
IV. EMPOWERMENT

NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION

Why is a nuclear weapons convention necessary?¹

- The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is ineffective, asymmetric and therefore instable and not longer legitimate
- A global system based on pressure would be the consequence of the current deadbeat and asymmetric system
- Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and arms control are going hand in hand and need to be converted into a new effective and pre-emptive arms control system
- Also the access to fissile material is splitting the world: this potential and the reality of being the basis technology for a nuclear weapons program needs to be addressed

→ The non-further-proliferation regime must be transformed in a real non-proliferation system in which the central element of the Non-Proliferation-Treaty is replaced by a Nuclear Weapons Convention. For making this possible also the framework needs to be transformed which means that new international treaties need to enter into force to create trust like the CTBT (Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty), OuterSpace Treaty (Prohibition of weapons systems in outer space) and FMCT (Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty).

What would a Convention do?

The model of a Nuclear weapons Convention (NWC) from 1999, overworked in 2007 by IPPNW (physicians), IALANA (lawyers) and INESAP (scientists) would prohibit the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. It would require all nuclear-armed countries to destroy their nuclear weapons in stages. The model also prohibits the production of fissile material suitable for making nuclear weapons and that the delivery systems are destroyed or converted to a non-nuclear function.

Phases of elimination

The Convention outlines a series of five phases for the elimination of nuclear weapons:

1. Taking nuclear weapons off alert,
2. Removing weapons from deployment,
3. Removing nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles,
4. Disabling the warheads, removing and disfiguring the "pits", and
5. Placing the fissile material under international control.

More information can be found at icanw.org

In the initial phases the US and Russia, which possess 95% of the world's nuclear weapons, are required to make the deepest cuts in their nuclear arsenals.

Verification and Implementation

States would need to establish a national agency which is taking care for the implementation of the treaty on a national level. The NWC would establish an agency to ensure that countries comply with the terms of the treaty similar to the biological and chemical weapons conventions. It will be responsible for verification, ensuring compliance, and decision making, and will comprise a Conference of States Parties, an Executive Council and a Technical Secretariat.

Provisions are included for consultation, cooperation and fact finding to clarify and resolve questions of interpretation with respect to compliance and other matters. A legal dispute may be referred to the International Court of Justice by mutual consent of States Parties. The Agency is also empowered to request an advisory opinion from the ICJ on a legal dispute.

¹ by Wolfgang Liebert

METHOD 1: HOW COULD A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS LOOK LIKE?

MATERIAL: *colorful cards, flipchart and markers*

LOCATION AND TIME: *tables, and a board or a wall to put up the cards, approx. 10-20 minutes depending on the size of the group*

What would really be changed in world without nuclear weapons? Theoretical two different scenarios would be possible: A world on the way to peace or a world on a way to a conventional world war. What do you think is more likely? The group is collecting key words or pictures on cards on the question: How could a world without nuclear weapons look like?

Possible answers:

- No incidents, security and health
- Security of the future: the power to destroy the world several times is not existing
- New divisions of power: more equality in the UN security council → has an effect on decisions of the council → national interest are not that important any longer
- Could lead to an end of civil use of nuclear energy
- Success: could lead to new movement in disarmament on conventional weapons
- New wars with conventional weapons
- Suspension of beginning a war would be lower
- Constructive change of mind of people
- Balance of power between all states, because until now also the conflict between nuclear and non-nuclear states is leading to conflicts
- Political process created trust and is changing the international community and the feeling of need of deterrence
- Our environment is much saver
- Psychological effect: no longer a nuclear threat

METHOD 2: IS A NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD POSSIBLE?

MATERIAL: *chairs*

LOCATION AND TIME: *it should be a quiet and comfortable location and a minimum of 30 minutes time.*

For discussing the question of the dimension of a nuclear weapons free world along the question „**Which ways of thinking and structures of power needs to be changed to create the political will to abolish nuclear weapons?**“ the **method of a “Fishbowl discussion”** can be used.

Further questions on the issue could be:

- How is it possible to ensure that no state acquires nuclear weapons again?
 - Therefore have a look at the „CTBT“ in the chapter “Radioactivity”
- How could the way towards a nuclear weapons free world look like?
 - Therefore see the information part on a nuclear weapons convention

The idea of a fishbowl discussion is that the discussion isn't dominated by a few persons and everybody gets the possibility to contribute. You put up a circle of outer chairs where everybody finds a place the so called “fishbowl”. In the middle you put up 3-5 chairs depending of the size of the group for the “fishes”. Only who is sitting at the inner chairs is allowed to speak. Everybody is invited to sit down at these chairs to contribute but always one chair must be free for somebody new willing to join the discussion. That means if all chairs are occupied one person, the one speaking now or said the most, needs to come to an end and leave the middle, so that one chair gets free again. The people in the middle can discuss among each other.