

Advocacy report template

GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of UN Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of UN low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of UN Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.

Please bear in mind these three overarching, long-term goals in any UN intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these three goals further.

NB: *Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.*

Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting)

NGO Committee on Peace Information and Discussion Meeting
Vienna International Center, 25.10.2017

Subject of meeting:

The **Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty** and
The **Nobel Peace Prize for ICAN**

Refers to SDG no #: (please reference)

SDG#16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

Relevant treaties/conventions/resolutions:

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Intervention by GWI rep: (what you did)

Attended session and wrote comprehensive report

How this serves GWI members:

- a. Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- b. Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- c. Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.

Take-Aways:

The Committee members were delighted at the decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee to award the Nobel Peace Prize to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons ('ICAN') **"for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons"**. ICAN had been launched in Vienna in 2007 and several NGOs of the NGO Committee on Peace – Vienna are partners of ICAN and have somehow contributed to the treaty.

1) The Committee watched an introductory video interview with former IPPNW ('International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War') President Ron McCoy, who had had the original idea to found ICAN.

2) The director of ICAN Austria, Ms. Nadja Schmidt, ran us through the 10-year history of ICAN, gave an update and explained next steps.

- ICAN now comprises 468 non-governmental organizations from about 100 countries. The campaign had begun in Australia and was officially launched in Vienna at the NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty) conference in 2007.
- ICAN had campaigned to achieve the ban on nuclear weapons on humanitarian grounds, following the example of the ban on landmines, cluster bombs and chemical weapons. Gaining the support of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement had been important - it allowed the campaign to highlight the human consequences of nuclear detonations, so that disarmament was not seen as purely a security issue.
- Ten years after ICAN's 2007 launch, the UN adopted in July a new treaty that imposes a total ban on nuclear arms called the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)**. This has been hailed as a significant milestone in the seven decades' effort to prevent a nuclear war since two atomic bombs were dropped on Japanese cities Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 during World War II.
- ICAN is an open, grass roots campaign. The Nobel Prize recognizes the work of all the NGOs involved, not least the Hibakushas, the survivors of the atomic bombs.
- Going forward, there is much still to do. It will be important to continue to work closely with governments, to form a core group of states working in close cooperation.
- ICAN's Nobel Prize Acceptance speech in Oslo will be on December 10th.

The landmark **TPNW** treaty was adopted on July 7 by 122 non-nuclear-weapon states. It prohibits the development, testing, production, possession, stockpiling, use, or threatened use of nuclear weapons. The Treaty completes the process of stigmatizing and delegitimizing nuclear weapons on the basis of their catastrophic health, environmental, and humanitarian impacts. These were the first UN negotiations that were completely open for civil society - NGOs had access to all the diplomats and everybody could listen via web cast. The UN Secretary-General expressed hopes that this new treaty will promote inclusive dialogue and

renewed international cooperation aimed at achieving the long overdue objective of nuclear disarmament.

When it was pointed out that all nine nuclear powers - China, France, India, Israel, North Korea, Pakistan, Russia, the UK and the US - had boycotted negotiations on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, Dr. McCoy said in an interview that it was up to residents in those countries to highlight that their governments were in possession of “illegal” nuclear weapons.

3) The chairman of the NGO Committee on Peace, Dr. Klaus Renoldner of IPPNW Austria, talked about the political evolution of the process on the TPNW Treaty and the role taken by different states. He gave background information on the work and achievements of IPPNW, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1985, and talked about the importance of the NPT. He alerted us from a doctor’s viewpoint to the devastating consequences of nuclear attacks.

Next steps: (what needs to be done)

Civil society / GWI members interested in peace and reducing the risk of nuclear war should continue to be active. For example: create awareness about TPNW, advocate that the money that go into upgrading nuclear weapons could better be used for education and toward the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

GWI is a member of UNODA’s DNP Education Partnership.

<http://icanw.org/>

<http://www.icanw.org/treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons/>

<http://undocs.org/A/72/206>

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Treaty-on-the-Prohibition-of-Nuclear-Weapons-information-kit-on-signature-and-ratification.pdf>

<https://www.dnpeducation.org>