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

Rebecca E. Johnson Ph.D
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NWC and NPT

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

Strategy for 2010 – was simple: to put the nuclear weapons abolition treaty goal into the mainstream as a necessary and achievable way to prevent nuclear dangers – proliferation, terrorism, accidental or intentional use, safety, dismantlement, fissile materials, disarmament verification... and clean up the mess.
i) get governments to advocate a nuclear weapons convention or abolition process in their statements and working papers;

and

ii) get the NWC explicitly into any outcome document/plan of action.
81. The Conference notes the new proposals and initiatives from Governments and civil society related to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. The Conference notes the proposals for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to inter alia consider negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.

82. The Conference affirms that the final phase of the nuclear disarmament process and other related measures should be pursued within an agreed legal framework, which a majority of States parties believe should include specified timelines.
NPT 2010 consensus Conclusions and Recommendations

Nuclear Disarmament Action Plan

B iii. The Conference calls on all nuclear-weapon States to undertake concrete disarmament efforts and affirms that all States need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons. The Conference notes the five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes, inter alia, consideration of negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification.
ICAN played a principal campaigning role in that success, in partnership with others, including governments and diplomats. This outcome:

- Put the comprehensive treaty goal on governments’ agendas as never before.
- Demonstrated that a nuclear abolition treaty is needed to fulfil NPT’s core objectives, not something that undermines.
- Showed NWC is no longer an ‘unrealistic’, ‘premature’, not-in-my-lifetime ‘vision’, but a Necessity and Challenge here and now!
Though hailed a modest success, the NPT was in other ways a terrible failure:

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

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

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

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

- Build partnerships and develop an effective, flexible and determined process to get abolition negotiations underway
  - With governments and elected representatives – at all levels (nationally and diplomatically)
  - With other civil society actors, organisations, professionals and activists

- Strengthen Local, national, regional, transnational, global pressure to ban all nuclear weapons with a treaty that will stick

- Mobilise our own communities and constituencies: youth/students, women, men, health professionals, scientists, unions, workers, the de-employed, elected representatives (parliamentarians, mayors, local councillors)...
NW ABOLITION: Achievable, necessary and urgent

- Educate – nuclear effects, health, long term environmental, alternatives, human security...
- Raise awareness – “we are all Hibakusha”
- Demonstrate urgent necessity - The time is ripe NOW!
- Demand and **Effect** Change – nuclear disarmament is not just the business of the nuclear powers, but the right and responsibility of all of us
- Inspire – I CAN contribute and make a difference
- Together We Can build a movement to abolish nuclear weapons that is irresistible and unstoppable, from young to old, from professional elites and opinion-formers to students, from the south pole to the north pole and everywhere in between
ICAN Campaign

- Visibility of demand: Million Pleas
  - Reaching and involving
  - Giving ‘face’ and voice to the campaign
  - Building momentum
  - One message, millions of carriers
  - Engaging new generations (and re-engaging their parents!)

- Eye-catching materials and messages, adaptable and usable in local campaigning
A hub in Geneva?

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

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

Without losing any of the value of what has gone before, but building new partners, strategies and resources
What’s missing?

- Can we find a way to set up a hub in Asia to strengthen outreach and campaigning in this key region?
- Need to free up and encourage more decentralised campaigns and actions
- Emphasise the campaign goal not the bureaucracy!
- Targeted pressure on key governments
- Email the ICAN working group with your views of what needs to be done
  international_liason@icanw.org
Civil Society – negotiating partners
Civil society - organise
NUCLEAR FREE
NOW!
Civil society – Protest
Civil Society
Nonviolent
direct action
SHARE THE WORLD