Technology freely acknowledged their inability to tackle the issue. The government’s efforts were constrained by a lack funding, by a lack of expertise for complex clean-up operations, by the absence of facilities for the management and storage of DU and, critically, by the failure of the US to release targeting coordinates.

The international community has so far failed to adequately address these frustrations and concerns. As Iraq has now called for assistance, action is needed. This must start with greater transparency over DU use in the country, and assistance and support for clean-up must follow. In raising this issue, the First Committee has an opportunity to reassure the Iraqi people that their voices and concerns are being heard. •

FIRST COMMITTEE SIDE EVENT

DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS: NEW RESEARCH FROM LABORATORY AND BATTLEFIELD

OCTOBER 23. 13:15 - 14:30

ROOM CR E

GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING

Speakers:

Depleted uranium and cancer: studies from the lab.

Doug Weir, ICBUW & Dr Katsumi Furitsu, ICBUW-Japan.

Iraq’s depleted uranium legacy: reports from the field.

Wim Zwijnenburg, PAX.

LUNCH PROVIDED



Organised by the International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons and PAX. Kindly sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations

EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

Thomas Nash | Article 36

Thousands of civilians have been killed, injured, or displaced by the bombing and bombardment of their towns and cities during armed conflicts in 2014. Against this background, and as the international initiative to prevent such harm progresses, Afghanistan, Austria, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) noted strong concerns during First Committee's general debate about the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.

As a country severely affected by the bombing and bombardment of populated areas, Afghanistan noted that the use of "high explosive weapons systems with wide area effects" in populated areas had caused a "dramatic increase in civilian casualties."

Recognising the high number of civilian casualties and wider socioeconomic effects of explosive weapons in populated areas, Austria called on the international community to "step up its efforts" and explore ways to protect civilians from the use of these weapons.

The ICRC outlined its own operational experiences dealing with the civilian harm caused by the use in

populated areas of explosive weapons with a wide impact area. Calling for more attention from states to this issue, the ICRC joined the UN Secretary-General in his request to states for information on their policy and practice related to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. This information would contribute to discussion, the ICRC noted, and eventually to developing policy guidance.

Armenia and the DRC also noted concerns about explosive weapons during their statements.

Austria, together with the International Network on Explosive Weapons, will host a side event at lunchtime on Wednesday, 22 October to brief delegations about the ongoing expert discussions on this humanitarian concern. The event will provide an opportunity for states to add their voices to the 40 countries that have acknowledged the problems posed by the use of explosive weapons. All states should do so as a first step towards developing an international commitment that will help end the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects. •

CLUSTER MUNITIONS AND LANDMINES

Amelie Chayer | International Campaign to Ban Landmines–Cluster Munition Coalition

During the second week of general debate, states spoke about the unacceptable suffering caused by cluster munitions and called for further globalization of the Convention on Cluster Munitions and acceptance of the norm against the weapon. Afghanistan condemned all use of this indiscriminate weapon and encouraged further universalization of the convention. Austria asserted that the 2015 First Review Conference would be an important milestone in further strengthening the norms of the convention on "the inside and the outside". Similarly, Lao PDR, the world's most heavily impacted country, called on all states to come on board the Convention. It also spoke about the First Review Conference, which will assess progress made against the 2010–2015 Vientiane Action Plan. Nicaragua emphasized that Central America is now the world's first region entirely on board the Convention since Belize's accession last month. Peru mentioned upcoming efforts on stockpile destruction. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) said that using cluster munitions against civilian populations was a clear violation of international humanitarian law.

A number of delegations addressed the issue of anti-personnel mines and referred to the ten-year aspirational deadline for completing core Mine Ban Treaty obligations, adopted at the Third Review Conference held in Maputo in June. Afghanistan condemned in the strongest terms all use of antipersonnel mines and reiterated its intent to be mine-free in 2023, while Austria spoke about the crucial role of the Mine Ban Treaty in strengthening the international legal framework for the protection of civilians. Colombia condemned use of the weapon by non-state armed groups on its territory. Estonia urged further universalization of the treaty and noted that it would continue to increase its contribution to mine clearance, which is essential for stabilisation processes in post-conflict states. Oman announced its recent accession to the Mine Ban Treaty ("this important convention"), which brought to 162 the total number of states parties. CELAC stressed the importance of cooperation for demining and victim assistance and expressed hope that the success of treaty implementation achieved in recent years would continue in the future. Armenia, one of the few states not yet party to the Treaty, said



it would consider joining if others in the region also adhered at the same time.

Afghanistan called for international support on land clearance and Colombia offered to share its expertise, especially in the area of victim assistance. The Republic of Congo called for further universalization of both conventions and announced its recent ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Holy See hailed progress made globally on the implementation of both conventions, while Italy reaffirmed the great importance it attaches to the universalization and

implementation of both conventions, and welcomed “the fundamental contribution that civil society is providing.”

As the general debate concludes, the Cluster Munition Coalition calls on all states to use the upcoming discussions on conventional weapons to condemn recent instances of use of cluster munitions. The page www.stopclustermunitions.org/syria contains information on widespread and ongoing use of the weapon in Syria and links to additional data on recent instances of use in Ukraine and South Sudan. •

SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Joanne Mulligan | International Action Network on Small Arms

A significant number of delegations addressed issues related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) during the second week of general debate. The President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Sam Kutesa of Uganda, emphasized that the international community must vigorously pursue common endeavors to reduce armed violence, increase human security, and promote sustainable development. He noted that the human, social, and economic costs demand that the international community strengthen its commitment to curb the illicit trade in SALW.

Delegations highlighted several specific concerns with the unregulated circulation and spread of SALW. Eritrea stressed that destruction and instability are key consequences of the unregulated trade in conventional arms, while El Salvador, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the Holy See stated that the proliferation of SALW fuels and prolongs conflict and endangers progress in noted that financial greed fuels arms sales and in turn arms sales fuel conflict that cause untold suffering and human rights violations.

A large proportion of delegations reaffirmed their commitment and support to the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) and the outcome document, reached by consensus, at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States. Tunisia underlined how important it is for the international community to maintain its commitment to the implementation of the UNPoA, while Jamaica stated that this instrument is integral to international efforts to address the scourge of the illicit proliferation of SALW. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Kenya expressed the vital need for full, balanced, and effective implementation of the UNPoA, with Kenya, Papua New Guinea, Congo, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan stressing the importance of international cooperation and

assistance in order to combat the illicit trade in arms. CELAC, Columbia, Nepal, and Madagascar reiterated the importance of multilateralism and the increase in dialogue and confidence-building measures on this issue. Kenya and Sudan also urged member states, particularly the major arms producers, to ensure that the sale of SALW is limited to governments or to entities duly authorized by them in order to protect against the illicit transfer of arms to non-state actors.

Delegations acknowledged national and regional efforts to implement the UNPoA and to combat the illicit transfer and circulation of SALW. Kenya established clear legislative and administrative procedures for arms management and control, in addition to developing a policy framework in accordance with the provisions of the UNPoA and a centralized stockpile management system for purposes of accountability. Sudan established a national contact office and strengthened border controls and Papua New Guinea stated that it had increased cooperation with regional police forces to exchange information and monitor movement and activities of people linked to terrorist groups. Peru called for better exchange of information at national, regional, and international levels, particularly regarding the tracking of SALW, in order to ensure that such weapons do not fall into the hands of unauthorized non-state actors or terrorist groups.

The Jamaican delegation addressed the incorporation of ammunition in the UNPoA and issues of brokering, border controls, and the consideration of the complementarities between the UNPoA and the Arms Trade Treaty. Some delegations also highlighted the International Tracing Instrument as a vital instrument in curbing the illicit trade in conventional arms. CELAC and Jamaica stated that it is critical to future efforts that a legally-binding instrument on marking and tracing for SALW be developed. •

ARMS TRADE TREATY

Matthew Bolton | Control Arms and Pace University New York City

States' comments on the Arms Trade Treaty this week overwhelmingly welcomed the agreement's forthcoming entry into force this December, which Estonia's representative described as "a major achievement for the international community!" The European Union pointed to the ATT as an example that the "role and contribution of the UN disarmament machinery—the components of which are mutually reinforcing—remain crucial and irreplaceable."

The International Committee of the Red Cross congratulated states, saying that if "[f]aithfully and consistently applied, the Treaty will ensure that weapons do not end up in the hands of those who would use them to commit war crimes or serious violations of human rights law." The Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica, Shorna-Kay Richards, told the Committee that, "As a country that has been disproportionately affected by the irresponsible trade in conventional weapons and a strong advocate for the Treaty, Jamaica ... take[s] pride in our active contribution to this process."

Many states expect the Treaty will curb illicit trafficking, particularly of small arms and light weapons (SALW). Ambassador Dr. Ruben Zamora, El Salvador's Permanent Representative, said his country had signed the ATT to counter the ways in which the "accumulation and proliferation of SALW feeds a culture of violence and impunity." Cape Verde's Permanent Representative, Fernando Wahnon Ferreira, added that the ATT will "aid in combatting urban crime" and "terrorism." Speaking on behalf of the CELAC states, Maritza Chan, Minister Counselor of Costa Rica's UN Mission, expressed hope that the Treaty will "contribute to an effective response to the ... diversion of arms to non-state actors or unauthorized users, often linked to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking."

Sweden and Italy called attention to the ATT's provisions on gender-based violence. Ambassador Vinicio Mati of Italy said this "fosters respect for human rights." However, Marten Grunditz, Sweden's Permanent UN Representative, said "much more needs to be done to reduce and eliminate gender-based violence in armed conflicts."

A few states also began to address issues of implementation and administration of the Treaty. Burkina Faso, Jamaica, Montenegro, Cape Verde, Peru, and the Republic of Congo all commended Mexico for its plan to host the First Conference of States Parties in 2015. Montenegro looks forward to the second

preparatory meeting in Berlin in November. Jamaica asserted that "a dedicated and properly resources Secretariat" is "critical" for ATT implementation and underlined its support for CARICOM's endorsement of Trinidad and Tobago as the site of the Secretariat. Sweden nominated its Ambassador Paul Beijer to head the ATT Secretariat.

Ambassador Raymond Serge Bale, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Congo, called "the exchange of good practice to ensure synergy between all actors." Jamaica commended New Zealand's development of model legislation for ATT ratification and stated that CARICOM wished to emphasize the ATT's "provisions on international cooperation and assistance ... to assist States with technical capacity and legislative challenges." In this vein, Ambassador Miguel Camilo Ruiz of Colombia announced that his country will host a seminar on Regional Support for Treaty Implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean for 70 participants in Bogota, 18–19 November. The event will enable the "exchange of experiences" between states in the region. EU experts will also attend.

Some developing countries expressed the importance of the ATT's "application in an equal, transparent and objective manner that respects the sovereign right of all states to guarantee their legitimate defense," as the CELAC statement put it. Morocco expressed similar sentiments and Madagascar stated that the ATT should not "serve as interference in the internal affairs of countries." Ambassador Amr Aboulatta, Permanent Representative of Egypt, stated his country would be "following closely the developments regarding the accession to, entry into force and implementation of the Treaty in order to determine our final position."

Meanwhile, Ambassador Milorad Scepánovic said Montenegro was committed to "upholding the principles and standards enshrined by the Treaty on a global scale" and called for efforts to "make sure that the Treaty truly becomes the universal one, with as broad and effective application as possible." In this spirit, Estonia stated that it "would like to encourage the States that haven't yet signed the Treaty to do so before its entry into force." •

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SECURITY

Thomas Nash | Article 36

Delegations have given increased attention to the question of cyber attacks during this year's First Committee general debate. The establishment of the UN's classically-named Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Security has clearly raised the profile of this question.

Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Estonia, Kenya, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Venezuela, ASEAN, CELAC, and the ICRC all made comments related to cyberspace and international security.

Delegations focused their remarks largely on the need for further discussions, noting that more understanding is required amongst states about the concepts and questions at hand.

There were strong calls for the digital domain to remain a peaceful one. CELAC, for example, noted the importance of "safeguarding the use of cyberspace for peaceful purposes," while China said "a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace should be built." Portugal suggested that a multilateral instrument should be established to ensure cyberspace is only used for "peaceful, scientific and development goals" and Brazil said it "favours the discussion of legal standards for international peace and security concerns related to information and communication technologies."

A number of delegations—in particular those from Latin America—expressed concern about the use of cyber technologies by some states to attack others.

Norway noted that while everyone agrees that existing IHL applies in cyberspace, further discussion is needed on the implementation of these existing rules and principles in the field of information and communications technology.

There was also a strong sense that internet freedoms should be preserved and upheld as states engage in this field. Estonia noted that "security cannot be used as an excuse to limit internet freedom."

Civil society will address the First Committee on this topic for the first time this year. NGOs are expected to highlight the potential for harm to civilians and damage to vital infrastructure from cyber attacks. In this regard the ICRC noted that "the interconnectedness of military and civilian networks poses a significant practical challenge in terms of protecting civilians from the dangers of cyber warfare."

At the same time, NGOs have sounded a note of caution about assuming a military or IHL framing for these discussions, given that human rights and criminal law are applicable in many of the cyber attack scenarios that have been identified or envisaged. The relationship between cyberspace and human security looks set to remain high on the agenda for delegations at the First Committee as the GGE continues its work in 2015. •

OUTER SPACE

Garbiella Irsten | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The potential that space provides for economic growth, development, and climate surveillance are some of the motivating factors for many non-space faring nations to increasingly call for progress on the peaceful use of outer space and prevention of weaponization of space. The African group highlighted this aspect during general debate last week when it stressed that "[w]e need to demilitarize our world by addressing the threat of further weaponization of our globe and the militarization of outer space. We must therefore seek for appropriate multilateral approach to address these issues through constructive debates, deliberations and negotiations as acceptable norms established by this body."

This was echoed in many national statements of African states. For example Kenya stressed, "we cannot achieve [national security] without addressing the need to ... end the creation of a new generation of weapons in space. If we fail to do so, disarmament will be just a pipe-dream."

Many of the delegations that raised space security issues during the second week highlighted various on-going efforts. Myanmar, Burkina Faso, CELAC, Pakistan, and Nepal supported the calls for the commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a universal, legally-binding instrument on the prevention of an arms race in Outer Space, while Portugal, Sweden, and Italy supported the EU Code of Conduct. •

GENDER AND DISARMAMENT

Sofia Tuvestad | WILPF Sweden

On a general scale, most states continued to disregard gender dimensions of disarmament as First Committee moved on with general debate and thematic discussions on disarmament machinery. There were, however, a few exceptions of states speaking out on gendered aspects of arms proliferation and promoting women's participation in disarmament.

In her statement on behalf of Jamaica during general debate, Shorna-Kay Richards included the participation of women and civil society groups as one of the issues that needs to be addressed in discussions on how to move multilateral disarmament forward "after nearly two decades of little action." Jamaica attaches high importance to the participation of women in all decision-making on disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control, she continued, emphasising in particular how this relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict. On a similar note, Lana Zaki Nusseibeh of the United Arab Emirates held out the importance of involving women in international disarmament efforts as well as "viewing women as a principal partner and effective agent in preventing wars and resolving conflicts."

Jamaica also welcomed the inclusion of gender provisions in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as well as the acknowledgement at the Fifth Biennial Meeting

of States on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) of the importance of promoting the participation of women in this work. Jamaica declared its full support to the annual First Committee resolution "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control" and said it looks forward to it being adopted by consensus, as in previous years.

Ana Perla Doig, in delivering Peru's statement during general debate, highlighted the role of UNLIREC (the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean) and the workshop it held on including women in disarmament and non-proliferation work.

Finally, in Sweden's statement during general debate, Ambassador Mårten Grunditz said that Sweden believes in an approach to disarmament "that puts human beings front and centre of policy," adding that "the equal and full participation of both women and men is of key importance in order to attain sustainable peace and security." Sweden welcomed the fact that the ATT addresses gender-based violence, and while Ambassador Grunditz highlighted this as an important step, he added as well—and rightly so - that "much more needs to be done to reduce and eliminate gender-based violence in armed conflicts." •

DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Nalinn Larsson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

During the First Committee's second week, various delegations stressed the correlation between disarmament and development. Many expressed concern over the world's high military spending, resources that could be spent on development and to combat poverty. The President of the 69th General Assembly, Ambassador Sam Kutesa, stressed the need to review where resources are spent and asserted "we cannot send children to school, feed the hungry, provide care for the sick and develop our infrastructures and economies if weapons, wars and conflicts continue to divert our time, energy and resources." In this way disarmament and development are interlinked, as Jamaica, Sudan, El Salvador, Bolivia, and others emphasized. El Salvador stressed that security and development reinforce each other and are needed so that "all people can freely enjoy their rights and contribute to the socio-economic development, democratic governance and sustainable development."

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Kenya, Jamaica, El Salvador, Pakistan, Nicaragua, Laos, Tunisia, Nepal, and Peru further brought attention to the world's high military spending. Jamaica urged the world to reconsider today's high global military expenditure "to redirect significant portions of these funds to aid global development initiatives and poverty eradication strategies." CELAC urged member states in that context to rethink their high military expenditure and instead allocate resources to social and economic development and to eradicate poverty. Kenya raised concerns that military spending is "increasing at an alarming rate" and Nicaragua stressed that it is unacceptable that the world's military spending is exceeding that on development.

Many delegations stressed the harmful consequences that the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) have on development. The President of



the General Assembly stated that these arms “destabilize communities, destroy countless lives and hamper development efforts,” and Sweden called SALW “the biggest threat to human safety and security” on a day-to-day basis. Cape Verde emphasized that SALW are especially harmful to small states and Papua New Guinea stressed that they have the most negative impact on economic and social development in rural areas. Afghanistan highlighted that over a million people in its country have been killed by SALW alone and that these weapons have been the main destabilizing and destructive element over the last three decades. Kenya expressed concern over these weapons often ending up in the hands of extremists and terrorists which results in insecurity and have negative consequences for development.

The Ambassador of Afghanistan further pointed out that not only SALW, but also landmines and explosive

weapons continue to pose a great threat to many Afghans and are therefore jeopardizing the security and development of the country. Concerns over explosive weapons were expressed by Austria, as the use of these weapons in populated areas results in high numbers of civilian casualties, has devastating effects on infrastructure and socio-economic development, and results in forced displacement. Similarly, the International Community of the Red Cross (ICRC) emphasized the devastating human costs of these weapons, both in terms of civilian deaths and on the infrastructure that impedes development. The ICRC stressed that explosive weapons hinder development as water and electrical supply system are damaged, which has serious consequences for hospitals and for the civilian population, as well as leads to loss of homes and livelihoods that result in long-lasting displacement of civilians. •

DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

Gabriella Irsten | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The thematic debate on disarmament machinery began during the second week of the First Committee. The session started with a panel consisting of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) President, the Chair of the Disarmament Commission, the Chair of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, and the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). All speakers highlighted problems with moving forward within the existing machinery, as did all states that took the floor during the debate.

Portugal highlighted that “the CD is likely to be assessed more by what it cannot do or decide, rather than for its past achievements.” It continued saying, “the credibility of the CD rests on its capacity to produce decisions on all the different matters under its consideration.”

Russia again initiated a joint statement on behalf of several delegations that stated progress can only be achieved “within the framework of the existing multilateral disarmament mechanisms,” in particular the CD.

As always there was some discussion about whether or not new initiatives support the existing machinery. Ireland, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Hungary, and Italy emphasised that the humanitarian conferences on nuclear weapons can strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and can contribute to a successful outcome of the Review Conference of the NPT. Austria, Lesotho, Kazakhstan and Thailand also stressed that the humanitarian initiative is a positive

push that hopefully will lead to concrete outcomes on nuclear disarmament.

However, France, UK, Russia, and China did not see this so-called “parallel process” as positive with regards to the NPT. France believes it to be incompatible with the NPT review cycle and Russia expressed its concern that these “narrow special focused processes” could not replace or subsidize the already exciting forums that, he argued, have a broader scope and expertise. China does not see the new initiatives as representative, arguing they are not universal and do not include all countries. This is despite the fact that all new initiatives have been open to all states, international organizations, and civil society—quite unlike the traditional forums for disarmament.

In addition, none of these delegations uttered any criticism towards the established Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), which has limited participation. Cuba, however, criticized the general establishment of experts group with limited numbers of participating countries. Furthermore, it highlighted that these efforts should be as few as possible, transparent, and include all members states on equal footing.

The Arab Group, along with many others, called for a fourth special session of the UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament. The Arab Group and the Union of South American Nations argued that no amendment to the current machinery could be made before this session is held. •

CALENDAR OF SIDE EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF 20–24 OCTOBER 2014

When	What	Where	Who
Monday, 20 October 13:15–14:30	Behind the curve: new technologies and small arms control	Conference Building Conference Room A	Small Arms Survey and the Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN
Monday, 20 October 13:15–14:30	CTBT	Conference Building Conference Room 4	Permanent Mission of Mexico to the UN
Monday, 20 October 13:15–14:30	Towards Vienna: the role of education to further advance the discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons	Church Center for the UN, 7th Floor 777 UN Plaza	Ban All Nukes generation, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Peace Boat
Monday, 20 October 18:00	“50 celebrating 50” photo exhibition and reception	UN basement exhibition area (near the Vienna Cafe)	Control Arms and the Governments of Australia, Finland, and Mexico
Tuesday, 21 October 13:15–14:30	Addressing concerns over fully autonomous weapons	Conference Building Conference Room A	Permanent Mission of Croatia to the UN and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots
Tuesday, 21 October 15:00–17:00	Nuclear weapons lawsuit in the International Court of Justice / NGOCDPS Annual Meeting	Church Center for the UN Boss Room, 8th Floor	NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security
Tuesday, 21 October 15:15–16:30	UNODA's regional / subregional initiatives	Conference Building Conference Room A	UNODA
Wednesday, 22 October 13:15–14:30	The impact of explosive weapons in populated areas	Conference Building Conference Room A	Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN and the International Network on Explosive Weapons
Wednesday, 22 October 13:15–14:30	Introduction to the iTrace Global Weapons Reporting System	Conference Building Conference Room 4	Delegation of the European Union
Wednesday, 22 October 13:15–14:30	Building blocks approach for a world without nuclear weapons	General Assembly Building Conference Room 6	Permanent Missions of Japan and the Netherlands to the UN, Global Security Institute
Thursday, 23 October 13:15–14:30	Effective measures for nuclear disarmament	Conference Room 9	Permanent Missions of Ireland and Mexico, Reaching Critical Will, and Article 36
Thursday, 23 October 13:15–14:30	Depleted uranium weapons: new research from the laboratory and the battlefield	General Assembly Building Conference Room E	Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN, International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons, PAX
Thursday, 23 October 18:30–21:00	Keep Calm & Ban All Nukes: Happy-Hour Social	Turtle Bay NYC 987 2nd Ave	Ban All Nukes generation

SIDE EVENT REPORT: DISARMAMENT AND NON-PROLIFERATION EDUCATION

Nalinn Larsson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

On Monday, 13 October 2014, the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN hosted a side event discussing disarmament and non-proliferation education.

The UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Angela Kane, stressed the need to reach out to young people to increase their understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation. They will become the agents of peace and security, working in schools and communities, and so have a critical role to play in the future of disarmament. Ms. Kane promoted the UN's new book *Action for Disarmament: 10 Things You Can Do*, which shows young people ten steps they can take to lead in work for disarmament. The book presents historical events and explains how that knowledge can be used for future disarmament.

Other initiatives to reach out to young people on disarmament have included education websites, films, podcast interviews, and an art for peace contest. However, as 90 % of the young people in the developing world are not part of the digital world, Ms. Kane highlighted the need for other education projects. She also stressed that it is important to train the trainers and therefore various workshops at the UN are organized to educate diplomats about disarmament issues.

Ambassador Toshio Sano of Japan spoke of his government's efforts on disarmament and education.

One way is to spread information about what the nuclear bombings did to the people in Hiroshima and Nagasaki through special- and youth communicators. Visits to these two cities are also organized by the UN to see the tragic consequences from the use of nuclear weapons. As cartoons and animations are very popular in Japan, this has been another way to educate young people about disarmament issues.

Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco of Mexico stressed that education and promotion of values are the same effort. He highlighted the importance of training government officials to prepare them with practice and theory on subjects related to disarmament. The younger generation needs to be provided with the tools needed to achieve and maintain a world in peace without weapons; tools that can be acquired through education and increased knowledge of disarmament.

Gaukhar Mukhatzhanova, Director in the Center for Non-Proliferation Studies in Washington, stressed the need to increase expertise in various levels: in high schools and universities, but also people working in the field who are in need of training, such as diplomats and journalists. She also emphasized the need to integrate more topics in disarmament, such as gender and development, as well as expanding the educational tools for disarmament. •

15

SIDE EVENT REPORT: INNOVATING VERIFICATION

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

On Tuesday, 14 October the US Department of State hosted a briefing by the Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) on the report series, *Innovating Verification: New Tools and New Actors to Reduce Nuclear Risks*. Frank A. Rose, US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Space and Defense Policy, delivered some brief opening remarks, after which the Vice President for of NTI For Material Security and Minimization, Andrew Bieniawski, moderated the discussion of NTI's Verification Pilot Project and the ensuing question and answer session.

In the project, three working groups had focused on different aspects of what NTI identified as verification challenges in the future. Kelsey Hartigan of NTI elaborated on the results of the working group on "Verifying baseline declarations". The group had split into one group working on the verification of dismantlement of warheads and one focusing on nuclear materials in that context. However, Ms. Hartigan stressed, one of the main conclusions was that these processes could not be separated. She urged the international community to think about ways for transparent full life cycle verification. She also stressed the need to prioritize nuclear verification research as well as sharing best practices and lessons learned. Only that way would the international community develop the skills to credibly verify future baseline declarations, both on nuclear warheads and nuclear material.

Corey Hinderstein introduced the result of the working group on "Redefining societal verification". It explored the possibility of governments using information generated and communicated by individuals or expert communities for arms control on non-proliferation treaty verification. That way complementary tools

and techniques could be developed to comprise an effective verification system.

In the final presentation, Andrew Newman summarized the work of the third working group addressing possibilities for “Building Global Capacity”. It had focused on how international participation in verification processes can increase confidence in reduction activities and what capabilities are needed on the part of non-nuclear armed states. Mr. Newman suggested that states should conduct joint development, testing, and certification of verification tools and nuclear forensics.

The ensuing discussion focused mainly on the aspects of societal verification. Topics discussed included how crowd sourcing could benefit the process and the possibility of transferring some of the knowledge to other treaty verification systems. However, participants also questioned the ruling-out of whistleblowers contributions, raised concerns about the validity of reports of treaty violations submitted, and highlighted possible effects on the anonymity of those submitting such reports. •

SIDE EVENT REPORT: WEAPONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND HUMAN CONTROL

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Autonomous weapons, cyber weapons, and safety issues related to complex systems were addressed in a side event hosted by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the permanent missions of the Netherlands and Switzerland on Thursday, 16 October.

Richard Moyes, Managing Partner of Article 36, outlined the need for meaningful human control over individual attacks. This is not seen as a direct solution to the challenges posed by autonomous weapons, he explained, but as a starting principle from which discussions and negotiations can move towards a solution. One of the advantages to this approach is that it focuses on human responsibility rather than on future high-technologies that only some states may be developing.

Law is a human framework, argued Mr. Moyes. It requires deliberative reasoning and responsibility by people. As a result, legal judgments about individual attacks must always be made by humans. The call specifically for “meaningful” human control is based in an understanding that there should be some kind of human meaning to violent death. “Being killed by a process in which there was no human deliberation over the outcome is an affront to dignity in certain ways,” noted Mr. Moyes. “The bureaucratisation of killing has represented a low point of human conduct” and risks undermining human rights.

Hanne Eggen Røislien, Associate Professor at the Norwegian Cyber Force, discussed risks associated with the development of cyber weapons and cyber warfare. She argued that when it comes to defensive cyber systems, removing humans from the loop is actually seen as preferential. In offensive systems, people are still in the picture and are likely to remain that

way, she suggested, because we struggle to conceive of making ourselves redundant. She raised questions over the implications for meaningful human control in the cyber sphere, noting that while the second or third-hand effects of a cyber attack may be physical, any first-hand effects are not.

John Borrie, Senior Researcher at UNIDIR, examined assumptions by autonomous weapon proponents that such systems will add to operational flexibility and will be reliable in carrying out their functions. Drawing upon work on “normal accident theory” by Charles Perrow, Dr. Borrie emphasised that while autonomisation can make routine operations easier, it can also be a source of additional risks. Even single component failures can lead to multiple or “interactive” failures in some systems because of their complexity and tight-coupling.

“When we consider meaningful human control,” said Dr. Borrie, “there is a safety dimension to it independent of whatever we think about the ethics or legality of autonomised targeting or attacks.” He argued that it might not be possible to effectively control or predict what will happen as the result of even initially simple failures in autonomised weapon systems.

During the Q&A session, questions were asked about the relationship between the concept of meaningful human control and existing law, the robustness of such a policy line, and choice of this terminology. Mr. Moyes noted that meaningful human control is implicit in existing law, because law sets obligations on human beings, not machines. However, this concept is not explicit in existing law. Dr. Borrie noted that to be meaningful, humans have to be able to intervene in timely and effective ways. •

SIDE EVENT REPORT: THE INTERNATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT ON TRANSPARENCY AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES IN OUTER SPACE ACTIVITIES

Gabriella Irsten | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

On Friday, 17 October 2014, the European Union (EU) held a side event on its International Code of Conduct to discuss how it could contribute to transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs) in outer space activities. The event was chaired by Ambassador Ioannis Vrailas, Deputy Permanent Representative of the European Union to the United Nations.

The event addressed many issues related to space management, such as challenges, threats, debris, and norm-building. The main conclusion was the urgent need to increase efforts to move the issue of space security and safety higher up on the priority list of the international community.

UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Angela Kane pointed to the 20 years between the first Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on outer space TCBMs and the latest GGE on that issue, which she thinks highlights the international community's lack of focus on space issues.

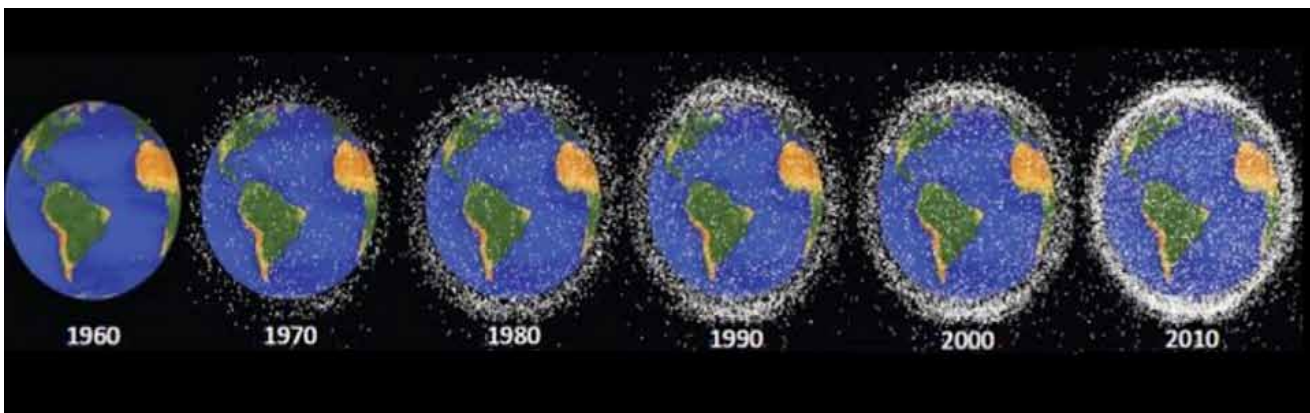
Ambassador Venkatesh Varma, Permanent Representative of India to the Conference on Disarmament, laid out India's view on outer space activities. He welcomed that the EU's Code has been opened up to

the wider world last year, as it had been a closed EU process up until the first open-ended consultations in May 2013. He furthermore expressed India's wish for the Code to be anchored in the UN.

Michael Krepon, co-founder of the Stimson Centre, spoke on the importance of norm-building and how norms can be created around treaties. He emphasized the need for these norms in order to isolate, limit, and sanction misbehavior, saying, "If there is no norm there are no norm breakers."

Mr. Adebayo Babajide from the European External Action Service concluded the discussion by highlighting the main aspects of the Code and the current draft text.

The ensuing discussions focused on how to raise the issue of space in disarmament forums, due to the urgencies mentioned above; how to build bridges between UN forums dealing with space; and how to move forward on the issue. Ms. Kane emphasized that some of the successful "disarmament" related outcomes were not all discussed in a traditional manner, i.e. the Law of the Sea was negotiated in Fifth Committee by a group of lawyers, and the ATT, a trade treaty, was discussed in First Committee. •



Debris in outer space, 1960-2010

SIDE EVENT REPORT: BRIEFING ON THE FORTHCOMING VIENNA CONFERENCE ON THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

On Wednesday, 15 October 2014, the Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN held a briefing on the upcoming conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons from 8–9 December 2014 in Vienna. The Vienna Conference will be the third conference on this matter after previous ones held in Oslo, Norway, in March 2013 and Nayarit, Mexico, in February 2014.

Ambassador Kmentt, Director for Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, opened the briefing by outlining the greater context of the humanitarian discourse and then focused on the specific details of the conference in December. He stressed that the overall objective is to broaden the discourse on nuclear weapons by opening it to all constituents and by focusing on the humanitarian consequences and the risks involved. Ambassador Kmentt hoped for an inclusive and open debate at the conference, as this is an issue for all humanity.

Accordingly, Ambassador Kmentt encouraged delegations to enable an interactive expert discussion by including experts as well as parliamentarians in their delegations. A broad range of international organizations have been invited as well as academic experts and civil society representatives. Speaking in that context, Oksana Leshchenko of the United Nations Development Programme explained that UNDP will

enable one participant from each eligible country to attend through its sponsorship programme.

As for the draft indicative timetable: the programme will build on the work and discussions of the previous two conferences in four substantive sessions with opportunities for questions after. The substantive sessions will be followed by a general debate, where participants can share their views. In closing, the Chair will present a factual summary.

For more information on the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons visit: <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/european-foreign-policy/disarmament/weapons-of-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons-and-nuclear-terrorism/vienna-conference-on-the-humanitarian-impact-of-nuclear-weapons>.

In preparation for the governmental conference, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons will host a Civil Society Forum from 6–7 December in Vienna. 600 campaigners, activists, experts, public figures, and survivors will gather to and engage in discussions on humanitarian disarmament, hear testimonies, and learn about the humanitarian imperative to ban nuclear weapons. Government representatives are welcome to attend the Civil Society Forum. For more information on the Civil Society Forum visit goodbyenuk.es. •



Follow First Committee on Twitter!

@RCW_
@nuclearban
@controlarms
@bankillerrobots
@IANSAnetwork
@explosivewapon
@4disarmament
@minefreeworld
@banclusterbombs
@icbuw

#firstcommittee
#goodbyenukes
#thecourageto
#armstreaty



Effective measures for nuclear disarmament

Thursday, 23 October

13:15-14:30

Conference Room 9

Speakers:

Thomas Nash, **Article 36**

Ray Acheson, **Reaching Critical Will of WILPF**

Greg Mello, **Los Alamos Study Group**

The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons has created new momentum to eliminate these weapons. At the same time, the nuclear-armed states are investing in and planning for the indefinite possession of their nuclear arsenals.

This event will explore potential measures for nuclear disarmament, including those set out in the New Agenda Coalition's paper from May 2014. Speakers will also discuss the potential of a new legal instrument providing the framework for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, highlighting the potential normative and practical impacts such a treaty could have on nuclear disarmament.



Reaching Critical Will



Article36

SIDE EVENT REPORT: *UNMAKING THE BOMB* BOOK LAUNCH EVENT

Sampson Oppedisano | NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security

The launch of the book *Unmaking the Bomb: A Fissile Approach to Disarmament and Nonproliferation* was followed by an all-male panel discussion on fissile material led by Ambassador Henk Cor Van Der Kwast, Frank Von Hippel, and Zia Mian.

There is roughly 500 tons of plutonium and 1,500 tons of enriched uranium in the world today. The nuclear bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan at the end of World War II only used 1 kilogram of fissile material. Frank Von Hippel, former assistant director for national security in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, began by pointing out that while roughly 16,000 nuclear warheads exist in the world today, there is enough fissile material to make ten times as many.

Fissile material comes in the forms of Uranium-235 and Plutonium-239. Though they have served alternative purposes such as powering naval and civilian reactors, ultimately they are weapons materials. Plutonium in

particular proves difficult to dispose of and thus poses a greater risk. Zia Mian, who has published books on the global stockpiles of fissile material, stated that if we eliminate nuclear weapons, we'll still have the materials left over. He noted that any sustainable path towards disarmament must address the existence of fissile materials.

Fortunately, production of fissile material seems to have ceased in the five NPT nuclear-armed states and they have destroyed some military facilities used for fissile materials development. Negotiations of a fissile material cut-off treaty have been blocked in the Conference on Disarmament for more than a decade. The Q&A session explored questions regarding the costs and efficiency of disposing of fissile material, as well as expanding civilian plutonium safeguard measures. The panel concluded with Dr. Mian stating that he is "eternally hopeful" that fissile materials disposal will be discussed in the upcoming NPT Review Conference. •

SIDE EVENT REPORT: BRIEFING ON THE PREPARATORY PROCESS FOR THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

Anna Macdonald | Control Arms

On 16 October, Mexico and Germany held a well-attended briefing on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Conference of States Parties (CSP) process. Ambassador Lomonáco of Mexico described the first Informal Consultations on the ATT CSP that took place in Mexico City on 8–9 September, which over 70 signatory and ratifying states attended, along with civil society that has been actively promoting the ATT. Mexico was pleased with the level of attendance, noting that ratification processes are taking longer in some regions. Ambassador Lomonáco described the main topics that were discussed in Mexico City, which included: rules of procedure, where there was strong support for simple, straightforward rules of procedure for the CSP; financing, where most states favoured a hybrid meeting; and the function, structure, and location of the Treaty Secretariat.

Finally he noted that there was strong support for Mexico to take on the role of Provisional Secretariat, which will need to be in place following the Treaty's

imminent entry into force on 24 December. Mexico is exploring the possibility of partnering with a UN institution in undertaking this role.

For the next meeting, Mexico is working with others on a number of informal papers to help the discussions. These will include financing, rules of procedure, the Secretariat, and Provisional Secretariat, and will be circulated in advance of the Berlin meeting. There is also a working group on reporting templates.

Ambassador Biontino of Germany said that the ATT should stop both illicit transfers and irresponsible transfers, and for this aim to be successful there will need to be effective global implementation. He explained that Germany and Mexico will jointly chair the Second Informal Consultations that are scheduled to take place on 27–28 November in Berlin, and encouraged all signatory and ratifying states to register to attend. •



SIDE EVENT REPORT: GENDER AND DISARMAMENT

Sofia Tuvestad | WILPF Sweden

This side event was hosted by the permanent mission of Denmark to the UN, in cooperation with Reaching Critical Will of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). The speakers were Ray Acheson from Reaching Critical Will, Richard Moyes from Article 36, Joy Onyesoh from WILPF Nigeria, and Charlene Roopnarine from the permanent mission of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN. The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Susanne Rumhor Hækkerup of Denmark.

As Ambassador Rumhor Hækkerup introduced the event, she underlined, amongst other things, the need to address women's rights to participate in disarmament processes. We need to ensure women are recognised not only as victims of violence and conflict, but also as key actors in preventive efforts. As the Ambassador rightly pointed out, this should also be reflected in First Committee resolutions.

The problem with viewing women only as victims and not as actors was further elaborated on by Ray Acheson. As she explained, such essentialist and false perceptions are an expression of the social construction of gender: the process of assigning different qualities, characteristics, and roles to people based on social norms and ideas around men, women, and others. Social constructions of gender have the effect that people tend to take on different roles in society. This can be seen, for example, in women often taking greater responsibility for the household and men being over-represented in combat forces (which means that men constitute the majority of casualties of war and armed violence). As a result, people are affected differently by weapons and war.

Acheson highlighted the importance of developing tools and analyses that take into account how gender, sexual orientation, and other factors have implications for how different people are affected by armed violence and conflict. This requires substantial improvements in data collection. As Charlene Roopnarine of Trinidad and Tobago pointed out, this year's resolution "Women, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation" has a number of additions of which one relates to gender awareness in data collection and research. This resolution, piloted by Trinidad and Tobago since it was first introduced in 2010, should thus bring concrete change in how states produce and use data and research.

Data collection is one example of work that must include local level engagement, as highlighted by Joy Onyesoh. WILPF Nigeria works locally, nationally,

and internationally on women's rights, peace building, and disarmament. It addresses, amongst other things, the proliferation of small arms including how this affects men and women differently. Working with local community-based organisations to support the production of gender-specific data is absolutely key, said Onyesoh, to ensure adequate research forms the basis of national and international advocacy work carried out by WILPF Nigeria and other organisations. In all of this, women must be included as participants with real influence. Women's organisations have their own expertise and ability to contribute immensely to disarmament efforts, Onyesoh concluded.

Reconstructing gender norms, however, is not only a "women's issue". It is about changing gender relations, and as such it must also include addressing masculinity. One of many necessary concrete steps is for men to take responsibility and better engage against gender discrimination. It comes down to realising one's own privileges and the fact that the gender system benefits men over women. As Richard Moyes of Article 36 put it, structures and norms around gender effectively leads to capable people—in this case women—not being given the opportunities they should be given. Moyes highlighted a new initiative that stemmed from a group of women working on autonomous weapon issues that Article 36 has taken up. The initiative encourages men who work in the disarmament arena to say no to participating in all male panels. Article 36 have compiled a growing list of men who have signed up for this. For panel organisers looking to increase the number of women in panels, there is also a list of women experts in disarmament (contact Reaching Critical Will for further information).

All of the above highlights an urgent need to build momentum and strengthen commitments around gender and disarmament in all relevant international decision-making arenas. States should thus welcome and adopt by consensus this year's resolution "Women, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation" with a number of highly needed improvements including on data collection, gender-based violence, and risk assessment relating to arms transfers. States should also submit reports on their efforts to implement this resolution to the annual UN Secretary-General's report on this resolution (see more in this year's *First Committee Monitor No. 1*). •

SIDE EVENT REPORT: ENDING THE USE OF CLUSTER MUNITIONS: THE URGENCY OF THE GLOBAL BAN

Joanne Mulligan | International Action Network on Small Arms

On 17 October, the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN together with the Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) held a side event on cluster munitions. Participants heard a panel discussion on the effects of cluster munitions, followed by an informal question and answer session. The panel consisted of Maritza Chan of the Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the UN, Amy Little of the Cluster Munition Coalition, and Mary Wareham of the Arms Division at Human Rights Watch. Alexandra Hiniker of PAX took on the role of moderator.

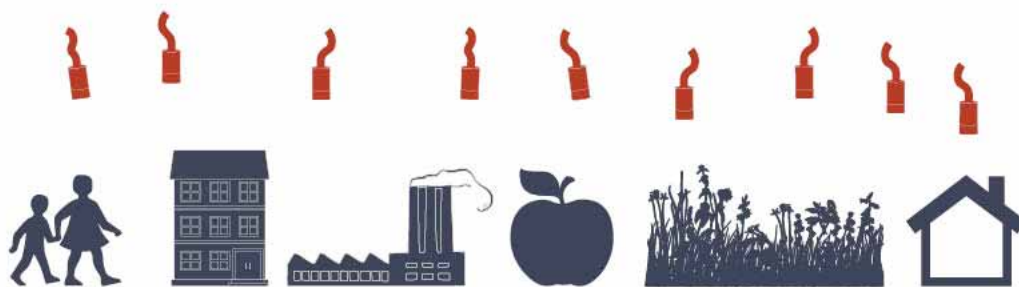
Ms. Chan stated that the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) aims to ban the weapons and their use and destroy stockpiles, in addition to providing support to victims and assisting affected states. She noted that to date 114 states have joined the CCM but stressed that more progress is needed in the number of states signing and ratifying it and in the areas of stockpile destruction and victim support. Ms. Chan expressed that all states have a legal and moral duty to condemn the use of cluster munitions.

All members of the panel underlined that the solution to the issue of cluster munitions is the full implementation of the CCM. States were urged to place the ratification process as their priority. Ms. Little also underlined the importance of political will for effective implementation.

All panelists underscored the devastating humanitarian impacts that cluster munitions can have and

emphasized that joining the CCM would help confront these challenges. In using weapons of this kind, there is no distinction between targets and innocent civilians and there is a significant failure rate which makes them indiscriminate and unreliable. Ms. Little shared data on victims, noting that 82% of victims are male and 40% are children. She shared data on the past use of cluster munitions in Lebanon as an example, where there was a 25% failure rate, with 1 in 4 of these weapons failing to detonate at time of release. When asked by a participant if there is a higher failure rate when such weapons are used by non-state actors, the panel stated that a person untrained in the proper use of cluster munitions would run a higher risk of weapon failure but risks still occur regardless, such as in situations where cluster munition rockets in the air fail to reach their target or where sub-munitions fail to detonate after their release. States should reject the use of cluster munitions because they are outdated, counter-productive, poor defensive weapons and their uses carry a strong stigma in society today.

Ms. Wareham discussed evidence found during an investigation carried out by the Cluster Munition Monitor on the use of cluster munitions in Eastern Ukraine in recent months. She photographed munitions, sub-munitions, and fragments found during this investigation, along with photographs of such munitions found in Syria. She was announced that a final report of findings would be released by Tuesday, 21 October. •



**CLUSTER BOMB STRIKES IN SYRIA HAVE HIT
PLAYGROUNDS, NEIGHBOURHOODS, FACTORIES,
SHOPS, STREETS, ALLEYWAYS, GARDENS, HOMES**

WWW.STOPCLUSTERMUNITIONS.ORG



The Permanent Mission of Austria in partnership with the International Network on Explosive Weapons (INEW) cordially invites First Committee delegates to

a side event on

**“Protecting civilians from the use of explosive weapons
in populated areas”**

**Wednesday, 22 October 2014, from 13.15 to 14.30hrs,
Conference Room A (CB) of the United Nations Headquarters, New York**

Every year, bombardment and shelling of towns, cities and villages results in high numbers of civilian deaths and injuries, damage to vital civilian infrastructure and forced displacement. The recent crises in Gaza, Ukraine and Syria have provided further tragic examples of this predictable pattern of severe harm. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas is increasingly recognised as a key concern for the international community.

Drawing on recent examples, this event aims to provide delegates with an understanding of the humanitarian harm caused by the use of explosive weapons in populated areas – and the potential for action to prevent that harm.

PAX will present its new report “Unacceptable Risk”, which finds that the legal rules, as applied in practice, do not provide sufficient protection to civilians against the effects of explosive weapons, and in particular that additional restraints on the use of weapons with wide-area effects could help to reduce harm to civilians. The event will also provide perspectives on how such additional restraints might be brought about at the national and the international level.

Speakers include:

- Steve Goose, Human Rights Watch – *The harm caused by explosive weapons in recent conflicts*
- Maya Brehm, PAX – *“Unacceptable Risk”, a report looking at policy and practice in the use of explosive weapons in populated areas through the lens of three cases before the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)*
- Richard Moyes, Article 36 – *Opportunities to prevent harm from the use of explosive weapons with wide-area effects*

Moderation: Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in Geneva

FIRST COMMITTEE MONITOR

The *First Committee Monitor* is a collaborative NGO effort undertaken to make the work of the First Committee more transparent and accessible. The *Monitor* is coordinated and edited by **Reaching Critical Will** of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Contributing organisations and coalitions to this edition:

Article 36
Control Arms
International Action Network on Small Arms
International Campaign to Ban Landmines-Cluster Munition Coalition
NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security
PAX
Reaching Critical Will of WILPF
WILPF Sweden

www.reachingcriticalwill.org | info@reachingcriticalwill.org



Reaching Critical Will