



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.

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

Discussions about consultations for convening a conference that could lead to a process ...

Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

“We cannot continue to attend meetings and agree on outcomes that do not get implemented, yet to be expected to abide by the concessions we gave for this outcome.” This is how Ambassador Badr of Egypt explained his government’s withdrawal from the remainder of the NPT Preparatory Committee. This protest against the failure to implement the 1995 resolution on the Middle East provided a dramatic end to the afternoon’s discussion on the subject.

In the months leading up to the PrepCom, threats of a boycott by the Arab states were circulated, but not executed. Most however, expressed their frustration with the situation throughout this PrepCom, but did not join Egypt in the walk-out.

On Monday afternoon, the facilitator of the WMD conference, Ambassador Jaakko Laajava of Finland, delivered a short report to the PrepCom. He noted that as “not all states” have taken a position regarding participation or arrangement of the conference, “it was not possible to convene a Conference in 2012 as planned.” Following the postponement of the conference, Ambassador Laajava proposed holding multilateral consultations on the topic as soon as possible and urged states to be constructive toward this end.

The Arab League questioned the lack of agenda and framework for these consultations. It said it was ready to participate in such consultations if it was held under UN auspices and with an “appropriate” agenda attached to the invitation. The US, on the other hand, stated that an “agenda simply cannot be dictated from outside the region—it must be consensual among the States who must live with the agenda”. The US delegation also argued that “pre-conditions on a dialogue serves only to delay its initiation, without changing its substance.”

The suggestion of holding a preparatory meeting for the conference is arguably a step backwards for holding the actual conference. The international community has resorted to having discussions about multilateral consultations that could lead to the convening of a conference that could discuss a process for the possible establishment of a WMD free zone in the Middle East. We are so far away from the real goal and with so many potential stumbling points ahead of us that it is difficult to keep focused.

Strong willingness to engage in constructive negotiations by states in the region and the co-sponsors remains essential for progress. Currently, there is a significant risk that all

states voice support for a WMD free zone while blaming others for standing in the way of its success. 18 years after the resolution was adopted, progress on the Middle East is necessary to prevent further undermining of the NPT regime. •



Cartoon by Martin Carr for Nuclear Information Service UK

Side event report: Looking toward 2015: options for strengthening the review process*Anina Dalbert | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

How can the accountability of the NPT be strengthened? How can we achieve a more sustainable and responsive process? How can we better ensure implementation? How can we increase and improve civil society participation? How can small countries with less resources and capacity be supported to participate actively? These are only a few of the many questions that the panelists at this side event raised.

Canada, as in previous years, organized a discussion on the reform of the institutional aspects of the NPT. Ambassador Elissa Goldberg chaired the event, and stressed that Canada in the future will continue to aim for strengthen the review process through reform, regardless of past obstacles.

Thomas Markram of the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) gave a comprehensive overview of past proposals and reforms as well as some ideas on how to proceed. He noted that 2000 was the last time a reform was conducted, and he categorized current proposals into two groups: procedural and institutional. He made suggestions on how to move forward, such as establishing subsidiary bodies in advance. He noted that establishing an NPT Implementation Support Unit (ISU) would only be useful if it does something different than UNODA. He noted that civil society participation is already clearly lacking compared to other multilateral processes.

Volodymyr Yelchenko from Ukraine, Antonieta Jaquez from Mexico, and Gerard Keown from Ireland provided thoughts on how to strengthen the NPT institutionally and to increase its accountability. Ms. Jaquez stressed the fact that during these times of financial crises it is particularly important to rethink how we are doing business. For instance, she noted that it's difficult to stress the importance of Preparatory Committees if such meetings don't actually prepare anything for the Review Conferences.

Ms. Jaquez further noted that times have changed and that civil society should be able to speak in plenary meetings. Mr. Keown suggested that the plenary could learn from civil society attempts to engage during this year's PrepCom. However, he noted that the lack of engagement from delegations raises questions as to whether states parties are ready for such reforms. He further argued that an ISU would definitely add value and could further support developing countries that might struggle from resource constraints. All three speakers broadly agreed that time has to be used more efficiently and that speaking time and the meeting as a whole could be shortened.

Additionally, the potential of new technology and perceived necessity to use hard copies of all documents were discussed. From the audience, the option to consider 'live streaming', as it is provided for many other UN conferences, was supported. Among other advantages, this could increase the participation and interest of states that are not currently present. In her wrap-up remarks, Ambassador Goldberg expressed hope that these perspectives on the issues discussed would not only be drawn upon by Canada but also by other delegations as they work to strengthen the NPT in the future. •


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Reaching Critical Will
 A programme 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 programme.

Banning killer robots

Thomas Nash | Article 36

As ICAN campaigners gathered at the NPT PrepCom last week, fellow campaigners were launching the latest disarmament campaign in London, to ban killer robots. Anyone who has seen the Terminator films can see an important link with nuclear disarmament here. Picture SkyNet's machines in control of nuclear weapons that have ravaged the post-apocalyptic landscape of John Connor's resistance.

The problem is that the Terminator films lead us to an unacceptably fanciful picture of robot warfare. The Campaign to Stop Killer Robots is calling for an international treaty to prohibit fully autonomous weapons before they proliferate. These are weapons that, after deployment, would be capable of selecting (finding) and engaging (killing) targets (people) without further human intervention.

Yesterday the Human Rights Council posted a new report by UN Special Rapporteur Christof Heyns that considers lethal autonomous robots. The recommendations are for states to put in place moratoria and convene a high level group on these weapons.

States might find themselves divided over certain aspects of the NPT PrepCom, but it is to be hoped that states will all agree that it is unacceptable to give machines the power to decide who should live and die on the battlefield. States should give this message unequivocally as they welcome the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur at the next session of the Human Rights Council commencing on 27 May.

Side event report: Engaging legislators

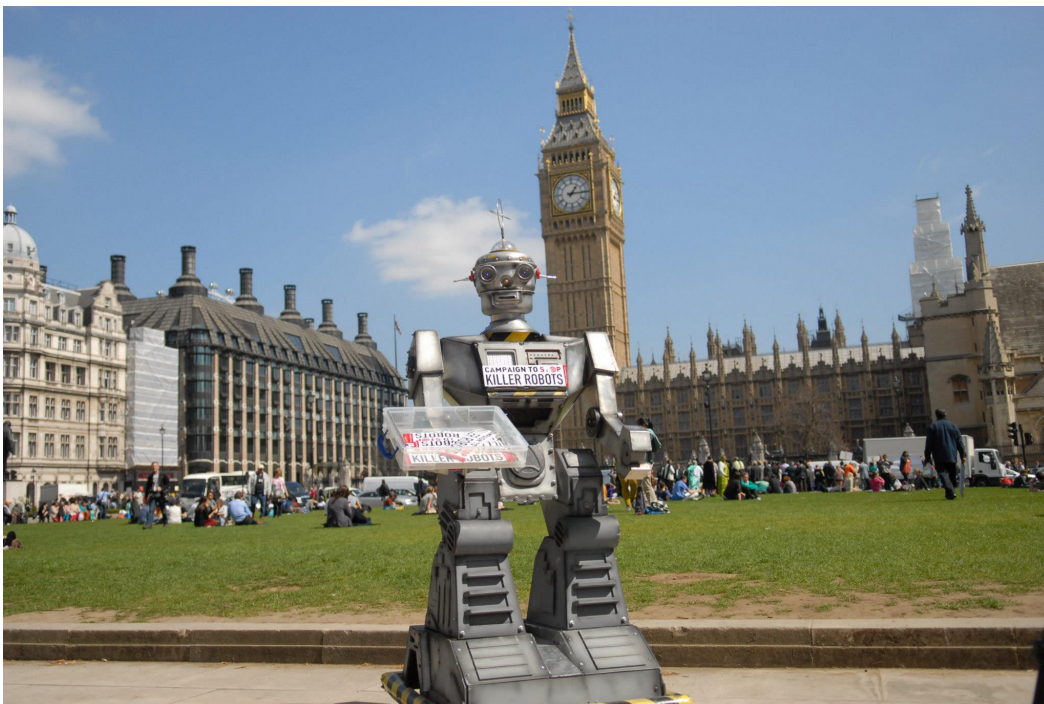
Gabriella Irsten | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

The side event Engaging Legislators in Building the Framework for a Nuclear Weapons Free World sponsored by the Parliamentarians for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) introduced the work done by PNND and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Ms. Anna Philippe from the IPU presented the handbook "Supporting Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament," which is a tool for parliaments and parliamentarians to advance national and international work on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation.

Alyn Ware from PNND outlined the role that parliamentarians can play in pushing for nuclear disarmament.

Jean-Marie Collin, coordinating PNND France, briefed the audience on the latest developments regarding nuclear disarmament in France. He explained that there has up until now been an almost complete lack of debate in France regarding the French nuclear arsenal, both on a public level but also between active actors such as parliamentarians, NGOs, and the military. The change in government in 2012 has had minimum impact on the government's view of its nuclear arsenal, although the new government at least acknowledged that there is opposition in France to possession of nuclear weapons. •



From the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots

News in Brief*Mia Gandenberger, Gabriella Irsten, and Beatrice Fihn | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF***Cluster two**

- Iran stated that horizontal proliferation through export of nuclear technology and weapons-grade materials to non-NPT states have contributed to the development of new NWS.
- Austria highlighted WP.21 by the EU and its suggestions for implementation of action 23 to 46.
- Austria also reported that they have submitted an implementation report for the meeting, found in document PC.II/I.
- Egypt pointed out that vertical proliferation, such as nuclear sharing, and deployment of NW on NNWS territories have been recorded.
- Egypt called for NNWS that are parties of military alliances to show leadership and demand the removal of the tactical nuclear weapons from its territories.
- Nigeria also highlighted that the outcome of the 2010 review conference recognised the right for states to have peaceful use of nuclear energy.
- Chile stated that the obligations under article III should conclude in that nuclear material will not go towards proliferation.
- South Africa was disappointed that there is still no verification arrangements for US-Russian Plutonium Management & Disposition Agreement.

Cluster two specific issue**Walk-out**

- Egypt announced that it would not participate in the remainder of the PrepCom, because of lack of progress on the Middle East issue.
- Egypt remained very concerned about the ramifications of the non-fulfilment of commitments on the credibility and sustainability of the NPT regime and reiterated it could not wait forever for the 1995 resolution to be implemented.

Middle East WMDfZ conference

- EU, China, Egypt, France, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, NAM, Philippines, South Africa, Switzerland, UK, and US reaffirmed the significance of the establishment of a WMDfZ in the ME.
- Japan called on states of the region to accede to the respective WMD-related instruments.
- China reminded states that since 1974 successive sessions of the UNGA have adopted resolutions on

the establishment of such a region.

- Morocco underlined that the conference was not an end itself, but a means to the establishment of the MEWMDfZ.

Facilitator

- The facilitator reported on the steps taken since the 2012 PrepCom. Since his appointment he has held around 300 discussions with states of the region, the conveners, and other stakeholders in the region. The report was welcomed by all states.
- The facilitator will intensify his efforts with the partners concerned.
- Canada, the co-conveners, the EU, France, Ireland, Japan, the League of Arab States, Lebanon, NAM, Peru, Switzerland, and Turkey expressed support for the facilitator and appreciation for his efforts.
- NAM requested the facilitator to report to the 2015 RevCon and its PrepComs.

Consultations

- While the preparatory consultations suggested did not yet materialize, the facilitator called on states to remain flexible and open to fresh ideas.
- The UK believed that preparatory consultations could play an important contribution on agreeing conference modalities, on the basis of consensus.
- Russia pointed out that these consultations did not substitute the idea of convening the conference and such consultations could not last forever.
- The League of Arab States welcomed the idea of consultations and would participate if there will be a framework as well as a clear agenda and the meetings would be co-chaired by the facilitator and the UN under the umbrella of the UN.
- The US believed that imposing pre-conditions on a dialogue would only serve to delay its initiation.

Date of the conference and other modalities

- NAM and Turkey urged the UNSG, US, UK and Russia to convene the conference without any further delay.
- EU, NAM, China, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, and Peru underlined that efforts should be focused on convening the conference at the earliest date in 2013.
- Russia suggested holding the conference in the second half of December 2013.



- The League of Arab States hoped the conference will be held no later than 2013.
- The facilitator concluded that the earliest possible convening of the conference remained the purpose of his efforts.

Responsibility of convening/postponing

- The UK underlined the impetus for the establishment of a MEWMDZFZ lay with the states of the region.
- The US asserted the responsibility to hold the conference did not fall solely on the conveners and the facilitator.
- Egypt and Russia reiterated that the conveners did not have the authority to postpone the conference in 2012.
- The League of Arab States and Lebanon thanked Russia for its responsible and transparent position.
- Ireland commended the seriousness and patience with which states have approached the task, in their engagement with the Facilitator, in their internal preparations and discussions, and in their involvement more widely, in international fora.
- Egypt called on NPT states, the UNSG, IAEA, and the NPT community at large to uphold international legitimacy.

Postponement and linkages

- Ireland, Lebanon, NAM, Peru, and Russia expressed concern and disappointment with the postponement of the conference in 2012.
- South Africa, Switzerland, and UK expressed regret about the failure to hold the conference in 2012.
- NAM feared further delay of the implementation could undermine the credibility of the NPT.
- The facilitator pointed out that time was not sufficient to convene the conference in 2012 and ensure the participation of all states of the region.
- Russia asserted that the continued uncertainty regarding the convening of the conference was contrary to the interest of strengthening the non-proliferation regime.
- The League of Arab States reiterated its surprise that the conference has been postponed..
- Lebanon asserted that the postponement of the conference had been a step backwards.

- Egypt criticized the announcement of the unilateral postponement of the conference to a non-specified future date without even consulting with the states of the region. It called the postponement a “flagrant non-fulfilment of agreed commitments”.

Results of failure

- NAM urged all states to shoulder the responsibility to further negative repercussions of not implementing the 1995 resolution and 2010 decision.
- NAM concluded that the failure to convene the conference in 2012 was “contrary to the letter and spirit of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and contradicts and violates the collective agreement of the States Parties contained in the Final Document of the 2010 NPT Review Conference.”
- The League of Arab States and Peru concluded that further postponement of the conference would constitute a clear violation of the commitments undertaken in 2010 and to a consensus document.
- Iraq feared that failure to hold the conference might affect the credibility of the NPT itself as well as its review process. •



NPT NEWS IN REVIEW



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation



Reaching Critical Will

Article36

Side event

Tuesday, 30 April • Room XI • 13:15–14:45

Unspeakable suffering: the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons

Sponsored by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

Co-sponsored by Reaching Critical Will and Article 36

Chair: Ambassador Benno Laggner, Switzerland

Speakers: Ms. Beatrice Fihn, Reaching Critical Will

Ms. Sara Sekkenes, United Nations Development Program

Mr. Thomas Nash, Article 36

A sandwich lunch will be provided.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

When	What	Where	Who
8:00-8:50	Abolition 2000	Room XVI	Abolition 2000
9:00-9:50	Government briefing for civil society: United Kingdom	Room XVI	Reaching Critical Will
10:00-13:00	Plenary: Cluster two specific issue (regional issues, including the Middle East)	Assembly Hall	
10:00-12:00	NGO discussion with Ambassador Laajava on the Conference on a WMD Free Zone in the Middle East	Room XVI	Geneva Centre for Security Policy
10:15-12:45	Simulating negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention	Room XI	Regina Hagen
13:15-14:45	Unspeakable suffering: humanitarian dimension of nuclear weapons	Room XI	Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Reaching Critical Will, and Article 36
13:15-14:45	A WMD Free Zone in the Middle East: Would an NGO mock conference expedite the convening of the Helsinki Conference?	Room XVI	Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs
15:00-18:00	Plenary: Cluster three	Assembly Hall	
15:00-18:00	Simulating negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention	Room XI	Regina Hagen