



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH MARCH 2013 ARTICLES

This newsletter is part of Inter Press Service (IPS) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project. It includes independent news and analyses as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Newspaper articles reproduced in this newsletter are for personal use and aim at giving information to readers. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited.

In-Depth Reports

Anti-Nuke Movement Goes to the Gulf



MANAMA - After a week of activities in Oslo during the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, major anti-nuclear campaigners moved on March 10 to the Bahraini capital, Manama, in yet another step towards the abolition of atomic weapons.

“Nuclear weapons – [the most inhuman and destructive of all tools of war](#) – are at the peak of a pyramid of violence in this increasingly interdependent world,” said campaigners during a joint press conference on March 12 in Manama. “The threat of atomic weapons is not in the past,” the organisers said. “It is a major crisis today.” > Pages 2-3

Trailblazing Conference Urges Ban on Nukes



BERLIN | OSLO - There are miles and miles to go before a world without nuclear weapons becomes a reality. But a significant step towards banning atomic arsenal capable of mass annihilation has been taken in Oslo, the capital of Norway, which is an ardent member of the 28-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)). Responding to President Barack Obama’s Prague speech in April 2009, NATO committed itself to “the goal of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons”. But as part of a “strategic concept”

endorsed at its Lisbon meeting in November 2010, it reconfirmed that, “as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance”. > Pages 5-6

‘Humanitarian Diplomacy’ Fights Nukes



OSLO - For the first time, ‘humanitarian diplomacy’ is being deployed to drive home the need for banning nukes – though under the self-imposed exclusion of the P5, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, who own a crushing majority of the 19,000 nuclear weapons capable of destroying the world many times over. A first step toward humanitarian diplomacy was taken in Oslo at a Mar. 4-5 conference convened by the government of Norway.

Mexico will host a follow-up meeting “in due course” and “after necessary preparations,” Juan José Gómez Camacho, the country’s ambassador to the UN announced. > Pages 7-8

ICAN Resolved to Ban Nukes



OSLO - A global movement to outlaw nuclear weapons is in the making with significant support from Norway, which is protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella as a member of the 28-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)). This emerged from a two-day [ICAN Civil Society Forum](#) in Oslo.

Some 400 youthful participants gathered in the Norwegian capital on March 2 and 3 ahead of an ‘[international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons](#)’, which the five ‘official’ nuclear powers that are also permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council –

United States, Russia, China, France and U.K. – have boycotted in a concerted move that surprised officials and non-governmental organizations at the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Forum. > Pages 9-10

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By BAHER KAMAL



MANAMA (IPS) - After a week of activities in Oslo during the Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, major anti-nuclear campaigners moved on March 10 to the Bahraini capital, Manama, in yet another step towards the abolition of atomic weapons.

“Nuclear weapons – [the most inhuman and destructive of all tools of war](#) – are at the peak of a pyramid of violence in this increasingly interdependent world,” said campaigners during a joint press conference on March 12 in Manama. “The threat of atomic weapons is not in the past,”

the organisers said. “It is a major crisis today.”

Co-organised by the Bahrain Centre for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), Soka Gakkai International (SGI), the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), the United Nations Information Center (UNIC) and Inter Press Service (IPS), the exhibition — “From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Towards a World Free from Nuclear Weapons” — is being held in Manama from March 12 to March 23.

Organised by the Tokyo-based non-governmental civil society association [Soka Gakkai International](#) (SGI), with the support of the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#) (ICAN), together with the United Nations Information Centre in Manama as well as the Bahrain Center for Strategic, International and Energy Studies (Derasat), and [Inter Press Service \(IPS\)](#), the exhibition — “From a Culture of Violence to a Culture of Peace: Towards a World Free from Nuclear Weapons” — is being shown from Mar 13 to 23.

“This exhibition – the first ever in an Arab country – (represents another) step toward making the human aspiration to live in a world free from nuclear weapons a reality,” SGI’s executive director for peace affairs, Hiroto Terasaki, told IPS.

“The very existence of these weapons – the most inhuman of all – implies a major danger,” said Terasaki, a high-level official of Soka Gakkai Buddhist organisation that promotes international peace and security, with more than 12 million members globally.

Asked about the argument used by nuclear powers that the possession of such weapons is a guarantee of safety and security – the so-called “deterrence doctrine” – Terasaki said, “The world should now move beyond this myth.”

“Security”, he said, begins with basic human needs: shelter, clean air to breathe, water to drink, food to eat. People need to work, to care for their health, to be protected from violence, according to the SGI exhibition.

Terasaki believes nuclear weapons differ from “conventional” weapons in two main regards.

“First is their overwhelming destructive power. The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945 delivered a blast equivalent to about 13 kilotons of TNT,” he said.

Some 140,000 people lost their lives just at the end of that year, he said.

“Since then nuclear weapons with yields of more than 50 megatons have been developed, several thousand times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.”

Whereas conventional weapons can, at least to some degree, distinguish between military and civilian targets, nuclear weapons kill indiscriminately, destroying all life on a massive scale, Terasaki averred.

“The second point to emphasise is the radioactivity they leave behind. After fires caused by the explosion are extinguished and silence returns, radioactivity (lingers on) for months and can cause leukaemia or other diseases, even affecting people who only enter the area after the bombing. These diseases are often inherited by sufferers’ offspring.”

Before moving to Bahrain, the SGI exhibition had been shown in more than 230 venues in 29 countries and territories. Manama is the first city in the Middle East region to host it. The contents of the exhibition have been translated into eight languages including Arabic now. ➔



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Among its key objectives in Bahrain is to contribute to the discussion on a Middle East nuclear weapons free zone. "What we celebrate today reflects a sincere expression of the true spirit of Islam," Bahraini Minister for Foreign Affairs Ghanim bin-Fadl Al-Buainain said at a press conference on March 10. "The pure meaning of Islam is 'peace'," he said, "but unfortunately Islam's image and principles have (today) been distorted..."

Al-Buainain also referred to the third nuclear test carried out by North Korea in February, saying that the biggest threat to "international peace and security is the global and regional arms race, especially nuclear arms". He also called attention to Iran's nuclear programme, "which maintains its peaceful functions". However, this programme has "far-reaching effects on the environment, wildlife and marine life...as well as security risks in the Gulf region if it transforms into a militaristic nuclear programme," added the Bahraini minister.

Speaking at the same press conference, Japan's ambassador in Manama, Shigeki Sumi, reaffirmed Japan's commitment to abolishing nuclear weapons, since "Japan has been the sole country that suffered from the catastrophic human consequences of nuclear bombing during World War II".

Nasser Burdestani, ICAN's regional campaigner in Bahrain who played a key role in organising the anti-nuclear exhibition, stressed the need to advance the effort of so-called "human diplomacy". "Biological weapons were prohibited in 1975; chemical weapons in 1997; land mines in 1999, and cluster bombs in 2010. It is now time to abolish nuclear weapons," said Burdestani.

Two major anti-nuclear events in Oslo preceded this historic exhibition: the ICAN Civil Society Forum (March 2-3) that brought together more than 500 campaigners, experts, scientists and physicians, followed by an inter-governmental conference (March 4-5), organised by Norway's Foreign Affairs ministry, which drew representatives from 127 states, the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross, in addition to civil society.

Notable at the Oslo conference was the complete absence of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. At the start of 2012 eight states possessed approximately 4,400 operational nuclear weapons, according to the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute](http://www.sipri.org) (SIPRI).

"Nearly 2,000 of these are kept in a state of high operational alert. If all nuclear warheads are counted - operational warheads, spares, those in both active and inactive storage, and intact warheads scheduled for dismantlement the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan and Israel together possess a total of approximately 19,000 nuclear weapons," SIPRI reported.

Meanwhile, SGI's president and eminent Buddhist leader, [Daisaku Ikeda](http://www.daisakuikeda.com), has launched a [global peace proposal](#), a blueprint consisting of three major proposals that will serve as a launching point for the larger goal of total global disarmament by the year 2030.

The proposal expresses the hope that NGOs and forward-looking governments will establish an action group to initiate, before the year's end, the process of drafting a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlawing nuclear weapons, which swallow some 105 billion dollars annually.

In a study entitled 'Don't Bank on the Bomb', ICAN reported that more than 300 banks, pension funds, insurance companies and asset managers in 30 countries have invested heavily in nuclear arms producers, while 20 companies are involved in the manufacture, maintenance and modernisation of U.S., British, French and Indian nuclear forces. [IPS | March 11, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/anti-nuke-movement-goes-to-the-gulf/>

TRANSLATIONS

ARABIC <http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2861>

GERMAN http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=885:anti-atomwaffen-bewegung-zieht-an-den-golf-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

JAPANESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=906:anti-nuke-movement-goes-to-the-gulf-japanese-text-version&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3

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Trailblazing Conference Urges Ban on Nukes

By RAMESH JAURA*



BERLIN | OSLO (IDN) - There are miles and miles to go before a world without nuclear weapons becomes a reality. But a significant step towards banning atomic arsenal capable of mass annihilation has been taken in Oslo, the capital of Norway, which is an ardent member of the 28-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)).

Responding to President Barack Obama's Prague speech in April 2009, NATO committed itself to "the goal of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons". But as part of a "strategic concept" endorsed at its Lisbon meeting in November 2010, it reconfirmed that, "as long as

there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance".

Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide does not perceive any contradiction between the NATO strategic concept and a ground-breaking [intergovernmental conference](#) he convened in Oslo on March 4-5 to focus on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. In fact, he is of the view that concerns about nuclear weapons proliferation have brought awareness of the continued risks all nukes pose more to the fore than at any time since the vast majority of states signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968.

Since the 2010 review conference of the parties to the NPT, there has been a growing, if still nascent, movement to outlaw nuclear weapons. The final document of the review conference notes "deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and reaffirms "the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law."

This was followed by a resolution by the council of delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in November 2011, strongly appealing to all states "to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement."

Subsequently, at the first session of the preparatory committee for the 2015 NPT review conference held in May 2012, 16 countries led by Norway and Switzerland issued a joint statement on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, stating that "it is of great concern that, even after the end of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear annihilation remains part of the 21st century international security environment."

The significance of the gathering in Oslo lies in the fact that for the first time in the 67-year old history of official and informal discussions on nuclear disarmament, representatives of 127 nations met to discuss the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. They were joined by various UN agencies, the Red Cross and the Red Crescent movement as well as civil society and faith organizations such as the International Campaign for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#)) and Soka Gakkai International ([SGI](#)).

Urgency

The urgency of the humanitarian impact is underlined by the fact that 19,000 nukes which official and unofficial nuclear nations have accumulated since 1945, when the U.S. dropped the first atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki, are capable of destroying the world many times over.

This shocking fact motivated ICAN to organize a Civil Society Forum on March 2-3 with the Norwegian government's support. Some 500 campaigners, scientists, physicians and other experts attended. The forum lent a vigorous dimension to a global campaign for outlawing all nuclear weapons. ☺

*Ramesh Jaura is global editor of IDN and its sister publication [Global Perspectives](#), chief editor of [IPS Germany](#) as well as editorial board member of [Other News](#). He is also executive president of [Global Cooperation Council](#), [board member of IPS international](#) and global coordinator of SGI-IPS project for strengthening public awareness of the need to abolish nukes.



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ICAN representatives said they will work with governments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other partners such as the Tokyo-based lay Buddhist organization SGI towards a new treaty banning nuclear weapons.

All the more so because SGI has been consistently pleading for abolition of all nuclear weapons. Originally inspired by second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda's 1957 anti-nuclear weapons declaration, SGI President Daisaku Ikeda publishes a peace proposal every year which casts a close look at the interrelation between core Buddhist concepts and the diverse challenges global society faces in the effort to realize peace and human security. He has also made proposals touching on issues such as education reform, the environment, and the United Nations.

In the 2013 Peace Proposal Ikeda urged non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and forward-looking governments to establish an action group to draft a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlawing nuclear weapons – which apart from being inhumane swallow some 105 billion dollars a year at current spending.

SGI executive director for peace affairs Hirotsugu Terasaki, who attended the Oslo conference, said that both the ICAN forum and the Oslo government conference had lent significant momentum to ushering in a world without nuclear weapons.

SGI hopes that the G8 Summit in 2015 and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki would serve as milestones towards an expanded summit for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

A success

The Oslo conference took place outside of the framework of the 65-member [United Nations Conference on Disarmament](#). Though the 'official' nuclear powers USA, Russia, China, UK and France as well as the non-official nuke states Israel and North Korea refused to attend, India and Pakistan – said to be in possession of atomic weapons – and Iran, suspected of working on a bomb, joined.

The conference was a success not the least because Mexico announced that it would host the next meeting. A wide range of states and organisations agreed that an understanding of the global humanitarian consequences of nuclear detonations should be the starting point for urgent action to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

As Dr Rebecca Johnson, co-chair of ICAN [points out](#), the significance of this announcement should not be underestimated. "In 1967, at the height of the Cold War, Mexico was the driving force behind the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which prohibited nuclear weapons across the whole of Latin America and the Caribbean, she says. This "nuclear-weapon-free zone" led to further prohibition zones being established in Africa, the South Pacific, South-East Asia and Central Asia," avers Johnson.

These zones, she adds, have proved more of a success than the painfully slow pigeon steps undertaken by some nuclear-armed states, which in recent years are constantly undermined by massive governmental investments to modernise, refine and renew the sizeable arsenals that they retain.

Some key points that emerged from scientific presentations and general discussions in Oslo are: No state or international body would be in a position to adequately address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. In fact, it might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted.

The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders, and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally.

As [Dr Ira Helfand](#) of ICAN and Physicians for Social Responsibility, who is author of a recent study on nuclear-induced famine, explained that a billion people could die of starvation following a limited regional use of nuclear weapons. The most vulnerable, mainly women and children, would suffer first.

Building on research by renowned [climate scientist Alan Robock](#) and others on the climate disruption and "nuclear winter" effects likely to follow a "small" or "limited" nuclear war, Dr Helfand said the widespread radioactive contamination would affect housing, food and water supplies. The financial costs in terms of property damage, disruption to global trade and general economic activity, and the impact on development in terms of the creation of refugees would enormous. [IDN-InDepthNews – March 10, 2013]

Image credit: ICAN



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TRANSLATIONS

CHINESE TEXT VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=916:trailblazing-conference-urges-ban-on-nukes-chinese&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15

CHINESE PDF VERSION

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=917:pdf&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15

IDN - InDepthNews
Analysis That Matters

IPS JAPAN

开拓性大会敦促禁止核武器

【柏林】奥斯陆 IDN=Ramesh Jaura

资料: ICAN

在“无核武器的世界”成为现实前，我们还有一段很长的路要走。但是在奥斯陆，即作为北大西洋公约组织（北约）的 26 国的核心成员国之挪威的首都，却令禁止大规模杀伤性核武器的进程向前迈进了重要的一步。

作为对美国总统奥巴马 2009 年 4 月在布拉格发表的演讲的回应，北约成员国为世界无核武器而创造条件并以此作为目标。然而，北约作为在 2010 年 11 月举行的里斯本会议上被保护的“战略概念”的组成部分，它重申说“只要世界上还有核武器，北约就仍是一个核联盟。”

9 月 4 日至 5 日在奥斯陆召开的会议专注于核武器造成的人道主义影响，但挪威外交大臣埃斯伯特·安德森并不认为这具有突破性的政府间会议和北约的战略概念之间有任何矛盾，事实上，他认为自 1968 年绝大多数国家签署了“不扩散核武器条约”（NPT）以来，今天人们对于核武器的不断增多及其带来的危机比任何时候都要关注。

自 2010 年各方参与的“不扩散核武器条约”（NPT）审议大会以来，尽管目前还处于起步阶段，取缔核武器的运动已经增加了很多。审议大会的最终文书表示“对任何由使用核武器所导致的灾难性人道主义后果的深切关注。”并重申了“任何国家在任何时候都要遵守包括国际人道主义法在内的适用国际法。”

国际红十字与红新月运动的理事代表 2011 年 11 月发布的决议也重申了审议大会的决定，强烈呼吁所有国家“必须通过具有法律约束力的国际协议，在禁止核武器的使用和销毁消除核武器的交涉过程中，追求真诚并坚持对禁核的迫切性和决心。”

随后，2015 年“不扩散核武器条约”（NPT）审议大会的筹备

资料: Espen Barth Eide

委员会在 2012 年 5 月召开了第一次会议，由挪威和瑞士为率领的 16 个国家发表了一份关于核武器在人类主义方面的影响的联合声明，声明表示“即使是在冷战结束后，核毁灭的威胁作为二十一世纪国际安全环境的课题依然存在，对此我们需要极大的关注。”

各国聚集在奥斯陆的意义在于这样一个事实——在核武器议题上正式和非正式的讨论了 67 年之久之后，127 个国家的代表首次举行会议，讨论由核武器造成的人道主义影响。此外，联合国各机构，红十字会和红新月运动以及民间社会和宗教组织，如“废除核武器国际运动”（ICAN）和“国际创价学会”（SGI）等都参加了此次会议。

紧迫性

自从 1945 年起，也就是美国向广岛和长崎投出了第一颗原子弹的时刻起，直至今日，官方核国家和非官方核国家已经共累积了 19,000 枚核武器。这些足以能够摧毁整个世界许多次，这一事实强调出核武器对人道主义影响的紧迫性。

这一令人震惊的事实促使“废除核武器国际运动”（ICAN）于 3 月 2 日至 3 日间，在挪威政府的支持下，组织了一次民间社会论坛活动，约 500 名活动家、科学家、医生和其他专家出席了论坛。本次论坛为禁止所有核武器的全球性活动给予了有力的动力。

“废除核武器国际运动”（ICAN）的代表们说，他们将同各国政府、国际红十字与红新月联合会，以及其他合作伙伴如位于东京的“国际创价学会”（SGI）一同努力，向一个禁止核武器条约的确立迈进。

资料: ICAN

GERMAN http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=899:rueckenwind-fuer-atomwaffengegner-&catid=5:german&Itemid=6

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NORWEGIAN http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=897:trailblazing-conference-urges-ban-on-nukes-norwegian&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12

SPANISH http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=905:conferencia-pionera-llama-a-eliminar-armas-nucleares&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11



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'Humanitarian Diplomacy' Fights Nukes

By JAMSHED BARUAH*

OSLO (IPS) - For the first time, 'humanitarian diplomacy' is being deployed to drive home the need for banning nukes – though under the self-imposed exclusion of the P5, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, who own a crushing majority of the 19,000 nuclear weapons capable of destroying the world many times over.

A first step toward humanitarian diplomacy was taken in Oslo at a Mar. 4-5 conference convened by the government of Norway. Mexico will host a follow-up meeting "in due course" and "after necessary preparations," Juan José Gómez Camacho, the country's ambassador to the UN announced.



Participants in the conference included representatives of 127 states, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society, with the International Campaign for Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) in the forefront.

ICAN organised a Civil Society Forum on Mar. 2-3 with the Norwegian government's support. Some 500 campaigners, scientists, physicians and other experts attended. The forum lent a vigorous dimension to a global campaign for outlawing all nuclear weapons.

ICAN representatives said they will work with governments, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other partners towards a new treaty banning nuclear weapons. ICAN project manager Magnus Lovold welcomed the 2013 Peace Proposal by Daisaku Ikeda, president of the Tokyo-based Buddhist organisation Soka Gakkai International (SGI).

Ikeda proposed that non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and forward-looking governments establish an action group to draft a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlawing nuclear weapons – which apart from being inhumane swallow some 105 billion dollars a year at current spending.

SGI executive director for peace affairs Hirotugu Terasaki said that both the ICAN forum and the Oslo government conference had lent significant momentum to ushering in a world without nuclear weapons.

SGI hopes that the G8 Summit in 2015 and the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki would serve as milestones towards an expanded summit for a nuclear-weapon-free world.

A broad section of participants at the government conference expressed dismay at the decision of the P5 – the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France – to stay away from the meeting without giving any reasons.

But many nevertheless expressed interest in further exploring the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons "in ways that ensure global participation," said Norway's Foreign Minister Espen Barth Eide, summarising the outcome of the conference. "States expressed their interest in continuing the discussions, and to broaden the discourse on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons."

Avoiding any caustic comments on P5's decision to boycott the conference, Eide asserted: "It is the chair's view that . . . broad participation (in the conference) reflects the increasing global concern regarding the effects of nuclear weapons detonations, as well as the recognition that this is an issue of fundamental significance to us all."

These remarks were significant considering that Norway is a founding member of the U.S.-led 28-nation transatlantic military alliance, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). NATO announced a "strategic concept" at its Lisbon meeting in November 2010, which "commits NATO to the goal of creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons – but reconfirms that, as long as there are nuclear weapons in the world, NATO will remain a nuclear Alliance." ☺

*Jamshed Baruah is a disarmament correspondent for [IDN-InDepthNews \(www.indepthnews.net\)](http://www.indepthnews.net).



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Answering a question by this correspondent, Eide insisted that Norway was committed to “creating the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.” In his view, concerns about nuclear weapons proliferation have brought awareness of the continued risks all nukes pose more to the fore than at any time since the vast majority of states signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1968.

Since the 2010 review conference of the parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), there has been a growing, if still nascent, movement to outlaw nuclear weapons.

Some key points that emerge from scientific presentations and general discussions in Oslo are:

No state or international body would be in a position to adequately address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation and provide sufficient assistance to those affected. It might not be possible to establish such capacities, even if it were attempted.

The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders, and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally.

Dr Ira Helfand from International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) explained that the widespread radioactive contamination would affect housing, food and water supplies. He said the financial costs in terms of property damage, disruption to global trade and general economic activity, and the impact on development in terms of the creation of refugees would be enormous.

The final document of the review conference notes “deep concern at the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons” and reaffirms “the need for all states at all times to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law.”

This was followed by a resolution by the council of delegates of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in November 2011, strongly appealing to all states “to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate nuclear weapons through a legally binding international agreement.”

Subsequently, at the first session of the preparatory committee for the 2015 NPT review conference held in May 2012, 16 countries led by Norway and Switzerland issued a joint statement on the humanitarian dimension of nuclear disarmament, stating that “it is of great concern that, even after the end of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear annihilation remains part of the 21st century international security environment.”

They stressed: “It is of utmost importance that these weapons never be used again, under any circumstances. . . . All States must intensify their efforts to outlaw nuclear weapons and achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.” In October 2012, this statement, with minor revisions, was presented to the first committee of the UN General Assembly by 35 member and observer states.

In line with broad sentiment, ICRC president Peter Maurer welcomed the Norwegian government’s initiative to convene the conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Although nuclear weapons have been debated in military, technical and geopolitical terms for decades, it is astounding that states have never before come together to address their humanitarian consequences, he said. [IPS | March 7, 2013]

Original <> <http://www.ipsnews.net/2013/03/humanitarian-diplomacy-fights-nukes/>

TRANSLATIONS

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ICAN Resolved to Ban Nukes

By RAMESH JAURA

OSLO (IDN) - A global movement to outlaw nuclear weapons is in the making with significant support from Norway, which is protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella as a member of the 28-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization ([NATO](#)). This emerged from a two-day [ICAN Civil Society Forum](#) in Oslo.

Some 400 youthful participants gathered in the Norwegian capital on March 2 and 3 ahead of an '[international conference on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons](#)', which the five 'official' nuclear powers that are also permanent members (P5) of the UN Security Council – United States, Russia, China, France and U.K. – have boycotted in a concerted move that surprised officials and non-governmental organizations at the ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Forum.

The Forum concluded with a selection of young ICAN campaigners – from Egypt, Nigeria, South Africa, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany and Sweden – vowing to mobilize massive public support to “ban the bomb”.

Their resolve was strengthened, they said, particularly after listening to harrowing testimonies of the survivors of the bombs that fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. They also received a crash course on the medical, social, climate and nuclear famine consequences of nuclear weapons.

Dr Alan Robock explained that a small exchange of a few bombs between India and Pakistan would throw up enough smoke into the atmosphere to effectively block out the sun for a decade, mostly in the Northern Hemisphere, reduce global temperatures to create a nuclear winter and cause famine for billions.

Dr Ira Helfand from Nobel Laureate International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War ([IPPNW](#)) described the stark consequences of a bomb on New York, for a three kilometre radius around ground zero, temperatures would be greater than the surface of the sun after a millionth of a second, for the next 3 km the shock wave would cause destruction and death of everything living, the next zone of 3 km would experience a fireball as all flammable material would instantaneously combust and suck up all the available oxygen. Further out the devastation would be less but still significant. These would be the immediate effects without the subsequent radiation poisoning and climate effects, he said.

Tony Robinson, international spokesperson for the organisation World without Wars and Violence, noted that the scientists' models were just that, models, but as they had stressed, their numbers were always underestimates of what the reality could be. There was no doubt however that planet Earth will experience a nuclear winter, crops will fail for years, and humanity will be brought to the edge of disaster. And in their models they work with the detonation of a small fraction of the world's 19,000 nuclear warheads.

Wrapping up the Forum, Thomas Nash, a member of the steering group of ICAN said: “The government meeting hasn't started yet but I feel like we have already achieved a lot. We've all been saying that governments need to focus on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and now 130 governments are gathering in this city to talk about just that.

“We made this happen. No matter what goes down during the conference we should remember that. We've also got the P5 on the run.”

Nash, now working at [Article 36](#), which is part of ICAN UK, was an active campaigner for banning cluster munitions. A Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) was signed in Oslo in 2008 – underlining an important role played by Norway in preparing the ground for this international treaty.

The convention addresses the humanitarian consequences and unacceptable harm to civilians caused by cluster bombs, through a categorical prohibition and a framework for action. One third of all recorded cluster munitions casualties are children. 60% of cluster bomb casualties are injured while undertaking their normal activities. ➡





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Nash said the ICAN Forum had “felt like just the latest step in a history of effective civil society mobilisation to outlaw and eliminate weapons of mass destruction”. It had already prohibited two out of the three types of weapons of mass destruction, through the ban treaties on chemical and biological weapons. Nuclear testing had been banned as well.

“In these initiatives, civil society mobilised on the basis of the unacceptability of the humanitarian and health consequences of these weapons,” added Nash. He recalled that some 20 years ago as a young New Zealand high school student he took part in a delegation of activists who travelled to France to protest against French nuclear testing in the Pacific, hosted by Mouvement de la Paix. The Forum also heard ICAN co-chair and director of [Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy](#), Dr Rebecca Johnson, set out why a ban treaty is practical, achievable and doable.

Gry Larsen, Norway’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, told participants that the elimination of nuclear weapons is not a utopia and that disarmament is about real people. Martin Sheen, veteran actor and former President of the United States on TV’s The West Wing, told the Civil Society Forum that if Gandhi and Martin Luther King were alive today they would be part of ICAN. Sheen has been donating time and money to many charities and has received two awards for his humanitarian work.

Nash appeared to be expressing the predominant view at the Forum, when he said: “The only thing that can prevent us from getting a ban on nuclear weapons is if we don’t believe it is possible.” But, he added: “If we stick together and build our campaign respectfully and inclusively over the coming weeks and months we will find ourselves in the midst of a process to negotiate a ban on nuclear weapons before we know it. I think once we get going in that process, we could be pretty hard to stop.”

ICAN representatives said they will be working with governments, the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](#) and other partners towards a new treaty banning nuclear weapons. In this context, ICAN project manager Magnus Lovold welcomed the 2013 Peace Proposal by Dr Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Tokyo-based lay Buddhist organisation [Soka Gakkai International \(SGI\)](#).

Dr Ikeda [expressed the hope](#) that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and forward-looking governments will establish an action group to initiate before year's end the process of drafting a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) outlawing nuclear weapons, which are not only inhumane but also swallow some \$105 billion year after year.

SGI participated in the Forum with an exhibition titled ‘Everything You Treasure – For a World Free From Nuclear Weapons’, which was launched in Hiroshima in August 2012 at the 20th World Congress of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War. The exhibition has been jointly created by SGI and ICAN. It consists of a total of 40 panels that cover nuclear weapons issues from 12 perspectives: humanitarian, environmental, medical, economic, human rights, energy, scientific, political, spiritual, gender, generational and security.

SGI Vice President and Executive Director for Peace Affairs Hirotsugu Terasaki, who was accompanied by Program Director for Peace Affairs Kimiaki Kawai, said the exhibition also intended to commemorate the 55th anniversary of second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda’s Declaration Calling for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons made on September 8, 1957. [IDN-InDepthNews – March 3, 2013]

TRANSLATIONS

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What Others Say

US Nukes Back in South Korea May Reduce Risks

By BENNETT RAMBERG*



LOS ANGELES (IDN | [Yale Global](#)) - Following North Korea's February 12 nuclear weapons test, the UN Security Council adopted tough penalties on Pyongyang. Along with a new round of financial sanctions, the council beefed up inspections of suspect cargo to and from the country and took steps to halt illegal activities by Pyongyang diplomats – all intended to squeeze North's nuclear and missile programs.

But the sanctions do not address the more serious questions raised by North Korea's doubling down challenge threatening pre-emptive nuclear strikes on the United States as well as threats against South Korea and Japan:

To keep tensions from boiling over, should Washington let Pyongyang pout and rant with little additional pushback, banking that time will force the poor, isolated country to return to the bargaining table? Or, given the regime's penchant for risk-taking, ought the United States itself double down and return its nuclear weapons to South Korean soil leaving no doubt that it remains committed to Seoul's defence by whatever means? Alternatively, should South Korea, concerned that Washington's economic challenges and fatigue with global leadership may fray its commitment to the South's defence, move toward nuclear weapons? Would either tack dangerously incite Pyongyang or make it more prudent?

These questions are not simple or easy to answer, but attempting to do so gives a starting point to plot the future. On balance, placing US nuclear weapons back in South Korea may be the best end point to reduce risks.

Pyongyang has responded to the new sanctions with its customary bluster against South Korea, military demonstrations and leadership visits to frontline forces. More ominously it added cancellation of the armistice agreement that ended the Korean War, cut communication links with South Korea coupled with the nuclear threats against the United States.

At other times Washington might have treated North Korea's rhetoric as so much puffing. But with both Pyongyang's nuclear and long-range missile program advancing, President Barack Obama told ABC news that although the North "probably can't" make good on its threat to hit the US homeland "we don't like margin of error." The result, the president signed off on Pentagon plans to add an additional 14 missiles in Alaska by 2017 to the 30 that possibly could – the program's reliability remains in question – defend the country against such a strike.

While it may be many years before the North can hit the US homeland with the required long-range nuclear-armed ballistic missile, South Korea does not have that luxury. Pyongyang's arsenal today contains shorter-range rockets capable of striking South Korea. Presumably Kim's scientists are working hard to develop a warhead that could fit on to such delivery systems. In the interim the South must evaluate whether a defence strategy geared toward a conventional-armed adversary is capable of dealing with an emerging nuclear one.

Polling in South Korea suggests popular doubt. Even before North Korea's nuclear weapons test, two-thirds of interviewees stated security requires a nuclear component – either American nuclear weapons on South Korean soil or an indigenous South Korean arsenal. In the current pinch, the latter could come from plutonium harvested from the South's nuclear spent fuel, a by-product of the country's large nuclear-power program. Contrary to conventional wisdom, civil reactors can serve as plutonium mines for weapons-usable material. ☺

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Extracting the plutonium would require a reprocessing plant that Korea does not have today. It also does not have a bomb design. Weapon manufacture could take two years. However, given Washington's unalterable determination to halt new nuclear-weapons proliferation, whether by friend or foe, such a step would meet intense American pushback jeopardizing the alliance as Seoul experienced when it last explored the option in 1974.

Rather than steer a separate course, Washington counsels South Korea that the security relationship remains strong buttressed by some 28,000 American troops in the South in addition to the offshore US nuclear umbrella housed in Guam, Okinawa and at sea available to deter and fight if needed. To demonstrate the commitment, with aircraft launched from Guam and Missouri, the US Air Force conducted a nuclear-capable B-52 and B-2 flyover of the South in recent military exercises that included nuclear-armed warships. At the conclusion of the naval exercises, South Korean officials reported the vessels would "stay a while" to impress Pyongyang about Washington's nuclear commitment.

'A while' does not suffice

"A while" does not make for a permanent presence. History suggests that a layered nuclear deployment may offer more impact and reassurance, with the location of US nuclear weapons both in and out of the European theatre during the Cold War being a prime example.

That same policy applied to South Korea during the Cold War. From 1958 to 1991, the United States housed 11 different nuclear weapons at different times in the South. At the peak, the arsenal included nearly 1000 munitions designed for two purposes, one to target the Soviet Union and China in addition to North Korea and the second to substitute for costly ground forces. With the collapse of the Soviet Union, Washington withdrew the arsenal. Well before, offshore nuclear weapons already had begun to compensate for earlier drawdowns.

The 1991 elimination laid the foundation for the February 1992 North-South agreement to denuclearize the peninsula. Unfortunately the ambition was short-lived, crumbling by year's end with Pyongyang's failure to cooperate with International Atomic Energy Agency investigators. Although, in time, some South Korean politicians called for the return of US weapons – gaining traction when in 2010 Defence Minister Kim Tae-Young told a parliamentary committee that the option deserved review – the government back-pedaled, holding that its fidelity to denuclearization would rub off on the North.

Such denuclearization was not to be. North Korea's recent test stimulated yet more debate in Seoul. In Washington, even before Pyongyang's recent test, the House of Representatives Armed Services Committee formally called upon the Pentagon to review the option of an American nuclear presence in the South.

Such an appraisal must weigh alternatives and objections against the acute vulnerabilities South Korea could confront without a US nuclear presence and the fact that no missile-defence system can perform to perfection. Absent the return of nuclear weapons, South Korea will be open to North Korean nuclear intimidation and more risk-taking dismissive of the credibility of Washington's offshore nuclear forces. The absence could encourage Pyongyang to pursue military acts and dare Seoul: "Respond and look what we have." In the normal course of tensions, North Korea's arsenal could bully.

A return of nuclear weapons to South Korea will no doubt butt against the argument that they'll impede the diplomatic effort to reverse Pyongyang's nuclear program. However, history has spoken: Every understanding to constrain North Korea – the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, the 1992 peninsula denuclearization accord, the 1994 Agreed Framework, the 2005 Six-Party Talks agreement to end the program – has failed along with the North's 2012 consent to suspend nuclear and missile tests for Washington's food aid.

Rather than hope for a North Korean nonproliferation epiphany, South Korea must better prepare to live with its disturbing neighbour while conveying the emphatic message that the Kim regime will gain no military or political advantage. The return of American nuclear weapons to South Korea would be the strongest statement the United States can make to buttress the position.

*Bennett Ramberg served in the Bureau of Politico-Military Affairs in the US Department of State during the George H.W. Bush administration. He is the author of "Nuclear Power Plants as Weapons for the Enemy," University of California Press. This article is being reprinted with permission of [YaleGlobal Online](http://YaleGlobalOnline.com) © 2013 which carried it on March 29, 2013. [IDN-InDepthNews – March 29, 2013]

Picture: Preparing for Armageddon: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects landing and anti-landing drills | Credit: yaleglobal.yale.edu



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What Others Say

Fighting Nukes in Israel Is an Uphill Battle

By SHARON DOLEV*

BINYAMINA-GIV'AT ADA (IDN) - Around the world, when it comes to nuclear weapons, it is a well know "secret" that Israel is a Nuclear Armed State. Just like India and Pakistan, Israel has developed a nuclear arsenal, but unlike the two, Israel's arsenal remains a secret. Israel doesn't talk about its arsenal and usually, doesn't take part in any international or regional discourse about it.

The Israeli ambiguity, or opacity affects mostly the Israeli society. Not just the civil society but also most parliamentarians and even some ministers. As a society, we learned not to talk or even think about the Israeli bomb. Keeping the secret by not thinking about it became some sort of a patriotic act. As a society we keep Israel safe by not thinking of an Israeli nuke, asking about it, or campaigning against it.

The words 'Nuclear Bomb' are on the news daily, but only in connection with Iran. Maybe, from time to time – North Korea.

Under those tough conditions 'The Israeli Disarmament movement' (IDM) is striving to change the attitude of the Israeli society towards nuclear issues and to promote the idea of a global nuclear ban and a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

The Israeli Disarmament movement is a grassroots organization that was established in 2007, as a Greenpeace project and was registered as an independent NGO in 2011. The first ever NGO in Israel to deal with disarmament of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction.

In order to reach the media, without which greater exposure is not possible, we hold media events, protests, and more provocative activities such as stripping at a conference in front of President Peres while calling for the Middle East to be stripped of WMD, placing giant notes calling for a world free of nuclear weapons at the Western Wall site (following the religious tradition of inserting notes with prayers or wishes in the wall crevices), or enacting a massive "death scene" in front of the Ministry of Defense calling for "No More Hiroshima" and opposing an attack on Iran.

One of our most important projects for 2012 was a visit of survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Hiroshima survivors (Hibakusha) met with civil society, young audience, reporters, opinion-makers and Holocaust survivors. The Hibakusha shared their experience and joined our call for regional talks. We used their visit to educate about the catastrophic humanitarian costs of a limited nuclear war, and joined their call for "No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki."

Movement members participate actively in international conferences on nuclear disarmament and the Middle East and, usually in cooperation with other organizations, organize events at the United Nations and during meetings of NPT states parties (review conferences and preparatory committee meetings).

The unique status of the movement – an anti-nuclear movement from the nuclear ambiguous/opaque Israel – has resulted in many opportunities to present our position, to talk about Israel, to recommend new approaches to and perspectives on the nuclear issue in the Middle East, and to meet decision makers and government representatives. We regard these as important opportunities that allow us not only to talk about what we do, but also to learn from campaigns around the world and from leading experts, and even to feel that we have some influence, however small, over the international discourse on this issue.

The campaign in Israel is not easy. Fear is the foremost enemy of the anti-nuclear struggle in Israel. At the end of the day, however, the principles of the Israeli campaign are identical to those of campaigns anywhere else in the world: education, dissemination of information, and inspired action. ☺



*Sharon Dolev is the Director of the Israeli Disarmament Movement, which promotes anti-nuclear discourses in Israel and represents international disarmament organizations in the country. <http://www.facebook.com/RPMISRAEL>



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What Others Say

Not easy

We believe that most residents of Israel, like people everywhere, would prefer a world without nuclear weapons.

The Israeli campaign, like others throughout the world, does not exist in a vacuum all by itself. It must be part of a global campaign against nuclear weapons, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – represented in Israel by the Israeli Disarmament movement.

Likewise, the Middle East, of which Israel is part, cannot be disconnected from the rest of the world. While we fully support the vision of a Middle East free of WMD, it is important to bear in mind that just as we in Israel analyze developments in Iran with trepidation, Iran watches Pakistan, which views with trepidation developments in India, which analyzes developments in China, which watches the United States, which in turn feels threatened by Russia and Iran. The real challenge and solution, therefore, are to be found in a comprehensive treaty against nuclear weapons, joined by all the states of the world. [IDN-InDepthNews – March 25, 2013]

UN and Disarmament Entering New Transition Age

By ANGELA KANE*



NEW HAVEN, Connecticut, USA (IDN) - Disarmament is, first and foremost, one of the UN's oldest and most durable goals. The term appears twice in the UN Charter – which we should recall was adopted before the first nuclear weapon was even tested. The first resolution adopted by the General Assembly established on January 24, 1946 the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and all other weapons "adaptable to mass destruction", later called WMD.

The origins of that famous acronym can be traced back to that resolution. Other words that appear in the Charter include the phrase "regulation of armaments", which the General Assembly later defined as the limitation or reduction of conventional arms – weapons commonly found in militaries around the world used for widely accepted purposes of self-defence, including tanks, artillery, naval vessels, military aircraft, et cetera. While

States have a right to have such weapons for self-defence, they have also long recognized the need for some constraints in their production and trade.

The UN has for some 67 years been pursuing a two-track approach, one often labelled by its very misleading term "general and complete disarmament under effective international control." This mouthful of a concept simply refers to the twin aims of prohibiting and eliminating WMD, while limiting and regulating conventional arms. These are viewed at the UN as mutually reinforcing goals for reasons of basic common sense. Think about it for a minute. *Imagine we could snap our fingers and all WMD would disappear. Would the world instantly turn into a Nirvana, with no war, no armed violence inside countries, and no terrorism? Of course not. Some risks to national and international peace and security would persist and new dangers would arise from the remaining weapons, especially if left totally uncontrolled.*

These new dangers could take the form of conventional arms races, globally or regionally. Research and development could produce revolutionary new conventional arms whose lethality and indiscriminate effects might even rival the horrible consequences of using WMD. This is why WMD disarmament and conventional arms control must proceed together, hand-in-hand, rather than pursued by any sequence following the logic of "first A, then B". And this is not just a logical or theoretical argument – it really does explain much of the organization of the UN Secretariat for handling these issues. Virtually from its establishment, the Secretariat has had desks handling both WMD disarmament and conventional arms regulation. The UN's current Office for Disarmament Affairs has two separate branches dealing with these issues, which work together as their predecessors have done so for decades. ☺

*Angela Kane is UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs: This Viewpoint is [extracted from her remarks on March 5, 2013](#) to the Yale International Relations Association at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

Image: Angela Kane | Credit: Jacob Geiger, Yale Daily News



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What Others Say

Although all UN Secretaries-General have supported these goals, and while recognizing that the Secretariat has always had some kind of office working on these issues, they represent only a small part of what we call the "UN disarmament machinery".

UN disarmament machinery

The most important business undertaken at the UN is the establishment, maintenance, and adaptation of multilateral norms governing the behaviour of Member States. The UN is neither a legislature nor a world government. But it does serve as a kind of "assembly line" for the construction of such norms. This is the unique "value added" by our whole institution – a mission or function that no State or coalition of States can rival.

Norms, standards, guidelines, rules, and laws are not imposed on States – they are created and adopted by States that recognize them as necessary and convenient in regulating their interactions. This applies to virtually all activities in international relations today and the UN disarmament machinery consists of various structures and arenas where disarmament norms are born and cultivated.

Stage one of this process of making disarmament norms is pure debate. This is the function of the UN Disarmament Commission, which you might think of as the UN's "talk shop" in disarmament. Its job is to deliberate two issues – one dealing with nuclear weapons and the other relating to conventional arms – for a period of three weeks each year, and then after three years have passed, they try to reach a consensus on some non-binding recommendations or guidelines.

Their last successful session was in 1999, when they adopted guidelines dealing with the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones and the regulation of conventional arms. Before 1999 the Commission had issued several agreed guidelines, but it has been very difficult sailing ever since due to sharp disagreements among blocks of States, largely over priorities and the means of achieving even agreed ends.

The next step up the norm-development ladder is the First Committee of the General Assembly, which considers and adopts over 50 disarmament-related resolutions each year. These are also non-binding, but are significant since – like the Disarmament Commission – both bodies are composed of all Member States. These are unique arenas where States can come together and debate even if they do not officially recognize each other. While the terms of these resolutions are also not legal obligations, States still attach considerable importance to them as political statements, as demonstrated by the meticulous care they devote during the drafting process.

The highest rung on this ladder of norms is the 65-member Conference on Disarmament (known in our business as the CD), whose mandate is to negotiate multilateral disarmament treaties. Over a period of several decades, the current Conference and its institutional predecessors were able to negotiate and bring to a conclusion the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, the Seabed Treaty, and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (among others). Unfortunately, the CD today is also locked in stalemate and has been unable even to adopt a programme of work for over a decade. In this case, the reason for the deadlock is the consensus rule, which holds that unless everything is agreed, nothing is agreed.

Yet in each of these arenas, progress or setbacks are less a function of the institution itself than the policies, practices, and priorities of the Member States. Resolve those, and the machinery works like a Swiss watch. One should therefore very much avoid the temptation to "blame" any one of these institutions for "failing" to advance disarmament. To the extent that disarmament has been slow to materialize, critics and analysts would be much better advised to look to the policies of States. As the saying goes, when the weather gets hot, don't blame the thermometer.

Our role in disarmament is somewhat greater than just advocacy and promotion, though we do a lot of that as seen in our many publications, our meetings, conferences, exchanges with groups in civil society, and interactions with the media. We also have to monitor, analyze, and interpret both daily developments in this field as well as long-term or emerging trends. The Secretary-General relies on my Office to keep him fully and currently informed, to alert him to noteworthy future events, and to advise him on new initiatives the UN should consider launching to advance disarmament goals.

This, frankly, is an exciting business. When President Obama made his now-famous Prague speech in April 2009 on the need to pursue global nuclear disarmament, we at the UN knew quite well that this goal could never be achieved through any unilateral policy initiative, but must instead be hammered out in a fully global arena that only the UN could provide. Try to imagine the achievement of global nuclear disarmament without the multilateral norms of verification, irreversibility, transparency, universality, and bindingness in law. ➡



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What Others Say

These types of standards did not emerge from nowhere – they were developed over many years in UN arenas. To this extent, the UN is much more than a cheerleader for disarmament. It is disarmament's midwife – a catalyst and facilitator for progress in this field.

It is easy but very misleading to conclude that nuclear disarmament has failed because of the twin facts that some 19,000 nuclear weapons remain and no negotiations are underway to eliminate such weapons. I urge you however to put this into perspective. In the middle of the decade of the 1980s, an estimated 75,000 nuclear weapons existed – so there has been a significant decline to only a quarter of the global nuclear stockpile at the peak of the Cold War. Also, only two countries – the Russian Federation and the United States – possess about 95 per cent of the remaining weapons and their declared arsenals are continuing to shrink in numbers.

Challenges ahead

Yet great challenges remain ahead for nuclear disarmament. Well-funded, long-range programmes are underway in each possessor State to modernize nuclear bombs, warheads, their delivery vehicles, and the entire institutional infrastructure that produces and maintains such weapons. And we are not seeing any signs of a similar commitment of resources to disarmament, registered in budgets or plans. So yes, there is quite a lot of work to do and I have no doubt that the UN will have its own contributions to make in moving this disarmament agenda forward.

When the United States had an initiative to require all States to have their own national laws and policies to prevent the proliferation of WMD or their acquisition by non-State actors, it came to the UN and the Security Council adopted resolution 1540 (2004) to achieve that objective.

When China and the Russian Federation decided that the time had come to launch an initiative to conclude a treaty to prevent an arms race in outer space, they jointly introduced such a proposal in the CD.

When the Non-Aligned Movement and its supporters worldwide decided that more had to be done to outlaw nuclear weapons, they also turned to the CD as a logical venue to negotiate such a treaty. The fact that such negotiations have not yet occurred has not deterred the Movement from continuing to pursue such negotiations in the CD and to advance nuclear disarmament in other parts of the UN disarmament machinery.

When concerns arose over problems encountered in implementing nuclear safeguards in Iran, the issue was ultimately brought to the UN Security Council, which is still trying to get this issue resolved by peaceful diplomatic means, backed by the instrument of international sanctions.

When the Democratic People's Republic of Korea tested a nuclear weapon this year (as well as in 2006 and 2009), the eyes of the world turned to the UN to see what would be the global response. While halting future tests of nuclear explosive devices by the DPRK is a decision that only that country can make, the world community has a definite interest in standing up in defence of the basic global norm against the conduct of such tests, regardless of who may be undertaking them. The UN remains the world's indispensable venue for defending precisely such norms.

When – over six decades after the end of World War II – the world community finally decided that the time had come to negotiate a multilateral Arms Trade Treaty, it chose the United Nations to host those negotiations, which will take place this very month.

'We the peoples...'

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that both the UN and this difficult field of disarmament are entering a new age of transition – an age dominated by the inexorable unfolding of the process of globalization. We all know that only States can join the UN and that only States can conclude treaties. Yet the UN Charter, farsighted as it was, anticipated another dimension of international relations, a dimension that has as its focal point not the nation-state but the individual human being. Those of you who have read the Charter will recall that its first three words were, "We the peoples...".

Today, people throughout the world are interacting with each other at an ever-increasing rate, and on an ever-increasing number of dimensions. Consider how social media has multiplied the effect of the written letter and telephone as a means of communication. Consider how the webs of business, trade, and finance have expanded over the years, giving each State, each business, and each individual a stake in the non-occurrence of catastrophic international wars. ☺



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Consider the welcome decline in the incidence of wars between States, a development eclipsed only by the persistence of horrific armed conflicts inside States, with all their tragic consequences for security at the level of individual human beings.

In this light, I think I am on safe ground by saying that *the future ability of the UN to advance disarmament goals will depend upon developments on three political levels*. First, creative leadership from the nuclear-weapon-States in fulfilling their disarmament commitments. Second, persistent diplomatic efforts by highly-motivated coalitions of States, including both the non-aligned and what are called "middle power" states that have significant leadership roles at the regional level.

The third level is what might be called the "grass roots" – in other words, citizen activism, and I do not mean here just the peace groups. Lawyers, doctors, mayors, parliamentarians, women's groups, environmentalists, religious leaders, human rights activists and advocates of social and economic development really do share some common ground as a foundation for collaborative work to advance disarmament. Ask yourselves which of these groups would benefit from a nuclear war?

What is most important is to de-legitimize not just the use of WMD, but the very existence of such weaponry. The WMD "taboo" must extend to possession, not just "risk of use", because disarmament offers the only absolute guarantee against use. This is not just my personal opinion—this point has been explicitly accepted with respect to nuclear disarmament at both the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences.

Even individual citizens have much to contribute in achieving this kind of de-legitimization, even you in this audience today. You can get involved with groups that are working on these issues. You can write articles, op-eds, letters to newspapers, and promote your views in countless social media outlets. You can encourage your local, state, and national political leaders to join this cause. And as the world is confronting a global financial crisis, you can raise your voices on behalf of initiatives to cut back military spending, which was last year about \$1.7 trillion. There are a lot better ways those resources could be spent in meeting urgent human needs. [IDN-InDepthNews – March 6, 2013]

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Obligations Must Be Honored

By BERNARD L. WEINSTEIN

Twenty-five years ago, the United States and the former Soviet Union had thousands of nuclear missiles pointed at each other. But doomsday was averted in 1993 when the newly-formed Russian Federation signed an agreement to harness the huge amount of energy contained in nuclear-weapons materials for the production of electricity.

Under the agreement, the U.S. offered a financial incentive to the Russians to dismantle their weapons and dilute uranium to a lower level of enrichment that could be used as fuel in U.S. nuclear power plants. So far nearly 500 metric tons of highly-enriched uranium from dismantled Soviet warheads has been eliminated.

Measures have also been taken to safeguard and reduce stockpiles of nuclear-weapons-grade plutonium. In 2000, both countries signed an accord to convert their plutonium into a mixed oxide (MOX) fuel that could be used in civilian reactor fuel assemblies.

In order to convert our plutonium stockpiles into MOX, a fabrication facility is currently under construction at the Savannah River Site operated by the U.S. Department of Energy in Aiken, South Carolina. Ground was broken in 2007, and the project should be completed and able to start converting plutonium into MOX by 2016. The Tennessee Valley Authority and several other utilities are currently negotiating with the National Nuclear Security Administration to buy the MOX fuel for use in their nuclear power plants.

Unfortunately, some environmental groups, as well as members of Congress, have been voicing objections to the MOX facility. Opponents of nuclear energy claim that MOX is a dangerous fuel, though it's been used safely around the world for decades. What's more, MOX is an extremely efficient fuel source for power generation. For example, one MOX fuel assembly can provide enough electricity to power 9,000 homes for one year. ☺

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Anti-nuclear organizations are now lobbying Congress to deny further funding for the MOX project, and they have enlisted the support of Representative Edward Markey of Massachusetts, the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee and a perennial anti-nuclear gadfly. Opposition has grown louder since the General Accountability Office estimated that the final cost of building the facility was likely to be \$2 billion more than the \$5 billion originally budgeted.

Russia is already producing MOX from its plutonium stockpile but is threatening to stop if America doesn't complete its own fabrication facility at the Savannah River Site. Fortunately, President Barack Obama wants to stay the course. In a recent speech to the National War College, he stated the United States must remain firm on nonproliferation. "We have to sustain the partnerships we have, and that includes Russia. It took decades to build those (nuclear) arsenals and it's going to take decades—and continued investments—to dismantle them."

It's important to keep in mind that the 2000 U.S.-Russia agreement on securing and reducing fissile materials was adopted in response to the threat of nuclear terrorism, and vulnerable stockpiles of plutonium still remain in Russia. By living up to our part of the agreement, and completing the MOX facility at Savannah River, we can reduce the likelihood of fissile material falling into the wrong hands. We'll also be providing a reliable fuel supply for America's more than 100 nuclear power plants for decades to come. [The Hill's Congress Blog | March 19, 2013]

US Navy Instruction Confirms Retirement of Nuclear Tomahawk Cruise Missile

By HANS M. KRISTENSEN*

Although the U.S. Navy has yet to make a formal announcement that the nuclear Tomahawk land-attack cruise missile (TLAM/N) has been retired, a new updated navy instruction shows that the weapon is gone.

The evidence comes not in the form of an explicit statement, but from what has been deleted from the U.S. Navy's instruction [Department of the Navy Nuclear Weapons Responsibilities and Authorities \(SECNAVINST 8120.1A\)](#).

While the [previous version](#) of the instruction from 2010 included a whole sub-section describing TLAM/N responsibilities, the [new version](#) published on February 15, 2013, contains no mentioning of the TLAM/N at all and the previous sub-section has been deleted.

The U.S. Navy is finally out of the non-strategic nuclear weapons business. The stockpile [has declined](#) and a substantial number of TLAM/N warheads (W80-0) have already been dismantled. [Update 21 Mar: [FY12 Pantex Performance Evaluation Report](#) states (p.24): "All W80-0 warheads in the stockpile have been dismantled." (Thanks Jay!).

The End Of An Era

The retirement of the TLAM/N completes a 25-year process of eliminating all non-strategic naval nuclear weapons from the U.S. Navy's arsenal. In 1989, diligent researchers using the Freedom of Information Act [discovered](#) that the navy planned to unilaterally retire three of its non-strategic nuclear weapons.

The first to go was the SUBROC, a submarine-launched rocket introduced in 1965 to deliver a 5-kiloton nuclear torpedo against another submarine. The SUBROC was widely deployed on attack submarines for 24 years and retired in 1989. The [ASROC](#) was next in line, a ship-launched rocket introduced in 1961 to deliver a 10-kiloton depth bomb against submarines. The ASROC was widely deployed on cruisers, destroyers, and frigates for 29 years and retired in 1990.

The third non-strategic nuclear weapon to be unilaterally retired was the nuclear [Terrier](#), a ship-launched surface-to-air missile introduced in 1961 to deliver a 1-kiloton warhead against aircraft. The nuclear Terrier was retired in 1990 after 29 years. ➡

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Retirement of the TLAM/N comes two decades after the U.S. Navy retired the SUBROC, ASROC, and Terrier.

These weapons had little military value but huge political consequences when they sailed into ports of allied countries whose governments were forced to ignore violation of their own non-nuclear policies to avoid being seen as disloyal to their nuclear-armed ally.

The Regan administration planned to replace all of these weapons with new types: the SUBROC would be replaced by the Sea Lance rocket; the ASROC would be replaced with the Vertical ASROC; and the Terrier was to be replaced by the Standard 2 missile. But all of these replacement programs were cancelled. The Harpoon cruise missile was also intended to have a nuclear warhead option, but that was also canceled. Originally 758 TLAM/Ns were planned but only 350 were built, and 260 were left when the Obama administration decided to retire the weapon.

After the unilateral retirement of the SUBROC, ASROC, and Terrier missiles, the navy was left with B61 and B57 bombs on aircraft carriers and land-based anti-submarine aircraft, as well as the TLAM/N. Work initially continued on the B90 NSDB (nuclear strike and depth bomb) to replace the naval B61 and B57, but in September 1991 president George H.W. Bush unilaterally cancelled the program and ordered the offloading and withdrawal of all non-strategic nuclear weapons.

The Clinton administration's 1994 Nuclear Posture Review followed up by denuclearizing the entire surface fleet, leaving only TLAM/N for some of the navy's attack submarines. The missiles were stored on land, however, and never made it back to sea.

In the early part of the George W. Bush administration, the navy wanted to retire the TLAM/N, but some officials in the National Security Council and the Office of the Secretary of Defense insisted that the weapon was needed for certain missions in defense of allied countries. As a result, the TLAM/N survived the 2001 Nuclear Posture Review, and up through 2005 the navy continued to test launch the missile from attack submarines.

Some official and lobbyists tried to protect the TLAM/N during the 2009 [Congressional Strategic Posture Commission](#) process, but [they failed](#). The Obama administration's 2010 [Nuclear Posture Review](#) determined that the TLAM/N should finally be retired because it was redundant.

Implications

More than two decades after the end of the Cold War, and tens of millions of dollars and countless of navy personnel hours wasted on retaining the TLAM/N, the weapon has finally been retired and the navy is out of the non-strategic nuclear weapons business altogether. This is monumental achievement and marks the end of a long process. In 1987, the U.S. Navy [possessed](#) more than 3,700 non-strategic nuclear weapons for use by almost 240 nuclear-capable ships and attack submarines in nuclear battles on the high seas. Today the number is zero.

Submarine crews can finally focus on real-world operations without the burden of non-strategic nuclear weapons, and government officials from the United States and its Pacific allies can finally begin to think about how to structure extended deterrence without clinging to the Cold War illusion that it requires tactical naval nuclear weapons.

I only wish the Obama administration and its allies were not so timid about the achievement. The unilateral elimination of naval non-strategic nuclear weapons is an important milestone in U.S. nuclear weapons history that demonstrates that non-strategic nuclear weapons have lost their military and political value. Russia has partly followed the initiative by eliminating a third of its non-strategic naval nuclear weapons since 1991, but is holding on to the rest to compensate against superior U.S. conventional naval forces.

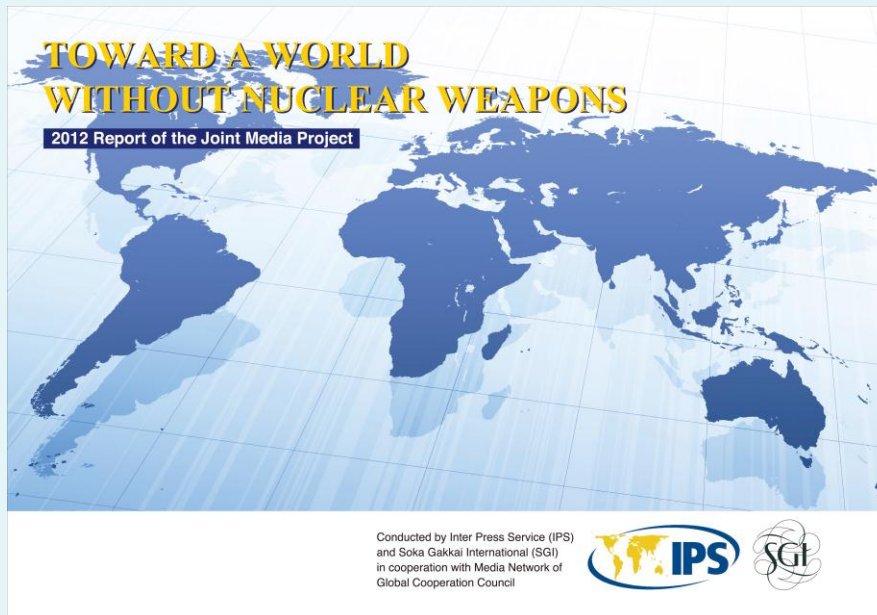
But why not propose to Russia that they follow the TLAM/N retirement by retiring their nuclear land-attack cruise missile, the SS-N-21, and stop building new ones? The land-attack cruise missiles have nothing to do with compensating for naval conventional inferiority. Highlighting the retirement of the TLAM/N, moreover, might even help undercut some of the North Korean Generals' rhetoric about a U.S. nuclear threat. Milk the TLAM/N retirement for all it's worth!
[FAS Strategic Security Blog | March 18, 2013]



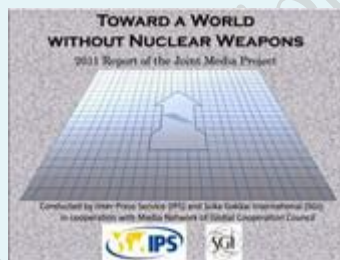
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