



# News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2003

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## (pro-duk-tiv-i-te)

The continued discussions on Cluster II issues yesterday spurred what some delegates referred to as the most interactive- and productive- sessions of the PrepCom to date.

Although nothing from this PrepCom results in a formal declaration or document (besides the highly anticipated Chairman's Factual Summary due on Friday), the open dialogue (or interactivity as it has been called) that characterized the session is regarded by some as a positive and productive step.

These optimistic delegates believe that interactivity, although it is not producing action plans nor agreements, incites progress in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, either through strengthening bilateral relationships between States Parties, or, by serving as a confidence-building measure. The series of IAEA presentations, suggested one diplomat, will probably influence many states to ratify the additional protocols over the next year.

Not all delegates subscribe to this optimistic view of yesterday's deliberations. One seasoned delegate likened the morning session to an internet chatroom that fails to result in any substantial action.

Beholders of this view believe that the entire system had been sabotaged when the indefinite extension of the Treaty was agreed upon in 1995. Now delegates are licensed to talk to their hearts content, knowing that the fulfilment of the NPT will remain a dream so long as the Nuclear Weapon States continue to cherish nuclear weapons as a cornerstone of their national security strategies. NWS are alleviated, indefinitely, of any milestone or benchmark by which the NNWS can substantively measure progress.

Still other delegates regarded the session yesterday with slightly more ambivalence. With a more nonchalant perspective, they came to the PrepCom knowing that nothing productive would result; rather, the objective for them, as statesmen (and the vast majority of the delegates are indeed men) is to identify the nuances of the process and try to manipulate and master them. For this select group of delegates, this interactive process is in itself productive.

Perhaps a definition of productivity is in order. From an NGO perspective, we employ the word to signify real and substantial progress that could be quantified in any of the following, *inter alia*, ways:

- the establishment of timeframes and milestones on the implementation of Article IV;
- every State Party agrees to sign and ratify the additional protocol;
- every State Party that is a member of the CD vows to begin work immediately on the A5 proposed agenda;
- a moratorium on all types of nuclear weapons testing is observed;

As employees of non-profit organizations, most of us are completely dependent upon foundations for our finances (although a good many of us by-pass this annoying detail and contribute their time and energy on a voluntary basis). As such dependents, we are expected to prove to our funders a quantifiable, demonstrable, and/or substantive productivity. Would the funders be satisfied if our grant proposals cited an increase of interactivity?

Let us remind the delegates, once more, that we are not simply their constituencies, whom they are purported to represent. We are also their funders. Our taxes finance the governments, which bankroll their salaries and their stays here in beautiful

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# Who's Who

Alice Slater

Global Resource Action Center on the Environment,  
Abolition 2000

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

That the delegates will understand the urgency of breaking the deadlock on nuclear disarmament and will move to support Kofi Annan's Millennium Call for a Conference to Eliminate Nuclear Dangers. This will give us an opportunity to bring all the nuclear states to the table, even non-NPT parties, India, Pakistan and Israel

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

The inextricable link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the Faustian bargain of the NPT that traded off so-called "peaceful" nuclear technology for a promise not to get weapons.

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

After I graduated from law school, in mid-life, I wanted to get back into some kind of volunteer work, in addition to the work I was doing in civil litigation. I saw a notice in the New York Law Journal for a meeting I went on to become Vice-Chair of the NY chapter and was invited to serve on the national board where I learned more about nuclear weapons than any sane person should ever want to know, which drove me to work for their abolition.

## Evaluating Implementation of the NPT 13+2 Steps: Japan's Report Card on Nuclear Disarmament

The Peace Depot (Yokohama, Japan) has been evaluating the Japanese government's efforts towards nuclear weapons abolition from its citizens' perspective and has issued two annual "Report Cards" so far. Believing that the major task for Japan is to eliminate its dependence on nuclear weapons, the Peace Depot has set practical tasks proper to Japan for each 13+2 (two steps that are deeply connected to Japan's security policy regarding the Article VII of the NPT) step. These tasks include: 1) to formulate an Action Plan to eliminate its dependence on the "nuclear umbrella"; and 2) to issue a political declaration to work toward the establishment of a nuclear-weapon free zone in Northeast Asia. The draft report, created by the Evaluation Committee" consisting of ten experts, was openly discussed by Japanese citizens throughout the country.

The second Report Card, "Report Card 2003" was just completed and its provisional translation was distributed among the PrepCom participants. In Japan, the Report Card has been submitted to the Foreign Minister and is going to be widely distributed to Japanese parliamentarians. The dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been continued over the findings of this project.

The Report Card will be issued every year until 2005.

Visit <http://www.peacedepot.org> for more information.



At the 2002 PrepCom, Reaching Critical Will submitted a Shadow Report as an example of a standardized reporting mechanism. The 2003 edition has been updated to include a chapter on Nuclear Weapon States' compliance with the 13 Steps. If you or your delegation would like a copy of this report, visit [www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/shadowreportindex.html](http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/shadowreportindex.html), or contact Rhianna Tyson, who can be found distributing the News In Reviews every morning outside of Conference Room XVIII

## What is a Citizens Weapons Inspection?

*"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."*  
**Dalai Lama**

The idea of the citizens inspections was born following the series of UN-inspections in Iraq, where the UNSCOM weapons inspection teams were looking for evidence on the deployment of illegal chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. Peace campaigners all over the world were appalled by the fact that while these inspections took place all five members of the UN Security Council (China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA) were themselves deploying illegal nuclear weapons of mass destruction in an extremely secretive manner.

Because of the lack of openness about nuclear weapons by the governments, and the absence of UN-inspectors on the sites of nuclear crime, we decided to take the responsibility of upholding international law on ourselves, and start a campaign of citizens war crimes inspections.

The current round of UN weapon inspections in Iraq (2002-2003) has led to renewed interest in this model of nonviolent direct action, with several international initiatives being launched.

Rooting Out Evil  
<http://www.rootingoutevil.org/>  
 Canadian based campaign to inspect US weapons of mass destruction

Gloucester Weapons Inspectors  
<http://www.cynatech.demon.co.uk/>  
 Inspection campaign against US bomber base in England

International Citizens Weapons Inspectorate  
<http://www.icwi.org/>  
 Campaign against RAF St. Athans, Wales

In 1996 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) confirmed that the legal status of nuclear weapons is governed by international humanitarian law. This means that any possibility of their lawful threat or use has been reduced to vanishing point.

Although the ICJ declared nuclear weapons generally illegal, their conclusions need to be applied to specific nuclear weapon systems. It is therefore incumbent on Governments deploying nuclear weapons to subject the systems they deploy to stringent legal scrutiny to ensure that they meet the exacting standards of humanitarian law, and to make the results publicly available.

This has not happened. Any inquiries have been blocked. We must therefore assume, in the absence of any evidence to the contrary, that the weapons deployed by the nuclear states are very unlikely to survive serious legal scrutiny. Concerned citizens in several countries have therefore conducted their own Citizens' Inspections at what they consider to be nuclear sites of crime to ascertain whether illegal nuclear weapons are deployed there. Since Citizens' Inspections are based on international law and are intended to meet a global threat, the UK inspections are part of an international programme of crime prevention. All inspections are carried out safely and pose no threat of physical violence.

Excerpted from the For Mother Earth website,  
<http://www.motherearth.org>

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Geneva. As their employers, then, we are demanding clear-cut results, as any employer or funder would. We are proud that they are interacting, or, what human beings usually refer to as communicating. That's a good first step. Let us not confuse this communicative skill with real productivity, however. Let's save the back-patting for when the NPT is fully and completely realized.

According to The Little Oxford Dictionary, productivity is defined as: effectiveness of effort. Interactivity can very well substantiate the effort half of the definition. The effectiveness however, remains to be seen.

**Rhianna Tyson**  
**Reaching Critical Will**



## Quote of the Day

*"The NNWS members of the NPT should united in motioning for a type of censure, a statement that clearly lays out the reasons for the NPT's failures holding specific countries responsible for their part in the regime's degradation. Such a motion would not pass the NPT PrepCom's procedure of consensus, but it would send a strong message that the majority of the NPT members are not complacent in the face of continuing disregard for treaty obligations by the NWS."*

- David Krieger and Devon Chaffee, April 2003.

## Who s Who- diplomat profile

Hubert de la Fortelle, Permanent Representative of France to the CD

### 1) What were your hopes and expectations for the PrepCom this year? A week into the proceedings, how have they altered?

My expectations for this session of the PrepCom were- and are- that we continue the good work achieved last year at the First Session to strengthen each of the three pillars of the NPT Treaty (Non-Proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses).

### 2) What topics and issues do you find most interesting in this forum?

The danger of nuclear weapons proliferation is challenging all of us, more than ever. We must respond to the States, and Non-States actors (terrorists), threatening the NPT regime. Our fight against proliferation must not hamper the nuclear assistance and cooperation with unsuspected States, but all the necessary guarantees must be taken; the signature of additional protocols by the recipients of this cooperation is, of course, vital.

### 3) How did you get in disarmament work?

My long diplomatic career has led me to such assignments as "Commissariat à l'Énergie Atomique" (CEA) in Paris, and IAEA in Vienna.

I have also been a diplomatic adviser to the Minister of Defense. I have therefore developed a keen interest in political-military and defense issues. Disarmament and Arms Control are the other side of the coin. I am happy- and honored- to have dealt with these vital issues during the past four years.