



Welcome To Global Action's Summer 2011 Newsletter!

This has been a remarkable summer of program work for the Global Action team. Led by our coordinator Katherine Prizeman, our extraordinary temporary staff, including Jessica Erdman, Amélie Faucheux, Nafeesa Jafferjee, Anthony DiRosa, Giedre Zavistauskaite and Nnamdi Iheakaram, helped us to both clarify and fulfill our responsibilities to a wide range of UN initiatives. In our own quiet way and with the help of strong and skillful partners, we were able to impact security policy in countries from all inhabited continents: providing guidance to diplomats working on the Arms Trade Treaty, helping CEDAW reflect more fully on the security dimensions of women's full participation in political and policy life, ensuring that policy on our 'responsibility to protect' civilians from atrocity crimes focuses on implementation tools and not only norms, and so much more.

Our activities are about to get a major boost as we welcome back Melina Lito to our staff. Melina has been pursuing law studies in Detroit, but has never strayed far from the GAPW family. She is among the most competent, thoughtful and kind people we have ever had in this office, and we look forward to her input and leadership – primarily on our Women, Peace and Security program, but also on civilian protection/RtoP.

Melina's presence raises the bar both for our policy impact and for our office infrastructure. As you know, we run a highly cost-efficient office, paying very modest salaries and relying heavily on the skill and kindness of partners – most notably John Burroughs and the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy. As our office expands and we move closer to achieving independent 501C3 status, our financial needs are inching up as well. We have no aspirations to become a large, heavily-branded organization, but we do seek to ensure that we can meet our growing obligations both to the UN itself and to diverse member states in capitals worldwide.

You can help. We will soon be sending out another formal request for funding support, either by check or through the 'Network for Good' program available through our website. For those of you who are capable of making larger donations, you might wish to sponsor (and even attend) one of our low-cost, high-impact regional events (projected over the next year in Ecuador, Belgium, Nigeria, Lebanon, the Philippines,

Japan, and Australia). Most of our events are organized with copious quantities of in-kind labor and bring together government and military officials, educators and civil society leaders to highlight human security priorities and commit to collaborative security practices.

We hope that you can find a way to help support this work. We also hope that you will take opportunities to visit us at the UN or to help us weigh in more effectively on some of the important, security-related issues now facing our planet.

Women, Peace and Security Update

**Cross-Cultural Partnerships for
Peace
July 29, 2011**



GAPW recently hosted an informal breakfast meeting featuring Susan May Granada and Sabsy Palanca, both of the Philippines. The women were on their way to Bogota to kick off a new partnership — the Colombia-Philippines Comparative Learning Exchange — linking faith-based social development and peace advocates in the two countries. A group of UN-based practitioners from the ICR2P, WCC, SGI WFUNA and more gathered to exchange views about implementation of the Responsibility to Protect, the Arms Trade Treaty, and Security Council Resolution 1325 which calls for increased participation by women in all peace and security policies.

Susan, who has abundant experience as a conflict resolution specialist in Muslim areas, now works for Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches - Peace and Reconciliation Commission and has been a longstanding friend of GAPW. Sabsy represents the interest of the Filipino business community in peacemaking through the Spirituality in the Workplace Movement. Not surprisingly there were clear differences of perspective that animated the conversation — differences of setting, of faith perspective, of vocation, even of levels of faith in the UN system.

These differences were developed kindly at our meeting but also reminded us of the many struggles and cultural contexts that must continually refresh our policy pronouncements. We not only have to help develop policy, but to 'sell' it to constituents

who are often more baffled by than encouraged by the UN system. Moreover, we must do more to insist that the diverse security needs and aspirations of global constituents continue to inform that policy work.



Susan is also in the process of opening a GAPW-Asia Pacific office in Manila focused on both civilian protection and women's participation. We look forward to working more closely with her and her colleagues!

GAPW Delivers CEDAW statement at Day of Consultations July 18, 2011

On Monday, July 18th, Global Action joined a group of diverse civil society groups in presenting oral statements to the 49th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on "The Protection of Women in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations." The committee of experts held

a day of consultations hearing interventions from civil society as well as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN-Women, the Secretary-General's Special Representatives on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Children and Armed Conflict, Margot Wallstrom and Radhika Coomaraswamy respectively, Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, and several others from relevant UN agencies and offices.

Global Action focused its oral statement on recommendations to the CEDAW committee, governments, international actors and civil society for protecting women in conflict and post-conflict situations. These recommendations focused on access to education, the right to fruitful employment opportunities, and political participation. Without access to education and employment opportunities, women are without the tools necessary to participate in public life and take their rightful place in society.

Global Action's full statement submitted to CEDAW is available [here](#).

UN-Women Releases Strategic Plan for 2011-2013 June 27-30, 2011

The first annual session of UN-Women opened Monday, June 27th and sought to discuss its very first Strategic Plan for 2011-2013. The Plan sets out the vision, mission and priorities of UN-Women for supporting member states achieve women's equality and empowerment

across the UN system. While the plan will be assessed and adjusted in 2013, the long-term vision extends to 2017.

UN-Women Executive Director and Under-Secretary-General Michelle Bachelet underscored the importance of UN-Women in ensuring a more coherent UN response to advance gender equality. The Strategic Plan for 2011-2013 identified six priority areas as concrete targets to guide the work as part of the Development Results Framework (DRF).

For a full summary of the meeting, please click [here](#).

Disarmament Update

New Media and Social Technologies Workshop: Addressing Human Security Concerns June 17, 2011

On Friday, June 17th, in celebration of the Week of Global Action Against Gun Violence organized by the International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA), Global Action offered a social media workshop "Tweeting to End Gun Violence." Jessica Erdman and Katherine Prizeman of Global Action led the discussion on how to use social media tools more effectively for carrying out disarmament advocacy and education.

The workshop began with a presentation on the evolving role of social media and new technologies in addressing a wide

range of human security concerns. There is no dearth of examples in the news of the importance of social media tools, from the indispensable role of Twitter updates in the Arab Spring to the recent driving protest by Saudi women spurred on by a YouTube video. Jessica Erdman, a researcher at GAPW, then offered concrete tools and tips for using Twitter in an extremely useful "Nuts and Bolts of Twitter" presentation. The audience was then invited to participate in an interaction session whereby participants were invited to compose their own original 'tweets' as well as dissect examples of successful and not-so-successful postings.



Global Action has its own social media platform for discussing disarmament and other human security issues.

Follow @DisarmDialogues on Twitter and the Facebook page "**Disarmament Dialogues**" to join the conversation!

For the presentation materials on using Twitter more effectively, please contact

Katherine Prizeman at
coordinator@globalactionpw.org

General Assembly Plenary on Revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament July 27, 2011

As a follow-up to the September 2010 High-level panel on the "Revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations," the President of the General Assembly Joseph Deiss of Switzerland convened a plenary session to discuss options for moving forward the stalled negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

The GA debate to review options for revitalizing the Conference on Disarmament brought some hard options to the surface. Frustration with the performance of the CD on both content and procedural grounds was very much in evidence. But there was also a frustration of expectation, as noted by GA President H.E. Joseph Deiss, who reminded delegates that beyond the UN compound, disarmament expectations run high and that it is important not to have those expectations disappointed yet again. This is as important in the policy realm as in other areas of life - repeated dashing of expectations leads to both diminishing levels of engagement and serious doubts about the efficacy and legitimacy of the organization in question.



With the stakes high, it is not surprising that some statements were somewhat lacking in nuance. Some states merely reaffirmed the central role of the CD as the 'sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum.' States on the other end of the spectrum warned that, in essence, the CD had worn out its welcome and needed a significant overhaul if it was to retain any public or diplomatic legitimacy at all. These general and often polar assessments were supplemented by discussions about the causes of dysfunction within the CD. Some blamed the consensus rule that applies to process as well as content. Some blamed the political will of states. Mexico referred to the CD rules as more appropriate to a bi-polar Cold War world than to the current multilateral context. Some chose to blame (without naming) 'one state' that is alleged to be single-handedly holding up negotiations on an FMCT as well as discussions on nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances and the prohibition of weapons in outer space.

Clearly, the CD needs tangible pressure exerted on it in order to effect meaningful change, not merely rhetorical pressure from states expressing the same veiled threats and frustrations year after year. We need a push for reform that creates additional movement in the disarmament system without abandoning the possibility that the CD might find its legs once again.

Two of our most important partners, Reaching Critical Will and the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, co-authored an important editorial on CD reform. We have already done a good deal of outreach to NY missions using this very substantive and concrete paper offering recommendations on how to move the stalled CD negotiations forward.

For the joint position paper from Ray Acheson (RCW), Beatrice Fihn (RCW), and John Burroughs (LCNP) on revitalizing the CD, please click [here](#).

For a full review and editorial from Dr. Robert Zuber on the plenary, please click [here](#).

Linking Conflict Prevention, Small Arms Proliferation, and Arms Trade Regulation July 14, 2011

On July 14, as a contribution to diplomatic efforts in New York to prepare for negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty, the German Mission hosted a special meeting of the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures (GIS).

The event was highlighted by the appearance of Dr. Detlev Wolter, formerly co-chair of the First Committee of the General Assembly and currently Head of Division, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office for the German government. Detlev was instrumental in helping establish the GIS process and opening it up to select NGO involvement.



The event featured other interventions, including an especially helpful presentation linking and contrasting the Arms Trade Treaty and UN Programme of Action on Small Arms by Sarah Parker of the Small Arms Survey. GAPW, which has been involved with the GIS for several years, was also pleased to share a presentation on the impact of small arms on conflict prevention efforts.

GAPW has enjoyed a long relationship with Detlev and we were pleased to be able to convene a follow up luncheon in our office which allowed for some frank and hopeful assessments of the current state of

disarmament affairs offered by Detlev and some of our UN-based program partners.

For access to Dr. Zuber's GIS remarks, please click [here](#).



Third ATT PrepCom Closes July 11-15, 2011

This July saw the close of the third preparatory committee for the arms trade treaty (ATT) before next year's negotiating conference in July 2012. As Chair Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan alluded to Thursday afternoon, the preparatory committee stage has run its course in successfully laying groundwork for commencing the 2012 negotiations. Ambassador Moritan's non-papers successfully provoked a lively discussion last week at UN headquarters on a wide range of topics with particular focus on implementation and final provisions for an ATT.

We commend Ambassador Moritan for leading forward a potentially divisive

process that is, perhaps, one of the more complex in recent UN history. Through the provocative language contained in his compilation non-paper, we believe that next year's negotiations are poised to compress the ideas discussed in the second and third preparatory committees to give birth to refined, consensual arms treaty language. As noted by the Belgian delegation, diplomacy is an art. Ambassador Moritan has provided a solid canvas with the needed shapes, colors, and materials. The task now is for member states to exert a sufficient degree of fluidity, imagination, and creativity to refine the canvas and make the final work of art as 'striking' and universally 'attractive' as possible.

As has been the case during prior preparatory meetings, Global Action and its partners produced a daily monitor providing both summary and analysis on the previous day's discussions. They provide a detailed summary of the week's debate on the various issues fundamental to a future arms treaty.

All editions of the *ATT Monitor* and related articles are available on the Reaching Critical Will website [here](#).

Visit with Scholars from the Research Center of the UN and International Organizations of Beijing Foreign Studies University August 19, 2011

At the request of WFUNA and in acknowledgment of the new and welcome role they seek to play in disarmament, the Responsibility to Protect and other core human security issues, GAPW recently organized two meetings for visiting scholars from the Research Center of the United Nations and International Organizations of Beijing Foreign Studies University. The Center has taken a leading role in helping China enhance its functional leadership at the UN and in other international organizations.



WFUNA's Chinese visitors were addressed by Edward Luck, Special Representative to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, Norul Rashid from the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, and John Ennis and Ewen Buchanan who run the Information and Outreach Branch at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

The Chinese scholars expressed great interest in the presentations and tentatively offered their Center as the site of future national and sub-regional workshops,

especially focused on disarmament education and the Responsibility to Protect. GAPW carefully follows the positions of China in the First Committee of the General Assembly, in the preparations for an Arms Trade Treaty, during GA and other discussions on civilian protection, gender-based violence and the responsibility to protect, and during the Security Council debates. We welcome any and all efforts to assess important UN issues within China and celebrate what appears to be more robust involvement by Chinese academics and civil society representatives in key aspects of human security.

For more information on the Research Center in Beijing, click [here](#) (available only in Chinese).

For an English-language brochure on the Center, please click [here](#).

Civilian Protection Update

New Security Leadership in Europe: Conference at the UN Office in Vienna May 23-25 2011

While GAPW is fairly successful in holding together diverse security priorities in its New York-based programs - especially in the areas of disarmament, gender and civilian protection - it is rare to have an opportunity to address multiple areas of

security interest overseas with a broad array of skilled participants.



Through the generosity and skill of partners in three cities - the United Nations Youth and Student Association of Austria in Vienna, the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Berlin, and the Bonn International Centre for Conversion - GAPW was able to explore strategies for development of its core program areas with a wide range of actors from Ambassadors and UN officials, to parliamentarians and educators.

But the highlight for us was the large number of young professionals who appeared at our workshops and meetings, sharing their research, their aspirations, their enthusiasm and determination for change. For example, our own Katherine Prizeman made her 'policy debut' in Europe, making splendid presentations on social media in Vienna (Katherine and

Marc Melich of the UNYSA in Austria were key organizers of the Vienna workshops) and the gender implications of disarmament in Bonn. Former staffer Ruben Reike and Simona Novinec from Slovenia each made several helpful interventions on the Responsibility to Protect in Vienna, and Marius Mueller-Hennig of the FES organized a spirited parliamentary briefing in Berlin that featured several strong, young policy voices.



For the full conference program, please click [here](#). For the presentations from the individual speakers, please visit our website.

New Horizons and Old Problems of UN Peacekeeping: Conference in Berlin July 9, 2011

Under the leadership of Marius Hennig of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, a group of

experts from diverse global regions gathered in Berlin on July 7 for working meetings and a public event highlighting the 'New Horizons' process and the tools and capacities needed for the international community to provide effective, prevention-based responses to the threat of atrocity crimes. This event was particularly timely given the controversy over NATO implementation of the Libya resolution, the struggles of the UN to come up with a coherent policy on Syria, and persistent (though mostly ignored) calls for the UN to be allowed to develop last-resort response tools that are not dependent on the uncertainties of the troop contributing country model or undermined by slow responses to legitimate findings of atrocity crimes by the Security Council.

The event featured experts in peacekeeping from Nigeria, Nepal, South Africa and other countries in Europe and beyond, as well as David Haeri, Chief of the Best Practices Section for DPKO. While the FES and most all the participants reinforced the need for more robust capacity in the preventive, early-warning and diplomatic areas, they also understood that even the most effective prevention will sometimes fail. In such instances, our responsibility to protect civilian lives requires an effective, complementary capacity that can quickly enter arenas of violence and provide stabilizing services. In limiting the damage cause by atrocity crimes, timing is critically important. The more quickly we can act to stabilize a dangerous situation, the more quickly societies can restore the peace.

For the conference program, please click [here](#).

For Dr. Zuber's presentation, please click [here](#).

GAPW Supports New R2P Outreach in Nairobi, Kenya July 4-8, 2011



For a number of years, GAPW has pursued partnership opportunities with the World Federation of UN Associations, helping where we can to more effectively address national UNAs with timely policy content and strategies from the United Nations. UNAs worldwide, especially their youth chapters, represent a treasure of commitment and energy that we are occasionally (as we were last month in Austria) privileged to engage.

Most recently, we were pleased to join WFUNA at the UN compound in Nairobi for a multi-faceted day of discussion on the

Responsibility to Protect norm. Discussions included diplomats, UN officials and dozens of young practitioners from UN associations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Under the guidance of WFUNA's Laura Spano and Irene Martinetti, the main agenda was to provide content insight on the RtoP norm - its promise for ending atrocity crimes and its status among governments as expressed through statements and policy activities at the UN.

There was also time for the UNA youth to discuss the relevance of the norm to their local and national work on conflict prevention and other, complementary activities. Among other intervention, GAPW was pleased to join a final panel highlighting the day's insights and relating those findings to the legacy of Dag Hammarskjöld alongside representatives of the Swedish and Kenyan governments. GAPW very much appreciates the invitation to participate in this event, but even more supports the deepening involvement of WFUNA and individual UNAs in international efforts to prevent and address atrocity crimes.

For more information on the Symposium program, please click [here](#).

For Dr. Zuber's remarks, please click [here](#).

GA Debate on the Regionalization of the R2P Norm July 12, 2011



The General Assembly held an interactive thematic debate on the role of regional and sub-regional arrangements in implementing the responsibility to protect. The dialogue featured two panels, with the morning and afternoon sessions. The morning panel discussed the regional and sub-regional perspective and experience while the afternoon panel discussed the UN perspectives and experience.

The event commenced with opening remarks by Mr. Joseph Deiss, President of the General Assembly and moderator of the dialogue. The panelists for the morning session were Mr. Knut Vollebaek, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, the executive secretary, International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and Mr. Victor Rico Frontaura, secretary for Political Affairs of the Organization of the American States.

The morning panel discussions were followed by an interactive dialogue with the member states and the afternoon session opened with remarks by Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations. The panelists for the afternoon session (also moderated by Mr. Deiss) were Dr. Edward C. Luck, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect and Dr. Francis M. Deng, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide. The dialogue explored ways to improve and strengthen the responsibility to protect concept by reinforcing regional and sub-regional collaborations with the UN in preventing and protecting individuals from mass atrocity crimes.

Prior to the debate, some of our Canadian partners, under the leadership of Fergus Watt of WFM-Canada, undertook outreach to the NY missions providing background information on the UNEPS initiative.

Next year's debate will be focused on the 'third pillar' of R2P and how the international community can and should respond and with which tool. We hope it will be a fruitful discussion of the various tools available—including a rapid response standing capacity force such as UNEPS.

For a detailed report from the International Coalition for R2P, including member state statements and interventions from civil society, please click [here](#).

Hopeful Practices in Central Africa June 2011

Global Action greatly values the efforts of our regional partners who are creating innovative activities and strategies to reduce conflict and build sustainable cultures of peace. We wish to highlight the extraordinary efforts of three affiliates in Cameroon who are changing the way peace and security issues are engaged while helping to identify and cultivate important local resources for making lasting change.



In Limbe, Christian Tanyi and the staff of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) are completing the current stage of efforts to create a viable Civilian-Military Partnership for Peace to help diverse actors in Cameroon society understand each other better — their security-related aspirations and needs as well as the skills that they will develop and

contribute to making their communities more peaceful and sustainable. For more information on LUKMEF's important programs in this area, click [here](#).

In Buea, Ben Mforndip Oru is involved in innovative training at the local university to introduce conflict prevention and resolution to a wide variety of professionals, including classroom teachers, tasked with nurturing,

guiding and inspiring youth. Ben can be reached at: ben.mforndip@gmail.com. In Yaounde, Eugene Ngalim and colleagues from the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace have organized diverse activities to support the international Global Week of Action against Gun Violence. Eugene has been a visitor in our New York office and has familiarized us with the wide

diversity of his involvements and successes.

For a French version of their program on Gun Violence click [here](#).

For an English version of their press release, click [here](#).

More information on any of our programs can be found on our [website](#).

Thank you for your continued support!



Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) was developed as a UN-based, transnational network of civil society, academic and diplomatic partners dedicated to practical measures for reducing levels of global conflict and to removing institutional and ideological impediments to addressing armed violence, mass atrocities and severe human rights violations at the earliest possible stages.

The GAPW Program Statement grounds its goals of conflict prevention in specific, integrated phases of policy work and pursues program priorities that demonstrate in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and robust multi-lateral institutions. Over the past decade, we have refined and promoted a comprehensive framework for human security that moves us towards a gradual, but irreversible, global demilitarization.

We continually highlight and integrate advances in early warning, conflict prevention, non-violent conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peacemaking, transparency and other confidence-building measures, nuclear and conventional disarmament, and the implementation of legal, diplomatic and other complementary response capacities to address genocide, crimes against humanity, rape as an instrument of war, and other gross violations of human rights. We collaborate with many regional civil society, religious and academic groups to implement and assess tools and strategies to promote local cultures conducive to more peaceful, sustainable living.