

BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

2015 IS CRUCIAL FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION | WITH DECEMBER 2015 ARTICLES

In-Depth Reports

Treaty to Ban Nuclear Weapons High on UN Agenda in 2016

By Jamshed Baruah



An open-ended working group of the United Nations General Assembly for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world is, along with the Sustainable Development Goals, an important agenda item that the year 2015 has bequeathed to 2016.

The General Assembly also adopted a number of other important resolutions: 139 nations pledged “to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons”. 144 countries declared that it was in the interests of humanity that nuclear

weapons are never used again “under any circumstances”. 132 states described nuclear weapons as “inherently immoral”. ➔ Pages 02-04

What Others Say

Ecuador Parliament Endorses a Resolution to Ban Nuclear Weapons

By Nelsy Lizarazo

The National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador approved on December 15, 2015 by a vote of 82 in favor, 1 against and 23 abstentions, a resolution that clearly underlines the urgency of driving forward an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

The Resolution, presented by the Assembly Member, Maria Augusta Calle, was prepared in collaboration with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, World without Wars and Violence, and Pressenza the International News Agency for peace and nonviolence. ➔ Pages 04-06

New Research Stresses Need For Banning the Bomb

By Jayantha Dhanapala



In a world of unconscionably high military expenditures which feed the conflicts that cause death, destruction and displacement of millions, we need to be constantly reminded of the wise words of President Dwight Eisenhower – a military man, who distinguished himself in World War II and then went on to be the U.S. President for two terms. Addressing his nation in a farewell address on January 17, 1961 Eisenhower - who I was privileged to meet as a student visitor to the US in 1957 – said: . . .

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Campaigning for Global Peace In A Time Of War

By IPPNW



The year 2015 will be remembered sadly for the many ways in which war and armed violence devastated the lives of millions of people around the world—armed conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa; a global refugee crisis spawned by those conflicts and by the atrocities of the radical Islamic State; massacres in Kenya, Nigeria, Syria and elsewhere; an expanded use of cluster munitions and landmines in conflict zones; and countless other mass shootings and suicide bombings. The nuclear-armed states not only wasted another year in avoiding compliance with their disarmament obligations, but they also made matters worse by increasing their investments in nuclear modernization programs. The much-touted international agreement with Iran on its nuclear programs was overshadowed by the increased risk that escalation of the conflicts in Ukraine, South Asia, or the Middle East could lead to the use of nuclear weapons by those who actually have them. ➔ Page 11-12

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UN Office Geneva

BERLIN | NEW YORK (IDN) - An open-ended working group of the United Nations General Assembly for achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world is, along with the Sustainable Development Goals, an important agenda item that the year 2015 has bequeathed to 2016.

The General Assembly also adopted a number of other important resolutions: 139 nations pledged “to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons”. 144 countries declared that it was in the interests of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again “under any circumstances”. 132 states described nuclear weapons as “inherently immoral”.

The General Assembly voted on December 7 to set up a working group that will draft “legal measures, legal provisions and norms” for achieving a world without nuclear weapons. This new UN body – which has the backing of 138 nations – is widely expected to focus its efforts on devising the elements for a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons outright.

The creation of a working group was recommended in the draft final document from the [nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty \(NPT\)](#) review conference that ended on May 22, 2015. As the Arms Control Association [pointed out](#), the proposal grew out of the frustration of many states with the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament. ↻

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According to the NPT document, the purpose of the working group would be “to identify effective measures for the full implementation of Article VI” of the NPT, “including legal provisions or other arrangements,” and to do so on the basis of consensus. Under Article VI, the treaty parties are to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to the cessation of the arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”.

According to the UN, the working group shall also “substantively address recommendations on other measures that could contribute to taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, including but not limited to:

“(a) Transparency measures related to the risks associated with existing nuclear weapons;

“(b) Measures to reduce and eliminate the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorized or intentional nuclear weapon detonations; and

“(c) Additional measures to increase awareness and understanding of the complexity of and interrelationship between the wide range of humanitarian consequences that would result from any nuclear detonation.”

Dates have yet to be set. But the working group will meet in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2016 for up to 15 days. In the interests of achieving real progress, the working group will not be bound by strict consensus rules. It will submit a report to the General Assembly next October on its substantive work and agreed recommendations.

International organizations and civil society organizations, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ([ICAN](#)) are also invited to participate. “It is time to begin the serious practical work of developing the elements for a treaty banning nuclear weapons,” said Beatrice Fihn (Photo right), executive director of ICAN. “The overwhelming majority of nations support this course of action.”



The Mexican-sponsored resolution that set up the working group acknowledges in preamble to the resolution “the absence of concrete outcomes of multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations within the UN framework for almost two decades”. It adds that the “current international climate” – of increased tensions among nuclear-armed nations – made the elimination of nuclear weapons “all the more urgent”.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, who comprise the nine nuclear-armed nations – China, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States and France – are opposed to the creation of the working group.

They issued a joint statement in November explaining their view. “An instrument such as a ban” would “undermine the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) regime”, they argued, but did not explain how, said ICAN.

They could have supported an “appropriately mandated” working group bound by strict consensus rules, they said. However, such an arrangement would have allowed them, collectively or individually, to block all proposed actions and decisions, including the appointment of a chair and adoption of an agenda. The Mexican approach of giving greater control to nuclear-free nations is “divisive”, they criticized.

Among the countries that abstained from voting on the resolution was Germany, which hosts U.S. nuclear weapons on its territory, stating that the working group is not “inclusive” – in spite of the fact that the UN encourages participation of all nations. Japan and Australia, which believe it is acceptable to use nuclear weapons in certain circumstances, also abstained, offering vague explanations. ➡

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India and Pakistan, which reportedly possess nuclear weapons, argued that the working group would threaten the [Conference on Disarmament](#) (CD) – a Geneva-based forum established in 1979 as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community, as a result of the first Special Session on Disarmament of the United Nations General Assembly in 1978.

The CD, which has been stuck up for nearly two decades, excludes two-thirds of the world's nations from its deliberations (mostly developing nations). It will hold the first of three sessions in 2016 from January 25 to April 1, 2016.

According to ICAN, the UN General Assembly's vote on a resolution setting up a working group comes in the aftermath of the success of the three major conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons in 2013 and 2014.

“These have resulted in a growing expectation among governments and civil society that negotiations on a treaty banning nuclear weapons should now begin. The failure of the NPT review conference this May further underscored the need for real action,” commented ICAN.

“We cannot delay indefinitely the prohibition of a weapon that is patently unacceptable on humanitarian grounds,” said ICAN's Fihn. “We expect that certain nations will continue to oppose this course of action. But that must not prevent us from moving forward. We have outlawed other indiscriminate, inhumane weapons. Now we must outlaw the very worst weapons of all.” [IDN-InDepthNews – 28 December 2015]

Ecuador Parliament Endorses a Resolution to Ban Nuclear Weapons

By Nelsy Lizarazo*

QUITO - The National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador approved on December 15, 2015 by a vote of 82 in favor, 1 against and 23 abstentions, a resolution that clearly underlines the urgency of driving forward an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

The Resolution, presented by the Assembly Member, Maria Augusta Calle, was prepared in collaboration with the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons](#), [World without Wars and Violence](#), and Pressenza the International News Agency for peace and nonviolence.

Prior to the vote, Assembly Member Calle asked the Assembly to receive Tony Robinson, Pressenza co-director, who presented the reason why it is urgent and necessary to advance in the direction of a ban treaty. Subsequently, after the intervention by the Resolution sponsor, six further speeches were made suggesting modifications to the text. All but one of which were accepted and incorporated into the final text, the translation of which we publish below.

THE PLENARY SESSION

CONSIDERING

That, the Constitution of the Republic sets out in art. 5 that: “Ecuador is a territory of peace. The establishment of foreign military bases or foreign facilities for military purposes shall not be allowed. It is forbidden to transfer national military bases to foreign armed or security forces”; ☺

* Nelsy Lizarazo is a correspondent of Pressenza, the International News Agency for peace and nonviolence. This article first [appeared](#) on Presenza.

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That, the Constitution of the Republic sets out in art. 416 that: “Ecuador’s relations with the international community shall respond to the interests of the Ecuadorian people, to which those persons in charge of these

relations and their executors shall be held accountable, and as a result: (..) It promotes peace and universal disarmament; it condemns the development and use of weapons of mass destruction and the imposition of bases or facilities for military purposes by certain States on the territory of others”;

That, this year was commemorated the seventieth Anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which left hundreds of thousands dead and condemned countless more to lives of suffering and social stigma given that the effects of an atomic bomb are not limited to either time or space and that many of their repercussions continue in the genetic damage produced in future generations;



That, the survivors, the “Hibakusha”, many of whom have dedicated their lives to informing the world about their experiences in order to ensure that future generations would not have to face the same horrors, are increasingly few in numbers and are taking with them the first hand memories;

That, three conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, hosted by Norway, Mexico and Austria in 2013 and 2014 have contributed substantially to our collective understanding of the scope of the destruction caused by nuclear weapons detonations, and have demonstrated that the risks inherent in the very existence of nuclear weapons are significantly greater than previously assumed and are increasing with ongoing modernization programs, new proliferation risks and new technological vulnerabilities, such as those posed by cyber-attacks;

That, it has been ascertained beyond doubt that no state, group of states or international organization has the capacity to adequately address and provide humanitarian relief on a meaningful scale in response to a nuclear weapons detonation.

That, it has been established in the previously mentioned conferences that, in the latest scientific models that attempt to predict the effects of nuclear weapons on the atmosphere, the detonation of one hundred nuclear warheads on cities would create the conditions for a nuclear winter that would end the lives of up to two billion human beings, and that the most affected would be those who live in already precarious situations of nutrition and health, in other words, despite the fact that a nuclear war would take place in the northern hemisphere, the part of the world to suffer most would be those countries in the southern hemisphere;

That, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in art. VI sets out that, “Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a Treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control”;

That, given the importance of the full implementation of the three pillars of the NPT, nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, the inability of the 2015 Review Conference to adopt an outcome document is regrettable, and that the failure of the Review Conference should serve as further impetus for efforts to initiate multilateral negotiations for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, as mandated by Article VI of the treaty; ➡

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That, regardless of a country's status as possessor of nuclear weapons or not, all States have the right to engage in efforts to stigmatize, prohibit and lead to the elimination of nuclear weapons, and therefore efforts led by non-Nuclear Weapon States in bringing forward nuclear disarmament, on the basis of their humanitarian impacts, are both valid and useful, and that those efforts should neither be blocked by nor beholden to the approval of any State, including the Nuclear Weapon States;

In exercising its constitutional and legal rights

Resolves:

Art. 1. – To condemn the fact that all Nuclear Weapon States, such as Russia, the United States, China, the United Kingdom, France and others in the process of getting them, have embarked on expensive modernization programs of their nuclear arsenals, against the spirit of the NPT, something which seriously erodes confidence in the public statements by Nuclear Weapon States and threatens to further polarize Nuclear Weapon States and Non-Nuclear Weapon States, creating an international system of “haves” and “have-nots”, a system of nuclear apartheid.

Art. 2. – To recall that all Parties to the NPT have a moral and legal responsibility to pursue courses of action, which protect their people from the dangers of nuclear weapons through their prohibition and elimination.

Art. 3. – To welcome the approval in the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, in its seventieth session this year, of a resolution that “calls upon all States to identify and pursue effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and to cooperate with all stakeholders to achieve this goal,” and a resolution that established “an open-ended working group to negotiate with a view to reaching agreement on concrete and effective legal measures to achieve nuclear disarmament, in particular new legal provisions and norms to attain and maintain a world without nuclear weapons.”

Art. 4. – to call for restraint so that those who are authorised to keep nuclear weapons neither increase their strength nor use them, likewise to call on states parties to the NPT to not use them and on non-states parties to the treaty to join it and become subject to it.

Art. 5. – To call on the government of Ecuador to take all possible measures so that the open-ended working group may reach conclusions that lead to the start of negotiations for a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons.

Art. 6. – To congratulate the governments of the CELAC region for their strong commitment to nuclear disarmament, above all in the declaration from earlier this year in the city of Belén, Costa Rica, thereby putting the region in the vanguard of global efforts to achieve a treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Art. 7. - To call on the CELAC region, in its forthcoming summit in Ecuador at the end of January, to go beyond the steps already taken towards the creation of a treaty to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, and offer a convenient place in the region to host future negotiations for such a treaty.

Art. 8. – To denounce the fact that despite the NPT entering into force in 1970 the world is no nearer the objective of nuclear disarmament.

Art. 9. – To disseminate this Resolution through the media to the Ecuadorean people so that they may know the risks the country and the world face in the case of a nuclear war in any point of the planet.

Art. 10. – To transmit this Resolution to the Ministry of International Relations and Human Mobility.

Given and subscribed in the headquarters of the National Assembly, located in the Metropolitan District of Quito, in the province of Pichincha, on the 15th of December, in the year two thousand and fifteen. (17 December 2015) ◆

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New Research Stresses Need For Banning the Bomb

By Jayantha Dhanapala*



This article was originally published as Foreword to 'Don't Bank on the Bomb – A Global Report on the Financing of Nuclear Weapons Producers', a joint publication of PAX and ICAN.

KANDY, Sri Lanka - In a world of unconscionably high military expenditures which feed the conflicts that cause death, destruction and displacement of millions, we need to be constantly reminded of the wise words of President Dwight Eisenhower – a military man, who distinguished himself in World War II and then went on to be the U.S. President for two terms. Addressing his nation in a farewell address on January 17, 1961 Eisenhower - who I was privileged to meet as a student visitor to the US in 1957 – said:

”This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence – economic, political, even spiritual – is felt in every city, every Statehouse, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all involved; so is the very structure of our society. ☺

*Former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs Chair of the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference Former Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the UN in Geneva (1984-1987) and to the USA (1995-98) Former Director of UNIDIR (1987-92).

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In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defence with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.”

Eisenhower’s words have a direct relevance not only for the USA, which accounts for over 40% of global military expenditure, but also for all countries with similar military industrial complexes. The globally respected Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimates that global military expenditure in 2014 was 1.8 trillion USD. This must be viewed in juxtaposition with the misery of over one billion of our fellow human beings living below the poverty line of 1.25 USD per day.

While the 70-year old UN Charter does provide for self-defence by nation states there is an unambiguous call on the international community to resolve differences through peaceful means and renounce the use of force in international relations (Article 2:4).

The right to self-defence must also be viewed in an ethical perspective and consequently we have the time-honoured distinction between conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. In the latter category we place nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

We also have inhumane weapons such as laser weapons, binary weapons, anti-personnel land mines, and cluster munitions banned because of their clear violation of universally held humanitarian values. In the same way lethal autonomous weapons (LAWS) or robotic weapons must be prevented and their development proscribed. This moral perspective is shared by all the religions of the world.

Of those weapons of mass destruction that humankind has been confronted with, we have succeeded in outlawing biological and chemical weapons. We have still to ban nuclear weapons although we know that it is the most destructive weapon invented so far, with catastrophic consequences in terms of the scale of deaths and long-term consequences affecting human genetics and the ecology. ☞

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Some advances have been made: The numbers of nuclear warheads have been reduced to the current level of 15850 held by nine states; The Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty has limited the number of states possessing nuclear weapons;

The moratorium on nuclear weapon testing pending the entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) will prevent further nuclear weapon explosions in peacetime; and by having specific geographic areas of the globe and the universe declared nuclear weapon free zones, the chances of the use of nuclear weapons has significantly been reduced.

Nevertheless, nuclear arsenals continue to be modernized and the threat of the use of nuclear weapons by intent or accident and by nation states or by non-state actors is frighteningly real. We must therefore focus on the abolition of nuclear weapons as a priority. It was in September this year that UN Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon said: ☺

“The year 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the first and last use of a nuclear weapon in war. The norm against the use of nuclear weapons – the most destructive weapons ever created, with potentially unparalleled human costs – has stood strong for seven decades. But the only absolute guarantee that they are never used again is through their total elimination.”

This goal of elimination was a priority established as far back as the very first UN Resolution in January 1946. The UN's first Special Session devoted to Disarmament (SSOD I) in 1978, the Canberra Commission on the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in 1996, the ICJ Advisory Opinion of 1996, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission of 2004, and several other multilateral statements have concluded that nuclear weapons must be abolished and this has been validated by the evidence we have had on the climatic consequences of even a limited use of nuclear weapons.

I therefore have pleasure in endorsing the International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for their admirable work. ICAN has stated:

“The production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear forces diverts vast public resources away from health care, education, climate change mitigation, disaster relief, development assistance and other vital services. Globally, annual expenditure on nuclear weapons is estimated at USD 105 billion – or USD 12 million an hour. The World Bank forecast in 2002 that an annual investment of just USD 40–60 billion, or roughly half the amount currently spent on nuclear weapons, would be enough to meet the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation by the target date of 2015.”

Unlike other dangerous industries inimical to human welfare – like the tobacco industry – with a nuclear weapon it is not possible to look at reform or regulations to mitigate its worst impact on human life. Abolition as a policy is firmly resisted by the powerful nuclear weapon states and so we must learn the lessons of previous campaigns to advance the work of civil society.

The outstanding example is the Anti-apartheid Movement's Divestment Campaign, which struck the first blow in the collapse of that odious system of discrimination in South Africa. We can do the same with regard to the nuclear weapon industry globally. There are companies driving the industry and if the investment funds for them are cut off we will have struck a blow for a nuclear weapon free world, converting a slogan into a practical reality. The early success achieved since the first “Don't Bank on the Bomb” report is proof that we CAN succeed. [IDN-InDepthNews 2015] ◆

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What If?

By John Loretz



A poster of a broken missile by artist Peter Kennard, taped to the fence of Greenham Common by a protester in 1982. PeterKennard.com

A poster of a broken missile taped to the fence of Greenham Common by a protester in 1982. Poster by Peter Kennard

Former UK Defence Minister Des Browne is worried that Britain's Trident submarines could be put out of commission by a cyberattack. What if, he asked the BBC last month, the prime minister "needs to reach for" nuclear weapons and they don't work?

Putting aside the temptation to jump down all the rabbit holes opened by questions about cybersecurity and nuclear command and control systems, let's take a literal look at what Browne asked. What if the person in charge of launching a country's nuclear warheads decided to push the button and they didn't detonate when they reached their targets? Or never left the subs or silos in the first place?

Here's what wouldn't happen.

The hundreds of thousands—maybe even tens of millions—of people who would have been incinerated in a matter of moments by those weapons would not be dead. Hundreds of thousands (or tens of millions) more would not be lying in agony among the smoldering, unrecognizable ruins of what used to be cities, waiting for medical care that would never arrive. Everyone who'd had them in the first place would still have working retinas, ear drums, and internal organs.

The targeted cities themselves—including the hospitals, schools, homes, businesses, and all the other bits and pieces that have to work more or less well together for life to go on—would continue to work more or less well together. All those lives would go on, having not just been obliterated.

There would be no radiation sickness from nuclear weapons explosions that someone, somewhere, had felt the need to "reach for"—no painful and merciless deaths from destruction of bone marrow, internal bleeding, infections, and central nervous system dysfunction in a matter of hours or days; no future cancers, birth defects, and other debilitating illnesses from bomb-dispersed radioactive fallout.

The world would still have to deal with global warming, but not with global famine from nuclear-war induced climate disruption. Winter would still arrive in parts of the world that have seasons, but if the US and Russian leaders felt the need to "reach for" the thousands of weapons on high alert and they all failed to work, we'd be spared the inconvenience of nuclear winter.

Does any of that sound like a problem?

Needless to say, in the real world, if the British prime minister (or the US, Russian, French, or Chinese president, or the Indian or Pakistani or Israeli prime minister, or the North Korean supreme leader) felt the need to "reach for" nuclear weapons, they would work, notwithstanding Browne's pitch for a bigger cybersecurity budget, on the off chance something could go "wrong."

On the other hand, what if we were to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, putting them permanently out of reach? (IPPNW | 10 December 2016) ◆

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Campaigning for Global Peace In A Time Of War

By IPPNW

The year 2015 will be remembered sadly for the many ways in which war and armed violence devastated the lives of millions of people around the world—armed conflicts in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Africa; a global refugee crisis spawned by those conflicts and by the atrocities of the radical Islamic State; massacres in Kenya, Nigeria, Syria and elsewhere; an expanded use of cluster munitions and landmines in conflict zones; and countless other mass shootings and suicide bombings.

The nuclear-armed states not only wasted another year in avoiding compliance with their disarmament obligations, but they also made matters worse by increasing their investments in nuclear modernization programs. The much-touted international agreement with Iran on its nuclear programs was overshadowed by the increased risk that escalation of the conflicts in Ukraine, South Asia, or the Middle East could lead to the use of nuclear weapons by those who actually have them.

In the midst of the seemingly endless series of headlines about the victims of war, armed violence, and acts of terror, 2015 was a year when IPPNW and its many partners in civil society took significant steps to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons and to bring the expertise of doctors and public health professionals to the global promotion of violence prevention.

Here are just a few highlights:



The medical and environmental facts about nuclear war, including our nuclear famine findings, were at the forefront of the evidence reported out from the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons (HINW) and submitted to the 2015 NPT Review Conference and to the UN General Assembly. IPPNW and its partners in ICAN worked tirelessly to build support for the Humanitarian Pledge launched by Austria at the conclusion of the Vienna conference. The Pledge to fill the legal gap to stigmatize, prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons has now been joined by 121 countries.

A new open-ended working group (OEWG) established by the General Assembly at the end of the year will meet in 2016 to discuss and recommend ways to make nuclear disarmament a reality. We will be active civil society participants in this OEWG, making ICAN's case that a new treaty banning nuclear weapons is the most effective way to fill the legal gap and to put the nuclear-armed states on notice that they can no longer postpone elimination of the world's most dangerous and unjustifiable weapons.

We worked with friends and colleagues at the World Medical Association this year on a strong new resolution condemning nuclear weapons. The resolution, which cited our findings about nuclear famine and urged governments to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, was adopted unanimously at the WMA Assembly in Moscow. Next year, IPPNW and its affiliates will engage in outreach to national medical associations in order to promote implementation of the resolution.

For IPPNW, ICAN, and a growing number of countries that are determined to rid the world of nuclear weapons, 2016 will be the Year of the Ban Treaty. ➔



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BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

2015 IS CRUCIAL FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE WORLD

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION | WITH DECEMBER 2015 ARTICLES

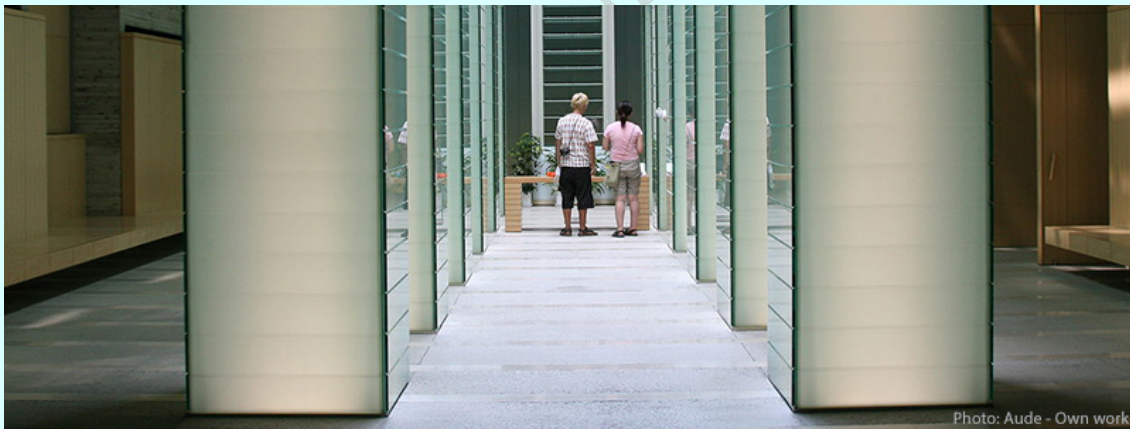
The Civil Society Perspective

This was another headline year for our Aiming for Prevention program, as we continued to conduct “dialogues with decision makers” around the world on the health effects of armed violence, from meetings at the United Nations to forums of the World Health Organization’s Violence Prevention Alliance. We cooperated with the Stockholm-based Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons to bring doctors and parliamentarians together to discuss public policy measures to prevent armed violence and make the Arms Trade Treaty a strong and effective humanitarian-based treaty.

As the leading NGO health voice in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) process, we have brought our “guns are bad for health” message from Trinidad to Nairobi, Vienna to the ATT 1st Conference of States Parties in Cancun, Mexico. The 2002 WHO World Report on Violence and Health included passing an international agreement to curb the international arms trade as one of its nine priority goals—with the ATT entry into force a year ago, we did it!

We also continue to address how health professionals and governments can and should be working together in every country to prevent armed violence at meetings of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and we work locally to that end. This past year we published the promising results of an IPPNW Zambia/Austria project “Improving care for victims of violence in resource-poor settings such as Lusaka, Zambia: results of a low-budget intervention”, a research and education project that involved over 30 medical students and multiple local social service and medical agency partners.

Our year-end pledge is to maintain and strengthen IPPNW’s voice—and the voices of doctors worldwide—in the pursuit of a more peaceful world no longer at risk of extinction in a nuclear winter. (23 December 2016) ◆



People’s Decade for Nuclear Abolition
Initiated by Soka Gakkai International (SGI)



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