



NEWS IN REVIEW

*Civil society perspectives on the second session of the Preparatory Committee
for the 2010 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
28 April–9 May 2008*



Article IV and the nuclear fuel cycle

Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will

On Tuesday, delegations concluded their remarks on regional issues and moved onto cluster 3, peaceful uses of nuclear energy—another divisive issue in the NPT context. Proposals for multilateralizing the nuclear fuel cycle have added another dimension to discussions on the implementation of Article IV.

The nuclear fuel cycle includes the mining and processing of uranium ore; conversion, enrichment, and fabrication of uranium into fuel for use in a reactor; and reprocessing of spent fuel or disposal of waste. Along with costs to human health and the environment at every stage of the cycle, the technology and processes used to make fuel for nuclear reactors can be used, with some adjustment, to produce highly enriched uranium and plutonium suitable for use in nuclear weapons.

This has led some states, particularly developed ones, to propose multilateral control and other measures related to the fuel cycle, intended to reduce the risk of proliferation-sensitive technology and know-how. Since 2006, a dozen proposals have been submitted to the IAEA that seek to either place nuclear fuel cycle facilities under multilateral control and/or guarantee a fuel supply, either to those states that choose not to develop the indigenous capacity to produce nuclear fuel or as an incentive to provide an alternative to indigenous production. While there appears to be broad consensus on the desirability of fuel assurances, many proposals have been met with great caution, in particular by developing states, which are wary of additional restrictions on their development of nuclear technology and of becoming dependent upon a cartel of advanced nuclear supplier states.

On Tuesday, the Non-Aligned states repeatedly reminded the PrepCom of the “inalienable right” of all NPT states parties to engage in research, production, and use of nuclear technology for non-weapon purposes, without discrimination. Indonesia’s representative argued that just as the “existing fuel cycle mechanism,” governed by the Nuclear Suppliers Group, is a market based system controlled by states that have the capacity to provide nuclear material and technology, “attempts to develop a multilateral fuel cycle have also been too much influenced by business interests of the industry and strategic interests of nuclear capable states.” He outlined some additional drawbacks to these attempts, saying,

Some might argue that multilateral approaches point to the loss or limitation of State sovereignty and independent ownership and control over nuclear technology, leaving unfairly the commercial benefits of such technology to only a few countries. Others might argue that multilateral approaches could lead to further dissemination of or loss of control over sensitive nuclear technologies which may result in wider proliferation risks.

He argued that any multilateral fuel cycle arrangement must be a “complimentary mechanism for strengthening the existing non-proliferation regime” and that it “should not terminate or restrict the right to develop nuclear technology, including sensitive technology.” Likewise, Malaysia’s representative insisted that any such initiatives should focus on “finding an optimum arrangement that would satisfy both the objectives of assurance of supply and services, as well as non-proliferation assurances,” while pointing out that non-proliferation assurances already exist, through the IAEA safeguards system. Brazil’s delegate noted that some of the proposals ignore the successful track record of safeguards, and argued that exceptional cases of proliferation shouldn’t be used to justify the re-interpretation of Article IV.

Some Western delegations recognized the need for a balanced, cautious approach to control of the fuel cycle. The European Union’s representative noted that any multilateralization efforts require “pragmatic solutions that reflect economic reality and the real needs of the recipient countries, and conform to the most stringent safety requirements and responsible waste management.” The Netherlands’ Amb. Landman agreed that any scheme for nuclear fuel assurances should keep open the option for states to develop their own fuel cycle activities, but that fuel assurances should offer “attractive alternatives” on a non-discriminatory basis. He recognized that there is a lack of trust about both the motives and content of some of the proposals on the table, and called for an open, transparent, and honest dialogue with all parties. Austria’s delegate said, “The confidence crisis about the use of this technology can only be overcome by establishing an international system that is fair and treats all states in an equal manner.”

There is division among states parties, however, not just over control of the fuel cycle, but also over the development and use of nuclear energy altogether. While emphasizing that all states have the right to be able to develop nuclear technology for non-weapon purposes, some delegations outlined the dangers of the technology and processes associated with nuclear energy. Amb. Macmillan of New Zealand explained that her country “has rejected nuclear power generation for itself, as we do not believe that nuclear power is compatible with the concept of sustainable development, given the long-term costs, both financial and ecological, of nuclear waste and the risk of nuclear proliferation.” She argued, “there are other, more sustainable energy sources that could be developed, and that any responsible discussion about nuclear power should be balanced, and include consideration of the serious risks and costs as well as any potential benefits.” Pointing out that her country has also “refrained

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The Great Turning: Time for a transformation in the energy paradigm

Alice Slater, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Joanna Macy, eco-philosopher, scholar of Buddhism, general systems theory, and deep ecology is a respected and revered voice in movements for peace and justice. She's led numerous workshops on the nuclear dilemma, developing and promoting the Guardian Project, to brainstorm and imagine what kind of markers we will need to lay down to warn our world of the toxic legacy of plutonium, hundreds of thousands of years after we're all gone. Joanna has written that "future generations will look back on these closing years of the twentieth century and call it the time of the Great Turning. It is the epochal shift from an industrial growth society, dependent on accelerating consumption of resources, to a life-sustaining society."¹ Good news has come from Germany, heralding that perhaps, as we enter this new millennium, we have indeed begun the Great Turning, and not a moment to soon, ready to make the shift into a new paradigm of sustainability.

The German government announced that 60 governments met in Berlin in mid-April to plan for a launch of an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) this September, an agency that would empower developing countries with the ability to access the free and abundant energy of the sun, wind, marine, and geothermal sources;² would train, educate, and disseminate information about implementing sustainable energy programs; organize and enable the transfer of science and know-how of renewable energy technologies; and generally be responsible for helping the world make the critical transition to a sustainable energy future. Since IRENE is the Greek word for peace, this new initiative is especially well-named, because we'll never have peace with nuclear power plants metastasizing around the planet, and with old, 20th century hierarchical attempts to control and dominate the fuel cycle in yet another discriminatory regime of "haves" and "have nots," with preemptive wars threatened against those countries which "the powers that be" don't trust to have "peaceful" nuclear technology.

Two other harbingers of the Great Turning were announcements by the government of Ireland and the province of British Columbia of bans on uranium mining on their territories. Ireland's Natural Resources Minister Eamon Ryan said, "The most likely end use of any uranium extracted in Ireland would be for nuclear electricity generation. It would be hypocritical to permit the extraction of uranium for use in nuclear reactors in other countries, while the nuclear generation of electricity is not allowed in Ireland." More than 500 people demonstrated in sparsely settled British Columbia to protest the opening of a uranium mine and the Minister for State Mining, Kevin Kruger, announced, "There will never be a uranium mine in B.C."

It's noteworthy that the Berlin meeting happened quietly, with very little notice or NGO participation. It seemed like the governments were forming their own power block to make an end run around the polluting energy corporations in the nuclear, fossil, and biofuels industries, mega-transnational corporations that are touting their sickening wares to the world, corrupting our democratic processes with huge campaign gifts and sucking up government subsidies and tax breaks to the tune of \$250 billion per year for their poisonous energy corporations, even burning food for fuel as more than 25 countries contend with food riots caused by scarcity as the richest of us put food in our fuel tanks to the detriment of 2 billion people living in poverty. Help make the Great Turning real! Ask your government if it was one of the 60 who met so quietly in Berlin this April. Make sure they're on board to support IRENA, see www.irena.org, to help us make the great turning to a more peaceful and sustainable 21st century. •

¹ <http://www.resurgence.org/resurgence/186/macy186.htm>

² See, *A Sustainable Energy Future is Possible Now*, www.abolition2000.org

Article IV and the nuclear fuel cycle (cont.)

from producing nuclear energy," Norway's representative argued that its use might "have potentially severe environmental implications." She advocated for sufficient resources to be dedicated to finding "sustainable and environmentally sound solutions" to the problems of nuclear waste. Speaking to the environmental damage of uranium mining, the representative of the Kyrgyz Republic, on behalf of five Central Asian states, outlined the problems caused by tailings and radioactive wastes left behind in Central Asia by uranium mining industries.

Last week during presentations, participating NGOs urged governments to consider what controls over nuclear technology are necessary in order to sustain a nuclear weapon free world, including establishment of an International Renewable Energy Agency (see above article for more details on IRENA). They also called for a prohibition on the production of plutonium and highly enriched uranium, emphasizing, however, that the phase-out of nuclear power is the only truly proliferation-proof solution. •

For more information on proposals for multilateralization of the fuel cycle, please see Michael Spies, "Controlling the Nuclear Fuel Cycle," *Disarmament Times*, Volume 31, Number 1, Spring 2008, available at www.lcnep.org.



67,248 Italians propose new law declaring Italy a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone

Lisa Clark, *Un Futuro Senza Atomiche*

On 27 March 2008, 67,248 Italian citizens submitted a bill to Italian Parliament to have Italy declared "Nuclear-Weapon-Free". Parliament is obliged by law to schedule a debate on the bill before the end of June.

As a NNWS, Italy ratified the NPT in 1975. Yet, the 2005 report on nuclear weapons in Europe by NRDC shows that there are still about 90 B-61s hosted in two Italian bases: the airports at Aviano and Ghedi.

A world without nuclear weapons is an aspiration shared by humanity as a whole.

On the international scene, however, some NWSs are increasing their nuclear weapons research and production. Others are modernizing their existing nuclear arsenals. And, consequently, we are witnessing an increase in the number of countries that are trying to add nuclear weapons to their arsenals in order to increase their power on the international scene.

In Italy there are 90 nuclear weapons. They should not be here. In 1975 Italy ratified the Non Proliferation Treaty, committing herself (in art. II) never to produce nor to accept on her territory such weapons. According to international law, Italy must refuse to host these weapons. According to her alliances (Nato), she accepts them. We cannot have double standards before the law.

International negotiations to free humanity from the nuclear threat are bogged down because those who possess nuclear weapons are only interested in preventing anyone else from having them, but are not willing to give them up. Yet, that was the commitment they undertook when they ratified the Non Proliferation Treaty (art. VI): to achieve total and global nuclear disarmament.

Let us begin right here. Let us begin with ourselves.

Based on this text we set up a broad coalition of 53 Italian associations, including two large networks of Local Government authorities, to launch the Campaign called "A Future Without Nuclear Weapons". The aim was to use the opportunity provided by the Italian Constitution to draft and submit to Parliament a law initiated by the People. We modelled the text on Austria's Constitutional law: making it as simple and short as possible, so as to ensure that every citizen signing up for the campaign was able to read and understand the text.

Draft Law initiated by the People

Article 1. Aims

1. The territory of the Republic of Italy, including its airspace, its underground and territorial waters, is officially declared "nuclear weapons free zone".
2. Transit or storage, even temporarily, of nuclear weapons, or parts of nuclear weapons, is not allowed under any circumstance whatsoever on the territory of the Republic, as defined in para.1.
3. The Government shall adopt all necessary measures, both nationally and internationally, to ensure the full implementation of this Article within 60 days from the entry into force of this law.

Article 2. Entry into force

1. This law enters into force the same day it is published in the Official Bulletin of the Republic.

Draft Law initiated by the People announced in the Offi-

cial Bulletin of the Republic of Italy, issue no. 172, dated 26/07/2007.

The Italian Constitution specifies that bills can be presented to Parliament not only by Parliamentarians or by the ruling Government, but also by at least 50,000 citizens listed in the electoral registers. The formalities required by law to certify the signatures are very strict: and so they should be, since this procedure allows the People to become legislators! The forms on which signatures are collected must first be stamped and dated by the Courts; each person's signature must be vouched for by a public official who certifies that person's identity; then, the Electoral Office in the municipality where each signatory resides is required to certify that that person is indeed registered in the voter's roll in that city, adding each individual registration number to the forms. The entire process cannot take longer than 6 months, vouched for by the earliest date stamped by a Court on the forms and the date on which the forms are presented to Parliament.

To stress our alliance with local government institutions, the campaign began with a ceremony in the main square in Ghedi, on 30 September 2007. The first signatories were the Mayors of Ghedi and Aviano.

The areas of Italy where the largest number of signatures were collected paint an interesting picture. The highest number come from the Province of Brescia: this is the province that includes Ghedi and is also the biggest arms-producing zone in Italy. Second came the Province of Vicenza, where popular opposition to the planned new US base has revived a widespread culture of peace and disarmament. Well over half the signatures came from only 3 out of Italy's 20 Regions: Veneto, Lombardy, Emilia Romagna.

We delivered to Parliament 12 boxes of forms. But the signatures of ordinary citizens were also accompanied by the support of over 30 Parliamentarians and almost 200 Municipalities and Provinces. Most of the latter had approved a Council Resolution in support of the Campaign. Interestingly, while the majority were administered by centre-left coalitions, there were also some centre-right administrations: in the city of Alba, for example, where an opposition councillor submitted the resolution asking for a vote of conscience, the text was approved without a single vote against.

Now the process continues. Our bill is required by law to be put on the agenda within 60 days of the inauguration of the new Parliament after our recent elections (on 29 April). A lot of work will be needed to build a broad coalition of Parliamentarians supporting the bill.

Meanwhile, we shall continue to collect the support of local governments. International support would also be welcome. •

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Nuclear Weapons Operational Readiness: A Hot-Button Topic

*Emma Rosengren, Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom*

On Tuesday, 6 May, a panel discussion organized by Nuclear Flashpoints focussed on operational readiness of nuclear weapons. Ambassador Alfredo Labbe of Chile chaired the event and emphasized the importance of GA resolution 62/36 (2007) "Decreasing the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems," which was initiated by Chile, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, and Switzerland during First Committee 2007 (find this resolution and other relevant information at www.reachingcriticalwill.org).

Steven Starr, Physicians for Global Survival/Nuclear Flashpoints, highlighted ecological consequences of a nuclear weapon conflict. Based on research presented in his article, "Catastrophic Climatic Consequences of Nuclear Conflict," he stated that nuclear weapons, if used, would have great impact on human health, animal life, ecosystems, and ozone depletion. He also emphasized that the dangers of keeping nuclear warheads on launch-on-warning (LoW) status include false warnings due to human error, technical error or terrorist sabotage, and false warnings believed to be real attacks. In order to avoid these dangers, Mr. Starr encourages nuclear weapon states to make changes, such as eliminating LoW policies, beginning negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention, adopting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki Protocol, removing all nuclear weapons from high-alert status and redirecting resources spent on nuclear warheads to end poverty and hunger.

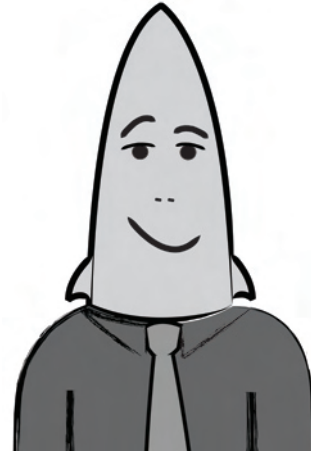
Ambassador Jürg Streuli, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the CD, stressed the importance of GA 62/36 due to its feasible and pragmatic character. Because of dangers mentioned by Mr. Starr, Mr. Streuli finds it necessary to work for the fulfillment of the goals stated in GA 62/36. According to him, de-alerting is a simple step to take, and it is a step that has huge impact.

John Hallam, Nuclear Flashpoints, pointed out that a civil society campaign helped foster GA 62/36, making visible the impact that civil society can have when it comes to promoting progressive change. According to him, it is urgent to put further pressure on NWS to live up to article VI of the NPT and to decrease operational readiness, in order to avoid the dangers posed by high-alert nuclear weapons.

Minister Magnus Hellgren, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in Geneva, spoke from an optimistic approach and stated that decreased operational readiness is a win-win situation for both NWS and NNWS. Explaining that the alert status of nuclear weapons has been reduced in both the US and Russia, he suggested this progress follows the spirit of GA 62/36 and WMDC recommendation 17 (see <http://www.wmdcommission.org>) and civil society recommendations. According to Mr. Hellgren, the argument that high-alert nuclear weapons can promote stability is not very convincing; on the contrary, he stated that "it is destabilizing to have the finger on the trigger at all times."

During the Q&A session, a Japanese representative to the CD highlighted the issue of verification. Mr. Starr outlined verification systems such as observers and other monitor mechanisms to make sure that warheads are not on high-alert, while also noting that policy change has to come first. The Indian Representative to the CD welcomed GA 62/36 but also emphasized GA 57/84, "Reducing Nuclear Danger," as an

important international agreement. Amb. Labbe pointed out the need for different approaches, stating that the political intention is central. •



Environmental Aspects of Nuclear Energy

Sandra Fong, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Facilitated by Regina Hagen, this event featured Sharon Dolev of Greenpeace International and Manuel Meyer and Philipp Wessels of the University of Hamburg speaking on the environmental aspects of nuclear energy.

The facilitator emphasized that the purpose of the event was to discuss the NGO perspective on impacts of nuclear energy and alternatives, and also engage academics working on the issue.

Sharon Dolev's presentation focused on Israel and the impact that building a nuclear reactor there would have on the country, should it be built. She compared the costs of the use of renewable energy and nuclear energy highlighting that during debates, the cost of building and maintaining nuclear reactors is not taken into consideration, allowing supporters of nuclear energy to argue that it is cheaper.

Manuel Meyer spoke on uranium mining and its consequences for Indigenous populations, citing examples from Saskatchewan, Canada and Ranger Mine and the Olympic Dam in Australia. Australia and Canada together hold 50% of the world's uranium mining reserves. Philipp Wessels discussed the various nuclear waste disposal options and also outlined various classification of nuclear waste, and the ecological and economic impacts of nuclear energy.

Nuclear energy is often said to be cheap energy due to the large amounts of subsidies that it receives, compared to renewable energy. However, the long-term impact of nuclear energy is more devastating, especially considering the consequences of transportation, storage, and dumping of radioactive waste.

Recognizing article 4 of the NPT, the facilitator stressed the need for discussions for alternatives to nuclear energy and briefly discussed the establishment of IRENA. Echoing Sharon Dolev's question on how does one inform future generations of the harmful effects of radioactive waste, Ms. Hagen emphasized the need for more research and use of renewable energy.

The presentation will be available soon on the INESAP website, www.inesap.org. •



News in Brief

Michael Spies, Arms Control Reporter

Highlights from the Cluster 2 Discussion:

Middle East

- The United Kingdom and the United States took note of Egypt's working paper WP.20 on measures to implement the 1995 NPT resolution. The United Kingdom said it would give the proposals careful consideration.
- The United States elaborated on its allegations regarding the Syrian reactor, calling its design "curious" and insinuating its purpose was for the production of plutonium. The United States noted that it was not designed for electrical power generation, not connected to an energy grid, and not located near a population center.
- In a right of reply, Iran categorically rejected allegations against it as "obsolete" and "boring". Iran vowed it would never suspend its uranium enrichment program or its cooperation with the IAEA.

Highlights from the Cluster 3 Discussion:

Article III: Strengthening Safeguards

- Australia urged other states to make the Additional Protocol a condition of supply.
- The European Union stated that an NPT Review Conference decision that comprehensive safeguards and the Additional Protocol constitute the IAEA verification standard, "would greatly enhance the confidence necessary for more active international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy."

Articles III and IV: Update on fuel cycle proposals and initiatives

- Japan said it was working to follow up on its standby arrangements proposal, which it said would enhance the "transparency and predictability of the front-end market."
- The Netherlands said it would present the results of the April 2008 Berlin conference to the June meeting of the IAEA Board. The Netherlands cited the need for further discussion on the fuel cycle in an open and transparent manner and in the context of the IAEA.
- Germany provided an overview of its Multilateral Enrichment Sanctuary Project to establish an IAEA enrichment plant on neutral territory. Germany stated any fuel cycle proposal must not introduce new obligations to NPT states parties.
- Russia provided an overview and update of its International Uranium Enrichment Center, stating it was negotiating a decision with the IAEA regarding establishment of a low-enriched uranium reserve at the Center.
- Austria provided an overview of its two-step proposal for the IAEA to broker all fuel cycle transactions and to eventually extend control over sensitive nuclear technologies.
- The IAEA outlined its three-step suggestion for extending multilateral control to the nuclear fuel cycle. The IAEA stated the Agency's Director General would submit the NTI fuel bank proposal to the Board of Governors once a remaining \$45 million was pledged by interested states.
- The United Kingdom provided an overview of its enrichment bonds concept and repeated Prime Minister Gordon Brown's 19 March announcement that the UK would sponsor an international conference on the fuel cycle later this year.

Articles III and IV: Discussion of fuel cycle proposals

- Canada suggested fuel cycle initiatives "should be based

on criteria that recognize exemplary non-proliferation credentials and legitimate economic or fuel-cycle justification for preserving future uranium processing options."

- The Non-Aligned Movement said, toward achieving consensus, consideration of the issue was premature prior to extensive consultations. The NAM also stated the issue of assurances is very complex, with technical, legal, commercial, and economic implications. The NAM called for all proposals to be consistent with the provisions of the NPT, without prejudice to the right to nuclear energy.
- Australia expressed interest in exploring multilateral approaches to enhance assurances and to avoid the unnecessary spread of proliferation-sensitive technologies. Australia also expressed the view that "a well functioning market provides an effective assurance of fuel supply and practical alternative to the acquisition of enrichment and reprocessing technologies."
- The European Union stressed the need for pragmatic solutions that "reflect economic reality and the real needs of the recipient countries."
- The Republic of Korea specifically endorsed the US-led Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Program, of which it is a member, citing its development of advanced, proliferation-resistant fuel cycle technologies.
- Brazil said most proposals ignored the success of safeguards. It also challenged the suggestion that the Treaty contained loopholes. Brazil said any proposal must not place restraints on any states that applies comprehensive safeguards and must not supercede any existing agreement.
- New Zealand said any mechanism must be consistent with the NPT provisions under Articles I, II, and III.
- South Africa said discussion of fuel cycle mechanisms should involve the IAEA. Any mechanism should not include preconditions or require states to forgo any rights. South Africa rejected attempts to control nuclear technology in the name of non-proliferation.
- Egypt said it was studying various proposals and recognized the need for assurances, stating it was unacceptable to leave the matter of supply up to political or economic considerations.
- Switzerland said the discussion on fuel cycle mechanisms should take place in the context of the NPT. Switzerland said it cannot accept proposals that aim to restrict access to fuel cycle technologies on the pretext of limiting the risks of proliferation, as "such proposals would unjustifiably discriminate against these States."
- Norway expressed support for an IAEA fuel reserve as an "important first step toward towards developing an equitable multilateral framework for the nuclear fuel cycle that provides assurances against supply disruptions and strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime." Norway also expressed more general support for efforts to make the nuclear fuel cycle more proliferation-resistant, while taking into account the concerns of developing countries.
- China said it understood the objective of the proposals is to reduce the risk of proliferation. Similar to the NAM, China said the proposals should be carefully considered and studied in light of technical, political, and economic complexities.
- Turkey said that the right of states to make their own fuel cycle choice must be respected.
- Indonesia expressed the understanding that fuel assurances were intended to be complementary to the non-proliferation regime. Indonesia also linked the issue to



News in Brief (cont.)

the need for a verifiable fissile materials treaty. Indonesia suggested several conditions for the adoption of any mechanism, including negotiations through a transparent, non-discriminatory process under the IAEA.

- Malaysia said an assurance mechanism should be incentive-based, commercially competitive, and free of monopolies and inappropriate political restraints. It expressed opposition to suspension of rights as a precondition for assurances of supply or for fuel cycle services. Malaysia also said that if multilateral approaches are to succeed, export controls should be rationalized in the context of the NPT.
- Algeria said, before it could be adopted, any mechanism must take into account Article IV, in addition technical, political, and economic considerations.

Articles III and IV: Other discussion of the fuel cycle

- Canada said its industry had recently expressed interest in developing uranium enrichment in order to add value to its uranium reserves and conversion services.

Other Provisions: Strengthening the review process

- Offered as food for thought, Ukraine proposed dividing future sessions of the Committee into two parts: reviewing the implementation of the Treaty; and development of new measures to strengthen the NPT regime. Ukraine also suggested that state reports be circulated in advance, which would be reviewed as well. The PrepCom could be responsible for preparing proposals for the RevCon. To avoid further financial difficulties, Ukraine suggested establishment of a special office in the IAEA to deal with organizational matters.

Procedural Matters:*The Committee adopted six decisions:*

- Decision 4: The Committee elected Amb. Boniface Guwa Chidyausiki of Zimbabwe, the nominee of the Non-Aligned Movement, as chair of its third session.
- Decision 5: The Committee decided to hold its third session in New York from 4-15 May 2009. The chair indicated the host country gave him assurances about upholding longstanding diplomatic practices, in response to concerns regarding the issuance of visas.
- Decision 6: The Committee decided to hold the RevCon in New York from 26 April-21 May 2010.
- Decision 1: The Committee invited the UN Secretary-General to nominate a provisional Secretary-General of the RevCon, to be confirmed by the Conference.
- Decision 2: The Committee noted the estimated costs of the RevCon and PrepCom and expressed the understanding in the method for determining cost estimates for advance payment for the third PrepCom and the RevCon. The Committee also agreed that outstanding dues (totaling more than \$700,000) must be paid "in proper time."
- Decision 3: The Committee requested the UN Secretary-General provide a financial report to the RevCon and each PrepCom session. •

Who's Who?

An interview with
Ambassador Jürg Streuli of Switzerland

**What is the priority for your delegation at this Prepcom?**

A particular priority for my delegation is to hear more from Nuclear Weapons States about ongoing and further disarmament steps. We are very pleased to see that member states have engaged in a constructive and forward-looking dialogue and that we are not facing a similar situation as last year in Vienna. The time at PrepComs is very precious. It's not only about procedural matters. These PrepComs are a great opportunity for States Parties in between the Review Conferences to deal with the three pillars of the NPT in a comprehensive manner. Switzerland expects a substantial debate which lays a base for a successful RevCon in 2010.

What are your hoped for outcomes from the 2010 Review Conference?

The question of outcome of the 2010 RevCon is crucial: another failure of the states parties would simply not be acceptable. That means that we need to be careful by not setting the bar too high and try to work towards success in fields in which consensus is possible. The NPT is certainly far from being a perfect treaty: it's an asymmetrical agreement with two different categories of states: The "haves" and the "have-nots", have different rights and duties—this is not an ideal situation and runs contrary to the ideal state of the world with non-discriminatory treaties. But I am convinced that NPT still works and will remain valuable in the future if we manage to strengthen and reform this treaty. The 2010 RevCon is the best chance to do that.

The next RevCon should be about to re-establishing confidence among all actors involved. This is true for all three pillars of non-proliferation, peaceful use, and disarmament. Regarding disarmament, it is of utmost importance for the regime that the confidence in article VI remains. The 2010 RevCon must reaffirm earlier decisions taken towards comprehensive nuclear disarmament and bring the debate forward, maybe by new approaches.

What is your delegation's view on NGO participation and the work you see coming from NGOs? What do you find most useful from the NGO community?

First, let me assure you how much I was impressed by the level of discussion at a briefing I held with the NGOs last week. As you know, Switzerland has always welcomed NGO participation. The civil society's views are indeed crucial. We need their expertise, experience and their pressure to make real progress. On a personal level, let me add that NGO statements often are the most interesting ones! We need fresh thinking because the diplomatic world alone cannot deliver all the elements needed for progress in the field of arms control and disarmament. •



Women and the nuclear abolition movement in Japan

Hirano Emiko, New Japan Women's Association

In Japan, the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs has been held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August since 1955. It is an annual international gathering that about 10,000 people attend from all over Japan, along with some 80 to 100 or more delegates from different countries including peace activists, victims of nuclear testing, and representatives of international organizations such as the NGO Committee on Disarmament. Government representatives, including from the New Agenda Coalition and Non-Aligned Movement, also participate in the Conference to have interactive dialogue with the civil society members. Starting with the three-day International Meeting, the World Conference provides, through plenary meetings and workshops, important opportunities for all the participants to discuss emerging issues related to peace and nuclear abolition, to hear testimonies of Hibakusha (nuclear bomb survivors) and nuclear test victims, and to explore perspectives for the development of the movement. The Conference adopts a Declaration, resolutions, and action plans.

The New Japan Women's Association, an women's non-governmental organization with special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council, takes active part in the World Conference as member of the Japan Council against A & H Bombs (Japan Gensuikyo), which works for the prevention of nuclear war, abolition of nuclear weapons, and assistance to Hibakusha. Having 20,000 members and 30,000 weekly newsletter subscribers, NJWA has since its foundation in 1962 been upholding nuclear abolition at the top of its agenda. Apart from participation in the World Conference, NJWA members are at the head of different activities for the abolition of nuclear weapons, such as signature collecting, A-bomb photo exhibitions and awareness raising. In the international campaign to support the Appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki calling for nuclear abolition that collected 60 million signatures in Japan and more than 100 million world wide from 1985 to 2000, NJWA collected 10 million. These signatures were presented to the UN General Assembly. During the World Conference, NJWA together with other women's groups, sponsors "No Nukes! Women's Forum," where Japanese women and women oversee delegates to the World Conference share their experiences and activities for nuclear abolition.

As Hibakusha become older and the generations without firsthand knowledge of war form the majority in society, NJWA gives much weight to educating younger members and their children about the facts of the atomic bombing and war. It organizes meetings with Hibakusha or those with experience of war, shows film and guides field tours to the war sites in communities. Listening to the stories of Hibakusha is particularly important; they are so real and powerful that they make one feel like doing something to eliminate those vicious weapons.

Looking to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the Japan Gensuikyo has launched a "Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World," aiming at developing grass-roots anti-nuclear opinion, with the abolition of nuclear weapons as the common task and signature campaign and A-bomb exhibitions as the common forms of actions. It calls upon all anti-nuclear and peace movements, NGOs, local municipalities, governments of the world and global citizens to reach a universal consensus on complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons. An important part of this is the ongoing campaign to collect signatures in support of the appeal

"Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons" that urges the United Nations Organization and all governments of the world, including the nuclear weapons states, to begin negotiations immediately to reach an international convention for a total ban on, and the elimination of, nuclear weapons. We also continue to urge the Japanese government to play a leading role for the abolition of nuclear weapons in good faith as the government of the A-bombed country.

The Japanese movement for peace and nuclear abolition is doing its utmost to defend Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution that renounces war as a means of settling international disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces and other war potential from being repealed. Facing the intensified attempt by the government and ruling coalition to amend the Constitution, grassroots efforts to defend Article 9 are developing nationwide. The Appeal from nine prominent figures who set up the Article 9 Association has won hearts and minds of many people and stimulated the forming of Article 9 Associations in communities and different sectors of society. The number of participants is over 7,000. In May, while the NPT PrepCom takes place in Geneva, peace groups and activists of different background will hold the Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War in Japan. The NJWA is part of the planning team of the Organizing Committee-sponsored Women's International Symposium, where women peace activists from different countries will exchange their experiences to explore the way to develop women's local efforts into global ones. •

For further information, please refer to:

NJWA website: www.shinfujin.gr.jp

Japan Gensuikyo website: www.antiatom.org

Global Article 9 Conference website: www.whynot9.jp





NEWS IN REVIEW



What's On Today's Calendar of Events

NGO Strategy Session

Where: NGO Room (Room VIII)

When: 8:30 - 9:00am

Contact: Anthony Salloum, Abolition 2000

Website: www.abolition2000.org

Government Briefing: Ambassador Caroline Millar of Australia

Where: NGO Room (Room VIII)

When: 9:00 - 10:00am

Contact: Susi Snyder, WILPF

Website: www.wilpf.int.ch

GNEP and the nuclear fuel cycle

Where: NGO Room (Room VIII)

When: 1:15 - 2:45pm

Contact: Nick Roth, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Website: www.wagingpeace.org

The Entry Into Force of the CTBT: New Opportunities

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Where: Room XI

When: 1:15pm - 2:45pm

Contact: Nicolas Gerard, UNIDIR

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fascinating and informative
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Nuclear Crossword

Across

- 1 The US, USSR, and which other country signed the Partial Test
- 4 Where was the first nuclear bomb detonated?
- 5 Which article of the NPT states, "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament"?
- 8 Which country has the third largest share of world exports of major conventional weapons in 2002-2006?
- 10 In the 1960s, how many countries had nuclear weapons, were conducting nuclear weapon-related research, or were discussing the pursuit of nuclear weapons?

Down

- 1 Which arms producing country in 2005 had arms sales of \$20,050 billion?
- 2 What is the name of the president who, in January 2006, called nuclear deterrence "fundamental" to the independence and security of his country?
- 3 As of January 2007, the approximate number of deployed warheads belonging to the US, Russia, the UK, France, and ____ was 11,312. Which country is missing?
- 6 How many thousand nuclear weapons were estimated around the world in 1997?
- 7 Which SLBM was retired in October 2005 after 26 years of service?
- 9 Which country conducted its first nuclear weapon test in 1974?
- 10 How many countries make up the Treaty of Rarotonga creating a nuclear weapon free zone in the South Pacific?

