

FIRST COMMITTEE MONITOR

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

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Cover image: Amnesty International

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.

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Reaching Critical Will

EDITORIAL: MAKING CHANGE

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Civilian deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas have gone up for the third year in a row. Deaths and injuries and guns and firearms remain unabated. Prohibited weapons such as cluster munitions and chemical weapons have been used in recent conflicts in Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen. Nuclear weapons are still not subject to a categorical legal ban and hundreds remain on high alert. Profits continue to soar from the design, manufacture, and sale of arms.

It's a dangerous world and our weapons make it more dangerous. The United Nations should be a place where states, international organisations, and civil society groups come together to figure out how to best integrate our approaches and solutions to the collective crises we face, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental devastation, patriarchy, militarism, and violence. First Committee could play a crucial role in confronting these crises holistically, through disarmament and arms control. Creative and bold measures to reduce, restrict, prevent, and end the development, production, trade, use, and threat of use of weapons can help embolden our so-called international community to communicate with one another through nonviolent means to solve tensions and overcome challenges.

Unfortunately, delegations often use First Committee to articulate decades-old positions and table resolutions that change little in substance or result from year to year. Reports on the implementation of these resolutions are issued each year, with contributions from states trending downwards. New perspectives or approaches are generally considered too difficult to incorporate, as precedent seems to trump progress in almost every respect. Civil society is denied an effective place in the Committee's work, relegated to

delivering a block series of statements from the back of the room one afternoon every year—a session that tends to be one of the least well-attended, as if it were considered optional by some.

This state of affairs does not reflect the intended role of the UN as a problem-solving forum for the international community. In many cases, it is a handful of countries that prevent effective change on either substance or process. The civil society organisations, coalitions, and campaigns participating most actively at First Committee have argued consistently that we can and must replace stalemate and watered-down outcomes with alternative results that advance human security and social and economic justice. Governments and civil society alike should not continue to settle for less. We call for an approach to disarmament that is driven by the rights of people most affected by armed violence, not by the discretion of states and organisations most responsible for it.

A range of ideas that support this all are presented by civil society coalitions and campaigns in the *First Committee briefing book*, available from Reaching Critical Will online and in hardcopy during the Committee's meetings. The groups that have contributed to this book—and that will be contributing to the *First Committee Monitor* over the coming month—work on many different issues and weapon systems from a variety of perspectives, but they all share one thing in common: the desire for more effective, transparent, and inclusive diplomatic work at the United Nations. We believe that most delegates seek true progress and the enhancement of human security. We hope that our contributions will provide inspiration and alternatives as delegates engage in the important work ahead. •

The *First Committee Monitor* will be published on the following dates:

Monday, 19 October: General debate edition
Monday, 26 October
Monday, 2 November
Wednesday, 11 November: Final edition

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FIRST COMMITTEE BRIEFING BOOK: EXTRACTS

To provide ideas and inspiration to delegates at First Committee, Reaching Critical Will has published a briefing book with background information and recommendations on some of this year's most pressing disarmament-related topics. The following are abbreviated recommendations from each chapter. The full briefing book can be downloaded from www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

Nuclear weapons

At First Committee, delegates should highlight that any use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and that such consequences make it imperative to prohibit nuclear weapons; support the humanitarian pledge to fill the legal gap on the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons; and support proposals and resolutions for negotiations of a new treaty banning nuclear weapons to commence urgently in a forum open to all and blockable by none, even without the participation of nuclear-armed states.

Armed drones

At First Committee, all delegations should express humanitarian, moral, and legal concerns over the use of armed drones inside and outside armed conflicts and increased proliferation of armed drone technology;

highlight the need for a focused discussion on the use of armed drones, including the application of international law and transparency; and call for legal regulations on the use and trade of armed drones, condemn and indicate their commitment to not participate in extrajudicial killing, and call for increased transparency about armed drone use and casualty recording practices.

Fully autonomous weapons

At First Committee, all delegations should acknowledge the concerns raised over fully autonomous weapons and express support for a strengthened and expanded CCW mandate of work in 2016 via a GGE meeting for a total of three to four weeks; and articulate their national policy on fully autonomous weapons, including their position on the calls for a moratorium or ban.

Explosive weapons in populated areas

At First Committee, all delegations should recognise that civilian harm from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is a humanitarian problem that must be addressed; endorse the UN Secretary-General's recommendation that the use in densely populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects should be avoided; set out national policies and practices related to the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including in response to the Note Verbale sent by the UN Secretary-General to all states, via their Permanent Representatives to the United Nations in New York and indicate support for the development of an international commitment to reduce harm from the use of explosive weapons, including by stopping the use in populated areas of explosive weapons with wide area effects.

Landmines

At First Committee, all delegations should vote in favour of the resolution on the Mine Ban Treaty, which provides an important opportunity for states to reaffirm their support for the ban on antipersonnel landmines. Each year, a large number of states not party vote in favour of the resolution, thus demonstrating their support for the Treaty's humanitarian aims; condemn any use of antipersonnel mines and call for public investigation of allegations or instances of use by states parties; express support for the "completion" goals of the Third Review Conference and name their own completion targets if they have not yet done so; and report on progress made towards accession and communicate their support for the humanitarian objectives of the Treaty, as many of them do each year.



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Cluster munitions

At First Committee, delegations should condemn the recent use of cluster munitions in Libya, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen; emphasise that universalization of the CCM is essential to preventing any further harm, and report on their contribution to the implementation and universalization of the Convention; and, those outside the treaty, should report on progress made towards joining and communicate their support for the humanitarian objectives of the Convention, as many of them do each year.

Incendiary weapons

At First Committee, all delegations should publicly condemn the use of incendiary weapons in Syria and Ukraine and urge the Syrian government to accede to the CCW and its Protocol III; and call for a review of Protocol III and amendments to address the negative humanitarian impact of incendiary weapons.

Small arms and light weapons

At First Committee, all delegations should commend ongoing work to implement the UNPoA and to explore synergies and complementarities between it, the Arms Trade Treaty, and the sustainable development goals (SDGs); indicate support for SDG 16(4), which seeks to reduce illicit arms flows by 2030; support improvements to the omnibus SALW resolution; propose new SALW resolutions that address some of the UNPoA's gaps such as assistance to survivors, ammunition, SALW production, stockpile management, and emerging technologies.

Arms Trade Treaty

At First Committee, all delegations should support an ATT resolution that calls for strong and effective Treaty implementation; encourage continued universalization of the ATT; and participate in and contribute to the substantive discussions taking place in side events and elsewhere.

Outer space

At First Committee, all delegations should highlight the importance of preventing the weaponisation of

outer space; condemn any anti-satellite tests and the development of weapons to be placed in orbit or to be used to target space-based assets; welcome the outcome of the latest GGE on transparency and confidence-building measures in outer space and report on their implementation of measures recommended by the GGE and the COPUOS debris mitigation guidelines; and indicate support for the negotiation of a treaty preventing an arms race in outer space and for interim measures such as the International Code of Conduct on outer space activities.

Cyberspace, disarmament, and human security

At First Committee, all delegations should express concern about the risk of cyber attacks and the militarisation of cyberspace; and indicate support for the current GGE to develop concrete recommendations on preventing the development, deployment, and use of cyber weapons; and seek to establish new avenues for wider discussions open to all states and inclusive of civil society and other relevant actors. Including the voices of states from all regions, including low and middle income countries, will be crucial in this process.

Gender and disarmament

At First Committee, all delegations should welcome the inclusion of the provision on gender-based violence in the ATT and highlight the need for implementation of this criterion; highlight the need to ensure gender diversity in disarmament discussions and negotiations; and submit reports to the Secretary-General on their implementation of the UNGA resolution on women and disarmament.

Conflict and the environment

At First Committee, all delegations should emphasise the relationship between the protection of the environment and the protection of civilians during and after armed conflict in their statements; and acknowledge the weakness of current legal protection for the environment during conflict, express support for substantive debate on efforts to improve it and consider how harm from toxic remnants of war might be minimised. •

CALENDAR OF SIDE EVENTS

When	What	Where	Who
Thursday, 8 October 13:15–14:30	A conversation with Linda Fasulo and the Hon. Doug Roche, O.C.	UN Bookshop, Visitors Concourse	UN Bookshop
Friday, 9 October 13:15–14:30	Cyber weapons and autonomous weapons: potential overlap, interaction, and vulnerabilities	Conference Room 8	UN Institute for Disarmament Research

REFLECTIONS ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2015

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Before the high-level debate of the UN General Assembly began this year, governments gathered to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda commits governments “to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.” It declares: “There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.” Yet despite this emphasis on peace and freedom from violence, the Agenda only includes one goal related to disarmament or arms control—to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

This falls far short of the action necessary to restrict the arms trade and the possession and use of weapons, without which development and peace are just empty words. It ignores the risks posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, the relentless bombing and bombardment in towns and cities, and many other critical weapons-related issues. It also ignores the diversion towards militarism of resources that could be spent on development.

During the general debate, however, many governments did direct attention to these challenges.

Nuclear weapons

Most governments addressing nuclear weapon issues welcomed the agreement reached over Iran’s nuclear programme, with many highlighting it as a victory for diplomacy over military force. But some went beyond consideration of potential nuclear weapons to focus on those that already exist. As Ireland pointed out, “Today there are at least 17,000 nuclear weapons posing a threat to our very survival. We cannot accept this status quo.” Some of the 117 governments that have so far endorsed the Humanitarian Pledge highlighted the Pledge’s importance and urged more states to endorse it and work towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Others pointed to the waste of resources on nuclear weapons and the unacceptability of the ongoing failure to disarm. The Holy See described the nuclear arms race as “the denial of the human dignity of one’s potential enemies, even to the denial of one’s own dignity and survival.”

The catastrophic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons was a key concern for those addressing the issue. With three conference and multiple joint statements at the General Assembly and Non-Proliferation Treaty meetings, this subject has grown to dominate the nuclear weapons discourse in recent years. The Marshall Islands, which has pending lawsuits against

the nuclear-armed states for their failure to comply with article VI of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, argued, “It is essential for the survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances. The universal way to accomplish this is through the total elimination of such weapons.... It should be our goal as the United Nations to not only stop the spread of nuclear weapons, but also to pursue the peace and security of a world without them.”

The nuclear-armed states said little to none about their arsenals or about nuclear disarmament. Only India and Pakistan mentioned nuclear weapons, describing themselves as responsible nuclear weapon states.

Explosive weapons

The use of explosive weapons in populated areas is a particularly devastating practice that causes immense humanitarian suffering. Between 2011 and 2014, the civil society group Action on Armed Violence has recorded almost 150,000 deaths and injuries from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. 78% of these were non-combatants. When explosive weapons were used in populated areas, 90% of the resulting casualties were civilians. Strong tools are needed to prevent human suffering from the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. The shelling and bombing of populated neighborhoods in Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, and elsewhere has created devastating humanitarian situations, killing civilians, destroying vital infrastructure, and leaving lasting psychological damage.

An increasing number of states addressed this issue, most of whom criticized the bombing or bombardment of civilians in Syria or Yemen. Costa Rica called for protection civilians from such predictable patterns of harm, while Norway specifically supported the UN Secretary-General’s call on parties to armed conflict to refrain from using explosive weapons with wide-area effects in populated areas.

Arms trade

Yet few states connected the use of explosive weapons in populated areas relate to the international arms trade. While many states welcomed the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), irresponsible arms transfers continue. Ireland highlighted “the consequences of illegal and irresponsible flows of arms and conventional weapons in the appalling scenes of chaos and brutality into which parts of our world have descended.” It suggested that the ATT can

help “stem this industrial scale violence.” However, as Costa Rica noted, “despite the express prohibitions in the Arms Trade Treaty, [weapons producers] continue to conduct international arms transfers, including small and light weapons, to conflict areas.” The Costa Rican president insisted, “The express prohibitions on transfers of conventional arms of the Treaty exist to prevent human suffering and to save lives. They are not there to be ignored.” In this spirit, Belize called upon the “powerful arms-producing states to refrain from selling arms and weapons to those who use them to oppress others, and to warlords in war-torn countries.”

Military spending

This critical gap between law and practice in relation to the international arms trade is due to the limitations of the ATT, accentuating the continuing power of war profiteers. As global military spending continues to rise, armed conflict becomes the go-to solution for international tensions. “The vast expenditures on weapons and military equipment of all kinds, which consume a massive share of the world’s resources could be more properly channeled into the development agenda that we have just adopted. By so doing, the world would not only be more prosperous, it would be much safer and more secure,” argued Jamaica.

Meanwhile Mongolia, questioning the resources squandered on “war machines and weapons of mass destruction,” noted that “with a fraction of the money and technology we spend for the ‘masculine war show,’ we could solve many of today’s troubling issues.” Mongolia was the only state to draw connections between militarism and violent masculinities during the general debate. This was a welcome insight that we hope will continue to be explored in First Committee.

Conclusion

Much work is needed on disarmament and arms control to protect civilians, enhance human security, and support development and peace. The general debate provides a snapshot of government interest in this subject, which this year is somewhat worrying. There are a number of pressing issues on everyone’s agenda—the refugee crisis and climate change first and foremost. But it is important to remember that all of these issues are interconnected. The Maldives, for example, highlighted the relationship between the 2030 Agenda and militarism, arguing that poverty is a multidimensional challenge that requires the UN to break out of its silos, suggesting that bodies dealing with economic and social rights must address issues of war and peace.

It is imperative that governments and all other actors strive to overcome that which separates us and focus on that which brings us together. As Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said, “In this our 70th year, let us pledge ourselves to liberate our nations and our global family from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation and warfare; to emancipate ourselves from the mental slavery of discrimination and learned helplessness; to unshackle our policies from the narrow nationalism, and imperialist ambition, that constrains the limitless possibilities of the human spirit. As nations and peoples we have choices.”

Reaching Critical Will, with the assistance of WILPF’s PeaceWomen programme, tracked all references to disarmament and arms control at this year’s UNGA general debate. The Disarmament Index is available at www.reachingcriticalwill.org. PeaceWomen maintains an index on gender and women, available at www.peacewomen.org. •



THE ARMS TRADE TREATY AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) entered into force on 24 December 2014, becoming the first ever legally-binding treaty to recognise the link between gender-based violence (GBV) and the international arms trade.

Throughout the negotiations of the Treaty, WILPF, together with other civil society groups, highlighted the impact that arms flows and the widespread proliferation and use of arms has on women and others. We argued that GBV must be included as a specific issue in the Treaty.

Even though serious violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, covered by the ATT's article 7(1), would include acts of GBV, it is important to have the GBV criterion included specifically, as this form of violence is often overlooked because it disproportionately affects women, who are in a disadvantaged position compared to men when it comes to highlighting and confronting human rights abuses. Including this provision in the Treaty underlines the need for prevention of GBV explicitly and makes its exclusion from risk assessments more difficult. It also highlights that the trade, possession, and use of weapons have specific gender and power dimensions that need to be further examined and addressed.

Arms exporting states party to the Treaty now need to assess the risk of their arms being used to commit acts of GBV when authorizing an arms export (article 7(4)). To assist states, we have produced a briefing paper that aims to provide some background on the terminology around GBV and highlights questions that will be relevant for risk assessments under article 6 and 7 of the ATT.

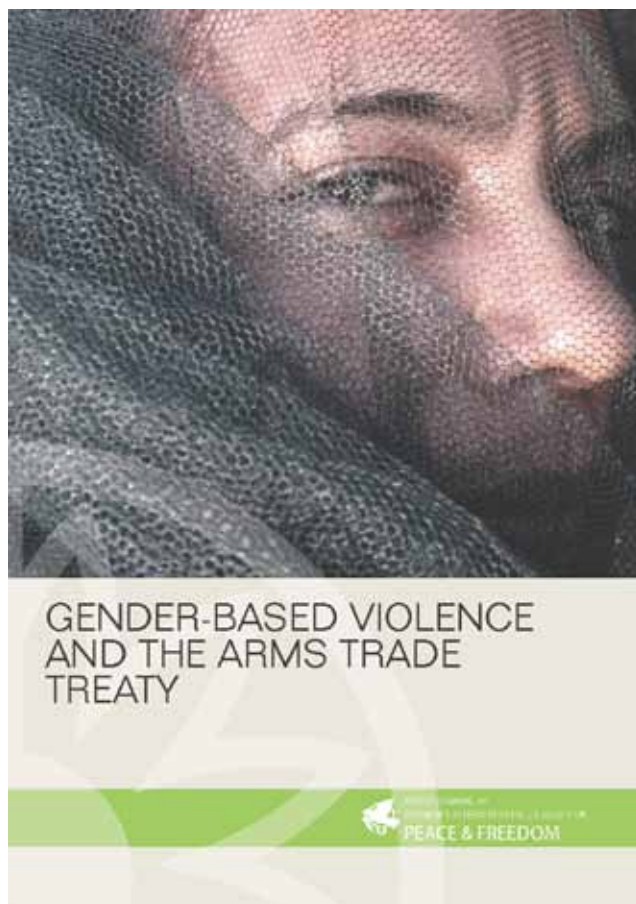
Those conducting risk assessment processes for the export and import of weapons will have to take into account legislative and normative factors around GBV in the recipient countries. Effective implementation of this provision will help prevent GBV. It will also help build understanding about risks and dangers in potential recipient countries and about the links between the international arms trade and GBV more broadly. This in turn will enable more effective protection of human rights and prevention of armed violence.

In the context of a bigger project addressing implementation of article 7(4), WILPF is working with four of our national sections, Cameroon, Colombia, Spain, and Sweden, to make implementation of the ATT and

the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UNPoA) more relevant and effective for organisations on the ground as well as allow for exchange between the national and international level. Additionally, we have started research for a report developing tools and guidelines for ATT and UNPoA implementation, specifically in relation to prevention of GBV. For this, we aim to identify best practices, and develop a set of recommendations and guidelines for risk assessment processes.

WILPF will hold a side event together with the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN on the "ATT, UN PoA, and gender-based violence" on 22 October 2015, 1.30-2.15 pm in Room E. •

Check out this new publication from Reaching Critical Will on ATT risk assessments on gender-based violence! Available for download at www.reachingcriticalwill.org.



A NEW TREATY IN THE MAKING? THREE NEW RESOLUTIONS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Beatrice Fihn | International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

At the 2015 session of the United Nations General Assembly's First Committee, three new resolutions are on the table, which aim to consolidate the humanitarian initiative. For ICAN, they reflect a momentum for starting negotiations of a new treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons.

Recognizing the humanitarian consequences

The joint statement on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons that has been delivered regularly by an increasing number of states since 2012 has turned into a resolution for this First Committee. The text of the resolution remains largely the same as the statement. Turning it into a resolution will mean that the humanitarian perspective on nuclear weapons – which has grown to be the central consideration in nuclear disarmament discussions – can be formally adopted by the UN General Assembly. The resolution calls for nuclear weapons never to be used again under any circumstances and decides to put the issue of humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons on the agenda of the First Committee next year.

Surprisingly, some states from the original group of 16 states that drafted this statement have not yet signed up to co-sponsor this resolution. Previously supportive states like Denmark and Norway seem to be feeling pressured by NATO “commitments” to maintain nuclear weapons. It is also remarkable that Switzerland – the state that first initiated the joint statement in 2012 – has not signed on. Does this suggest that such countries are now less concerned about the humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation? Or do these decisions indicate a reluctance to show leadership and act upon the evidence that has been presented?

Committing to fill the legal gap

The second important resolution is related to the humanitarian pledge. At the time of writing, 117 states have endorsed this commitment to take action towards filling the “legal gap” for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. Austria has decided to submit the text of the pledge as a resolution, thereby seeking to anchor the pledge in the UN General Assembly. This will press governments that have so far avoided taking a decision on endorsing the pledge to make up their minds on this key international commitment and the need to fill the legal gap.

Negotiating a new treaty

The third text is a new version of the resolution “Taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations,” led by Mexico.

This resolution includes a mandate for an open-ended working group (OEWG) in Geneva to “negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on concrete effective legal measures to achieve nuclear disarmament, in particular new legal provisions and norms to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.”

Civil society has consistently called for the start of negotiations for a treaty banning nuclear weapons, which is the natural next step that should follow from the evidence provided during the Oslo, Nayarit, and Vienna conferences. This diplomatic process must be open to all, blockable by none, and inclusive of civil society.

There will most certainly be attempts to weaken the mandate to a discussion or to include consensus rules. If this resolution is to have any value, governments must reject such weakening, as it would then risk repeating the failed discussions from the 2015 NPT Review Conference, the 18 year deadlock in the Conference on Disarmament, or the unfocused discussions of the OEWG in 2013. Such actions will not be able to adequately address the urgent humanitarian concerns that nuclear weapons cause. It is therefore imperative that governments indicate clear support for starting negotiations towards a legally-binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons.

A moment to make history

With these three resolutions and other initiatives and announcements, October will be an intensive period where governments have the opportunity to place negotiations on a new legal instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons on the table for the first time.

It is crucial that committed states have the conviction to undertake such negotiations even without the participation of those armed with nuclear weapons. It is time for those that have spoken out about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons to establish an international legal instrument that would prohibit the development, production, testing, acquisition, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat of

use, or use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance, financing, encouragement, or inducement of these prohibited acts.

In addition, such an instrument could suggest a framework for the elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as include positive obligations on states to ensure the rights of victims and survivors. Faced with the indisputable evidence presented over the past three years, wasting more time on pointless discussions cannot be justified by those which have recognized the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament.

While the nuclear-armed states are ramping up the modernization of their nuclear arsenals at an alarming rate, the number of near-accidents and security fail-

ures at nuclear weapon facilities are on the rise and investments to secure those facilities fail to adequately address the security gaps. With increasing tensions between Russia and Western states, experts say that the risk of nuclear weapons use is on the rise – higher than it has ever been since the end of the Cold War.

So far 159 states have recognized the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and 117 have committed to work towards filling the legal gap in relation to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. With the world having just commemorated the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the moment has come to start the process to negotiate a treaty banning nuclear weapons. •

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CD: WORKING FOR PROGRESS

Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

On 10 March the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) announced it would cease coverage of the UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) until the Conference engages in substantive work on disarmament.

WILPF has been working for peace since 1915 by challenging militarism and the mindset behind it; by investing in efforts towards peace; and by supporting multilateralism. During the first Special Session on Disarmament that created the disarmament machinery in its current form, our Secretary General at the time, Edith Ballantyne, was one of the few NGOs to participate in and address the session.

So, the decision to leave the CD in March 2015 was taken very carefully, after taking stock of the status quo: The CD had not engaged in substantive work in 17 years. A very small minority of states has managed to block the adoption or implementation of a programme of work for all that time. And yet many of the other members refuse to allow a change in working methods, rules of procedure, enlargement of membership, or engagement of civil society. The CD is a body that has firmly established that it operates in a vacuum. That it is disconnected from the outside world. That it has lost perspective of the bigger picture of human suffering and global injustice.

The world is facing a multifaceted set of disarmament challenges, from the use of explosive weapons in

populated areas in various on-going conflicts around the world, the continued illicit trade of arms and ammunition, the development of new weapons such as killer robots, and nuclear weapons that continue to threaten the world's citizens with complete destruction all fuelled by states' military expenditures totalling at 1.77 trillion USD in 2014.

Therefore, WILPF did not want to contribute to maintaining the structures that reinforce deadlock. Which for some has become more important than fulfilling the objective for which it was created—negotiating disarmament treaties. The responses WILPF received upon the announcement were overwhelmingly positive from civil society colleagues and state representatives that welcomed our decision to focus our efforts elsewhere.

This year's UNGA First Committee again has the opportunity to address the challenges of the outside world and should not slip into a routine merely focused on going through the motions of reading statements and adopting reports (such as the one of the CD) and thereby perpetuating the charade of "work" once again, because much remains to be done on disarmament and progress is desperately needed.

70 years after the decision by the international community to create an international institution to maintain international peace and security, the United Nations, it is high time it did just that. •



TRADING ARMS, BOMBING TOWNS

The lethal connection between the international arms trade
and the use of explosive weapons in populated areas



REACHING CRITICAL WILL OF THE
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
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