



## **Abolition 2000 Session on Achieving a Global Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

**New York, 11 October 2012**

***Report by Alyn Ware and Susi Snyder  
Co-Chairs of the A2000 Session***

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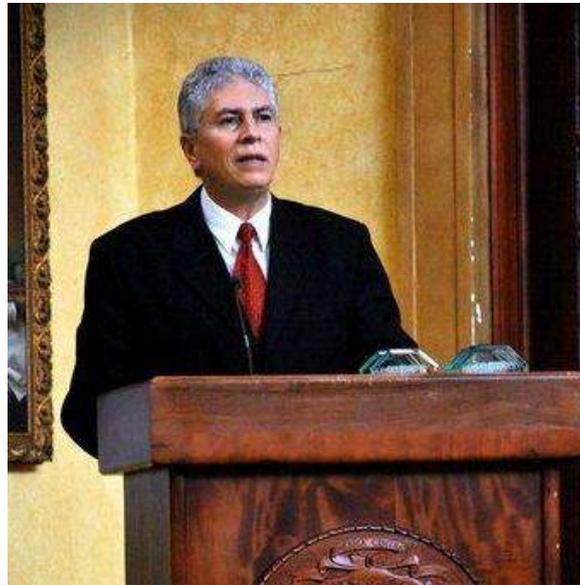
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*The A2000 Session was dedicated to Dr Carlos Vargas Pizarro (Costa Rica), who passed away unexpectedly on 12 August 2012.*

*Dr Vargas was one of the founding members of the Abolition 2000 Nuclear Weapons Convention Working Group and a Vice-President of the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms. Dr Vargas represented Costa Rica in the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons and was the President of the United Nations Working Group that drafted the Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Dr Vargas was a member of the Drafting Committee for the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention, was responsible for encouraging the Costa Rican government to submit the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention to the United Nations, and was an advisor to the government on promotion of the nuclear weapons convention.*

*Thank you Carlos for your vision and dedication.*

## Abolition 2000 Session on Achieving a Global Treaty to Abolish Nuclear Weapons



*Ambassador Aitimova  
(Kazakhstan) speaking at the  
A2000 session*

Disarmament experts, non-governmental organisations, parliamentary representatives, ambassadors to the United Nations, documentary media and other nuclear abolition advocates met at the Bahá'í International Community UN Office in New York on October 11 for a half-day session on achieving a global treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.

Organised by the **Abolition 2000 Global Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**, the session considered a range of strategies and approaches for moving governments to start work on a treaty in order to achieve global nuclear disarmament.

These included:

- forums for advancing nuclear disarmament negotiations including the Conference on Disarmament, United Nations General Assembly, UN Security Council, International Law Commission or a like-minded approach such as was done with landmines and cluster munitions conventions,
- parliamentary engagement and the role of parliaments in achieving a nuclear weapons free world;
- local government tools for engagement and advocacy;
- new framing and opportunities to engage on the nuclear weapons issue - from international humanitarian law to shifting away from state centred security approaches;
- ways for further building political momentum through an economic approach, addressing key drivers of nuclear weapons doctrines, and informal preparatory work on the framework for a nuclear-weapons-free world, and
- engaging key constituencies including leaders and high level officials, legislators, public figures, and different sectors of civil society.

The session was chaired by **Susi Snyder** (IKV/Pax Christi) and **Alyn Ware** (International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament).

Speakers included **H.E. Byrganym Aitimova** (Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UN), **Randy Rydell** (United Nation Office of Disarmament Affairs), **Bill Kidd** (Member of the Scottish Parliament, Co-President of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament), **Jackie Cabasso** (Mayors for Peace), **H.E. Eduardo Ulibarri** (Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations), **John Burroughs** (Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, Nuclear Abolition Forum) and **Jonathan Granoff** (Global Security Institute).

**Ambassador Aitimova** reported on recent initiatives of Kazakhstan for a nuclear-weapons-free world including the launch of the **ATOM Project** (see *Abolition 2000 Update October 2012*) and the circulation at the United Nations of a *Draft Declaration for a*

*Nuclear Weapons Free World*. Kazakhstan is hoping to obtain consensus on this declaration – and thus elevate political commitment and momentum, by the 2013 UN General Assembly.



## Abolition 2000 Session (continued)

**Ambassador Ulibarri** spoke about the work that had already been done to lay out the framework for a nuclear weapons free world through the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention – drafted by experts under the auspices of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, presented to the United Nations by Costa Rica and circulated and promoted by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

*Negotiations leading to the conclusion of a NWC should commence immediately. As indicated above, any issues relating to the elimination of nuclear weapons could be discussed and resolved through the negotiation process, and should not be presented as pre-conditions to even starting such negotiations. However, as some States are reluctant to join such negotiations, the following could be initiated by like-minded countries:*

- 1. Informal preparatory work could be undertaken on various aspects outlined in the Model Nuclear Weapons in order to start the practical work on a framework for a nuclear-weapons-free world and pave the way for negotiations.*
- 2. Commencing negotiations through a like-minded or UN General Assembly approach.*
- 3. Elevating nuclear disarmament with a leadership group determined to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.*

See [www.abolition2000.org/?p=2584#more-2584](http://www.abolition2000.org/?p=2584#more-2584) for the full remarks of Ambassador Ulibarri.



*Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri (Costa Rica) outlining work that has been done, and should now be done by governments on the nuclear weapons convention*



*Randy Rydell, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs, speaking on UN forums to advance nuclear abolition*

**Randy Rydell** outlined the approach promoted by the UN Secretary-General in his Five-Point Plan for Nuclear Disarmament, i.e. the promotion of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or framework of agreements, coupled with simultaneous work on a number of supporting measures such as the establishment of nuclear weapon free zones, stockpile reductions, reducing the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines and conventional weapons limitations/reductions.

Mr Rydell noted that the UN has a number of mechanisms through which nuclear disarmament work could commence, even while the Conference on Disarmament is blocked – including through the UN General Assembly resolution. He noted the possibility of tasking the International Law Commission to study the legal framework for a nuclear weapons free world – based on the preparatory work they have done for other international agreements such as the International Criminal Court and the Law of the Sea.

Mr Rydell also commented on the **pre-conditions** that the NWS and their allies have placed on nuclear disarmament, saying that in the most these are another form of excuses for non-action. He referred to the speech the previous day of Angela Kane, UN High Rep for Disarmament, to the Middle Powers Initiative Framework Forum event arguing that while there are definitely security issues to be dealt with in the context of nuclear disarmament negotiations, there are no valid pre-conditions to starting such negotiations. (See: *Opening Remarks, Creating the Conditions and Building the Framework for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World*, Angela Kane, Oct 10, 2012 at [www.middlepowers.org/archives/10\\_10\\_12/Angela-Kane.pdf](http://www.middlepowers.org/archives/10_10_12/Angela-Kane.pdf))

## Abolition 2000 Session (continued)

**Bill Kidd MSP** spoke about the important role that parliamentarians have in conjunction with civil society. He bemoaned the fact that most parliamentarians are so busy on constituent matters and other issues that they are not as active as they should be on the nuclear weapons issue. However,



*Bill Kidd MSP highlighting the importance of civil society to engage their parliamentarians*

the impact they can have when they get moving is very significant – whether it be to publicly challenge government policy, join with parliamentary colleagues in other countries to promote key initiatives or adopt groundbreaking motions or legislation.

Bill noted the vital work of Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament (PNND) in promoting nuclear abolition in parliaments and globally including through motions in parliaments, joint parliamentary statements and key parliamentary conferences and strategy meetings such as the PNND Assembly in Kazakhstan attended by parliamentarians for over 75 countries including from most of the nuclear-weapons possessing States and from the differing geo-political blocks.

In Scotland, the parliament has led the charge for nuclear disarmament – including promoting an independent Scottish view at the NPT (despite not yet being recognized as a member), supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention, and paving the way for the creation of Scotland as a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The forthcoming referendum on Scottish independence, and the fact that the UK's only homeport for the nuclear weapons is in Scotland, is putting this issue solidly on the political map in the UK. Bill thus welcomed collaboration between the Scottish parliament, PNND and Abolition 2000 in advancing a nuclear free Scotland and promoting the global abolition of nuclear weapons.

**John Burroughs** explained a new resource, the *Nuclear Abolition Forum*, a journal and website ([www.abolitionforum.org](http://www.abolitionforum.org)) launched in October 2011. The *Nuclear Abolition Forum* seeks to foster debate and dialogue on the elements of a nuclear weapons-free world and the process for achieving that world. It was founded by Alyn Ware and is directed by Rob van Riet of the World Future Council. Participating organisations are the Albert Schweitzer Institute, Global Security Institute, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, International Network of Engineers and Scientists Against Proliferation, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Middle Powers Initiative, Pugwash, and World Future Council.



*How does your country vote on the United Nations resolution calling for negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention?*

The theme of the first issue of *Nuclear Abolition Forum* was “International Humanitarian Law and Nuclear Weapons: Examining the humanitarian approach to nuclear disarmament.” The issue featured several excellent articles, including ones by Bruce Blair of Global Zero and Randy Rydell of UNODA. John Burroughs, who also served as the issue’s editor, contributed an article explaining the Vancouver Declaration and how it reflects the state of the law as it is now, not 15-plus years ago when the International Court of Justice delivered its opinion on nuclear weapons. John told the

strategy session that both the application of international humanitarian law and the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention are very powerful ideas, as can be seen from the diligence that Russia and the Western nuclear weapon states show in trying to deflect them. The second issue of *Nuclear Abolition Forum* will be on the theme “Beyond Nuclear Deterrence.”

**Jackie Cabasso** outlined the important role that mayors play in representing the right of citizens to be free from the threat of nuclear weapons, and introduced the Mayors for Peace new Action Alert Portal which is a fabulous online resource for activists and legislators (mayors and parliamentarians) on key issues and initiatives. The portal includes short political updates, sample letters/actions and key governmental contacts to lobby. The portal opened with three action alerts:

- 1) Calling on all Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZs) to replicate the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States’ strong commitment to a nuclear-weapons-free world.
- 2) Calling on the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to support the Resolution calling for negotiations on a comprehensive Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). The General Assembly votes annually on this Resolution in response to the International Court of Justice’s 1996 advisory opinion on the legal status of nuclear weapons. Opposition against this Resolution has eroded gradually with the 2011 vote seeing 130 countries in favor, 26 against it and 23 abstaining.
- 3) Oslo conference on humanitarian consequences, providing a letter mayors can send urging governments to include local elected officials in their delegations to the Oslo conference, since they would be on the front line as first responders in case of a nuclear attack. This action is designed to start a dialogue between mayors and their national governments and put the governments on notice that mayors have a role to play and a stake in the outcome.



*Jackie Cabasso introducing the Mayors for Peace Action Alert Portal*

**Jonathan Granoff** argued that if we stick to the current framework of debate on nuclear weapons we will be unable to win the security debates in the nuclear weapon States – and that we have to change the framework in order to achieve success.



*Jonathan Granoff speaking on nuclear abolition as a global public good*

*The internal national security policy-making debates in Nuclear Weapon States are framed in terms of the **risk versus benefit**. Nuclear disarmament advocates argue the risks are too high. Those who see value in nuclear weapons argue that present deterrence value trumps the risks and pose the proposition that nuclear weapons are necessary to meet unforeseen challenges – an argument that is very difficult to overcome.*

*Nuclear weapons actually pose a **global** threat, just as climate change and damage to our oceans are global threats. Our advocacy will be strengthened by framing elimination as a **global public good**, just like a healthy global environment.*

*This allows non-NWS to emphasise their stake in the issue, accurately describes the situation, places a vision of success before us, and allows us to argue for a realistic framework of cooperative security based on universal legal norms.*

**Susi Snyder** reminded people that the Abolition 2000 network has endorsed and encouraged grass-roots participation in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) – a member of Abolition 2000. She showed the ICAN website ([www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)) and encouraged participants to use ICAN materials in their organising efforts for nuclear abolition.

Throughout the afternoon there was some discussion on key points raised by the introductory speakers, plus other campaign resources shared – including an upcoming film “The man who saved the world” about Stanislav Petrov’s decision not to launch Soviet nuclear weapons in 1983. See <https://vimeo.com/27477826> for a preview.

In addition there were a number of background papers circulated for the session including:

- *From aspiration to success: Shaping civil society action to change nuclear weapons policy*  
<http://www.unidir.ch/pdf/articles/pdf-art3020.pdf>
- *Nuclear weapons could become obsolete: The Pennyfarthing H-bomb*  
<http://www.chathamhouse.org/publications/twt/archive/view/186273>
- *An Ottawa Process for Nukes?* Op/ed in Embassy  
[http://www.gsinstitute.org/gsi/docs/11\\_10\\_10\\_Ware.pdf](http://www.gsinstitute.org/gsi/docs/11_10_10_Ware.pdf)
- Compilation of resolutions adopted or pending in national and regional parliaments supporting the Nuclear Weapons Convention and/or the UN Secretary-General’s five-point plan on nuclear disarmament  
[http://www.gsinstitute.org/pnnd/docs/NWC\\_parliamentary\\_resolutions.pdf](http://www.gsinstitute.org/pnnd/docs/NWC_parliamentary_resolutions.pdf)
- A2000 NWC working group report  
[http://www.abolition2000.org/?attachment\\_id=2420](http://www.abolition2000.org/?attachment_id=2420)

# Nuclear Weapons Convention Working Group

Meeting, October 11, 2012

## Provisional list of participants

**H.E. Byrganym Aitimova**, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the UN

**Toshiko Ando** - Gensuikyo

**Beth Begley** - Pax Christi International

**Christian Bruun** - Light Cone Pictures

**John Burroughs** - Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy/Nuclear Abolition Forum

**Jackie Cabasso** - Mayors for Peace

**Mira Chatt** - International GC

**Shirley Chesney**

**Christian Ciobanu** - Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

**Peter Cohen**

**Rohie Drammeh** - Reaching Critical Will

**Yayoi Fujita (Tsuchida)** - Gensuikyo

**Alicia Godsberg** - Peace Action

**Mayra Gomez** - Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

**Jonathan Granoff** - Global Security Institute

**John Hallam** - Nuclear Flashpoint

**H.E. Dell Higgin** - New Zealand Rep to the Conference on Disarmament

**Alexandra Hiniker** - Pax Christi UN Rep

**Sara Hirsch** - Universal Models for Peace

**Leo Hoffmann-Axthelm**

**Mari Inoue** - Human Rights Watch

**Tomoki Ishihara** - Gensuikyo

**Hiroshi Kajioka** - Gensuikyo

**Bill Kidd** - Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament

**Tatsuo Kobayashi** - Gensuikyo

**Ann Lakhdir** - NGO Committee on Disarmament

**Kai Landow** - Hawaiian Embassy

**Gina Loew** - The Ribbon International

**John Loretz** - International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War/International Campaign for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

**Henry Lowendorf** - US Peace Council

**Nadia Marcinko** - Universal Models for Peace

**Al Marder** - US Peace Council

**Kevin Martin** - Peace Action

**Vera Mehta** - Kazakhstan Mission

**Emilie McGlone** - Peace Boat US

**Yasuyuki Mori** - Gensuikyo

**Leilani Nelson**

**Jude Nnorom** - Religions for Peace

**Maria Perez** - Peace Boat Colombia

**Laetitia Piroddi** - World Federation of United Nations Associations

**Aarushi Prakash** - Reaching Critical Will

**Dorothy Prunhaker**

**Irene Pugnaroni**

**Guy Quinlan**

**Marty Rajandran**

**Mark Romeo** - Light Cone Pictures

**Randy Rydell** - United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs

**Hiro Sakurai** - Soka Gakkai

**Elizabeth Shafer** - Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy

**Susi Snyder** - IKV Pax Christi

**June Tano** - The Ribbon International

**H.E. Eduardo Ulibarri**, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the United Nations

**Gioconda Ubeda Rivera** - Organisation for the Prevention of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean

**Bill Vendley** - Religions for Peace

**Jean Vertheim** - Women's Int League for Peace and Freedom

**Alyn Ware** - International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms/ PNND

**Lucy Law Webster** - World Federalists

**Johanne Winchester**

**Yoshiko Yamamoto** - Gensuikyo

**Shinji Yamasaki** - Gensuikyo

**Helen Young**

**Margo la Zaro**