



NPT News in Review

*Civil society perspectives on the
2010 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
3–28 May 2010*



Deterrence or disarmament?

Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Since the failed Review Conference in 2005, the international community has emphasized the importance of a successful outcome in 2010. "Failure is not an option" has been stated over and over and many governments have taken many opportunities to emphasize the importance of the NPT and their commitment to the Treaty. So when the 8th NPT Review Conference opened yesterday, civil society sat down in a packed balcony above the UN General Assembly Hall in order to listen to concrete suggestions and proposals that our governments are putting forward in order to reach a successful outcome.

But the debate was similar to previous years. In between pointing out that the NPT is the cornerstone of non-proliferation and disarmament and emphasizing the inalienable right to develop peaceful nuclear energy, the arguments and priorities seemed to remain much the same. The western states continued to single out Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the most serious threats to international peace and security and the states from the Non-Aligned Movement continued to argue that nuclear weapons states need to take stronger disarmament measures.

While some delegations put forward concrete proposals and new ideas (see the News in Brief for some examples), most of the attention of the first day was given to the presence of Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, and US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton. The two speakers accused the others' country of non-compliance with their obligations and of distracting the international community from the real issues.

The real issue, from the perspective of most civil society representatives gathered here and many of the delegations, is the problems caused by nuclear weapons and the doctrines that continue to uphold them as an integral element of security or strategic stability. In her statement, Clinton reminded the Conference that the US would keep its "nuclear deterrent" as long as nuclear weapons exist.

But several delegations rejected this reasoning. In his opening statement, the

speaker for the Non-Aligned Movement said, "The world should realise that the doctrines of nuclear deterrence neither bring about peace nor international security, and constitute an impediment to progress towards total elimination of nuclear weapons."

At this Review Conference, governments have an opportunity to acknowledge that nuclear deterrence does not make us safer and that concrete steps towards complete nuclear disarmament, the only way to keep the world safe from nuclear war, must be explored. As the Moroccan foreign minister said, "Disarmament should not be perceived as a concession, but rather as an effective and a necessary contribution to a world free of nuclear weapons and to strengthen international peace and security."

Several countries are starting to acknowledge that nuclear weapons are becoming obsolete in today's world. During the general debate, we saw significant support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. 116 states parties to the NPT in the Non-Aligned Movement, as well as Austria and Switzerland, argued that the consideration of such treaty banning all nuclear weapons should begin. Furthermore, Switzerland's foreign minister argued that nuclear weapons are useless, immoral, and illegal and called for a debate "concerning the legitimacy of the use of nuclear weapons regardless of the legitimacy of the motive of defence that can be invoked," noting that its aim "is to bring the humanitarian aspect to the heart of the current debate on nuclear disarmament."

As the general debate continues throughout the first week, civil society will demand more support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, more concrete contributions to nuclear disarmament, and more efforts to make this Review Conference a credible and sustainable success. •

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No. 2**

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Civil society, disarmament, and the need for new beginnings

Andrew Lichterman | Western States Legal Foundation

In May, disarmament organizations will assemble alongside government delegations meeting for the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference. Coming together in side events between attempts to pursue and persuade diplomats has become a familiar practice among the world's nongovernmental organizations working on many issues, and should provide an opportunity to reflect and to develop strategies together. The focus on governments and their agendas in particular international forums, however, often overshadows our own discussions, limiting their scope to what those now in power might be persuaded to do in the near term, and how we might persuade them to do it.

As we gather this year, humanity is confronted with several crises, each with different rhythms but all ultimately intertwined. We face the decline of our natural environment, with climate change only one of the human-induced transformations that are destroying natural and man made systems from which we draw out sustenance today, and limiting our options for how we will live in the future. These changes strike the poorest first -- those who cannot afford to move, build expensive new infrastructure, or import the means of existence from afar when their locale is devastated by a global mode of production dedicated to short-term growth heedless of the long-term consequences. As competition for key nonrenewable resources intensifies, essentials of food and energy devour an increasing portion

of their income, creating a rising cycle of misery exacerbated by a two tier global economy in which immensely powerful private corporations destroy local markets while ultimately raising the price of many necessities, pumping up profits by pushing costs off on ecosystems and future generations that have no voice.

At the same time, the economic crisis persists, precipitated by the collapse of the latest and largest financial bubble and prolonged by the immense gulf between those few who control most of the world's wealth and productive assets and the many millions who can neither find productive work nor pay for what might be produced by others. What "recovery" there has been consists mainly of securing more of the world's wealth and social product for the top twenty percent or so, the increasingly self-contained top-tier economy of government organizations and giant corporations which buy and sell most of the world's goods to each other and their upper echelons, inhabiting fortified islands of wealth amidst a global sea of poverty. The growing chasm between the minority who hold secure places in the economy of large -- and largely authoritarian -- organizations and the rest of humanity is the defining social fact of our time. Unless it is directly confronted and overcome it will define the limits of the politically possible, driving increased conflict and with it expenditure by the wealthy sectors of society on "security." Both pervasive conflict and the misdirection of ever more resources in an effort to contain it, rather than removing its causes, will make the transformation of global energy, transportation, agriculture, and industrial systems essential for long-term human survival more difficult, perhaps impossible.

In the first decade of the new century, we have wars and threats of wars, with nuclear weapons moving ever closer to the center of conflict. Nuclear weapons and nuclear "nonproliferation" serve as the justification for wars and as the stalking horse for the economic and geopolitical agendas of largely unaccountable elites who control the most powerful states. They already are nuclear armed and having shown themselves, as in the case of the United States, ready to threaten nuclear weapons use against those who have none. And nuclear weapons—the all too real national arsenals of hundreds and thousands of them, not the imaginary ones that the demonized states du jour or "terrorist" groups might or might not be trying to acquire—remain the machinery of ultimate catastrophe. They are still there, waiting

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Civil society, disarmament, new beginnings (cont.)

at the end of some as yet unforeseen chain of great power elite contention and confrontation as those in power attempt to "manage" the multiple crises in ways that apply ever more technology and violence, while stubbornly refusing to address the fundamental causes of deteriorating ecosystems and proliferating social conflict. This systematic exclusion of discussion about root causes, enforced myriad ways in forums large and small world wide creates a pervasive feeling of inertia, a sense that political systems everywhere are not working.

Despite all of this, most of the visible "disarmament work" generated by "civil society" organizations, proceeds with little change from one year, and one decade, to the next. The principal focus remains on three kinds of things. The first is the weapons themselves: the effects of their use, their legal status, the effects on "stability" of various weapons systems when possessed by one or another combination of adversaries, the ecological effects of designing, testing, and producing them. The second is the mechanics of disarmament: how to dispose of weapons when no longer desired, how to verify their destruction or their continued existence, how to track the materials and technologies that can be

used for their manufacture. The third is how to prevent anyone new from obtaining them. Efforts to mobilize support for elimination of nuclear arsenals concentrates on long-familiar litanies within these limits: the horrors we already know from the U.S. atomic bombings of Japan, informed speculation regarding their civilization-destroying capacity, the elaboration of convincingly plausible, and by now endlessly tweaked and refined, proposals for verifiable step-by-step elimination of nuclear arsenals, and a shifting array of related issues regarding the economic, social, and ecological costs of maintaining them.

With few exceptions, the analysis and recommendations offered by the visible layers of "civil society" stay on the terrain favored by professionals and experts: the description of social ills, and technical prescriptions for their elimination. Even moral appeals have narrowed to a kind of specialization, with only those expert in religion or who hold irrefutable status as victims qualified to be heard. When connections between issues are made, they usually are made via the effects of nuclear weapons and the institutions that sustain them, rather than the causes for their existence. Mirroring the top-down "management" approaches

continued on next page

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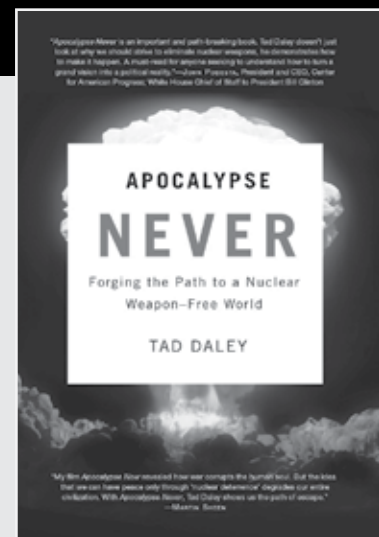
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Civil society, disarmament, new beginnings (cont.)

to controlling the “nuclear danger” of those who control the most powerful states, scrutiny of fundamental causes is consigned to the margins. The questions of precisely who finds it useful to devote vast resources to maintaining civilization-destroying arsenals and the immense array of institutions that sustain them, and exactly what they find them useful for, are seldom asked. Rather than holding those in power to account for their actions, the experts and professionals who dominate “civil society” arms control and disarmament discourse look for every opportunity to take them at their word. They grasp eagerly at the latest endorsement of “disarmament” by those who hold or have held power, no matter how abstract or contradictory. This year no doubt we will hear repeated quotations from President Obama echoing in the halls of the United Nations, as a few hundred miles south his administration’s proposals for massive increases in funding for nuclear weapons research and production march in bipartisan lockstep through the halls of the U.S. Congress.

Martin Luther King observed that “all too many people find themselves living amid a great period of social change, and yet they fail to develop the new attitudes, the new mental responses, that the new situation demands.” We are in another moment like that now, a time of great dislocation and upheaval. We need a new conversation amongst ourselves about how we must order our societies and economies if we are going to make it through these times. We need to stop looking always upward towards those in power for what they might be willing to give us.

Great moments of social transformation are characterized—in many ways, defined—by the failure of the existing political, cultural, and intellectual institutions to meet the needs of the majority of the population, to make decisions in ways we believe legitimate, to achieve outcomes that work for us. Today, the professionals who inhabit these institutions have little to say about what is most important. The “practical” too often has come to be equated with asking only for what can be had within the existing institutional contexts, which means not challenging the existing distribution of wealth and power. If these constitute fundamental causes of the problems we are trying to solve or key obstacles to their solution, this is a doomed strategy.

We need to have the courage to turn our attention and our efforts away from the states and their forums and back to each other. The discussion, analysis, and political course of action that bring real disarmament will not come from refining the discourses dominated by those who currently hold power and control debate, but by rendering them

irrelevant. We must focus our efforts on building and sustaining solidarity, mutual support, and a common political program amongst those who suffer from an unjust and undemocratic global order of things that is enforced by overwhelming violence. As long as that order of things remains, nuclear weapons will be there, and likely in civilization-destroying numbers. The work of “reducing the nuclear danger” needs to be less about less weapons and more about more justice.

When I raise these kinds of questions with the policy professionals and NGO staff people who are the main voices we hear in disarmament discourse, the response often is a demand that I provide a road map for the kind of social movements we need. But no one person can point the way, and the kinds of work that are needed may vary from place to place. The first step is to admit that the predominant professionalized single-issue politics is not working. We need a broad new conversation, and we need to redirect our time and resources to the settings and kinds of activities where that conversation might actually take place.

Here in the United States, we need to take our movement-building resources and our attention back down from the centers of power to the cities, towns, and neighborhoods where the effects are felt of decisions made at a distance, often geographically and always socially. This is so for a number of reasons. It is necessary because human scale organizations where people can build trust and mutual support and can truly practice the skills of democracy—of making decisions together about things that matter—are the essential building blocks of any larger, sustainable long term movement for a world that is more fair and democratic. It is necessary because propaganda thrives in social settings where people are fearful and isolated, and places where we work together to understand the world and to support one another in the face of violence and injustice are the strongest defense against the powerful institutions that ceaselessly strive to manipulate us. Finally, it is necessary because the hard questions about how we will remake a failing social order from within ultimately are felt and understood in the way they affect our livelihoods and the people and places we love.

Whether our community should accept the lure of the next military contract or the next manufacturing link in some global chain of corporate production making ecologically unsustainable products that only a minority of human beings can afford to buy, or instead should start to discuss and plan for a future that might allow us to live well within the

continued on next page



Civil society, disarmament, new beginnings (cont.)

ecological limits of our locale, our region, and our planet is a hard conversation to start, and harder to sustain. But it also is the kind of conversation from which a new way forward might emerge. When the debates that matter are limited to NGO experts and corporate lobbyists and professional politicians hovering around the apex of power in political systems dominated by concentrated wealth, the first order of business is to assure that all of the most powerful interests will be taken care of. After that, those who claim to represent this rest of us, official and unofficial, go forth and portray the dividing up of the remaining scraps as the only "practical" steps towards a better world.

The intractable character of the nuclear dilemma is not an aberration, some deviation from the "natural" or "healthy" path of the current order of things, but rather its penultimate expression. The immensely destructive wars of the last century on all sides manifested, accelerated, and set irreversibly in train processes for the pursuit and accumulation of power by large, authoritarian organizations both "public" and "private" at a pace and scale that dwarfed anything that had come before. Most of humanity still is reeling from the onslaught of the juggernaut set loose. Those who think they can control its

course only are careening toward the abyss. It is the nature of these power dynamics to grow and intensify at an ever-accelerating rate, despoiling the planet and consuming its resources at a pace that has become impossible to comprehend, much less control. The development of the atomic bomb was just a loud punctuation point, a marker of a much broader process (the eclipse of reason by way of its one-sided, instrumental perfection) nearing totality, the beginning of an ending whether the bomb is to be the means of our ending or not.

Is there any power left on earth capable of opposing these forces? Who are they, who are we, who will we be? That is the only question left worth asking.

Andrew Lichterman has worked on peace and disarmament issues for decades in a variety of settings, sometimes as a paid staff person but for many more years as a volunteer. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, and is a member of the boards of the Oakland, California-based Western States Legal Foundation and of the Albuquerque, New Mexico-based Los Alamos Study Group. The opinions expressed here are his own. •

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1

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2

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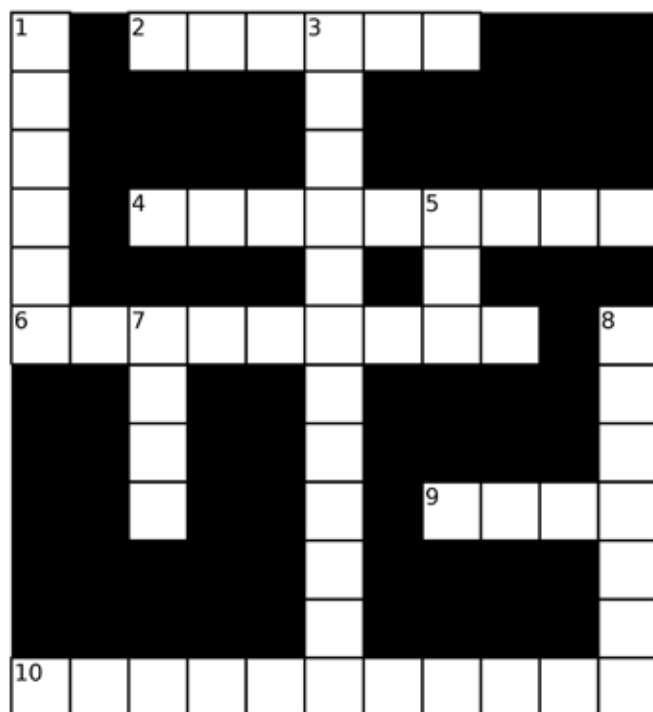
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Nuclear Crossword



Across

2. The IAEA has its headquarter in this city.
4. Where was the first nuclear bomb tested?
6. Who was, together with his organization, awarded with Nobel Peace Prize in 2005?
9. What was the name of the first treaty that was signed to limit the strategic nuclear arsenals?
10. Which state voluntarily gave up its nuclear weapons to join the NPT as a non-nuclear state?

Down

1. This country announced itself as a nuclear power in 1960.
3. The largest thermonuclear bomb was tested at _____ (two words).
5. Article ____ of the NPT says that nuclear weapon states will not transfer nuclear weapons or assist the development of nukes in any way.
7. Who is the chairman of the Weapon of Mass Destruction Commission?
8. A popular vote in 1978 made this country a nuclear free state.

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NWC in Brief: How Long Must We Wait for Nuclear Abolition?

Tim Wright | International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Ambassador Cabactulan of the Philippines opened the NPT Review Conference yesterday with a call for states parties to redouble their efforts for a world free of nuclear weapons. "The world expects a positive outcome, and we must deliver. This is our duty, as diplomats, to our leaders and to our people." On Sunday he received signatures from 20 million people—more than half of them Japanese citizens—demanding urgent action on a global ban on nuclear weapons.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who has adopted nuclear disarmament one of his central objectives, made similar remarks to assembled foreign ministers and diplomats. "Hopes and expectations are high. The world's people look to you for action." He challenged the states parties "to take steps that will set the stage for a breakthrough," and reminded them of his five-point plan, which includes consideration of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Dr. Marty Natalegawa, the Foreign Minister of Indonesia, delivered a statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, expressing support for a convention and an unwillingness to accept an outcome document that fails to advance disarmament: "The consideration of a Nuclear Weapons Convention banning all nuclear weapons, as mentioned in Article VI of the [NPT], should begin and should be an integral part of any plan of action on nuclear disarmament to be adopted by this Conference."

Dr. Natalegawa also noted his own country's endorsement "We must work intensively together to produce a universal Nuclear Weapons Convention with a specific timeline for the attainment of complete nuclear disarmament. For the eradication of nuclear weapons is our only assurance that they will never be used."

Austria reiterated its firm commitment to a convention, which it first announced at last year's historic session of the UN Security Council on nuclear issues. Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger argued yesterday, "the most effective way to move towards global zero is through a universal legal instrument, a Nuclear Weapons Convention, equipped with a strict multilateral verification system."

"The Austrian government and the legislature—which recently adopted a formal resolution on a world without nuclear weapons—will closely examine how disarmament is dealt with at this Conference," Mr. Spindelegger said. "If there is no clear progress towards global zero, we will discuss with partners the feasibility of a global instrument to ban these weapons."

He acknowledged that the NPT remains the cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime, but emphasized that "a static regime that has lost its vision may benefit from fresh ideas." He also recalled that Austria had played an active role in bringing about and successfully concluding negotiations on the Mine Ban Treaty and, more recently, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, indicating that a similar process might be effective for nuclear weapons.

For the first time, the government of Switzerland also expressed clear support for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey stressed the humanitarian risks of nuclear weapons and stated, "we must outlaw nuclear weapons, specifically by means of a new convention as the UN Secretary General has proposed."

The co-chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, a joint initiative of the Japanese and Australian governments, held a briefing session in which they discussed the need for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Gareth Evans, from Australia, argued that governments should agree at this Review Conference to begin preparatory work on the comprehensive abolition treaty, "not in five or 10 years' time, but now". He also called on governments to support the establishment of a global centre for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, whose objectives would include laying the foundations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

Yoriko Kawaguchi of Japan, the other co-chair of ICNND, expressed her disappointment that the Japanese and Australian governments had not gone further on disarmament in their action plan submitted to the Review Conference. Both governments have so far resisted calls from their civil societies to endorse the UN Secretary-General's push for a convention.

The first day of the Review Conference ended with a poignant reminder of why we are working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Hibakusha Stories hosted a moving event in the UN lobby with the many survivors of the atomic bombings who have made the journey to New York for the Review Conference. Their message is simple and powerful: no one should ever again suffer as they have.

No doubt, the *hibakusha* have asked themselves on many occasions the same question that Ban Ki-moon posed to delegates in the morning session: "How long must we wait to rid ourselves of this threat? How long will we keep passing the problem to succeeding generations?"

Tim Wright is NWC Project Coordinator for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. •



Persistent proliferators: can we expect better from the nuclear weapon states?

Emma Rosengren and Malin Nilsson | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Sweden

In this seminar chaired by Dave Webb of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), representatives from different nuclear weapons states (NWS) elaborated on the present nuclear weapon situation in their respective country.

Retired Commander Robert Green (UK) spoke on his experience of questioning Britain's nuclear strategy and the difficulty of questioning the nuclear consensus in NWS. According to him, diplomats in NWS delegations are indoctrinated, which is why they are unlikely to question their governments. Mr. Green also argued that nuclear deterrence is both unlawful and undermines security, since nuclear weapons are the ultimate terror device.

Rebecca Johnson (UK) of Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy spoke on the urgency of preventing the next generation of nuclear weapons. Dr. Johnson especially emphasized the need for negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). She argued that the comprehensive and coherent framework of a NWC would deal with critical issues simultaneously, including both disarmament and non-proliferation.

Alan Mackinnon, chair of CND Scotland, welcomed the positive atmosphere of this year's RevCon. With growing support for a nuclear weapon free world among government representatives, the momentum is here to take the next step and demand nuclear abolition. Dr. Mackinnon emphasized the need for UK to take concrete steps in the right direction, including taking submarines off patrol, separating missiles from warheads, adopting a no first use policy, and working for a change of NATO's nuclear weapons doctrine.

Judith LeBlanc (US) of Peace Action spoke on the urgency of mobilizing support for a nuclear weapon free world. She argued that it matters that diplomats and policy makers talk about nuclear disarmament, even if the steps they are willing to take are very small. In addition, international cooperation needs to be on top of the agenda, and cold war security has to be replaced with social and economic justice for all.

Pierre Villard (France), co-chair of Le Mouvement de la Paix, said that not a sufficient amount of people in France think that they have a role to play in the work for a nuclear weapon free world, while in fact the mobilization of citizens is critical to reach this goal. According to him, the largest threats today are the nuclear weapons that do exist. That is why he welcomes negotiations on a NWC, including a timetable and strategies that guarantee the abolition

of nuclear weapons.

Niu Qiang (China) of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament emphasized that current challenges such as energy security, climate change and food security are global. That is why it is imperative to adopt a new thinking, and to leave military alliances and military blocks behind. According to Mr. Qiang, a legal obligation on no first use of nuclear weapons is a crucial, and initial, step to take.

Mr. Tadaaki Kawata (Japan) of Gensuikyo highlighted that despite having experienced the suffering nuclear weapons cause, Japan continues to rely on US nuclear deterrence. In order to avoid the dangers of nuclear war, extended deterrence needs to be addressed, and all countries depending on nuclear weapons must abandon current security doctrines and work for abolition through a legally binding treaty.

Emma Rosengren and Malin Nilsson are members of the Swedish Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. •

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From Omnicide to Abolition: Shifting the Mindset

Sameer Kanal | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) and moderated by Rick Wayman, the panel consisted of five speakers who discussed the goal of shifting paradigms on nuclear weaponry and energy.

David Krieger, NAPF President, defined “omnicide,” as the ability to destroy humanity and other complex lifeforms, calling it the most compelling reason to abolish nuclear weapons. He argued that because of the possibility for total destruction, nuclear weapons are not useful for war, only for political uses such as dominance and prestige.

Mr. Krieger and fellow panelist Steven Starr both challenged nuclear deterrence in their statements. Mr. Starr pointed out that deterrence involves the assumption that leaders are rational, and Mr. Krieger added that omnicide was an incredibly high risk to take when tested against that assumption. Mr. Krieger also pointed out that there have been numerous near misses at nuclear war. Mr. Starr noted that deterrence has to work perfectly to justify nuclear weapons, and that it has to fail only once to cause a worldwide catastrophe.

Mr. Starr and Alice Slater also discussed the environmental effects of nuclear technology. Mr. Starr concentrated upon the effects of usage of nuclear weapons, noting that a scientific modeling of a possible nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan using only low-yield weapons found that atmospheric pollution would block sunlight, lowering temperatures in North America by 2.5-4 degrees Celsius; this would limit crop viability in Canada and the United States. Mr. Starr argued that even the low-yield weapons used would cause the starvation of nearly one billion people.

In addition to the 32 states with plutonium and highly-enriched uranium, states with nuclear power programs are also able to develop weapons in months without significant technological adaptation. Ms. Slater quoted former CIA Director George Tenet, who noted that the difference between a power program and a weapons program is “time and intent, not technology.” Ms. Slater, who argued against nuclear energy altogether, noted that renewable energy sources were sufficient to power the planet without usage of nuclear, coal or oil-based power. She noted that while there was an “inalienable right” to nuclear power in Article IV of the NPT, it could be overruled in future agreements as renewable power arrangements such as the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) replaced nuclear power.

Panelist Rob Green, who served as a commander in the British Navy before authoring *Security Without Nuclear Deterrence*, focused on the ‘indoctrination’ of military personnel and diplomats into the fallacy of nuclear deterrence. Green turned away from military leaders as a pilot in the 1960s, when he carried nuclear weapons until he realized that he would “destroy myself if I dropped it [...] I was ordered to become a suicide bomber.”

Multiple panelists noted the risk to democracy that nuclear weapons pose. Mr. Green warned that deference to leaders was a major obstacle to challenging the status quo and achieving total nuclear disarmament. Ms. Slater noted that the military and conservative allies in parliaments have provided universal “push-back” to disarmament, which limits debate and democratic decision-making.

The final panelist, Kate Dewes, focused on current initiatives. Ms. Dewes, the Co-Director of the Disarmament and Security Centre, highlighted the Secretary-General’s 5-Point Plan on elimination of nuclear weapons and called upon civil society to continue pressuring the UN to proceed on the plan, which includes negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) and creation of Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones. Joining Ms. Dewes in calling for negotiations to create a NWC, Mr. Starr also recommended that nuclear weapon states conduct health and environmental assessments. Mr. Green called for openness in discussion of nuclear weapons as a way of continuing this discussion. All five of the panelists highlighted the present NPT Review Conference as one of many places to continue the discussion, including delegates of governments, civil society and peace activists in the process.

Sameer Kanal is an intern with Reaching Critical Will of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. •



Beyond the NPT Review: What Blocking the Bomb's Further Spread Will Require

Aaron Hayman | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Henry Sokolski, Executive Director of the Nonproliferation Policy Education Center in Washington DC, kicked off the first day of the 2010 Review Conference NGO events calendar. With expectations high going into this conference, Sokolski suggested, and as the name indicates, the 2010 NPT Review Conference is a forum for evaluation of past developments. In general, Sokolski seemed somewhat pessimistic about the prospects for any groundbreaking outcome from this conference. He argued that deeper cuts to US and Russian weapons stockpiles are necessary for success, but noted that Russian demands and upcoming US congressional elections might delay any further reductions in the near term. His goal then was to present a list of efforts that could be undertaken before the next round of talks.

His list included issues such as the elimination of short-range ballistic missiles; establishing obstacles to interfering with other states' satellite communication networks; a fissile material cut-off treaty; the establishment of a forum where states could "recommit" their pledges under the CTBT; the establishment of a Middle East nuclear weapon test ban.

He also suggested limiting nuclear cooperation with India to help rebuild a strained non-proliferation regime. Further, he suggested promoting discussions of the safety and security issues of developing nuclear waste reprocessing facilities, which are currently being evaluated by Japan, China, the Republic of Korea, and the United States. He argued this might be useful in preventing further proliferation of this sensitive fuel cycle activity.

More information on his proposals can be found at www.npec-web.org.

Aaron Hayman is an intern with Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. •

JAPAN-US Joint Peace Effort to Abolish Nuclear Weapons: HIROSHIMA Reconstruction Project

Emma Bjertén | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Hosted by Hiroshima Reconstruction Project, this event introduced the film *Unrecognized Loss: Message from Hiroshima*. The film, which is directed by Mr. Masaaki Tanabe, is part of the Hiroshima Reconstruction Project, which aims to spread an anti-nuclear message through storytelling with help of the latest technique to reconstruct the memories of Hiroshima before the A-bomb. Mr. Tanabe was seven years old when he lost everything in the nuclear bomb of Hiroshima. He works to interview Hibakushas. The film is based on their stories.

Everybody has seen the pictures from Hiroshima after the nuclear bomb but not many think about how it looked like before 6 August 1945. The film illustrates memories of a society full of business, festivals, restaurants, movie theaters, life, and joy. But there are also memories from after the nuclear bomb of people burned black, suffering, and the quiet of death.

The Mayor of Hiroshima, Mr. Tadatashi Akiba, introduced the film and showed his appreciation for how Mr. Tanabe wants to make sure that the pain he has suffered never will be repeated. With this film we are now able to see the losses caused by the nuclear bomb, which is a loss of culture and history of an area.

One of the attendees was a Hibakusha today based in Brazil. He was touched to see the film and grateful to Mr. Tanabe for showing his hometown which he probably not been able to see since the nuclear bomb in 1945.

The Hiroshima Reconstruction Project is a bilateral collaboration between students from American and Japanese universities. Mr. Tanabe says he had tried hard to relate this story to a younger generation. He hoped that we would feel something in our hearts and remember the message of Hiroshima. The Japanese Foreign Minister of International Affairs Mr. Katsuya Okada attended to the event and the film made him speechless. He was supposed to give a statement but found it inappropriate after having seen the film. He was said that he had no words to say but promised to let the voices of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki be heard during the NPT.

Emma Bjertén is an intern with Reaching Critical Will of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. •



News in Brief: non-comprehensive but notable news

Ray Acheson and Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Disarmament

- The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Austria, and Switzerland expressed support for a nuclear weapons convention. That is 62% of the states parties to the NPT (see NWC in Brief for details)
- The UN Secretary-General emphasized the need for simultaneous efforts on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, arguing, "Progress on disarmament cannot await a world free of war, nuclear proliferation, or terrorism," and "progress on non-proliferation cannot await the elimination of the last nuclear weapon."
- The UN Secretary-General also announced he will visit Hiroshima on 6 August where he will reiterate the UN's stand for a world free of nuclear weapons.
- The NAM took note of the new START, saying that it remains "below the international community's expectations which anticipate more concrete uniform and systematic nuclear disarmament efforts" involving all nuclear weapon states.
- The NAM noted that the implementation of the 13 practical steps and the unequivocal undertaking of nuclear weapon states to eliminate their arsenals is crucial to the credibility of the NPT. It suggested the RevCon call for a timeframe with a list of specific actions for the implementation of Article VI and a mechanism to verify compliance of NWS.
- Iran called for the establishment of "an independent international group," authorized by the NPT, to "prepare a set of guidelines to operationalize" article VI of the NPT.
- Iran also called for the immediate cessation of research, development, or improvements of nuclear weapons and related facilities and the introduction of a verification mechanism.
- Iran suggested the suspension of membership in the IAEA Board of Governors for states that use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.
- Ireland urged the NWS to work "speedily for further substantial reductions and the eventual elimination of all nuclear weapons, including non-deployed and non-strategic nuclear weapons."
- The EU urged reductions and elimination of "sub-strategic" nuclear weapons. It also called for an overall reduction in the global stockpile of nuclear weapons.
- The Philippines called on NWS to abandon their weapons now.
- Indonesia called on NWS to "demonstrate, in deeds, not mere words, their commitment to nuclear disarmament."
- Australia urged NWS to "chart the course" to the abolition of nuclear weapons and commit to action.
- Brazil described Article VI as "the seed" of the NPT's "own self-correction" from being an unfair Treaty that expresses the imbalances of the international system.
- Brazil called on NWS to renounce the upgrading or

development of new nuclear weapons.

- Switzerland argued that nuclear weapons are useless, immoral, and illegal. It called for a debate "concerning the legitimacy of the use of nuclear weapons regardless of the legitimacy of the motive of defence that can be invoked," noting that its aim "is to bring the humanitarian aspect to the heart of the current debate on nuclear disarmament."
- The Philippines said the UNSG's five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament has offered a road map for accelerating disarmament and liberating resources for climate change, food insecurity, and the MDGs.

Non-proliferation

- Indonesia, an Annex 2 country of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), declared that it is initiating the process to ratify the Treaty.
- The UN Secretary-General suggested that states consider "an alternative mechanism" for bringing the CTBT into effect.
- The UN Secretary-General also noted that he would convene a ministerial meeting of the Conference on Disarmament on the sidelines of the General Assembly in New York in autumn 2010 in regards to the fissile material (cut-off) treaty.
- The UN Secretary-General encouraged states to accept the IAEA's additional protocol and improve its system of safeguards.
- The EU called for comprehensive safeguards agreement and additional protocol to become the verification standard.
- Australia noted that it has made adherence to the additional protocol a condition of supply of its uranium.

Nuclear energy and the fuel cycle

- Iranian President Ahmadinejad declared that his government has accepted the nuclear fuel supply proposal put forward by the IAEA; though the UN Secretary-General called on Iran to accept the deal.
- The US delegation announced that it would allocate \$50 million to IAEA for new peaceful uses initiative to help countries develop infrastructure for nuclear power.
- The NAM said there is no room for reinterpretation or setting of conditions on Article IV.
- Morocco called for an international coalition to enhance the contribution of nuclear energy to economic and social development.

Universality

- Bulgaria noted that there are fundamental principles in the NPT's preamble that are universal in scope and that the RevCon should invite all non-parties to apply comprehensive IAEA safeguards on their civilian nuclear activities and cease manufacturing nuclear weapons and related materials.

Withdrawal

- The NAM reaffirmed its 2005 position that proposals



put forward on withdrawal then went beyond the provisions of the NPT.

- The EU called for the RevCon to develop a “common understanding” on how to “respond effectively” to withdrawal.
- The US stated that while not proposing to amend the NPT to limit the rights of states to withdraw, it would not stand by when a treaty violator pulls out of the NPT in an attempt to escape penalties and pursue nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapon free zones

- The US announced its intention to seek ratification of the protocols to the treaties of Pelindaba and Raratonga.
- The NAM demanded the RevCon renew its unequivocal commitment to the full implementation of the 1995 resolution on a NWFZ in the Middle East.
- Morocco and the EU noted the necessity of implementing the 1995 resolution.
- Canada noted that it supports efforts to bring peace to the Middle East and to “make progress towards” a NWFZ in the Middle East.

Nuclear sharing

- The NAM argued for a “firm and complete prohibition” on the transfer of anything nuclear to non-states parties and said the NWS should refrain from sharing nuclear knowledge or equipment as part of security arrangements with any states.
- Iran called for the dismantling of nuclear weapons stationed in US military bases.

Nuclear deterrence

- The NAM argued that the doctrine of nuclear deterrence is an impediment to nuclear disarmament and does not bring peace or international security.
- The Philippines urged for finding a way to “wean nations away from their reliance on deterrence” and “replace deterrence with diplomacy”.
- Ireland reminded delegates that the NPT provides “an infinitely more effective shield against a nuclear holocaust than the most costly armoury of offensive and defensive equipment.”
- Switzerland noted there has not been a big shift in thinking in the role of nuclear weapons by NWS.
- The US argued that they would retain a nuclear deterrent for as long as nuclear weapons exist in order to protect their country and their allies.

Transparency

- The US announced that it would publicly release the size of its nuclear stockpile for the first time.

Institutional reform

- Austria announced that they would seek to financially and politically support the establishment of a unit for the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in Vienna.
- Canada highlighted its working paper (WP.4) on institutional reform, which calls for strengthening the review process and related structures.

Civil society

- Austria said it would seek to establish a “hub of expertise” in Vienna, consisting of experts on nuclear disarmament. •

Expert briefing on the medical and environmental consequences of nuclear war



Wednesday, May 5, 2010

1:15 – 2:45 pm

NGO Room (Room A)

North Lawn Building

**Sponsored by International Physicians
for the Prevention of Nuclear War**

Featured speakers: **Prof. O. B. Toon** (University of Colorado, Boulder); **Dr. Ira Helfand** (IPPNW/PSR); **Dr. James Yamazaki** (UCLA Geffen School of Medicine); **Steven Starr** (Senior Scientist, PSR). *Chair:* **Dr. Victor W. Sidel** (Former Co-President, IPPNW)

Please join our panel of scientific and medical experts for an in-depth presentation on the climate and health effects of possible nuclear wars, and the policy implications for the NPT. IPPNW will launch its major new briefing paper, *Zero Is the Only Option: Four Medical and Environmental Cases for Eradicating Nuclear Weapons*.

Due to limited seating, preference will be given to members of NPT state delegations.

For more information, contact John Loretz (jloretz@ippnw.org)



Land Mines: **BANNED** Cluster Munitions: **BANNED** **BAN DU NEXT!**

*Radioactive and chemically toxic
DU (Depleted Uranium) weapons
can cause indiscriminate damage.*



The Hiroshima survey team investigates the "Graveyard of Tanks" contaminated with radiation from DU. Basrah, Southern Iraq: Dec. 2002. Photo by Naomi Toyoda

Recent moves:

May 2008: European Parliament passes far-reaching DU resolution in landslide vote.
Dec. 2008: UN General Assembly passes, by a huge majority, its second DU resolution.
Jan. 2009: Italy approves 30 million euro for DU compensation package for veterans.
Apr. 2009: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs decides to fund research projects by ICBUW.
May 2009: The 1st International Cancer Conference held in Basrah, Iraq: Alarming increase of cancers reported.
Jun. 2009: Belgium's ban on DU weapons, passed in March 2007, comes into force.
Jul. 2009: A classified German Army manual throws doubt over US's denial of DU use in Afghanistan.
Sep. 2009: Latin American Parliament calls for a moratorium on DU weapons.
Nov. 2009: ICBUW sends an open letter to WHO to express concern over their stance on the DU issue.
Feb. 2010: Costa Rica bans production of DU weapons in its free trade zones.
Mar. 2010: Irish Senators welcome draft DU weapons ban bill.

See more at <http://www.bandepleteduranium.org/> <http://twitter.com/icbuw>

Join and Support **ICBUW** The International Coalition to Ban Uranium Weapons

Workshop-1: Depleted Uranium Weapons – A Continuing Challenge in Working Towards a Ban

Time: May 4, 3:00-5:00 PM

Venue: 10th floor of the UN Church Center, 777 UN Plaza (44th St. & 1st Ave.), New York

Sponsors: ICBUW and NGO Committee of Disarmament, Peace and Security

Speakers: • Prof. Glen Lawrence (Long Island University, uranium toxicity specialist) • Gretel Munroe (ICBUW: Concord, MA, US)
• Tom Ellis (Community Concerned about National Lead: Albany, NY, US) • Isabel Macdonald (ICBUW: Costa Rica)
• Herbert Reed (Iraq War Veteran, ICBUW: USA) • Maki Sato (JIM-NET: Japan)
• Haruko Moritaki (ICBUW: Hiroshima, Japan) • Katsumi Furitsu (ICBUW, radiologist: Japan)

Contact: f-katsumi@titan.ocn.ne.jp

Workshop-2: On the Way to Banning Uranium Weapons: Legal and Political Perspectives

Time: May 12, 4:30-6:00 PM

Venue: a NGO room in the temporary north lawn building

Sponsors: IALANA-Germany, ICBUW and INES

Speakers: • Robin Borrmann (board member of IALANA, dissemination officer of the Berlin Red Cross) & another specialist

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What's On Today's Calendar of Events

Morning Vigil (all faiths and none are welcome)

Where: Isaiah Wall, Ralph Bunche Park

When: 7:30–8:00

Contact: Patricia and Michael Pulham, CCND

Abolition Caucus and Coffee

Where: UN Cafeteria

When: 8:00–8:50

Contact: Alice Slater, NAPF

Off-the-record government briefing for NGOs: Delegation of IRELAND

Where: Conference Room A, NLB

When: 9:00–9:50

Contact: Ray Acheson, Reaching Critical Will

General Debate

Where: General Assembly Hall

When: 10:00–13:00

NATO and Nuclear Weapons - Discussion about the new NATO strategy

Where: Church Center, 2nd Floor

When: 10:00–13:00

Contact: Lucas Wirl, No to War - NO to NATO

Second Conference of Mayors at the UN

Where: Conference Room 4, NLB

When: 10:00–13:00

Contact: Aaron Tovish, Mayors for Peace

Video: World March

Where: Conference Room A, NLB

When: 10:00–13:00

Contact: Tony Robinson, World without Wars

Women's Forum for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

Where: Auditorium of 1199 SEIU, 310 West, 43rd Street (Between 8th and 9th Ave)

When: 13:00–15:00

Contact: Emiko Hirano, New Japan Women's Association

Workshop and seminar on a nuclear weapons convention

Where: Conference Room A, NLB

When: 13:15–14:45

Contact: Tim Wright, ICAN

Second Mayors Conference at the United Nations

Where: Conference Room 4, NLB

When: 13:15–14:45

Contact: Aaron Tovish, Mayors for Peace

An Appeal from the Bishops of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: "Take a Courageous Step Toward the Total Abolition of Nuclear Weapons"

Where: The Tillman Chapel, Church Center

When: 13:15–14:45

Contact: Kathie Uhler, Franciscans International

General Debate

Where: General Assembly Hall

When: 15:00–18:00

Depleted Uranium Weapons: A Continuing Challenge in Working Towards a Ban

Where: 10th floor of the UN Church Center, 777 UN Plaza, 44th St. & First Ave.

When: 15:00–17:00

Contact: Katsumi Furitsu, ICBUW

Film: "Disarm and Live" (83 minutes)

Where: Conference Room A, NLB

When: 15:00–18:00

Contact: Jean-Marie Matagne

International Youth Rally to Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons

Where: Auditorium of 1199 SEIU, 310 West, 43rd Street (Between 8th and 9th Ave)

When: 15:30–18:00

Contact: Ms. Ayano Kuniyoshi

CTBTO Exhibition: Putting an end to nuclear explosions

Where: UN lobby/main gallery

When: 18:00

Contact: Annika Thunborg, CTBTO

The Green Tea Party for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World

Where: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church 316 E. 88th St.

When: 18:30–20:30

Contact: Dana Balicki, CODEPINK

Suggested donation of \$10





ATTENTION

DELEGATES TO THE NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE

You are invited to join
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and
United Nations Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas
for a **SPECIAL SCREENING**
of Participant Media & Magnolia Pictures'



COUNTDOWN TO ZEROØ

DEMAND ZERO.

COUNTDOWN TO ZERO is a stunning documentary about the escalating global nuclear arms crisis that recently premiered at Sundance Film Festival. Produced by Academy Award winner Lawrence Bender (An Inconvenient Truth, Inglourious Basterds) and written and directed by Lucy Walker (The Devil's Playground), COUNTDOWN TO ZERO features an array of important international experts and statesmen and makes a case for worldwide nuclear disarmament.

WED., MAY 5 - UNITED NATIONS CONF. RM. 4 (TNLB)

4:00PM Opening remarks by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon & Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas

4:30PM Screening (The screening will be followed by a brief discussion.)

RSVP AT RSVP@GLOBALZERO.ORG

This invitation extends exclusively to official country delegates.