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Q&A: To Try With Nukes as With Mines

Chryso D'Angelo interviews Nobel Peace Prize Laureate JODY WILLIAMS

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U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow Mar. 18 to discuss the progress of the START agreement, originally signed by the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) Jul. 31 1991, during the Cold War.

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The meeting came ahead of upcoming talks on nuclear disarmament: the Nuclear Security Summit, which will be held on Apr. 12-13 in Washington, and The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) conference, slated for May 3-28 in New York. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50830>



Jody Williams

Credit: Photo by Judy Rand

Time for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention

By Dimity Hawkins

MELBOURNE (IPS) - History has never provided a better time to act on nuclear disarmament. The desire to free the world of the 23,300 nuclear weapons currently in global stockpiles has come vividly into the spotlight as both global leaders and civil society groups lead the charge toward abolition.

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/TIME FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION.pdf](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/TIME_FOR_A_COMPREHENSIVE_NUCLEAR_WEAPONS_CONVENTION.pdf)

Japan Pushes for Progress in U.S. Nuclear Review

By Jamshed Baruah

BERLIN (IPS) -Japanese parliamentarians and activists pin high hopes on the hotly debated and much anticipated U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) to which the Barack Obama administration is reported to be giving finishing touches. Mandated by the U.S. Congress, this review will set the tone and direction for U.S. nuclear weapons policy for the next five to ten years.

The nuclear policy re-assessment under way is the first in nearly two decades after the Cold War ended. The Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations completed their NPRs in 1994 and 2001, respectively. <http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=50691>

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Q&A: To Try With Nukes as With Mines

Chryso D'Angelo interviews Nobel Peace Prize Laureate JODY WILLIAMS

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 29, 2010 (IPS) - Since the expiration of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in December, U.S. and Russian negotiators have been busy hammering out a new pact that will reduce the number of nuclear warheads deployed in both countries by about one-quarter, according to Washington.

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"It especially is important for the United States and Russia, who bear the responsibility, to continue the way forward on non-proliferation and to work as partners in the global effort to secure fissile materials and counter the threat of nuclear terrorism," Clinton said.

The meeting came ahead of upcoming talks on nuclear disarmament: the Nuclear Security Summit, which will be held on Apr. 12-13 in Washington, and The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) conference, slated for May 3-28 in New York.

"We're hearing rhetoric from governments, but words without action are not very useful," Jody Williams, whose group helped ban anti-personnel land mines in 1997 tells IPS. Williams won the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for her work on the Mine Ban Treaty of 1997. She is founder of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL).

"Governments are not going to move forward unless citizens come together to make it happen," Williams says. "There are too many vested interests in the world to keep nukes."

Following are excerpt from the interview:

Q: The Mine Ban Treaty was quite a success. It managed to stop the production of landmines in 38 nations and destroy almost 42 million anti- personnel mines worldwide. How can it be used as a model for nuclear disarmament?

A: We succeeded because we brought together a range of non-government organisations with the common goal of disarming landmines. These were ordinary people that pressured governments to bring about change. We need that kind of model in order to bring about nuclear disarmament. I'm a little critical of civil society work on banning weapons, however. It doesn't make my friends happy to hear me say it. It's just my opinion as a grassroots activist on disarmament. I don't see enough NGOs coming together with a single focus to stop nuclear proliferation.

Q: Why do you think that is?

A: One of the great pluses we had in the landmine movement is that nobody had been doing it. We were coming into virgin territory. There were organisations taking mines out of the ground, giving victims prosthetics, but there were none banning the mine. In nuclear weapons, organisations have continued their work over decades. That creates turf. There is too much concern over who is going to get the credit.

Q: Do you support the START treaty?

A: I firmly support START. I hope they sign an agreement before the Nuclear Security Summit in April and the NPT meeting in May.

Q: How has Europe's position on the renegotiation of the START talks helped or hampered its advancement?

A: Part of Europe's position is terrific. There are five countries - Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, and Norway - that want the U.S. to get their arsenals out of Europe. The Czech Republic and Poland are not as excited about losing this nuclear umbrella because they fear the history of the Soviet Union. >>>

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I don't see how the U.S. or Russia, who hold most of the world's nuclear weapons, can go to the NPT conference in May and call upon states who have already given up the weapons to increase their commitment to not having them. If I were one of those states, I would be flipping them the bird, frankly.

Q: What type of roles, if any, will non-signatories of the NPT, like India and Pakistan, play in the conference in May?

A: If I'm India, I'm just going to be sitting there watching because the U.S. has demonstrated that the world is a hypocrisy by violating the NPT. The U.S. made it legitimate to sell nuclear technology to India. How can you do these things with credibility and ask countries to not do the same thing? It's the model of the bully saying, 'I'm the biggest guy on the block. I have the most and the biggest nukes, so you have to let me do what I want to do.'

Q: Do you feel there are double standards on Iran?

A: Yes, there is a double standard, which doesn't mean that Iran doesn't have bad intentions. However, if I'm Iran, and I'm in that volatile region and I see Bush threaten Iraq over weapons of mass destruction and then invade to find that there are no weapons and then I see his dealings with North Korea, which has weapons, and he does nothing, what would I conclude? That I should have weapons to defend myself.

Q: How realistic are fears of an Islamic nuclear bomb?

A: Fears of new nuclear weapons anywhere in the world are realistic. There are about 34 countries that have petitioned to get the technology to build nuclear power. Many are in the Middle Eastern region that we're worried about. With nuclear technology, you can build a bomb. (END)

Time for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention

By Dimity Hawkins *

MELBOURNE, Mar (IPS) - History has never provided a better time to act on nuclear disarmament. The desire to free the world of the 23,300 nuclear weapons currently in global stockpiles has come vividly into the spotlight as both global leaders and civil society groups lead the charge toward abolition.

Last April in a keynote address in Prague, US President Obama declared his intention to "seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons". It is a goal shared by civil society groups worldwide. This April the US and Russia are expected to sign a new bilateral treaty to replace the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which would reduce their nuclear arsenals by 25%. As the US and Russia currently possesses 96 percent of the world's nuclear armaments, all such moves towards freeing the world of these weapons are both welcome and long overdue.



There is growing recognition that verifiable and complete nuclear disarmament cannot be achieved by incremental steps alone but only through a comprehensive framework. To achieve this, civil society groups and an increasing number of governments are joining in a call for a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC).

In 1997, non-government experts from around the world took the bold move of releasing a model NWC. Such a convention had been in discussion for many years in multilateral forums and had gained momentum since the re-launching of the Model NWC in 2007. It is a document that has been accepted twice by the United Nations, in 1997 and 2007.

While governments talk, civil society has again come up with positive solutions, setting in motion an achievable trajectory and providing a blueprint to start work on a verifiable, comprehensive NWC.

It's not a new concept but rather an idea whose time has come. >>>



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A NWC would strengthen the handful of disarmament negotiations already in place by prohibiting the production of fissile material and the development, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. Parties would be required to declare all nuclear weapons, material, facilities, and delivery vehicles. They would then be required to abolish their nuclear arsenals in set phases, first taking the weapons off high alert, then withdrawing them from deployment, removing the warheads from their delivery vehicles, disabling the warheads, and placing all fissile material under international control.

While some governments question how much political capital they would gain by pushing nuclear disarmament in highly demanding domestic settings, civil society continues to drive the agenda towards a world free of these ultimate weapons of mass destruction.

Each year about two-thirds of nations vote in favour of a resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for the early commencement of negotiations on a NWC. This is shown in polls commissioned by Global Zero in 2008 in 21 countries indicating that 76 percent of people globally wanted their governments to reach a binding agreement to abolish nuclear weapons within a specified time frame. The UN Secretary-General has proposed a convention as the first point in his five-point plan for a nuclear-weapon-free world. Civil society and an increasing number of governments see the sense in developing a comprehensive convention or treaty. It is here that we find the leadership required to draw reluctant (especially nuclear-armed) countries towards the plan for zero.

The barriers to the successful negotiation of a NWC are political, not technical. Language of intent from all governments is needed and must be followed with action. Preparations towards a NWC must be made now if the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons is to be realised.

Global civil society groups such as the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Mayors for Peace, Abolition 2000, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Soka Gakkai International, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons are working together on this agenda. These groups, representing medical practitioners, local government, women of peace, people of faith, and people of vision, meet regularly with governments and ambassadors to drive the agenda for a NWC.

On June 5 this year groups all over the world will be taking united actions under the banner "NWC - Now We Can" - demanding global governments move forward the agenda of zero nuclear weapons, driven by concerns that substantial progress may not be made at the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference at the UN in May.

There is growing impatience with the 40 year-old NPT as the threats of proliferation continue. Insufficient substantive progress on nuclear disarmament has been achieved in the past four decades. A NWC would enhance the existing commitments to disarmament contained in Article VI of the NPT by providing a road map to elimination.

Right now there are at least 23,300 reasons to pursue a NWC in the world. And every one of them carries with it an imperative to action. Civil society knows this. Now is the moment for governments to meet the expectations of the majority of the world's people and prepare for a NWC to finally abolish nuclear weapons for all time and for all people. (END/COPYRIGHT IPS)

*Dimitry Hawkins is the Campaign Director for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), based in the ICAN head office in Australia (<http://icanw.org/>).

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Japan Pushes for Progress in U.S. Nuclear Review

By Jamshed Baruah*

BERLIN, Mar 17, 2010 (IPS) - Japanese parliamentarians and activists pin high hopes on the hotly debated and much anticipated U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) to which the Barack Obama administration is reported to be giving finishing touches.

Mandated by the U.S. Congress, this review will set the tone and direction for U.S. nuclear weapons policy for the next five to ten years. The nuclear policy re-assessment under way is the first in nearly two decades after the Cold War ended. The Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations completed their NPRs in 1994 and 2001, respectively.

Japan is the only country to have suffered nuclear bombings, on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, it is therefore anxiously looking forward to a new orientation of the role and mission of the U.S. nuclear forces - particularly against the backdrop of intermittent rattles of atomic tremors from North Korea. In an e-mail interview from Tokyo, former Japanese vice-minister for foreign affairs Masayoshi Hamada tells IPS: "The possibility of Japan getting involved in nuclear disarmament in a big way is just ahead of us." Hamada, who represents the opposition New Komei Party in the House of Councillors is one of the 204 members of the two chambers of the Japanese parliament (Diet), who have endorsed a letter to President Obama, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defence Secretary Robert Gates and top members of Congress. The letter backs resumption of Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (START) between the U.S. and Russia to cut the number of nuclear weapons. The letter follows one by Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada to Clinton in December 2009. In the letter, Okada distanced himself from the previous Japanese administration's support for a strong U.S. nuclear posture, and expressed concerns that some Japanese officials may have lobbied the U.S. not to reduce its nuclear arsenal - a position which "would clearly be at variance with my views, which are in favour of nuclear disarmament." Okada's letter also supported the idea that the role of nuclear weapons be restricted to deterrence of the use of nuclear weapons, and that the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon state members of the NPT be banned. The parliamentarians' letter points ahead to a series of upcoming events including a nuclear security summit to be held in Washington in April and a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference the following month in New York. Many are asking whether the Diet members' letter will have any impact on the Obama administration's NPR and the decision of the U.S. Congress, particularly as only 204 out of 700 legislators signed the letter.

"The number of 204 does not mean that the rest are opposed to the letter or were reluctant to sign it," says Akira Kawasaki, executive committee member of Peace Boat, a global group based in Japan, and advisor to the Australian and Japanese co-

chairs of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament. "If the initiators of the move had been pro-active, all the Diet members would have signed the letter.

"Members of the Communist Party did not sign the letter because they found it to be too modest, and instead favoured further steps for disarmament," Kawasaki said in an e-mail interview from Tokyo. Hans M. Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the U.S.-based Federation of American Scientists tells IPS in an e-mail interview from Washington: "The (Diet members') letter together with the Japanese government's statements serve an important role of conveying loud and clear that the most important U.S. ally in the Pacific does not oppose the Obama administration's nuclear disarmament vision but supports not only reductions in nuclear weapons but also a reduction in the mission that those weapons have."

The NPR will reaffirm a U.S. commitment to extended nuclear deterrence in the Pacific (and elsewhere) but also have Japanese support to reduce both the numbers and mission, Kristensen said in the e-mail interview. Asked what he thought of the view among some sections of the Japanese political elite that no first use and sole purpose declarations on the part of the U.S. would expose Japan to the Chinese and eventually North Korean nuclear threat, Gregory Kulacki, senior analyst and China project manager at the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists said that they had conducted an extensive investigation.

"While there are concerns among some nuclear security experts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence (in Tokyo) about significant changes to U.S. declaratory policy, there is virtually no chance those concerns would damage the alliance or lead to a change in elite Japanese attitudes about their strong support for the NPT and nuclear disarmament," Kulacki said in an e-mail interview from Cambridge, Massachusetts.

"The Government of Japan has strongly endorsed the ICNND recommendations for an immediate U.S. declaration that the sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter and, as a last resort, respond to the use of nuclear weapons by another country."

*This article is part of an IPS-Soka Gakkai International (SGI) project on nuclear abolition. The writer is a correspondent of the IDN-InDepthNews service specialising in nuclear disarmament issues and Japan. (END)

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Japan Pledges Abstinence as U.S. Reviews Nuke Posture

By Jaya Ramachandran

BERLIN (IDN) - As the only country having suffered nuclear bombings and intermittently rattled by atomic tremors from Pyongyang, Japan is not only anxiously looking forward to a new orientation of the role and mission of the U.S. nuclear forces in the next five to ten years, but also trying to influence Washington's decisions.

The backdrop to Tokyo's cautious moves is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan. That date, January 19, 1960, marked the beginning of what President Dwight Eisenhower called "an indestructible partnership" based on "equality and mutual understanding".



From that point of view, Barack Obama administration's re-assessment called the Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) is the first in nearly two decades after the Cold War ended. The Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations completed their NPRs in 1994 and 2001, respectively.

Japan is also a leading U.S. ally in the Pacific. It is not surprising therefore that since President Barack Obama's historic speech in Prague in April 2009 calling for a world free of nuclear weapons, members of the Diet, the country's parliament, and political leaders as well as senior government officials have not been sitting idle.

In a letter to President Obama, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defence Secretary Robert Gates and top members of Congress, representatives of the two houses of Japanese parliament say:

"As members of the Diet of the only country to have experienced nuclear bombings, we believe we have 'a moral responsibility' to support your efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons with all our strength, and declare that:

- We fully support the policy objectives of moving toward a world without nuclear weapons as outlined in your speech in Prague in April 2009.
- We strongly desire that the United States immediately adopt a declaratory policy stating that the 'sole purpose' of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter others from using such weapons against the United States or U.S. allies, in accordance with the recommendation of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) Report (released December 15 in Tokyo).
- We are firmly convinced that Japan will not seek the road toward possession of nuclear weapons if the U.S. adopts a 'sole purpose' policy.
- We strongly desire that U.S. nuclear policy should exclude any option that would violate Japan's 'Three Non-Nuclear Principles'.
- We support your efforts to conclude a new START agreement with Russia mandating significant reductions in each country's deployed strategic forces.
- We support your efforts to quickly ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and to negotiate a Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT)."

Copies of the letter, endorsed by 204 parliamentarians across party barriers, were submitted in person by seven legislators to U.S. Japan Ambassador John Roos on February 19. They were led by Hideo Hiraoka, a member of the House of Representatives from the ruling Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) who initiated the move. >>>

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On February 9, Japanese Prime Minister Hatoyama commented favourably in the Diet on Hiraoka's initiative, indicating that it was in accordance with his government's commitment to maintaining Japan's Three Non-Nuclear Principles and the support for nuclear disarmament.

The three 'non-nuclear principles' are a parliamentary resolution, never adopted into law that have guided Japanese nuclear policy since their inception in the late 1960s, and reflect general public sentiment and national policy since the end of World War II.

The tenets state that Japan shall neither possess nor manufacture nuclear weapons, nor shall it permit their introduction into Japanese territory. The principles were outlined by Prime Minister Eisaku Sato in a speech to the House of Representatives in 1967 amid negotiations over the return of Okinawa from the United States. The Diet formally adopted these in 1971.

The initiative of DPJ's Hiraoka, who is a member of the group of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), reinforces some of the key ideas in the letter sent by Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada to U.S. State Secretary Hillary Clinton in December 2009 as regards the third NPR.

In the letter, Okada – also a member of the PNND – distanced himself from the previous Japanese administration's support for a strong U.S. nuclear posture, and expressed concerns that some Japanese officials may have lobbied the U.S. not to reduce its nuclear arsenal – a position which “would clearly be at variance with my views, which are in favour of nuclear disarmament”.

Okada's letter also supported the idea that the role of nuclear weapons be restricted to deterrence of the use of nuclear weapons, and that the use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon state members of the NPT be banned.

The parliamentarians' letter points to a series of upcoming events including a nuclear security summit to be held in Washington in April and a Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference the following month in New York. The letter says, "This year will be very important in terms of taking concrete steps toward the goal you stated" – the goal of achieving a nuclear weapons free world.

According to Hiraoka, U.S. Ambassador Roos welcomed the letter adding that nuclear abolition is one of the priority issues for President Obama. “The Ambassador at the same time told us that under the circumstances, as President Obama stated in his (Prague) speech, it may not be realized in his life time, but the U.S. would like to adopt a realistic approach.”

INFLUENCE

Will the Diet members' have any impact on the Obama administration's NPR and the decision of the U.S. Congress, particularly as only 204 out of 700 legislators signed the letter?

“The number of 204 does not mean that the rest are opposed to the letter or were reluctant to sign it. If the initiators of the move had been pro-active, all the Diet members would have signed the letter,” says Akira Kawasaki, executive committee member, of the ‘Peace Boat’ and NGO advisor to the Australian and Japanese co-chairs of the ICNND.

“Members of the Communist Party did not sign the letter because they found it to be too modest, and instead favoured further steps for disarmament;” Kawasaki said in an E-Mail interview from Tokyo.

He recalled that in June 2009, the House of Representatives had unanimously adopted, in support of President Obama's Prague speech, a resolution calling for strengthened efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons. “The Japanese people's will is very clearly manifested in this act of support.”

Former vice minister for foreign affairs Masayoshi Hamada, who represents in the House of Councillors the New Komei Party, says: “The possibility of Japan getting involved in nuclear disarmament in a big way is just ahead of us.”

He would like to see Japan closely review the necessity of nuclear deterrence against concrete threats in East Asia to prepare the ground for the U.S. to adopt “the sole purpose declaration”. >>>



Former vice minister for foreign affairs Masayoshi Hamada



BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION



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Availing of the opportunity to assume chairmanship of UN Security Council in April 2010, Japan should trigger a binding UN resolution regarding "negative security assurance". Considering that there is a high possibility of the U.S. requesting for tightening sanctions against Iran, Japan's as chair of the Security Council could play an important role.

Hamada is of the view that Japan should secure U.S. support for the UN resolution (on negative security assurance) as a counter proposal (for supporting the U.S. on its request for sanctions on Iran).

"Japan should work toward making obligatory the negative security assurance at the NPT review conference in May and at the preceding foreign ministers' meeting purported to achieve consensus. This schedule may sound hasty but Japan should make the most of the momentum of NPT review conference that takes place once in every five years," Hamada said in an E-Mail interview from Tokyo.

Hans M. Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, said: "The (Diet members') letter together with the Japanese government's statements serve an important role of conveying loud and clear that the most important U.S. ally in the Pacific does not oppose the Obama administration's nuclear disarmament vision but supports not only reductions in nuclear weapons but also a reduction in the mission that those weapons have."

The NPR will reaffirm a U.S. commitment to extended nuclear deterrence in the Pacific (and elsewhere) but also have Japanese support to reduce both the numbers and mission, Kristensen said in an E-Mail interview from Washington.

Asked what he thought of the view among some sections of the Japanese political elite that no first use and sole purpose declarations on the part of the U.S. would expose Japan to the Chinese and eventually North Korean nuclear threat, Gregory Kulacki, Senior Analyst, China Project Manager at the U.S.-based Union of Concerned Scientists said that they had conducted an extensive investigation.

"While there are concerns among some nuclear security experts in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence (in Tokyo) about significant changes to U.S. declaratory policy, there is virtually no chance those concerns would damage the alliance or lead to a change in elite Japanese attitudes about their strong support for the NPT and nuclear disarmament," Kulacki said in an E-Mail interview.

The reason is obvious: "The Government of Japan has strongly endorsed the ICNND recommendations for an immediate U.S. declaration that the sole purpose of U.S. nuclear weapons is to deter and, as a last resort, respond to the use of nuclear weapons by another country." (IDN-InDepthNews/03.03.2010)



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Q&A: To Try With Nukes as With Mines

وكالة الأنباء العالمية انتر بريس سرفيس (أي بي إس)

مقابلة مع جودي وليامز، جائزة نوبل للسلام:
"الغرب يتبع أسلوب إزدواجية المعيار مع إيران"

بقلم كريسو دانجيلو/وكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس

الأمم المتحدة، أبريل (IPS) - أكدت جودي وليامز، الحاصلة علي جائزة نوبل للسلام، أن التعامل مع إيران يجري بأسلوب إزدواجية المعيار، ما لا يعني الجزم بأن طهران قد لا تكن "توايا سينة".

وشرحت لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس "لو كنت في مكان إيران وفي مثل تلك المنطقة المضطربة، ورأيت بوش يتهم العراق بحيازة أسلحة دمار شامل ثم يغزوها ليجد أنها كانت لا تملك هذه الأسلحة، وإذا رأيت كيف يتعامل مع كوريا الشمالية التي تحوز (هذه) الأسلحة بدون أن يفعل شيئاً، لتساءلت ما العمل؟ بالطبع كنت سأملك أسلحة للدفاع عن نفسي".

وبسؤالها عن المخاوف التي تتردد حول "قنبلة ذرية إسلامية، أجابت وليامز أن "المخاوف من مقدم أي أسلحة نووية جديدة دائماً واقعية". وأفادت أن ثمة "34 دولة طلبت بالفعل الحصول علي تكنولوجيا بناء طاقة نووية، والكثير منها في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. فالمعروف أنه يمكن إنتاج قنبلة بالتكنولوجيا النووية".

وأجابت علي سؤال لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس عن الدور الذي يمكن أن تلعبه الدول غير الموقعة علي إتفاقية حظر الانتشار النووي، كالنهد وباكستان، في مؤتمر مراجعة هذه الإتفاقية في مايو المقبل، قائلة "لو كنت الهند، لإكتفيت بالجلوس والمراقبة، لأن الولايات المتحدة بخرقها لهذه الإتفاقية قد برهنت علي أن العالم هو مجرد نفاق".

وشرحت "لقد شرعت" الولايات المتحدة بيع التكنولوجيا النووية للهند. فكيف يمكن التصرف بهذا الأسلوب، وما هي مصداقية طلبها من دول أخرى أن لا تتصرف بنفس هذه الشكل".

وأكدت أن الولايات المتحدة تتصرف إنطلاقاً من إعتبار "أنا الأقوي، أنا لذي أكثر أسلحة نووية وأكبرها... أتركوني إذن أفعل ما أشاء!".

كذلك فقد شددت وليامز علي حتمية حظر الأسلحة النووية في العالم علي غرار الإتفاقية حظر الألغام التي أبرمت في عام 1997.

وأشارت إلي مفاوضات خفض عدد الأسلحة النووية وقمة الأمن النووي المقرر عقدها في 12-13 أبريل في واشنطن، ومؤتمر مراجعة إتفاقية عدم إنتشار السلاح النووي في الفترة 3-28 مايو في نيويورك.

وأكدت أن حكومات العالم "لن تتحرك في إتجاه (حظر الأسلحة النووية) إلا إذا توّحد المواطنون لتحقيق هذه الغاية... فهناك الكثير من المصالح المُتّعة للإبقاء عليها".

وقالت وليامز، مؤسسة منظمة الحملة الدولية لحظر الألغام البرية التي ساهمت في إتفاقية حظر الألغام ضد الأشخاص في عام 199 "اننا نسمع كلاماً وخطابة من الحكومات لكن الكلمات غير مفيدة عندما لا تصحبها الأفعال".

وعلقت علي نجاح إتفاقية حظر الألغام في وقف إنتاج الألغام البرية في 38 دولة وتدمير نحو 42 مليون لغماً في مختلف أنحاء العالم، قائلة "لقد نجحنا لأننا وحدنا مجموعة من المنظمات غير الحكومية في خدمة غاية موحدة ألا وهي نزع سلاح الألغام. الناس أجبرت الحكومات".

وشرحت أن العالم في حاجة إلي مثل هذه التعبئة الشعبية لتحقيق غاية نزع الأسلحة النووية. "ومع ذلك لا نشاهد عدداً كافياً من المنظمات غير الحكومية التي توحد صفوفها" للتركيز علي هذه القضية.

وبسؤالها عن السبب وراء ذلك، قالت وليامز لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس "لقد تلقينا، في سياق حركة حظر الألغام، دفعة قوية للعمل في ميدان جديد، ذلك أنه كانت هناك منظمات عملت مثلاً في نزع الألغام من الأرض، وأخري إجتهدت في توفير الأطراف الصناعية لضحايا الألغام، فيما لم توجد أي منظمة تقريبا تنشط من أجل حظرها".

وشرحت وليامز أن المنظمات الناشطة من أجل إلغاء الأسلحة النووية واصلت العمل الذي بدأته منذ عقود طويلة، ما خلق مضماراً.

وعن موقف أوروبا من مفاوضات معاهدة الحد من الأسلحة الاستراتيجية (ستارت) وما إذا كانت قد ساعدتها أم عرقلتها، أفادت أن خمس دول أوروبية (بلجيكا، المانيا، لوكسمبرغ، هولندا، والنرويج) تريد أن تزيل الولايات المتحدة ترسانتها النووية من القارة الأوروبية، فيما تخشي تشيكيا وبولندا فقدان المظلة النووية الأمريكية.

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/print.asp?idnews=1823>

In Japanese http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_To_Try_With_Nukes_as_With_Mines.pdf

OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations] Time for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention

وكالة الأنباء العالمية انتر بريس سرفيس (آي بي إس)

مطالبات مكثفة بتحرير العالم منها: 23,300 ميرر لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية

بقلم ديميتي هوكينز* لوكالة انتر بريس سيرفيس

ميلبورن، مارس (IPS) - لم يسبق أن أتيحت فرصة كالمساحة الآن لنزع السلاح. فقد قوت إرادة التحرر من 23,300 سلاحا نوويا في ترسانات العالم، بفضل تزعّم المجتمع المدني والقادة لحملة إزالتها من وجه الأرض.

لقد أعلن الرئيس الأمريكي باراك أوباما في أبريل من العام الماضي في براغ، عن نية السعي لتحقيق السلام والأمن في عالم متحرر من الأسلحة النووية، وهو الهدف الذي يشاركه المجتمع المدني في مختلف الدول. فيمثل إعلان النية هذا مطلباً ضرورياً في وقت تحتفظ فيه الولايات المتحدة وروسيا بإجمالي 96 في المائة من مجموع الأسلحة النووية في العالم، فيما يتنامى الإجماع على عدم إمكان نزع السلاح النووي كاملاً من خلال خطوات مرحلية.

لقد انضم المزيد من الحكومات إلى المجتمع المدني في المناداة بالتوصل إلى إتفاقية أسلحة نووية. وتحرك الخبراء غير الحكوميين في مختلف أرجاء الأرض، في عام 1997، في سياق مبادرة إعداد مسودة لمثل هذه الإتفاقية.

وجري التناقض بشأن مثل هذه الإتفاقية على مدى سنوات طويلة في مختلف المحافل الدولية، بل وإكتسبت دفعة إضافية جراء طرح هذه المسودة مجدداً في عام 2007. ووافقت عليها الأمم المتحدة مرتين الإتفاقية، في عامي 1997 و 2007.

وفيما تتحدث الحكومات، جاء المجتمع المدني بطول إيجابية من خلال تقديم مسار قابل للتحقيق وخطة لبدء العمل على إبرام إتفاقية شاملة في هذا الصدد.

فمن شأن هذه الإتفاقية أن تعزز مفاوضات نزع السلاح الجارية، وذلك من خلال حظر إنتاج المواد الانشطارية، وتطوير واختبار وتخزين ونقل وإستخدام أسلحة نووية بل والتهديد بإستخدامها، وإلزام كل أطرافها بالإعلان عن موجوداتهم من الأسلحة والمواد والمرافق النووية ونقلاتها.

وستنص الإتفاقية أيضاً على مطالبة جميع أطرافها بإلغاء ترساناتهم النووية مرحلياً، مع البدء بوقف حالة الطوارئ في الأسلحة النووية، ثم سحبها، ونزع الرؤوس النووية من ناقلاتها، وإبطالها، ووضع كافة المواد الانشطارية تحت الرقابة الدولية.

كذلك، وفيما تتسائل الحكومات عن حجم رأس المال السياسي الذي يمكنها أن تجنيه من وراء دفع عجلة نزع السلاح، يواصل المجتمع المدني المطالبة بتوجيه الأجنحة نحو تحقيق عالماً محرراً من أسلحة الدمار الشامل هذه.

يصوت ثلثا دول العالم، كل سنة، لصالح قرار الجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة بالمناداة بالإسراع ببدء التفاوض حول إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية المطلوبة.

ويستدل على ضرورة هذا المطلب من واقع نتائج حملات الإستطلاع التي أطلقتها حملة "غولبال زيرو" في عام 2008 في 21 دولة، حيث بينت النتائج أن 76 في المائة من الأهالي يريدون أن تتوصل حكوماتهم إلى إتفاق ملزم لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية في فترة زمنية محددة.

كما إقترح أمين عام الأمم المتحدة ذلك بدوره، كأول نقطة على رأس خطته المقترحة للتوصل إلى عالم متحرر من الأسلحة النووية.

أما العقبات التي تقف أمام إنجاح التفاوض على إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية فهي ذات طابع سياسي. ولا بد أن تعلن كافة الحكومات عن نواياها ثم العمل. فيحتّم الإعداد لهذه الإتفاقية الآن من أجل تحقيق غاية العيش في عالم متحرر من السلاح النووي.

هذا وتعمل منظمات المجتمع المدني - ومنها s International'Women ,2000Abolition ,Mayors for Peace ,International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War و Soka Gakkai International ,League for Peace and Freedom - تعمل معا كلها في خدمة هذه الغاية.

هذه المنظمات التي تمثل الأطباء والسلطات المحلية والنساء من أجل السلام والمؤمنين وأصحاب الرؤية، تلتقي بانتظام مع الحكومات والسفراء للترويج لإتفاقية الأسلحة النووية.

هذا وستنص هذه المنظمات في 5 يونيو المقبل سلسلة من الحملات الموحدة بشعار "Now We Can -NWC" إشارة إلى إمكانية التوصل لإتفاقية الأسلحة النووية هذه، وذلك لمطالبة الحكومات بالتحرك تجاه تحقيق غاية "صفر أسلحة نووية".

وتتطلق حملة المنظمات من القلق من احتمال عدم التوصل لإنجازات جوهرية في مؤتمر مراجعة إتفاقية حظر نشر الأسلحة النووية في مايو المقبل في الأمم المتحدة.

لقد بدأ الصبر ينفذ بعد مرور 40 سنة على إتفاقية حظر الإنتشار النووي في وقت تتنامى فيه أخطار الإنتشار. فقد فشلت مساعي التوصل إلى إنجازات جوهرية على طريق نزع السلاح النووي على مدى أربعة عقود .

من شأن إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية المطلوبة أن تعزز التزامات نزع السلاح المنصوص عليها في المادة الرابعة من إتفاقية منع الإنتشار النووي، وتقديم خارطة طريق لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية.

ثمّة 23,300 مبرراً لإبرام إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية، ينطوي كل منهم على حاجة ملحة للعمل.

المجتمع المدني يدرك ذلك. فحان الوقت لكي تلبى الحكومات مطالب الشعوب وإبرام إتفاقية الأسلحة النووية لإزالتها للأبد. *ديميتي هوكينز، مديرة منظمة الحملة الدولية لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons - أستراليا.

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Time for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention

Japanese adaptation available at:

http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japanese_Time_For_A_Comprehensive_Nuclear_Weapons_Convention.pdf

A l'heure d'une convention globale sur les armes nucléaires

Dimity Hawkins (*)

MELBOURNE, 28 mars (IPS) - L'histoire n'a jamais fourni un meilleur moment pour agir sur le désarmement nucléaire. Le désir de libérer le monde de 23.300 armes nucléaires actuellement dans des stocks mondiaux fait remarquablement la une, pendant que les dirigeants du monde et les organisations de la société civile mènent le combat pour leur abolition.

En avril dernier, dans son discours d'ouverture à Prague, le président américain, Obama, a annoncé son intention de "rechercher la paix et la sécurité d'un monde sans armes nucléaires". C'est un objectif partagé par les organisations de la société civile à travers le monde.

En avril, les Etats-Unis et la Russie devraient signer un nouveau traité bilatéral pour remplacer le Traité de 1991 sur la réduction des armes stratégiques, qui réduirait leurs arsenaux nucléaires de 25 pour cent. Comme les Etats-Unis et la Russie possèdent actuellement 96 pour cent de l'armement nucléaire mondial, toutes ces démarches pour libérer le monde de ces armes sont les bienvenues et auraient déjà dû être faites.

On reconnaît de plus en plus qu'un désarmement nucléaire vérifiable et total ne peut être réalisé par des mesures progressives uniquement, mais seulement à travers un cadre global. Pour y parvenir, des organisations de la société civile et un nombre croissant de gouvernements se joignent à une demande pour une Convention globale sur les armes nucléaires (NWC).

En 1997, des experts non gouvernementaux du monde entier ont pris la décision audacieuse de publier un modèle de NWC. Une telle convention avait été en discussion pendant plusieurs années dans des forums multilatéraux et a gagné du terrain depuis la relance du modèle de NWC en 2007. C'est un document qui a été accepté à deux reprises par les Nations Unies, en 1997 et 2007. Pendant que les gouvernements parlent, la société civile est encore parvenue à des solutions positives, projetant une trajectoire réalisable et offrant un plan pour commencer à travailler sur une NWC vérifiable et globale.

Ce n'est pas un nouveau concept mais plutôt une idée dont l'heure est venue.

Une NWC renforcerait le petit nombre de négociations sur le désarmement déjà en place en interdisant la production des substances fissiles et le développement, les tests, le stockage, le transfert, l'utilisation et la menace d'utilisation des armes nucléaires. Les parties seraient tenues de déclarer la totalité des armes nucléaires, des substances, des installations et des véhicules de livraison. Elles seraient ensuite tenues de supprimer leurs arsenaux nucléaires à des étapes bien déterminées, en levant d'abord l'état de haute alerte des armes, puis en les retirant du déploiement, en éliminant les ogives de leurs véhicules de livraison, en désactivant les ogives, et en plaçant toutes les substances fissiles sous contrôle international.

Pendant que certains gouvernements se demandent quel capital politique ils gagneraient en soutenant le désarmement nucléaire dans des milieux nationaux très exigeants, la société civile continue de conduire le programme vers un monde sans ces armes ultimes de destruction massive.

Chaque année, environ deux tiers des nations votent en faveur d'une résolution à l'Assemblée générale des Nations unies demandant l'ouverture rapide des négociations sur une NWC. Cela est prouvé dans les sondages commandés par 'Global Zero' en 2008 dans 21 pays, indiquant que 76 pour cent des personnes dans le monde souhaitent que leurs gouvernements parviennent à un accord contraignant pour abolir les armes nucléaires dans un délai précis.

Le secrétaire général de l'ONU a proposé une convention comme premier point de son plan en cinq points pour un monde sans armes nucléaires. La société civile et un nombre croissant de gouvernements voient le bien-fondé de l'élaboration d'une convention ou d'un traité global. C'est ici que nous trouvons le leadership nécessaire pour attirer les pays réticents (surtout dotés d'armes nucléaires) vers le plan pour zéro arme nucléaire. >>>



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Les obstacles à la réussite des négociations d'une NWC sont politiques et non techniques. La déclaration de principe de tous les gouvernements est nécessaire et doit être suivie d'action. Les préparatifs vers une NWC doivent être faits maintenant, si l'objectif d'un monde sans armes nucléaires doit être atteint.

Les groupes mondiaux de la société civile, tels que les Médecins internationaux pour la prévention de la guerre nucléaire, les Maires pour la paix, Abolition 2000, la Ligue internationale des femmes pour la paix et la liberté, 'Soka Gakkai International', et la Campagne internationale pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires, travaillent ensemble sur ce programme. Ces groupes, représentant les médecins généralistes, le gouvernement local, les femmes de paix, les gens de différentes confessions, et les visionnaires, rencontrent régulièrement les gouvernements et les ambassadeurs afin de piloter le programme pour une NWC.

Le 5 juin, cette année, des groupes à travers le monde prendront des mesures communes sous la bannière "NWC – Maintenant, nous pouvons" – pour exiger que tous les gouvernements fassent avancer le programme de zéro arme nucléaire, poussés par la crainte que des progrès importants pourraient ne pas être faits à la conférence de révision du Traité sur la non-Prolifération des armes nucléaires (NPT), en mai au siège des Nations Unies.

Il y a une impatience croissante avec ce TNP vieux de 40 ans puisque les menaces de prolifération continuent. Des progrès considérables mais insuffisants sur le désarmement nucléaire ont été réalisés au cours des quatre dernières décennies. Une NWC renforcerait les engagements existants sur le désarmement, contenus dans l'article VI du TNP en fournissant une feuille de route pour l'élimination.

Présentement, il y a au moins 23.300 raisons de poursuivre une NWC dans le monde. Et chacune d'entre elles porte en elle un impératif d'agir. La société civile sait cela. C'est maintenant le moment pour les gouvernements de répondre aux attentes de la majorité de la population mondiale et de se préparer à une NWC afin d'abolir finalement les armes nucléaires pour toujours et pour tous les peuples.

(*) Dimity Hawkins est le directeur de campagne de la Campagne internationale pour l'abolition des armes nucléaires (ICAN). Il est basé au siège de l'ICAN en Australie (<http://icanw.org/>). (FIN/2010)

Meinung: Beste Voraussetzungen für nukleare Abrüstung

Von Dimity Hawkins*

Melbourne, 25. März (IPS) – Nie hat es in der Geschichte einen besseren Zeitpunkt gegeben, um endlich nuklear abzurüsten. Der Wunsch, die Welt von den derzeit 23.300 in den globalen Waffenkammern lagernden Atomsprengköpfen zu befreien, ist ins Rampenlicht gerückt, seitdem die beiden Großmächte USA und Russland sowie die zivilgesellschaftlichen Gruppen auf die Abschaffung von Kernwaffen drängen.

Im April letzten Jahres hatte US-Präsident Barack Obama in einer Ansprache in Prag seine Absicht erklärt, "für Frieden und Sicherheit in einer Welt ohne Atomwaffen einzutreten".

Dies ist ein Ziel, das auch die zivilgesellschaftlichen Gruppen anstreben. Da die USA und Russland noch immer 96 Prozent aller Atomwaffen besitzen, ist die Absichtserklärung, die Welt von solchen Waffen zu befreien, sowohl willkommen als auch lange überfällig.

Es gibt einen wachsenden Konsens darüber, dass eine verifizierbare und vollständige nukleare Abrüstung nicht allein durch Einzelschritte erreichbar ist, sondern durch ein umfassendes Rahmenwerk. In diesem Sinne finden sich zivilgesellschaftliche Gruppen und immer mehr Staaten zusammen, um sich für eine umfassende Atomwaffenkonvention (NWC) einzusetzen. 1997 unternahm unabhängige Experten den mutigen Schritt, ein NWC-Modell vorzustellen. Eine solche Konvention war seit vielen Jahren auf multilateralen Foren diskutiert worden und nahm seit einer Reform des NWC-Modells an Fahrt auf. Es handelt sich um ein Dokument, das gleich zweimal – 1997 und 2007 – von den Vereinten Nationen angenommen wurde. >>>



OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

Time for a Comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention

Während die Regierungen verhandelten, wartete die Zivilgesellschaft erneut mit Vorschlägen für weitere Verfahrensweisen und einen Entwurf für eine überprüfbare und umfassende NWC auf. Wir haben es hier nicht mit einem neuen Konzept zu tun, sondern mit einer Idee, deren Zeit nun gekommen ist.

Eine NWC könnte bereits laufende Abrüstungsverhandlungen durch ein Verbot stärken, spaltbares Material zu produzieren, zu entwickeln, zu testen, zu lagern, zu transportieren, zu verwenden und als Druckmittel einzusetzen. Die Vertragsstaaten müssten ihre Kernwaffen, ihr atomwaffenfähiges Material, die zur Herstellung von Kernwaffen erforderlichen Einrichtungen und Atomwaffenträger preisgeben.

Sie wären zudem aufgefordert, ihre Atomwaffenarsenale phasenweise zu leeren: Zunächst müssten die einsatzfähigen Atomraketen entfernt und in einem weiteren Schritt unschädlich gemacht werden, indem die Sprengköpfe von den Atomwaffenträgern entfernt und zerstört und spaltbares Material unter internationale Kontrolle gestellt würde.

Während einige Regierungen die Frage umtreibt, wie sich aus der nuklearen Abrüstung politisches Kapital schlagen ließe, setzt sich die Zivilgesellschaft weiterhin dafür ein, die Massenvernichtungswaffen von der Welt zu verbannen.

Jedes Jahr stimmen zwei Drittel aller UN-Staaten für eine Resolution der UN-Vollversammlung zugunsten baldiger Verhandlungen über die NWC. Das geht aus einer Studie der Abrüstungsorganisation 'Global Zero' 2008 hervor, die Stimmen aus 21 Ländern aufgenommen hatte. Demnach sind 76 Prozent aller Menschen weltweit für ein verbindliches und zeitgemäßes Abkommen zur Abschaffung von Atomwaffen.

Als ersten Schritt eines Fünf-Punkte-Plans für eine atomwaffenfreie Welt hat der UN-Generalsekretär eine Übereinkunft vorgeschlagen. Die Zivilgesellschaft und eine zunehmende Zahl von Regierungen erkennen die Bedeutung einer umfassenden Konvention an. Hier wird Führungsstärke erkennbar, die notwendig ist, um Abrüstungsgegner (in erster Linie Atomstaaten) für den atomaren Abrüstungsplan zu gewinnen.

Die Widerstände gegen einen Durchbruch der Verhandlungen sind politischer, nicht technischer Natur. Wir brauchen von allen Ländern Absichtserklärungen, denen Taten folgen. Die Vorbereitungen für eine NWC müssen jetzt anlaufen, wenn wir das Ziel einer atomwaffenfreien Zeit erreichen wollen.

Globale zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen wie die Internationalen Ärzte gegen Atomwaffen, die Bürgermeister für Frieden, Abrüstung 2000, die internationale Frauenliga für Frieden und Freiheit, 'Soka Gakkai International' und die Internationale Kampagne zur Abschaffung von Atomwaffen ziehen hier an einem Strang. Sie setzen sich aus Ärzten, Lokalregierungen, Frauen- und Glaubensgruppen und Visionären zusammen, die sich regelmäßig mit Regierungen und Botschaftern treffen, um die NWC voranzubringen.

Am 5. Juni werden Organisationen in aller Welt unter dem gemeinsamen Motte 'NWC – Now We Can' die Regierungen dazu auffordern, das Ziel einer atomwaffenfreien Welt voranzubringen. Dahinter steckt die Sorge, dass auf der UN-Konferenz zur Überprüfung des Atomwaffensperrvertrags kein substanzieller Fortschritt erzielt wird.

Das Vertrauen in die Möglichkeiten des 40-jährigen Atomwaffensperrvertrags hat inzwischen gelitten, da wirkliche Erfolge bei der nuklearen Abrüstung ausgeblieben sind. Derzeit gibt es mindestens 23.300 Gründe, um der Welt die NWC zu bringen. Und jeder einzelne geht mit der Notwendigkeit einher, endlich zu handeln. Jetzt ist der Augenblick für die Regierungen gekommen, den Erwartungen der Mehrheit der Weltbevölkerung zu entsprechen und Atomwaffen für alle Zeit und zum Wohl der Menschheit abzuschaffen. (Ende/IPS/kb/2010)

*Dimitry Hawkins ist die Kampagnenleiterin der Internationalen Kampagne zur Abschaffung von Atomwaffen (ICAN) mit Sitz in Australien.

Links:

<http://icanw.org/>

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OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

Japan Pushes for Progress in U.S. Nuclear Review

وكالة الأنباء العالمية انتر بريس سرفيس (آي بي إس)

الدولة الوحيدة التي وقعت تحت القصف الذري: اليابان تضغط لتحرير العالم من الأسلحة النووية

بقلم جامشيد بارواه/وكالة انتر بريس سرفيس

برلين، مارس (IPS) - يرتقب البرلمانيون والناشطون اليابانيون بقلق وإهتمام شديدين، نتائج دراسة إعادة تقييم الأسلحة النووية التي توشتك الإدارة الأمريكية علي إتمامها، وذلك للتعرف علي توجه السياسة النووية الأمريكية، في وقت تتطلع فيه طوكيو للإضطلاع بدور هام في مساعي تحرير العالم من الأسلحة النووية.

وتهدف الدراسة التي تعتبر الأولى من نوعها منذ نحو عقدين وأعدت جري بتكليف من الكونغرس، إلي تحديد توجه سياسة واشنطن في مجال الأسلحة النووية في الخمس إلي عشر سنوات القادمة، وبالتالي مهمات القوة النووية الأمريكية في المستقبل، وهو ما تنتظره اليابان بإهتمام عميق خاصة علي خلفية تطورات برنامج كوريا الشمالية النووي.

والمعروف أن اليابان هي الدولة الوحيدة التي عانت من القصف النووي الأمريكي علي مدينتي هيروشيما وناغازاكي في عام 1945.

هذا ولقد صرح ماسايوشي هامادا، نائب وزير الخارجية الياباني السابق، لوكالة انتر بريس سرفيس أن "نقدم علي إمكانية إنخراط اليابان في (مفاوضات) نزع الأسلحة النووية". ويذكر أن هامادا، من حزب المعارضة "نيو كومي"، هو أحد 204 برلماني ياباني وقعوا علي رسالة في هذا الشأن، موجهة لكل من الرئيس باراك أوباما، ووزيرة الخارجية هيلاري كلينتون، ووزير الدفاع روبرت غيتس، وكذلك أبرز نواب الكونغرس.

في هذه الرسالة، يعرب النواب اليابانيون عن تأييدهم لإستئناف محادثات الحد من الأسلحة الإستراتيجية (ستارت) بين الولايات المتحدة وروسيا بغية خفض عدد الأسلحة النووية في العالم. وجاءت رسالة البرلمانيين في أعقاب رسالة أخرى من وزير الخارجية الياباني كاتسويا اوكادا إلي كلينتون في ديسمبر 2009.

وأفاد الوزير في رسالته إلي زميلته الأمريكية عن إبتعاد حكومته عن تأييد حكومات يابانية سابقة لموقف نووي أمريكي قوي، وأعرب في المقابل عن قلقه من أن يكون بعض المسؤولين اليابانيين قد ضغطوا من أجل عدم تخفيض الولايات المتحدة لترسانتها النووية، وهو ما يخالف وجهة نظره "الصالح نزع الأسلحة النووية".

كما ساندت رسالة وزير الخارجية الياباني فكرة تقييم دور الأسلحة النووية لتقتصر علي الردع، ولكن مع حظر إستخدامها ضد دول غير نووية موقعة علي إتفاقية منع الإنتشار النووي.

هذا وتأتي رسالة البرلمانيين اليابانيين تزامنا مع إقتراب موعد عدد من الأحداث والمؤتمرات تبدأ بمؤتمر في واشنطن في أبريل المقبل، يليه مؤتمر مراجعة إتفاقية منع الإنتشار النووي في الشهر التالي في نيويورك.

هذا ولقد طرحت تساؤلات عديدة حول مدي تأثير رسالة البرلمانيين اليابانيين علي إدارة الرئيس أوباما من عدمه، خاصة وأنها تحمل توقعات 204 من أصل 700 نائب برلماني.

لكن اكيرا كاواساكي، عضو اللجنة التنفيذية لمنظمة "بييس بوت" العالمية، ومستشار رئيسي للجنة الدولية لمنع الإنتشار النووي ونزع السلاح، قال "أن يكون عدد النواب الموقعين علي الرسالة 204 لا يعني أن بقية النواب يعترضون عليها أو أنهم ترددوا في التوقيع عليها".

وشرح في مقابلة مع انتر بريس سرفيس أنه "لو كان الموقعون علي الرسالة قد نشطوا بالدرجة الكافية، لوقع عليها كافة أعضاء البرلمان". وذكر أن "نواب الحزب الشيوعي لم يوقعوا عليها لأنهم إعتبروها متواضعة جدا (في مطالبها) وطالبوا بإتخاذ المزيد من الخطوات لنزع السلاح".

أما هانز كريستينسين، مدير برنامج الإعلام النووي في إتحاد العلماء الأمريكيين، فقد صرح لوكالة انتر بريس سرفيس أن رسالة نواب البرلمان الياباني والتصريحات الحكومية "ذات دور هام في غاية توجيه رسالة من أكبر حليف للولايات المتحدة في المحيط الهادي، حليف لا يعترض علي رؤية أوباما بشأن نزع الأسلحة النووية، بل ويساند لا فقط خفض (عدد) هذه الأسلحة وإنما تقليص مهماتها أيضا".

وأضاف أن دراسة إعادة تقييم الأسلحة النووية الأمريكية سوف تؤكد علي تعهد واشنطن بتعزيز الردع النووي في المحيط الهادي وغيره، مع النظر إلي تأييد اليابان لخفض عددها ومهماتها. * تقرير بالتعاون مع منظمة Soka Gakka International الدولية في إطار مشروع إلغاء الأسلحة النووية، والكاتب هو مراسل IDN - InDepthNews المتخصص في قضايا نزع السلاح النووي واليابان.

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OTHER LANGUAGES [Translations | Adaptations]

Japan Pushes for Progress in U.S. Nuclear Review

Japan zet invloed in tegen kernwapens

Jamshed Baruah

BERLIJN, 17 maart 2010 (IPS) - Japanse parlementsleden en vredesactivisten voeren hun inspanningen op om de Amerikaanse regering ervan te overtuigen verder te gaan met nucleaire ontwapening. Japanse beleidsmakers legden de voorbije decennia de nadruk op de bescherming die het Amerikaanse kernarsenaal biedt, maar nu komt er meer oog voor de gevaren die de verdere verspreiding van atoomwapens inhoudt.

➤➤➤ Read more in Dutch [http://www.ipsnews.be/index.php?id=35&no_cache=0&tx_uwnews_pi4\[art_id\]=27844](http://www.ipsnews.be/index.php?id=35&no_cache=0&tx_uwnews_pi4[art_id]=27844)

Le Japon soutient la réforme de la politique nucléaire américaine

Jamshed Baruah

BERLIN, 19 mars (IPS) - Les parlementaires et militants japonais nourrissent de grands espoirs à propos de l'issue des débats controversés concernant la réforme de la politique nucléaire américaine (US Nuclear Posture Review ou NPR) à laquelle le gouvernement du Président Barack Obama serait en train d'apporter les dernières modifications. Mandaté par le Congrès américain, cette importante réforme donnera le ton et l'orientation de la politique des États-Unis en matière d'armes nucléaires pour les cinq à dix prochaines années.

➤➤➤ Read more in French <http://www.ipsnouvelles.be/news.php?idnews=10594>

Il Giappone chiede di andare avanti nella "revisione nucleare" Usa

Jamshed Baruah*

BERLINO, 25 marzo 2010 (IPS) - Parlamentari e attivisti giapponesi ripongono forti speranze nella tanto discussa Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), la revisione del nucleare Usa, cui l'amministrazione di Barack Obama sta dando gli ultimi ritocchi.

➤➤➤ Read more in Italian <http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1559>

➤➤➤ Read more in Japanese

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japansese Japan Pushes for Progress in U.S. Nuclear Review.pdf](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Japanese/Japansese%20Japan%20Pushes%20for%20Progress%20in%20U.S.%20Nuclear%20Review.pdf)

Japão reclama revisão nuclear

Jamshed Baruah*

Berlim, 22/3/2010, (IPS) - Parlamentares e ativistas japoneses depositam grandes esperanças na muito debatida Revisão da Postura Nuclear dos Estados Unidos, à qual o governo de Barack Obama dá os retoques finais.

➤➤➤ Read more in Portuguese <http://www.mwglobal.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=5690>

Japan Inasukuma Mafanikio ya Marejeo ya Silaya za Nyuklia ya Marekani

Na Jamshed Baruah

BERLIN, Machi 19 (IPS) - Wabunge na wanaharakati nchini Japan wameonyesha matumaini makubwa kuhusiana na mjadala mkali na unaotegemewa wa U.S. Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) ambao serikali ya Barack Obama imeripotiwa kuwa katika hatua zake za mwisho kuukamilisha.

➤➤➤ Read more in Swahili <http://www.ipsinternational.org/africa/sw/nota.asp?idnews=3349>

Japan hoppas kunna påverka amerikansk kärnvapenpolitik

Jamshed Baruah*

Berlin, 100318 (IPS) - Japanska politiker och aktivister sätter stort hopp till det dokument för USA:s framtida kärnvapenpolitik som Barack Obamas administration enligt uppgift just nu håller på att sammanställa.

➤➤➤ Read more in Swedish

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Swedish idnews=32970 Japan Pushes for Progress%20 in U.S. Nuclear Review.pdf](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Swedish%20idnews=32970%20Japan%20Pushes%20for%20Progress%20in%20U.S.%20Nuclear%20Review.pdf)

Japonya, ABD Nükleer Değerlendirmesinde İlerleme İçin Bastırıyor

Jamshed Baruah

BERLİN, 17 Mart, 2010 (IPS) - Japon parlamenterler ve aktivistler umutlarını hararetle tartışılan, heyecanla beklenen ve Obama yönetiminin son halini vermeye hazırlandığı ABD Nükleer Durum Değerlendirmesi'ne (NPR) bağlamış durumda.

➤➤➤ Read more in Turkish <http://ipsinternational.org/tr/news.asp?idnews=123>



CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE IPPNW

World Physicians issue medical appeal to Obama, Medvedev for elimination of nuclear weapons

March 23, 2009

More than 300 of the world's top physicians have called on US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev to "end the nuclear weapons era once and for all."

The letter, signed by senior faculty and deans of medical schools, heads of medical associations, health ministers, medical journal editors, and Nobel laureates from 39 countries, was delivered to Presidents Obama and Medvedev today by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), its US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and Russian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Dr. Ira Helfand, a US physician who was a principal organizer of the campaign, said that the 25,000 nuclear weapons in the world's arsenals are "the most urgent and immediate threat to the health and survival of humankind. And, unlike the other major health threats of our time—climate change, poverty, AIDS and other epidemic diseases—this one can be eradicated with nothing more than a firm decision to do so."

Noting that a world without nuclear weapons is now championed by experts and diplomats across the political spectrum, the physicians called on the US and Russian presidents to lead the world by starting negotiations on a worldwide agreement "that will abolish all nuclear weapons."

Presidents Obama and Medvedev will meet for the first time in London on April 1, on the eve of the G-20 summit. Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures, including proposals for substantial reductions in US and Russian nuclear arsenals, are expected to be high on their agenda.

In making the letter public today, IPPNW urged the leaders to put recent strains in US-Russian relations aside and to make the most of "what may be the best and last opportunity we have to rid the world of the only weapons capable of destroying all humanity." "A thousand years from now," the signatories to the letter told Presidents Obama and Medvedev, "no one will remember most of what you will do over the next few years; but no one will ever forget the leaders who abolished the threat of nuclear war."

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The text of the [letter](#) and a complete list of signatories is available.

For more information about the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), contact [John Loretz](#), Program Director, IPPNW, 66-70 Union Square, #204, Somerville, MA 02143; 617.440.1733, ext. 280.



<http://www.ippnw.org/News/PressReleases.html>

CIVIL SOCIETY'S PERSPECTIVE ICAN & CND

The NPT 40 years on: time to step up efforts for abolition



Media release: March 4, 2010

Tomorrow marks the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). With 189 countries signed up, it is one of the most widely ratified treaties in the world.

The treaty forbids parties from acquiring nuclear weapons and imposes an obligation on the five original nuclear-weapon parties — the US, Russia, the UK, France and China — to fully disarm.

“Forty years after the Non-Proliferation Treaty came into force, nuclear weapons and the means to produce them are still spreading and the promise of disarmament is unfulfilled,” said Tim Wright, a spokesperson from the UN office of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “Proliferation remains a major concern, and there are still more than 23,000 nuclear weapons in the world, many of them on hair-trigger alert. Clearly governments need to get serious about fulfilling their obligations.”

ICAN advocates negotiation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC) — a legally binding, verifiable treaty banning the development, possession and use of nuclear weapons, and establishing the mechanisms needed to bring about their elimination. “There is growing political support for a nuclear abolition treaty to implement the NPT’s promise of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Such a treaty will be needed – as treaties have been negotiated to ban dum dum bullets, chemical and biological weapons, landmines and cluster munitions. It is actually the most practical option,” said Wright.

This May parties to the NPT will meet in New York for a five-yearly conference to review all aspects of the treaty. “This is an ideal opportunity for governments to set the wheels in motion for a nuclear abolition treaty. The longer these weapons exist in the arsenal of any nation, proliferation is inevitable and the greater the risk that they will be used again, with catastrophic consequences,” he said. “Governments cannot wait another 40 years before finally doing away with the worst instruments of terror.” ■

CND welcomes US - Russian nuclear cuts

Friday, 26 March 2010

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament today strongly welcomed the conclusion of a new nuclear arms reduction treaty between the US and Russia, describing it as a "major step on the road towards a nuclear-free future".

Kate Hudson, Chair of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said "After almost a year of negotiations, these significant cut-backs are very welcome. World leaders must now build on this momentum to secure further rounds of cuts, bringing the other nuclear weapon states into the process. With both Obama's Nuclear Security Summit next month and the review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty in May, this is a most timely advance which must be exploited to the full."

She continued, "Britain has its role to play too. Gordon Brown has said that 'as soon as it becomes useful for our arsenal to be included in a broader negotiation, Britain stands ready to participate and to act' - now is that time [see note 3]. Were Britain to put Trident on the negotiating table at the NPT Review Conference this could be a real game-changer. Scrapping the ruinously expensive Trident and any replacement would put pressure on France and China to consider parallel cuts.

"It is almost exactly twelve months since Obama committed the US to building a world free of nuclear weapons. Today's agreement is just the sort of concrete step needed to achieve that goal, but we will need to see many more such steps before the world is released from the threat of nuclear doomsday. All nuclear weapon states, Britain included, must show their commitment to Obama's worthy aim and push for the biggest strides possible at the upcoming summit meetings. As the President noted today, this is exactly what the five long-established nuclear powers committed to when they signed the NPT, which came into force 40 years ago this month. ■

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

Arms Control Experts Applaud Announcement of New Nuclear Reductions Treaty with Russia

Mar 26, 2010

Washington, D.C. – Today, the Obama Administration announced that negotiations for the text of the most significant nuclear reductions treaty between the United States and Russia in decades are complete. President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev will sign the agreement on April 8 in Prague, Czech Republic.

“We welcome the announcement of the completion of a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons in United States and Russia,” said the Center’s Executive Director John Isaacs. **“This is a huge step forward in advancing the bipartisan nuclear security agenda that the President outlined in Prague in April 2009 to reduce the dangers posed by nuclear weapons.”**

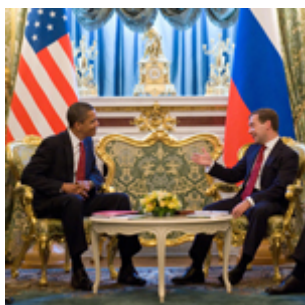
That agenda included three primary objectives: to reduce and eventually eliminate existing nuclear weapons stockpiles, prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons to new states, and prevent nuclear weapons-usable materials from falling into the hands of terrorists. Reductions in the United States and Russia are they key to moving forward on the first goal.

“This agreement demonstrates the Administration’s commitment to moving away from Cold War era stockpiles and reducing the number of nuclear weapons in the two countries that currently possess more than 95% of those remaining in the world,” added Leonor Tomero, the Center’s director of nuclear non-proliferation. **“It is a key element of the President’s efforts to effectively address the most pressing threat to the United States: the danger that nuclear weapons might spread to other countries or to terrorists or that a nuclear weapon might be detonated by accident.”**

This foreign policy victory builds on the domestic victory of the Administration this week on health care. **“A stronger President on health care is a stronger President to move forward this nuclear security agenda,”** Isaacs said. **“We look for a Senate vote on the treaty this year. The sooner the treaty enters into force, the sooner important verification procedures can be up and running again.”** ■

The Nature of Nuclear Disarmament Obligations and the Relative Responsibilities of Nuclear-Armed and Non-Nuclear-Weapon States

George Perkovich, James M. Acton Abolition Debate Series, Part 2 of 8, March 31, 2010



In *Abolishing Nuclear Weapons* (2008), we emphasized the indisputable point that nuclear-armed states can benefit from and afford to take many steps to reduce the numbers and salience of nuclear weapons irrespective of progress on nonproliferation. To bring the world much closer to the horizon from which abolition becomes a visible prospect, we urged joint, simultaneous steps on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation.

However, some critics find this unrealistic, given the nature of the nuclear-armed states’ (at least those party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, or NPT) obligation to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. Key non-nuclear-weapon states plus India and perhaps China think that non-nuclear-weapon states already have taken more steps to facilitate a nuclear-weapon-free world than have the nuclear-armed states, particularly the United States and Russia. Therefore they believe it is unfair and

unrealistic to expect non-nuclear-weapon states to take new steps until nuclear-armed states catch up in meeting agreed disarmament benchmarks.

At the same time, American commentators and [Bruno Tertrais](#) from France wonder, if nuclear-armed states did more, whether non-nuclear-weapon states would undertake measures such as making the Additional Protocol universal and clarifying procedures for states to withdraw from the NPT? [Frank Miller](#) writes: “[T]he nuclear-weapon states have been steadily reducing their nuclear forces and stockpiles.” “While all this was occurring,... North Korea repudiated its treaty obligations and developed and detonated a weapon, Iran is on the brink of developing a weapon, and two other emerging nuclear weapons programs (Iraq and Libya) were terminated by superior force and skillful diplomacy.” “It is not immediately evident therefore that proliferation is linked to the existing arsenals of the five nuclear-weapon states.” >>>



WHAT OTHERS SAY

[Tertrais](#) adds that “there is little evidence that leaders of states advocating nuclear disarmament consider it a top political priority. When they have a face-to-face meeting with the head of a state or government that has nuclear weapons, how often do they mention disarmament? The answer probably is almost never.”

Representatives of non-nuclear-weapon states should take the lead in answering these arguments. But we can first clear away some of the conceptual and historical underbrush. Informed advocates do not argue primarily that nuclear disarmament would change the minds of determined proliferators such as North Korea or perhaps Iran. Rather, disarmament strengthens the willingness of *mainstream states*—the overwhelming majority of NPT members that are not seeking nuclear weapons—to cooperate in enforcing the treaty *against* proliferators. [Jonathan Schell](#) writes, “the mere example of disarmament would have little sway on proliferators, who are more influenced by local anxieties.” But, Schell continues, “these objections overlook the raw power that would be generated by a concert of all nuclear-armed states, backed by every non-nuclear-weapon state, resolved to stake their security on abolition just as firmly as many now stake it on nuclear arms.” Rather than the current situation in which nuclear-armed states (with varying degrees of alacrity) try to enforce a regime based on a double standard, the abolition framework could mobilize a “global campaign to exert moral, political, economic, and even military pressure against the few holdouts that dared to argue that they alone among the world’s nations had a right to these awful weapons.”

Disarmament strengthens the willingness of mainstream states—the overwhelming majority of NPT members that are not seeking nuclear weapons—to cooperate in enforcing the treaty against proliferators.

As a matter of history, arms reductions by the recognized nuclear-weapon states have helped encourage or pressure others to relinquish nuclear weapons and related programs. Would Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine have agreed to join the NPT as non-nuclear-weapon states if the United States and Russia had not been in the midst of major reductions of their nuclear arsenals? Argentina and Brazil shut down their nascent nuclear weapon programs largely for domestic reasons, but there is no doubt that the post-Cold War environment of nuclear arms reductions created norms that helped pull them in that direction. Had the United States and Russia been insisting at the time that they would never eliminate their nuclear arsenals and had no genuine intention of fulfilling Article VI of the NPT, would Argentina and Brazil have joined the Treaty? South Africa dismantled its secret nuclear arsenal and joined the NPT as a non-nuclear-weapon state also because of internal changes and the disappearance of Cold War-related external threats; but this decision, too, came amidst the most significant U.S. and Soviet arms control treaties. The Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, which eliminated nuclear-armed missiles from Europe, had been concluded in 1987, and by the time of South Africa’s 1991 decision to disarm, Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) was in its final stages of negotiation.

Moreover, contrary to skeptics, the North Korean and Iranian cases do not indicate that disarmament has no value in affecting determined proliferators. North Korea and Iran both began their clandestine efforts to acquire nuclear weapon capabilities *before* the U.S.–Soviet disarmament process began in earnest. It should also be noted that Iranian and North Korean leaders’ interests in acquiring potential nuclear deterrents seem to be affected by fears of U.S. military intervention in any form. U.S.–Russian reductions that still leave each with thousands of nuclear weapons therefore have not addressed these states’ core concerns.

[Achilles Zaluar](#) offers a thought experiment for those who argue that proliferation is not linked to the arsenals of existing nuclear-armed states: “Imagine that nuclear weapons had been acquired by several rival Eurasian powers but that the United States had none. Would the strategic calculus of the United States be affected by the nuclear policies of the nuclear-armed countries in Europe and Asia? The question provides its own answer.”

Setting these historical and analytical points aside, we expect that non-nuclear-weapon states would make a more fundamental argument: reductions are welcome but if they are paired with expectations that nuclear weapons will be retained indefinitely, then the goal under the NPT of an equitable nuclear balance of zero is still being ignored. The failure of the nuclear-weapon states to implement more than four of the thirteen benchmarks of progress toward nuclear disarmament agreed politically in 2000 heightens the equity argument that non-nuclear-weapon states make in resisting new nonproliferation rules to strengthen International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards and other controls on nuclear technology and circumscribe their options to withdraw from the NPT. From the perspective of justice, zero is the issue. Reductions are welcome, but aiming for anything more than zero nuclear weapons is inequitable and problematic. As a political reality, without a clearer commitment to abolition, non-nuclear-weapon states will not cooperate in strengthening the nonproliferation regime and so the issue must not be pushed off the agenda for international analysis and discussion. The politics of gaining the cooperation of non-nuclear-weapon states is missed by those who seek to deflect genuine exploration of abolition.

The politics of gaining the cooperation of non-nuclear-weapon states is missed by those who seek to deflect genuine exploration of abolition.

[Frank Miller](#) seems to dismiss arguments over Article VI as rhetoric. But, like frequent American invocations of “freedom,” demands for the equity of a nuclear-weapon-free world reflect genuinely felt values and aspirations. The demanders do not always practice what they preach and undermine their own interests by failing to help strengthen the nonproliferation regime. This regime “prevents one’s neighbors from developing nuclear weapons,” as Miller writes. >>>

WHAT OTHERS SAY

But the “cynical disdain” that some nuclear-weapon states’ officials display towards serious efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, as [Lawrence Freedman](#) notes, intensifies rather than abates demands for the fairness of zero.

Finally, when asked privately, leaders of non–nuclear-weapon states say they do not press nuclear disarmament in meetings with leaders of nuclear-armed states because they know they will be dismissed by these more powerful actors and they have other business that they do not want to jeopardize. This should not be surprising. Even officials and experts within the United States, Russia, and France have, over the years, felt that pressing nuclear disarmament with their leaders and nuclear establishments is not a good career move. (The same is no doubt true at least in Pakistan and Israel, if not in India and the United Kingdom. We can only imagine the caution of nuclear dissidents in North Korea and Iran.) The drawn-out process of completing the Obama administration’s Nuclear Posture Review may reflect such tensions.

Two steps would break the current impasse. First, as [Lawrence Freedman](#) suggests, high-level officials from nuclear-armed and unarmed states must become involved in negotiating on these issues. Rather than guess at how non–nuclear-weapon states would respond to disarmament initiatives in NPT-related forums, which tend to be managed by working-level diplomats, American and Russian leaders should consult directly with the leaders of key non–nuclear-weapon states to seek agreement on corresponding measures to strengthen nonproliferation rules.

Second, as many commentators suggested, the United States and Russia must take the lead by doing more to reduce their nuclear arsenals and lower the salience of these weapons as, of course, we urged.

[Achilles Zaluar’s](#) view could offer a way through key dilemmas and standoffs if it represents wider international opinion and not merely a small minority:

If combined with a firm political commitment toward the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, moving first from thousands of nuclear weapons with high profile (today) to a few hundred with low profile (an intermediate step toward abolition ...) would present many of the benefits and none of the alleged dangers and risks of the abolition scenario. Committing to this agenda of reducing the total number of nuclear weapons globally to the hundreds and taking them out of the foreground of international politics would represent positive change in the direction of the NPT’s ultimate objective. In fact, the change would be so enormous that its consequences would ripple throughout the international system, without the risks that some fear from the tidal wave of going to absolute zero. It would, moreover, provide the international community with a “to-do list” that would take at least a decade—a decade in which the loss of credibility of the nonproliferation regime could be reversed.

This analysis deserves attention and debate. The May 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference would be a good occasion for such a debate; that this is unlikely to occur highlights the limitations of this forum.

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