



NPT NEWS IN REVIEW

Civil society perspectives on the 2014 nuclear Non-Proliferation
Treaty Preparatory Committee 28 April–9 May 2014



Reaching Critical Will

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

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EDITORIAL: RETURNING TO A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD

Mia Gandenberger | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

While the NPT plenary meeting dealt with statements remaining from clusters two and three specific issues, the five NPT nuclear-armed states signed the protocols to the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (CANWFZ).

The zone entered into force after the states parties—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—ratified the treaty on 21 March 2009. By signing the protocols (with their own legal interpretations), the five nuclear-armed states promise to not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against states of the zone. Ambassador Kairat Abdrakmanov of Kazakhstan, speaking on behalf of the five states parties, expressed hope that the ratification process would be finalized before the 2015 Review Conference.

The signing of the protocols is in accordance with the implementation of the 2010 NPT Action Plans. As of Tuesday, the South-East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (SEANWFZ) remains the only existing NWFZ without protocols signed by the nuclear-armed states. While there have been various meetings and negotiations on the protocols between the states of the region and the nuclear-armed states, no final agreement has so far been reached.

During last week's Cluster 1 debate, France explained its readiness to sign the protocol "as soon as possible." However, the UK and US are still working towards resolving "outstanding differences".

States parties' patience is being tested with regard to the conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. Since the postponement of the conference in December 2012, states of the region have repeatedly expressed their frustration and called for the swift convening of the meeting. The co-conveners of the conference—Russia, United Kingdom,

United States, Russia, and the UN Secretary-General—have expressed their willingness to hold the meeting. However, "before the end of 2012" turned into "end of 2013" and now "end of 2014" if not "before the Review Conference in 2015." This not only constitutes a significant set back from the implementation of the 2010 outcome document, the 13 practical steps, and the 1995 resolution on the matter, but could potentially weaken the trust in the commitment on the actors involved as well as the NPT regime itself.

On the bright side, the conference of states parties and signatories of treaties that establish NWFZs in 2015 will be a great opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between the existing zones. It could also be a useful forum for discussing opportunities for strengthening the concept behind the zones. Currently, 115 states are members of NWFZ treaties, which amounts to approximately 60 percent of the UN member states and 39 percent of the world's population.

By joining NWFZs, states parties reaffirm their rejection of nuclear weapons as tools of national security. As a new Article 36 paper points out, all of the NWFZ treaties prohibit nuclear weapons using different language for prohibited acts. "An international treaty to prohibit nuclear weapons could learn from and build on the experiences and architecture set out in NWFZs," it explains. It could also universalize these essential norms to achieve, or as the delegation of Mexico likes to phrase it, return, to a nuclear weapon free world. •

ARTICLE 36 | APRIL 2014

Article36

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FREE ZONES AND
BANNING NUCLEAR
WEAPONS**

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REPORT: DISARMAMENT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Arianna Framvik Malik | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Organized by the Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF), this seminar consisted of Andrew Lichtman, research analyst at WSLF, Jackie Cabasso, executive director of the WSLF and North American Coordinator for Mayors for Peace, and Joseph Gerson of American Friends Service Committee.

Seeking to find answers to the future of disarmament by looking to our past, this retrospective seminar started off by recapping the all-day conference on World War I and the dangers of a 21st century great powers war that took place 3 May. This conference explored the similarities between the years prior to WWI and today. Lichterman noted that while today's world is often seen to be too interconnected for a great war, this was an argument circulated prior to WWI as well. Stressing that catastrophic wars are not preordained, Lichtman argued that nevertheless, there are circumstances that makes them more likely to occur, and the nuclear-armed states' unwillingness to disarm is today one of those factors. Worryingly, the legal mechanisms that existed before WWI, such as the Kellogg-Briand pact, did not work, a fact that makes reaching disarmament today all the more imperative.

Gerson argued that nuclear weapons are sometimes viewed as either tools to maintain power or empower; thus in order to disarm we must recognize why countries have nuclear weapons in the first place. Gerson commended the bravery of the Marshall Islands' lawsuit against all nine nuclear-armed states. He also argued that whilst the NPT process is frustrating, we need to remember that we are dealing with empires and that without the mobilization of civil society, they will not feel pressured.

Cabasso spoke of how understanding our nuclear weapons history and the Manhattan Project is imperative to understand why nuclear weapons armament is continuing today. After the atom bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, WWII ended and the US was at the time the only nuclear power. Yet the US did not disarm but rather started a domestic arms race by establishing both the Los Alamos and the Lawrence Livermore nuclear weapons laboratories. Over the years the laboratories have successfully lobbied for increased funding by claiming the need for safeguards. The modernization of nuclear weapons has continued, despite the US claiming it would not give its nuclear weapons new capabilities. Cabasso argued that if the government keeps funding the laboratories in the way that it has done, the weapons are going to continue to evolve and global disarmament will not be attainable. •


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 a programme of the Women's International League
 for Peace and Freedom

777 UN Plaza, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017
 ph. +1 212.682.1265
 email: info@reachingcriticalwill.org
 web: www.reachingcriticalwill.org

Editor: Ray Acheson

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.



REPORT: ALL IN THE TIMING—THE WMD FREE ZONE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Wilbert van der Zeijden | PAX

This session was facilitated by Breifne O'Reilly, Director for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation of the Irish MFA, and sponsored by the Swiss, UK, and Irish missions. It featured the Chatham House report "All in the Timing" as the basis for discussions on the weapons of mass destruction free zone for in the Middle East (MEWMDZFZ). The author of the report, Dr. Patricia Lewis, presented her work and Egyptian Director for Disarmament Affairs Hossam Eldeen Aly responded.

Ms. Lewis laid out possible scenarios for success and failure to convene a conference in Helsinki before the 2015 NPT Review Conference. The failure of such a conference, or failure to even convene it, will have serious consequences for the 2015 RevCon, but also for the broader credibility of international non-proliferation and disarmament efforts. That said, Ms. Lewis pointed out that a failure would not necessarily mean an end to attempts to achieve a region free of weapons of mass destruction. This objective goes beyond the current attempts resulting from the 2010 NPT RevCon.

In his response, Dr. Hossam Aly indicated some optimism that the parties will manage to convene a successful conference before the 2015 RevCon. A positive sign has been the relatively high level participation of all countries in at least some of the preparatory meetings that have been held in the past months. However,, Mr. Aly also expressed concern about the frustrating delays, slow pace of the process so far, and additional complicating factors such as the Israeli proposal to expand the scope of topics to include conventional weapons. Despite this, Egypt is still committed to the objective of a zone. Mr. Aly concluded that failure would have regional as well as global consequences. Regionally, it would weaken security for all. Internationally, it would undermine the legitimacy of the NPT to the point that "business as usual" will no longer be an option. •

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

When	What	Where	Who
8:00-8:50	Abolition Caucus	Room C Conference Building	Abolition 2000
9:00-9:50	Government briefing for NGOs: New Agenda Coalition	Room C Conference Building	Reaching Critical Will
10:00-13:00	Belief in the WMD Free Zone - Designing the corridor to Helsinki and beyond	Room C Conference Building	PAX, BASIC, Israeli Disarmament Movement
13:15-14:45	Advancing UN approaches to nuclear disarmament	Room C Conference Building	Basel Peace Office, PragueVision Institute
13:15-14:45	Nuclear security summit 2014 The Hague, The Netherlands	Room 7 North Lawn Building	Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN
15:00	Plenary	Trusteeship Council Chamber	
15:00-17:50	The NPT and NATO: Implications of Alliance Membership for the NPT	Room C Conference Building	Canadian Pugwash and Western University
16:00-18:00	NWFZ Conference preparatory meeting	ECOSOC Chamber	



REPORT: EU EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN NUCLEAR SECURITY

Gabriella Irsten | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

On Thursday the European Union (EU) hosted a side event on its efforts and activities to enhance nuclear security. The panel was chair by Ambassador Thomas Mayr-Harting, EU Head of Delegation to the United Nations, and consisted of Ambassador Jacek Bylica from the European External Action Service and Ms. Caroline Cliff and Mr. Geoff Shaw from the IAEA.

Amb. Bylica highlighted the EU's thoughts and concerns on nuclear safety and security. He emphasised that although the EU has had concerns from the beginning, motivating the establishment of EURATOM in 1958, these concerns increased after 9/11. Amb. Bylica explained that the EU safety and security strategy developed after 9/11 should be read in a comparison with the one taken by the Bush administration right after the terrorist attack. He then outlined the main activities of the EU's nuclear safety and security policy, highlighting the European Council and Council instruments, EURATOM expertise and training facilities, assistance projects, support for the IAEA Nuclear Security Office, etc.

Following Amb. Bylica, two representatives from the International Atomic Energy Agency discussed in more detail the IAEA programmes and how it works together with the EU and its members to develop safety and security within EU countries' nuclear programmes.

Mr. Shaw highlighted the main gaps in nuclear security and safety on a global scale, including radioactive material going missing, facilities not under IAEA observation, and lack of border control. He stated that the IAEA believes that "prevention is the first line of defence" and that currently the IAEA works closely with the 1540 Committee to speed up the entry into force of its amendment.

Ms. Cliff outlined some IAEA-EU cooperation programmes and described the European nuclear facility stress tests that took place after the Fukushima accident. The outcomes from these stress tests showed that new guidelines and improvement of safety was much needed and that the lack of safety/security was based on both regulative and technical measures. She also presented the report that followed the stress test evaluation, "EU efforts to strengthen nuclear security," which was written to show that the EU and its members are actively engaged in improving nuclear security.

The side event concluded with an informal Q and A session that stressed some specific IAEA-EU programmes and how the IAEA works to guarantee implementation of individual country guidelines. •

n r h y d r o g e n a l g
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negotiation
uranium
wmd
reduction
participation
violence
nuclear
fission
disarm
hydrogen
trident
revcon
enrichment



NEWS IN BRIEF

Mia Gandenberger | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Cluster two

Middle East

- Algeria, Nigeria, Morocco, and NAM called for the timely convening of the conference on the establishment of MEWMDFZ.
- Czech Republic and Netherlands expressed support for such a zone.
- Algeria, Nigeria, and Morocco commended the facilitator on his efforts.

DPRK/Syria/Iran

- Turkey, Netherlands, Morocco welcomed the Joint Plan of Action with Iran.
- UAE, Czech Republic, Netherlands called on Iran to resolve all outstanding issues with the IAEA.
- Czech Republic and Morocco called for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks with the DPRK.
- Netherlands called on Syria to provide the IAEA with a timely answer to the outstanding issues.

Safeguards/Additional Protocol

- UAE, Czech Republic, and Netherlands stressed that it is essential to implement both comprehensive safeguards and an Additional Protocol to ensure the “peaceful” nature of a state’s nuclear programme.
- Turkey called for application of safeguards standards on civilian facilities within the nuclear-armed states
- Netherlands expressed support for the State Level Concept to strengthen the effectiveness en efficiency of the IAEA verification program.

Other

- Czech Republic cautioned against the misuse of the right of withdrawal.
- Nigeria and NAM called for the universalization of the NPT and on states outside the NPT to place their nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards.

Cluster three specific issues

Withdrawal

- US, Canada, Netherlands, Rep. of Korea, and France cautioned against abuse of the right to withdrawal.
- Iran and Cuba stressed that there was no consensus to amend article X.

- Russia said there is a need to discuss principles and measures regarding the right to withdrawal, yet article X should not be amended.
- Brazil shared concern about the one case of withdrawal, but suggested to focus less on punishment for leaving and more on incentives for staying within the Treaty.
- South Africa underlined that the right to withdrawal is not subject for interpretation.

NPT reform

- Canada suggested replacing records with digital recordings and making better use of allocated time to the PrepCom.

Reports

- Canada called for more regular reporting of all states parties on their implementation of the treaty and past RevCon agreements.

Universalization

- Iran and South Africa called for the universalization of the Treaty.

Work of PrepCom

- The Chair will continue his consultations on the final document until Wednesday morning.
- The Chair hopes to present a consensus final document for the PrepCom to adopt on Wednesday at 3:00pm.





British American Security
Information Council



Belief in the WMD Free Zone

The Tel-Aviv Roundtable process



Chair: Wilbert van der Zeijden – Senior researcher at PAX

Lianet Vazquez – Herbert Scoville Jr. Peace Fellow at BASIC: Proposing an analytical regional perspective on the state of the WMD Free Zone process in the Middle East – remaining needs and requirements for the establishment of the zone.

Ward Wilson – Senior Fellow & Director of the Rethinking Nuclear Weapons project: About the Middle East nuclear discourse – political rather than military. About possible nuclear exchange and the danger of WMD in the Middle East.

Sharon Dolev – Director of the Israeli Disarmament Movement: About the round table process aimed at paving new paths towards WMD Free Zone in the Middle East, obstacles and opportunities.

Wednesday May 7th, 10:00 – 12:00
Room C



REPORT: CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FOR THE HELSINKI PROCESS

Arianna Framvik Malik | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The eleven speakers at this event organized by the Academic Peace Orchestra Middle East and the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt on the issue of a WMD free zone in the Middle East spoke on constructive proposals for the Helsinki process. Focusing on lessons learned from the achievement of other nuclear weapons free zones, presentations centered on building trust between parties, letting the regional parties themselves lead the process, and the importance of learning the perspectives of others and establishing relationships with each other.

Among the many relevant constructive proposals it was especially noteworthy to listen to Dave Steward of FW DeKlerk Foundation, South Africa, talk about the elements that made it possible for South Africa to voluntarily dismantle its nuclear bombs. The destruction of the Berlin wall and the collapse of the Soviet Union created a new global strategic environment, and South Africa realized that history had provided it with an opportunity. Under these new circumstances it didn't make any sense for the government to keep its nuclear weapons. Steward explained that the core of the threat that confronted South Africa in 1989 did not lie in military weakness but in the escalation of conflict between various groups within South Africa. The

solution was not the acquisition of military superiority, but in reaching agreement on the fundamental issues that divided them.

South Africa's experience has relevance for the Middle Eastern situation, despite fundamental differences such as the problem of some partners not recognizing the legitimacy of others and the belief that goals can be reached through military power. However, consultations between Middle Eastern partners have begun. Ambassador Lars Backström, Deputy Facilitator of the Helsinki Conference, explained that for the first time in nineteen years Middle Eastern partners are sitting at the same table discussing security and WMD-issues. The consultations taking place in Glion, Switzerland were not easy to get going, yet they have managed to do it. In regards to the importance of communication as an enabler of understanding other parties' perspectives, the process has at least begun. Even though there's still a long way to go, Ambassador Backström quoted Ambassador Laajava in saying, "Small steps remain the only viable way forward. The task ahead will be difficult but by no means impossible. What we need now is to focus on the road ahead and the next step is to focus on the consultations in Geneva." •

TODAY

Advancing UN approaches to nuclear disarmament

Room C, United Nations, New York
Wednesday May 7, 13:15–14:45

- Discussion about UN focused forums, initiatives and frameworks for the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world
- Launch of **UNFOLD ZERO**, a platform for UN focused actions on nuclear disarmament, including those being organised for September 26, the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- Featuring **Guy Quinlan**, NGO Committee on Disarmament, **Ms. Virginia Gamba**, Director of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, **H.E. Mr. Desra Percaya**, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN, and **Alyn Ware**, Director of the Basel Peace Office



Organised by Basel Peace Office, PragueVision and Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace. Cosponsored by NGO Committee on Disarmament, Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision Campaign and Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND).





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