



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

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## In-Depth Reports

### **Latin America Seeks to Spread Nuclear Free Zones**

MEXICO CITY - Latin America and the Caribbean are discussing ways to step up supervision of the use of nuclear materials in the region and contribute to the creation of more nuclear weapon free zones around the world, on the 45th anniversary of the treaty that banned nuclear arms in the region. ➤ **Pages 2-3**

### **Peace Activists Push for Nuke Abolition Summit in 2015**

UNITED NATIONS - A coalition of anti-nuclear peace activists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is launching a global campaign for a summit meeting of world leaders calling for the total elimination of one of the world's most devastating weapons of mass destruction: the nuclear bomb. ➤ **Pages 4-5**

### **SANE Act to Cut U.S. Nukes Budget**

BERLIN - If you are 'sane', you are mentally sound. U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey has lent a new dimension to that word by introducing the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2012 that cuts \$100 billion over the next decade on outdated nuclear weapons programmes. ➤ **Pages 6-7**

### **Israel and Iran Agreed on Nuclear Ambiguity**

JERUSALEM - Will Israel attack Iran's nuclear facilities this spring? That is a question dominating the international agenda. Meanwhile, the grand project of a nuclear weapon-free Middle East is relegated to the utopian "day after" a solution is found to the Islamic republic's atomic programme. ➤ **Pages 7-9**

## What Others Say

**Non-Proliferation Through Fuel Cooperation** ➤ **Pages 10-12**

**Latin America Needs to Address the Transport of Nuclear Weapons** ➤ **Pages 13-14**

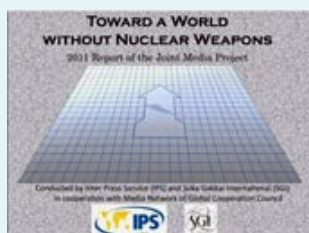
**UN Pushes Hard for Global Ban on Nuke Tests** ➤ **Pages 15-16**

**Respect Dignity of Life, Convoke Nuke Abolition Summit** ➤ **Pages 17-19**

**Translations | Adaptations** ➤ **Pages 20-21**

**Civil Society Perspective** ➤ **Pages 22-24**

## Compilation of Articles April 2010-March 2011



[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward\\_a\\_World\\_without\\_Nuclear\\_Weapons.pdf](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/documents/Toward_a_World_without_Nuclear_Weapons.pdf)



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### Latin America Seeks to Spread Nuclear Free Zones

By EMILIO GODOY



MEXICO CITY (IPS) - Latin America and the Caribbean are discussing ways to step up supervision of the use of nuclear materials in the region and contribute to the creation of more nuclear weapon free zones around the world, on the 45th anniversary of the treaty that banned nuclear arms in the region.

"Disarmament is still our priority" Vera Machado, under-secretary of political affairs in Brazil's foreign ministry, told IPS. "It is a legitimate interest of nuclear weapon free countries to receive a binding guarantee that the countries that do have them will not use these weapons against them, or threaten to use them."

The official was one of the delegates of the 33 countries attending a conference in Mexico City held to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, also known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The states party to the treaty agree to prohibit and prevent the "testing, use, manufacture, production or acquisition by any means whatsoever" and the "receipt, storage, installation, deployment and any form of possession of any nuclear weapons."

The anniversary, celebrated on Feb. 14-15 with a commemorative ceremony and international seminar, was also attended by representatives of international bodies and non-governmental organisations from different regions of the world.

The Treaty of Tlatelolco created the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in 1967 – the first of the five such zones that currently include 114 countries around the world, in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and the South Pacific.

Mexico was the driving force behind the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which was opened up to signature in the foreign ministry in Tlatelolco on Feb. 14, 1967, making this country the pioneer in nuclear disarmament in the region. The treaty went into force in April 1969.

Mexico, Argentina and Brazil use nuclear material for peaceful purposes, such as the generation of electricity.

Argentina and Brazil created the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC) in 1991 to monitor the exchange and use of nuclear materials. The agency is considered a model in this field.

The issues discussed at the seminar included the need to draw broader attention to the Treaty of Tlatelolco; the elimination of stocks of fissile materials still held by several states parties; the passage of nuclear submarines and radioactive waste through the region; and the advances made towards global disarmament.

"A regulatory architecture that complies with the Treaty of Tlatelolco is still needed," Irma Argüello, president of the [Nonproliferation for Global Security Foundation](#) in Argentina, told IPS. "It is important for third countries to stop bringing nuclear technology and weapons into our region."

Two issues that have awakened interest in Latin America are Iran's nuclear programme, staunchly opposed by a group of countries led by the U.S., and Argentina's complaint that Britain sent a nuclear-armed submarine to the Malvinas/Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

The idea is for the Latin American and Caribbean NWFZ to serve as a model for a similar scheme in the Middle East. ➔

Picture credit: SGI



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"These zones create new realities in which people live and develop new ways of thinking and new possibilities; they counteract the feeling of impotence, inevitability and submission," Kimiaki Kawai, programme director of peace affairs of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), told IPS.

For that reason, "These zones have a huge potential of moderating power," he added.

The Tokyo-based SGI forms part of a coalition that launched a global campaign for a summit meeting of world leaders calling for the total elimination of the nuclear bomb.

SGI wants the summit to be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015, the 70th anniversary of the nuclear bombings that virtually annihilated the two Japanese cities.

Latin America's NWFZ "is a good example for the Middle East," said Tibor Toth, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organisation (CTBTO). "There is a concept more than a dream, different than it was in Latin America in the 1960s."

In recent years there have been some developments, but one may ask if they have been enough," he remarked to IPS. "We have to move beyond the 'realpolitik' of non-proliferation and disarmament."

Opened to signature since 1996, the CTBTO only needs to be ratified by eight more states to enter into force.

The idea of a NWFZ in the Middle East emerged in November 2011 during a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which reports to the U.N. General Assembly and Security Council.

There are more than 22,000 nuclear warheads in the hands of Russia, the United States, France, China, Britain, Israel, India and Pakistan.

Taking the Treaty of Tlatelolco as a starting point, Latin America and the Caribbean want to prepare for the review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which has been in effect since 1970, although there is a widespread view that international nuclear disarmament mechanisms are paralysed.

"It is important for negotiations to take place in a constructive atmosphere," said Machado. "We must go beyond the constantly repeated arguments, in order to be able to create a NWFZ in the Middle East."

Israel, India and Pakistan have not signed the NPT, while China, Israel, Egypt, Iran and the United States have not ratified the CTBTO.

"Issues like transparency, monitoring and ratification are important for the operation of these zones," Toth said.

Kawai said the global movement against nuclear weapons must be strengthened, in order to offer a promising vision for the future. "We hope that NWFZ experiences are shared among governments and citizens, especially in regions like North-Eastern Asia and the Middle East."

Another matter of interest is the signing of bilateral accords between NWFZ states parties and the IAEA to oversee the use of nuclear materials. So far, around a dozen states have signed such agreements. [IPS - February 15, 2012] □

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## In-Depth Reports

### Peace Activists Push for Nuke Abolition Summit in 2015

By THALIF DEEN



UNITED NATIONS (IPS) - A coalition of anti-nuclear peace activists and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) is launching a global campaign for a summit meeting of world leaders calling for the total elimination of one of the world's most devastating weapons of mass destruction: the nuclear bomb.

The Tokyo-based [Soka Gakkai International](#) (SGI), one of the lead campaigners, wants the summit held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 2015, the 70th anniversary of the nuclear bombings that virtually annihilated the two Japanese cities. The year 2015 will also mark the next five-year Review Conference of the [Nuclear](#)

[Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) (NPT).

In a 23-page [peace proposal](#) titled "Human Security and Sustainability: Sharing Reverence for the Dignity of Life", SGI President Daisaku Ikeda says, "In my proposal for nuclear weapons abolition issued in September 2009, I called for a movement that would manifest the will of the world's people for the outlawing of nuclear weapons."

"This, I argued, would establish and clarify by 2015 the international norm that will serve as the foundation for a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC), formally banning these weapons of mass destruction."

The agreement reached by the 2010 NPT Review Conference provides a critical opening for this effort, he said.

"We must with all haste begin the work of making this legally binding in the form of a treaty," he declared.

The campaign has strong support from several NGOs and anti-nuclear groups, including [Mayors for Peace](#), the [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) and the [International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (ICAN) organised by the [International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War](#) (IPPNW).

Additionally, it is also backed by [Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament](#) and the [Western States Legal Foundation](#) (WSLF), a founding member of the [Abolition 2000 Global Network to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons](#), described as a coalition of more than 2,000 peace activists.

Jackie Cabasso, executive director of WSLF, told IPS Daisaku Ikeda's call for a nuclear abolition summit in 2015 is consistent with a plan by Mayors for Peace to hold a high-level meeting of disarmament ambassadors, U.N. officials, parliamentarians and NGO representatives, to develop a clear roadmap that will lead to a nuclear-weapon-free world by 2020.

She said it will be developed in conjunction with the Mayors for Peace General Conference in Hiroshima in August 2013.

Cabasso, who also serves as North American coordinator for Mayors for Peace, said this will include preparation for the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference and planning for a second high-level summit meeting in Hiroshima later that year.

The Mayors for Peace [2020 Vision Campaign](#) has set 2015 as the target year for conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention (NWC treaty) leading to the global abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020, and Mayors for Peace would like to see the convention signed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, she added.

A third initiative, the [Hiroshima for Global Peace Plan](#), was launched by Hiroshima prefecture Governor Hidehiko Yuzaki in October of last year. ➔

Image credit: UN Photo/Mark Garten



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## In-Depth Reports

The plan, formulated by the governor and a group of former government officials and academics from the United Nations, United States, Australia and Japan sets forth a central role for Hiroshima as a global peace hub to, among other things, support a roadmap for the abolition of nuclear weapons and contribute to the promotion of a concrete and sustainable process for the abolition of nuclear weapons with a view towards governmental negotiations (Track I).

In his wide ranging peace proposal, Ikeda, who is also an eminent Buddhist philosopher, expressed confidence over the proposed summit, even though some peace activists predict it may receive only lukewarm support from the five declared nuclear weapon states, namely the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia.

Since 1996, the U.N. General Assembly has adopted annual resolutions calling for the start of negotiations on an NWC.

Ikeda pointed out that support for this resolution has continued to grow; last year 130 member states supported it, including China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Iran.

In 2008, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed negotiations on an NWC or a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments.

And the 2010 NPT Review Conference noted this proposal in the final outcome document it adopted with the unanimous consent of all participants.

In September 2009, the U.N. Security Council held a special summit session in which it adopted a Resolution (1887) pledging efforts to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which comprises 159 countries, including Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China, has also unanimously expressed its support for this proposal.

Cabasso told IPS that if and how these initiatives will fit together is unclear, but there is no doubt that momentum is building for 2015 to be a milestone year for advocates of nuclear weapons abolition, with Hiroshima and Nagasaki as focal points.

As Daisaku Ikeda notes, she said, the 2015 NPT Review Conference will be another make-or-break point for the nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament regimes.

The year 2015 will also mark the 70th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and underscored by the continuing Fukushima nuclear disaster, there is a palpable sense of urgency among the aging hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) that nuclear weapons must be eliminated before the last of them dies along with their first-hand memories of the unprecedented horrific events of August 1945 that opened the door to the nuclear age.

Mayors for Peace was established in 1982 by the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki following the U.N. Second Special Summit on Disarmament in 1982.

On Sep. 21, 2011, the International Day of Peace, Mayors for Peace announced that its membership had grown to more than 5,000 cities in 151 countries and regions.  
[IPS - February 13, 2012] □



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## In-Depth Reports

### SANE Act to Cut U.S. Nukes Budget

By JAMSHED BARUAH



BERLIN (IDN) - If you are 'sane', you are mentally sound. U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey has lent a new dimension to that word by introducing the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2012 that cuts \$100 billion over the next decade on outdated nuclear weapons programmes. Markey, who is Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), took to the House floor on February 8, 2012 to decry the wasteful spending in America's nuclear weapons programmes. SANE has 34 co-sponsors.

"It is insane that Republicans are proposing to block the automatic defense cuts mandated by the debt deal while America's nuclear weapons budget teems with billions in wasteful spending," said Markey, senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee and founder of the Bipartisan Nonproliferation Task Force.

"It is insane to spend hundreds of billions on new nuclear bombs and delivery systems to fight a long-past Cold War while ignoring our 21st century security needs and seeking to cut Medicare, Medicaid and social programs that millions of Americans depend on. The SANE Act will cut spending on outdated, wasteful nuclear weapons and related programs over the next ten years and will strengthen our long-term economic and national security," Markey said.

The Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures (SANE) Act of 2012 will in particular:

- Cut the current fleet of nuclear submarines from 12 operational at sea to eight operational at sea, saving \$3 billion
- Delay the purchase of new nuclear submarines saving \$17 billion
- Reduce the number of ICBMs (Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles), typically designed for launching nukes, saving \$6 billion
- End the nuclear missions of air bombers saving up to \$17 billion
- Delay new bomber program saving \$18 billion
- Cancel new, wasteful nuclear weapons facilities saving \$15 billion

The legislation enacts a call made by Markey and 65 other US legislators in October 2011 for the U.S. Super Committee, to cut \$20 billion per annum (\$200 billion over 10 years) from the nuclear weapons budget in order to preserve funding for vital programs for social security and the economy (See Freeze the Nukes: Fund the Future).

"Although the SANE Act only asks for half as much to be cut, it goes into detail on which nuclear programs could be cut without impacting on current nuclear policies or doctrines. Even greater cuts could be made if the US negotiates additional nuclear disarmament agreements during this period," says Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of (PNND) is a global network of over 80 parliamentarians from more than 80 countries working to prevent nuclear proliferation and achieve nuclear disarmament.

"It's well past time to realign our nation's nuclear arsenal to deal with today's threats," said Joseph Cirincione, President of Ploughshares Fund. "The current Cold War nuclear weapons complex is draining resources and attention from the military programs our nation needs to meet current and future challenges. It is encouraging to see the leadership of so many members of Congress helping to move our nation toward a smarter national security strategy. Congressman Markey and the other co-sponsors of the SANE Act are doing a great service, promoting a much needed debate on how to modernize our nuclear force in a way that both saves money and makes our nation safer."

Ploughshares Fund was founded in 1981 by San Francisco philanthropist, artist and activist Sally Lienthal (1919-2006). Under Sally's guidance, Ploughshares Fund made grants whose impact far exceeded their size. ➔

Picture: U.S. Congressman Edward J. Markey | Credit: PNND



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## In-Depth Reports

"We are well past the time when the United States needs to stop pouring billions of additional dollars into maintaining the existing nuclear weapons arsenal that is immoral, that the U.S. doesn't need and that is not making our country safer," said David Culp, Legislative Representative, [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#).

"POGO is enthusiastic that so many of our recommendations were included in the bill. We also hope there will be bipartisan support for aspects of the proposal, since the cuts aren't partisan and are a good start to spending smarter and ending the old Cold War strategy," said Danielle Brian, Executive Director, [Project On Government Oversight \(POGO\)](#). "We thank Representative Markey and the other cosponsors for their leadership on this critical issue."

POGO is a nonpartisan independent watchdog that champions good government reforms. POGO's investigations into corruption, misconduct, and conflicts of interest achieve a more effective, accountable, open, and ethical federal government. Founded in 1981, POGO (which was then known as Project on Military Procurement) originally worked to expose outrageously overpriced military spending on items such as a \$7,600 coffee maker and a \$436 hammer. In 1990, after many successes reforming military spending, including a Pentagon spending freeze at the height of the Cold War, POGO decided to expand its mandate and investigate waste, fraud, and abuse throughout the federal government.

The SANE Act is endorsed by the Congressional Progressive Caucus and: Alliance of Baptists on the Interfaith Committee on Nuclear Disarmament, Church of the Brethren, Citizens for Global Solutions, Colorado Coalition for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Cumberland Countians for Peace & Justice, DC Statehood Green Party, Franciscan Action Network, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Georgia WAND, and Global Green USA (US affiliate of Green Cross International).

Other endorsers are: Global Security Institute and Bipartisan Security Group, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, Los Alamos Study Group, National Council of Churches of Christ, USA, Network for Environmental & Economic Responsibility of United Church of Christ, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Nuclear Watch New Mexico, Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, Peace Action, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Ploughshares Fund, Project on Government Oversight (POGO), Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, Tri-Valley CAREs, Women's Action for New Directions. [IDN-InDepthNews – February 10, 2012] □

## Israel and Iran Agreed on Nuclear Ambiguity

By PIERRE KLOCHENDLER

JERUSALEM (IPS) - Will Israel attack Iran's nuclear facilities this spring? That is a question dominating the international agenda. Meanwhile, the grand project of a nuclear weapon-free Middle East is relegated to the utopian "day after" a solution is found to the Islamic republic's atomic programme.

Strangely enough, Israeli public opinion has no clear opinion on the subject, and relies on 'those who know best'. 'Those who know best', like Defence Minister Ehud Barak, say: "Should sanctions fail to stop Iran's nuclear programme, there'll be a need to consider taking action." "Whoever says 'later', could find that it's too late," he told an international conference in Herzliya, Israel, on Feb 2.

The concern shared by many defence analysts, including Israelis, is that an Israeli strike would not only unleash a terrible all-out war, but would only set Iran's nuclear programme back by just a few years.

"Tough sanctions and a united diplomatic front are the best chance for crippling Iran's nuclear programme," urged a New York Times op-ed on Feb. 3. ☞

Photo: Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak | Credit: Wikimedia Commons





# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## In-Depth Reports

On the other hand, Israeli defence officials have expressed concern that should the Iranian nuclear issue not be tackled head-on – either financially or militarily – the region would plunge into nuclear proliferation chaos, with potential leakage to non-actor states.

Such are the parameters of the debate; either an attack – with or without U.S. endorsement – or sanctions. What about alternatives, like the radical idea of a nuclear weapon-free zone (NWFZ) as strategy to neutralise Iran's nuclear programme?

Israeli governments have conditioned a regional NWFZ with achieving comprehensive peace with all of Israel's neighbours. This is virtually impossible given the current character of the Iranian regime. And, there's no progress on the Arab peace front.

Yet, civil society activists take succour from the fact that following the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, a follow-up conference will be convened this year in Finland.

The gathering will discuss an agreement on how to transform the region into a NWFZ and free of all other weapons of mass destruction. The host country has been accepted by all governments, including both Israel and Iran. "Most Israelis aren't even aware that their country's willing to contemplate the NWFZ idea," emphasises Hillel Schenker, co-editor of the Palestine-Israel journal, a Jerusalem-based quarterly run by both Israeli and Palestinian experts.

Last October, the former spokesperson for the Israeli branch of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War coordinated a meeting between Israeli and Iranian activists. Held in London under the auspices of a civil society initiative to establish a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East, the meeting facilitated the development of areas of mutual understanding between both peoples.

Such meeting is exceptional. By and large, public discussion is stifled by pressure at the helm. When ex- Mossad spy agency chief Meir Dagan questioned the judgment of Israel's leaders that a military solution exists, Barak attacked his outspokenness, calling it "serious behaviour".

Usually open to debate, Israelis tend to consider the nuclear question taboo or too complex for expressing dissenting opinions. It's fine by most that only top acting political and military leaders assume that right, only in closed forums. Any relevant information in Hebrew is rare; information in English is abundant but arduous to analyse.

The absence of discussion stems also from the fact that, since the inception of its own nuclear programme in the late 1950s, Israel has officially stuck to a policy of "ambiguity": it "won't be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons in the region" is the official posture.

Israel is not an NPT signatory; Iran is. But both countries reject and refrain from any linkage between their respective nuclear programmes.

The secrecy shrouding their country's programmes enables Israelis to feel that they participate in the defence of their state without having to grapple with its nuclear choices.

"If we as a society give any thought to nuclear weapons, it's to Iran's, which hasn't yet become a reality," notes Sharon Dolev, Greenpeace Mediterranean disarmament campaigner. "Like the hunchback who doesn't see his hump, we don't see our own weapons."

Ambiguity therefore means that the international community should continue to ignore Dimona, believed to be the centre of the Israeli nuclear programme, and focus solely on Natanz, said to be the nerve centre of the Iranian nuclear programme.

Likewise, Iran is ambiguous with regard to its nuclear quest. While the International Atomic Energy Agency reported in November that Iran has engaged in activities related to the development of nuclear weapons, there's no 'smoking gun' as to a decision to actually develop a bomb. ☹





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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## In-Depth Reports

Israeli government officials praise "ambiguity" as it enhances Israel's security almost as much as WMD. Assuming such a policy is necessary, nuclear demilitarisation activists propose a debate which would respect the constraints of not exposing Israel's nuclear capability. Such discussion would strengthen the democratic character of their society.

"It's still possible, even obligatory, to hold serious discussions about the need for nuclear weapons, the dangers they present regionally and globally, and the various possibilities for disarmament," says Dolev.

Advocates of the abolition of Israel's "nuclear opacity" believe that calling a spade a spade could gradually open the region towards arms control, if not creating a NWFZ.

"But if prevention (of Iran's nuclear capability) fails, it's unlikely that Israelis would look to arms control as a solution," predicts Avner Cohen, author of the controversial 'Israel and the Bomb' (1998). All the more so given that during the Cold war, the backdrop to arms control dialogues was the declared existence of nuclear weapons.

Besides, Israelis almost consensually consider nuclear ambiguity as a case of force majeure, the most effective deterrent to what's widely perceived here as the "existential threat" posed by Iran.

This linkage approach between WMD and extreme hostility, advocates of denuclearisation concede, takes precedence over all other considerations. Supposing Iran develops a bomb, "we don't know which nuclear weapons state will disarm first, we do know which will disarm last. That country is Israel," says Cohen.

Many civil society activists conclude that it's probably already too late for Israelis to persuade their leaders that getting out of the "ambiguity" bunker might defuse the Iranian time-bomb that's already ticking dangerously.

[IPS - February 6, 2012] □

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**"Last October, the former spokesperson for the Israeli branch of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War coordinated a meeting between Israeli and Iranian activists. Held in London under the auspices of a civil society initiative to establish a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Middle East, the meeting facilitated the development of areas of mutual understanding between both peoples.**

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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

### Non-Proliferation Through Fuel Cooperation

Viewpoint by ULRICH KÜHN\*



HAMBURG (IDN) - Middle East: The year is 2022. A growing need for energy is putting strain on three major actors in the region. There is Muslim Brotherhood-ruled Egypt, democratic but turmoil-plagued post-Assad Syria, and the military junta reigning in Saudi Arabia. Back in 2012, these states had started to realign their national energy policies. The common goal was to add a nuclear component to the mix within the next decade. Their motivations range from the general need to foster sustainable growth and to satisfy the thirst for energy of fast growing populations, to specific desalination needs.

Although they have made a fortune via technology sales and the construction of nuclear power plants, the countries of the slowly declining First World voice growing concerns about the safety and security of nuclear facilities and materials in the region. Furthermore, these regional players have not excluded the option of uranium enrichment as part of their national fuel cycles. The possibility of mushrooming clandestine nuke programs puzzles western

analysts. Non-proliferation is the chief concern of the first female U.S. President. Another case like Iran, which was stopped on the brink of acquiring a nuclear weapons capability, could cause havoc in the region.

Meanwhile, the League of Arab States criticizes western proliferation concerns as interference in their internal affairs. The civil use of nuclear energy is a right common to all signatories of the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty), the League argues. Any move of the 'West' to infringe upon this right could lead key Middle Eastern states to withdraw from the NPT. 2022 could herald the end of the global non-proliferation regime.

#### The Future Has Already Begun

What reads like fiction is already becoming reality. The prolonged and increasingly heated debate about the Iranian nuclear program has diverted attention away from the fact that 14 states in the Middle East have announced plans to embark on civilian nuclear programs. Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) announced the launch of civil nuclear programs as early as 2006. Analysts agree that Egypt's motivation is largely economical and spurred on by a rapidly growing population and declining national oil production. Cairo invited tenders for the construction of its first nuclear plant in August 2010. Despite the Egyptian revolution, the envisioned Al Dabaa reactor could go on stream as early as 2022.

The rationale behind the GCC's announcement is far more influenced by Saudi strategic deliberations than by structural market pressures in the Gulf States. As Saudi Prince Turki Al Faisal noted: "Iran[']s ... ambition to acquire nuclear weapons has changed the strategic realities of the region." Further statements by the Prince were rather more alarming: "What I suggest for Saudi Arabia and for the other Gulf states . . . is that we must study carefully all the options, including the option of acquiring weapons of mass destruction."

The unfolding race for nuclear energy in the region – be it economically or strategically rooted – becomes even more precarious in light of a lack of international control. Here is the good news: all states of the region, except Israel, adhere to the principles of the NPT regime and have signed and ratified a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). ☺

\* Ulrich Kühn is a researcher at the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH) and was awarded United Nations Fellow on Disarmament 2011. This article appears in the Mach 2012 issue of Global Perspectives.

Photo credit: IFSH



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NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

That's as far as the good news goes. Only six countries of the region (Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Turkey, and UAE) have signed and ratified the more intrusive Additional Protocol of the UN watchdog. Seven states, including Egypt, Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Syria stay away from the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Four more states lack membership to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, again with Egypt, Iran, and Syria missing.

The same applies to the Modified Small Quantities Protocol, this time with the positive exception of Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar. To hit rock bottom, as few as nine states are parties to the Convention on Nuclear Safety and not a single one has signed and ratified the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management. Clearly, the region's track record is poor when it comes to safety, verifiability and transparency.

Meanwhile America's policy on the region is inconsistent. Washington guarantees the security of the Israeli State but is only lukewarm in its support for a zone free from Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) in the Middle East. Economically the U.S. is dependent on the region's oil, but its sanctions target Iran, the world's third-largest oil producer. Capitol Hill lawmakers would like to see the Arab Spring achieve fruition, supported by sustained economic growth. At the same time the U.S. security community warns of the increasing dangers of a nuclear Middle East. Finally, Washington is committed to halting the Iranian nuclear program by all means necessary, but is unwilling to address the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons.

Beyond that, U.S.-led initiatives to counter proliferation such as the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Global Partnership, and the Nuclear Security Summits fall short of establishing a global norm. Washington's strategy is largely bound to the rationale of 'coalitions of the willing' or otherwise exclusive clubs. Barack Obama's "Global Zero" postulate has so far not changed U.S. policy.

An approach, capable of coping with the emerging economic challenges in the Middle East seems to be missing. What is worse, Washington's unbalanced agenda could clash with the interests of its key allies Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey if those states were to go nuclear without opening their programs to established international regimes.

If Washington fails to find a consistent policy that can bridge its own non-proliferation concerns and the region's economic demands, would international institutions then jump in and sort out the mess? The answer is a definite 'maybe'.

The IAEA should be the optimal institution to tackle the problems described. However, diverging perceptions about the political independence of the IAEA have shed negative light on the organization's credibility. In particular, the makeup of the Agency's Board of Governors – which mainly consists of Western nuclear supplier states – raises doubts and questions about the Agency's ability to act as an honest broker.

An additional multilateral option under UN auspices is the ongoing struggle to raise support for a 2012 conference on the establishment of a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. Yet the main actors concerned have so far tended to dismiss the possibility of debating links between security and economic matters at this conference and would rather focus first and foremost on military aspects. What is more, the inequality of the United Nations' system, which is particularly evident on nuclear issues, speaks against the UN as a trailblazer.

## **Fresh Thinking**

What if America's non-proliferation policy fails in the Middle East? What if international institutions are blocked from addressing the issue? And what if an increase in national nuclear programs leads to heightened insecurity in the region? Answering the region's problems will require fresh thinking and an effort to involve the region's emerging powers constructively. But first of all the region needs to develop an approach that is genuinely its own.

The core of a possible solution is a multinational nuclear fuel bank, located in the Middle East, in which all participating states are equal partners. Such a fuel bank could secure the supply of national power plants with low-enriched uranium (LEU). ☺



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

Two major reasons speak in favor of such an arrangement. The first derives from the insight that a multinationalization makes great sense in economic and scientific terms. Opting for a cooperative approach would limit financial burdens. Instead of having each state strive for its own uranium-enrichment and spent fuel-reprocessing facilities, states could opt for voluntary self-restraint and dedicate these sensitive and costly processes to the (shared) responsibility of a regional agency. A restructured Arab Atomic Energy Agency could instead take on this task.

Long-term contracts, supplied by regional uranium ore producers (e.g. Jordan) would have to guarantee a non-discriminatory policy and should be stocked with mutual assurance mechanisms. Potential gains would include reduced spending, mutual accountability, and confidence through local ownership. Furthermore, attached laboratories and a potential 'Middle East Nuclear Research Center' could become a local hub for badly needed knowledge transfer to the region.

The second argument for multinational cooperation is reassurance. As Max Weber has put it "'politics' . . . means striving to share power". But sharing power means also increased reassurance about the others' capabilities. Almost no other region in the world is more characterized by suspicion and mistrust than the Middle East. A shared regional arrangement would therefore *not* inflame proliferation, since no state of the region would like to see one of its neighbors involved in shady nuclear activities.

From a purely technical point of view, by supplying states with LEU, the proliferation-relevant breakout potential of states would be diminished. To address the critical 'back end' of the fuel cycle, used fuel rods should stay under the agency's authority. The secure transfer of spent nuclear fuel to storage and disposal facilities, together with the facilities' safety, would be part of its portfolio. An equally transparent and rigorous bookkeeping system could serve as security in case of any reasonable suspicion of clandestine diversion. Participating states would also need to provide the agency with a mandate for intrusive verification, possibly including mutual on-site inspections.

One aspect still in need of clarification is a robust link to the international non-proliferation arena. The IAEA should be granted the right to monitor the agency's most sensitive operations, namely uranium enrichment, reprocessing of spent fuel, and spent fuel disposal and storage.

### **Start Regional, Go Global!**

Opting for a fully self-regulating regional approach would help to solve some of the most pressing quandaries of the Middle East. On top of that, a successful energy initiative could ultimately serve as a model for other conflict-ridden regions.

Regional nuclear cooperation has already achieved some remarkable results. The European EURATOM model brought together erstwhile war parties Germany and France as early as 1957. Further lessons can be drawn from South America, where regional power Brazil shares a binational nuclear agency with its former adversary Argentina. In Southeast Asia, a future regional system could help overcome tensions on the Korean peninsula, perhaps including China and Japan as guarantors of regional stability. A cooperative solution to the India-Pakistan divide – though hard to imagine right now – is even conceivable in the long run.

The world's nascent economic powerhouses cannot wait for the system of international institutions to change. If a global regulation mechanism is missing, the regions, and their emerging powers, have to develop their own instruments. Though, in the case of the Middle East, this might mean acknowledging Iran as an emerging power.

[IDN-InDepthNews – February 27, 2012] □

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# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

### Latin America Needs to Address the Transport of Nuclear Weapons

EMILIO GODOY interviews OPANAL Secretary-General GIOCONDA UBEDA

MEXICO CITY (IPS | Tierramérica) - Latin America and the Caribbean celebrated their 45th anniversary as a nuclear- weapon-free zone amidst allegations of British deployment of nuclear weapons to the South Atlantic and with no specific regime for the transport of radioactive waste.



Earlier this month, the Argentine government accused the United Kingdom of deploying a nuclear-powered submarine armed with nuclear warheads to the Malvinas/Falkland Islands, an archipelago in the southern Atlantic Ocean that has been the subject of a sovereignty dispute between the two countries since the 19th century.

Argentina stressed that such a move would violate the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, better known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, whose Additional Protocol II was signed and ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom and the United States, the world's five nuclear powers when the treaty was adopted in 1967.

Under this additional protocol, the nuclear powers pledged "not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons" against the countries of the region.

But the transport through the region of nuclear weapons and radioactive waste was not contemplated in the treaty, the first of its kind, which was signed by the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean on Feb. 14, 1967 in Tlatelolco, Mexico and entered into force in April 1969.

The transport of weapons "is one of the major challenges that needs to be addressed in the region," says Costa Rican Gioconda Ubeda, secretary general of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the intergovernmental body that enforces the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The transport of radioactive material is also an issue of concern for Central America and the Caribbean, but there are differing stances among the parties to the treaty as to whether or not this issue should be included on the OPANAL agenda, she added.

Ubeda, the OPANAL secretary general for the 2010-2014 period, spoke with Tierramérica during the activities held in the Mexican capital to mark the 45th anniversary of the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone.

These zones "were created as dikes, as islands, to shield these territories which, through political will, should evolve to become a driving force towards the ultimate goal of completely eliminating nuclear weapons," said Ubeda.

**Q: How should the transport of nuclear weapons and radioactive waste in the region be addressed?**

A: The transport of nuclear weapons was left out of the treaty. There were lengthy discussions that are well documented in the minutes, but no agreement was reached. This is one of the major challenges that the region needs to address.

Each individual state is responsible for the application of international law, as well as maritime control in their own territorial waters. It is not that the conditions do not exist to address it, but I see it more within the sphere of each state.

In terms of radioactive waste, it is not contemplated in the treaty, but there are binding international legal instruments that deal with the issue, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It is a subject related to the environment, which has another sphere of implementation. ☺



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

In the meantime, there is valid concern in the Caribbean and Central America over the transport of this waste through the region and the eventuality of an accident. This is an issue that needs attention. But it is not on the OPANAL agenda, and there are conflicting stances among the states parties as to whether or not it should be included.

### **Q: What does it imply for the region that the United States has a nuclear arsenal?**

A: We do not agree with nuclear-weapon-free zones being used as a security mechanism for the application of the doctrine of mutually assured destruction, which emerged during the Cold War.

This is a situation we have become accustomed to. Latin America's response was to say to the major powers, "We have decided to be a nuclear-weapon-free zone and we ask you to respect this and assume a commitment through the additional protocols not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons or establish missiles in the region."

This was achieved, yet not only the United States, but rather any country that has nuclear weapons always signifies a risk, because the threat is not only for a particular region.

This spirit of Tlatelolco clearly reflected this concern. The zones were created as a means to pursue the goal of freeing the world of nuclear weapons. And so we continue to be concerned no matter where those weapons are.

### **Q: How have the nuclear-weapon-free zones evolved?**

A: Our view is that they were created as dikes, as islands, to shield these territories which, through political will, should evolve to become a driving force towards the ultimate goal of completely eliminating nuclear weapons

Now it is a matter of building bridges between the dikes and supporting the construction of new zones, like one in the Middle East, which has been under discussion since 1995, although the first real progress was only made last year.

It is our responsibility to share our experience, because we continue working to preserve the nuclear-weapon-free zone, and our agenda includes working towards the universal goal of freeing the world of this threat.

### **Q: What can be done to unblock the international process of non-proliferation and disarmament?**

A: If I had the answer to that question, I think I would be named to one of the high leadership positions in the United Nations. This is a question that needs to be addressed by negotiating effective measures that lead us towards vertical non-proliferation (preventing the expansion of existing national nuclear arsenals) and horizontal non-proliferation (preventing the expansion of the number of countries with nuclear arsenals) and the commitment to eliminate nuclear weapons.

Some agreements have been reached, and now it is a matter of ensuring their implementation, for example, for countries with arsenals that are no longer useful to withdraw them from circulation.

It is also important for firmer steps to be taken towards disarmament. This is an issue in which the nuclear powers play the most important role.

There is also a need to try to strengthen the regime of non-proliferation. The nuclear-weapon-free zones contribute through non-proliferation within these territories, but we need to advance much further, because we cannot see non-proliferation without measures that lead to total disarmament. [IPS] Tierramérica - February 21, 2012] □

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# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

### UN Pushes Hard for Global Ban on Nuke Tests

By JAMSHED BARUAH

BERLIN (IDN) - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon vowed to revitalize "the global disarmament and non-proliferation agenda in the field of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction" when he spelt out beginning of the year his vision for the second term at the world body's helm. He is now doing his utmost to turn the vision into reality.

One significant building block in that vision is the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) negotiated in Geneva between 1994 and 1996. Pushing hard for its ratification, Ban declared on February 17: "There is no good reason to avoid signing or ratifying this Treaty. Any country opposed to signing or ratifying it is simply failing to meet its responsibilities as a member of the international community."

He added: "It is irresponsible to see this Treaty still waiting to come into effect 15 years after it was opened for signature. I stand ready to visit those capitals suspicious about the reliability of the Treaty's monitoring and inspection systems."

Ban was referring to eight of the 44 specific nuclear technology holder countries – China, North Korea, Egypt, India, Israel, Iran, Pakistan and the United States – that must sign and ratify before the CTBT can enter into force. As of February 2012, 182 countries have signed the Treaty, of which 157 have also ratified it, including three of the nuclear weapon States: Britain, France and Russia. The last Annex 2 State to ratify the Treaty was Indonesia on February 6, 2012.

The CTBT bans nuclear explosions by everyone, everywhere: on the Earth's surface, in the atmosphere, underwater and underground. An unprecedented global verification regime with over 300 sensors monitors the globe around the clock for nuclear explosions to detect any violations of the Treaty.

Its significance lies in the fact that it makes it very difficult for countries to develop nuclear bombs for the first time, or for countries that already have them, to make more powerful bombs. It also prevents the huge damage caused by radioactivity from nuclear explosions to humans, animals and plants.

Speaking at the festivities marking the 15th anniversary of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) headquarters in Vienna on February 17, Ban said.

"As a diplomat, I devoted a great deal of energy to disarmament and non-proliferation, including through the . . . CTBT. As Secretary-General, I am even more committed to this cause – and to realizing our vision of a world free of nuclear weapons. Ending nuclear testing is essential to eradicating nuclear arms. That is why I am pushing hard for the CTBT to enter into force."

The festivities were attended by the diplomatic community, NGOs, international media and staff of other Vienna-based organizations – over 500 participants in total. The event also marked the opening of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs' Vienna-base.

#### Online campaign

The CTBTO headed by Tibor Tóth has launched an online campaign "Close the Door on Nuclear Testing – Raise your voice for a safer, more secure world. Join the campaign to Close the Door on Nuclear Testing! ➔"

Picture: CTBTO Press Conference | Credit: CTBTO





# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

"Today it's hard to imagine that nuclear bombs exploded all the time in the 1950s, 60s, 70s and 80s. Yet more than 2,000 nuclear bombs were tested all over the world, contaminating the land and air and affecting people everywhere," explains the CTBTO.

Its message is: "In 1996, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty put the brakes on this madness. But until all the countries of the world support the Treaty, the threat of further testing and a renewed nuclear arms race looms over us all.

"It's time to take a stand against this nuclear recklessness. Let's call on all politicians, governments and States to honour the Treaty. Let's look to a future of hope, where we don't have nuclear weapons. Let's close the door on nuclear testing, now and forever."

Ban also paid tribute to the victims of the over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted worldwide: "Nuclear tests poison the environment – and they also poison the political climate. They breed mistrust, isolation and fear. So today I issue a challenge to all leaders of all countries that have not endorsed the CTBT: Visit the site of a nuclear test. Speak to the population exposed to the fallout. Then take action to prevent this from ever happening again."

According to Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, co-chair of the so-called Article XIV-process to advance the CTBT's entry into force, the Treaty "has succeeded in creating a strong norm against nuclear testing, and a major barrier for nuclear weapons development. All 182 States Signatories have refrained from nuclear explosive testing. The international community has been firm and unanimous in its response to the three countries [India, Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea] that have remained outside and tested."

Mexican Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho, delivering a statement by Mexican Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, the other co-chair of the Article-XIV process, said: "Even if the CTBT has yet to enter into force, it is paramount that we all understand that its regime already constitutes a legal corpus to be observed by the international community."

CTBTO Executive Secretary Tóth said: "At age 15, we are proud of our achievements. The family of CTBT Member States has grown to 182, 157 of which have ratified. The network has grown, station by station. 285 facilities, more than 80% of the International Monitoring System (IMS), are up and running. That is a \$1 billion investment. Today, I can assure you that no nuclear test will ever escape detection."

## **Verification regime**

The IMS uses the following four state-of-the-art technologies:

- Seismic: 50 primary and 120 auxiliary seismic stations monitor shockwaves in the Earth. The vast majority of these shockwaves – many thousands every year – are caused by earthquakes. But man-made explosions such as mine explosions or the North Korean nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009, are also detected.
- Hydroacoustic: 11 hydroacoustic stations "listen" for sound waves in the oceans. Sound waves from explosions can travel extremely far underwater.
- Infrasound: 60 stations on the surface can detect ultra-low frequency sound waves (inaudible to the human ear) that are emitted by large explosions.
- Radionuclide: 80 stations measure the atmosphere for radioactive particles; 40 of them also pick up noble gas. Only these measurements can give a clear indication as to whether an explosion detected by the other methods was actually nuclear or not. They are supported by 16 radionuclide laboratories.

Besides, the International Data Centre at the CTBTO's headquarters in Vienna receives gigabytes of data from the global monitoring stations. The data are processed and distributed to the CTBTO's Member States in both raw and analysed form. According to CTBTO, when North Korea tested in 2006 and 2009, the Member States received information about the location, magnitude, time and depth of the tests within two hours, and before the actual test had been announced by North Korea. [IDN-InDepthNews – February 17, 2012] □





# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

### Respect Dignity of Life, Convoke Nuke Abolition Summit

By RAMESH JAURA

BERLIN | TOKYO (IDN) - In a variation of the legendary slogan "make love, not war", an eminent Buddhist philosopher is calling for a nuclear-free world in which genuine human security, sustainable development and unwavering respect for the dignity of life do not only comprise an ideal but constitute an entrenched reality.

In a 23-page 'peace proposal,' titled 'Human Security and Sustainability: Sharing Reverence for the Dignity of Life,' Buddhist leader Daisaku Ikeda pleads for a nuclear abolition summit in 2015 in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of the two cities so that the growing momentum toward elimination of nuclear weapons becomes irreversible. 2015 will also be the year of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, and Ikeda expects such a summit to bring home to world leaders the terrible destructive capacity of nuclear weapons and so help ensure the necessary action toward their abolition.



Along with nuclear weapons, natural disasters and environmental degradation as well as poverty "present future generations with threats and burdens that will only become greater the more we delay," says Ikeda in his peace proposal, which is the thirtieth since 1983 on January 26, the day that the Soka Gakkai International (SGI) was founded eight years earlier.

The 2012 peace proposal coincides with the fifty-fifth anniversary of the declaration issued by Ikeda's mentor and second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda (1900-1958) calling for the prohibition of nuclear weapons. This declaration had as its background the increasingly fierce competition among nuclear-weapon states to develop ever larger and more powerful nuclear weapons.

Toda stated, "Although a movement calling for a ban on the testing of nuclear weapons has arisen around the world, it is my wish to go further, to attack the problem at its root. I want to expose and rip out the claws that lie hidden in the very depths of such weapons."

As an eminent global citizen and a staunch civil society protagonist Roberto Savio says, the SGI president's peace proposal is "a fascinating document which joins vision with analysis, goals with reality, and strategy with knowledge."

It comes at a point in time when international attention tends to focus on the forthcoming presidential elections in the U.S., Russia and France, and change in government in China but very little on an international conference on the Middle East in order to turn the region into a zone free of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. The launch of such a conference was decided at the May 3-28, 2010 NPT Review conference in New York.

The year that marked the launch of Ikeda's first peace proposal, was characterised by nuclear deterrence which threatened to trigger what U.S. President Ronald Reagan termed 'star wars'. These were packaged as "a long-term research and development program to begin to achieve our ultimate goal of eliminating the threat posed by strategic nuclear missiles" and "pave the way for arms control measures to eliminate the weapons themselves".

Viewed from a benevolent perspective, Reagan's approach came close to Machiavellian 'the end justifies the means' dictum. This kind of philosophy is however rejected by Ikeda who, inspired by his unrelenting commitment to the anti-nuclear movement since the late 1950s, has been campaigning for a nuclear weapons free world. ☺

Picture: SGI President Daisaku Ikeda | Credit: [daisakuikeda.org](http://daisakuikeda.org)



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

### Good Prospects for NWC

"For years, the SGI has promoted a movement to manifest the will of the world's people for the outlawing of nuclear weapons through the adoption of a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). There are numerous signs that we are now positioned at a tipping point where a 'cascade' of governments start supporting adoption of an NWC," writes Ikeda.

Encouraging signs in his view are:

- The civil society initiative to draft a model NWC in 1997 has been followed up by a revised draft issued in 2007, demonstrating that the process of reviewing the legal measures necessary to achieve the prohibition and abolition of nuclear weapons is well under way.
- Since 1996, Malaysia and other countries have annually proposed a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the start of negotiations on an NWC. Support for this resolution has continued to grow; last year (2011) 130 member states supported it, including China, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Iran.
- In 2008, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed negotiations on an NWC or a framework of separate, mutually reinforcing instruments.
- The 2010 NPT Review Conference noted this proposal in the final outcome document that it adopted with the unanimous consent of all participants.
- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), to which 159 countries, including Russia, Britain, France and China, belong, has also unanimously expressed its support for this proposal.
- Mayors for Peace, with a membership of more than 5,100 cities and municipalities around the world, is actively seeking the early start of negotiations toward an NWC. Likewise, the InterAction Council, a group composed of former heads of state and government, has called for the conclusion of an NWC.
- In September 2009, the UN Security Council held a special summit session in which it adopted Security Council Resolution 1887 pledging efforts to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons.
- The worsening budgetary situation in different countries as a result of the ongoing economic crisis has prompted a serious rethinking of military expenditures, including in nuclear-weapon states where the costs of these armaments are finally being debated.

While it is clear that none of these developments, in itself, represents a decisive breakthrough, Ikeda believes that collectively they constitute a consistent and irreversible momentum toward the goal of a world finally free of nuclear weapons.

"The leading role played by civil society in developing a draft Nuclear Weapons Convention and in actively seeking the start of negotiations through petition drives and other activities clearly demonstrates that the spiritual wellspring and normative source for such a treaty exist as a vital presence in the hearts and minds of the world's ordinary citizens," writes Ikeda.

"What is required now," he adds, "is to take this living, breathing awareness – the determination that the tragedy wrought by nuclear weapons must never be repeated and that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist – and give it concrete form as a binding legal agreement expressing the shared conscience of humankind."

The SGI president pleads for initiating concrete negotiations that will culminate in the realization of an NWC, and says: One way to do this would be to present it as a basic treaty establishing the legal framework of a world without nuclear weapons with a set of associated protocols. The basic treaty would allow signatory states to clearly commit to the goal of a world without nuclear weapons and undertake a process of mutual threat reduction. ➔



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## What Others Say

Separate protocols could enumerate prohibited activities such as development and production, use or threat of use, and establish procedures for decommissioning and verification. Ikeda urges "NGOs and forward-looking governments" to establish an action group to embark on this venture.

"We should set a target of 2015 for the release – or better yet, the signing – of an agreed-upon draft of the basic framework treaty."

### **Human Rights and Sustainability**

Along with nuclear abolition, Ikeda says: "Humanitarianism, human rights and sustainability need to be the core elements of a future vision." Such a vision comprises:

"A world that, refusing to overlook human tragedy wherever it occurs, unites in solidarity to overcome threats;

"A world that, based on the empowerment of individuals, gives priority to securing the dignity and right of all people to live in peace;

"A world that, remembering the lessons of the past, does not allow unborn generations to inherit the negative legacies of human history and directs all its energies to transforming those legacies."

For Ikeda, sustainable energy is also a key issue. Reflecting on the Fukushima nuclear disaster in March 2011, he urges Japan to make a rapid transition to energy policies not reliant on nuclear power generation, and to intensify its involvement in renewable energy technology and research, both at home and to support efforts in developing countries.

In this context, the SGI president proposes strengthening of the global role of the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency ([IAEA](#)) in dealing with the impacts of nuclear power plant accidents and decommissioning obsolescent reactors.

Considering the suffering caused by an increasing prevalence of natural disasters around the world, Ikeda calls for responses to be focussed on a human rights approach and proposes that the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ([UNHCR](#)) be officially expanded to include provision of relief for people displaced by such disasters.

He also stresses the importance of empowering women to play a greater role in disaster prevention, mitigation and recovery efforts. Ikeda writes: "Women bear a disproportionate burden of the deprivations resulting from disasters, and they are often exposed to grievous threats. At the same time, there is a need to afford greater recognition to women's special capacities to contribute.

"Women must be empowered as effective change agents in the fields of disaster risk reduction, recovery and reconstruction, in line with similar recognition of their potential roles in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. Specifically, disaster risk reduction and recovery could be included in the scope of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, or a new resolution could be adopted with a focus on the roles women play in these areas."

With an eye on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – popularly known as Rio+20 – in June in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, the SGI president calls for a broader debate on the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to follow the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) from 2015.

Ikeda writes: "A set of common goals for a sustainable future should inherit the spirit of the Millennium Development Goals of alleviating the distortions in our global society generated by poverty and income disparities, and should also address the full range of human security issues." [IDN-InDepthNews – February 02, 2012] □



# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

NEWSLETTER FOR STRENGTHENING AWARENESS OF NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH FEBRUARY 2012 ARTICLES

## Translations | Adaptations

### Latin America Seeks to Spread Nuclear Free Zones

#### GERMAN

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=629:lateinamerika-atomwaffenfrei-seit-45-jahren&catid=5:german&Itemid=6](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=629:lateinamerika-atomwaffenfrei-seit-45-jahren&catid=5:german&Itemid=6)

#### JAPANESE

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=632:latin-america&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=632:latin-america&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)  
[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=567:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=567:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

#### PORTUGUESE

<http://ips.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=7986>

#### SPANISH

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=626:armas-nucleares-queman-las-manos-de-la-diplomacia&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=626:armas-nucleares-queman-las-manos-de-la-diplomacia&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11)

### Peace Activists Push for Nuke Abolition Summit in 2015

#### ARBIC

<http://www.ipsinternational.org/arabic/nota.asp?idnews=2430>

A snippet of an Arabic article with a header in Arabic: 'حملة عالمية لحظر أسلحة الدمار الشامل' and 'انتلاف دولي يضغط لإلغاء الأسلحة النووية بحلول 2015 بقلم تاليف ديبين/وكالة إنتر بريس سيرفيس'. Below the header is a photograph of a nuclear power plant and a text block in Arabic discussing the UN's role in nuclear disarmament.

الامم المتحدة، فبراير (أي بي إس) - أطلق الائتلاف من نشطاء السلام المناهضين للأسلحة النووية والمنظمات غير الحكومية في مختلف أرجاء الأرض، حملة عالمية للمطالبة بقعد مؤتمر قمة لزعماء العالم، للإتفاق علي القضاء التام على واحدة من أكثر الأسلحة قدرة علي التدمير الشامل، أي القنابل الذرية.

#### GERMAN

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=627:ngo-allianz-wirbt-fuer-weltgipfel-zur-abschaffung-von-atombomben&catid=5:german&Itemid=6](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=627:ngo-allianz-wirbt-fuer-weltgipfel-zur-abschaffung-von-atombomben&catid=5:german&Itemid=6)

#### ITALIAN

<http://www.ipsnotizie.it/nota.php?idnews=1867>

#### JAPANESE

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=630:peace-activists-push-for-nuke-abolition-summit-in-2015-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=630:peace-activists-push-for-nuke-abolition-summit-in-2015-japanese&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)  
[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=579:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=579:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

#### PORTUGUESE

<http://www.ips.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=7980>

#### SPANISH

<http://www.ipsnoticias.net/nota.asp?idnews=100143>





# BEYOND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION

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## Translations | Adaptations

### SANE Act to Cut U.S. Nukes Budget

#### CHINESE

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=644:sane-act-to-cut-us-nukes-budget-chinese&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=644:sane-act-to-cut-us-nukes-budget-chinese&catid=14:chinese-hindi-urdu-persian&Itemid=15)

#### SANE法案削减美国核武器财政预算

【柏林 (IDN) =Jamshed Baruah】

如果你心智健全 (英文中对应单词为“sane”), 那说明你有着良好的精神状态。而美国众议员爱德华·马基在2012年推出的“更合理的核支出途径” (Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures, 缩写同样为“SANE”这个单词) 法案使这个词有了不同的释义。该法案计划在将来十年内在已过时的核武计划方面削减1000亿美元的支出。

作为反对核扩散和裁减核武器议会 (PNND) 主席的马基, 于2012年2月8日在众议院谴责美国核武器计划的浪费性支出。而SANE目前有34个共同提案人。

“在美国的核武器预算中有几十亿美金的浪费性支出, 共和党员们却还在试图阻止由于债务问题而造成的防御军费的削减, 这是不可理喻的。”作为众议院能源和商业委员会的高级成员以及两党核不扩散专责小组的创办人的马基说道。

“把数千亿美金花在制造新式核弹和相关投放设备上去打一场早已过去了的冷战, 却忽略了人们在21世纪对社会保险的需求, 只在寻求如何削减百万美国民众所依赖的医疗保险、医疗补助和其他社会福利, 这样做真是太疯狂了。SANE法案将在接下来的十年里削减陈旧过时的和浪费性核武器的数量, 以及核武相关计划上的支出并加强我们长期的经济发展和国家安全,” 马基说。

#### GERMAN

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=635:einsparungen-bei-den-us-nuklearausgaben-moeglich&catid=5:german&Itemid=6](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=635:einsparungen-bei-den-us-nuklearausgaben-moeglich&catid=5:german&Itemid=6)

#### JAPANESE

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=574:stepping-towards&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=574:stepping-towards&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=575:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=575:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

#### NORWEGIAN

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=628:sane-loven-reduserer-usas-kjernekraftbudsjett&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=628:sane-loven-reduserer-usas-kjernekraftbudsjett&catid=11:norwegian-swedish&Itemid=12)

#### SPANISH

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=641:acta-sane-para-la-reduccion-del-gasto-nuclear-de-los-estados-unidos&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=641:acta-sane-para-la-reduccion-del-gasto-nuclear-de-los-estados-unidos&catid=10:spanish&Itemid=11)

### Israel and Iran Agreed on Nuclear Ambiguity

#### JAPANESE

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=637:israel-and-iran&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=637:israel-and-iran&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

[http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=638:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3](http://www.nuclearabolition.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=638:pdf&catid=2:japanese-korean&Itemid=3)

#### PORTUGUESE

<http://www.ips.org/ipsbrasil.net/nota.php?idnews=7957>





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## Civil Society

### IPPNW Promotes Role of Public Health and Civil Society in Monitoring ATT

By Hakeem Ayinde, MD

IPPNW | February 16, 2012: Wednesday, the 15<sup>th</sup> of February was definitely the biggest day for IPPNW at the ongoing 4<sup>th</sup> Arms Trade Treaty PrepCom. We had a double header of hosting a side event and addressing the states delegates during the NGO presentations right after that.

The side event focused on the role of public health and civil society in monitoring the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This topic was especially pertinent, as some states have sought to limit the participation of NGOs in the negotiations for a robust Arms treaty.

Star of the day was Dr. Omolade Oladejo. I will get to that later. Donald Mellman, MD, of IPPNW, a trained mediator himself, proposed a role for NGOs as mediators in potential disputes between civil society and states. These disputes, he said, could arise from denials of arms transfer, or a third party questioning a particular transfer etc. As neutral non-state parties, trained NGO independent mediators are well positioned to settle disputes when such arise.

Dr. Mirjana Dokmanovic, Director of IANSA, spoke on monitoring the ATT in an International Humanitarian Law (IHL) context. IHL, she said, provides rules to protect persons who are not or are no longer taking part in hostilities and limits the means and methods of warfare. She stressed the obligations of states in respecting the IHL, and in acting within its criteria on the ATT. The provision here is that after a careful assessment, states must not authorize an arms transfer if there is a 'clear risk' that such weapons would be used to commit serious violations of IHL.

The ever jovial Dr. Robert Mtonga stressed the need for the ATT to be seen in a humanitarian perspective, as it is aimed to control the trade of the only commodity that is designed solely to kill or injure people: arms.

Now back to my friend, Dr. Omolade Oladejo. She spoke at the side event on "The contribution of the medical community in controlling the illicit use of firearms". An hour later, she addressed the states plenary assembly on the "Humanitarian Imperative of the ATT". She outlined many examples of how physicians could assist in monitoring an arms treaty, including research and documentation of firearm injuries and outcomes, using public health tools to evaluate policies, etc.

If her first speech did an excellent job in identifying possible roles of physicians in monitoring an arms treaty, the second speech did an even better job in speaking up for victims of armed violence. It was very compelling and emotional. "I was one of the first responders to the bombing of the United Nations Headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. When I arrived, I saw bodies and body parts everywhere", she said.

I was close to tears, and I could see the same on the faces of many delegates. At that moment, everyone in the room was united. Alliance or nationality no longer mattered. We were united by anger, fear, and hope. Anger and fear at the cruel termination of lives, and a hope that we would act to prevent similar killings by adopting a robust arms treaty. ☐

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### 80% Reduction? Now That's A Down Payment On A Nuclear-Weapon-Free World!

By John Loretz

IPPNW | February 16, 2012: From time to time on this blog, I've stated that substantial cuts in the US and Russian nuclear arsenals—to levels of 500 each or fewer—would not only represent a serious "down payment" on a world without nuclear weapons, but would also take away the last remaining excuse for the other nuclear-weapon states to come to the table and commence negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention. Two years ago, I pointed to an even more dramatic proposal, made by US Air Force strategists no less, for cuts to a little more than 300 weapons, which they said the US could safely do regardless of whether Russia and the other nuclear-weapons states followed suit. ☞



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I've also expressed disappointment that the New START agreement between the US and Russia did little more than codify the Bush-Putin era cuts in a real treaty, rather than the overly casual SORT. (I called the latter "deeply flawed," instead of "phony," in a rare moment of self-restraint.) The Obama administration's subsequent commitment to a hyper-inflated program to rebuild the US nuclear weapons infrastructure in order to modernize and refocus a smaller, but apparently permanent, START-level arsenal, left most of us wondering what was left of the bold vision of a world without nuclear weapons President Obama embraced in Prague in 2009.

Over the last couple of weeks, however, two things have happened that suggest the Prague vision—or at least some slightly more ambitious version of it than we've seen in the past three years—may be guiding the administration's actions after all. (And before I go any further, I'm fully aware that what we're seeing may be part of an election-year effort to reinvigorate Obama's progressive base. But I'm willing to temper my cynicism, at least a little, until we see how this plays out.)

The Associated Press reported that the administration is considering very deep cuts in deployed nuclear weapons, and that among the options are a proposal for a near-80% reduction to between 300 and 400 weapons. That, to put it mildly, would be a huge step in the right direction. Even the intermediate option of the three said to be under consideration—a cut to 700-800 weapons—would cross the symbolically and psychologically crucial threshold of 1,000 in a way that could not be ignored by the other nuclear-weapon states, not to mention the rest of the world. (For the sake of completeness, the most conservative option, retiring 400 to 500 more weapons than called for under New START, would be less dramatic than the alternatives, but would still be a very welcome step.)

I knew the minute I read the AP article (and I'm hardly claiming any special insight on this one), that the blowback from the right wing would be immediate and virulent. No surprise, Rush Limbaugh, American talk radio's blowhard emeritus, was on the air in a matter of hours calling the proposals (which are not even officially proposals yet) "scary" plans for "unilateral disarmament," even as Iran is "nuking up." Congressional Republicans took their cue, as they often do, from Limbaugh's posturing, concocting sound bites such as "reckless lunacy" and "preposterous notion."

All of that is to be expected, and I'm sure the administration anticipated this response from the President's political opponents. The larger question in my mind is to what extent this talk of bold new disarmament options is a trial balloon that will settle quietly back to earth if it doesn't receive loud and enthusiastic support from that segment of the voting population to which the administration is clearly appealing, at least in part. IPPNW's US affiliate, Physicians for Social Responsibility, has already launched [a petition](#) endorsing dramatic reductions, and they will undoubtedly be joined by other major US NGOs eager to make the most of this opportunity.

I said there was a second thing, and this one hasn't made the news, at least not that one would notice. This week we learned from the [Los Alamos Study Group](#) that the proposed Chemistry and Metallurgy Research Replacement Nuclear Facility (CMRR-NF) at Los Alamos National Laboratory will be "indefinitely deferred," and that the administration is expected to "zero out" the new plutonium production facility's budget later this year. LASG rightly calls CMRR-NF "the flagship nuclear weapons complex modernization project." The suspension (not the cancellation, LASG cautions) of this key component of the previously announced \$8.5 billion nuclear infrastructure expansion program could be the first of other budget cuts, which may actually find some bipartisan support in Congress. Let's hope so. ☐

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## How to Strengthen the UN's Ability to Maintain International Peace and Security

By Lawrence Wittner\*

IPPNW | February 13, 2012: Conservative politicians often portray the United Nations as a powerful monster, poised to gobble up the United States and other countries and put them under alien rule.

The reality, of course, is quite different. When it comes to international peace and security, the United Nations is notably lacking in power. Its resolutions along these lines are often ignored or go unenforced. Frequently, they are not even adopted. This situation leaves nations free to pursue traditional practices of power politics and, occasionally, much worse. ☹



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The weakness of the United Nations was illustrated once again on February 4, when Russia and China joined forces to veto a UN Security Council resolution dealing with Syria. The resolution was designed to halt eleven months of bloodshed in that nation, where more than 5,400 people had been massacred, mostly by government military forces. Backing an Arab League plan for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step aside, the resolution was supported by 13 members of the Security Council. But, with Security Council rules allowing even one great power to veto action, the resolution was defeated.

The rules establishing a great power veto were formulated late in World War II, when three Allied nations (the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain) agreed to create a UN Security Council to maintain international peace and security. The Security Council would have 15 members, but just 5 of them would be permanent members (the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China), and each of these members would be empowered to veto any resolution or action. Thus, from the start, the great powers made sure that each of them had the ability to frustrate any venture of which they disapproved. And this, in turn, meant that, like the League of Nations, the United Nations was woefully weak when it came to enforcing international peace and security.

In the first decade of the postwar era, the Soviet Union led the way in drawing on the veto to defend what it considered its interests. But, in later decades, the United States surpassed the Soviet Union (and its successor, Russia) in use of the veto to block international security action. Indeed, since the establishment of the United Nations, all of the permanent members have relied upon the veto, which they have used hundreds of times to frustrate the majority in efforts to maintain international peace and security. As in the case of two Security Council resolutions dealing with the mass killing in Syria, this includes action to protect civilians in an armed conflict.

The result has been a dangerous world in which, all too often, rulers of nations (especially, the rulers of the great powers) simply go their own way—squandering their resources on never-ending military buildups, invading other nations, and massacring civilian populations.

In the context of this continuing disaster, wouldn't it make sense to eliminate the veto in the Security Council? After all, there is no justifiable reason why great powers—and particularly individual great powers—should be legally accorded the right to frustrate the wishes of virtually the entire international community. Although scrapping the veto is no panacea for conflicts among nations, it seems likely to result in a more equitable and more secure world.

Furthermore, even if the veto were abolished, the great powers would still hold onto their permanent seats in the Security Council, thus ensuring that they would retain—albeit in a more democratic fashion—some influence over world affairs. And if, as supporters of the current structure insist, it is important to match authority with power, why not elevate additional great powers to permanent membership in the Security Council? Nations that have sometimes been mentioned as useful additions to that UN entity include Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan.

Plagued by dangerous arms races, bloody wars, and human rights violations, the world desperately needs an alternative form of governance. The great powers have the power to provide it, but not the legitimacy to do so, while the United Nations has the legitimacy but not the power. Hasn't the time finally arrived to supplement the legitimacy of the United Nations with enough power to maintain international peace and security? □

\*Dr. Wittner, Professor of History at the State University of New York/Albany is the author of *Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement* (Stanford University Press)

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