

Draft NWC Reset Working Group Report to Abolition 2000

Abolition 2000's Working Group on the UN Disarmament Agenda and a Nuclear Weapons Convention is made up of more than a dozen individuals¹ and was established to look at options to move the abolition project forward, particularly in light of resistance to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by a number of states, and in particular all the nuclear-armed states, NATO states and non-NATO "nuclear-umbrella states" such as Japan, Australia and South Korea.

Some of the members of the working group had been involved in the early process of drafting a Model Nuclear Weapons Convention that was issued in 1996, and revised and re-released in 2007. In 2010, the NPT Review Conference Final Document noted the UN Secretary General's five-point proposal for disarmament, which included a nuclear weapons convention or a framework of instruments as among the approaches under consideration.

While the model convention did not experience further significant political uptake by states, it is seen by many to have partly inspired the drafting of the TPNW by a significant number of nuclear weapons-free states when they negotiated the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017.

The A2000 working group has met by Zoom regularly since [month 2021?] and has focused most of its time on developing a statement, the "**NWC Reset: Frameworks for a nuclear-weapon-free world, A working paper for the 10th NPT Review Conference**".

The working group determined that there were key issues that must be overcome to achieve lasting global nuclear disarmament, and they are relevant whatever path is chosen towards elimination. The paper explores, therefore, the legal, technical and institutional measures and framework to facilitate the elimination of nuclear weapons, including to implement objectives of disarmament (stockpile reduction and destruction), verification, compliance, security and general governance. It then considers existing mechanisms for success and options available to fill the gaps.

While the 2007 Model NWC provides the most comprehensive overview of a potential legal, technical and institutional framework for establishing a nuclear-weapon free world, there

have been a number of developments since 2007, not least of which were the New Start bilateral treaty between Russia and the USA, the JCPOA “nuclear deal” with Iran (2015), and the arrival of the TPNW, and which entered into force in 2021.

The paper focused on three primary options that might point a way forward: the Nuclear Weapons Convention, a framework agreement approach, and the TPNW with additional protocols. It then proposed a timeline for implementation: Adoption of a concrete plan at the UN General Assembly, Conference on Disarmament and/or the 11th NPT Review Conference in 2025; no later than 2030 for the adoption of a framework, package of agreements or comprehensive nuclear weapons convention; and *no later than 2045* for full implementation.

The working group’s “Frameworks” document has been widely circulation throughout civil society, on abolition and peace listservs, and posted on Abolition 2000’s and Reaching Critical Will’s websites and elsewhere. It has been delivered to all states party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and it will be circulated again at the NPT Review Conference in August 2022.

The document was initially [released publicly on April 20](#) at two virtual events (to cover global time zones), chaired by Jackie Cabasso (USA) and Aigerim Seitenova (Kazakhstan) and with speakers Alyn Ware (New Zealand/Czech Republic), Dr. Manpreet Sethi (India), Dr. Tong Zhao (China), Virginia Bertuzzi (Italy), Dr. Juergen Scheffran (Germany), H.E. Alfredo Labbe (Chile), Divina Maloum (Cameroon) and Randy Rydell (USA).

[Do we have approximate participation numbers?]

The document (updated) will be redistributed and publicized during the NPT Review Conference at a [re-release event](#) planned for August 9, 3-5 PM ET, in New York. A additional live event is also being contemplated [if confirmed, state here]. As the outline on the A2000 website indicates, “With the danger of nuclear war on the rise, the status quo is unacceptable. A path forward to nuclear disarmament must be found. NWC Reset: Frameworks for a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World suggests three possibilities: a reconsideration of the Model Nuclear Weapons convention, a framework agreement on nuclear disarmament, or protocols to the TPNW that might enable the nuclear armed (and allied) states to join.”

ⁱ These include those named as contributing authors to the Framework document: Affiliations and titles are included for identification purposes only.

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