



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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IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 | Editorial
- 3 | Event report:
Creating
conditions
for general
and complete
disarmament
- 3 | Event report:
Regional
nuclear
accountancy
and control
mechanisms
- 4 | News in Brief
- 5 | Event report:
UK plans to
set up a new
nuclear energy
programme
- 6 | Calendar of
events

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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Costs, risks, and myths of nuclear power

Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF

During cluster III debates at NPT meetings, most states focus on the “inalienable right” to develop nuclear energy for “peaceful uses”. This right is granted by article IV of the Treaty. But as Austria’s delegation emphasized yesterday, article IV “also entails the option NOT to use nuclear power.” Recognizing that all countries have the right to determine their energy mixes does not mean we cannot talk about the inherent dangers, overwhelming costs, and environmental hazards of nuclear power. In fact, these elements *must* be discussed to ensure that citizens of all countries understand the facts about their energy options. We should also recognize the irony of including a right to nuclear energy in a treaty designed to prevent the proliferation of and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Nuclear power, Ambassador Kmentt of Austria said, can never be 100% safe. He argued that the long-term effects and responsibilities related to the nuclear fuel cycle prevent nuclear power from contributing to sustainable development or combating climate change. In addition, nuclear power

“poses an additional risk in times of natural or human-made crises,” and suffers from a variety of safety, security, and proliferation problems.

The disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power station in Japan clearly demonstrated the risks of relying on nuclear energy. The March 2011 tsunami and earthquake led to explosions, meltdowns, and the release of radioactive materials. Six months after the disaster, WILPF Japan member Kozue Akibayashi wrote about the frustrations of dealing with the disaster’s aftermath. “It is a hard fact to acknowledge,” she explained, “but we now live in a radiation-contaminated country. It is such a heavy truth that the nuclear power plants of our country have emitted and are still releasing radiation into the environment. It continues to pose risks to those living now and generations to come.”

During the cluster III segment, many delegations welcomed the renewed attention to nuclear safety standards in the wake of the Fukushima catastrophe. Efforts to increase

continued on next page



Editorial, continued

safety—and liability—are indeed important. The renewed attention to nuclear safety has also illuminated some of the broader political and economic challenges of nuclear power.

The nuclear power industry's primary motive for operation is profit. Increasing profit is often best achieved in ways that are not consistent with designing or operating equipment for the lowest risk. Profit is also less likely to be achieved by honestly exploring alternative sources of energy that might necessitate initial investments, or that might not be eligible for the same government (i.e. taxpayer-funded) subsidies as nuclear is in many countries. Indeed, tax-payers shoulder the burden for nuclear energy costs—not just for the construction of reactors but also for insurance, new safety and security measures, and more. And of course, they also end up having to pay for the costs of environmental clean-up and health care after disasters. Meanwhile, investments in nuclear energy tend to prevent investments in designing economically efficient, need-oriented, and environmentally sound sources of energy. Scientists and activists alike have noted that nuclear power, which produces energy “in large, expensive, centralized facilities” is not useful “for solving the energy needs of the vast majority of [the world's] population, much less so in a way that offers any net environmental gains.”

Aside from economic, environmental, humanitarian, and safety challenges, nuclear energy also poses a challenge for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. The right to nuclear energy was part of the NPT

bargain to ensure against proliferation of nuclear weapons. But it is ironic that a treaty designed to prevent the spread of and eliminate nuclear weapons contains a provision that increases proliferation opportunities. China, France, Israel, Pakistan, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States all used nuclear reactors to create the materials for their nuclear weapons. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and India acquired nuclear weapons through so-called “peaceful” civilian nuclear programmes.

Even with “proliferation-resistant” technologies, the risk of vertical and horizontal proliferation remains. The connection between nuclear energy and nuclear weapons also leads to situations of tensions and threats. And, getting back to Ambassador Kmentt's point, nuclear power is dangerous in and of itself.

“The nuclear crisis we are going through was caused by human errors and was a result of poor policies,” wrote Ms. Akibayashi in 2011. “It is one of the hardest lessons we have learned, and the lesson needs to be shared widely so that [this] crisis will not be repeated.” She asked several questions: What is nuclear safety? How will the safety and the livelihoods of people be ensured with regard to nuclear power? Is ensuring safety possible? “These are not rhetorical questions but real ones,” she emphasized. “We need to have clearer answers to these questions, not in the future, but now.” •

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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.



Side event report: Creating the conditions for general and complete disarmament

Anina Dalbert | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Dr. Plesch, Director of Strategic Concept for Removal of Arms and Proliferation (SCRAP), argued that we must not forget that article VI of the NPT obligates state parties to the treaty to pursue negotiations of a treaty on “general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”. He explained that this is directly related to what SCRAP offers: a draft text of basic elements for negotiating such a treaty.

Dr. Plesch stated that the draft builds on best practices from previous disarmament treaties and suggested a ten-year implementation period for such a treaty. Dr. Plesch repeatedly stated that this project shows that the topic is not too tough to tackle. In fact, he argued that disarmament is less technically challenging than tackling climate change.

SCRAP builds upon many treaties such as the Intermediate Forces Treaty (INF), the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and so on. In addition, it is using lessons learned from IAEA inspections in Iraq. Dr. Plesch argued that this draft, together with the UK-Norway initiative, can serve as a basis for a future verification and inspection regime for disarmament.

Marc Finaud from the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, speaking on his personal behalf, asserted why this is an important initiative in his view and what weaknesses he sees with it. According to Mr. Finaud, this approach brings us back to the post-World War II disarmament process. He argued that the idea of general and complete disarmament must not be seen as preventing or hampering nuclear disarmament. SCRAP can, however, help to address the nexus of regional and global disarmament and the relationship between nuclear weapons and general disarmament. Mr. Finaud argued that one could critique the initiative for treating disarmament as an isolated topic and not as part of a broader vision of security.

The discussion afterwards touched upon the interpretation of article VI of the NPT and how to realistically achieve negotiations of general and complete disarmament. •

Side event report: Regional nuclear material accountancy and control mechanisms

Benedetta Cavagna di Gualdana | *Reaching Critical Will of*

This side event was organized by the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM) and the European Union (EU).

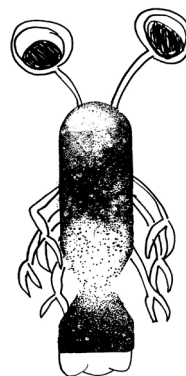
Paul Meylemans of EU/EURATOM explained that the EU established three communities: the coal and steel community, the common market, and EURATOM. The EURATOM treaty covers broad fields such as the health and safety of workers, the nuclear safety of installations, and the supply of nuclear materials.

He outlined the EURATOM safeguards system, explaining that the EU has a complete nuclear fuel cycle and to safeguard such facilities requires key competence and adequate instruments and technologies. Mr. Meylemans said that EURATOM supports technical development and is a partner of the IAEA safeguards support programme. He pointed out that all 27 members of the EU verify their civil nuclear materials in-depth, both in nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states. He noted that inspectors that verify such safeguards have access at all times to places, data, and people that deal with materials, equipment, and installations subject to the safeguards. In addition, EURATOM and the IAEA safeguards system share technical and scientific support with each other and participate in training activities.

Mr. Meylemans discussed how the EURATOM model could be helpful for other regions. It is a part of a cooperative approach to international safeguards and has entered into direct agreements with third parties.

The presentation was followed by a discussion among the participants and touched upon subjects such as suggestions for similar cooperation in Asia and the Middle East, and what can be done to improve the existing European Atomic Energy Community. •

LOBSTERS AGAINST
NUCLEAR WEAPONS!



News in Brief*Mia Gandenberger | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF***Nuclear energy**

- Austria underlined its position that article IV of the NPT entails the option not to use nuclear power, that nuclear energy can never be 100% safe given the long-term effects and responsibilities connected to the nuclear fuel cycle, and that nuclear power does not contribute to sustainable development or help combat climate change.
- Ireland noted that it is clear that nuclear emergencies, whether accidental or deliberate, do not respect borders.
- Slovakia looked forward to the international ministerial conference on nuclear power in the 21st century in June 2013 in St. Petersburg.
- Ireland welcomed the ongoing dialogue between interested coastal and shipping states regarding government-to-government communication in the area of maritime transport of radioactive material.
- Czech Republic drew attention to the risks of radon exposure.

Nuclear fuel cycle

- Romania reminded states it was the first country to convert a HEU research reactor in 2006 it completed the repatriation of HEU to Russia.
- Brazil asked states to look carefully at proposals for the multilateralization of the fuel cycle and review their added value.

Nuclear security

- Romania, Norway, Lithuania, and USA looked forward to the NSS in 2014 in the Hague.
- Norway, Lithuania, and Romania supported the implementation of commitments agreed on during the Seoul NSS.
- Romania and Lithuania underlined the importance of IAEA peer review processes for nuclear security.
- Hungary, Japan, Norway, Lithuania, Slovakia, and US welcomed the IAEA high-level conference on nuclear security in July 2013.

Nuclear safety

- Canada, Norway, Ireland, Japan, Ukraine, and US underlined the increased attention on nuclear safety after Fukushima in 2011.
- Canada, Ireland, Norway, Lithuania, and US underlined the importance of implementation of the IAEA action plan on nuclear safety.

- Ireland, Norway, and US welcomed the ministerial conference in Fukushima in December 2012 on nuclear safety.
- Slovakia and Japan held an international symposium on nuclear safety.

Withdrawal

- Australia, Canada, France, Japan, and US expressed concerns of the risk of “abuse” of the right of withdrawal from the NPT.
- Australia, France, Japan, Philippines, and US underlined the importance of preventing nuclear material acquired while still a member of the NPT from being used for military purposes after a state party withdraws.
- Iran said there is no need to revise article X of the NPT.
- Brazil pointed out that article X applies to both NWS and NNWS, thus implications of the withdrawal of either should be considered in proposals on additional provisions.

Institutional reform

- Philippines asked states to consider establishing a full time secretariat for the NPT.
- Iran suggested appointing a facilitator for universality.



Side event report: UK plans to set up new nuclear energy programme

Gabriella Irsten | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

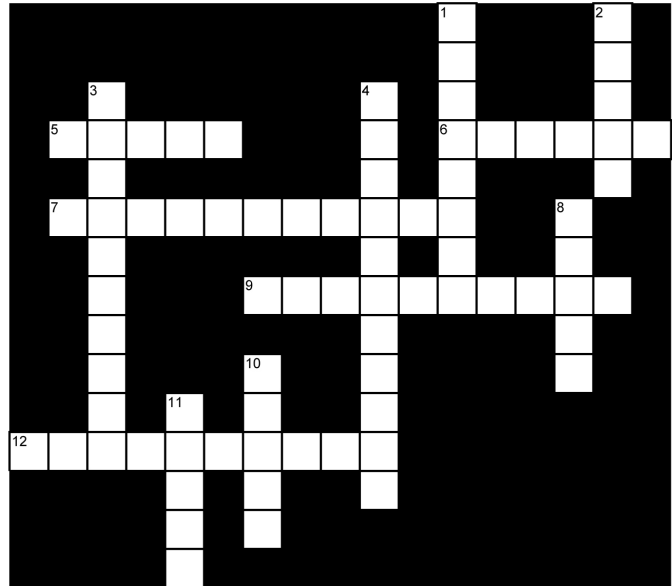
The UK Department of Energy and Climate Change sponsored an event on the government's plans to establish a new nuclear energy programme. Ambassador Peter Carter opened the event, stating that nuclear energy will continue to be a key energy source both for the UK and globally. With many of the UK's current nuclear facilities going out of date within a few years, he argued that it needs to renew its nuclear energy programme in order to fill a big energy gap.

Peter Haslam from the Nuclear Industry Association introduced the new plan for the UK's nuclear energy programme. Across party lines, the UK parliament has an agreement not to go down the carbon-coal road. Since the UK's nuclear energy programme has not been updated since the early 1990s, its current nuclear facilities will expire by 2025. Mr. Haslam therefore argued that plans for renewal are necessary, and that it will foster job opportunities. He also stated the importance of having the national nuclear industry taking a major role in the building of the new plants.

One of the questions from the audience was if there had been any opposition from local groups that could potentially stop this new development. Mr. Haslam said that he is not aware of any such action, but that such groups would need to come forward and discuss such opposition. Mr. Haslam must have not seen the multiple articles that the Guardian published last year. These articles highlight concerns and disagreement with the new nuclear energy programme in general, but also raise specific concerns about details of the new plan.

However you feel about nuclear energy, arguments claiming that the only alternative road to nuclear energy is expansion of coal production are false. For example, Germany is currently phasing out its nuclear energy programme and has not announced any plans to expand its coal production.

While both Ambassador Carter and Mr. Haslam agreed that the energy supply issue is a long-term issue, not a word about renewable energy was mentioned. This is precisely why investments must be made in developing renewable sources of energy instead of short-term solutions like nuclear energy. A valid question to ask is also why investment in the nuclear energy sector would create more jobs than in the renewable energy sector? To quote the British Green Party members Natalie Benett and Caroline Lucas from an article in the Guardian in February 2013, "The path we take is a matter of political choice, not technological inevitability." •



Across

5. RCW's publication *Assuring destruction forever* explores nuclear weapon modernization programmes in how many countries?
6. In 2008, along with China which country submitted a draft treaty for a ban on weapons in outer space?
7. Complete the following quote from Indian PM Singh: "I can assure you we are a ... nuclear power."
9. During the Cuban missile crisis, what was the US military blockade called?
12. Einstein has been misquoted as claiming that if he had known, he would have become a what?

Down

1. How many countries are known to operate uranium enrichment facilities?
2. New START was signed on what month in 2010?
3. What is an effective way for the corporate world to advance the goal of nuclear abolition?
4. The IAEA has research laboratories in ... and Monaco.
8. The last name of the first non-Japanese doctor to reach Hiroshima after the atomic bombing, who called for the bomb to be banned outright.
10. In 1965, then-Pakistan's foreign minister Bhutto claimed Pakistanis would eat what in order to obtain a nuclear bomb?
11. The UN Disarmament Commission meets for how many weeks each April?





Still **too soon** to ban nuclear weapons?

 **BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS**
Banned 1972

 **CHEMICAL WEAPONS**
Banned 1993

 **ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES**
Banned 1997

 **CLUSTER MUNITIONS**
Banned 2008

NUCLEAR WEAPONS
Banned 201_?

(Fill in the blank.)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

When	What	Where	Who
9:00-9:50	Government briefing for civil society: Germany and NPDI	Room XVI	Reaching Critical Will
10:00-13:00	Plenary	Assembly Hall	
13:15-14:45	Safeguards, safety, and security when planning new nuclear reactors	Room XI	Finland and Canada