

Abolition 2000 working group on NWFZs

Draft report

The working group supports existing regional NWFZs and promotes the establishment of additional NWFZs including in the Arctic, Europe, Middle East and North East Asia.

The working group is convened by Alyn Ware (PNND and Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy) and Rob van Riet (World Future Council). Other members include Marc Finaud (Geneva Centre for Security Policy), Dr Andreas Nidecker (Basel Peace Office, IPPNW Switzerland), Dr Mounir Zahran (Pugwash Egypt).

Arctic: The proposal for an Arctic NWFZ has been promoted by Abolition 2000 members and partners including Pugwash Canada, Pugwash Denmark, Basel Peace Office and PNND. An outline of the proposal is on Basel Peace Office webpage at www.baselpeaceoffice.org/article/arctic. A more comprehensive collection of materials on the proposal can be found on the Arctic portal managed by Pugwash Canada <http://arcticnwfz.ca/>. An update on the proposal was presented by Tariq Rauf at a side event at the 2019 NPT Prep Com organised by the government of Kazakhstan.

Europe. A basic outline of the proposal for a Europe NWFZ is on Basel Peace Office website at www.baselpeaceoffice.org/article/central-europe. A more comprehensive analysis of the proposal can be found at [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/NWFZ E_Finalversion.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Abruestung/NWFZ_E_Finalversion.pdf). PNND and Basel Peace Office organised a number of events on the European NWFZ proposal in 2015, 2016 and 2017 but has not done much on the proposal since then.

Middle East. The UN has adopted resolutions on the establishment of a Middle East Zone free of nuclear weapons and other WMD. The NPT has adopted decisions for the establishment of such a zone, including agreeing in 2010 to hold a conference no later than 2012 on establishing the zone. The conference did not take place (although civil society held their associated conference in Helsinki in 2012 as one of our actions in support). In frustration at the lack of action, Arab states moved the UN General Assembly to decide to hold such a conference in November this year, regardless of whether or not all relevant states participate. Israel and USA have said they will not participate. [[Request to Sharon to edit or add to this short report](#)]

North East Asia. A North-East Asia NWFZ, based on the 3+3 model developed by Peace Depot, has been promoted by Peace Depot, PNND, PSPD and other Abolition 2000 members and partners. The proposal has found cross-party support from parliamentarians in Japan and South Korea, as well as support from over 400 Japanese mayors, and has also found support from the North Korean parliament, through their delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Events on the proposal have been organised in Tokyo, Seoul, Geneva, Vienna, New York, Nagasaki, Ulaanbattar and other places. The proposal puts forward a model of cooperative security (security for all) that provides a good

basis for peace and denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula as well as reducing the role of nuclear weapons in the region by all relevant parties.

Cooperation amongst NWFZs. Every five years the States Parties to NWFZs have a conference just prior to the NPT Review Conference. PNND, World Future Council and other Abolition 2000 members/partners are usually invited to organise the civil society conference/forum associated with the conference of States Parties. In August 2019, Kazakhstan will host in Nursultan (Astana) a preparatory meeting for the 2020 NWFZ conference.