



NPT News in Review

*Civil society perspectives on the third Preparatory Committee
for the 2010 nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference
4–15 May 2009*



Competing visions of disarmament

Michael Spies and Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The NPT PrepCom heard many different—but not necessarily exclusive—takes on how to proceed with disarmament as it proceeded through its Cluster One discussion on 6 May. Cluster One focuses on implementation of the provisions of the Treaty relating to non-proliferation, disarmament and international peace and security.

All five nuclear weapon states delivered statements to this cluster, giving sometimes divergent takes on the requirements of achieving nuclear disarmament, each from their own unique perspective.

The US delegation reflected mainly on US policy changes stemming from President Obama's 5 April speech in Prague, rather than discussing possible future steps in the NPT context. The lack of future oriented discussion likely reflects the ongoing nature of the new administration's policy reviews, the most important of which will be the upcoming Nuclear Posture Review.

The US statement offered some refreshing breaks from the recent past. Notably, the United States recognized its special responsibility as nuclear weapon state to lead disarmament efforts, though it still stuck to the formulation that non-nuclear weapon states must do more to help make disarmament possible by creating "necessary" conditions. The statement also cast the ongoing post-START negotiations with Russia as the first part of a step-by-step process leading to disarmament, rather than an indefinite end point.

France and the UK each recalled their respective recent proposals for achieving disarmament. Both proposals call for further US/Russian strategic arms reductions and do not immediately involve processes that would bind or constrain their own nuclear arsenals, with the exception of pursuing steps already agreed to (i.e. CTBT, FMCT, etc). Whereas the French proposal deals with broader multi-lateral arms control issues—particularly the issue of missiles—the UK approach places emphasis on dealing with proliferation, linking pursuit of disarmament to dealing with proliferation concerns.

Russia and, to a lesser though increasing extent, China focused on pursuing disarmament measures that would also incidentally improve possible perceived security imbalances with the United States. Russia specifically called for steps to create a stable strategic security environment suitable for disarmament, outlining its familiar initiatives. These include preventing a build up of conventional capabilities to offset nuclear reductions and ceasing development of space weapons and missile defenses, both priorities for China as well.

For its part, China generally stuck to its traditional positions, calling for non-first use commitments, binding security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states, de-targeting, and withdrawing nuclear weapons to national territories. China also called for an end to nuclear sharing and nuclear umbrella arrangements.

In addition, the US, UK, and French delegations delivered reports on their nuclear disarmament efforts, giving general overviews of their reductions of warheads and fissile materials. These informal reports followed from the past practice of these delegations, which opt not to provide more formal reports to the PrepComs as many delegations would like, especially following from step 12 of the 13 practical steps.

Agenda adopted for 2010

Of critical importance, the quickest adoption of an agenda in recent NPT history occurred in the morning. After intense consultations, the PrepCom adopted a draft provisional agenda for the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

The agenda is the same as the one used at the 2000 Review Conference, with a minor technical update: in paragraph 16, the phrase "and the final document of the 2000 Review Conference" has been added. The text of the agenda is available at www.reachingcriticalwill.org. The PrepCom also moved quickly though other procedural matters related to the 2010 RevCon.

**7 May 2009
No. 4**

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

See www.reachingcriticalwill.org for information, statements, papers, reports, archived *News in Reviews*, and more from the NPT.

New Prospects for Nuclear Abolition

Susi Snyder | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation brought together experts and leaders from across the globe to look at New Prospects for Nuclear Abolition. Mayor Tadatashi Akiba (Hiroshima), Randy Rydell (UN Office of Disarmament Affairs), Dr. Tillman Ruff (Australia, International Campaign Against Nuclear weapons), Reiner Braun (Germany, INES/ IALANA), David Webb (UK, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament) and David Krieger (US, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation) all spoke in the panel moderated by Rick Wayman (US, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation).

Mayor Akiba presented an urgent and emotional appeal—we need to abolish nuclear weapons while the Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) are still alive. We must “usher ethics back into international politics” and to that end, Mayors for Peace is promoting the Hiroshima-Nagasaki protocol as a way to realize the 2020 Vision of a world free of nuclear weapons by the year 2020.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear weapons (ICAN) was founded to rearticulate the urgency of the need to abolish nuclear weapons. Dr. Ruff introduced another tool to support the arguments that nuclear weapon abolition is necessary, feasible, and urgent, the model Nuclear Weapons Convention, “how we’re on the way to fully abolish this class of weapon”. Dr. Ruff called on NGOs to contact the International Com-

mission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, and explain how they need to come up with a comprehensive plan for disarmament giving weight to the nuclear weapons convention approach.

David Krieger discussed the three pillars of the recent Obama speeches on nuclear weapon issues: controlling nuclear materials, strengthening the NPT, and moving towards a world free of nuclear weapons. At the same time, there is no condemnation of nuclear energy and the proliferation risks inherent in that. He asked, how can we sufficiently control nuclear energy so that the world will feel safe to go to zero nuclear weapons? Is the Article IV promise contrary to the goal of getting to zero?

David Webb spoke about recent changes in the UK. One of the most positive movements has been an Early Day Motion that was put into the House of Commons and signed off on by more than 200 Members of Parliament to raise significant questions on disarmament issues, one of the many Early Day Motions that are promoted by CND. In addition, a positive sign in the UK has been the conversion of some parts of the Aldermaston facility towards disarmament and verification work.

Reiner Braun reminded everyone that twenty years ago the Berlin Wall fell. There was a huge hope of more democracy and more freedom in the world, there was hope for a peace dividend. Though those hopes have yet to manifest, there are some significant and positive movements in Germany, including recent statement by elder statesmen and the Foreign Minister calling for the removal of nuclear weapons from German soil.

Randy Rydell noted that there are signs of hope on many levels about what to do, but there is very little discussion about how to do it. If there is a need for more UN involvement, what is needed? Many member states have referred to the institutional deficit in the UN and the need to improve the infrastructure for disarmament. The absence of these features is disappointing. We have yet to see the ideas, concepts, and norms translated to institutional structures—and their accompanying laws, regulations, and policies.

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Reaching Critical Will

A project of the Women's International 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 project.



Response to President Obama's Prague Speech: Bridging the Vision and the Corridors of Power

Judge C G Weeramantry | International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

A world free of nuclear weapons has been the dream of all humanity ever since those dreaded weapons first made their appearance on the global scene. However, there has always been a seemingly unbridgeable gulf between such dreams and aspirations and the thought processes that operate in the corridors of power. There they are dismissed as visionary and idealistic, for the world of realpolitik operates on power and not ideals.

The speech of President Obama in Prague on April 5th 2009 has built a significant bridge between the world of aspiration and the world of power. Here, from the world's most exalted seat of power, has come a call for an end to this menace which threatens the future of humanity, imperils all civilization and jettisons the values painfully built up over millennia of thought and sacrifice.

The message that leaps forth from the heart of humanity for the abolition of these weapons has never struck an answering chord from the wielders of nuclear power. The conviction with which President Obama emphasizes America's commitment to a world without nuclear weapons sends rays of hope radiating through the entire world community.

For more than sixty years since Hiroshima and Nagasaki the world has been appalled by the unprecedented power of nuclear weapons to produce human suffering on a scale never visualized before. Attila and Genghis Khan pale into insignificance as perpetrators of cruelty when compared to the bomb. Yet this weapon which violates every canon of humane conduct and humanitarian law has continued to be protected by those who have it and to be sought after by those who do not, while the voice of protest passes muted and unheard.

The easier accessibility of the necessary knowledge to put together a crude nuclear weapon grows by the day, and far from humanity being able to remove from its horizons this threat to its very existence, the world permits the danger from this source to keep growing day by day, month by month and year by year. Now more than ever before, there is an imperative need for humanity to jettison this danger to its very survival and the survival of all that it holds dear. As the President so rightly observes, the risk of a nuclear attack

has increased. Indeed it has increased to the point where we need urgent action to eliminate it in the next few years rather than the next few decades.

Possessors of the nuclear weapon have propagated the myth that the possession of the nuclear weapon has kept us free from nuclear war for over sixty years, when on the contrary it has brought us near to total destruction time and again. The erection of the Berlin wall 1948, the Suez crisis 1956, and the Cuban missile crisis 1962 are but a few of a series of occasions when good fortune rather than good judgment saved humanity from catastrophe. As President Obama has so rightly observed, "generations have lived with the knowledge that their world could be erased in a single flash of light".

These are reasons why President Obama's speech needs to be greeted world wide with hope, support and admiration. Affirmative steps are urgently required from the power centres of this world if the desired result is to be achieved. The US call is a great expression of world leadership in one of the most important calls to action we have witnessed in recent times.

When the 20th century dawned there was a universal hope that the mistakes of the previous century of war would be left behind and that a brand new century of peace could be planned. That hope was bungled and humanity made a sorry mess of the 20th century which became the bloodiest century on record.

With the dawn of the 21st century there was likewise a universal yearning for a century of peace. We have however entered it on a note of war and if we do not correct our course, we will have no 22nd century to put our house in order. If the 20th century was our century of lost opportunity the 21st is our century of last opportunity, because no other century has commenced with humanity having the power to destroy itself and all its achievements over the centuries.

It is in the next few years that we need to put our affairs in order on the nuclear front, because as President Obama has observed the risk of nuclear attack has gone up. Indeed the nuclear danger grows from day to day. A number of different causes induce this urgency. Among these are;



Bridging the Vision (cont.)

- the growth in the number of nuclear powers
- the growth in the number of states seeking nuclear power
- the increase in the power and spread of terrorist groups
- the proliferation of the necessary knowledge to make a nuclear weapon
- the easy availability of materials necessary to put together a nuclear weapons with tens of thousands of tons of uranium being discharged from hundreds of nuclear reactors across the world
- the lack of a comprehensive record even by the International Atomic Energy Agency, of such material and the trafficking in such material
- the ever present possibility of nuclear accidents with tens of thousands of nuclear weapons in storage and many of them in readiness for use
- the launch on warning capability of several countries, with hair trigger devices set to detect incoming objects and respond to them within minutes, if not seconds
- the increase in the number of mini-wars raging throughout the world which could attract the intervention of more powerful participants
- the increasing disregard for international law in the world community
- the increasing number of flashpoints of international tensions
- the continuing disregard of international law and international obligations by the nuclear powers
- continued research on and improvement of nuclear weapons
- the difficulty of maintaining nuclear stockpiles, inventorising them, storing them and policing them
- the increasing number of suicide bombers now available for carrying out desperate projects

The International Court of Justice unanimously pronounced in 1996 that there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control. There can be no weightier pronouncement on international law than a unanimous decision of the International Court of Justice. Any nuclear power that disregards this decision is a violator of international law. President Obama's call for action is an im-

portant step towards upholding the integrity of international law.

For all these reasons President Obama's statement is a landmark event on the international scene. It gives hope where earlier there was total resignation to the inevitability of a world dominated by nuclear weapons. It shows that the human spirit can rise triumphant against seemingly insuperable obstacles. It shows that we still enjoy the possibility of visionary and humanitarian world leadership.

As President Obama has observed the United States as the only power to have used the nuclear weapon "has a moral responsibility to act. We cannot succeed in this endeavour alone, but we can lead it, we can start it."

Here is a clarion call to action which cannot but induce hope and happiness in all who have lived so long under the shadow of the mushroom cloud. It sends a thrill of optimism into the hearts of those who have despaired at the insensitivity that prevails in high places on such cardinal issues on which the world has long waited for global leadership.

In short, the Prague speech was an outstanding statement by an outstanding leader on an issue of seminal importance to the human future. The least that can be done is for all people of goodwill across the world to give their whole hearted support to this magnificent new initiative to work towards a world which will live once more without the nuclear weapon hanging like the sword of Damocles over the human habitat, human civilization, human values and humanity itself.

Judge Weeramantry is former Vice President of the International Court of Justice, President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, and winner of the UNESCO Peace Education Prize.



How to develop the mobilization of public opinion for nuclear disarmament

Nicole Philipps | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Hosted by Le Mouvement de la Paix and chaired by Pierre Villard of Le Mouvement (France) and John Loretz of IPPNW (USA), this event featured many speakers from around the globe: Annie Frison Mouvement de la Paix-ICAN (France), Rick Wayman of Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (USA), Dave Webb of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK), Reiner Braun of IALANA (Germany), Dimity Hawkins of ICAN (Australia), Lisa Clark of Beati i costruttori di pace (Italy), and Hiroshi Taka of Gensuikyō (Japan).

Each speaker shared with the room their governments' positions on the issue of nuclear disarmament. This allowed the attendees to note the similarities and differences they may have encountered while also pursuing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation in their own countries. It became apparent that there are many great creative anti-nuclear campaigns occurring all around the world; however it also became evident that there are many political obstacles preventing the abolition of nuclear weapons in each country.

The second item on the agenda focused on a more uplifting matter: what steps are being taken, or can be taken, to achieve nuclear disarmament? Participants agreed that in order to lobby governments to support the Nuclear Weapons Convention, we need to first mobilize individuals, collectivize different campaigns, educate the public on these issues, and engage youth in nuclear disarmament. Although the speakers and audience represented different groups and campaigns, with different histories and practices, the room agreed that we need to unite to develop some sort of collective action or campaign to work for our common goal.

The event concluded with an open discussion. Obama's Prague speech has opened new doors, changed the current atmosphere surrounding the issue of nuclear disarmament, and given us new chances. But according to Reiner Braun, "nuclear weapons will not be abolished by one speech," and we cannot wait for nuclear weapons to be abolished after Obama's lifetime. Hopefully those present at yesterday's workshop will unite to develop concrete actions and/or campaigns which will lead us to our common goal: the abolition of nuclear weapons.

World March for Peace and Nonviolence

Lacy Orme | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Hosted by the Permanent Mission of Chile and World without Wars, the lunch-time session featured opening remarks by Ambassador Alfredo Labbe of Chile, World without Wars spokesperson Chris Wells, and an informative briefing with Mundo Sin Guerras (World without Wars) founder, Rafael de la Rubia. Mr. de la Rubia was the creator and spokesperson for the World March for Peace and Non-Violence, which will begin on 2 October 2009, the International Day of Non-Violence, and stretch across the globe before concluding in Argentina on 2 January 2010. Mr. de la Rubia explained that the event was created as a response to the startling increase in violence around the world and in all sectors of life. "We are in a violent world and we have to find new paths, we [march] as people, as nations and for the whole of humanity. The World March is trying to find new responses, going beyond what we now have as the concept of peace and [redefining] it, we must go deeper," he said. He added, "governments will only act if there is popular pressure, social pressure, global pressure."

The march, which has been endorsed by numerous governments, Nobel laureates, and celebrities, is the most ambitious ever to be attempted. It will span all the continents—including Antarctica—and will cross through a variety of climates and seasons including the Siberian winter and the South American summer, as well as making a stop at the United Nations in December during its pass through New York. World without Wars and the World March invite all people from around the world to take part in their own ways and are seeking funding to make participation more economically attainable. As the March, which will feature a constant group of one hundred marchers, moves along, there will be events, discussions and symposiums about all forms of violence and disarmament. World without Wars has invited all organizations who wish to take part in the three-month long journey for peace to do so in their own way.

For more information about World without Wars and the World March for Peace and Non-Violence see their website: www.theworldmarch.org.



Article VI of the NPT: Legal issues and German perspectives

A panel discussion between IALANA and Dr. Kordasch, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs

AnnJanette Rosga | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), German Section, organized, hosted and moderated this panel discussion with Dr. Kordasch, a representative from the Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation Division of the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs. IALANA spokesperson Alice Reich opened the panel with a review of the historic 1996 International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruling on the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the legality of nuclear weapons. She noted that the ICJ's ruling obliges NPT-ratifying states to negotiate in good faith toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. However, Reich qualified, the Court stopped short of definitively concluding that the use of (or threat to use) nuclear weapons is in all cases a violation of international law. It allows for the possibility that such use or threat may be legal in an extreme case of self-defense.

Reich's presentation was followed by another from the IALANA's German Section. Robin Bor-

rmann delivered the official IALANA organizational rebuttal to the ICJ's ruling, to wit: the use of nuclear weapons, or the threat thereof, will always be incompatible with International Humanitarian Law. Borrmann also discussed the model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) that has been endorsed by IALANA and other organizations as an alternative to the "fragmented approach" embodied in the NPT.

Next, IALANA-Germany's panel convener, Imke Kügele, introduced Dr. Kordasch with a series of questions about the German Government's positions on matters pertaining to the NPT and the forthcoming 2010 Review Conference. Dr. Kordasch's organized his remarks to include replies to these questions. In brief, he affirmed the German Government's agreement that there exists an obligation to negotiate in good faith toward disarmament and its commitment to seeing Article 6 of the NPT fulfilled. He noted disagreement with

continued on next page

i can imagine a world
without nuclear weapons.
Can you?

**Talk to the International Campaign to Abolish
Nuclear Weapons at the NPT PrepCom.**

Thursday 7 May, 10am-1pm

The NPT and the Nuclear Weapons Convention
NGO Room (Conference Room E)

Sponsored by: IPPNW, ICAN, Abolition 2000, PNND, IALANA.



Article VI: Legal issues (cont.)

previous speakers only on the question of “how we get to that objective.”

Dr. Kordasch joined what has become a Prep-Com chorus of approval for US President Obama’s remarks in Prague, noting with others that they signal new hope for movement in US-Russian post-START negotiations with associated positive side effects for the NPT. He said the German Government supports the “Global Zero” objective as described by US leaders, and believes that a “step-by-step” approach beginning with a reduction in the former super-powers’ arsenals and the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is the most reliable way forward. He contrasted this with IALANA’s support for the NWC, which Dr. Kordasch argued is “not realistic to pursue” due to the fact that “no consensus exists” among the parties to the NPT.

Reaching Critical Will

The Blog

reachingcriticalwill.blogspot.com

Good Faith Disarmament: The Need for a Second Opinion from the World Court

*presenting a new legal memorandum on
return to the International Court of Justice
on the disarmament obligation*

Bonnie Docherty, International Human
Rights Clinic at Harvard Law School

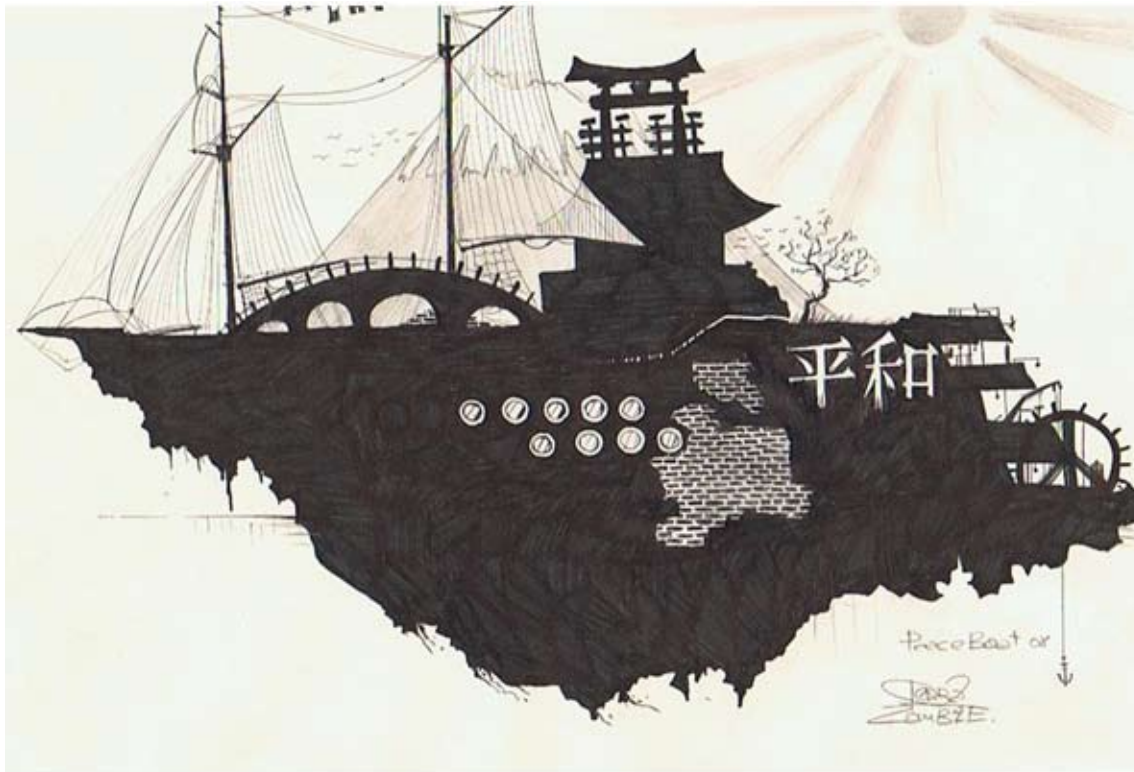
John Burroughs, International Association
of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA)

Peter Weiss, IALANA

Elizabeth Shafer, Lawyers’ Committee on
Nuclear Policy

**Thursday, May 7
3:00 to 4:30 PM
Conference Room E**

Art by Lora, winner of the Joseph Rotblat Peace of Art competition



What's On Today's Calendar of Events

Morning Vigil

(all faiths and none are welcome)

Where: Isaiah Wall, Ralph Bunche Park

When: 7:45 AM

Contact: Christian CND

Abolition 2000 Caucus

Where: Conference Room E

When: 8:00–8:50 AM

Government Briefing: Ambassador John Duncan of the United Kingdom

Where: Conference Room E

When: 9:00–9:50 AM

ICAN: The NPT and the NWC

Where: Conference Room E

When: 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Contact: John Loretz, IPPNW

Voices from Experience

Where: Conference Room 1

When: 1:15–2:45 PM

Contact: Rhianna Tyson, Global Security Institute; co-sponsored by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

Center on International Cooperation (CIC): CTBT developments

Where: Conference Room 8

When: 1:15–2:45 PM

Good Faith Disarmament: The Need for a Second Opinion from the World Court

Where: Conference Room E

When: 3:00–4:30 PM

Contact: John Burroughs, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms

Disarmament, Law, and Community: From the Local to the Global

Where: Conference Room E

When: 4:30–6:00 PM

Contact: John Burroughs, Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy

Reaching Critical Will 10th Anniversary Reception

Where: Church Center, 10th Floor

When: 6:00–8:00 PM

NWC Simulation - Preparations (closed workshop)

Where: Conference Room E

When: 6:15–7:15 PM

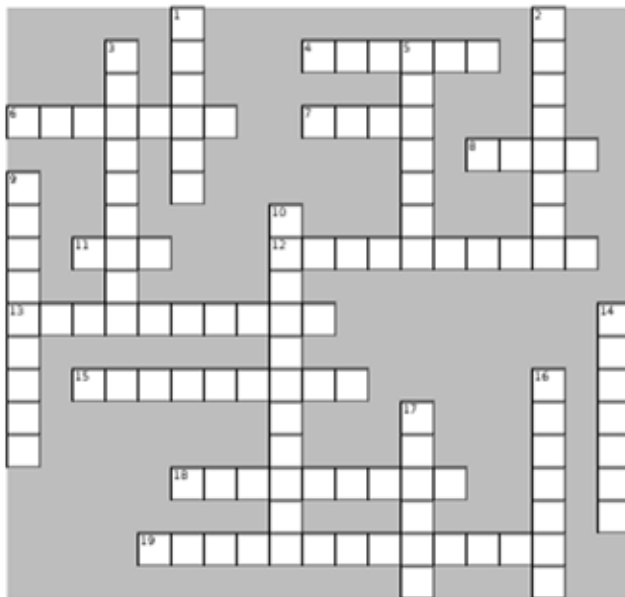
Contact: Regina Hagen, INESAP

Across

4. Aircraft carrying conventional or nuclear bombs for use against ground targets
6. Direct line between capitals (two words)
7. _____ agreement confirms the demilitarization of the moon and other celestial bodies
11. Article _____ states the NWS must negotiate in good faith effective measures to halt the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament
12. The CANWFZ will include all five Central Asian states: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and _____
13. All States parties required by Article III of the NPT to sign and bring into force comprehensive _____
15. The Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was established by the government of what country in 1995
18. Negotiations, arrangements, agreements, treaties, that affect two countries, parties, etc.
19. Undesired radioactive material that is deposited on the surface of or inside structures, areas, objects or people

Down

1. The 2007 NPT PrepCom was held in _____
2. Another term for "extended deterrence"
3. The time in which one half of the atoms of a particular radioactive substance will disintegrate
5. Treaty on the Southeast Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is also known as the Treaty of _____
9. "Big Boy" was dropped on _____
10. Agreement establishing the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) was signed in what city in 1991
14. Another name for the Partial Test Ban Treaty is the _____ Test Ban Treaty
16. A substance circulated through a nuclear reactor to remove or transfer heat
17. Acronym for intergovernmental agency created by the Treaty of Tlateloco to ensure the obligations of the Treaty are met



Progressive Initiatives

Emma Rosengren | IPPNW Sweden and Dimity Hawkins | ICAN Australia

This Global Security Initiative (GSI) event, co-sponsored by the Government of Austria, featured GSI Board Member and supermodel, author, and celebrity Christie Brinkley; Hon Gareth Evans of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND); Middle Powers Initiative Chair Henrik Salander; Hideo Hiraoka, Member of the Japanese Diet; and was chaired by Rhianna Tyson, Senior Officer at GSI.

Ms Brinkley spoke eloquently about the urgency of the work at this and other multilateral fora. Stressing that we can not afford to have our children inherit the legacy of nuclear weapons, she encouraged positive investments to enhance human security and reach the Millennium Development Goals rather than investing in military expenditure on nuclear weapons. She urged all to tear down the walls of nuclear apartheid and reminded delegates that we are all downwind of any mistake made with nuclear weapons these days. In her inspiring speech, Ms Brinkley suggested that cooperation amongst individuals, na-

tions, and nature is no longer an option but an absolute necessity. She stated that she wants to be able to tell her children that she met the people who would rid the world of the greatest threat we have known.

Mr Evans reiterated the work of the ICNND (reported on in NIR edition 3, May 6) and re-emphasised the importance of the work here, stating that it is critical if we are going to move forward to harness the collective energy and commitment at all levels of society.

Henrik Salander thanked the original drafting organisations, IPPNW, INESAP, and IALANA, for their comprehensive work on the model Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), noting that it is a logical instrument and a rational way forward. He stressed also the ongoing problems arising from a lack of a standing permanent secretariat for the NPT and also urged reform of the United Nations Security Council to redress the imbalance of the five nuclear powers maintaining a veto in

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Special Panel Event TODAY: "Voices of Experience"

May 7, 2009 :

co-sponsored by the United Nations Office for
Disarmament Affairs

Conference Room 1— 1:15-2:45 PM

Speakers:

High Representative **Sergio Duarte**

Former Under-Secretary General
Nobuyasu Abe

Former Under-Secretary General
Jayantha Dhanapala

UN Messenger of Peace **Michael Douglas**

Chaired by GSI President **Jonathan Granoff**



Sergio Duarte



Nobuyasu Abe



Michael Douglas



Jayantha Dhanapala

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News in Brief

Michael Spies | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

Preparation for the 2010 RevCon*The Agenda*

- The PrepCom adopted the provisional agenda for the 2010 RevCon, which is based on the agenda of the 2000 RevCon. The agenda has been updated to mandate a review of the final document of the 2000 RevCon, in addition to review of the Treaty and 1995 decisions and resolution.
- Some delegations hoped the agenda would mandate the RevCon to also take into account recent developments. The chair dropped this language from the draft agenda once it became clear it would not gain consensus, over the persistent objection of one delegation.

Endorsement of Officers and Bureau

- The PrepCom endorsed the ambassador of the Philippines as President of the 2010 RevCon.
- The PrepCom decided to follow the formula used in 2005 for selecting chairs for the main committees: MC.I will be selected by the non-aligned group; MC.II will be selected by the eastern European group; and MC.III will be selected by the western group.

Other Procedural Issues

- The PrepCom decided to postpone the 2010 RevCon by one week to 3–28 May 2010, due to refurbishment of the UN headquarters.
- The PrepCom adopted its rules of procedure for the 2010 RevCon, based on the rules of the 2005 RevCon.

Highlights from the Cluster 1 Debate*The Nuclear Weapon States on Disarmament*

- The United States recognized its own special responsibility as a nuclear weapon state to pursue nuclear disarmament and described the follow-on to START as the first part of a step-by-step bilateral process with Russia to work toward nuclear disarmament.
- The United Kingdom called for the RevCon to adopt a forward-looking roadmap on disarmament. The UK listed six key conditions, originally presented by Foreign Secretary Miliband in February, necessary to move the world toward disarmament. These included: entry into force of the CTBT; further US/Russian reductions; stopping proliferation in countries subject to UN Security Council resolutions; negotiation of an FMCT; dealing with nuclear fuel

cycle issues; and resolving technical, political, military, and institutional problems needed to achieve disarmament.

- France recalled the proposals made by President Sarkozy in March 2008 and invited states to help carry them forward.
- China called for the RevCon to pursue a number of steps including: reaffirming the unequivocal undertaking to pursue disarmament; further US/Russian strategic arms reductions; and a number of intermediate steps including, non-first use and security assurance commitments, ceasing development of new nuclear weapons, de-targeting, withdrawing nuclear weapons to national territories, ending nuclear sharing and nuclear umbrella arrangements, and banning space weaponization and national ballistic missile defence programmes.
- According to Russia, steps necessary to create a stable strategic environment suitable for disarmament include: not building up conventional forces to compensate for nuclear capabilities; ceasing development of space weapons; and ceasing development of national ballistic missile defenses.

Other States on Disarmament

- The EU called for states to help promote the eight “concrete and realistic disarmament initiatives”, which it had previously relaying the General Assembly at the initiative of France in December 2008.
- The NAM called for the drafting of further practical disarmament steps by a subsidiary body to main committee I of the RevCon and for the implementation of the 13 steps. Indonesia and Norway called on the RevCon to review implementation of the 13 steps.
- The EU, the NAM, and Russia reiterated their support for the principles of transparency, irreversibility, and verifiability to be applied to all arms reductions agreements.
- The New Agenda Coalition, in a new working paper, described elements of general principles related to moving disarmament forward.
- Australia called on the RevCon to provide a clear blueprint on achieving nuclear disarmament and to reaffirm nuclear disarmament as the ultimate goal.
- Switzerland described a number of areas where



disarmament could be advanced, including, inter alia, qualitative and quantitative US/Russia strategic arms reductions; other steps parallel to the 1995 and 2000 obligations; avoiding actions that undermine disarmament.

- Norway called on the RevCon to adopt disarmament measures that included steps to be taken beyond 2015.

Operational Readiness of Nuclear Weapons

- Chile, on behalf of sponsors of the UNGA resolution on the operational readiness of nuclear weapons, said that they will continue to promote resolutions in the UNGA calling for nuclear weapon states to remove their weapons from high alert status.
- Chile and New Zealand argued against justifications for maintain nuclear weapons on alert that cite strategic stability. In this context, Chile argued that now is the time to put aside Cold War attitudes, citing a statement made by US President Obama as a candidate.
- Chile, New Zealand, and Switzerland called on the United States and Russia to include dealtering steps in all future arms reductions agreements.

Security Assurances

- The EU continued to express support only for further discussions of assurances.
- The United Kingdom reaffirmed the assurances granted in UN Security Council resolution 984 (1995) and reaffirmed its view that the best way to conclude new assurances is through protocols to NWFZ treaties. Malaysia, however, described existing security assurances as inadequate.

Missiles

- The EU reiterated its proposal for negotiation of a treaty banning short- and intermediate-range, ground-to-ground missiles and for universalization of the Hague Code of Conduct.
- Russia reiterated its call for the globalization of the INF Treaty.

Nuclear Weapon State Reporting

- The United States, United Kingdom, and France provided reports on their nuclear disarmament efforts in their cluster 1 statements, in keeping with past practices.
- Australia called on the nuclear weapon states to report to the RevCon on their implementation of the 13 steps, though it acknowledged that some have been overtaken by events.
- New Zealand support strengthening the re-

porting mechanism as a realistic goal for the present review cycle.

Highlights from the General Debate

Balanced Implementation of the Treaty

- The UAE described steps for 2010 that it said could be the basis for consensus, including: the nuclear weapon states agreeing to a time-bound process for implementing the 13 steps; prohibiting the development of new nuclear weapons; more effective measures to demand non-party states join the Treaty; encouraging further establishment of regional and subregional NWFZ; and reaffirming the right to nuclear weapons.

Non-Proliferation

- The Arab League reiterated its position on nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, expressing opposition to the possession of nuclear weapons by any country. The League said the issue should be addressed through a regional approach rather than a selective and discriminatory state-by-state approach.

1995 resolution on the Middle East

- The Arab League said that implementation of the 1995 Middle East resolution was a non-negotiable, overriding priority and a cornerstone of security in the regional. The League mentioned it would be submitting proposals related to implementing the resolution in a working paper.

Progressive Initiatives (cont.)

the Security Council.

Hideo Hiraoka spoke of the vital role of parliamentarians in the struggle for nuclear disarmament and in particular for the promotion of nuclear weapon free zones where they are lacking as a way of preventing proliferation and creating new security guarantees, working towards a world free of nuclear weapons. He pointed towards a presentation coming later this week (Friday at 3:00 PM in Conference Room E) which will address a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. He also mentioned the Nuclear Weapons Convention as a positive model.

Questions and discussion ranged around outmoded NATO nuclear doctrine, the need to devalue nuclear weapons and create prestige around disarmament instead of nuclear possession, the question of tensions between India and Pakistan, and how civil society can contribute to disarmament objectives effectively.





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High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

Ambassador Sergio Duarte

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(Brief remarks starting at 6:15)

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