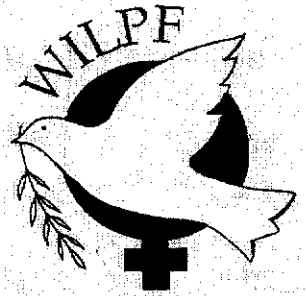




# News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2002

April 9, 2002 - No. 2



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## A NEW NPT REVIEW CYCLE BEGINS: IS POLITICAL WILL WITHIN REACH ??

The first day of the NPT PrepCom began yesterday with 62 NGOs from all over the world observing the new review cycle following the famous "13 step action plan" for the systematic and progressive disarmament of nuclear weapons, which was unanimously adopted at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. NGOs packed the house on this first day, eager to see how the 187 Party States would refer to the need to implement the 13 Steps and what concepts would be presented to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime itself. The session was opened by two individuals who have the respect and support of the disarmament community at large- Under-Secretary General for Disarmament Jayantha Dhanapala and the Chair of the PrepCom, Ambassador Henrik Salander of Sweden. Both distinguished speakers expressed the valuable role of civil society in informing the debate through on-going dialogue with delegates at the NPT.

The PrepCom began with a general debate. The themes of the Party States' statements took on an overall tone of dissatisfaction in efforts (or lack thereof) to fulfill the commitments made at 2000 RevCon. A deep concern of many states was that the security doctrines of the nuclear weapon states continue to reaffirm the absolute and central role of nuclear weapons in current defense policies. The need to reduce dependence on nuclear weapons in national security policies was expressed by nearly all states who spoke.

Disappointment was expressed by several delegations on the lack of political will by nuclear states to implement Article VI. Particular actions which only serve to undermine the NPT, include: the potential provocation of an arms race in outer space and National Defense, the scrapping of the ABM Treaty, refusal to ratify the CTBT and the blocking of progress in the Conference on Disarmament. However, while much emphasis was placed on recent negative trends in arms control, there was much expression of hope that as the beginning of the review cycle, this PrepCom should address areas of substance to strengthen the NPT, for example, the concept of a regular reporting mechanism.

In light of recent events, a recurring theme throughout the statements was the emphasis on multilateral approaches. Whether in reference specifically to arms control, or more generally to collective international efforts to enhance international peace and security, the cry was loud and clear. Even the US seemed to agree:

"NPT parties who would violate the Treaty must make a choice. They can either join the vast majority of parties who take their NPT obligations seriously or risk the consequences of being an outlaw nation."

News in Review is a daily production by NGOs to share opinion, analysis and news with delegations. Please send comments to [emily@reachingcriticalwill.org](mailto:emily@reachingcriticalwill.org)  
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News In Review is funded by Ploughshares Fund, The Ford Foundation & others

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## Who's Who - Diplomat profile

### Ambassador Mahmoud Mubarak, Assistant Minister of Foreign affairs of Egypt.

#### 1. What are your hopes or expectations for the 2002 Nuclear Non-Proliferation?

In 1995, the States parties extended the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty indefinitely and undertook to make every effort to achieve its universality. The Review Process of the Treaty was strengthened and Principles and objectives to address the implementation of the Treaty were adopted. The Resolution on the Middle East was adopted as an integral part of the 1995 package.

The Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference represents a positive step on the road to nuclear disarmament. In particular, nuclear-weapon States made the unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals and agreed on practical steps to be taken by them that would lead to nuclear disarmament. To this end, additional steps were necessary to improve the effectiveness of the strengthened review process for the Treaty.

Today, as we start a new review cycle for the NPT, it is imperative to assess the implementation of the commitments made in 1995 and 2000. There can be no going back. We need to take stock- in a systematic manner- of what has been implemented and on what remains to be done. Such a process should by necessity create a renewed momentum for a practical approach for the complete implementation of these commitments. This is a process that must lead to concrete recommendations being made by the prepcom to the 2005 Review Conference.

#### 2. What topics do you work on most or find the most interesting in this forum?

I am interested in all of the topics addressed by this forum. I consider the NPT to be the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. In this light all its components are of great importance. The NPT represents a global vision for the total elimination of nuclear weapons, not a license for nuclear weapon States to possess nuclear weapons indefinitely. This holistic vision needs to be crystallized through acts not lip service. The nuclear weapon States must be held accountable for the implementation of their commitments.

As a member - and current coordinator- of the New Agenda Coalition, I am especially interested in the practically oriented working paper presented by our group.

I am also very much interested in the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East and the outcome of the 2000 Review Conference in this regard. There is no place in our region for nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction.

#### 3. What led you to be doing the work that you are doing now?

By virtue of my position as Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Multilateral Affairs, I oversee all multilateral matters incl nuclear weapon States using disarmament treaties. My country's keen interest in disarmament as a whole, and nuclear disarmament in particular, has led me to put special emphasis on this particular meeting. We are convinced that the only guarantee that nuclear weapons will never be used, is their total elimination. There is no possible justification for such use. And now is the time for the international community to take action in this regard.

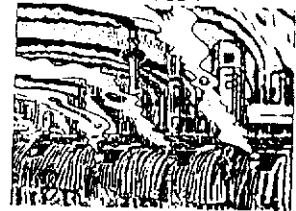
## Quote of the Day

There is no justification for the term "unintended collateral damage", as nuclear weapons make no distinction between civilian and military targets.

Senator Douglas Roche, April 8, 2002

Middle Power Initiative, "Nuclear Weapons and Human Security: Ending the Conflict"

IN A WORLD  
INCREASINGLY  
TOXIC



WE ARE ALL  
IMMUNE  
DEFICIENT

## Soundbite

NPTICCCNPT

Nuclear war would mean world genocide- A 21st century prophet would bring all these acronyms together- only then will our children's children inherit peace with justice

-Cora Weiss, President Hague Appeal for Peace

## Japan 'could build 7,000 nuclear bombs'

Japan has the technology and the plutonium to make thousands of nuclear weapons, one of the country's most influential politicians declared this weekend in comments that are likely to stir up the ire of both China and survivors of the wartime atomic bombings.

Ichiro Ozawa, the leader of the opposition Liberal party, made the comments against a backdrop of increasing Japanese concern about the economic and military rise of its Asian neighbour.

"China is applying itself to expand its military power in the hope of becoming a superpower," he said. "If China gets too inflated, the Japanese people will get hysterical."

However, he boasted that Japan would never lose a military confrontation if it became serious about strengthening its defences. "It would be so easy for us to produce nuclear warheads. We have enough plutonium at nuclear power plants in Japan to make several thousand such warheads," he said.

Although military analysts and anti-nuclear groups have long claimed that Japan could develop nuclear weapons, politicians usually steer clear of the subject, which rekindles painful memories of the 200,000 killed by the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The government has a non-nuclear weapons policy.

The timing is also sensitive because the Japanese prime minister, Junichiro Koizumi, will visit China next week. Li Peng, chairman of the Chinese parliament, is currently visiting Japan to mark the 30th anniversary of bilateral ties.

Mr Ozawa is known for rocking the boat with his uncompromising statements and political tactics. He pushed the Liberal Democratic party out of power for the first and only time since 1955.

Three years ago, a member of his party was forced to resign as a junior defence minister after calling for a parliamentary debate on whether Japan should acquire a nuclear deterrent.

Mr Ozawa insisted, however, that his latest comments were aimed at improving Japan-China relations.

Anti-nuclear campaigners welcomed the candidness of the statement, saying that Japan's plutonium stockpile of 38 tonnes - including material being reprocessed in the UK and France - was part of an undeclared weapons programme able to make more than 7,000 warheads.

Shaun Burnie of Greenpeace International said: "[Ozawa] has exposed the myths of it being a peaceful energy programme for a resource-poor country."

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo Monday April 8, 2002  
The Guardian

### FLOATING PLUTONIUM THREAT

The countdown to one of the most controversial nuclear transports in history has begun, with the approval by the Bush Administration this year of a shipment of plutonium (MOX) fuel from Japan to the UK over the next few months. The fuel contains 255 kilograms of Japanese plutonium -- more than enough plutonium for 50 nuclear bombs.

The IAEA "Safeguards Glossary - 1987 Edition" (which remains current), describes MOX as "nuclear material that can be used for the manufacture of nuclear explosives components without transmutation or further enrichment..." It estimates the conversion time for MOX is of the order of 1 to 3 weeks.

British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) originally shipped the plutonium to Japan in 1999, but it was rejected after it was revealed that vital quality control data had been deliberately falsified during the fuel's manufacture. The owners of the fuel, Kansai Electric, and the Japanese Government demanded that the UK Government and BNFL agree to the return of the fuel to the UK.

The United States is undermining non proliferation by reversing its opposition to the plutonium industry (commercial plutonium production and use in the form of MOX (mixed oxide plutonium uranium fuel)) and approving new global shipments of plutonium fuel. It sends the message to would-be proliferators that the US is no longer concerned about the risks of proliferation via so-called civil nuclear programmes, in spite of the inadequacy of international safeguards and the known risks posed by the "commercial" plutonium trade.



Check out the Dirty Dozen profiles at:

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/dd/ddindex.html>

# What's On

## WEEK ONE

**Daily:** Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus, 8- 9am, Mon-Fri, Episcopal Center, 815 2nd Ave,

**Tuesday, April 9th, 2002**

"Nuclear Dangers and the State of Security Treaties" 11am-12:30pm; 2pm-5pm; 6pm-9pm; Conference Room B (IEER)

IEER Reception, 6:00pm-9:00pm. 777 UN Plaza, Speaker: Jayantha Dhanapala, UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament,

Missile Defence and the ABM Treaty: "Voices from Greenland"  
1:00 pm -3:00pm , Conference Room D., Greenpeace International

**Wednesday, April 10th, 2002**

NGO Presentations: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Conference Room 4, Official NPT Session

NPT Online Tutorial Information Session & Demo , following the round-table discussion in Conference Room D, CNS in cooperation with the NTI

NGO-Delegate Reception - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm 777 UN Plaza, 12nd Floor

