

## **ABOLITION 2000 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 16 SEPTEMBER 2011**

### **Annex III: Thematic Reports from Abolition 2000 Working Groups and Affiliated Networks and Campaigns**

[Note: these are raw notes, which have not been checked fully for accuracy. If you have questions, want more information or want to get involved, please contact the presenters.]

#### Depleted Uranium (Alyn Ware)

- Marion Kupkuv is the coordinator
- Has been running for 10 years, was working as a clearing house at the beginning for information
- The international campaign to ban uranium weapons (ICBUW) has largely taken on that task
- Key developments: Nov 6 is international day of action against uranium weapons (and International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict ....); Bans of uranium weapons in Costa Rica, Belgium and New Zealand within the past years
- Working group site has more information

#### De-Alerting (Dominique Lalanne)

- WG was set up last year because the danger of nuclear weapons isn't always understood by the international community – within 15 minutes the world could be destroyed by nuclear weapons
- A lot of people are working on the subject of de-alerting – a few years ago a meeting was organized for Russian and Swiss diplomats, there was a meeting again this year
- At the General Assembly, there is a vote on de-alerting – so there was strong lobbying to countries to vote in opposition to nuclear weapons. 10 votes changed this year to vote against nuclear weapons. Swing states include the US and France
- Decided that the P5 was meeting in France about “preparing for the future”; a letter was sent to the heads of states of the P5 before the meeting, to encourage de-alerting – there was an impact, because they decided to not talk about it
- Dominique asked a question to the US and Russian representatives – why do you block this initiative? The US said it's interesting, but it's not a topic to talk about now – the current problem is only non-proliferation, not de-alerting. The Russian representative said it's interesting, but it's too complicated, so we can't solve the problem. France doesn't want to talk about it at all.
- Reveals which states are most active in blocking this initiative
- Important for Abolition 2000 to show to the public that this problem is a real danger – the public doesn't realize that the weapons can be deployed so quickly
- Wants to organize in each state, some debate/lobbying to push countries to support de-alerting. It is a first step in the Nuclear Weapons Convention
- Question from Peter: important for the French/UK groups to develop methods to be more persuasive of their governments; there is a bit of embarrassment in the UK foreign office – they may be persuaded to move to an abstention vote.
  - o Clarification: the UK is not on alert/not targeted, but they are not prepared to force other countries to de-alert/target
- Info/comment from Aaron: Mayors for Peace organized a conference in Geneva on the impact of nuclear weapons, de-alerting came up in the course of the meeting. There hasn't been much said about what kind of reductions are a priority – should be focused on the systems that are most vulnerable
- Alice: what was the position of Russia?
  - o Abstention
- Jean-Marie: what was the position of Israel on the vote?
  - o Abstention

- JM: it is a complicated issue – relies on the strategy of deterrence, which is why the French don't want to talk about. Get a decision from each state (French in particular) to move away from a strategy of deterrence – “the insurance policy of France” – Sarkozy

#### Energy (Alice Slater & Lucas Wirl)

- Alice/Lucas are the coordinators for this group
- There are actually two working groups – sustainable energy and nuclear energy. Alice suggested the two groups could merge together under the heading “Energy”
- The nuclear group started last year was going to write an appeal joining the nuclear energy and weapons for the 25 anniversary of Chernobyl
  - Due to challenges, there were roadblocks – good to merge the groups together!
- Sophie and Jean... also supportive of a merge
- Suggestion was to move this discussion to the afternoon talk of new proposals
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#### Youth (Christian Ciabanu & Martin Heinrichs)

- Represented by Christian (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation) and Martin (BANG)
- There have been some recent activities – a youth conference was held in Feb on nuclear disarmament, a Hiroshima survivor was the key speaker
  - Discussed UN measures and activities, non-proliferation, etc.
- One of the next project that BANG will work on is around the next NPT prep conference in Vienna, have applied for a grant to send a youth delegation to the conference and be involved in local actions; want to get new people involved with the topic
- If anyone is interested, gather during the lunch break to discuss in a little bit more detail, the funding application – other European individuals necessary to sign off on the application
- Mayra – the BANG Aetoroa developed a comic when they presented to the Assembly (Obama and the rugby ball of nuclear disarmament); published again around the Rugby World Cup
- Regina – might next year bring students from two universities to Vienna to the NPT prep com next year
- Alice – thanks to Nina for her work on the CC, but she has sent word that she is too busy with school to continue. Alice noted that the CC would love to have a youth campaigner

#### Mayors for Peace (Aaron Tovish)

- the network has reached 5000 Mayors!
- One of the accomplishments of Abolition 2000 is its part in the transformation of M4P from a sleepy organization to a full-force campaign
- not looking to reach 10,000 any time soon – we'll get there long before 2020, but there won't be any more international membership campaigns
- Emphasis now will be on quality, not quantity
- Appeal to Abolition 2000 for help going forward – looking for more 20/20 Campaigners, which is an official designation to help when people are approaching their own city hall (some responsibilities, etc – listed on the website)
- Going forward, need to build up strategic alliances – good working relationships with other groups, such as PNND, but need to increase this as well as with groups that aren't the usual suspects – the Red Cross, etc.
- Changes in Hiroshima – maybe a note could be written to the former Mayor of Hiroshima, thanking him for all of his work. The new Mayor wants to push the issue of nuclear weapons, but wants to bring the world to Hiroshima (not travel the world like the previous Mayor)
- The general conference will be held in Hiroshima in August 2013 (the Hiroshima and Nagasaki days) – want to do a “world cities fair” in the peace park, Japanese cities will be asked to host other cities (there are now a 1000 Japanese cities that are members of Mayors for Peace), invite high-level government officials to address the general conference – suggest that they meet with

each other, to push for high-level consultations on nuclear abolition; want civil society to be well-represented at this conference

- World Summit on nuclear disarmament in 2015 – perhaps the NPT review could be done in Hiroshima in 2015, seeking Abolition 2000 support as well as other peace groups
  - o Proposal came from the Mayor, not his advisors
- Questions
  - o Plans for the 20/20 vision campaign?
    - Executive/leadership conference upcoming (Spain, Nov) and this is on the agenda. Want to reformulate the campaign so that it doesn't run up against reality. Nuclear energy also on the agenda
    - Want to make the main focus of public outreach to show how cities are the nexus of the nuclear threat – cities are targets, citizens are victims, cities trigger climate change. Looking for help from PNND to show an exhibit on this in parliamentary buildings around the world.
    - Have deepened their relationship with national mayoral associations and continue to push for this
  - o How do resolutions translate into effective action?
    - Depends on the country/circumstances. Ideally the mayors association would lobby the government. Public knowledge that the resolutions exist is helping to embolden activists
  - o How many people in the room are 20/20 Campaigners?
    - 2 in the room, 30 worldwide

#### PNND (Alyn Ware)

- established in 2003 by the Middle Powers Initiative, governments were backing away from 13 steps to nuclear disarmament – so trying to get parliamentarians to lobby their government to uphold their obligations
- PNND is non-partisan, and to be effective, does not put forward policy
  - o Parliamentarians are encouraged to create policy, and then share and disseminate through the network
- PNND relies on constituents reaching out to their parliamentarians, to encourage them to join PNND – the group is not top-down
  - o Requires volunteer efforts to translate outreach materials
- Builds collaborative relationships to be more efficient, and benefit from other organizational structures
  - o Had to move away and set up an independent network to ensure the information was publicly available
- UN Secretary-General to write a letter to parliamentarians to encourage them to work towards his plan for nuclear disarmament
- Only have 800 members, set the goal of 2012 members by the end of the year 2012
- Alice can talk about the PNND working group and the US
  - o Want to do a big enrollment campaign – need everyone's help!
  - o US only has 8 members in Congress, would make a big difference to have more members involved with the network
  - o Sign up your own member of parliament
- Questions?
  - o Is there a list of Parliamentarians on the website?
    - Yes, with contact details

#### Global Network (Dave Webb)

- Established to link grassroots organizations that work against the militarization and weaponization of space
- Yearly meeting was successful
  - o Helpful to meet the individuals who are taking a stand against the weaponization of space
- Next year will be exciting – the people of Jeju island are being invaded by the military, as the South Koreans plan to build a large military base, encouraged by the United States who want to put equipment there
  - o The villages are putting up a great fight – many imprisoned, including the mayor
  - o The Global Network will meet on Jeju Island in February 2012 to support their work
  - o Will stop in at Hawaii to support a group that is organizing to oppose the testing of missiles in the Pacific
  - o Please visit the website!
- Network also plans to visit India to support an Indian activist who is working tirelessly to raise public awareness
- October 1-8, 2011 is Keep Space for Peace Week – will focus on drones. Space Alert available now, downloadable from the website – lots of information about drones, and how they are helping to find targets through space technology.
  - o In the UK there is an anti-drones organization just set up
- Questions/Discussion.
  - o Mayor of Gangoun (Jeju) has joined M4P (done while he was in jail!), and the 20/20 website has been updated with information about that situation. The planned base will be able to accommodate two aircraft carriers – or two cruise liners.
  - o IKV Pax Christi just translated a big research study on drones, available in English, Susi will distribute through the network
  - o In New York, an artist from Jeju Island is coming for a big event – Gloria Steinum got an op-ed in the New York Times about the Jeju Island base, which is a huge win, so she'll be at the event as well
  - o This issue shows why it can be so important to have a representative from networks like Global Network to actually go to these areas, as two representatives helped to catapult this issue into public awareness and raise funds
  - o Inspires and empowers the people who are living and working on the front lines

#### Divestment (Tim Wright)

- Set up the group last year
- IKV Pax Christi coordinates the international cluster munitions divestment campaign Hoping to produce something similar on nuclear weapons, has been commissioned and will come out soon
- Need to develop an effective network of people working in their country to find out how much their countries are investing in the 20-30 companies around the world that produce the elements of nuclear weapons, and put pressure on financial institutions to divest
- Many people don't expect that their countries would be investing in companies that work in the nuclear weapons industry
  - o There is a real opportunity to shock the public because people don't know that their countries are involved
  - o There is great potential for this to be replicated around the world – Australia recently received great media, front page stories
- Experience with cluster bombs is that divestment was worked on prior to the convention itself and really helped move the convention forward – could be the same for a nuclear weapons convention
- If interested, speak to Tim and/or Magnus
- Questions?

- Only one side – governments invest in such companies as well, there are two sides to the economic coin on this.
- What about churches? They have huge investments. Could be another avenue to explore for collaboration – example of churches during the South African apartheid
- In the World Conference of Churches family, there are groups working towards divestment related to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
- Suggestion that the figures of investment be broken down into city, which would be interesting to Mayors for Peace
- Personal divestment – in the nuclear power campaign in Germany (How Radioactive is my Bank?), its personal divestment that's making an impact. Challenge is that there are already campaigns about nuclear power and other weapons – in Germany, these already exist, would be a good idea to collaborate.

#### Citizens Weapons Inspections (Susi Snyder)

- Actions at a number of bases, especially the Kleine Brogel base in Belgium
- Recommend that people take a look at what the bomb spotting crews are doing
- Great youtube video from inside
- Abolition 2000 website has more information on this group

#### Indigenous Peoples (Mayra Gomez)

- Indigenous peoples have been some of the hardest hit by the nuclear world
- Quote from the Moorea declaration – part of the Abolition 2000 founding statement
- Good intentions, but there hasn't been much of a structure developed
- Mayra wants to see follow-up on this group and this issue – indigenous peoples are a constituency that have been working on the issue of nuclear disarmament since the beginning
  - Offers to liaise between indigenous groups and Abolition 2000
  - See Mayra if you are interested in getting involved with this working group
- Questions?
  - Always two topics coming up from audiences at nuclear disarmament conferences – depleted uranium and mining on indigenous land

#### International Humanitarian Law (Alyn Ware & George Farebrother)

- Last April, the head of the ICRC, released a statement that said that nuclear weapons are fundamentally against international humanitarian law – Switzerland made sure it got into the NPT documents
- Not a new argument – but indicates a resurgence of interest
- February meeting in Vancouver produced the “Vancouver Declaration” which is a tool available that states nuclear weapons are in violation of IHL
  - Asks states to work towards nuclear abolition – cannot be lawful to continue to use nuclear weapons
- There is a working group on nuclear weapons and the law in the past
  - Comes from section 9 from the Abolition statement
- Vancouver Declaration is gaining traction – New Zealand parliamentarians just received copies, there is support from there. Might be something people want to encourage within their own countries
  - Based on the supremacy in IHL, as stated in last year's NPT conference and confirmed by the statement circulated by Switzerland, there is a push to focus on the criminality of the use of nuclear weapons
  - Has been successful with other campaigns – cluster munitions, etc
  - Campaign focuses on getting groups and organizations to help make the argument of the criminality of use of nuclear weapons

- Sign up electronically on the website provided by George Farebrother
- Two affirmations, for countries with and without nuclear weapons – translated in a few languages, need to be translated into more languages
  - o Need help on the website and other e-communications
- Help by putting the message on your websites, circulate the information through your own networks ([www.nuclearweapons-warcrimes.org](http://www.nuclearweapons-warcrimes.org))
- Proposal to revive the International Humanitarian Law working group, as this issue has come to the fore right now
- Questions/Discussion:
  - o How many signatures?
    - Only a few hundred – a few thousand printed ones
  - o Shouldn't become legalistic about this – but it's a useful tool for going out to the public, amongst the other ways we are raising the costs, the humanitarian impact, the environmental environment, to encourage participation in the movement – a new reason for people to say “not in my name”. A tool that helped with the Scottish government, as well. Don't get stuck on the form, use the form of IHL as part of the toolbox – very helpful for particular constituencies
  - o An area where law and our common human values converge – and that is where they hope to appeal to citizens
  - o Excellent way to engage people in dialogue, and shift the discussion – de-legitimize the weapons, without being too complicated in a legal sense.
  - o Mayors for Peace has a petition called “Cities are not targets” – illegal to make cities a target for nuclear weapons, a million signatures are now an exhibit at the UN buildings in New York. Petition is being updated, will keep in mind the idea to make the legal argument more specific – will keep the network informed (Aaron Tovish)
  - o Clarification that this is an affirmation, not a petition (the Criminality of Nuclear Weapons network)
  - o Practical example of using the legal system to approach the illegality of nuclear weapons – in Germany, a law case was initiated over the stationing of US weapons. IALANA used German basic law that the government has a responsibility to protect its citizens as well as the foundation of international law to argue that the illegality of stationing US weapons on German soil – lost the case, young judge didn't want to get her hands dirty, passed it on to a higher court. Lucas will keep the network informed about next steps.

#### Deterrence (Jackie Cabasso)

- Nothing will change until deterrence is de-legitimized and discredited
- Work on-going in this field – a conference organized by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation called the Dangers of Nuclear Deterrence.
  - o Jackie presented a paper to this conference
  - o Deterrence is the continuing *raison d'être* for the modernization within nuclear weapons states and keeping nuclear weapons
- Have to change the discourse by speaking truth to power and truth to each other
- There is a sign-on/call to action, but hasn't been mobilized around, offers an entry-point into this discussion
  - o Not sure if starting another working group is the way to go
  - o Jackie happy to be a point person if people want to talk about this and figure out where to go on this
- Questions?
  - o Maybe a great discussion for the Nuclear Discussion Form

- Most recent paper from Abolition 2000 Europe argues that of all the conflicts the General was involved with, among nuclear weapons states, deterrence played absolutely no role in the conflict.
- Speech by Thomas Schelling – argued that the non-use of nuclear weapons since 1945 had nothing to do with deterrence and everything to do with politics and society
- This is an issue on the agenda for ICAN meeting tomorrow
- There is a deterrence review within NATO – talking about the “security environment”, which is everything other than weapons

#### Nuclear Weapons Free Zones (Akira Kawasaki)

- The agreement to hold a conference on the Middle East Nuclear weapons free zone is a major success from last year’s NPT conference
- Major buy-in on this from civil society
- Peace Boat: Horizon 2012 – civil society project to reach out to diplomats, etc, as well as other civil society organizations, to ensure the conditions necessary for a good conference next year are in place before the conference
  - Representatives from many middle eastern countries got together to discuss how civil society could help on this issue – how to define the territories, how to deal with particular challenges
  - Identified the need for more education of civil society on this issue
  - Next round of meetings on the Peace Boat, sometime around March 2012
  - Summary report on the meetings and project available on the Peace Boat website
- As far as North-East Asia, there is a long history of civil society activity on this
  - Remarkable development is that in August, more than 100 mayors in Japan created a joint letter, and sent to the Japan government to urge them to help establish this nuclear weapons free zone
  - Question now is how to promote this, and what the next steps are
  - Other areas are southeast Asia and the arctic
- Questions?
  - IPPNW supports the idea of a Mediterranean NWFZ – includes North Africa – time to have a specific campaign in the countries around the Med. Sea to join a NWFZ
  - The NWFZ working group was created a few years ago – credit to the initial organizers – PNND and M4P actual invited to host the civil society forum on NWFZ at meetings in New York. Working group has opened many doors, even though it’s no longer in existence.
  - Indigenous groups starting to be active and have influence in the arctic NWFZ idea
  - Why the Med. Sea? There is already an African NWFZ.
  - Lots of nuclear submarines in the Med Sea, not only on the European side but also the African side – not a lot of public awareness of this, and the countries in North Africa are concerned about this
  - North Africa – a lot of potential in countries like Egypt and Tunisia, in light of the revolutions, with the new, young, people who were involved – they may not have much knowledge of the issue, but they are very interested in the subject.
  - By the middle of October, there will be conference happening in either Amman or Istanbul on a middle east NWFZ. Need to push for Israel to be involved.

#### Radiation and WHO (Allison Katz)

- Independent WHO is working on this issue
- They have been in front of WHO for 5 years, holding a silent and pacific protest – WHO is not independent from the nuclear industry in terms of radiation and health. There is no international health authority to whom the worlds’ people can turn on this critical question

- In questions of radiation and health, it's actually the IAEA that seems to take precedence in this – even though they have no mandate to do so. Officially, the ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection??)
- WHO doesn't even have a department on radiation right now
- Encourage everyone to take a paper that summarizes the actions taken by the group
- The angle is public health – if the people of the world knew that it was possibly 1 million people who died as a result of Chernobyl, the debate on nuclear weapons/energy would end.
- Independent scientists just published a book that puts out the figure of close to 1 million – the New York Academy of Sciences (book found in resources section of [www.independentwho.info](http://www.independentwho.info)) – whereas WHO still stands beside the 50 death figure.
- Questions?
  - o IPPNW in Germany has been doing a lot of work on this, both because of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chernobyl and Fukushima. WHO is one organization we need to talk about, but so is the International Committee on Radiation Protection – they set the radiation limits for Japan. It's a self-appointed committee of experts – these people are in the pocket of the nuclear industry, and have little legitimacy to be able to set such limits, yet governments rely on their figures when talking about safe levels of radiation.
  - o IPPNW Germany has an English translation that includes much of Yablokov's report, but many others – download from the IPPNW EU site.

#### Nuclear Weapons Convention (Alyn Ware)

- Alyn is the coordinator of the working groups
- One of the first groups, comes from the first item of the Abolition 2000 founding statement – about 25 members
- A place for liaison, dialogue, strategy and discussion on this subject, helping to link together the various campaigns that are working towards a nuclear weapons convention
- Working on the UN resolution that asks countries to start working on a nuclear weapons convention – you can ask your government if they support a convention or not.
- There was a big lobbying effort to boost the “yes” votes on a NWC – shifted 10 votes to yes, moved some votes to “abstention” from no, both of which were very significant
- Development of a Model Convention was updated in 2007, and this version was the one that Ban Ki-Moon used in his 5 point plan
- Promoting a NWC at the NPT conference and the NPT prep com
- Working with the middle powers initiative was a strong element of the working group – looking at a track 2 diplomacy
  - o MPI called for preparatory conference – now pushing for a framework forum to push this forward
- 20 former heads of state agreed to the idea of a NWC
- Nuclear Abolition Forum will be launched on October 21 in New York this year – website online, not public yet. Looking for collaboration and new material for the site.