Civil society presentations
to the First Preparatory Committee for the 2015 NPT Review Conference
Vienna, Austria | 2 May 2012

Introduction

Delivered by Beatrice Fihn, Reaching Critical Will of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF).

Ambassador Woolcott, delegates, Secretariat, and fellow members of civil society,

I am here representing Reaching Critical Will, a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which serves as NGO Coordinator for the participation of civil society in the NPT review cycle and as an NGO liaison with the Secretariat.

Reaching Critical Will and all other NGO representatives are grateful for the opportunity which you have given to civil society to share with you some of its views about the subject of this meeting. Like all of you, we have great expectations on multilateralism and negotiations as the appropriate way of providing security and safety for all humankind.

We have been following the proceedings closely and holding our own educational and advocacy events. This year, 480 individuals from 60 organizations from around the world have been accredited to attend this first Preparatory Committee.

The presentations you are about to hear have been in development since January. Over one hundred NGO representatives have participated in the drafting of some of these statements through a process held mostly online, to facilitate the participation of people working around the world. We are distributing packets of the presentations, which are also available online at www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

We hope the views presented here provide some food for thought in your deliberations. We always welcome feedback, questions, and comments and are happy to engage with delegates at any time. As many of you have pointed out, collaboration and cooperation between governments and civil society has resulted in great achievements on arms control and disarmament issues in the past, and we believe that there are limitless possibilities for the future.

Without further ado, I would like to invite the first speaker of our programme to take the floor, Mayor Taue of Nagasaki.

Thank you.