



Abolition 2000

AGM Report

2014

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Remembering Jonathan Schell

At the opening of the Annual General Meeting (AGM), Alice Slater read a portion of Bill McKibben's article on Jonathan Schell in *The New Yorker*, which highlighted Mr. Schell's passion and commitment to a better world - especially one free of nuclear weapons.

"But—and I remember my incredulity—when the Cold War ended, a series of people who'd said Communism was the reason we needed the weapons now had no reaction. It turned out our grip on these things was tighter and our attraction to them was deeper or stranger than the reasons we gave ourselves during the forty-plus years of the Cold War."

The same dynamic was at work with climate change, he told me. Despite ample scientific warning that we were headed for catastrophe, we'd done even less to change course.

(Bill McKibben, [Jonathan Schell](#), *The New Yorker*, 7 April 2014)

In addition, an opening activity was completed in which every participant gave one word to describe what security means to them. These answers can be found in the artwork on the front cover of this report.

Participants

Nearly 100 participants attended the AGM from a number of countries, representing dozens of member organizations.

Update from Scotland (Bill Kidd, MSP)

Bill Kidd, Member of Scottish Parliament, lead off the meeting by reporting on the anti-nuclear and independence movement in Scotland. Abolition 2000 held its AGM in Edinburgh in 2013, to learn more about the nearly 200 nuclear weapons currently believed to be kept in Scotland, and to support and show solidarity with the Scottish disarmament movement.

Mr. Kidd gave his thanks to the network for coming to Edinburgh and hosting the AGM there in 2013, as it helped to create awareness around the work of the Scottish nuclear disarmament community. Mr. Kidd noted the The Faslane Declaration was particularly helpful.

Where we are and where we're going

21st Century Great Power War (Andrew Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation)

Andrew Lichterman reported on the full-day conference, held on Saturday, 3 May in NYC, "Facing the Dangers of 21st Century Great Power War: A Conference on the Centenary of World War I" which was convened and sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, Peace and Economic Security Program, International Peace bureau, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung - New York Office, and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and its U.S. affiliates, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear policy and the Western States Legal Foundation. The Conference Report was featured in Reaching Critical Will's NPT News in Review (Annex II).

Andy noted that we're entering a period of heightened chance of war between nuclear powers, with reduced prospects for disarmament. He highlighted three themes in this new period, and what it means for our work:

- 1) Destabilization through resource conflicts, continued adverse affects of climate change, and stark polarization of wealth, among other factors.
- 2) Past peace attempts' failure. Emphasis before WWI on peaceful resolutions proved inadequate, Between WWI & WWII emphasis on arms control, and control of war itself; also deemed unsuccessful.
- 3) New approaches to peace are needed. To accomplish goals as large as abolishing nuclear weapons or ending war - there must be significant change in underlying social reality; we need movements beyond peace & disarmament (justice, economies and energy rhythms of planet) to join together to achieve these increasingly important goals.

Global Opportunities for Nuclear Abolition

Nuclear Zero Lawsuits (Phon van den Biesen, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms)

Phon van den Biesen, a lead member of the international legal team representing the Marshall Islands, reported on the landmark lawsuits filed against the UK, India, Pakistan, U.S., Russia, China, France, Israel and North Korea by the Marshall Islands in the International Court of Justice (ICJ). The Marshall Islands has suffered horrendously from nuclear testing. It is important that they don't stand alone in taking on the nuclear-armed states.

Sign the NuclearZero petition at www.nuclearzero.org. Groups can endorse the initiative and add their logo to the consortium of supporters.

Phon asked member groups to lobby other nations to support the Marshall Islands' undertaking. In the International Court of Justice, they can intervene in the Marshall Islands cases or (if eligible) file their own parallel cases. Interested groups can also issue statements of support.

Please coordinate with John Burroughs (johnburroughs@lcnp.org) if contacting diplomats to join the cases. Contact David Krieger (dkrieger@napf.org) regarding joining in the Marshall Islands' companion case against the United States filed in US court.

Humanitarian Impacts & Vienna Conference (Tim Wright, ICAN)

Tim Wright of ICAN reported on the upcoming Conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna, scheduled for December 2014. Tim noted that the recent developments and increased support for the humanitarian impacts approach has had success in reframing the issue of nuclear weapons from exclusively security to humanitarian consequences.

There have been major conferences in Oslo, where 138 states attended, and most recently, in Nayarit, where 146 states were in attendance. ICAN will continue to push for a treaty banning nuclear weapons (illegal to use, manufacture, stockpile) putting in place framework for elimination, through these conferences and other modes of advocacy. The next step in the humanitarian impacts and ban treaty movement is the conference in Vienna (8 - 9 December, 2014) and the corresponding civil society conference the weekend before (6-7 December). ICAN is expecting 600-700 civil society participants at this conference. Tim also gave some strategy highlights for member groups: For NGOs with governments reluctant to support the humanitarian impact initiative and ban treaty (P5 and umbrella states), groups should encourage these governments to participate in the meetings in Vienna. For NGOs with progressive governments, encourage them to take leadership at the Vienna Conference, calling for a ban treaty. All NGOs and member groups are invited to participate in the civil society forum.

For more information and registration information, visit icanw.org.

Open-Ended Working Group, Parliamentarians, and 2018 High Level Conference (Alyn Ware, PNND)

Alyn Ware presented on preparations for the 2018 UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND), and results of the UN Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG).

Alyn noted that the Open-Ended Working Group was a positive and successful initiative with the participation of some nuclear armed states, nuclear reliant states and non-nuclear weapons states. The dynamics were quite unique for a multi-lateral forum with governments discussing proposals and examining issues and ideas rather than advancing national statements and positions. Additionally NGOs had full participation in the meetings. This included being able to make interventions at the sessions, and submit working papers. Civil society also promoted the OEWG internationally, especially through the [Abolition 2000 Taskforce on the OEWG](#) and the [Open the Door campaign](#).

The OEWG resulted in a consensus report being presented to various UN bodies (CD, NPT). See [UN body adopts report on advancing nuclear disarmament negotiations](#).

The UN General Assembly resolution receiving the report, supported by over 150 states, called on UN bodies such as the Conference on Disarmament and other multilateral forums to consider the ideas and proposals in the report, requested governments to submit their views on progress, and decided that the next UNGA would decide whether further work should be undertaken by the OEWG to take forward nuclear disarmament negotiations. Governments have now received an invitation from UN Secretariat to let their views be known by June 1.

Alyn reported on the success of PNND to achieve resolutions in the [Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE](#) (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and the [Inter Parliamentary Union](#) (IPU) on nuclear disarmament. The resolutions were significant because they were supported by the parliaments of most of the nuclear weapon states, and went much further than their governments. The IPU resolution, for example, calls on parliaments to 'work with their governments on eliminating the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines' and to 'urge their governments to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.'

PNND and the World Future Council are launching an initiative for parliamentary actions in parliaments to follow-up the IPU resolution, and call on all Abolition 2000 members to work with them to ensure successful events in their parliaments.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament prior to 2018

Alyn summarised the UN General Assembly resolution establishing the [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#) (Sept. 26), calling for negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention, and deciding to hold a High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament prior to 2018. A coalition of NGOs has established [UNFOLD ZERO](#) to focus on UN focused initiatives and actions for the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world, including implementation of this resolution. UNFOLD ZERO aims to unfold the path to zero nuclear weapons through effective steps and measures facilitated by the UN General Assembly, UN Security Council,

UN Secretary-General and other UN bodies. UNFOLD ZERO will promote the UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, providing a platform for or governments, parliaments, cities and civil society to post announcements, photos and reports of actions and events to commemorate this day.

Alyn noted that the governments sponsoring the resolution have not yet outlined what they expect from the High Level Conference, nor what preparatory meetings/work will be required to ensure its success. Alyn noted that a revised OEWG could play a key role, especially in drafting an agreement to be adopted at the High Level Conference. Although the aim is for a NWC, this might not be possible by 2018. Thus, the OEWG could be tasked to prepare a realistic agreement – such as a framework convention, prohibition on use or ban treaty.

NPT 2015 RevCon International NGO conference & action proposal (Joseph Gerson, American Friends Service Committee)

Joseph Gerson, representing a committee of American Friends Service Committee, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Disarmament, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Peace Action (national), Peace Action (New York State,) and Western States Legal Foundation presented a “Proposal for International Conference, Rally, March & Other Activities on the Eve of the 2015 Review Conference” (Annex III)

Joseph stated that the purpose of a conference and march is to reinforce popular demands for abolition. He noted that it's also to support looking beyond to 2018, and the humanitarian consequences movement. An international planning group is needed if events are to be successful.

The groups envision: an inclusive abolition conference on the eve of RevCon, mass march and rally, peace festival, exploring forms of bold non-violent action over and above what has been done, facilitating younger abolitionists especially in religious communities, including delivery of abolition petition signatures to RevCon; want to facilitate visits of Hibakusha and international delegations to other parts of the US.

The AGM expressed general support for the proposal, though with some vocal reservations.

Middle East Nuclear Weapons and WMD Free Zone (Sharon Dolev, Israeli Disarmament Movement)

Sharon Dolev, presenting on behalf of the Israeli Disarmament Movement, noted the need for civil society to take on the attitudes and language of the conveners, negotiators and facilitators of the Middle East Nuclear Weapon and WMD Free Zone. Sharon invited participants, with governments, academics and other NGOs to visualize what a Middle East Zone would look like, how it works, even without all parties in agreement, work backwards, and to give feedback on how we see this zone functioning.

Sharon also noted the need for solidarity with Israeli civil society.

Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone (Adele Buckley, Canadian Pugwash Group)

Noting the difficulties in achieving an Arctic Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, Adele Buckley presented the Canadian Pugwash Group's approach in starting to incorporate the non-nuclear weapon states into a partial country Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and pushing the nuclear weapon states into the zone eventually.

Adele noted that the group continues to push for a nuclear weapons free zone clause to be written into states' Arctic policies and invites member groups to do the same.

Modernization (Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley Communities Against a Radioactive Environment)

Marylia Kelly (Tri-Valley CAREs, Livermore California) encouraged and reminded member groups of the need to incorporate the threat of modernization into campaign work. All nuclear weapons states are undertaking modernization programmes, putting them in conflict with their obligations under Article VI of the NPT.

Updates: Working Groups and Affiliated Networks

Don't Bank on the Bomb (Susi Snyder, PAX)

The 2014 "Don't Bank on the Bomb" report will be published in Autumn. Last year's report was successful, garnering international media attention and helping to stigmatize nuclear weapons. Currently, 298 financial institutions invest \$314 billion USD in 27 nuclear weapon producing companies.

Organizations can contribute by supporting the 2014 report. Campaigner guides are available to aid in using and publicizing the report. Organizations can also help by informing Susi Snyder or Wilbert van der Zeijden of any financial institutions in one's home country with a policy on nuclear weapons.

Visit <http://www.dontbankonthebomb.com/> for more information.

Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space (Alice Slater)

Alice Slater remarked on the necessity of including missiles in our nuclear disarmament work, and highlighted the important current and historical linkages between the militarization of space and nuclear weapons.

With NATO expansion, planting U.S. missiles in Poland, Romania and Turkey, and the United States walking out of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, our work for nuclear disarmament is more

pertinent and dire than ever before. Alice stressed the importance for the United States and Russia to engage in dialogue - specifically around missiles.

Visit space4peace.org for more information.

De-Alerting (John Hallam, People for Nuclear Disarmament)

John Hallam, reporting on de-alerting, reminded organizations present of the need to increase the public's attention to the approximately 2,000 nuclear weapons currently on high alert status. John noted the increase in conversations between civil society and states on decision making time has been a positive change, and that an Operating Status Resolution will hopefully be coming from First Committee meeting in October. John also highlighted the unprecedented working paper on de-alerting by the NPTI (Nonproliferation and Disarmament Initiative).

Sustainable Energy (Alice Slater)

Alice Slater called on groups to continue to support and build up IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency). She also noted that there is an active A2000 working group list for sustainable energy. Please contact Alice if you would like to be added to this list (aslater@rcn.org).

Mayors for Peace (Aaron Tovish, Mayors for Peace)

Aaron Tovish reported on the general conference held in Hiroshima in August 2013, and gave updates on Mayors for Peace projects:

1) Continuation of 2020 Vision Campaign (achievement of agreement for nuclear weapon free world by 2020), including the "Good Faith Challenge" program

2) Thanks to A2000 members for recruiting members, When the 2020 Vision Campaign started 10 years ago, there were 500 members. Another 5,500 cities have been added since. There are 200 member cities in Iran. Due to strong membership, Mayors for Peace is creating a Cities World Peace Calendar whereby one city takes responsibility for one day of the year, so that around the world there are cities engaged in promoting peace every day of the year.

3) Planning an "I was her age" tour, in cooperation with Peace Boat and Hibakusha Stories to mark the 70 anniversary of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (2015). Mayors for Peace invites support and the sharing of ideas for the 70th Anniversary.

4) Ypres Conference of Cities marking the 100th anniversary of the first use of chemical weapons (2015), will address WMD and how cities suffer, fitting with the Mayors for Peace "Cities are not targets!" campaign.

Visit mayorsforpeace.org and 2020visioncampaign.org for more information

Break out group reports

Nuclear Zero Lawsuits

- Phase I - Initial launch and filing is complete

- Phase II - Courts hear cases
 - Existing resources - petition (nuclearzero.org) and sign-on (expressing solidarity); sample materials (newsletter article, press release)
 - Big needs: Activate people in organizations especially in nuclear weapons states and Pacific Islands
 - Parliamentary questions and motions, and direct lobbying particularly helpful
 - Campaign ideas - popularizing issue via fashion press (taking “bikini” angle); letters going out to target governments, letting people in the network know when stories are going out so letters to the editor can be coordinated

NPT 2015 RevCon - International NGO conference

- Themes and concepts - Publicizing dysfunctionality of NPT to public
- Not about working for NPT, but independent call for nuclear disarmament from outside
- Maximizing May Day; incorporation around movements, activities in capitals around the world, not just NYC
- Interfaith service, demonstration, march, concert ideas
- Peace Boat, Mayors for Peace, I was Her Age, AFSC, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, number of groups and potential resources
- Joseph Gerson (AFSC), Judith LeBlanc (Peace Action), and Jackie Cabasso (WSLF) will convene an international planning committee

From Vienna to 2018

- Laying out dates and activities from this year to 2018:

2014

- 21 September – UN International Day for Peace
- 26 September – first UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons
- October - UNGA First Committee
- December 6 -7, ICAN Civil Society Forum, Vienna
- December 8-9, 3rd Intergovernmental Conference on Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, Vienna

2015

- January - Conference on Disarmament
- May - NPT RevCon
- October -UNGA First Committee

2016

- Nuclear Security Summit

2017

- NPT PrepCom

2018

- UN High-level Meeting on nuclear disarmament
- Stressing local developments that could have impacts on disarmament internationally
- Something more specific to come out of December Vienna meeting - worked on in follow-up meetings

- OEWG Meetings - what mandate would they have and how would it relate to 2018 High-Level Conference and Humanitarian Consequences?
- Maximizing Vienna and OEWG

Abolition 2000 Business

Secretariat's Report (Susi Snyder, PAX)

There were fewer newsletters this year, due to reduced capacity and time of the coordinating committee. This is a challenge forthcoming as well. We did 2 last year.

There are 474 people on the Abolition-Caucus email list.

There is an average about 180 messages per month. Highest month ever was March 2011, with 805 messages. That was at the time of the triple disaster in Japan and the Fukushima-Daiichi meltdown.

A mailing went out to the mailing list we have in advance of this meeting, several hundreds (approximately 2/3 of our database of addresses is in North America). There are 76 members are on the global council email list, and it averages around 40 messages or less per month, although this past March we had 79 messages. Want to reaffirm that the list is for discussion, not forwarding articles.

The main responsibility of the secretariat is maintaining the database.

In moving ahead, there is help needed to keep the website updated and produce newsletters.

Financial Report (Jackie Cabasso, WSLF)

Western States Legal Foundation (WSLF) is the fiscal sponsor for A2000. Jackie gave an oral report at the AGM. In December 2013, A2000 received an unsolicited grant of \$10,000 from the Craigslist Charitable Fund. The bank balance prior to this meeting, not including a big postal mailing to member groups and the meeting expenses was \$12,720. A written report will be provided later.

Affirmation of Coordinating Committee and Global Council

Coordinating Committee

Susi Snyder
 Alice Slater
 Jackie Cabasso
 Akira Kawasaki
 Dominique Lalanne
 Martin Heinrichs
 Kathleen Walsh
 Steven Staples

Alyn Ware
Rick Wayman
Sharon Dolev

It was unanimously approved that Coordinating Committee members be authorized to designate alternates; that is, other representatives of their group or country, who can participate in conference calls when they are unavailable.

Global Council

Welcoming new members

Sara Hirsch (Universal Models for Peace) was nominated by Alyn Ware, and approved as a member of the Global Council.

Responsibilities of Global Council (GC) members (adopted at the 2011 Abolition 2000 AGM):

The GC is made up of individuals, not representatives of organizations

- GC members are expected to be active with Abolition 2000
- GC members are encouraged to serve as advisors and ambassadors for Abolition 2000, and Work with Abolition 2000 groups in their regions and thematic areas
- GC members are expected to check in with or respond to the CC at least once a year (respond to a draft statement, contribute to the e-newsletter, or some other way)
- GC members are expected to abide by the Abolition 2000 Operating Principles

Brief History of the Network

In May 1995, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review and Extension Conference at the United Nations in New York, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) from around the world recognized that the declared nuclear weapons states were unwilling to discuss complete nuclear disarmament as stipulated in the treaty. A large number of these NGOs came together and drafted the 11-point Abolition 2000 Statement, which calls for “the definite and unconditional abolition of nuclear weapons.”

The Abolition 2000 Statement, as its number one demand, calls for the immediate initiation of negotiations on a verifiable Nuclear Weapons Convention (treaty), requiring the elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework. The Abolition 2000 Statement recognizes “the inextricable link between the ‘peaceful’ and warlike uses of nuclear technologies,” and calls for the establishment of an international energy agency to promote and support the development of sustainable and environmentally safe energy sources.

The Abolition 2000 Statement became the basis for the Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons, which was launched in November 1995 in The Hague, Netherlands, during the historic hearings before the International Court of Justice on the illegality of nuclear weapons.

At its January 1997 Annual General Meeting in Moorea, Te Ao Maohi (French Occupied Polynesia), hosted by Hiti Tau, an umbrella organization of indigenous peoples’ groups, on the one year anniversary of the last French nuclear test, the Moorea Declaration was adopted as a supplement to the Abolition 2000 Statement. The Moorea Declaration recognizes the particular suffering of indigenous and colonized people as a result of the nuclear cycle.

In 2001, the Abolition 2000 Global Council, meeting in Saffron Walden, England, issued the Saffron Walden Declaration recognizing “the rising tide of discontent at the economic inequity and lack of social justice among the vast majority of the earth’s people in order to maintain [the nuclear weapon states and their allies] access to world resources and their unsustainable levels of consumption,” and calling for “a world that is free of nuclear weapons, free of the resultant environmental contamination, and free of social and economic injustice.”

The 1995 Abolition 2000 Statement called for the conclusion of negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention “by the year 2000.” Recognizing that the nuclear weapons states would likely fail in their obligations to conclude such negotiations, this phrase was removed at the end of 2000. At the same time, the network successfully campaigned to recruit more than 2000 member groups (in over 90 countries) in order to keep our name relevant.

As an outgrowth of the Abolition 2000 Network, a working group of international lawyers, scientists and activists drafted a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention which was, submitted to the United Nations by Costa Rica, and circulated as United Nations document A/C.1/52/7 in 1997. It was updated and resubmitted in 2007 by Costa Rica and Malaysia, and was referenced in the UN Secretary General’s Five Point plan for disarmament in 2008. The draft treaty provides for the verifiable phased elimination of nuclear weapons. It is analogous to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention.

Abolition 2000 regional networks have been established in many places, including Europe, UK, and New Zealand. In addition, informal Abolition 2000 working groups have established themselves to focus on a variety of specific issues.

Abolition 2000 circulated an international petition that was signed by more than 13.4 million individuals worldwide. During the 2000 NPT Review Conference, the signed petitions were symbolically presented to Ambassador Baali of Algeria, Chairman of the Conference. During the opening week of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, President Libran Cabactulan and UN High Representative Sergio Duarte accepted symbolic presentations of more than 17 million signatures collected around the world expressing the collective will of international civil society to see the commencement of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention without further delay. Abolition works closely with Mayors for Peace and its 2020 Vision Campaign, which reset the original Abolition 2000 target date, with the goal of eliminating nuclear arsenals by the year 2020. Abolition 2000 also works closely with Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament and ICAN.

Abolition 2000 mainly is a volunteer network, but has received essential administrative support from a series of organizations that have served as its Secretariat since its founding. These have included the California-based Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, the New York-based Global Resource Action Center for the Environment (GRACE), the Polaris (now Rideau) Institute, Ottawa, Canada, Pax Christi USA, and the current Secretariat, IKV Pax Christi (now PAX), The Netherlands.

For more information, contact:

Abolition 2000 Secretariat

C/O PAX

PO Box 19318, 3501 DH Utrecht, The Netherlands Phone: +31 30 232 0593 Fax: +31 30 236 8199

Abolition 2000 Operating Principles

1. The Abolition 2000 Network for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is composed of organizations which have endorsed the Abolition 2000 Statement.
2. The Abolition Statement is the founding document of the Network and is the only document which has been endorsed by all of the network endorsers.
3. Amendments to the Abolition Statement require consensus.
4. As a functioning Network, we seek means to maintain communications among all of our organizational endorsers.
5. Operating as a Network of the whole, our mission is to maintain communications with the endorsers of the Statement and maintain the list of the endorsers.
6. Any organizational endorser of the Abolition Statement may have a copy of the contact list for the Network, at cost, to encourage broad communication.
7. The Network is currently organized by region, working groups, and projects.
8. No one can speak in the name of the Network as a whole, but working groups, projects, regions, or other configurations of Abolition 2000 endorsers can issue statements, documents etc., in the name of the Group, Project, etc., which are consistent with the principles set forth in the Abolition 2000 Statement e.g., Model Nuclear Weapons Convention Working Group of Abolition 2000.
9. Organizations are encouraged to identify themselves as endorsers of Abolition 2000 on their letterheads, etc.
10. The Abolition 2000 Network may invite all endorsers to annual or special meetings.
11. At previous annual meetings, resolutions were adopted by the participants at the meeting, but the resolutions were issued only in the name of the participants at the meeting.

Annex I - Conference Report: Facing the Dangers of a 21st Century Great Power War

By Andrew Lichterman, Western States Legal Foundation

On Saturday May 3rd, a conference took place at the Judson Memorial Church in New York on the centenary of World War I, titled Facing the Dangers of a 21st Century Great Power War. The all-day conference was well attended, with about 90 people present.

The conference brought together academics and activists to reexamine the history First World War and its aftermath, and to consider what we might learn that is useful in peace and disarmament work including similarities and differences between the forces that led to catastrophic great power war a century ago and those that threaten extinction today. The conference was sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee Peace and Economic Security Program, the International Peace Bureau, the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung New York Office, and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms and its U.S. affiliates, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and the Western States Legal Foundation.

The first two panels looked back at World War I and forward to the risks of great power war in the coming decades. One speaker noted that it was not a “world war,” but rather a war among European empires, with the fighting mainly in and around Europe, but which affected people’s lives and the structures of global society for generations. Panelists also identified multiple causes for World War I. These included massive arms buildups, misreading of each-other’s intentions by decision makers, and an increased propensity for risk-taking by ruling elites who saw their relative power in the international order threatened both from without by rising new powers and from within by unrest sparked by an economic system that disrupted traditional ways of life and drove an increasingly inequitable distribution of wealth and power.

A number of the speakers agreed that we are entering a period of heightened risk of war among nuclear-armed great powers. At the same time, no nuclear armed countries show any evident intent to make meaningful reductions in their nuclear arsenals in the foreseeable future. All of the states that have established nuclear arsenals are modernizing them to a greater or lesser degree, allowing them to keep their nuclear weapons deployed into the middle of the 21st century and perhaps beyond. Conventional arms racing is intensifying, with powerful, accurate, stealthy long-range strike systems facing sophisticated defensive systems, amidst electronic and now cyber warfare, creating new dangers that military confrontations among nuclear-armed high tech militaries may escalate out of control.

Participants identified a number of forces likely to drive conflict in the coming years, including competition for diminishing resources such as oil and minerals, general social conflict due to lack or maldistribution of resources essential to human survival such as food and water, exacerbated by climate change and general ecological decline, an increasingly inequitable distribution of wealth. While a number of speakers mentioned the dangers that might arise from the U.S./NATO vs. Russian confrontation over Ukraine, it was recognized that major wars could be

sparked in a number of ways, ranging from U.S.-China competition and confrontation to crises involving regional powers in East and South Asia or the Middle East.

Speakers on the panel on arms control and disarmament efforts before and between the world wars and other speakers throughout the day noted that legal efforts to control armaments and war before and after World War I had for the most part proved ineffective. Legal mechanisms for the resolution of international disputes failed to prevent World War I. Interwar negotiations to control the strategic arms of the day did not prevent rapid arms buildups and a second World War more expansive and destructive than the first. Despite signing the Kellogg Briand Pact, a “General Treaty for Renunciation of War as an Instrument of National Policy,” a few years later the world’s great powers were back at war with unprecedented intensity, culminating in the atomic bombing of cities.

There was general agreement that to accomplish goals as large as eliminating nuclear weapons or, more broadly, ending war, that legal mechanisms are not sufficient; there must also be significant supporting change in underlying social reality. There was no common approach to this, but there were some recurring themes. One is that both of these goals likely will require movements whose focus is not limited to peace and disarmament, and which make connections with people and organizations working for economic justice and an ecologically sustainable ways of life. Another is that we need to look at the structures of society and the forces driving conflict anew, in this particular moment, to understand how to go forward.

Annex II - Proposal for International Conference, Rally, March and Other Activities on the Eve of the 2015 NPT Review Conference

Submitted by an ad hoc committee composed of American Friends Service Committee, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Disarmament, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Peace Action (national), Peace Action (New York State,) Western States Legal Foundation

CALL TO ACTION: SPRING 2015 MOBILIZATION
for a nuclear free, fair, democratic, ecologically sustainable and peaceful future

A nuclear weapons-free world can and must be achieved. Together, people's movements and governments committed to securing human survival by eliminating the world's nuclear arsenals can prevail. Building on our popular mobilizations since the indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in 1995, we call on all people who want to build a fair, democratic, ecologically sustainable and peaceful future to join us in the streets and meeting halls in New York and in your own capitals and cities worldwide in late April and early May, 2015, during the NPT 5-year Review Conference. Joining with "move the money" and climate change forces we will press the nuclear powers to fulfill their Article VI commitments to engage in good faith negotiations for the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals, for deep reductions of military spending in order to meet human needs, and for measures to reverse the devastation being wrought by climate change.

We issue this call at a crucial juncture in history, a moment when the unresolved tensions of a deeply inequitable society, great power ambitions and the destructive effects of an unsustainable economic system are exploding into overlapping crises. Tensions among nuclear-armed countries are rising amidst circumstances that bear worrisome resemblances to those that brought the world wars of the last century. For the first time in the nuclear age we are in a sustained global economic crisis that is deepening the gulf between rich and poor in a starkly two-tier world. Both climate change and fossil-fuel based economies generate conflicts within and among states. Extreme economic inequality and the economic policies that create it, NATO's aggressive expansion, struggles over diminishing fossil fuels, food price spikes and crop failures drive wars and revive arms races from Iraq to Syria to Ukraine to South Asia and the Western Pacific. We face a moment in which policies that benefit a fraction of the world's population feed conflicts that could precipitate catastrophic wars, even nuclear wars, and in which the power to make war is wielded by largely unaccountable elites.

The 2010 NPT Review Conference reaffirmed "the unequivocal undertaking of the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament." Five more years have passed; another Review Conference is in the offing. Nuclear stockpiles of civilization-destroying size persist, and even limited progress on disarmament has stalled. Over 16,000 nuclear weapons remain, with 10,000 in military service and 1800 on high alert. All nuclear-armed states are modernizing their nuclear arsenals, manifesting the intention to sustain them for decades to come.

Nuclear-armed countries spend over \$100 billion per year on nuclear weapons and related costs. Those expenditures are expected to increase as nuclear weapon States modernize their warheads and delivery systems. Spending on high-tech weapons not only deepens the reliance of some governments on their nuclear arsenals, but also furthers the growing divide between rich and poor. In 2013, \$1.75 trillion was spent on militaries and armaments – more than the total annual income of the poorest third of the world's population.

The capacity to sustain a nuclear fuel cycle and to operate reactors provides the technological base for the production of nuclear weapons. Many of the same institutions that insist that nuclear weapons provide political security claim that nuclear power can provide energy security. While the NPT bargain wrongly includes the right of all countries to develop peaceful nuclear energy, it does not obligate them to do so. With the dangers of proliferation and in the wake of the Fukushima power plant disaster, it should be clear that the human and ecological costs of nuclear power are unacceptable.

Countries that are free of nuclear weapons, supported by peace organizations around the world, have responded to the growing atmosphere of conflict and confrontation involving nuclear-armed states with renewed, urgent calls for disarmament – calls the nuclear weapon states have largely ignored:

- At the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the parties agreed unanimously to organize a conference on a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, to be held in 2012 and to be convened “with the full support and engagement of the nuclear-weapon States.” That conference has yet to be convened.
- In November, 2011, the International Red Cross reminded the world that nuclear weapons cause “incalculable human suffering” and that as a consequence there is an “absolute imperative” to prevent any use of nuclear weapons. It called for negotiations to “completely eliminate nuclear weapons.” In March, 2013, Norway hosted a conference on the Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons, with 127 governments in attendance. Mexico hosted a follow-on conference in Nayarit in February, 2014, with 146 governments present. Both conferences were boycotted by the P-5 nuclear weapon possessing nations. A third conference, hosted by Austria, is scheduled for December, 2014 in Vienna.
- The P-5 also boycotted the Open-Ended Working Group which was mandated “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,” established by the UN General Assembly in 2012. The General Assembly also initiated an unprecedented High Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament in September, 2013, to which the P-5 sent only low-level representatives.
- In April, 2014, The Republic of the Marshall Islands initiated a challenge in the International Court of Justice, urging the ICJ to find the nine nuclear-armed states in noncompliance with their obligations to disarm under international law. This courageous action by direct victims of nuclear colonialism reminds us that disarmament depends on collective action by the people of the world, using all available peaceful means. We urge governments of non-nuclear weapons States to participate by intervening in the Marshall Islands cases or by filing their own parallel applications.

2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the United States atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also marks 45 years since the first five nuclear powers agreed in Article VI of the NPT to

undertake good faith negotiations for the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. It is long past time for the world's people to call to account all those who exercise power by threatening nuclear annihilation.

- We call upon the parties to the NPT to use the 2015 Review Conference to immediately, without delay, develop a time-bound framework for negotiating the total ban and elimination of all nuclear arsenals.
- We call on the four states outside the Treaty that have nuclear arms, India, Israel, North Korea, and Pakistan, to join in any such negotiations, immediately and without delay.
- We urge all people who hope to build a fair, democratic, ecologically sustainable and peaceful future to join us in New York City and around the world for international days of action, including

1. An international peace, justice and environmental conference – April 24 & 25;
2. A major international rally, march to the United Nations and peace festival – April 26;
3. Nonviolent demonstrations, protest actions and numerous side events to press our demands for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, and for economic justice and environmental sustainability;
4. The presentation to the NPT Review Conference of millions of signatures on petitions calling for nuclear weapons abolition;
5. Youth and student organizing; and
6. An Interfaith Service for Nuclear Weapons Abolition

Let our numbers be so large that our voices are certain to be heard inside the UN and around the world!

Annex III - Declaration on 21 and 26 September

September 21 is UN International Day for Peace. September 26 is the first International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

Abolition 2000 and United for Peace and Justice call on environmentalists, peace advocates and anti-nuclear campaigners to join forces to save the planet from climate change, war and the threats from nuclear weapons and nuclear energy.