

Intervention by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament to the UN Open Ended Working Group

May 13, 2016

Presented by Alyn Ware, PNND Global Coordinator

Mr Chair,

As this is the first time Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND) takes the floor in the May session of the OEWG, we take this opportunity to commend you on facilitating very important and fruitful discussions.

PNND would like to remind delegates that the parliaments of virtually all the countries represented here, as well as those of eight of the nine nuclear-armed States, agreed at the Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly in 2014 to *'work with their governments on eliminating the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines'* and to *'urge their governments to start negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or package of agreements to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free world.'*

Regarding the role of nuclear weapons in security doctrines, NGO working paper 15 submitted by PAX offers some useful proposals on what nuclear umbrella States can do. NGO working paper 7 submitted by the Basel Peace Office, along with interventions by UNFOLD ZERO, Sweden and others, give a broader framework for eliminating the role of nuclear weapons by elevating common security approaches and mechanisms to address the very real security issues of the 21st Century.

Those governments relying on nuclear weapons have a legal obligation to eliminate the role of nuclear weapons, and should announce concrete plans on how and when they will do this. Parliamentarians are ready to work with you to accomplish this. The OEWG should include this in its August report.

Regarding multilateral negotiations, there have been a number of proposals of which approach to take – a ban treaty, a building blocks approach or a nuclear weapons convention. The most important aspect is to start the negotiations with the aim of maximum inclusivity. Most likely a flexible approach allowing for simultaneous work on different measures – some bilateral, some plurilateral and some multilateral - will be needed.

A framework agreement might be the best option to be able to include stronger prohibition measures early in the process, while still engaging those states not able to adopt such measures at the outset. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change is an example of a framework

agreement which includes all relevant countries making significant progress despite initial reluctance by the largest carbon emitters. The Framework Convention on Climate Change also demonstrated flexibility for some countries take stronger measures earlier in the process, therefore putting pressure on others to move faster than they would otherwise have done so.

We note the valuable ideas for a framework agreement in NGO working papers 7, 12 and 20 submitted by the Basel Peace Office, International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, and the Middle Powers Initiative. One key point to make is that negotiations on a framework agreement should be open to all but block-able by none.

In order to ensure success of negotiations for any or all of the elements outlined in the chair's synthesis paper and further explored in this May session, political will needs to be elevated. In light of the success of the Nuclear Security Summits to build cooperation on nuclear security issues, PNND leaders have called for a series of summits to build similar high-level commitment and public attention to nuclear disarmament.

We welcome the proposals for such summits in NGO working papers 21 and 23 submitted by the Middle Powers Initiative and the Arms Control Association. We also note suggestions that the UN High Level Conference on Nuclear Disarmament in 2018 could be elevated to summit level. We hope that these proposals are reflected in the OEWG final report.

Mr Chair, We note that significant progress has been made in the May session of the OEWG, but that there still appears some distance to go to build agreement in August. We remain ready to support your intersessional consultations and to participate in the August session.

Thank you