

From the NPT to a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention: A global campaign

Powerpoint and presentation in

PLENARY VII:Voices from non-nuclear-weapon states and civil society

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Thanks to IPPNW, especially from Switzerland for hosting this very fruitful Congress....

1) The problem we face (powerpoint slides of Trident sub, nuclear missile fired and Nagasaki wasteland)

2) NPT and NWC

- UN has 193 member states
- NPT has 190 states parties
 - Only 5 of them are nuclear weapon states
- At 2010 Review Conference, around 140 governments called for comprehensive multilateral negotiations on a global nuclear abolition treaty – i.e. some form of a Nuclear Weapons Convention.

3) ICAN, a campaign of IPPNW played a critical role

Strategy for 2010 – was simple: to put the nuclear weapons **abolition** treaty goal into the mainstream as a necessary and achievable way to prevent nuclear dangers – proliferation, terrorism, accidental or intentional use, safety, dismantlement, fissile materials, disarmament verification... and clean up the mess.

slide 4)

i) get governments to advocate a nuclear weapons convention or abolition process in their statements and working papers;

and

ii) get the NWC explicitly into any outcome document/plan of action.

5) NPT 2010 Final Doc

- 81. The Conference notes the new proposals and initiatives from Governments and civil society related to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The Conference notes the proposals for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inter alia consider negotiations on a **nuclear weapons convention** or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.

- 82. The Conference affirms that the final phase of the nuclear disarmament process and other related measures should be pursued within an agreed legal framework, which a majority of States parties believe should include specified timelines.

6) The Conclusions and Recommendations agreed by CONSENSUS at the 2010 NPT Review Conference identified a Disarmament ACTION Plan. The framing paragraphs of this disarmament action plan stated, *inter alia*:

B iii. The Conference calls on all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts and affirms that all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The Conference notes the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes, *inter alia*, consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.

7) ICAN played a principal campaigning role in that success, in partnership with others, including governments and diplomats. This outcome:

- Put the comprehensive treaty goal on governments' agendas as never before.
- Demonstrated that a nuclear abolition treaty is needed to fulfil NPT's core objectives, not something that undermines.
- Showed NWC is no longer an 'unrealistic', 'premature', not-in-my-lifetime 'vision', but a Necessity and Challenge here and now!

8) Though hailed a modest success, the NPT was in other ways a terrible failure:

- Failed to strengthen safeguards
- Failed to strengthen institutions and tools to prevent proliferation and terrorist access
- Failed to hold nuclear weapon states and some non-NWS to account for decades of violation of their treaty obligations
- Did little more than recommit to a step by step process they negotiated and agreed to in 2000 (and barely implemented)...

9) **Passing the baton: from NPT to NWC**

CORE STRATEGY:

Prepare ground for a Nuclear Weapon Convention with simple message, multiple building blocks

If you want a world free of nuclear weapons and proliferation threats, it is time now to work on getting the treaty and legal agreements that will codify the obligations, prohibitions, verification and compliance requirements.

10) Steps that will build momentum

- Delegitimise and devalue nuclear weapons
 - debunk deterrence, denuclearise alliances
 - Nuclear use as crime against humanity and war crime
- Revive and strengthen tools for national and regional security without nuclear deterrence
- Human security must take precedence over military notions of security – environmental/climate, health, water, food....
- Much deeper cuts in existing arsenals, implementation of existing treaties,
- Lay groundwork for a Nuclear Weapon Convention
- Reinforce International Humanitarian Law: disarmament as humanitarian and security action

11) HEIGHTEN CAMPAIGN!

- Build partnerships and develop an effective, flexible and determined process to get abolition negotiations underway
 - With governments and elected representatives – at all levels (nationally and diplomatically)
 - With other civil society actors, organisations, professionals and activists
- Strengthen Local, national, regional, transnational, global pressure to ban all nuclear weapons with a treaty that will stick
- Mobilise our own communities and constituencies: youth/students, women, men, health professionals, scientists, unions, workers, the de-employed, elected representatives (parliamentarians, mayors, local councillors)...

12) NW ABOLITION: Achievable, necessary and urgent

- Educate – nuclear effects, health, long term environmental, alternatives, human security...
- Raise awareness – “we are all Hibakusha”
- Demonstrate urgent necessity - The time is ripe NOW!
- Demand and *Effect* Change – nuclear disarmament is not just the business of the nuclear powers, but the right **and responsibility** of all of us
- Inspire – I CAN contribute and make a difference

Together We Can build a movement to abolish nuclear weapons that is irresistible and unstoppable, from young to old, from professional elites and opinion-formers to students, from the south pole to the north pole and everywhere in between

13 ICAN Campaign

- Visibility of demand: Million Pleas
 - Reaching and involving
 - Giving ‘face’ and voice to the campaign
 - Building momentum
 - One message, millions of carriers
 - Engaging new generations (and re-engaging their parents!)
- Eye-catching materials and messages, adaptable and usable in local campaigning

14) A hub in Geneva?

- Expand and augment ICAN Australia’s superb work in Asia and Pacific region
- Mobilise and build capacity for better outreach and campaigning, especially in European, Middle East and African countries
- Support further work with the Nuclear Weapons Inheritance Project (NWIP), which is mobilising students and young people round the world, and other key student partner organisations such as BANg, which has mobilised so brilliantly around nuclear abolition in the NPT, UK and local contexts
- Facilitate, resource, listen, mentor, encourage the development of a broad, diverse and energised movement without seeking to control
- Develop irresistible groundswell for NWC, being flexible, responsive, capacity-building and action-oriented

15) Challenges

Diversify: beyond IPPNW, beyond ICAN Australia, beyond the NPT, beyond outdated nuclear disarmament approaches, beyond our comfort zone...

Without losing any of the value of what has gone before, but building new partners, strategies and resources

16) What’s missing?

- Can we find a way to set up a hub in Asia to strengthen outreach and campaigning in this key region?

- Need to free up and encourage more decentralised campaigns and actions
- Emphasise the campaign goal not the bureaucracy! (when presenting ourselves, do too many organisations become more obsessed with signing up paper members and
- Targeted pressure on key governments
- Email the ICAN working group with your views of what needs to be done ... international_liaison@icanw.org

Final Slides

In my book on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, “Unfinished Business” I analyse the different ways in which civil society have input and influence on political and policy change.
and four key types of engagement

i) elite – epistemic actors, professionals like physicians, scientists, retired diplomats and leaders etc

ii) elected representatives – parliamentarians, mayors, individually and through groupings like Mayors for Peace

iii) organisations – NGOs

iv) activists – protesters who mobilise in more ad hoc groups, in our context these would all and necessarily be committed to nonviolent means and high visibility actions that may or may not contravene particular domestic laws.

IPPNW is mostly i and iii, but as you can see from the slides, also engages as ii and iv.

ICAN aims to mobilise people to engage on all these campaigning levels, locally, nationally, internationally and transnationally.

Yesterday we were putting out material saying our goal is to get negotiations on a NWC underway by 2015...

as a result of our various meetings and workshops at this conference, including with government representatives, we realise that is not enough;

We’ve already begun the process towards getting a NWC, but our target for negotiations is NOW – BEFORE IT’S TOO LATE!