



General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 August 2013

Original: English

Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

Geneva 2013

Item 5 of the agenda

Develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons

Contributions from Non-Governmental Organizations

Key recommendations on promoting education

Submitted by Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

1. Recognizing the importance of implementing Action 22 of the 2010 NPT Review Conference's final document, of Recommendation 29 in the Study on Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Education of the United Nations, and of working paper 5, titled An exploration of some contributions that also Non-Nuclear Weapon States could engage in to take multilateral nuclear disarmament forward, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF) contends that the report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (OEWG) should contain recommendations on how the international community can further promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education activities for the advancement of a world without nuclear weapons. These recommendations should include: the establishment of an annual international model conference, specifically on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, reinforcement of the Academic Impact of the United Nations, and the creation by the United Nations of a decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons of the United Nations.

Recommendations

I. Annual international model conference on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation

2. The NAPF proposes that the United Nations should convene an annual international model conference, specifically on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation related issues. The conference would be launched on the margins of the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The conference would be held for two days in multiple consecutive side events to the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations. The participants would be students from different regions of the world.

3. Should such an opportunity arise, a coordination team would be established to organize various sessions of the meeting. The team would consist of representatives from civil society and related agencies of the United Nations. This team would select a specific theme for each session.

4. The participants would consist of students from different regions of the world with an emphasis on students from developing countries. The participants would be students who have extensive experience in leadership, grass-roots initiatives, and exhibit a strong knowledge of both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

5. During the sessions of the conference, participants would share their views on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. A senior expert would chair the first meeting on the Study on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education of the United Nations. Subsequent sessions would be on different topics related to either nuclear disarmament or nuclear non-proliferation.

6. A series of meetings with representatives from civil society and selected diplomats would be convened for the participants to gain an understanding about the positions of the different actors involved in the international disarmament machinery.

7. Thereafter, participants would prepare a statement to the delegations to be presented to the delegates during the civil society presentations at the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

8. Upon the completion of the conference, participants would be encouraged to become advocates for a nuclear-weapons-free world by organizing lectures and other activities within their universities.

II. Reinforcement of the United Nations academic impact, a programme by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations

9. Additionally, underlining recommendation 27 of the Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education of the United Nations, which encourages the inclusion of disarmament education and training in post-conflict programmes, we call upon States to reinforce the Academic Impact of the United Nations. Specifically, the NAPF calls for States to include a reference in the final report about the need to revise the Academic Impact of the United Nations 7th principle, “commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education”, in order to emphasize the importance of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation courses, projects and programmes.

10. The Academic Impact of the United Nations should have a responsibility to promote nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation education because the current generation of

youth in universities must urgently understand the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. By educating the youth, it is possible to create future leaders who will support the abolition of nuclear weapons.

III. Establishment by the United Nations of a decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons

11. Multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations can be seen as a joint effort of people and States to eliminate the dangers related to the existence of nuclear weapons. However, in order to tackle this problem, it is crucial for the international system to promote peace studies in schools and universities. By promoting peace studies, it is possible to shed light on the real threat that weapons of mass destruction pose to the upcoming generation of aspiring diplomats. Therefore, the NAPF contends that the international community must establish a decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons of the United Nations.

12. Establishment of the decade would indicate that the international community recognizes the importance of the subject in the current context.

13. The international community would further affirm that, due to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and the increasing momentum for a treaty banning nuclear weapons, it is time for the United Nations to effectively educate the youth on nuclear disarmament related issues. Therefore, the final report should contain a reference to the establishment by the United Nations of a decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons.

14. This decade would be aimed at promoting educational initiatives to empower citizens to take action to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world. Empowerment includes both formal education efforts and non-formal education in order to build citizens capacity to participate in creating momentum for nuclear disarmament. Specifically, this decade would provide a framework to:

- (a) Increase grass-roots knowledge about nuclear weapons and disarmament and opportunities for participation;
- (b) Educate a new generation of leaders in a more progressive educational system;
- (c) Facilitate initiatives for introduction of nuclear disarmament courses in the curricula of universities and other academic bodies;
- (d) Support civil society efforts to create awareness regarding nuclear weapons through formal and non-formal educational methods and tools;
- (e) Encourage the exchange of knowledge and educational tools for nuclear disarmament among States, academic institutions, think tanks, and other civil society entities; and
- (f) Call for States to disseminate and exchange best practices amongst themselves and with the general public on their educational initiatives to fulfil the recommendations.

15. The United Nations, by establishing a decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons, experts could share their knowledge with young people on the subject of nuclear disarmament. States, academic institutions, think tanks, and other civil society entities would also be reinvigorated to share good practices on nuclear disarmament education.

16. The decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons would empower, support, and legitimize the initiatives, programmes and projects proposed by the bodies of the United Nations, State agencies, academic institutions, and civil society members.

17. The decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons would also encourage States to actively participate in the Study on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation education of the United Nations.

18. The decade of empowerment for a world free of nuclear weapons would continue to use and develop the framework created by the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010), and the Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004).
