



# News In Review

A collection of NGO views on the NPT PrepCom 2002

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UN Office: 777 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017. phone (212) 682-1265 Fax: (212) 286-8211 E-mail: wilpfun@igc.org  
Int Secretariat: 1, rue de Varembe, C.P.28, 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland. Phone: (+41 22) 733-6175 E-mail: wilpf@iprolink.ch

## 14 NGO Representatives Present on Key Issues to the NPT

Yesterday 14 NGOs representing 10 different countries gave presentations to the NPT in the morning session of the plenary. NGOs welcomed this chance and urged consideration of how these exchanges could be further developed for future PrepComs and Review conferences. 12 themes were addressed, prefaced by a presentation on the "Political Overview" and concluded with a presentation on NGO recommendations to the 2002 NPT PrepCom.

**Key themes in the NGO presentations were the following:**

- 1) Political Overview
- 2) Rule of Law, the NPT, and Global Security
- 3) Inter-Religious Representatives' Statement for the NPT PrepCom
- 4) Indigenous Perspective
- 5) Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
- 6) Nuclear Arsenals, Missiles, and Missile Defense and Space Weaponization
- 7) Consequences of Middle East Nuclear Weapons Proliferation and Deployment
- 8) Challenges and Opportunities for Nuclear Disarmament in South Asia
- 9) Nuclear Proliferation Problems and Dangers in Northeast Asia
- 10) Reporting by States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- 11) Irreversibility and Verification
- 12) Tactical Nukes: Old and New
- 13) Fissile Materials, Health and the Environment: the Hidden Costs of Military and Civilian Nuclear Programs
- 14) NGO Recommendations to the 2002 Non-Proliferation Treaty PrepCom

The full texts of the NGO Presentations can be found at:  
<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/ngostate2002.html>

A recurring theme in the presentations was deep concern regarding the new US Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), and its resounding emphasis of nuclear weapons as an integral part of its security doctrine. This was mentioned in context of the following themes:

- The contradiction of the US NPR with many of the 13 practical steps for nuclear disarmament, agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference (Presentation #6);
- the revelation of the request to the Pentagon to draft plans to target nuclear weapons at seven countries, four of which are in the Middle East (Presentation #7);
- development of mini-nukes and threatens a preemptive use of such weapons against North Korea in any future outbreak of war (Presentation #7)
- the NPR as a blueprint to ensure that any and all nuclear and related arms control and reduction measures undertaken by the United States are fully reversible for the foreseeable future (Presentation #11)
- the NPR may foreshadow alterations to NATO posture in its upcoming strategic review, providing expanded roles for nuclear weapons by including threats with weapons of mass destruction, not only threats from nuclear weapons, as justification for a US or NATO nuclear strike (Presentation #12).

NGOs play a unique role at a forum such as the NPT, as they often specialize in particular areas of interest or concerns regarding nuclear non-proliferation, and therefore possess a specific expertise which can contribute much to the debate and the process of formulation of foreign policy.

**Emily Schroeder**  
**Reaching Critical Will, WILPF**

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## NGO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE NPT PREPCOM 2002

**Several recommendations can be drawn from the NGO presentations for the constructive use of the delegations when formulating their policies:**

- The preservation of global treaties as crucial instruments must be adhered to, as means of addressing the security challenges of the 21st century. (Presentation #2)
- Educate and inform your constituencies of the dangers posed by nuclear weapons as well as the benefits to be derived humanity from their elimination. (Presentation #3)
- At this and future PrepComs before 2005, NPT States Parties should consider enabling a delegation of Indigenous people to have direct input on matters before the NPT on crucial areas where their environments and livelihoods have been severely devastated. (Presentation #4)
- Keep the CTBT on the agenda, ensure its entry into force and the implementation of all elements of treaty's verification and monitoring system. (Presentation #5)
- Stop testing of missiles, missile defense systems and space weapons. Initiate negotiations for an international treaty banning missiles and space weapons. (Presentation #6)
- This review cycle should resolve to establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East in the period leading to the 2005 Review Conference. (Presentation #7)
- Apply appropriate pressure to de-escalate the current face-off between India and Pakistan, and the NNWS signatories to the NPT also need to present a united opposition to India and Pakistan's nuclear weapon programs. (Presentation #8)
- A missile agreement with North Korea would completely eliminate the alleged reason for developing a national missile defense for a decade and possibly much longer. (Presentation #9)
- The necessity of a standardized, required reporting mechanism at every PrepCom and Review Conference of the NPT on progress towards implementing the Article VI requirements including: effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race; effective measures relating to (complete) nuclear disarmament; and a treaty on general and complete disarmament. (Presentation #10)

- Nuclear disarmament, nuclear and other related arms control and reduction measures must be adequately verified, both in political and technical terms, to be effective. Nuclear weapons research, testing, and component production should be halted while reductions are in progress, not after, with nuclear weapons production and research facilities subject to intrusive verification regimes at the earliest possible time. (Presentation #11)

- Reduction and elimination of all existing classes of nuclear weapons must be pursued. At a minimum, NATO should make concrete assurances that it will NOT deploy nuclear weapons on the territory of any new member states. (Presentation #12)

- The UN should sponsor a Global Truth commission on the health and environmental harm inflicted upon the world by nuclear weapons production and testing. Parties to the NPT should replace their dependence on nuclear power and with a commitment to the use of sustainable sources of energy. (Presentation #13)

**In the concluding recommendations section, eight progressive recommendations were laid out:**

- a) Negative Security Assurances should be made legally binding.
- b) The Security Council should address nuclear disarmament.
- c) Establish a permanent secretariat for the NPT.
- d) Implement "Global Zero Alert" of nuclear weapons.
- e) Explore concepts of security without nuclear weapons.
- f) Use the goal of a nuclear weapons convention to further nuclear disarmament now.
- g) Improve gender balance to further nuclear disarmament.
- h) Consider collective sanctions by non-nuclear weapon states. (Presentation #14)

## NGO-DELEGATE ROUNDTABLE TO DISCUSS THE NGO PRESENTATIONS

A constructive NGO-Delegate roundtable dialogue proceeded the NGO Presentations in cozy Conference Room D during the lunch period, under the skillful chairwomanship of Rebecca Johnson from the Acronym Institute. Several representatives from governmental delegations were present, including those from the United Kingdom, France, Canada, Japan, Germany and Mexico.

Ambassador Westdal began the dialogue by highlighting the Canadian focus on the reporting mechanism agreed to in the 13 steps of the 2000 Review Conference. Regarding the role of NGOs at for a such as the NPT, the Ambassador said the he was impressed with the high quality of input of the NGOs, and that they should continue to actively follow the agenda of and communicate with politicians in each own country.

Delegates from both Mexico and Germany also paid compliments to the NGO community and its useful participation at this NPT PrepCom. The Japanese delegate also noted Japan's thriving civil society active in the nuclear disarmament issue.

A true dialogue ensued between delegates and NGOs. Questions were posed by NGOs directly to delegates, which were answered in a more specific and forthcoming way than may perhaps have been expected, as politicians are politicians. However, the following were highlights of the discussion:

Ian Donaldson of the UK delegation also emphasized the great value of expertise and experience which the NGOs bring to the NPT. The UK responded directly to certain charges against it made in the NGO presentations, regarding irreversibility and verification. He explained that subcritical tests in UK were continued not for the purpose of modernizing the Trident nuclear program. Rather, the tests were to make sure its arsenal is safe and reliable.

Responding to a question from Carol Naughton of Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament UK, he said that UK had no desire to develop a program of mini-nukes, as they are satisfied with their current arsenals for deterrence purposes.

In reference to the presentation on tactical nuclear weapons, he also assured the NGOs that the UK negative security assurances remain as an element of the UK policy.

Mr. Donaldson also mentioned that the UK continues its work on verification, although they do not have a working paper at this NPT PrepCom to show their progress on this issue.

The French delegate spoke on the question of the future of the validity of arms control- and expressed that he was convinced that arms control regimes are fundamental, as expressed by the French ratification of the CTBT.

David Culp from the Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Network, Washington, DC and Dominique Lalane of Stop Essai, France, both emphasized to the delegates the special responsibility of states which have the US ear to try to find elements within the fragmented US administration which may be supportive of a new way of looking at security without nuclear weapons. This point was also underlined by the Chair, Rebecca Johnson.

At the conclusion of the roundtable, Admiral Ramdas, Former Indian Navy Chief, posed the question [which was not answered due to a time shortage in the session]: while the threat for which nuclear weapons were necessary was at least apparent by most during the cold war, what threats could France and UK possibly face today, which requires a nuclear arsenal as defense or for a deterrent purpose?

This very question sums up the underlying argument in favor of nuclear disarmament, a message which all 62 NGOs present at the NPT have worked hard to amplify.

Yesterday evening there was a wonderful reception at 777 UN Plaza, sponsored by Reaching Critical Will and the NGO Committee on Disarmament. Performing to the huge turnout were a pair of outrageously funny comedians, Bill Hartung of the Arms Trade Resource Center and Ira Shorr of Back from the Brink. Among stalled decisions on the programme of work and the depressingly slow movement (or often backwards movement) in several current arms control areas, this comic relief was just what the doctor ordered.

# What's On: WEEK ONE

**Daily:** Abolition 2000 Morning Caucus, 8am to 9am, Monday-Friday, Episcopal Center, 815 2nd Ave and 43rd St.

Thursday, April 11th, 2002

\* **Dialogue between the activist, academic and UN Officials on Women, Peace and Security, Disarmament and the ICC, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom**

9:30am -5pm, UN Conference Room 2

\* "The Shape of Things to Come: The Nuclear Posture Review, Missile Defense, and the Dangers of a New Arms Race", Briefing for Delegates, NGOs and the Press. Facilitated by INESAP. 1pm-3pm, UN Conference Room 4.

Friday, April 12th, 2002

\* "Nuclear Non-Proliferation in South Asia: The Need for New Approaches" Panel. 1:15-2:45pm, UN Conference Room 4. Facilitated by Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)

\* "The Shape of Things to Come: The Nuclear Posture Review, Missile Defense, and the Dangers of a New Arms Race", Panel Presentations by several NGOs. 9:30am-12:45pm; 3:30-6pm, 777 UN Plaza, 12th Floor.

*Please check venue and times against daily schedule as these may change*

**For an up-to-date list of NGO activities during the NPT PrepCom, please see:**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/npt2002cal.html>

## NOTE TO DELEGATES:

Please check the Reaching Critical Will contact database for the the New York UN, Geneva UN and Capital contact information. If you notice a change-- please let us know at:

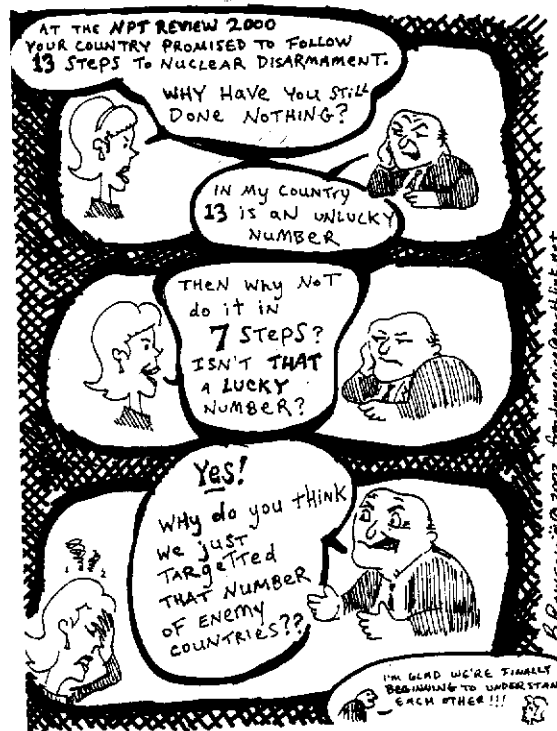
Reaching Critical Will  
777 UN Plaza  
New York, NY 10017  
Ph: 212-682-1265  
Fax: 212-286-8211  
email:

[info@reachingcriticalwill.org](mailto:info@reachingcriticalwill.org)

## Soundbite

The only child-care service provided by the USA is that for the nuclear weapons which will be put on the shelf following the "reductions" of the US arsenal to 2200-1700 nuclear warheads.

- **Bill Hartung, Arms Trade Resource Center/ World Policy Institute**



## Quote of the Day

**David Culp, Legislative Representative, Quaker Nuclear Disarmament Network, Washington, DC :**

While the US current administration has endangered the whole disarmament agenda through its actions, Washington is often quite divided on these issues. Therefore, a unique responsibility lies with key governments which have the ear of the US, such as the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Japan and Canada, to persuade those forces in Washington which may lean towards reconsidering a security concept which incorporates nuclear weapons. The future of the nuclear non-proliferation regime depends on those states to exercise this responsibility.

- **NGO-Delegate Roundtable, April 10th, 2002, Conference Room D.**