



# NPT NEWS IN REVIEW

Civil society perspectives on the 2013 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Committee 22 April–3 May 2013



Reaching Critical Will

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The NPT News in Review is a daily publication produced by the Reaching Critical Will project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom during meetings of NPT states parties.

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## Editorial: With or without them

Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

“This issue is now firmly established on the international agenda,” said Ambassador Minty of South Africa to a packed Assembly Hall on behalf of the 77 countries\* that signed the joint statement on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons.

If the intention of the P5 boycott of the Conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Oslo was to try to dissuade such discussion, it completely failed. Even without the engagement of the nuclear weapon states, the humanitarian impact of any use of nuclear weapon dominated the agenda during the day.

Never in NPT history has such a large cross-regional group of states delivered a joint statement on one issue. 77 countries delivered one simple message: any use of nuclear weapons would cause unacceptable harm through the “immense, uncontrollable destructive capability and indiscriminate nature of these weapons.”

The statement also welcomed the recent conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in Oslo, which reflected the recognition that it is a topic of concern and relevance to all. The statement also reiterated that no one can address the humanitarian emergency or provide any adequate assistance to victims of a nuclear weapons detonation. The 77 countries also warmly welcomed Mexico's announcement to host a follow-up conference on this topic.

It is worth mentioning that several countries that chose to not sign it still highlighted similar concerns about the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, welcomed the outcomes of Oslo and the coming conference in Mexico in national and group statements like the NPDI.

The joint statement also highlighted that civil society has “a crucial role to play, side-by-side with governments”. This was reinforced during the three hour session during which civil society traditionally delivers statements to the NPT. This year, through a keynote presentation, panel discussion, and statements, civil society repeatedly

discussed catastrophic consequences, humanitarian impact, and lack of preparedness to deal with a scenario where nuclear weapons would be used. Civil society sent a clear message to governments at the NPT that only negotiations to outlaw nuclear weapons is an adequate way to address such problems.

As the closing speaker of the general debate, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also focused on the humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons. The ICRC drew attention to the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies resolution from 2011 that called on states to ensure that nuclear weapons are never again used, and to conclude negotiations to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and eliminate them.

With a large group of states, international organisations, and civil society all joining up to emphasize the unacceptability of any use of nuclear weapons, and the urgency in preventing such scenario through elimination, nuclear-armed states are starting to lose ground. A consistently growing movement is advocating for action on nuclear weapons based on humanitarian grounds.

Minutes before the joint statement was delivered, Ambassador Kmentt of Austria noted that the international community will only overcome the challenges posed by nuclear weapons if we move away from a “debate dominated by outdated military security concepts.” He said, “The discourse about nuclear weapons needs to be fundamentally changed”.

Today, that just happened. •

\*Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, Holy See, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay, Yemen, and Zambia.

**Will the Netherlands lead the way to nuclear disarmament?***Susi Snyder, Krista van Velzen, Wilbert van der Zeijden | IKV Pax Christi and ICAN Netherlands*

A desire to be consistent in nuclear policy is the justification the Dutch have given for not joining along with more than 70 other states in a joint statement on the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons. This is unfortunate, given that the Netherlands is recognised as one of the leaders in the nuclear weapons and disarmament discussions taking place at NATO headquarters in Brussels, and that Dutch talked about the consequences of nuclear weapons in both their national and the 10 nation NPDI speech delivered this week.

The past few Dutch governments have strongly advocated for global nuclear disarmament, at the same time the Netherlands still hosts US nuclear weapons. There are about 20 B61 nuclear bombs stationed at Volkel Airforce Base. Continuing to host these weapons contradicts the spirit, if not the letter, of Article II of the NPT, which prohibits non-nuclear weapon states from acquiring nuclear weapons. Past governments have failed to remove the weapons, saying that NATO consensus is needed—and was not found. The current government is about to make up its mind about how to address this issue. With parliament increasingly vocal in calling for an end to the B61 hosting, it is possible that the Netherlands might break the NATO stalemate on this issue before the 2015 Review Conference.

An often used argument to defend the deployment of American nuclear weapons in Europe is that the B61 bombs remain in custody of the US in peace time. It is an argument that can be countered by the fact that the Netherlands is providing the services needed to deploy these weapons: The infrastructure on the ground, but also the aircraft, pilots and support personnel. In war-time, it will be Dutch pilots who would drop the bomb.

A recent opinion poll shows that a 87% majority in the Netherlands support getting rid of the B61. Two relatively recent Dutch parliamentary resolutions on this issue have: first, urged the government to convey the message to the US government that the Netherlands no longer needs tactical nukes on its soil and, most recently, that the B61 are both dangerous and useless, the upcoming modernisation is a waste of money, and the government should make the removal of all B61 in Europe a 'hard policy goal'.

The good news for this parliamentary majority is that the new minister of Foreign Affairs, Frans Timmermans, was very outspoken in favour of the removal of the B61 when he was Labour Party spokesperson in Parliament. He has a long track record of advocating for nuclear disarmament and for a decreased reliance on nuclear deterrence. He has fiercely criticized the

continued forward deployment of US nuclear weapons arguing that after the Cold War, they have no military or strategic value. In several instances, he has called on the US to "come and take the weapons home" and he once called the B61 bombs "as useful as nipples on a male pig".

That was parliamentarian Timmermans. Needless to say, many in the Netherlands eagerly look forward to the day that minister Timmermans will deliver on his previous statements and announce that the B61 have been removed from the Netherlands. Pressured by parliamentary questions, Timmermans asked for time to consult with allies and prepare a letter to Parliament to outline his nuclear weapons policy, expected in May or June. The letter creates an opportunity for the Dutch government to act on the resolutions in parliament, and to take a firm lead in challenging the NATO practice of forward deployed nuclear weapons. It is well known in Brussels that the Dutch are a nuclear disarmament leader, it is yet to be seen if they will extend that leadership to join South Africa and more than 70 others in the NPT context. •

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 League for Peace and Freedom

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*The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom or the Reaching Critical Will programme.*



## Australia's disarmament double-speak

Dr. Sue Wareham OAM

Australian governments have generally been strong proponents of horizontal nuclear non-proliferation, but skilled at avoiding the issue of nuclear disarmament. Rhetoric has centred on what other nations must do or not do and has ignored the enormous responsibility Australia has by virtue of its ties with nuclear-armed states.

The word “ultimate” repeatedly slips into government pronouncements about nuclear weapons elimination, consigning the task to eternity or at least to a time and circumstances unspecified. For example, the (most recent) 2009 Australian defence white paper stated that “stable nuclear deterrence will continue to be a feature of the international system for the foreseeable future”.

While around 150 nations support the goal of a treaty banning nuclear weapons, Australia is not among them. This is despite high-level advocacy for such a step from many Australians. Nearly 800 recipients of the Order of Australia – including former prime ministers and chiefs of the armed forces – have called on the government to adopt a nuclear-weapon-free defence posture and work for a ban treaty. Polls show that more than 90 per cent of Australians support a ban.

The reason for Australia's verbal gymnastics over whether or not we want to get rid of the bomb is clear: over the past two decades, successive governments have reiterated Australia's reliance on US extended nuclear deterrence in the face of nuclear threats.

Despite the fact that there has never been a public US assurance of such nuclear “protection” – and despite grave concerns that nuclear deterrence undermines security for us all, in any case – this has been presented as an article of faith, a self-evident truth that requires no serious examination.

Australia's support for the US nuclear posture as providing both “stable deterrence” globally and extended deterrence protection regionally is bolstered by hosting US intelligence and military facilities vital to US nuclear war operations – facilities being currently expanded and upgraded.

The Joint Defence Facility Pine Gap in central Australia is a key part of US systems of missile early warning, missile defence and nuclear targeting. The Australian government has acknowledged that for these reasons Pine Gap would be a high priority target in a major war between the US and China.

Unlike New Zealand, Australia has never questioned or prevented the visits to our ports of US nuclear-armed warships. Australia's reliance on nuclear

weapons extends even further, and includes active encouragement of the US to make more explicit its willingness to use these weapons in our defence. Government officials have suggested that without the US “nuclear umbrella” we might need to consider developing our own nuclear weapons. In view of Australia's condemnation of countries such as Iran, this is hypocrisy writ large.

Our support for both nuclear deterrence and missile defence presents further inconsistency. If deterrence works, then a missile shield is surely superfluous because a nuclear attack will not occur. A one-sided missile defence program is also very provocative and leads the other side to expand and upgrade its nuclear forces as part of a vicious circle.

There are many things Australia could do to actively promote a nuclear-weapon-free world rather than the current precarious nuclear status quo. As a strong ally of the United States, our actions would be particularly powerful in sending the message that nuclear weapons undermine everyone's security, even those sheltering under the “nuclear umbrella”.

First and foremost, Australia should end its reliance on nuclear weapons by renouncing extended nuclear deterrence. This would not require a renunciation of our alliance with the US. New Zealand renounced nuclear weapons in 1984, and the US maintains a military relationship with New Zealand which respects New Zealand's nuclear-free position.

Australia must get behind global efforts for a treaty to outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons. A vast majority of governments, the UN secretary-general, and the Australian Red Cross have called for negotiations to begin. With Australia now a member of the UN Security Council, there could be no greater contribution to global security than the determination to help bring a nuclear weapons ban into existence.

*Dr Sue Wareham OAM is a Board Member of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (Australia). •*



**Side event report: Civil society's role in banning nuclear weapons***Josefin Lind | Swedish Physicians against Nuclear Weapons and ICAN Sweden*

**T**im Wright, director of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) Australia, chaired this session with a panel of ICAN campaigners from around the world: Sharon Dolev (Israel); Kolade Fadahunsi (Nigeria); Magnus Lövd, ICAN International office in Geneva; Pia Devoto (Argentina); and Achmed Sa'ada (Egypt).

Mr. Wright explained how ICAN started in 2007 with the aim of creating a groundswell for the abolition of nuclear weapons through a global ban. Six years later, ICAN has spread to 70 countries, and over 100 campaigners from all over the world recently met in Geneva prior to the NPT PrepCom to strategize and plan ahead towards the up-coming Mexico conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. The panel at this side event highlighted some of the actions and strategies that have been carried out so far in their countries.

ICAN campaigners face the same kind of challenges all around the world, said Ms. Dolev in her presentation. Our main obstacles, she pointed out, are the lack of public interest as well as a wide-spread resistance to the idea that change is indeed possible. The Israeli campaign started in 2007 and campaigners have managed to communicate their message widely, including through media coverage, with a number of creative and provocative actions. Israeli campaigners recently invited Hiroshima survivors to visit Israel and meet with holocaust survivors, a meeting that ended with participants hugging and crying together. Needless to say, the activity received a lot of media attention. Today, for the first time, civil society representatives from ICAN are invited to the parliament to discuss nuclear disarmament and inform on the effects of nuclear war.

Mr. Lövd talked on how to engage young people in the disarmament movement. In response to the lack of young campaigners, which seems to be identified as one of the main challenges for the movement today, Mr. Lövd has developed an 8 point list of do's and don'ts. His recommendations included: identify achievable goals, avoid acronyms, and simplify—e.g. “there's no ban on nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons are filthy, hence we need a ban.” Furthermore, he explained, young people need to feel that they have a lot of space and freedom, and that they are being listened to. Also, he said, not to be forgotten: “Don't refer to young people as young people or youths. A campaigner is a campaigner and not a young campaigner.”

Mr. Sa'ada talked about reaching new audiences. Such efforts have been hugely successful in Egypt via

Facebook and Twitter, and Mr. Saada emphasized the importance of knowing your audience and tailoring the message. In addition to social media campaigning, Egyptian campaigners have arranged a Hibakusha conference in Cairo to educate and engage and have focused on stopping investments in nuclear weapons.

Mr. Fadahunsi spoke about engaging new constituencies, with the case of Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. In the beginning of the Nigeria campaign, he explained, it was hard to engage the government. However, after holding lectures and getting several religious leaders on board, the government reached out to ICAN to get more inspiration on what Nigeria can do. The Nigerian campaign is now engaging young people and they used the Oslo conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons to draw media attention to the issue. They are now looking to engage the Nigerian president in the campaign, as well as more West African states.

Ms. Devoto, who is also involved in other disarmament campaigns, explained that while the Latin American ICAN group is now strong on disarmament, it took many years of campaigning. Many of the recent ICAN campaigners came from the small arms and landmines campaigns. Ms. Devoto argued that a strong and creative group can come together and put a strong pressure on diplomats, which proved to be a successful strategy in the landmine campaign. The secret behind a successful campaign is networking and coordination, she said.

This side event proved that ICAN is a strong, global, and lively campaign with active campaigners working together on different continents with a common goal and strategy: to ban nuclear weapons. •





## Side event report: Increasing transparency of nuclear warhead and fissile material stocks as a step toward disarmament

Katherine Prizeman | Global Action to Prevent War

The International Panel on Fissile Materials (IPFM) hosted an event to provide proposals directed towards the nuclear weapon states (NWS) to increase transparency of nuclear warhead and fissile material stocks. These proposals were developed in light of the obligations committed to in the 2010 NPT Action Plan, with a view towards fulfilling these obligations by the 2015 Review Conference.

The 2010 NPT Action Plan encouraged the NWS to agree to a standard reporting form and to determine appropriate reporting intervals for the purpose of providing standard information. One such proposal for a standard reporting form was submitted during last year's session of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) by the Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Initiative (NPDI). Furthermore, the issue of transparency is one that has come up throughout this session of the PrepCom, particularly how increased transparency can contribute to greater confidence-building measures and facilitate next steps towards total and complete nuclear disarmament. Nonetheless, it is important to remember that while increased transparency is welcome, it does not constitute in-and-of-itself disarmament, but can only be seen as a step towards this larger objective.

Panelists for the discussion included Zia Mian, Pavel Podvig, and Frank von Hippel from IPFM. Mr. Podvig began the discussion with an overview of the current, available declarations made by the NWS with regards to their nuclear arsenals. Mr. Podvig noted that the US, arguably the most transparent of the NWS, has declared the size of its operational warheads, while the Chinese government has only declared that its stockpile is smaller than others. He also noted that the new START framework adopted by the US and Russia provides a good example of a framework for information exchange among the NWS insofar as the Treaty provides for a twice a year information exchange on deployed strategic warheads. In terms of definitions, Mr. Podvig also noted that New START provides for aggregate definitions of various types of nuclear weapons that could be applied to reporting among the other NWS. Finally, he proposed that all NPT NWS exchange biannual, detailed reports in the new START format. More generally, adoption of the New START verification activities could provide for some institutional arrangements to support the disarmament process.

Mr. Mian spoke about nuclear baseline declarations that could be made by 2015 and underscored the importance of transparency related to both the weapons and the fissile materials necessary for them. He proposed that by the 2015 Review Conference, NPT NWS

make initial baseline declarations on total stockpiles of nuclear warheads and fissile materials and agree to prepare to make detailed declarations of historical stocks in addition to a commitment to subsequent annual updates. With regards to fissile materials, Mr. Mian highlighted that all the NPT NWS have indicated their cessation of fissile material production with only China lacking such an official declaration (although it is a widely accepted fact that Chinese production has stopped).

Mr. von Hippel addressed the issue of preparing for future agreements and deeper cuts. He proposed that the NPT NWS prepare detailed histories of their nuclear warheads and fissile material stocks. He also suggested that NWS with similar production facilities engage in 'site-to-site' joint demonstrations of verification activities and place civilian, excess military, and waste fissile material under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards.

It is clear that transparency measures across the NWS vary greatly, which poses a challenge to generating greater confidence-building measures both among the NWS as well as between the NWS and the non-nuclear weapon states parties to the NPT. While the 'Permanent 5' (P5) has initiated a parallel process of meetings to address the disarmament-related obligations committed to in the 2010 NPT Action Plan, including the obligations related to transparency and confidence-building measures such as a working group on definitions, it is still unclear if these meetings have contributed to building confidence among the NWS or how they will contribute to increasing levels of confidence with the non-nuclear weapon states. The hope is that these meetings will help to prepare the NWS to better report to the upcoming 2014 PrepCom and subsequent 2015 Review Conference as well as to better apply the principle of transparency in nuclear disarmament. •



**Side event report: Reducing alert levels of nuclear weapons***Anina Dalbert | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The side event on reducing alert rates was co-chaired by Ambassador Benno Laggner of Switzerland and Ambassador Dell Higgie of New Zealand. The event launched a UNIDIR publication with the same name.

Hans M. Kristensen, who co-authored the UNIDIR study, stated that approximately 1,900 nuclear warheads remain on high levels of alert, ready to be launched within only minutes. This of course leads to an unacceptable risk of nuclear detonation as a result of miscalculation, misuse, or even just an accident. These positions are clearly inherited from the Cold War that ended over two decades ago. It is both urgent and highly feasible to significantly decrease or finally end the operational readiness of nuclear weapons.

Professor Gareth Evans came straight to the point in his presentation when he pointed out that for those that are not included in the direct policy making, this all must seem like a great absurdity. It does indeed seem rather obvious from the outside that this step is overdue and that there are no strong benefits preventing such an action. He further pointed out that we should not forget how human beings tend to not always take the most rational decisions in extraordinarily stressful situations, especially if they have only a few minutes to do so. It will not be easy but, as Mr. Evans said, the Cold War autopilot of those who are taking the relevant decisions has to be changed.

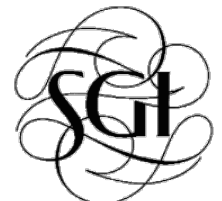
Mr. Kristensen analysed the arguments of both proponents and opponents of “de-alerting” and has drawn a rather simple conclusion. The arguments about the risk of a “re-alerting race” at a later state, as well as other security risks, are not viable in today’s reality. Yet these arguments are nevertheless the predominant ones among proponents of maintaining high alert levels.

In response to these arguments, one can explain that many unilateral steps have already been taken, such as de-alerting entire weapons systems, resulting in no destabilizing effect as feared. Furthermore, alert nuclear forces strongly contradict the efforts to reduce the role and numbers of nuclear weapons. Even deterrence cannot be taken as an argument, because there are far more weapons on alert than could ever be necessary for any deterrence argument, and it also arguably makes the weapons more vulnerable. Additionally of course, the idea itself that nuclear conflict can be managed is already dubious.

Richard L. Garwin, IBM Fellow Emeritus, is a long-standing expert to the US government. He asserted that there are still many people in the US that have

defended the importance of nuclear weapons, however, this has nothing to do with their value as of today. As the UNIDIR study showed, there is little dialogue from the Russian side and there are no official studies regarding this matter. Using political realist arguments he thinks that even a proposal that would be easy to sell to Russia and would make very little difference for the US would be a step forward. In his opinion, this would be progress in a different dimension and ease the tension.

The event and the reality that seems to be inherited from the Cold War left a bit of a sour note behind that not more has been done on this issue so far. At the same time, it was also a reminder that it is of course high time for action but that this should by no means distract from the focus of abolishing the weapons as such and not just reducing their alert status. •



### **Nuclear Abolition: A Time for Boldness and Hope**

**Friday 26 April 10:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
NGO Room (Room XVI)

The Non-Proliferation Treaty has been in force for 43 years, yet there are still nearly 20,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Panelists will discuss the need for civil society and



governments to engage in bold initiatives that will make nuclear disarmament a reality, and the importance of not losing hope in working for nuclear disarmament.

#### **Speakers on the panel include:**

**David Krieger**, NAPF President  
**Kimiaki Kawai**, SGI Program Director, Peace Affairs  
**Alice Slater**, NAPF New York Director  
**Jean-Marie Matagne**, ACDN  
**Mayra Castro**, BANG

## Side event report: Strategy of the nuclear weapons abolition movement

*Benedetta Cavagna di Gualdana | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

This seminar, featuring Arielle Denis of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), Alyn Ware, global coordinator for Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), and Yayoi Tsuchida of the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo), was organized by the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility (INES), and the International Peace Bureau (IPB).

Arielle Denis explained two upcoming targets of ICAN: making the follow-up conference in Mexico a success and getting negotiations of a treaty banning nuclear weapons started, even if the nuclear weapons states do not join. She argued that this can be achieved if a large number of countries participate in the Mexico conference. Ms. Denis argued that to make this possible, public opinion needs to be changed: people need to know the damage that a detonation of a nuclear weapon causes to human beings and the environment. She believed that if organizations from a large group of states mobilize against nuclear weapons, they can pressure many countries to change existing policies.

Alyn Ware analysed the different ways civil society can push a country to abolish nuclear weapons, such as

implementing laws and codifying the application of the principle of extraterritoriality in the context of nuclear weapons. He believed that it is important to show the consequences of the use and the tests of nuclear weapons on people, not only Japan but also to people from other nationalities where nuclear weapons were tested. Moreover, he argued that it is helpful to encourage states to use other sources of energy than nuclear because of the risk associated with dual use. He also suggested that the International Criminal Court could add a ban on nuclear weapons to its statute.

Yayoi Tsuchida spoke about the situation in Japan, where she said not enough people know the consequences of a nuclear weapons detonation. Her organization, Gensuikyo, is showing an exhibition to showcase photos that describe the effects that nuclear weapons have on human beings and on the environment. Since its beginning, this exhibition has been shown in 50% of the Japanese municipalities. Moreover, Gensuikyo is trying to create a public campaign through a peace march and a petition campaign. So far, 2.7 million signatures have been collected in support for the abolition.

After the presentations, the audience asked many questions about how, for example, youth can be involved in nuclear disarmament and if it is possible to change the idea of the deterrence myth. •

## Moral and Ethical Imperative for Nuclear Disarmament

Thursday, 25 April 2013, 1:15-2:45 pm  
Room XVI (5<sup>th</sup> floor, NGO room, above the main lobby of NPT conference hall)

### ***Bringing Ethical Dimensions into Nuclear Disarmament***

An examination of moral and ethical question rarely featured in the official meetings of the NPT.

### ***Recognizing the Unacceptable and Turning Away: A Behavioural Analogy for Abandoning Nuclear Weapons***

In seven decades of nuclear history, no nuclear weapons possessor that has developed and deployed its own nuclear weapons has been able to abandon them. This raises acute moral and ethical issues.

#### **Facilitator:**

*Susi Snyder*, programme manager, nuclear disarmament, IKV Pax Christi, Netherlands

#### **Panelists:**

*Monsignor Silvano Tomasi*, apostolic nuncio and permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations in Geneva

*Jonathan Frerichs*, programme executive, peace-building and disarmament, World Council of Churches, Geneva



**News in Brief**

*Mia Gandenberg, Gabriella Irsten, and Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The following is not a comprehensive summary of all statements and positions but rather a snapshot of a few key highlights from the general debate and cluster one discussion on Wednesday, 24 April 2013.

**Disarmament**

- OPANAL, NAC, NAM, Austria, Egypt, Ghana, Iraq, Mexico, Morocco, and others criticized the slow progress on nuclear disarmament.
- South Africa on behalf of 77 states called for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.
- OPANAL said multilateral negotiations on nuclear disarmament would reduce asymmetry in implementation of the NPT and reduce risk of fracturing NPT architecture.
- Egypt reiterated NAM's call for nuclear disarmament by 2025.
- Namibia called for destruction of all nuclear weapons, including those that are "old and abandoned".
- De-alerting group highlighted steps taken as evidence that progress is possible but emphasized that more needs to be done.
- Poland called for non-strategic nuclear weapons to be included in post-New START negotiations.
- NAC, NPDI, Algeria, Austria, and Mexico called for removal of nuclear weapons from security doctrines.
- OPANAL and Austria welcomed the OWEG
- OPANAL, Austria, and Morocco welcomed the HLM.
- France and UK promoted the step-by-step approach to disarmament, with France saying it is the "only" way forward and UK saying it is the "most realistic".
- France said nuclear disarmament "is only meaningful if it does not lead to an arms race in other areas."
- France said "other recent initiatives" are undermining the NPT action plan.
- UK said it is working with Brazil this year on a disarmament-focused dialogue.

**Modernization**

- Egypt agreed with RCW that NWS policies and programmes are "still assuring destruction forever".
- Mexico also questioned the resources going to modernization programme.

- NAC said modernization and development of new types of nuclear weapons, as well as the vast resources allocated for this purpose, run counter to disarmament commitments.

**Humanitarian consequences**

- South African on behalf of 77 states, OPANAL, ICRC, Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Egypt, Ghana, Kuwait, Mexico, and others welcomed the debate on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and/or the meetings in Oslo and Mexico.
- South African on behalf of 77 states argued humanitarian consequences have been ignored in the discourse on nuclear weapons and that it is the interest of the survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances.
- ICRC said the 2015 RevCon is a unique opportunity to seize this issue and prevent human suffering and highlighted that elimination of nuclear weapons is the only way forward.
- Egypt argued that while the NWS say they are aware of the consequences of nuclear weapons they have not taken sufficient measures for disarmament.

**International humanitarian law (IHL)**

- NAM reiterated the use or threat of use would be in violation with international humanitarian law.
- France argued that since its nuclear arsenal is only for "self-defence," it is not a violation of IHL as this is in accordance with the UN Charter.

**Middle East WMD free zone (MEWMDFZ)**

- OPANAL, Algeria, Argentina, Ghana, Kuwait, Morocco, and others lamented that the conference on the MEWMDFZ has not yet been held.

**Nuclear weapon free zones (NWFZ)**

- OPANAL hoped the NWFZ conference scheduled for 2015 will take concrete measures for cooperation and coordination between and among zones.
- France reported on signing the Bangkok Treaty and the start of dialogue with the members of the Semipalatinsk treaty.

**Nuclear energy**

- Austria said nuclear energy is not sustainable, safe, nor a viable avenue to combat climate change and has therefore renounced nuclear power in its national energy mix.





- Ghana announced its intention to construct and operate a nuclear power reactor and said it has ratified all nuclear safety and security protocols.
- Austria, Kuwait, and Morocco emphasized the importance of nuclear safety and security. Austria and Algeria emphasized the crucial role of the IAEA in this regard.

## Civil society

- OPANAL reaffirmed that it will continue to implement its peace, disarmament, and non-proliferation education programmes in conjunction with governments and civil society.
- NPDI highlighted importance of educating younger generations of the tragic consequences of the use of nuclear weapons.
- South Africa on behalf of 77 states underlined that civil society has a crucial role to play in raising awareness on the issue of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences.

## Civil society presentations

### Disarmament

- Ward Wilson called on states to rethink of role nuclear weapons and addressed popular myths about nuclear weapons, such as their “deterrent value”.
- Tim Wright of ICAN called for the end to the practice of nuclear sharing and called on NWS as well as NNWS to step up to the plate.
- Dr. Robert Mtonga of IPPNW prescribed total and complete nuclear disarmament for the prevention of the use of these weapons. He urged investors to divest their money from NW to peaceful endeavours.
- Beatrice Fihn of RCW/WILPF reminded states that merely increasing transparency is not a disarmament measure and underscored that real, tangible, and immediate efforts are needed for nuclear disarmament.
- Cesar Jaramillo of Project Ploughshares asserted that it is unacceptable for any state to possess nuclear weapons and that after more than 40 years since the entry into force of the NPT not much progress on

nuclear disarmament has been made.

- Ray Acheson of RCW/WILPF reiterated the call from civil society to immediately outlaw and eliminate nuclear weapons.
- Mayor Matsui Kazumi of Hiroshima supported the early commencement to negotiations on a NWC.

### Humanitarian Consequences

- The NGO panel reiterated the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and highlighted the effects on health, the environment, and the economy.
- Hibakusha Fujimori Toshiki shared his memories of the attack on Hiroshima and the devastating effects on his own life and that of his family. He reiterated that it was intolerable even to think of that hell on earth being recreated.
- The Youth Delegation urged all states join the important discussion about the humanitarian conferences at the follow-up conference in Mexico.
- Mayor Tomihisa Taue of Nagasaki welcomed that nuclear weapons have finally been recognized as inhumane and the increased attention the survivors of the attack in 1945 receive in this context.

## The Iranian Nuclear Crisis and Steps Toward a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons And all Other Weapons-Of-Mass-Destruction

A panel organized by the Program on Science and Global Security  
Princeton University

**Thursday 25 April, 15:00 – 17:00 PM**  
**Room XVI, Palais des Nations**

### Speakers

Background, current status and prospects for conference on MENWFFZ:

**Amb. Hannu Kyröläinen** (Deputy to the Facilitator on the conference on establishment of a Middle East WMDFFZ, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland)

Prospects for Iran and P5+1 negotiations and implications for MENWFFZ:

**Amb. Seyed Hossein Mousavian** (former spokesman for Iran’s nuclear negotiators, now visiting research scholar, Princeton University, USA)

Confidence building and verification for a MENWFFZ:

**Professor Frank von Hippel** (Professor of Public and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, USA, and Co-chair, International Panel on Fissile Materials)





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Reaching Critical Will has published a new report on nuclear weapon modernization, *Still assuring destruction forever*.

Non-governmental researchers and analysts, leading and knowledgeable experts about nuclear weapons programmes and policies, provide information on the plans of China (Hui Zhang), France (Hans Kristensen), India (M.V. Ramana), Israel (Merav Datan), Pakistan (Zia Mian), Russia (Pavel Podvig), the United Kingdom (John Ainslie), and the United States (Andrew Lichterman).

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

When	What	Where	Who
7:45	Interfaith prayer vigil	Pregny Gate	Christian CND
8:00-8:50	Abolition 2000	Room XVI	Abolition 2000
9:00-9:50	Government briefing for civil society: Netherlands	Room XVI	Reaching Critical Will
10:00-13:00	Plenary: Cluster one	Assembly Hall	
10:00-13:00	Denuclearization and Framework for Peace of Northeast Asia	Room XVI	Peace Depot
13:15-14:45	Moral and Ethical Imperative for Nuclear Abolition	Room XVI	IKV Pax Christi
13:15-14:45	UK-Norway Initiative	Assembly Hall	UK Ministry of Defence and Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs
15:00-18:00	Plenary: Cluster one specific issue: Nuclear disarmament and NSAs	Assembly Hall	
15:30-17:30	The Iranian nuclear crisis and steps toward a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other WMD	Room XVI	Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University
16:30	Ten steps towards a WMD free zone in the Middle East	UNOG Library Events Room (B-135)	<i>RSVP to libraryevents@unog.ch</i>
18:00-19:00	Preparing for simulated negotiations of a nuclear-weapons convention	Room XVI	Regina Hagen
18:30	Vers l'interdiction des armes nucléaires? Conférence publique avec témoignage de survivants d'Hiroshima	Uni Mail (Boulevard du Pont-d'Arve 40, Salle MR280)	Ban All Nukes generation (Event in French)