



# News In Review



A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2003

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**UN Office:** 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. phone (212) 682-1265 Fax: (212) 286-8211 E-mail: wilpfun@igc.org

**Int Secretariat:** 1, rue de Varembe, C.P.28, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Phone: (+41 22) 733-6175 E-mail: wilpf@iprolink.ch

## NPT 2003- It's TIME TO WALK THE TALK

The year since the last NPT Prepcom has seen incredible global changes. The largest anti-war demonstrations ever, discussions on methods of disarmament at kitchen tables around the world, and a pre-emptive war that ended a working disarmament regime. The world has become a new place, will the NPT Prepcom reflect these changes, or will it simply be another opportunity for States Parties to talk about their commitments to nuclear disarmament without actually doing anything about it? As my mother would say, if you're going to talk the talk, you ought to walk the walk.

The internal policies of the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) seem to undermine their commitments to Article VI of the NPT, to irreversibly, transparently, and verifiably disarm their nuclear weapons. The defense strategies of the Bush Administration in the U.S. are especially frightening, as they appear to threaten non-nuclear weapons states with nuclear attack. Not since the end of the Cold War has the world been so close to the use of nuclear weapons. However, the movement to stop their use has never been stronger. The people of the world are behind the efforts here, at the NPT, to disarm, dismantle, and dispose of nuclear weapons - permanently. It remains to be seen whether the States Parties are as willing.

Again this year, the Conference on Disarmament has so far reached no conclusions and remains deadlocked. Again the Disarmament Commission did not come to any consensus. Again the world grows weary of talk with no action.

What will it take to push the NPT into action?

At the 2002 Prepcom there were recommendations by NGOs for ways in which the NPT could move forward. These recommendations have been scarcely acted upon, and it is time to honor civil society, to honor the global population, and to act to protect future generations from the threat of nuclear war.

The recommendations given during the NGO session last year include: making negative security assurances legally binding, establishing a permanent secretariat for the NPT, getting the Security Council to address nuclear disarmament, implementing Global Zero Alert of nuclear weapons,

exploring concepts of security without nuclear weapons, using the goal of a nuclear weapons convention to further nuclear disarmament now, improving gender balance to further nuclear disarmament, and considering collective sanctions by non-nuclear weapons states. These are real counter-proliferation and non-proliferation steps, a concrete plan to move forward and pursue true security. These are tangible, real, minimum requirements that will ensure that the NPT is an effective credible tool to make us all safer.

Article 26 of the UN Charter requires the Security Council to formulate plans for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments. This includes nuclear weapons. The permanent five members of the Security Council enjoy political influence and prestige that does not come without responsibility. The NWS have a trust responsibility to the Non-Nuclear Weapons States (NNWS) to at the very least codify Negative Security Assurances. If this responsibility is not upheld, how do the NWS expect the NNWS to react? It has been 33 years since the NPT entered into force, and States Parties are still keeping nuclear weapons on hair-trigger alert, ready to launch at any moment.

The NGO community recognizes that most of the delegates to the NPT support the goals of the NPT, but that it is often difficult to persuade your own colleagues, constituencies and governments to take up these aims. The NGO community can promise if we do see new energy and new initiatives on the governmental side that NGOs and individuals everywhere will respond with resounding support and renewed enthusiasm.

Recognizing that there can be no changes in the procedures of the Prepcoms until the 2005 Revcon, now is the time to start talking about these ideas, to begin the planning process for those changes, to implement these simple actions. The time has never been better to tell the global community about the commitment to a nuclear-weapons free world than right now, the whole world is watching.

Susi Snyder

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

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## Stephanie Mills

GreenPeace

### 1. What are your hopes or expectations for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation 2003 Prepcom?

I hope that the diplomats at the Prepcom will hear and respond to the extraordinary wave of global public concern about peace and disarmament we have seen in the last few months. If they are listening, they will know that people everywhere are extremely concerned about weapons of mass destruction but they want a strengthened multilateral process, not unilateral military invasions to deal with the threat of proliferation. If countries do not stand up now and wave the flag for the importance of ALL countries meeting their disarmament obligations under international agreements, then the future of the NPT is dire indeed.

### 2. What topics do you work on most or find the most interesting in this forum?

The three key challenges facing this Prepcom are to reassert the need and effectiveness of international norms and laws to deal with proliferation, and to firmly reject pre-emptive military action; to get progress from the Nuclear Weapon States who remain in material breach of their Article VI disarmament obligations; and to respond effectively to North Korea's withdrawal from the Treaty by establishing emergency mechanisms to better deal with such situations in future.

### 3. What led you to be doing the work that you are doing now?

I grew up in Aotearoa/New Zealand, where there is a strong sense of the injustice that Pacific peoples and our environment were suffering radioactive contamination because of the nuclear weapons policies of the nuclear weapons states. Opposition to French nuclear testing at Moruroa, the NZ peace movement's campaign to end US nuclear warship visits there, and the inspiration of the Greenham women's peace camp in the early 1980s were my formative political experiences and led to me working first for CND in London and then Greenpeace since 1990.

### *NPT 2003, A Look Ahead, continued...*

nuclear arsenals, the 13 Steps covered the CTBT, maintaining a moratorium on nuclear tests, negotiating a ban on fissile materials for nuclear weapons, the principles of irreversibility and transparency in nuclear arms control, development of verification capabilities, and commitments to reduce tactical nuclear weapons and diminish the role of nuclear weapons in security policies to minimize the risk that they would ever be used. Also included were references to supporting the START process and preserving and strengthening the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, both of which have collapsed following the US decision to withdraw from the ABM Treaty in June 2002.

Also of importance for the PrepCom, Step 12 called for regular reports, within the framework of the NPT strengthened review procession the implementation of the NPT's disarmament obligations. Though fudged language enabled a compromise to be reached last year, it is likely that the question of reporting will be raised again in 2003. Dressed in procedural clothes, the issue is at heart political. Canada, which has played a leading role in arguing that reporting has been made obligatory, regards them as fundamental to the principle of accountability under the treaty, and would like to see all states submit a report on the actions they have taken to comply with and implement the treaty's provisions, so that progress can be tracked and problems can be more effectively (and collectively) addressed.



## Quote of the Day

"What, after all, is multilateralism? It is nothing less than the process of democracy among nations- a form of governance based on universal participation in achieving universal aims.

While the benefits of such cooperation are limitless, they do require sustained human effort, and above all a spirit of compromise and flexibility. It is on this foundation of mutual benefit and cooperation- rather than the endless accumulation and perfection of weaponry- that we can best promote the security interests of all.

**Chairman to the DC,  
Italian ambassador Mario  
Maiolini, Opening  
Statement, March 31,  
2003**

## The NPT 2003, A Look Ahead

The NPT, which was extended indefinitely in 1995, faces some very serious challenges that will need to be addressed. As the PrepCom opens, it will represent 187 states parties, including Cuba, which acceded in November 2002. This should have brought the membership to 188, but the status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea, is now shrouded in political uncertainty and legal dispute -- an issue certain to loom large at the meeting. Pyongyang announced its withdrawal from the treaty on January 10. Under Article X of the NPT, the move should have been confirmed making it the first ever withdrawal from the accord three months later, on April 10. However, the state's clear violation of its obligations under the treaty prior to this time (and in the build-up to its January 10 withdrawal announcement) clearly complicates an already serious and vexed problem.

The first PrepCom, held in New York last year, papered over some substantial cracks and ended smoothly, but not before being nearly derailed by the refusal of France and the United States to accept a work programme that included reporting requirements agreed to in May 2000. Depending on the level of heat surrounding issues such as the Middle East, Iraq and North Korea, Geneva diplomats anticipate that the 2003 PrepCom will severely test the diplomatic and management skills of its designated Chair, Hungary's ambassador to the UN in New York, László Molnár. On the other hand, many delegations will be keen to demonstrate that the NPT and nonproliferation regime remain strong and effective, so will seek a balance between addressing the hard issues of compliance and nuclear disarmament and reinforcing the credibility of the review process. In particular, several key delegations have argued in pre-PrepCom meetings that it will be important for the NPT States Parties to respond to North Korea's threat to leave the treaty and develop its own nuclear weapons. Moreover, there are growing calls for the IAEAs strengthened safeguards and inspection practices, developed as an Additional Protocol after the discovery of Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme in 1991, to be made mandatory on all NPT parties, a decision that could be recommended by the PrepCom for the 2005 Review Conference to take.

As things stand, the second PrepCom is expected to hear a large number of national statements, first in a general debate and then in more specific cluster debates on disarmament, the so-called peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and safeguards. The Chair, Ambassador Molnár, will then have the task of presenting the tenor of the concerns back to the states parties in his factual summary. Last year's Chair, Swedish ambassador Henrik Salander, succeeded in preventing negotiations to water down his summary, but several states -- mainly the nuclear powers and Iraq -- lodged objections to how their

actions or views had been represented. They may therefore make it more difficult for Molnár to follow the same process at this second PrepCom.

The importance of issues will be gauged by the number of times they are raised (and the strength of the diplomatic language employed): the CTBT; the Resolution on the Middle East; universality; security assurances; new and emerging nuclear doctrines; the unequivocal undertaking to eliminate nuclear arsenals; and the 13 Steps on nuclear disarmament. There are likely to be attempts to produce a consensus statement condemning North Korea's withdrawal from its NPT commitments, and it will be interesting to note which states make coordination of such a statement difficult. Taking their lead from demands made by the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden) last year, it is likely that some states will push for the debates and discussions to be more interactive, but what will that mean in practice? Will delegations depart from current practice to ask questions about other states' reports or statements, and if so, will the questioned delegations reply substantively or seek to avoid interaction? The real question facing governments as they gather for the NPT PrepCom is how to become more effective in countering the serious threats to multilateralism, arms control and nonproliferation.

### Different Expectations

US diplomats expected that the aftermath "of the Iraq situation" was likely to have an influence on the mood and conduct of the PrepCom, though much would depend on what had happened by then. They anticipated that in addition to the usual arguments over nuclear disarmament, the major issues were likely to be North Korea's announced defection from the treaty and negative security assurances, which South Africa or others from the group of nonaligned states are expected to raise. The Bush administration's doctrine of pre-emption, contained in the 2002 National Security Strategy, together with statements by senior British and American officials about nuclear weapons use in response to biological and chemical weapon threats, appear to contradict the existing security assurances. Consequently, this issue is likely to take a higher profile at the second PrepCom than it did last year.

Expressing concern that some states appear to want to pull back from the agreements made by the NPT Review Conference in 2000, the New Agenda Coalition clearly stressed the importance of the PrepCom building on the success of 2000, especially with regard to the Thirteen Steps on nuclear disarmament. They are particularly concerned to avoid any renegotiation and watering down of these agreements. The Thirteen Steps are a comprehensive set of principles and measures for nuclear disarmament that were agreed through a process of negotiations with the nuclear weapon states in which the New Agenda delegations played a decisive role. Framed in the context of the unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon states to accomplish the total elimination of their

# What's On

## WEEK ONE

**Daily:** Abolition 2000, NGO Committee on Disarmament, Reaching Critical Will, Morning Caucus, **9am - 10am**  
Palais des Nations, **Conference Room XXIV**

Linus Pauling Exhibition, Palais des Nations- **Halle des Pas Perdu**

### Monday April 28, 2003

\* Prepcom Opens, Plenary Session- open to NGOs, **10am - 1pm, Palais des Nations, Room XVIII**

\* Prayer Service, Sponsored by Christian CND, **NOON, Landmines Memorial**

\* Gender, Women and Disarmament, Lunch Panel featuring Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute), Edith Ballantyne (WILPF), Under-Secretary General Jayantha Dhanapala and Cate Buchanan (Center for Humanitarian Dialogue) sponsored by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom **1pm - 3pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Prepcom Continues, Session Open- **3pm - 6pm, Palais des Nations, Room XVIII**

### Tuesday April 29, 2003

\* CTBTO Representative to address NGO Morning Caucus, **9am - 10am, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Prepcom Continues, Session Open, **10am - 1pm, Palais des Nations, Room XVIII**

\* The NPT: Past, Present and Future Key note Address by Jayantha Dhanapala, UN Under-Secretary General for Disarmament, Introductory remarks by Jonathan Granoff, President Global Security Institute and Senator Douglas Roche, O.C. Chair, Middle Powers Initiative. **1pm - 3pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXII**

\* NGO Press Conference: Heeding the Secretary General's Call for a Conference on Nuclear Dangers, **2pm - 3pm, Palais des Nations, Press Room 2, Building C**

\* Prepcom Continues, Session Open- **3pm - 6pm, Palais des Nations, Room XVIII**

\* Compliance Within a Nuclear Abolition Regime, Panel Discussion sponsored by Mayors for Peace, IALANA and INESAP, **5pm - 7pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Women's International League for Peace and Freedom 88th Anniversary Reception, **7:30pm- 10pm, WILPF Office 4th Floor, 1 Rue de Varembe (corner of Avenue de France)**

### Wednesday April 30, 2003

\* NGO Presentations to the Prepcom, **10am- 1pm, Main Prepcom Room, Room XVIII**

\* NGO Feedback Session with Plenary, moderated by Swedish Ambassador Henrik Salander, **1pm - 3pm, Room XVIII**

\* Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone workshop, **3pm - 6pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Interfaith/ ecumenical Service of Prayer for the Healing of the Nations and good success of the 2003 Preparatory Committee Meeting of the NPT, **6pm- 6:30pm, World Council of Churches, 1 route des Morillons 1218 Grand-Saconnex**

\* Poets Against The War, presented by the Atomic Mirror- RSVP to Janet Bloomfield: [info@atomicmirror.org](mailto:info@atomicmirror.org)

### Thursday May 1, 2003

\* Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament presentation to the Morning Caucus, **9am - 10 am, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Workshop on Citizens Inspections sponsored by For Mother Earth **10am - 1pm, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Sir Joseph Rotblat presents The Nuclear Issue Post Iraq , **1:30pm- 3pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XII (RSVP 022 908 5835)**

\* UK Government presents Verification of Nuclear Disarmament , Chair: David Broucher, Permanent Representative of the UK Mission to the Conference on Disarmament, (*sandwiches will be provided at 1:15pm*) **1:30pm- 3pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXV**

\* The Toxic Legacy of the Nuclear Age, **5pm - 7pm, Palais des Nations, Conference Room XXIV**

\* Linus Pauling Exhibition Reception, **6pm - 8pm, Halle des Pas Perdus**

*Please check venue and times against daily schedule as these may change*