



Proliferation

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is undoubtedly one of the greatest threats to international peace and security. In this new millennium, the world must not only combat the “traditional” threat of horizontal proliferation, but also that of vertical proliferation as well as the proliferation of WMD by non-state actors.

Many States voiced strong support for Security Council resolution 1540, including Norway, the Netherlands (on behalf of the EU), Japan, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Ukraine, Kuwait, India, Belarus, China, Russia and others. Mexico maintained that, while in support of UNSC 1540, “the most effective and lasting manner to face the danger of those weapons would be to proceed to their total elimination, through multilaterally negotiated disarmament agreements.” This view was shared by others, including Egypt, Algeria and Jamaica, which also favors “binding commitments... (to) be negotiated in a more inclusive, open and comprehensive manner.” New Zealand cautioned that UNSC resolution 1540 should not “impede knowledge or technology flows to countries that can demonstrate full treaty compliance.” India echoed this concern: “Measures aimed at expanding or perpetuating the existing regimes of export controls and technology denials will hinder peaceful applications of nuclear technologies and reinforce the existing divide between nuclear and non-nuclear States by creating a new class of haves and have-nots.”

In addition to UNSC 1540, the EU also voiced support for the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) while maintaining that, “as a last resort, coercive measures in accordance with the UN Charter” are also a possible answer to WMD proliferation.

India announced that it would sponsor for the third year its resolution, “Measures to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction”, which was adopted by consensus the past two years. Along with increasing attention to possible terrorist proliferation, many States remain concerned with the acquisition of WMD by States.

Many renewed their calls for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program, reconsider its position on the NPT and accede to international safeguards.

Limited but notable attention was also paid to the situa-

tion in Iran, with several States urging Iran to comply with the September 2004 resolution of the IAEA.

Others, such as Turkey, called for making the Additional Protocol a condition of supply for highly sensitive nuclear equipment and technology. Kenya, Kazakhstan and Japan also called for Additional Protocol universality, while Ukraine and the US noted their pending ratifications.

States such as Sri Lanka, Lesotho, the United Arab Emirates and Mexico called for a halt to vertical proliferation. Mexico deplored that “nuclear weapons continue to be produced and improved despite the numerous appeals made to halt any kind of new development of nuclear weapons.”

Brazil, too, noted the threat posed by vertical proliferation, and the ways in which proliferation by existing Nuclear Weapon States incites proliferation by others. It stated that “new rationales are sought for the maintenance or development of new and more sophisticated nuclear weapons. The unfortunate consequence of such development is that countries may be led to see nuclear weapons as security enhancers.” The New Agenda Coalition (NAC) concurred, stating that “all States should jointly and effectively raise the guard against the further spread of nuclear weapons – and thus prevent both vertical and horizontal proliferation”.

To many, these challenges of proliferation highlight the need for nuclear abolition. The NAC stated that they “...are more convinced than ever that nuclear disarmament is imperative to international peace and security. Current events underline our basic belief that the only real guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is their total elimination, and the assurance that they will never be produced again.” (See Nuclear Disarmament report, page 6 and the NAC report, page 17.)

For more information on UNSC resolution 1540, see: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/SC/SC.html>
For more information on vertical proliferation, see the NGO presentation on the issue to the 2004 NPT PrepCom: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/prepcom04/NGOpres.html#vertical>

- Rhianna Tyson, Reaching Critical Will
Michael Spies, Lawyers’ Committee on Nuclear Policy

Conventional Weapons/ Small Arms and Light Weapons

While most States remain frustrated with the slow progress on nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation, the views on progress regarding conventional weapons disarmament, including small arms and light weapons (SALW) were mixed. Although many stressed the massive danger posed by these weapons, just as many were eager to note the progress that has been made in recent years to combat the scourge.

Indonesia regarded SALW as “a menace linked with terrorist, separatist groups, drug trafficking and other forms of violence,” while Australia noted that the distribution, accumulation, spread and misuse of SALW continues to contribute to the breakdown of law and order in many regions. The Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union, asserted that regional conflict has precipitated a huge proliferation of small arms, landmines as well as increased crime.

Turkey, along with India, is of the view that excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW poses a significant threat to peace, security and political stability as well as to social and economic development of many communities and countries. (See Disarmament and Development report, page 13.) “It is generally believed that on average half a million people are killed each year with small arms,” stated Ambassador Ilicak, noting that 2/3 of these deaths are not attributed to armed conflicts. Bahamas, speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that “CARICOM States do not produce SALW, nor are we large-scale importers of this category of weapons. Yet despite our best efforts, we continue to face the uncontrolled spread of illicit weapons throughout our territories, most times through the illegal diversion of weapons from the illicit trade”.

Much support was voiced for the various existing legal mechanisms against the proliferation of SALW. The Rio Group, CARICOM, Switzerland and Guatemala, renewed their commitment to the UN Plan of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects (PoA) as well as to the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking of Arms. Kazakhstan and Malaysia urged Member States to supplement implementation of the PoA with broad-based consultations to enhance international

cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering of SALW. Norway argued that, although the PoA is an important multilateral tool which should be fully implemented, States must get serious with the problem of illicit small arms brokering.

CARICOM, like many other States, praised the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on marking and tracing SALW. While participating actively in this working group, China is also preparing to ratify the Firearms Protocol in order to ensure its early entry into force.

Many States recognized the need for regional efforts to combat SALW proliferation. Peru discussed Decision 552 by the Andean community, which establishes a plan for implementation of the PoA. Kenya hosted the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa conference that culminated in the signing of the Nairobi Declaration and the consequent Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of SALW on April 21, 2004.

States were also eager to discuss national efforts to combat SALW. Ukraine, with the assistance of the NATO Partnership for Peace Trust Fund, expects to destroy 1.5 million pieces of SALW and 133 thousand tons of surplus ammunition. Australia noted the SALW workshop it co-sponsored with Japan, held in Fiji in August this year. Belarus, in its advocacy for transparency measures in armaments, stated that it regularly contributes to the UN Register on conventional arms as well as information on the PoA in accordance with resolution 56/24. South Africa announced that, with co-sponsorship by Japan and Colombia, they will again this year submit a resolution to address illicit SALW.

It is worthwhile to note that last year’s resolution on tracing SALW generated one of the most contentious debates throughout the 58th session. With so much support generated through its first successful working group meeting, perhaps the adoption of this year’s resolution will command the consensus hoped for by most of the international community.

- Dan Kuwali,
Amnesty International

Disarmament and Development

The First Committee, as Morocco reminded Member States, is charged not only to handle matters of disarmament, but all matters relating to international security. And for many States, the notion of security is broader than the traditional concept of “national security,” which fails to take into account issues of poverty, HIV/AIDS, development, environment and health.

The concept of “human security” was raised by numerous States throughout the high-level segment of the GA General Debate. China noted that international peace and security are threatened by numerous factors, including the “growing gap between the rich and the poor;” Ambassador Hu advocated for “a new security concept centered on equality, mutual trust, mutual benefit and cooperation” in a push to promote “common security for all countries”.

The Netherlands, on behalf of the European Union, maintained that poverty, disease, and economic failure are often linked to the spread of violent conflict. Correspondingly, they affirmed the EU’s commitment to addressing the root causes of instability including reduction of poverty.

Many link the slow progress of development to the ever-increasing global military expenditures.

The United Arab Emirates noted “the significant human, financial and environment losses caused by huge volumes and types of weapons used in these conflicts and the consequent difficulties of building peace in the post conflict countries. These resources could have been utilized in implementing the development programs and in promoting welfare of our people.” UAE also noted that “global military expenditure on production and stockpiling of ... weapons has increased by 5% in the past year, in contradiction to the commitments and undertaking made by the States in the Millennium Declaration”.

Brazil also noted “arms expenditures divert substantive financial, material and human resources that could otherwise be invested in social programs.” It recalled the “New York Declaration on the Action Against Hunger and Poverty” and suggested that new and innovative financing mechanisms would raise funds needed to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Jamaica commented on the issue of global military expen-

ditures, expressing concern that “world military spending has increased to a total of \$956 billion dollars with about 75 per cent of this figure being expended by developed countries.... It is ... all too clear that there has not been comparable spending in promoting economic development or in alleviating poverty.”

Zambia echoed this feeling when it stated that the First Committee has the opportunity to contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security by releasing “resources that continue to be spent on armaments in favor of human development.” Zambia also recommended that another Special Session of the GA devoted to disarmament (SSODIV) could address these issues. (See Disarmament Machinery report, page 9.)

The Holy See made a clear link between the growing rate of military expenditures and the growing global fear of terrorism and insecurity, stating “A clear result of such over-spending on the instruments of death is that governments are much less able to meet long-term commitments to education, health care and housing.... Security for all is enhanced when disarmament and development steps complement one another. We must point up the economic benefits of disarmament measures.” They also noted that while poverty and terrorism are not explicitly linked, they do share certain conditional relationships.

Some States, including Ukraine, Jamaica and the Rio Group praised the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, established through resolution A/RES/57/65, originally sponsored by Russia. Indonesia also praised the GGE, recognizing the importance of “exercising restraint in military spending with a view to provide resources that can be utilized for social and economic development”.

Read more about the Human Security Network at: <http://www.humansecuritynetwork.org>

For more information on human security and disarmament, see: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/social/genderdisarm/humansec.pdf>

- Susi Snyder,

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Regional Issues

Several States mentioned the importance of attention to regional issues, including the need to address conflicts and specific weapons issues – from weapons of mass destruction to small arms, light weapons, and landmines – at a regional level, as well as the need to strengthen regional cooperation and alliances.

The Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Brazil on behalf of the Rio Group drew attention to regional work on small arms and landmines and to the work of the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Brazil, in its national statement, also noted its participation in regional security alliances, none of which incorporated nuclear weapons in their doctrines. Venezuela noted “unwavering support” for regional efforts, and Peru highlighted the Declaration of Presidents that establishes an Andean Peace Zone covering “the territories, the aerial space and the waters under sovereignty and jurisdiction of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.”

The Netherlands on behalf of the EU called for regional solutions to regional problems. Russia said that regional progress on security and disarmament could have “a positive impact on relevant global efforts” and noted that in July 2004 Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine ratified the Agreement on Adaptation of the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe. Russia called for entry into force of this agreement and said it “should provide a considerable input to the European security.” Kazakhstan mentioned its initiative of a Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building in Asia, “an effective tool designed to strengthen confidence and security in the region,” and also noted multilateral cooperation efforts such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Community. Belarus likewise supports confidence-building measures in the regional context and in 2004 completed agreements setting up a “belt of good-neighborliness” with Latvia and Poland.

Under-Secretary-General Nobuyasu Abe drew attention to the work of the Department for Disarmament Affairs’ three Regional Centers in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific and “especially the critical situation facing the Regional Center in

Lome, Togo.” The Holy See underscored the “extremely concerning” spread of conventional weapons particularly in Africa.

Côte d’Ivoire, Kenya and Eritrea noted the importance of regional cooperation to dealing with small arms and light weapons and/or landmines. Kenya specifically mentioned the Nairobi Declaration, a regional effort they hosted and the only binding instrument on small arms and light weapons in the region.

Egypt described challenges to Middle East and Northeast Asian security. Morocco said that the Mediterranean region needs equitable development in order to be secure.

Algeria stated that it will host a conference of the League of Arab States on small arms and light weapons and that the Mediterranean will be “a lake of peace and cooperation.” Saudi Arabia noted Israel’s lack of IAEA safeguards as a block to Middle East peace.

China, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand were among other States which stressed the significance of regional efforts and the need for regional cooperation on security matters.

- Merav Datan and Rhianna Tyson, Reaching Critical Will
Nancy Colton, Anglican Consultative Council

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Negative Security Assurances

The creation of legally binding and internationally mandated Negative Security Assurances (NSAs) - the promise from Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) to never attack a Non-Nuclear Weapon State (NNWS) with nuclear weapons - has remained an elusive goal. Most NWS, however, have avoided formalizing such commitments, maintaining that the assurances contained within Security Council resolution 984 remain sufficient.

Yet as Sweden, on behalf of New Agenda Coalition (NAC) noted, some States "entertain the notion that nuclear weapons may be used preemptively against Non-Nuclear Weapon States, or deem them as a possible defense against conventional weapons." Sweden, among others, illustrates that this policy may become increasingly stubborn as the dangers posed by terrorism and the illicit weapons trade grow.

While the threat of regional and international terrorism is clearly of deepening concern, many States reaffirmed the idea of NSAs as a positive and effective way of curbing fear and violence. As the Ukraine emphasized, "legally binding security assurances by the Nuclear Weapon States to the Non Nuclear Weapon States Parties to the NPT (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) will significantly strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime by eliminating plausible incentives for pursuing nuclear capabilities."

Mongolia concurred that it "stands firmly for early start of negotiations on a multilateral, unconditional, and legally-binding instrument on negative security assurances to the Non Nuclear Weapon States Parties to the NPT." Sweden also commented that "legally-binding security assurances are yet to be given by the nuclear weapon states to the non-nuclear weapon states of the NPT these and other issues need to be seriously dealt with."

United Arab Emirates and NAC drew more concrete relations between the failure to ratify negative security assurances and proliferation. Sweden said that "if the Nuclear Weapon States continued to treat nuclear weapons as a security enhancer there is a real danger that other states will start pondering whether nuclear weapons would not

be a security enhancer also for them." The link between trust and security was highlighted by United Arab Emirates: "Non Nuclear Weapon States pursuing to acquire similar weapons are urged to reconsider their positions and to resort to self-control. In this context, we call for creating an international binding instrument [that] provides safeguards to the Non Nuclear Weapon States against the threats of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction."

China, the only recognized NWS to consistently reaffirm its support for NSAs, did so again this first week of general debate: "China has undertaken unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones. China urges all nuclear-weapon states to make the same commitment and conclude an international legally binding instrument."

While most calls for NSAs remain in the context of the NPT, India, one of the remaining hold-out States, identified these measures as a concrete step that could be taken towards the larger goal of universal disarmament. As India stated, "while pursuing the goal of nuclear disarmament, it is desirable to take immediate steps for reducing nuclear danger [including] legally binding commitments on non-first use of nuclear weapons and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states."

It was precisely this contention - the negotiation of NSA in the context of the CD or in the NPT - that prevented the previous resolutions on NSAs to enjoy consensus. Pakistan, a non-NPT State Party, sponsored the 2003 resolution, which called for negotiations to take place in the CD. That draft resolution, A/C.1/58/L.8, garnered 98 affirmative votes with 59 abstentions.

For more on Negative Security Assurances, see: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/issues.htm#NSA>

- Laura Humphrey,
Reaching Critical Will

First Committee Reform

Following the adoption of GA resolution 58/41 on the “revitalization of the working methods of the First Committee,” the issue of First Committee reform has taken center stage at this 59th session.

Chairman de Alba (Mexico) is doing his utmost to catalyze the discussion on reform into action. Intent on maximizing the resources and time allocated to the Committee, he is advocating a plan to incorporate the views from disarmament experts from international organizations such as the IAEA, the OPCW and UNIDIR. He has also voiced strong support for interventions from non-governmental organizations during the thematic debate.

The United States, meanwhile, held several informal consultations in the hopes of commanding consensus on its newest draft resolution, “Improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee.” (59/L.1)

Draft resolution 59/L.1 is significantly more ambitious than many expected. With just two preambular and 4 operative paragraphs, the draft proposes to, *inter alia*:

- limit the number of studies commissioned by the Committee;
- cap the number of draft resolutions and decisions;
- accept consensus-based resolutions on a biennial or triennial basis only;
- institute automatic “sunset” provisions for all UN activities generated by the Committee;
- “instruct the Secretariat” to “improv(e) the accuracy of its (budget) projections and provide advance notice of financial implications of draft resolutions;

Despite the US’s best efforts to achieve consensus on their draft, a large number of delegations are expressing significant opposition.

Some view the US proposal as a piecemeal solution to a problem that pervades the entire UN system.

States such as South Africa and China believe that proposals to revitalize the First Committee “shall proceed in synchronization with reform of the UN as a whole and other disarmament mechanisms,” according to China’s Ambassador Hu Xiaodi. The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) also favors this approach, and specifies that “any

change in the... disarmament machinery, including the First Committee, will have to be made in the context of the fourth special session of the General Assembly on disarmament.”

Russia contended that First Committee reform must “ensure an interlink with the enhancement of the activities of the General Assembly as a whole.” Côte d’Ivoire urged an interlinkage with the existing proposals to reform the Security Council.

Many support the idea of bi- or triennializing resolutions, but only on a “case by case” basis. Brazil conceded that suggestions to do so “could come from the Chair, but decisions on this regard must be taken with the backing of Member States.” The NAM accepts the bi- or triennialization of resolutions “provided that it is voluntarily initiated and based upon a request by their sponsors.”

With so many disagreements, the NAM is heavily considering tabling their own resolution on First Committee reform.

Most States are in strong favor of reforming the First Committee in some way. As Canada stated, there exists a “need to extract maximum value” of this universal meeting of Member States, and welcomed proposals that would “move us from monologue to dialogue.”

Guatemala warned that “the nature of the First Committee should not be changed, inasmuch as it is the most representative international body for dealing with disarmament and security questions.” The Rio Group reminded States that “the main objective of the process of revitalization... shall be to recover its original political role, as mandated by articles 11 and 13 of the Charter.”

Others, including Australia, Eritrea, Kenya, Kuwait, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Morocco and the Caribbean Community also expressed the will to reform the Committee, without delving into further specifications. Argentina, China, Cuba, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, the European Union and the NAM have submitted their views on reform in the Secretary-General’s report (A/59/132).

A New Agenda

This year the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, and Sweden) is foregoing the omnibus resolutions and non-strategic nuclear weapons resolutions it has sponsored in the past and putting forward one short resolution. The draft calls for accelerated implementation of the practical steps for nuclear disarmament agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. It also identifies certain priorities: early entry-into-force of the CTBT; reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons and non-development of new types of nuclear weapons; negotiation of an effectively verifiable FMCT; establishment of a CD subsidiary body to deal with nuclear disarmament; and compliance with the principles of irreversibility and transparency and development of verification capabilities.

In Sweden's October 4 statement on behalf of NAC, UN Permanent Representative Anders Lidén warned that "if the nuclear-weapon states continue to treat nuclear weapons as a security enhancer there is a real danger that other states will start pondering whether nuclear weapons not be a security enhancer also for them. We also face the risk that terrorists could acquire such weapons... Nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing processes. Without nuclear disarmament, we run the risk of a new nuclear arms race. Non-proliferation is vital. But it is not sufficient." These observations are especially germane this year in light of widespread concern regarding Iran's nuclear ambitions and the Democratic Republic of Korea's nuclear weapon program, and the public revelations regarding the A.Q. Khan proliferation network based in Pakistan. (See Terrorism report, page 5.)

The determination of the New Agenda countries to carry on with their pathbreaking mission was highlighted by a September 21 op-ed in the International Herald Tribune signed by the foreign ministers of all seven States. The ministers stated bluntly that "the primary tool for controlling nuclear weapons, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, risks falling apart, with further proliferation as a consequence." The ministers emphasized that both non-proliferation and disarmament obligations must be met, stating that the "nonproliferation treaty cannot be complied with à la carte." However, they observed, "very little progress has been made" on the disarmament side of the equation.

First noting US withdrawal of support for the CTBT and the delay in China's ratification, the ministers went on: "Instead of eliminating nuclear weapons, some nuclear powers have plans to modernize or develop new kinds of nuclear weapons or new rationales for them. Some even entertain the notion that nuclear weapons may be used pre-emptively against non nuclear-weapon states. In Russia, nuclear weapons are increasingly seen as a possible defense against conventional weapons. Instead of destroying their nuclear warheads, the United States and Russia store them. The [2002 Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty] is an important step in the right direction, but it does not require the destruction of these weapons, does not include tactical nuclear weapons and does not have any verification provisions. The process is neither irreversible, nor transparent."

- John Burroughs and Michael Spies,
Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy

First Committee Reform Continued

Despite the differing proposals, "the real challenge," as outlined by Jamaica, "lies in garnering the requisite political will and commitment to achieve the stated goals and objectives of this Committee as these pertain to disarmament and nonproliferation. The demonstration of such commitment...is vital to any improvement in the effectiveness of this Committee."

To read the Secretary-General's report on "Improving the effectiveness of the methods of the First Committee," see: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/lcom/lcom04/docs/132.PDF>

NAM's contribution can be found here: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/lcom/lcom04/docs/132Add4.pdf>

To read the Chairman's proposal on the structure of an interactive debate: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/lcom/lcom04/docs/chairprop.pdf>

- Rhianna Tyson,
Reaching Critical Will

Transparency and Verification

During this first week of the First Committee, delegations and non-governmental organizations discussed various aspects of verification both inside and outside of the official session.

Canada announced that it will introduce a resolution that would call for the establishment in 2006 of a Panel of government experts to consider and report in the same year concerning the issue of verification, the 16 principles and the appropriate UN role therein. Ambassador Meyer said that legally binding agreements equipped with robust verification provisions remain the preferred means for consolidating advances on the non-proliferation, arms control and disarmament front. Canada hopes the UN panel of government experts will serve to identify practical steps to enhance the role of verification.

Ambassador Rasta Mohd Isa of Malaysia, which chairs the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), said the existing multilateral-treaty-based mechanisms, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) need to be strengthened "without resorting to other means, such as calling for action through the Security Council."

Ambassador Abdulaziz Nasser Al-Shamsi of the United Arab Emirates called for developing specialized mechanisms which are capable of following up and monitoring the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons.

New Zealand's Caroline McDonald said that any multilateral disarmament treaty- if it is to be effective- must have at its foundation a robust and comprehensive verification mechanism. The purpose of such a mechanism is to focus the efforts of the international community on compliance and reassure all States that independent verification will be carried out. Independent verification is an indispensable element of establishing disarmament and non-proliferation norms.

Stephen G. Rademaker, Assistant Secretary of State for Arms Control of the United States, advocated negotiation of a legally binding treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or nuclear explosive devices. (See Fissile Materials report, page 3.) While such

a treaty, he said, is "an important step to reduce nuclear dangers," he reiterated that "the United States has concluded that effective international verification of an FMCT is not realistically achievable." He further said "One important advantage of negotiating an FMCT without verification provisions is that it will be possible to conclude such a negotiation far faster than would be the case with an FMCT that sought to achieve effective verifiability." Ambassador John Dauth of Australia said on October 4 that "Australia believes, to be credible and effective, the FMCT should include appropriate verification measures."

Ambassador Anders Liden of Sweden, on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition, noted the lack of verification provisions in the Strategic Offensive Reduction Treaty between Russia and the United States. Archbishop Celestino Migliore Apostolic Nuncio, the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the UN, also advocated verification measures for nuclear disarmament.

On October 7, the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security hosted a panel entitled "Should the UN Have a Standing Capability for WMD Investigations?" Patricia Lewis, the Director of UNIDIR, Ambassador Henrik Salander, the Secretary-General of the WMD Commission, Dr. Barbara Hatch Rosenberg, the Chair of the Scientists Working Group on CBW of the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, and Dr. W. Pal S. Sidhu of the International Peace Academy, addressed the forum. Such a capability could operate as a subsidiary of the Security Council, or of the office of the Secretary-General. Among the questions explored were: whether such a capability should be independent; whether the Security Council and the Secretary-General, as well as States Parties to relevant multilateral treaties, should be able to call upon its services; whether Iraq was an exceptional case; and how this capability might be called upon affirmatively by States wishing to have their declarations verified - such as Libya's declaration that it was eliminating its WMD programs.

- Ann Hallan Lakhdir,
NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security

Disarmament Education

The commitment of Governments to disarmament and nonproliferation education is a commitment to the future security of their own countries, as well as to global peace and stability. In the first of its 34 recommendations, the 2002 United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education (A/57/124) encouraged Member States to share their experience in this field with other Member States, international organizations, the Department for Disarmament Affairs and civil society.

The first report of the Secretary-General on implementation of those recommendations (A/59/178) was issued this year. It contains valuable information on Governmental action, including promoting translation of materials into national languages, stimulating curriculum work with Ministries of Education, making use of advisory councils, promoting contacts with academic institutions, and supporting quality disarmament educational programs carried out by civil society organizations.

In his statement to the First Committee, Ambassador Enrique Berruga Filloy of Mexico recognized the importance of Disarmament Education in fostering a culture of peace and non-violence and to promote deeper awareness of the costs of an armed world. Ms. Caroline McDonald demonstrated New Zealand's commitment to disarmament and nonproliferation education by noting that her country has dedicated funds to NGOs to implement the recommendations of the 2002 study.

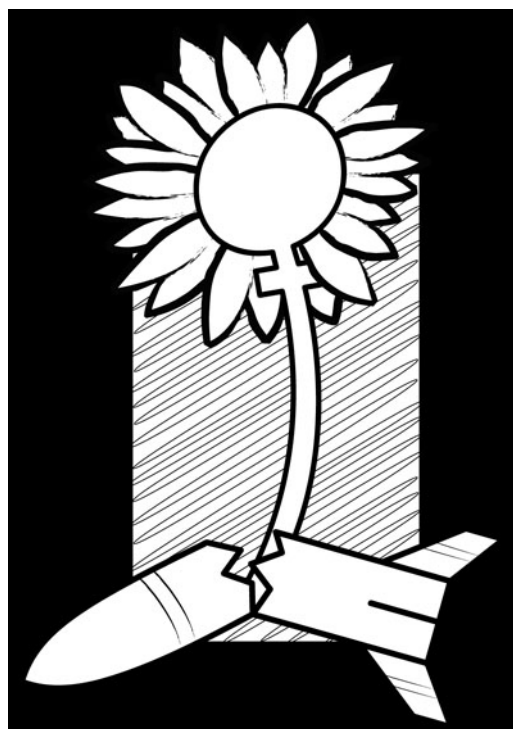
Japan and Canada indicated that they will be discussing this issue more thoroughly in the thematic debates, and the Holy See re-emphasized their commitment to education efforts.

The Department for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) will be holding a lunchtime discussion to share and build upon best practices and to promote new disarmament and non-proliferation education initiatives on Tuesday 12 October, where Member States, NGOs and Agencies will have an opportunity to discuss the Secretary-General's report as well as other efforts which have been taken to implement the 2002 study.

Dr. Kathleen Sullivan of Educators for Social Responsibility is also holding a Disarmament Education

course for diplomats every week throughout the First Committee. All delegations are invited to attend. For more information, contact Dr. Sullivan at: edna@best-web.net.

- Susi Snyder,
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



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political will for
nuclear disarmament