



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition  
Act to make the world safe for people



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This newsletter brings you independent news by IPS correspondents, in-depth reports and analyses by partners as well as columns by experts, news from international NGOs and a review of the global media for a glimpse of what is happening on the ground. Join us in helping strengthen awareness about the abolition of nuclear weapons – and encourage your friends and colleagues to subscribe to this free monthly newsletter.

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Viewpoint by David Krieger

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[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=355:the-ultimate&catid=16:nuclear-abolition-news-and-analysis&Itemid=17](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=355:the-ultimate&catid=16:nuclear-abolition-news-and-analysis&Itemid=17)

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NEW YORK - On 5 February, the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) entered into force. New START is an agreement between Russia and the United States that sets 1550 as the limit of how many nuclear warheads each country can deploy at any given time (down from 1700-2200 under the old arrangement).

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=352:double-standards&catid=16:nuclear-abolition-news-and-analysis&Itemid=17](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=352:double-standards&catid=16:nuclear-abolition-news-and-analysis&Itemid=17)

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UNITED NATIONS - As the world's nuclear powers continue to drag their collective feet, stalling all attempts at nuclear disarmament, a group of peace activists and civil society organisations is vigorously challenging the long-held myth of "nuclear deterrence".

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54602>

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### **Moving Away From the Nuclear Button**

WASHINGTON D.C. - Russia and the U.S. are expected to exchange information about their nuclear weapons stockpiles on March 22, 2011 as required under the provisions of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). They last exchanged corresponding information in July 2009, under the previous START that ended in December that year.

<http://www.indepthnews.net/news/news.php?key1=2011-02-19%2010:03:30&key2=1>

### **Visit Compilation of Articles April 2009-March 2010**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Beyond\\_Nuclear\\_Non-Proliferation.pdf](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Beyond_Nuclear_Non-Proliferation.pdf)

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## Opinion

### **The Ultimate Weapon of Terrorism**

**Viewpoint by David Krieger**



SANTA BARBARA, Feb (IPS) Nuclear weapons are the ultimate weapon of terrorism, whether in the hands of a terrorist organisation or those of the leader of a country. They are weapons of mass annihilation that kill indiscriminately men, women and children. Most people fear the possibility of these weapons falling into the hands of terrorist organisations, but never stop to consider that in any hands they are terrorist weapons.

Given the terrorist nature of nuclear weapons and their capacity to destroy civilisation, what makes them acceptable to so many people? Or, at a minimum, what makes so many people complacent in the face of nuclear threats? These are questions I have grappled with for many decades.

The acceptability of nuclear weapons is rooted in the theory of nuclear deterrence, which its proponents argue has kept and will keep the peace. This theory is based upon many assumptions concerning human behaviour. For example, it assumes the rationality of political and military leaders. It seems quite evident that not all leaders behave rationally at all times and under all circumstances. The theory requires clear communications and the threat to use nuclear weapons in retaliation must be believed by opposing leaders, but as we know communications are not always clear and misperceptions may inform beliefs.

There is a madman theory of nuclear deterrence. It posits that to be truly believable, the leader of a nuclear armed state must exhibit behaviour that appears sufficiently insane to lead opposing leaders to believe that he would actually use the weapons. Thus, insanity, or at least the impression of it, is built into the system. At a systems level, can anyone doubt that the reciprocal threats of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) were truly mad, as in insane?

Another aspect of deterrence theory is that it requires a territory against which to retaliate. Thus, the theory is not valid in relation to a non-state terrorist organisation. If a country has no place to retaliate, there can be no nuclear deterrence. If a terrorist organisation acquires a nuclear weapon, it will not be deterred by threat of nuclear retaliation. This places a fuse on the nuclear threat, and means that there must be zero tolerance for a non-state terrorist organisation to acquire a nuclear capability.

There should also be zero tolerance for states to possess nuclear weapons. I am not limiting this observation to states that seek to develop nuclear arsenals. I mean all states and, most importantly, those already in possession of nuclear weapons. Current nuclear arsenals may be used by accident, miscalculation or intention. And so long as some states possess nuclear weapons and base their security upon them, there will be an incentive for nuclear proliferation.

Widespread nuclear complacency is difficult to understand. Most people are aware of the tremendous damage that nuclear weapons can do, but perhaps feel reassured that the weapons have not been used since 1945. The weapons are largely out of sight and out of mind. It is also possible that people feel impotent to influence nuclear policy and thus defer to experts and policy makers. This is unfortunate because until large numbers of people assert themselves on the need to eliminate nuclear weapons, the countries with nuclear weapons will continue to rely upon them to their peril and to the world's peril.

The New START agreement between the US and Russia is a modest step forward in reducing the number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons on each side to 1,550 and the number of deployed delivery vehicles to 700. The greatest value of the treaty may be in restoring inspections of each side's nuclear arsenal by the other side. But these steps provide only meagre progress. At the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation we advocate the following next steps forward:

- reducing the total number of nuclear weapons strategic, tactical and reserve to under 1,000 on each side;
- making a binding commitment to No First Use of nuclear weapons and to never using nuclear weapons under any circumstances against non-nuclear weapon states; ➡

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\* \* David Krieger is President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation ([www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org)). He is a leader in the global movement to abolish nuclear weapons.



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## Opinion

- ➔ de-alerting all nuclear weapons so that there will be no use by accident, miscalculation- or in a fit of anger;
- placing limits on missile defense systems and banning space weapons;
- commencing multilateral negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention, which would ban all nuclear weapons worldwide in a phased, verifiable, irreversible, and transparent manner.

These steps would be indications that the immorality, illegality, and cowardice of threatening to use nuclear weapons were being met with a seriousness of purpose. It is not necessary for ignorance, apathy, and complacency to dominate the nuclear arena. With due regard for the sanctity of life and for future generations, we can do better than to live with such inertia. We can eliminate a weapon that threatens civilisation and human survival; we can move to zero, the only stable number of nuclear weapons. This is the greatest challenge of our time, a challenge that we must respond to with engagement and persistence. It is time to replace Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) with Planetary Assured Security and Survival (PASS). (FEBRUARY 2010/COPYRIGHT IPS) ■

## The Double Standards of Nuclear Powers

### Viewpoint by Ray Acheson

NEW YORK, Feb (IPS) On 5 February, the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) entered into force. New START is an agreement between Russia and the United States that sets 1550 as the limit of how many nuclear warheads each country can deploy at any given time (down from 1700-2200 under the old arrangement). The treaty does not affect the number of nuclear warheads each country can possess, which is estimated at 8500 for the US and 11,000 for Russia.



New START has been hailed as a victory by most arms control and disarmament advocates, who claim that while the treaty does not do much for disarmament, it should pave the way for actual reductions and will strengthen the relationship between the two major nuclear powers.

In reality, however, the treaty has stark consequences for the future of nuclear disarmament. In exchange for US Senate ratification of the treaty, the Obama administration promised 185 billion USD for the modernisation of nuclear weapons, delivery systems, and related infrastructure over the next twenty years. Similarly, the Russian Duma adopted the treaty only on the condition that the government will invest in the development and production of new types of strategic offensive weapons and in "preserving and developing the necessary research and development base and production capabilities" of Russia's strategic nuclear forces.

In May 2010, all 189 states that are party to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) -including Russia and the United States- agreed to an action plan to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Action 1 of this plan commits all members "to pursue policies that are fully compatible with the treaty and the objective of achieving a world without nuclear weapons". In 2005 and 2010, all of the NPT-recognised nuclear weapon states (China, France, Russia, the UK and US, which are also the permanent five members of the UN Security Council) espoused an "unequivocal undertaking" to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals. The obligation to disarm is a core element of the NPT, embedded in article VI, which also mandates an end to the modernisation of and investment in nuclear weapons by obligating the nuclear weapon states to negotiate a cessation of the nuclear arms race.

Despite these legal obligations, all of the nuclear weapon states are engaged in or have plans to modernise their nuclear arsenals and related facilities over the coming decades. ➔

\* Ray Acheson is the director of Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom that advocates for nuclear disarmament and monitors nuclear weapon issues. She is the editor of RCWA's reporting publications and also an anthology of NGO writings, *Beyond Arms Control: Choices and Challenges for Nuclear Disarmament* (2010).



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## Opinion

➔ Modernisation of existing US warheads is ongoing to extend their life and other features, including in some cases additional military capabilities. There are also efforts underway to increase investment in new infrastructure for building nuclear weapon components. Russia's government has pledged its commitment to modernise all three legs of its nuclear forces -intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarines, and bombers.

In 2010, the French navy deployed a new submarine-launched ballistic missile, the M-51. It is expected that the missiles will be armed with a new warhead later this decade. The United Kingdom has postponed its plans to modernise Trident but has not scrapped the idea. China is deploying new mobile missiles and a new class of ballistic missile submarine, and reportedly is increasing its number of nuclear warheads.

As for those states not party to the NPT, new US intelligence reports indicate that Pakistan has expanded its nuclear arsenal over the last several years (to 90-110) and is building its capacity to produce more fissile material for nuclear weapons. According to NGO estimates in 2010, India is continuing to develop a triad of offensive nuclear forces and is planning to introduce several additions to its arsenal, including ballistic missiles, nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, and possibly a nuclear-capable cruise missile. The plans for Israel's nuclear weapon forces are unknown.

The implications of nuclear weapon modernisation for international security and the stability of the non-proliferation regime are grave. At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the majority of states that do not possess nuclear weapons complained about the double standards of the nuclear powers, which seek to strengthen controls against proliferation while at the same time engaging in the refurbishment of their own arsenals. While the leaders of many of the nuclear powers have by now professed their interest in seeking "a world without nuclear weapons", their budgets and policies contradict this claim, leading to frustration and cynicism among non-nuclear states and threatening the integrity of the NPT.

As the Norwegian ambassador warned, "A world without nuclear weapons cannot continue to be just a vision. It is an objective which we, states parties to the NPT, are committed to achieve." The Western countries seeking increased restrictions on nuclear technology to prevent proliferation were unable to push through reforms largely because the majority of non-weapon states refused to accept more controls on their activities while the weapon states continue to invest in their arsenals and refuse to commit to a process and timeline for complete disarmament.

Plans to modernise nuclear arsenals cast dark shadows over prospects for disarmament in any near-term future. While some governments and a large number of civil society groups are trying to initiate negotiations of a nuclear weapons convention -a ban on nuclear weapons- the nuclear weapon possessors appear far from ready to engage in multilateral disarmament talks. But if the danger of nuclear war is to be eliminated, ceasing to plan and build for an eternal nuclear threat must come early, not late, in the process. (FEBRUARY 2010/COPYRIGHT IPS) ■

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## Articles

### **Civil Society Challenges Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine**

**By Thalif Deen**

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 24, 2011 (IPS) - As the world's nuclear powers continue to drag their collective feet, stalling all attempts at nuclear disarmament, a group of peace activists and civil society organisations is vigorously challenging the long-held myth of "nuclear deterrence".

"Nuclear deterrence is a doctrine that is used as a justification by nuclear weapon states and their allies for the continued possession and threatened use of nuclear weapons," says the coalition, which met in Santa Barbara, California last week.

Jacqueline Cabasso, executive director of the Western States Legal Foundation and one of the participants at the meeting, told IPS that members of the coalition agreed that the longstanding doctrine must be discredited and replaced with an urgent commitment to achieve global nuclear disarmament.

"Before another nuclear weapon is used, nuclear deterrence must be replaced by humane, legal and normal security strategies," she said.

A declaration adopted by the coalition states: "We call upon people everywhere to join us in demanding that the nuclear weapon states and their allies reject nuclear deterrence and negotiate without delay a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of all nuclear weapons."

The participants at the meeting ranged from representatives from the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation to Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Disarmament and Security Centre.

The world's five "declared" nuclear powers are the five veto-wielding permanent members of the U.N. Security Council: the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China.

Additionally, there are four "undeclared" nuclear powers: India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel (which studiously maintains a "don't ask, don't tell" nuclear policy).

Asked if a worldwide campaign for nuclear disarmament by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) would succeed - as it did in the campaign to ban anti-personnel landmines years ago - Peter Weiss, president of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, told IPS the analogy with the international campaign against landmines and cluster munitions must not be overdone.

Those weapons, unlike nukes, were never seen by the countries that had them as ways of projecting their power to their neighbours or throughout the world, even if they never used them, he said.

He pointed out that the last word on the difficulty which nuclear weapons countries have in giving them up was spoken years ago by Miguel Marin Bosch.

In his capacity as Mexico's ambassador for disarmament, he said, in refreshingly undiplomatic language: "The big boys are scared shit that we're going to take away their toys," recounted Weiss, who is also a vice president of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA).

Alyn Ware, director of the New Zealand-based Peace Foundation, said during the past four decades the international community has achieved treaties prohibiting and eliminating inhumane weapons such as anti-personnel landmines, cluster munitions, biological weapons and chemical weapons.

However, the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, the most inhumane and destructive of all, remains elusive. ➔



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Ware acknowledged the role played by civil society in achieving the mine ban treaty and the convention on cluster munitions. He said two key factors in the success were a focus on the humanitarian consequences of the use of these weapons, and the application of international humanitarian law.

Ware also said that civil society action has been effective in changing public attitudes to nuclear weapons, especially in the states possessing nuclear weapons or covered by extended nuclear deterrence.

Whereas public opinion polls in the 1980s indicated majority acceptance of nuclear weapons, recent public opinion polls indicate the majority now supports the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, he noted.

However, such a change in public opinion appears to have had only a minimal impact on government policy.

But there has been a slight shift, in that most governments now accept the vision and responsibility for achieving a nuclear weapons-free world, he added.

Nonetheless, said Ware, few of the nuclear weapons states or their allies are prepared to abandon nuclear deterrence, prohibit the threat or use of nuclear weapons, or commence negotiations on anything other than minimal steps towards disarmament.

The real potential of civil society to effect change in nuclear weapons policy is probably somewhere in between two polarised perspectives: public pressure is not irrelevant to a political realist world, but nor is it a magic cure that will by itself deliver the abolition of nuclear weapons, Ware declared.

Dr Mary-Wynne Ashford of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War said there are many NGOs working on the issue of nuclear disarmament, including the International Campaign Against Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

"Yes, an NGO campaign is practicable and feasible," she said. "I think consistent pressure from civil society is essential to motivate the nuclear weapons states to move to zero."

Doctors continue to raise the issues of the health consequences of the entire nuclear cycle from mining to production of weapons, said Ashford, who is also an associate professor at the University of Victoria in Canada.

Dr Dale Dewar, executive director of Physicians for Global Survival (PGS), told IPS her organisation has been sustained by donors for 30 years in its campaign for a nuclear weapons-free world.

"It will continue to do so as long as a donor base is willing to support it," she added.

Nancy Covington, also of PGS, told IPS: "I personally don't see any other option than to mobilise civil society."

"If there is enough public education (on nuclear disarmament), then maybe civil society can make a strong enough statement that we can be heard," she declared. ■

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**"We call upon people everywhere to join us in demanding that the nuclear weapon states and their allies reject nuclear deterrence and negotiate without delay a Nuclear Weapons Convention for the phased, verifiable, irreversible and transparent elimination of all nuclear weapons."**



## Articles

### **U.S.-IRAN: Unrealistic Agenda Undermined Nuke Talks**

**By Ali Gharib**

NEW YORK, Feb 10, 2011 (IPS) - No observers of U.S. relations with Iran over the past three decades were surprised when late-January talks in Istanbul failed to hint at, let alone deliver, a breakthrough that would ease tensions between the Islamic Republic and the West.

The U.S. was negotiating as part of the P5+1, which includes the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and Germany, with Iran over its nuclear programme. While many in the West believe Iran is aiming at a nuclear weapon, Iran says its programme is only for peaceful medical and energy purposes.

The lack of movement in talks, though overshadowed of late by the crisis in Egypt, has left many analysts in the U.S. struggling with just what to do about the wily and stubborn Islamic Republic.

Many experts think that the U.S. view of the talks has been fraught with unrealistic assessments about everything from Iran's capabilities to U.S. offers and expectations.

"We're not going to get closure. We're not going to get the kind of certainty that we think we can. Many of the options out there hold up this false hope," said Marc Lynch of George Washington University. "None of the options that claim they're going to solve this problem really will. They just try recast it in different strategic terms."

The slow progress in talks leads some to believe that Tehran may indeed be bent on developing a nuclear weapon. If that is the case, experts say, there is little the international community will be able to do to stop it.

"If Tehran is determined to develop and deploy nuclear weapons no matter what, it will do so," said Greg Thielmann, a non-proliferation expert with the Arms Control Association, at a recent forum in Washington.

The U.S., with the help of allies and international bodies, is pursuing a so-called "dual-track" policy to dissuade Iran from developing a weapon. The pillars of the strategy are engagement to provide Iran benefits should it forgo weapons production, and sanctions as punitive measures to demonstrate the high international costs of Iran working toward such a goal.

But Thielmann noted that, while these options could persuade Iran, if its leadership is determined, they will pass over inducements and eat the costs, making the sanctions moot.

Thielmann added that even a military strike – an option put forward by rightists and hotly debated in policy circles – would not be able to completely end an Iranian nuclear programme.

"Even the air strikes advocated by some would only slow, and not end progress," he said. "Nothing short of an invasion and occupation could permanently force an end to the attempt to acquire nuclear weapons by Iran."

Thielmann added that, instead of focusing its efforts on "zero enrichment" for Tehran – an unrealistic goal considering how far the Iranian nuclear programme has come – more emphasis should be put on closely watching Iran's nuclear activity.

"We have to maintain strategic focus on the transparency needed to (monitor Iran's nuclear programme)," he said.

At the same conference, hosted by the National Security Network and the Center for American Progress, Barry Blechman of the Stimson Center argued that the U.S.'s dual track policy had not gotten a fair shake.

"The U.S. needs to rebalance its policy," he said. "It's done quite well on coercive elements in the past two years, but now we need to put emphasis on inducement." ➡



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Blechman co-authored a Stimson report on the topic, which he said called for the U.S. to broaden the focus of engagement with Iran beyond the nuclear issue, which he admitted was "most urgent".

He said it was "silly" that U.S. diplomats around the globe are not permitted to have "normal interactions" with Iranian diplomats, and called for a "bilateral track on issues where we have a common interest - drug trafficking, for example."

"There is time to give diplomacy a chance through a more realistic approach, a more generous approach," he said.

Indeed, Iran has been somewhat hobbled by sanctions, and its ascendancy in the region has slowed.

"Iran right now does not resemble this rising hegemony of 2005 and 2006," said Lynch at the same forum.

Lynch noted that while Iran seeks to exploit recent unrest in the Arab world, the Islamic Republic had little to do with it.

"The Al Jazeera audience is deeply attuned with protest movements against authoritarian regimes," he said. "For the Arab public, (the 2009 Iranian crackdown on the Green opposition movement) diminished Iran's soft power in the region."

With Iran's regional clout on the wane, inducements offered to Iran could have more potential appeal for its leaders. But Lynch added that the U.S. needed to do more to ensure its offers were credible.

Lynch pointed to U.S. laws that tie sanctions against Iran to the country's stances on issues like Lebanon and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Those laws might hinder any sanctions relief offered to Iran in talks.

"If you're trying to get negotiating leverage, you have to be able to credibly signal that you will actually be able to deliver on your end," he said. ■

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## Articles

### Moving Away From the Nuclear Button

By Ernest Corea\*

Presidents Obama and Medvedev after signing the Prague Treaty | Credit: Wikimedia Commons >

WASHINGTON D.C. (IDN) - Russia and the U.S. are expected to exchange information about their nuclear weapons stockpiles on March 22, 2011 as required under the provisions of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START). They last exchanged corresponding information in July 2009, under the previous START that ended in December that year.



In another development, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council (France, China, Russia, the U.K. and the U.S.) are hoping to meet in June to examine actions required from commitments they made in connection with the 2010 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty review conference, the Global Security Newswire has reported, quoting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller.

These trends are considered "positive but tentative" among political observers, but they are rivalled by a separate, less than positive attempt by sections of the Republican majority in the U.S. House of Representative to eliminate 10 percent (over \$1 billion) of the National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) budget.

A news report points out that "NNSA maintains the nation's nuclear stockpile, runs the nuclear lab complex, and fights the illegal trade of nuclear technology and material. Non-proliferation programs face the most drastic reductions."

Whatever becomes of this effort, the Obama Administrations remains committed to the new START, as well as to related developments, although the excitement generated by recent events in the Middle East has moved some of these off the headlines.

#### TREATY LAUNCHED

For instance, the fact that the new START, the first agreement since the end of the Cold War, has actually been launched received scant attention. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov exchanged the new START's "instruments of ratification" at the time of the 47th annual Munich Security Conference.

Russia and the U.S. are obliged to exchange information on nuclear warheads and delivery systems within 45 days of the date (February 5) when the documents were signed and exchanged. In the long term, the new START commits each nation to reduce its nuclear war heads over the next seven years from 2200 to 1500.

Also very much in the background is another important development: the inauguration of a 123 Agreement on civil nuclear cooperation between the U.S. and Russia.

The agreement takes its title from Section 123.a of the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954 which permits U.S. companies to "share nuclear technology and materials with foreign counterparts, carry out joint research and development activities, and bid jointly on civil nuclear projects." Among the 25 countries with which the U.S. has signed such agreements -- in addition to Russia -- are Australia, China, Egypt, Japan, India, South Korea, and the UAE. ☺

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\* The writer has served as Sri Lanka's ambassador to Canada, Cuba, Mexico, and the USA. He was Chairman of the Commonwealth Select Committee on the media and development, Editor of the Ceylon 'Daily News' and the Ceylon 'Observer', and was for a time Features Editor and Foreign Affairs columnist of the Singapore 'Straits Times'. He is Global Editor of IDN-InDepthNews and a member of its editorial board as well as President of the Media Task Force of Global Cooperation Council.



## Articles

### RESETTING RELATIONS

A U.S.-Russia 123 Agreement was initially signed in 2008 but was withdrawn from Congressional review when war broke out between Russia and Georgia. However, when Presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev subsequently issued a Joint Statement on Nuclear Cooperation, they committed their two countries to re-creating a 123 Agreement.

Based on this commitment, as well as on a broader attempt by the two countries to "re-set" their bilateral relations, a new agreement was signed and submitted to Congress for the legally required approval last year

The "reset" attempt has had both noticeable successes as well as failures. The 123 Agreement is considered an entry on the plus side of the ledger and is touted by both governments as a good faith effort to emphasise collaboration on civil nuclear programs. U.S. Government spokesmen say that the agreement provides the basis for "joint efforts on innovative nuclear energy systems and technologies, reliable nuclear fuel cycle services, joint ventures in third countries, and other types of cooperation."

Both countries can claim that they have moved forward in this area and secured such advances as:

- Launching the new START;
- Signing a protocol to amend the 2000 Plutonium Management and Disposition Agreement, under which both countries will dispose of approximately 17,000 nuclear weapons-worth of excess weapon-grade plutonium;
- Establishing a Russian international nuclear fuel bank and an IAEA fuel bank that provide incentives for other nations not to acquire sensitive uranium enrichment technology; and
- Russia has also shut down its last remaining weapon-grade plutonium production reactor.

Taken together, these are significant accomplishments made by both sides.

Supporters of The U.S.-Russia 123 Agreement say that it satisfies all applicable requirements of U.S. law for agreements of this type with a nuclear-weapon state, as defined by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. It has a term of 30 years and permits the transfer of technology, material, equipment (including reactors), and components for nuclear research and nuclear power production.

They also argue that the agreement offers significant benefits to the U.S.: a solid foundation for long-term U.S.-Russia civil nuclear cooperation; commercial opportunities for U.S. industry; and enhanced cooperation on important global nonproliferation goals.

### LONG-TERM GOALS

An assessment drawn up by the U.S. Government claims that the entry into force of the U.S.-Russia 123 Agreement will advance these key nonproliferation and commercial goals:

"-- Nuclear Nonproliferation Cooperation: The 123 Agreement will create the conditions for improved cooperation on joint technology development to support arms control and nonproliferation activities. It will also provide the necessary legal framework for joint efforts to convert research reactors from highly-enriched uranium to low enriched uranium fuel. The 123 Agreement will aid cooperation on forensic analysis, allowing the U.S. to better identify nuclear material and prevent it from getting into the hands of terrorists, and it will set the stage for expanded joint technical cooperation on next generation international safeguards.

"-- Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation: The 123 Agreement will facilitate cooperative work on reactor designs that result in reduced proliferation risk. It will create the conditions for advanced research and development projects that partner U.S. national laboratories and industry with Russian partners to explore new areas for collaboration, including fuel fabrication, innovative fuel types, and advanced reactor design. ➡



## **Articles**

"-- Commercial Opportunities: The 123 Agreement will support commercial interests by allowing U.S. and Russian firms to team up more easily in joint ventures and by permitting U.S. sales of nuclear material and equipment to Russia. This will put the United States and Russia's nuclear relationship on a stronger commercial footing. Russian and U.S. firms will be able to develop advanced nuclear reactors, fuel-cycle approaches, and cutting-edge technology that are safe, secure, and reliable.

"-- Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation Action Plan: The 123 Agreement will allow long-term civil nuclear cooperation to proceed under the U.S.-Russian Presidential Commission Working Group on Nuclear Energy and Nuclear Security, specifically activities in the Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation Action Plan which relate to reactor design, innovative nuclear energy technology options, and developing the global civil nuclear energy framework."

Civil society groups have criticized the agreement on the ground that it does not take into account the environmental damage that is likely to be caused or expanded by civilian nuclear cooperation. They have also argued that it is more important to advocate for total disarmament than to seek ways of expanding mutually profitable civilian nuclear cooperation.

Opposition in the U.S. House of Representatives and elsewhere to the agreement and other forms of cooperation on non-proliferation and disarmament is of a different kind. It grows out of a yearning for ascendancy in an unipolar world. (IDN-InDepthNews/19.02.2011) ■

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## **Translations | Adaptations**

### **The Ultimate Weapon of Terrorism**

#### **Japanese**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=362:double-standards&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=362:double-standards&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3)

#### **Arabic**

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2108>

#### **Italian**

<http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1719>

#### **Spanish**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=356:la-ersperada&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=356:la-ersperada&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11)

### **The Double Standards of Nuclear Powers**

#### **Arabic**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=362:double-standards&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=362:double-standards&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3)

#### **Spanish**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=353:eo-double&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=353:eo-double&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11)

### **Civil Society Challenges Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine**

#### **Arabic**

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2111>

#### **German**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=361:zivilgesellschaft-will&catid=5:german&Itemid=6](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=361:zivilgesellschaft-will&catid=5:german&Itemid=6)

### **U.S.-IRAN: Unrealistic Agenda Undermined Nuke Talks**

#### **German**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=358:iran-usa&catid=5:german&Itemid=6](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=358:iran-usa&catid=5:german&Itemid=6)

#### **Arabic**

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=357:us-iran&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=357:us-iran&catid=2:japanese&Itemid=3)



**BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION**  
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**Civil Society's Perspective**

**New Signature Campaign for a Nuclear Ban**



23 February 2011 (All day)  
*Action Alert*

The Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May last year declared its goal “to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”, and called on all states to make “special efforts” to establish a framework for it, focusing on the proposal of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for the start of negotiations on a convention banning nuclear weapons.

The outcome of the session of the UN General Assembly towards the end of last year also showed a change. Nearly all member states voted in support of a resolution that urges full implementation of all past agreements on nuclear disarmament. The resolution calling for the start of negotiations on a nuclear weapon convention, put forward by Malaysia and many others, enjoyed support from 133 countries, including China, India and Pakistan, which possess nuclear arsenals, and North Korea.

Now that the voice calling for a ban on nuclear weapons represents the majority in international politics, and that the UN Secretary-General is appealing that we should, with hibakusha, “celebrate the end of nuclear weapons”, the Japanese NGO Gensuikyo has decided to launch an “Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons” in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo.

To date, Gensuikyo has received messages of support from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his High Representative Sergio Duarte, Nobel laureates Jody Williams and Mairead Maguire, and international networks and national and grassroots peace groups, such as the International Peace Bureau, the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. The number of leading people overseas who have endorsed the appeal has reached 170, representing 12 international networks and 118 peace organizations operating in 31 countries.

**Appeal for a Total Ban on Nuclear Weapons**

In August 1945, two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki instantly turned the two cities into ruins and took the lives of about 210 thousand people. Even now, more than 200,000 Hibakusha, or A-bomb survivors, are carrying with them scars. Their tragedy should not be repeated anywhere on earth.

The call for the elimination of nuclear weapons is becoming ever widespread across the world. Citizens are taking actions, and many governments are endeavoring to reach this goal. The surest guarantee against there being another Hiroshima, or Nagasaki, is a total ban and the elimination of nuclear weapons.

In May 2010, the 189 parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), including the Nuclear weapons States, agreed “to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons”. Now is the time to act to accomplish it. We call on all governments to enter negotiations without delay on a convention banning nuclear weapons.

Sign the Appeal > <http://www.antiatom.org/FS-APL/FS-Form/form.cgi?Code=SigCam-E>



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## Civil Society's Perspective

### ICAN India Campaign Update

16 February 2011

#### **National Update**

Young Indian Doctors made a very strong impact at the IPPNW World Congress in Geneva in August, and it seems they have been energized by the experience. Since Geneva, a group of young doctors took the initiative of gathering pleas for ICAN's millionpleas campaign as they travel around the province of Punjab, discussing the campaign with local people as they donated blood.



Meanwhile, Indian Doctors of Peace and Development (the Indian affiliate of IPPNW) has passed the ICAN agenda in its 26 December 2010 Annual Central Council meeting, paving way for starting the Indian campaign of ICAN. At this meeting, issues regarding abolition of nuclear weapons and fostering peace and development were discussed.

One of the first initiatives arising from this will be conducting medical student peace workshops in various parts of the country. Plans are afoot to conduct these workshops in Chennai (April), Pune (May), North East India (June) and Hyderabad soon after. We think it is safe to say that ICAN has officially landed in India! ■

### ICAN Germany Campaign Update

16 February 2011

#### **National Update**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrat decision to reserve the pledge of the previous Social Democrat government to phase out nuclear power re-energized the German anti-nuclear movement in the last quarter of 2010. Increasingly, Germans are making the connection between nuclear power and weapons proliferation, and the profile of ICAN is growing.



The German Campaign Council (Kampagnenrat) has produced a series of short videos called '5 minute lectures' on issues ranging from 'Missile Defense' to 'Nuclear Power powers the Bomb' and 'I can imagine a world without nuclear weapons'. Consequently, many Germans are beginning to take an active interest in the environmental and human rights impacts of uranium exports.

A coalition of 50 German nuclear free organisations represented on the German Campaign Council completed the campaign 'Our Future – Nuclear Weapons Free' ("unsere zukunft - atonwaffnerfrei") at the NATO summit in Lisbon in November. As part of this, BANg (Ban all nuclear generation) organized a flashmob at the Defense Ministry in Berlin with umbrellas under the moniker 'No NATO nuclear umbrella'.

ICAN staff also toured Germany in late 2010 recording 'pleas' to abolish nuclear weapons at street festivals in Berlin, and other anti-nuclear groups around Germany began distributing ICAN materials. The German campaign council met in December to start work on a new campaign to be launched later this year. Although the campaign will have a German title, this campaign should be understood as the German chapter of ICAN. ■



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition  
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## Civil Society's Perspective

### ICAN Switzerland Campaign Update



16 February 2011

#### National Update

In the last week of August 2010, ICAN attended the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) World Congress, held in Basel, Switzerland. Over 800 physicians, students and NGOs attended the conference, coming from over 50 countries.

ICAN was heavily involved in many aspects of the conference - running workshops, speaking on a number of key plenary sessions, holding regional meetings with ICAN groups and partners

internationally, holding consultations with government representatives and other NGOs present, and gathering pleas for the new web campaign at millionpleas.com (see Australian report for more info)

In the first quarter of 2011, ICAN will open a new office in Geneva with a focus on broadening the campaign into Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The Geneva ICAN office will mark the next stage in the evolution of ICAN, as we become a truly global campaign working toward the abolition of nuclear weapons in all corners of the globe. ■

### ICAN Australia Campaign Update

16 February 2011 (All day)

#### National Update

In September 2010 ICAN supporters converged on the State Library in Melbourne Australia to attend an unusual retirement party – a send off party or a two-meter tall 'nuclear bomb'. Sixty-five years after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the party was held on the International Day of Peace, Tuesday September 21.

It was a fitting occasion in what has been a busy year for anti-nuclear weapons activism in Australia. In a period in which successive Australian governments have expanded uranium sales, ICAN has been keen to make connections between uranium sales to countries such as Russia and (potentially) India, and weapons proliferation in these regions.



In November 2010 a group of protesters made up of environmentalists, Aboriginal traditional owner groups and a member of ICAN Australia staff protested outside Australian mining giant BHP's AGM protesting the company's uranium mining plans in Australia. A focus of ICAN Australia's international work has been on making the connections between Australian indigenous rights, uranium exports and weapons proliferation internationally.

The Australian ICAN office has also launched a new web-based campaign at millionpleas.com that allows users globally to upload a short video message of themselves making a 'plea' to abolish nuclear weapons. The aim is to get as many pleas uploaded as possible, so the site becomes a global living testament to the groundswell of public support for abolishing nuclear weapons. ■



## **Civil Society's Perspective**

### **Trident submarine plan: Tories set to backtrack on commitment to Lib Dems**

Thursday, 17 February 2011

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament today strongly condemned Government plans to order the steel for the first new Trident replacement submarine before any formal decision is made on whether to go ahead with the project, a decision not due until 2016.

CND said "The decision by Liam Fox is a slap in the face for the Lib Dems and a betrayal of the commitments made to them by the Prime Minister. The deal struck for the Strategic Defence review allowed the Lib Dems to say 'Trident will not be renewed this parliament - not on a Liberal Democrat watch'." [quote in note 3]

In answer to a Parliamentary question from CND Vice Chair Jeremy Corbyn MP, the Defence Secretary today confirmed [note 4] that the "specialist high strength steel needed for the hull structure for the first boat is included as a long-lead item in the Initial Gate Business Case for the programme." It would therefore be purchased ahead of the 2016 'main gate' approval point when MPs are expected to decide on the future of the multi-billion pound project. Liam Fox also confirmed he did not plan to seek Parliament's approval for these pre-ordered items, which will run to well over a billion pounds. [note 5]

**Kate Hudson, General Secretary of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, said** "Ordering the steel to build the submarine is what any ordinary person would think of as deciding to build the submarine. This decision is a real slap in the face for the Lib Dems and a betrayal of the commitments made to them by the Prime Minister. Nick Clegg was told the decision was delayed until 2016 - after the end of the coalition agreement, but it seems either he was sold a con, or Liam Fox is jumping the gun without the agreement of one half of the government. It is only four months since David Cameron announced "the decision to start construction of the new submarines need not now be taken until around 2016." [note 6]

"Last year the Lib Dem President wrote to their members celebrating the fact that 'Trident will not be renewed this parliament - not on a Liberal Democrat watch'. [note 3] If this is still their position, Nick Clegg and his ministers need to be fighting tooth and nail to block Liam Fox from going ahead with ordering the core components of the boats ahead of the actual decision point. Lib Dem ministers need to take a stand on this - an issue that goes to the core of the Coalition - if they are to maintain trust in what they have been telling their own members and the public."

**CND Vice-Chair Jeremy Corbyn MP added** "Ordering the steel and other items for the first submarines - worth over a billion pounds alone - before the Commons has even been asked to approve construction of these boats is a flagrant abuse of Parliament. This is not some small project that needs a couple of parts ahead of time, but the biggest of all defence items where every decision has global implications. When MPs last voted on this, Tony Blair made it clear he was seeking "parliamentary approval for the concept and design phase" - not the construction of new submarines [note 7]. The orders Liam Fox plans to take are therefore illegitimate, without parliamentary authority and must be halted."

1. For further information and interviews please contact CND's Press Officer, on 0207 7002350 or 07968 420859
2. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is one of Europe's biggest single-issue peace campaigns, with over 35,000 members in the UK. CND campaigns for the abolition of all nuclear weapons everywhere. <http://www.cnduk.org>
3. Letter from Liberal Democrat Party President to members, 19th October 2010  
[http://www.libdems.org.uk/news\\_detail.aspx?title=Baroness Scott%27s email to supporters: Winning on Trident&pPK=3990b33a-ef12-4456-a8b2-5d44e9d9e57c](http://www.libdems.org.uk/news_detail.aspx?title=Baroness%20Scott%27s%20email%20to%20supporters%3A%20Winning%20on%20Trident&pPK=3990b33a-ef12-4456-a8b2-5d44e9d9e57c)
4. Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether steel for the substantial construction of the hull structure of the first boat of the Trident replacement programme will be made as a long-lead purchase prior to main gate.  
Dr Fox: Yes. The specialist high strength steel needed for the hull structure for the first boat is included as a long-lead item in the Initial Gate Business Case for the programme. This is due to the length of time needed for the mill run, that means that the order must be placed prior to Main Gate in order not to put at risk the in-service date.
5. Based on the intended purchase of long lead items, including reactors, for the first three boats as confirmed by Freedom Of Information documents, comparable to the £334m cost of the equivalent items for the sixth of the smaller Astute-class boats  
<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2010-10-18a.17779.h>
6. David Cameron, 19 October 2010, "But as a result of the changes to the programme, the decision to start construction of the new submarines need not now be taken until around 2016." <http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/statements-and-articles/2010/10/sdsr-55912>
7. Tony Blair, House of Commons, 14th March 2007: "That means that we have to take the decision now if we want parliamentary approval for the concept and design phase." <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/debate/?id=2007-03-14c.279.4> ■



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## What Others Say



### **Bringing 'Rule of Law' to Disarmament**

**By Sergio Duarte**  
**UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs**

*Note: These are excerpts from an opening statement to the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters in New York on 23 February 2011*

[. . .] We are meeting today in an international environment that has changed considerably in recent years. In some respects, these changes are happening even on a monthly basis, as we have seen from recent developments in the Middle East. We are witnessing an outpouring of demands for greater progress in disarmament, and specifically for greater multilateral cooperation in this field. We are seeing efforts to bring democracy to disarmament, as seen both in the rise of civil society initiatives and in the growing number and diversity of States that are taking an active interest in this issue. And we are confronting a growing recognition worldwide of the need to bring the “rule of law” to disarmament, through such steps as negotiating new treaties, bringing existing treaties closer to universal membership, and ensuring full compliance.

At the heart of this collective effort lies the UN disarmament machinery, a set of distinct but closely related institutions dedicated to the establishment of global norms in this field, including—the purely deliberative work of the UN Disarmament Commission; the consideration and adoption of resolutions by the General Assembly’s First Committee; the negotiation of multilateral treaties in the Conference on Disarmament; and the deliberations at specific UN diplomatic conferences open to all.

This Advisory Board is itself a valued part of this machinery and its role is reinforced by its two greatest assets—namely, its independence and its ability to conduct its work on an informal, confidential basis. Its members serve in their individual capacities and are not expected to represent specific national policies, and this offers the potential for avoiding the duplication of political divisions found elsewhere in the machinery. As a result, the Board can offer some fresh thinking about disarmament issues, and I know that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon values your advice, especially on the weighty subject on your agenda this year, encompassing the twin challenges of overcoming the stalemate in the Conference on Disarmament and of revitalizing the wider process of multilateral cooperation in disarmament.

Over a decade ago, Secretary-General Kofi Annan warned that “much of the established multilateral disarmament machinery has started to rust.” Today, this accumulation of rust has reached the point where the very survival of this machinery may well be in jeopardy. Many believe that it has lost its relevance and failed to respond to growing public demands for concrete progress in eliminating the world’s deadliest weapons and in regulating conventional armaments.

There is certainly a sharp contrast between the deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament and more positive developments occurring elsewhere. After a long drought in disarmament, the planting of even a few seeds is most welcome indeed, despite the hardships of cultivation that lie ahead.

For example, the Russian Federation and the United States signed the new START treaty last April, and the US Senate voted to ratify it in December. Its entry into force this month has opened the door for further progress, which Presidents Obama and Medvedev have pledged to pursue in the years ahead— going beyond limitations in deployments to address reductions of arsenals and the verified destruction of warheads. This future progress will not be easy, however, especially given conditions adopted during in the ratification process in both countries on modernization.

Last April, concerns over the threats from nuclear weapons proliferation and terrorism inspired the convening of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, which highlighted the need for strict controls over the production, disposition and use of fissile materials.

On 19 April, the General Assembly held a special thematic debate on disarmament, which followed the Security Council’s summit on disarmament, held in September 2009. ➡





## **What Others Say**

The highlight from last May was of course the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which produced a consensus Final Document identifying 64 Actions to advance the treaty's goals in disarmament, non-proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and additional Actions to pursue the establishment of a weapons of mass destruction-free zone in the Middle East.

On 29 August, the world marked the first International Day against Nuclear Tests, reminding us all of the need to bring the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force.

And of course the 24 September High Level Meeting provided an opportunity for a full airing of views on "revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations". The Secretary-General's "Chairman's Summary" offered four suggested actions:

- (a) commencement of substantive work in the CD based on the consensus 2009 programme of work or any similar proposal submitted in 2010;
- (b) placement on the agenda of the 65 session of the General Assembly of an item on follow-up to the High Level Meeting;
- (c) consultation with the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters concerning all the issues raised at that Meeting, including the possible establishment of a High-level Panel of Eminent Persons with a special focus on the CD; and
- (d) submission of a report by the Secretary-General on this Meeting and on follow-up actions, to the first meeting next year of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference.

There were of course many other positive developments last year that help to set the wider context for the Board's current deliberations—including several seeds planted by the Secretary-General himself, well beyond his convening of the High Level Meeting.

On 26 February last year, he sent a letter to the parliaments of the world urging support for further efforts to achieve nuclear disarmament—and in July, the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament adopted a Declaration commending the Secretary-General's five-point nuclear disarmament proposal, following earlier support from the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

On 6 April, he visited the nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk and later that month published an op-ed—"A New Ground Zero"—on the UN and disarmament.

In May, he opened the 2010 NPT Review Conference, circulated a letter urging a successful outcome, and issued a statement welcoming that outcome when it was achieved.

In August, he became the first UN Secretary-General to participate in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony and to visit Nagasaki.

And last January, he visited the Conference on Disarmament to make another personal appeal for that body to live up to its solemn responsibilities as the world's single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. He stated that disarmament and non-proliferation were among his "top priorities" for the year ahead, and that he is seeking the counsel of his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters on measures to follow-up on the High Level Meeting.

Since the Board will hold its next session in Geneva from 29 June until 1 July, I believe this would be a good opportunity for the Board to discuss this issue with the members of the CD.

Despite the focused nature of the Board's agenda this year, however, I would like to note that 2010 was also a year for some welcome progress in the field of conventional arms. ➡



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## What Others Say

With respect to curbing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States took place in June and participants succeeded in adopting an outcome document by consensus. And I am very pleased to report that the Kinshasa Convention to limit the illicit trade of such weapons in Central Africa was opened for signature last November, thus contributing to the advancement of the UN disarmament and non-proliferation agenda in the region.

In July, the first Preparatory Committee met for the 2012 UN conference on the Arms Trade Treaty—a very important multilateral initiative in the field of conventional arms. And in August, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force.

Yet it is also true that, according to SIPRI, global military expenditures rose to over \$1.5 trillion in 2009. And there is also a need for more States to make use of two key UN transparency instruments—namely, the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures.

Against this elaborate tapestry of events and processes, the Board is facing a difficult challenge of responding to the Secretary-General's request for your counsel on measures to overcome the stalemate in the CD and revitalize multilateral disarmament efforts.

You are certainly facing no lack of advice from Member States and civil society on what must be done. At the CD, the General Assembly, and the High Level Meeting, several measures have been prescribed to address these challenges, including the following, to name just a few:

- Convene a fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament
- Adopt CD/1864 as the basis for a Programme of Work in 2011
- Modify or clarify the consensus rule
- Adopt a simplified Programme of Work listing core issues without mandates
- Adopt a “comprehensive and balanced” Programme of Work
- Bring the issue of the CD's stalemate to the General Assembly
- Start negotiations on a fissile material treaty, either inside or outside the CD
- Commence an informal process before negotiations on a fissile material treaty
- Consider alternative processes outside the CD for issues on its agenda
- Review or expand the membership of the CD
- Reform the CD's procedures to open participation more to civil society
- Dismantle regional groupings in the CD
- Adopt deadlines for the commencement of negotiations in the CD
- Reconsider the budget for the CD, if the impasse continues
- Establish a high-level Panel of Eminent Persons, with a special focus on the CD

On this last proposal, which has been supported by some delegations in recent months, several questions logically arise concerning the size and composition of such a panel, its funding, the scope of its mandate, its desired products, its schedule for completing its work, and its likely “value added” relative to the various other proposals that have been offered.

The long list of actions I have just surveyed contains many that focus just on the CD, given its special role as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. Yet this list is by no means comprehensive, either as a summary of CD reforms, or as a compendium of actions that could be taken on the broader issue addressed at the High Level Meeting of “taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations.” It is intended here merely to illustrate the variety of proposals that have been made and to help identify some specific issues for your deliberations. [. . .] ■





## What Others Say

### **UN Chief Urges Disarmament Forum to Start Work on Fissile Material Ban Treaty**

UN News Centre

24 February 2011 –The United Nations Conference on Disarmament (CD), the world's sole multilateral forum on the issue, must move ahead vigorously on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear devices or risk slipping into irrelevance, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned today.

"We have collectively done much to move the disarmament agenda forward in recent years," he [told](#) his Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, which is currently meeting in New York. "But now, we must intensify these efforts or risk the very real possibility of sliding backwards. This is why disarmament and non-proliferation are among my top priorities for 2011."



Established in 1979, the 65-member CD focuses on cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, prevention of nuclear war, and prevention of an arms race in outer space. UN Office at Geneva (UNOG) Director-General Sergei Ordzhonikidze is its Secretary-General.

At a high-level meeting at UN Headquarters in New York last September, many leaders voiced deep concern at the CD's inability to overcome its differences and urged it to start its substantive work this year.

Mr. Ban noted that there is almost universal support within the CD to start negotiating a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices, but some members have suggested exploring alternative arrangements outside the CD.

"Such a parallel mechanism risks weakening the CD's relevance and credibility," he said, welcoming last month's joint statement by China and the United States reaffirming support for the early start of negotiations within the forum.

Addressing the CD in Geneva last month, Mr. Ban called on it to overcome its decade-long deadlock and begin substantive work, warning that its very credibility is at stake.

On 26 January 2011 Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon today called on the world's sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum to overcome its decade-long deadlock and begin substantive work, warning that the very credibility of the United Nations body is at stake.

"The world's multilateral disarmament machinery should deliver more and more quickly," Mr. Ban said in his address to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. "I call on you to become a first harbinger of hope for 2011 in the field of disarmament..."

"The next few years will be critical," he continued, stressing the need to build on the hard-won momentum of recent years. "We can push forward on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, or risk sliding back."

The Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Ban noted, is the "undisputed home of international arms control efforts," and has had a unique role since its inception, including by producing landmark treaties to promote international security while demonstrating that multilateral collaboration can serve the global and national interest alike.

"However, the Conference's record of achievement has been overshadowed by inertia that has now lasted for more than a decade. The very credibility of this body is at risk. Continued inaction will only endanger its future as a multilateral negotiating forum," Mr. Ban warned. ■



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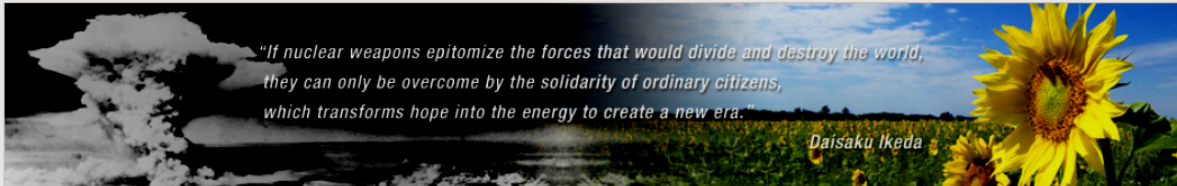
http://www.peoplesdecade.org

## People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition

Building Global Solidarity toward a World without Nuclear Weapons

Sitemap | Links | Feedback

- Home
- People's Decade
- News
- Nuclear Facts
- What Can I Do?
- Resource Center
- About SGI



### Site Updates

Mar. 2, 2011 **NEW**

Analytical articles of SGI President's annual Peace Proposal are posted on some websites. We hope more people read it and get inspired. ([Media News](#))

[Post comments \(0\)](#)

[more](#)

### Get Involved

**Support Nuclear Weapons Convention**

[Learn about the NWC in 3 mins](#)

[Sign Petition](#)

**Support ICAN Campaign**

[UPLOAD YOUR PLEA](#)

[more](#)

### SGI Initiatives

The People's Decade for Nuclear Abolition initiative created by SGI aims to rouse public opinion and help create a global grassroots network of people dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons.

- [SGI Exhibition and Youth Forum on Nuclear Disarmament Held at Roehampton University in London \*\*NEW\*\*](#)
- [Former Soldier Gives SGI-USA Culture of Peace Lecture](#)
- [Nobel Peace Laureates Speak at Soka Gakkai Hiroshima Lecture Series](#)

[more](#)

### Movies

- [THS Exhibition and Youth Forum at SOAS of London University | 3min 8sec](#)
- [What is NWC? | 3min](#)
- [Antinuclear Exhibition in the Philippines | 2min 9sec](#)

[more](#)

### Survivors Speak

[view more](#)

[Read Experiences](#)

### Explore the Issue

- [Facts](#)
- [Study tools](#)
- [Action tools](#)
- [Exhibition](#)

### Poll

The final document of last year's NPT Review Conference mentioned convening a conference in 2012 for establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone of the region. Meanwhile, several countries in the region have been keen on building nuclear plants responding to surge of energy demand. Do you think recent public upheavals in the region will contribute to establishment of the zone?

Yes  No

[Vote](#) [View](#)

[more](#)

### Media News

Mar. 1, 2011  
[A call for philosophical thinking](#)

Mar. 1, 2011  
[Japan's Defense Guidelines: New Conventional Strategy, Same Old Nuclear Dilemma](#)

Mar. 1, 2011  
['Abolish Nukes in the Middle East and Beyond' by Jamshed Baruah](#)

[more](#)

### Experts Say

August 2008  
[Getting Serious about Zero](#)  
By Tilman Ruff

[more](#)

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