

2014 NPT Preparatory Committee NGO Forum

Time for Action to Establish a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone

The United Nations Headquarters in NY, NGO Room C

Wednesday 30 April 2014, 3pm - 5:50pm

Co-Sponsors

Peace Depot (Japan), Peace Network (ROK), Peace Boat (Japan), People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy (ROK), Blue Banner (Mongolia)

Cooperation

International Peace Bureau, Nautilus Institute, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament, Religions for Peace, World Council of Churches

In 2013, there were new attempts to move forward the denuclearization of Northeast Asia. On 26 July, the report of the UN Secretary General on the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters was submitted to the General Assembly. In the report, the Board recommended that the Secretary General consider appropriate action for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in Northeast Asia (NEA-NWFZ). On 26 September at the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, Mr. Elbegdorj Tsakhia, President of Mongolia, mindful of the country's experience in ensuring security primarily by political and diplomatic means, expressed its readiness to work with the countries of the region to see if and how a NWFZ could be established in the region.

Meanwhile, globally the humanitarian initiative on nuclear weapons has been rapidly growing. Recognizing its importance, Japan and ROK have participated in both Oslo and Nayarit conferences. Moreover, when the 4th Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons reaffirmed that for the very survival of humanity nuclear weapons must never be used again under any circumstances, Japan, as a country that suffered atomic bombings, signed the statement for the first time.

Since 2003, like-minded NGOs in Japan and ROK, in the belief that a NEA-NWFZ can greatly contribute to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free world, have kept convening a joint workshop on the issue of NEA-NWFZ at the NPT meetings. Through the workshop, we have expanded the support by local authorities, religious community, parliamentarians and peace NGOs in a broad range. One of the fruits for example is that 542 mayors have signed on a statement of support for a NEA-NWFZ in Japan as of March this year.

Today, welcoming the aforementioned changes, this forum is held to report on the efforts which have done by civil society to the United Nations and the relevant governments in Northeast Asia and discuss a NEA-NWFZ in a constructive manner. This forum will provide a timely opportunity for all of us to seek for appropriate actions to establish a NEA-NWFZ.

Programme

Moderators:

Ms. Maria Kim, Researcher of Peace Depot,

Mr. Akira Kawasaki, Co-representative of Peace Boat

Opening 15:00-15:05

Opening Remarks

Introductory Speeches by Experts 15:05-16:05

NEA-NWFZ: a Regional Approach toward Nuclear-weapon-free World

Ms. Keiko Nakamura, Associate Professor of RECNA, Nagasaki University

How to solve the Nuclear Weapon Problem on the Korean Peninsula: Civil Society Perspectives

Ms. Mihyeon Lee, Coordinator of PSPD

Mongolia's Position on the Issue of Establishment of a NEA-NWFZ

Mr. Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan, Director of Blue Banner

Q and A

NGO Presentations 16:05-16:45

Report on the Activities of Japanese Civil Society

Mr. Ichiro Yuasa, President of Peace Depot

Efforts and Visions of Local Authorities in Japan

Mr. Tomihisa Taue, Mayor of Nagasaki, National Council of Japan Nuclear Free Local Authorities

Mr. Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima, Mayors for Peace

Support for a NEA-NWFZ by Religious Community

Mr. Jonathan Frerichs, Programme Executive for Peace-building and Disarmament, WCC

Mr. Kyoichi Sugino, Deputy Secretary General of Religions for Peace

Essential Role of Parliamentarians

Mr. Alyn Ware, Global Coordinator of PNND

Comments and Discussion 16:45-17:45

Comments

Mr. Randy Rydell

Senior Political Affairs Officer in the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs

Ambassador István Gyarmati (via Skype)

Chair of the 61th session of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Delegates of the Six Party Talks Nations

Open Discussion with All Participants

Close 17:45-17:50

Publication of a Joint Statement on NEA-NWFZ

Closing Remarks

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