Since states parties to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) last met in 2017, there have been changes in the nuclear disarmament landscape.

Most notable is the adoption in July 2017 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which outlaws the development, possession, use, and threat of use of nuclear weapons. This Treaty is the outcome of years of discussion on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and the recognition that the only way to prevent these weapons from being used is to prohibit and eliminate them. Two-thirds of UN member states adopted the Treaty and momentum continues to build as more states sign and ratify it—several are expected to do so imminently.

Nuclear-armed states or those that include nuclear weapons in their security doctrines continue to view the TPNW as distracting or even damaging to the disarmament community and international security. In their strange calculus more nuclear weapons makes our world safer. They have argued that the Treaty and its proponents have created divisions in the international community and that the TPNW challenges the NPT.

This is inaccurate. Divided and differing views about nuclear weapons have always existed. What has changed in the last year is that states and other actors have at last given voice to their collective dissatisfaction by developing a new legal instrument to further delegitimise nuclear weapons and make them illegal. It fills a gap in international law and complements the NPT. Let’s not forget that the NPT itself sets out both a measure and obligation to ban nuclear weapons in their military concepts. All nuclear-armed states parties are “modernising” and in some cases expanding their arsenals of warheads and delivery systems.

The longstanding, unresolved issue of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East is a priority for states parties yet it will be challenging to progress that issue at this conference, given the uncertain future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The next deadline for the United States to recertify the deal and waive its sanctions on Iran is 12 May, just a week after the end of the PrepCom. It’s no secret that the current US administration does not see value in the JCPOA, despite the efforts of other partners to ensure it continues to hold. The collapse of the JCPOA would, in the immediate term, put an end to the controls it established on Iran’s nuclear programme but more broadly, impact regional stability, complicating the potential for progress on relevant NPT commitments.

The NPT News in Review is produced by the Reaching Critical Will programme of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). Editor: Allison Pytlak info@reachingcriticalwill.org

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WILPF or Reaching Critical Will.

See reachingcriticalwill.org for information, statements, papers, reports, archived NPT News in Reviews, and more from the NPT.
are warnings of a nuclear crisis.

This may also, in turn, influence upcoming talks between the leaders of the US and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), in the sense that the DPRK may re-consider its newfound support for denuclearisation and trust in the international community. The still tenuous but improving relationships between DPRK and South Korea, and DPRK and the US, as well steps toward ending testing and development are extremely welcome and to be encouraged. Yet they are also very fragile. It is anticipated that there could be a ripple effect into the conference room from the inter-Korean summit on 27 April.

Between what has changed and what remains the same, a constant is that achieving nuclear disarmament now, amidst rising tensions and increasingly aggressive use of force around the world, is more urgent than ever.

Notes
1. See, Preventing Collapse: the NPT and a ban on nuclear weapons, Reaching Critical Will, April 2013.
2. For further information, see 2018 NPT Briefing Book, Reaching Critical Will of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, March 2018
3. “‘It will not be very pleasant,’ Iran warns, if Trump sabotages nuclear deal”, The Guardian, 22 April 2018.

Events of
Mayors for Peace
at building A, Palais des Nations, Geneva

The Mayors for Peace A-bomb Poster Exhibition
April 23rd - April 26th near the Assembly Hall
See What Happened under the A-bomb Blast!

Mayors for Peace Youth Forum
April 26th 10:00 - 12:00
Room XVI
Listen to the Voices of Youth from the World!
A CALL TO ACTION AT THE START OF THE NPT PREPCOM
Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck | Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen

This year it will be 50 years since the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) opened for signature. As we all know it includes in its Article VI the promise to pursue negotiations in good faith to reach general and complete disarmament.

Thirty years ago, through the Intermediate-Range Forces (INF) Treaty a whole class of nuclear weapons was disarmed. One can say that INF Treaty was one important step of fulfilling the NPT disarmament obligation.

The German delegation of the Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e.V. will acknowledge this through a public action on the opening day of the 2018 Preparatory Committee (PrepCom).

It will start with a vigil on the Place des Nations near the Broken Chair at 08:15, which is approximately the time when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. It will include exhibits that feature quotes from Mayors for Peace as part of its international art project “50 Cities 50 Traces—for a world without nuclear weapons”. It will continue with a vigil at 11:02 to demand that Nagasaki be the last city to experience a nuclear bombing. The action will end 11:58 with a collective wish to stop the Doomsday Clock moving further forward.

The public action will also demand that the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) enter into force as soon as possible.

You are invited to join the vigils and to drop by at anytime!

By joining the action, you can take photos to share with your friends, and the world, and send the message that states must keep their promises and eliminate nuclear weapons. •

For information please contact: Wolfgang@50cities-50traces.org.

Workshop about the INF-Treaty
INVITATION
Tuesday, April 24th 15:00
Palais de Nation, Room XVI

Greetings by Stephanie Eßwein,
Mayor of Mutlangen,Germany
Comments by Pavel Podvig,
Russian Nuclear Forces Project
Comments by Jackie Cabasso,
Western States Legal Foundation
Comments by Susi Snyder,
Pax, Netherlands

The INF-Treaty made Mutlangen, a deployment site of nuclear Pershing II missiles, nuclear weapons free. The Mayors of the region and the peace movement are concerned about this cornerstone for European security. In the Mutlangen Manifesto they express the importance of the treaty for nuclear disarmament and security, the demand, that it should be maintained and explain they will do for a more peaceful and nuclear free world.

Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck, Chairman of the Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen will facilitate the exchange about the Mutlangen Manifesto between NGOs and Diplomats.
Contact: wolfgang.schlupp-hauck@t-online.de
Panel Discussion on the Nexus between the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and Article VI of the Nonproliferation Treaty

25 April 2018, 18:00 to 20:00,
Maison de la Paix, Room A2
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2, 1202 Genève, Switzerland

Speakers:
Ms. Susanne Hammer, Mission of Austria
Ms. Katy Donnelly, Mission of New Zealand
Ms. Sarah Bidgood, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies
Ms. Selma van Oostwaard, PAX and Amplify

Please RSVP: RSVP@peaceinstitute.org

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The NPT News in Review will be published regularly throughout this conference. The next edition will be published after the general debate has concluded. To receive upcoming editions via email, please sign up to our NPT mailing list at www.reachingcriticalwill.org/news/subscribe.

You can also follow NPT news and alerts live on Twitter with @RCW_ and using the hashtag #NPT2018
The Trump Nuclear Doctrine:
The Nuclear Posture Review’s Threats to the NPT and Humanity

Speakers:
JACKIE CABASSO, Western States Legal Foundation
LISA CLARK, International Peace Bureau
KATE HUDSON, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament
CESAR JARAMILLO, Project Ploughshares
RICK WAYMAN, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Tuesday, 24 April 10:00-13:00
Room XVI

For more information about side events taking place on other dates, visit http://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/npt/2018/calendar.
Identifying concrete steps to move forward
nuclear disarmament

Date & Time:       Place:
Wednesday, April 25       Palais des Nations
13:15-14:45       Room XXVII, Building E

Speakers:
- Hidehiko Yuzaki, Governor, Hiroshima Prefecture
- Sibylle Bauer, Director of Studies, SIPRI
- John Borrie, Chief of Research, UNIDIR
- Nobuharu Imanishi, Director of Arms Control and Disarmament Division,
  Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Science Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Japan
- Nick Ritchie, Lecturer, University of York

More speakers may be added.
After the presentation of new SIPRI and UNIDIR research, there will be discussion with
respondents and the audience.

Moderator:
- Nobumasa Akiyama, Professor, Hitotsubashi University *
  * Dr. Akiyama is a member of Hiroshima Prefecture’s “Hiroshima for Global Peace” Plan Promotion Committee.

Contact: Yuriko KOSHOBU(Ms), Peace Promotion Project Team, Hiroshima Prefecture
E-mail: y-koshoubu85347@pref.hiroshima.lg.jp
* No registration is required

New publication

Hiroshima Report 2018: Evaluation of Achievement
in Nuclear Disarmament, Non-proliferation and
Nuclear Security in 2017

Hiroshima Report 2018 can be downloaded at

For the “Hiroshima for Global Peace” Plan, please visit:
http://www.pref.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/peace-en