There is more than one possible path to a nuclear-weapons-free world.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has offered a five-point plan that includes “good faith” disarmament negotiations by the parties to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Nuclear-weapon-free-zone agreements – such as the Pelindaba Treaty, which bans nuclear weapons from the entire continent of Africa and entered into force in July – envision the denuclearization of the world one region at a time.

Incremental steps – such as deeper reductions in the US and Russian arsenals, entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and a treaty banning the production of fissile materials – could lead to other steps that, in turn, can bring us closer to zero.

Regardless of the path, the task of eliminating nuclear weapons must not be passed on to another generation. Whether the launching pad for a Nuclear Weapons Convention is the 2010 NPT Review Conference, a summit on nuclear disarmament convened by the UN Security Council, a bold initiative by the US and Russia, or a process similar to how the Landmines Treaty became law, we can no longer afford to delay.

In the months leading up to the NPT Review, IPPNW and ICAN will press member states to convene negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention (NWC). Along with other abolition organizations, we are rallying around a call by Mayors For Peace that sets a target date of 2020 for the completion of negotiations – something that the nuclear powers have always resisted and continue to resist.

Of course, no one can predict the outcome of the Review. But what is clear is that political support for the Convention is growing steadily in UN and governmental circles. If the Review sets more modest goals, we’ll press the case for the Convention in other forums, for as long as it takes to get action.

For the next six months, there’s a lot that IPPNW supporters can do.

If you’re in the US, let President Obama and members of Congress know that ratification of the CTBT is crucial, that START should produce deeper cuts than anything that’s been proposed so far, and that the forthcoming Nuclear Posture Review should be the first to explicitly antic-
ICAN NEWS ROUNDDUP

On July 15 the entire Southern Hemisphere became a nuclear-weapons-free zone (NWFZ) with the entry into force of the Pelindaba Treaty. Africa now joins South America (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the South Pacific (Treaty of Rarotonga), Southeast Asia (Treaty of Bangkok), the Antarctic, Central Asia, and Mongolia—114 countries in all—in banning nuclear weapons from their territories as a matter of international law. IPPNW Regional Vice President Walter Odhiambo (Kenya) called the treaty “a major historical development applauded by the entire IPPNW fraternity and African region in particular.”

The Obama administration announced in September that it was scrapping plans for missile defense deployments in the Czech Republic and Poland. IPPNW welcomed the decision as the cancellation of “a controversial and wasteful program that never should have been started in the first place.” The Bush administration plan to install radars and interceptors in Eastern Europe had met with significant public opposition and had threatened to undermine disarmament negotiations between the US and Russia.

President Obama chaired a special UN Security Council session on disarmament on September 24, bringing with him a draft US resolution intended to continue the momentum towards “the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” IPPNW’s co-presidents called on President Obama “to challenge the Security Council to demand a comprehensive, accelerated plan for the global elimination of nuclear weapons from the UN member states.”

Japanese voters elected their first entirely new government in almost 50 years, installing a new Prime Minister—Yukio Hatoyama—who has been openly critical of reliance on US nuclear weapons and has embraced the goal of a nuclear-weapons-free world. In an op-ed article published in Japanese and Australian newspapers, ICAN chair Tilman Ruff and IPPNW program director John Loretz urged the new government to reject extended deterrence “in favor of a sustainable, non-nuclear framework for Japanese and regional security,” including a North Asia nuclear-weapon-free zone and endorsement of the principle of no first use.

The Australian Joint Standing Committee On Treaties—a multi-party parliamentary body that was tasked earlier this year with recommending ways to strengthen Australia’s compliance with international disarmament agreements endorsed the Nuclear Weapons Convention and urged the government to support its adoption. “Australia can help end the threat of...

Peace Through Health: How Health Professionals Can Work for a Less Violent World

Edited by Neil Arya, Joanna Santa Barbara Publisher: Stylus/Kumarian Press, kpbooks.com

We typically define and talk about wars using the language of politics, but what happens when you bring in a doctor’s perspective on conflict? Can war be diagnosed like an illness? Can health professionals participate in its mitigation and prevention? The contributors to this book engage with these ground-breaking ideas and describe tools that can further peace once war is understood as a public health problem.

"Neil Arya, Joanna Santa Barbara, and the community of experts they have gathered in this book not only subject the causes of war to a rigorous public health analysis, but also explore a radically different model for preventing armed conflict: primary prevention in a social framework, in service of the common good. ‘Peace through health’ may sound like a slogan, but readers of this book will learn that it is a profound and practical vision of a social compact in which war has no place."

- John Loretz, IPPNW Program Director
nuclear weapons and war and support a roadmap for the elimination of nuclear weapons,” said ICAN-Australia Campaign Coordinator Dimity Hawkins.

IPPNW PRESENTS AT ANNUAL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY

IPPNW’s Mexico affiliate, Medicos Mexicanos para la Prevencion de las Guerra Nuclear (MMPGN), led by Dr. Jans Fromow-Guerra, presented the workshop *Peace and Progress through Health: A Medical Perspective* at the September UN conference in Mexico City. The workshop examined the interconnections between poverty, inequality, development, violent conflict, and health, and how health professionals can partner with others in civil society to employ a public health approach to prevent violence, promote peace building, and support healthful policies. In addition, Dr. Evan Kanter and Dr. Khagendra Dahal of Nepal, led a workshop on *Nuclear Famine: The Health Consequences of Nuclear War*. Dr. Kanter also represented IPPNW at a breakfast meeting chaired by Ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo, the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights (see photo on pg. 4).

IPPNW BRINGS HEALTH MESSAGE TO GLOBAL WEEK OF ACTION

IPPNW affiliates worldwide participated in a range of multi-media activities to highlight the health effects of armed violence during the *Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence* (June 15 - 21, 2009).

Our *Medical Voices Against Violence* project was launched with video and written stories contributed by medical students and doctors from the US, India, Germany, and Nigeria.

Drs. Andrew Winnington and Nick Wilson published in the *New Zealand Medical Journal* about IPPNW/New Zealand medical student violence prevention work, including injury research in Papua New Guinea.

Nigerian student leaders launched the “*Bringing Peace to the People*” radio series on Silverbird Rhythm FM in Jos, Nigeria to educate on the human costs of violence.

Nepalese medical students of PSR/Nepal led by Chudamani Giri and Prakash Paudel conducted a range of activities, from letters to the editor to collecting One Bullet Stories to “teach-ins” at high schools.

WHO Violence Prevention Alliance meeting where members discussed the power and educational value of personal stories about violence. The concept is similar to the One Bullet Stories series, but from an IPPNW-member first person account perspective. The project encourages people to submit video, audio or written accounts of their personal experiences with violence, and how these experiences influenced their involvement in working for peace.

Add your voice to this project and tell us what inspires or motivates you! Medical Voices Against Violence stories and guidelines are available on the IPPNW web site.

ONLINE:IPPNW.ORG/PROGRAMS/AFP/MVAV.HTM

Physicians for Global Survival (IPPNW/Canada) physician Andrew Pinto, attending the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, organized a call for disinvestment of the school’s endowment fund from the arms industry, and hosted a screening of the powerful film "Lord of War."

Ecuadoran physician Nidia Rodriguez met with rural area colleagues to discuss peace through health issues and how to become involved in IPPNW’s violence prevention activities. See the IANSA web site for a complete list of global activities.

ONLINE:IANSA.ORG

IPPNW PRESENTED AT UN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION NGO CONFERENCE: DRS. JANS FROMOW-GUERRA, MEXICO AND KHAGENDRA DAHAL (NOT PICTURED), NEPAL CONDUCTED WORKSHOPS ON NUCLEAR FAMINE AND SMALL ARMS VIOLENCE ISSUES. PSR’S EVAN KANTER (RIGHT) WITH MEXICAN AMBASSADOR CLAUDE HELLER (CENTER) AND JOHN BURROUGHS (LEFT), EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LAWYER’S COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR POLICY.

THE NEXT GENERATION: IPPNW DOCTORS GATHERED FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL EUROPEAN DOCTORS IN TRAINING RETREAT FROM AUGUST 7-9, 2009. THIS YEAR, DOCTORS MET AT “THE SANCTUARY” IN DUBLIN, IRELAND TO TAKE A BREAK FROM DEMANDING RESIDENCY PROGRAMS, TO RECONNECT WITH FELLOW MEDICAL PEACE ACTIVISTS, AND TO GET UPDATES ON ICAN AND AIMING FOR PREVENTION CAMPAIGN ISSUES. ONLINE: IPPNW-STUDENTS.ORG

BRINGING PEACE ISSUES TO MEDICAL CONFERENCES: DURING THE STUDENTS’ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BIOMEDICAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN TEHRAN, IRAN, DR. SUHEIR KHAJURIA (RIGHT), LEILA MOEIN (CENTER) AND FATEMEH BAHMAEE (LEFT) COORDINATED A SESSION ON GLOBAL HEALTH. THE SESSION INCLUDED DESCRIPTIONS OF IPPNW’S CAMPAIGN AIMING FOR PREVENTION AND THE HEALTH EFFECTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF SMALL ARM INJURIES AND VIOLENCE. FATEMEH BAHMAEE ALSO GAVE A PRESENTATION ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS USED DURING THE IRAN-IRAQ WAR.
Now—some might dismiss the goal of nuclear disarmament as utopian. The cynics say, ‘Stop dreaming. Be realistic.’ They are wrong. Nuclear disarmament is the only sane path to a safer world. Nothing would work better in eliminating the risk of use than eliminating the weapons themselves.

Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon opening remarks to the Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament.
Deaths from armed conflict are increasing, with about 740,000 people a year killed in non-war-related interpersonal violence, with untold more injured, and governments need to invest more human and financial resources in armed violence prevention around the world, says the recent policy paper Armed Violence Reduction by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

As health professionals we are on the front lines of gun violence in our hospitals and clinics. We see the human consequences of shootings and how injuries can destroy people, families and communities. The management of gun violence diverts vital resources from critical areas such as health education, nutrition programmes, and preventing infectious diseases.

Excerpt from a letter sent by IPPNW physicians to UN representatives

The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, shepherded by the Swiss government and now signed by over 100 UN member states, seeks to encourage these investments. Objectives include to support the work of governments, international, and civil society organizations that are committed to reducing armed violence within a development perspective; and to strengthen efforts to integrate armed violence reduction and conflict prevention programs into development frameworks, including investments in local sustainability and public health.

In May 2009, IPPNW underscored the need for countries to prioritize health in our contribution to a joint civil society submission to the United Nations Secretary General, as part of a member states consultation process encouraged by the Geneva Declaration. IPPNW and affiliates from Canada, Zambia, Nigeria, and Nepal also sent letters to their UN representatives. Letters offered IPPNW’s unique medical perspective. Recommendations include a call to support hospital and community-based research projects to identify risk and resilience factors, increase support for victim assistance programs, and educate about the public health burden of gun-related injuries. The Secretary General’s report on the consultation is due out during the 64th session of the General Assembly.

Online: Declaration
Read how more than 100 countries have resolved to promote sustainable security and a culture of peace. GENEVADECLARATION.ORG
IPPNW INTERVIEW: HOMSUUK SWOMEN AND OGEBE ONAZI

MEDICAL STUDENTS BRING PEACE TO THE PEOPLE ON NIGERIAN RADIO

PHOTO: A FEW OF THE RADIO SHOW PARTICIPANTS, LEFT TO RIGHT, CHIMENYE OKPALA, DJ STINO, OCHANYA OTOWO, HOMSUUK SWOMEN, AND OGEBE ONAZI.

VS: Why did medical students develop this radio program?

HS/OO: We were motivated because of the recurrent violence that rages Jos. We want to sensitize the public on the health effects of firearms, and to advocate for tougher gun legislation. We have been amazed by the media’s influence on people. This informed our decision to use radio as a means to disseminate information.

VS: Have you experienced any types of violence in your personal lives or in your communities?

OO: I was attacked and robbed at gun point on my way to my off-campus house. Also, in Jos, we witnessed an ethno-political violence that left many injured, homeless and dead in November, 2008.

HS: Yes! In my hometown Yelwa-Shendam, there was massive destruction of lives and property in 2004. I was living in fear during the 2008 violence because my neighborhood in Jos had a 50/50 religious population waiting to fight at the slightest provocation. I also witnessed the violence in 2001 as human beings were roasted and axed before my eyes.

VS: What expertise as medical students do you bring to this issue?

HS/OO: We are armed with the knowledge of how small arms violence affects health. We seek to use health education and promotion as our potent advocacy tools. We are also products of IPPNW’s Dr. Caecilia Buhmann’s Peace through Health training workshop.

VS: What has the response been from listeners of the radio show, and also from the radio management?

HS/OO: The response has been quite impressive, from commendations, contributions, and criticisms to requests to join IPPNW.

VS: Tell us about your plans for the radio show for the next year.

HS/OO: We would like to make the program more interactive. We also intend to provide seminars on violence and health, and extend our fellowship to NGOs and community based organizations of like mind to work with us. We hope to extend the program to IPPNW student movements in other parts of Africa.

VS: How can IPPNW members help support your work?

HS/OO: To continue the program will require funding, so supporting us financially would help us immensely! We also welcome suggestions, recommendations, and constructive criticisms for the programs.

mvalenti@ippnw.org for more information.

Bringing Peace to the People is an innovative new radio program on Silverbird Rhythm FM 93.7 in Jos, Nigeria developed by medical student members of the Society of Nigerian Doctors for the Welfare of Mankind (SNDWM). The project is led by Nigerian medical student leaders Ogebe Onazi and Homsuk Emmanuel Swomen. It is designed to educate about violence prevention, and inspire Nigerian youth and others to work for peace. The program has featured interviews with health experts and call-in segments, and has gained a following of listeners.

ONLINE: INTERVIEW
Read the full interview on the IPPNW blog and join the “IPPNW Radio Show” fan page on Facebook for more photos.

PEACEANDHEALTHBLOG.COM
Along the route, participants will visit the last remaining nuclear weapons base in Germany, hold public demonstrations, and meet with politicians and media representatives. Organized by IPPNW medical students, the Biking Against Nuclear Weapons (BAN) tour will be 10 memorable days of biking from Düsseldorf, Germany, through Strasbourg, France, arriving at the IPPNW Congress in Basel, Switzerland.

Violent Conflict and Health in a Globalized World, is one of the first major attempts to determine the connection between globalization, violent conflicts, and health issues, with special attention being given to the role of health workers.

This Congress will be the first opportunity after the May 2010 NPT Review for IPPNW affiliate members to connect, be inspired, and to plan a course of action for a nuclear-weapons-free world. Some 400 to 600 doctors from all over the world are expected to attend, along with as many as 200 medical students.

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SEPTEMBER 21 - 24, 2010
10TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION (SAFETY 2010)
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
SAFETY2010.ORG.UK
Safety 2010 is a major world conference bringing together stakeholders in the prevention of unintentional injuries and violence from around the world to debate, discuss and exchange information and experiences. The key theme of the 2010 conference is Safe and Equitable Communities.

Call for participation by affiliates! Abstract submission deadline for Safety 2010 is January 15th 2010; scholarship applications due before December 15, 2009.