

Global Action to Prevent War

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to Global Action to Prevent War's Summer 2010 newsletter.

This second newsletter of the year finds us in a state of heightened excitement and diminished energy. This has been one of the busiest stretches that any of us can remember. Even with the dedicated and mostly volunteer efforts of 9 summer staff, we barely managed to cover and assess the many meetings and opportunities that have come our way. From the launch of the UNEPS Statute and completion of our 'Women's Participation in Peace Processes' book to providing major monitoring and evaluation of three important UN disarmament events, we have literally been running from one responsibility to the next.

The good news in all of this is it indicates the degree to which our collaborative work on civilian protection/**responsibility to protect**, women's empowerment and conventional disarmament is finding warm

and receptive audiences. We are now entering another busy time with the First Committee, the 10th anniversary of SC Resolution 1325, and fall conferences to organize on standing peacekeeping capacity, the reintegration of girls stigmatized by war, the international dimensions of small arms control in Africa, and promoting women's role in peace processes.



While there has been only modest progress to report from the many high level meetings we have attended over the past few months, we can also report unprecedented levels of UN activity on a host of issues germane to our mandate – from civilian protection to efforts to end the illicit arms trade. We're doing our best to keep pace and keep you informed through our website. Your continued good wishes and support remain invaluable to us.

A Celebration of the 'Next Generation'

International Youth Day was celebrated on August 12 and the UN has designated this upcoming year as International Year of Youth focused on the theme "Dialogue and Mutual Understanding." We hope to have substantive involvement over this next year in promoting the skills and passions of young people in both UN and NGO settings. 'Mutual Understanding' is often an elusive concept in diplomacy, but it is a part of youth's social makeup and certainly of their self-understanding. In this Year of Youth, we all have much to learn from the next generation of diplomats and advocates.

Global Action, in partnership with Soka Gakkai International, hosted a pizza party on July 29 to honor the service of the many disarmament-related interns and junior staff whose energy and commitment have sustained our organizations through a difficult three months of meetings on nuclear disarmament, small arms and light weapons, and the arms trade.

We invited about 30 young people to our office, many of whom had not had the chance to meet all summer long. In addition to feeding and greeting, we had the chance for some substantive

conversation. As a group, we discussed ways to make the disarmament internship experience more productive, engaged and fruitful. Bearing this in mind, at Global Action at least, our interns are engaged in high level professional work that we could not thrive without.



We also discussed an idea to get ‘graduating’ interns more involved as mentors for new interns. Too often, young people get ‘thrown into’ responsibilities for which they have not been sufficiently prepared. Moreover, the UN system is at times baffling to new interns, and having a more ‘seasoned’ hand to help guide their movements appeared to be an attractive option to the young people who came to our office. Having those mentors be persons closer in age to the new interns was also seen as a benefit.

The junior staff who we have been honored to have with us this summer – Cristina Ayo, Ana Carolina Barry Laso, Ryan Faello, Melina Lito, Muireann Mageras, Chelsea Moubarak, Katherine Prizeman and Lori Sims -- have inspired us in many ways and made it possible for us to make substantive contributions to a wide range of security-related issues. They have performed their diverse tasks with kindness and skill and would all make excellent mentors for future interns. The same can be said for many of the young people who came to our office.

Disarmament Update

During the first half of 2010, the disarmament debate has been thrust into the spotlight with high-level meetings on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in May, the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) on small arms and light weapons in June, and most recently the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in July. These meetings have been tremendous opportunities for the disarmament community at large to comment on and advocate against nuclear proliferation, illicit arms transfers, and the misuses of small arms and light weapons. Global Action to Prevent War continues to take on the challenging task of addressing

the many facets of disarmament that must be held together as we pursue comprehensive international peace and security agreements. Together with Reaching Critical Will, we monitored the three major UN disarmament events this summer, an activity which has become an important part of civil society participation in UN disarmament work.



Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, May 3-28, 2010

As reported by one of our summer interns, the opening day of the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference was held in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The President of this year’s NPT, his Excellency Libran Cabactulan, Ambassador from the Philippines, gave a short speech stressing the importance of moving forward on the NPT’s three pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-

proliferation, and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. With the recent reduction treaty signed between the Russian Federation and the United States, the President stated that a positive international environment makes it necessary that "we must take full advantage and not waste this rare chance we have been given. Opportunities such as this are becoming few and far between." Ambassador Cabactulan swore to hold his presidency in an open, transparent and all inclusive manner, characteristics that are lacking in certain states party to the NPT. The Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon followed Ambassador Cabactulan's speech by calling on the conference to deliver something useful, stating that "hopes- and expectations- are high with the world's people looking to you for action."

The final document adopted at the conclusion of the conference was a reaffirmation of the need to fully implement the NPT and strengthen its regime, but with little evidence of concrete progress towards adopting substantive measures by the state parties. The division between the nuclear "haves" and "have nots" continues to drive a wedge between member states. Iran and the DPRK continued to claim that nuclear power has been used as a political tool by those who have acquired nuclear

weapons, as expressed forcefully by Iranian president Mahmoud Admandinejad during the conference. For her part, US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton reaffirmed the US commitment to a world without nuclear weapons. One very positive outcome was the decision to pursue a nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East, though delegates recognized the difficulty of bringing Iran and Israel into such a binding agreement.

*For more information on the NPT, please consult:
<http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=1897>*

Biennial Meeting of States (BMS), June 14-18, 2010

The 4th BMS provided the latest opportunity for the UN and its member states to assess efforts by the international community to curb illicit arms, reduce stockpiles and more effectively protect civilian populations impacted by criminality, insurgency and other misuses of small arms and light weapons. Global Action's Dr. Robert Zuber attended BMS4 and wrote daily articles on the meetings.



Civil society participation in the BMS has been vast as NGOs and civil society have contributed research and information systems to manage the movement of small arms and cultivate local capacity to limit and ultimately interrupt arms trafficking. Dr. Zuber noted on the Reaching Critical Will blog, "As at least one delegate noted yesterday, we can and must get to the point where we can reasonably assume that any unmarked weapon is an illicit weapon. This requires levels of state and civil society vigilance backed by robust technology and information systems sanctioned at the international level. It also requires steady progress towards making the optional, mandatory." Not surprisingly, many NGOs were more supportive of government positions that could not reach the level of consensus—including illicit manufacturing, civilian protection, gender concerns, victim assistance, and security sector

reform—than with many of the consensus provisions. Despite understanding the limitation of the BMS, the NGO community worked for a final outcome document that could serve as a source of movement on small arms, and engage diverse policy constituents.

The outcome document made virtually no reference to the specific skills of civil society in diverse global regions that can serve as a supplement to state-sponsored initiatives. This is not solely about having NGOs present in the negotiating rooms. Rather it is about mediators, conflict resolution experts, victims' services personnel, women's rights advocates and other civil society leaders who are able to train and involve citizens to do more locally to identify, highlight, remove and help repair the damage from illicit weapons. The excellent language in the document pertaining to cooperation and coordinated action with regional and international bodies could well have been enhanced by adding civil society to the core list of collaborators.

For more information on the BMS4, please consult:
<http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=1936>.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Prep Com, July 3-29, 2010

In July 2010, the UN's Office of Disarmament Affairs, diplomats, and select NGOs convened for meetings of the Preparatory Committee headed by Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina to promote development of a formal Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The entire process aims to produce, by the end of 2012, a legally binding instrument to regulate international arms transfers and ultimately eliminate the illicit trade in conventional weapons. At this first PrepCom, governments expressed their views on principles and elements for inclusion in the final Treaty, with debate centered around three major categories: feasibility, scope, and parameters. The next PrepCom will take place in New York in February 2011. Dr. Robert Zuber attended this ATT PrepCom and wrote daily articles (with Ray Acheson of Reaching Critical Will and members of the Control Arms Coalition) reporting on and analyzing the discussions.

At the conclusion of the ATT PrepCom, diplomats seemed more energetic and fair-minded than had originally been anticipated. Some of the proposals presented by delegations of particular interest to civil society and the global

community were: treaty coverage of small arms and light weapons, cooperation and assistance via regulatory burdens on all states, a stand-alone ATT secretariat, end-use certifications and assurances, and effective marking and tracing. In the end, an ATT will hardly solve all of our weapons-related problems. It will do little or nothing to dry up stockpiles of existing weapons that wreak havoc on our communities, to trace weapons that have already been diverted to illicit uses, or to convince states to act more convincingly on the UN Charter principle of security at the least possible levels of armament. Nevertheless, regulatory control of this industry and the resulting transparency are seen by many as an important step towards helping states end their over-reliance on weapons as the means to guarantee national security. This is an opportunity that states, NGOs and the global public know we cannot waste.

For more information on the ATT, please consult:
<http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2056>.

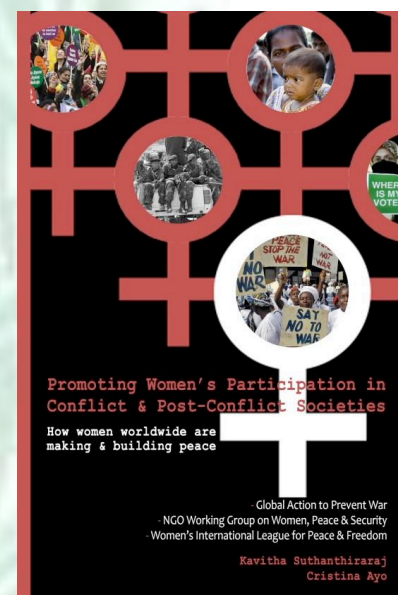
Women, Peace and Security Update

Women, Peace and Security (WPS) at the UN has functioned mostly “under the

radar” this summer, often discussed behind closed doors in preparation for major policy and administrative changes to take place this Fall. The development of a set of indicators to be put before the UN Security Council with the aim of promoting the implementation of Resolution 1325 has been the topic of conversation between UN agencies, civil society actors, NGO’s and governments. Regarding UN infrastructure, all UN agencies and departments that work on women’s issues are set to be merged into a single agency to be called “UN Women,” which will be created to allow for more streamlined policy making. By this December, agencies such as UNIFEM will cease to exist.

GAPW has had a busy and productive summer in the WPS field. Among other things, we have written and published a book on “Promoting Women’s Participation in Conflict & Post-Conflict Societies” in conjunction with the NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom. The book was just launched at the United Nations University in Tokyo (we will report on this later) and will soon be launched at the United Nations in New York. This volume, the second in a projected three-part series, represents a large and growing global community’s determination and passion for promoting

women's full participation in peace policies and processes. The objective of this report is to highlight national and community-based initiatives undertaken by women's organizations and civil society actors seeking a more prominent role for women at the peace table. Therefore, the book examines the different roles played by women worldwide - as government representatives, activists, leaders of NGOs and women's networks or simply concerned citizens – who have persevered through threats and conditions of violence to initiate transformative processes within conflict and post conflict societies. The ultimate goal of the book is to encourage policymakers at the UN and other international organizations to acknowledge what many of us have known for some time: the full participation of women is absolutely essential to building, maintaining and restoring peaceful communities. Please contact (coordinator@globalactionpw.org) for information on how to obtain a copy of the book.



GAPW’s summer agenda also included providing policy expertise in developing a set of indicators to promote the implementation of Resolution 1325 with the NGOWG on WPS. Resolution 1325 is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year — a resolution passed by the Security Council in 2000 when for the first time the Security Council recognized the important role of women in conflict prevention and emphasized that the full participation of women in peace processes can significantly contribute towards the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security. The Resolution urges “Member States to ensure increased representation of

women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict.” However, today only 19 of 192 member states have implemented National Action Plans based on the Resolution. The indicators, which the Security Council will hopefully implement this fall, will effectively measure progress made by states in the area of women’s empowerment in conflict and post-conflict settings. GAPW will continue with advocacy efforts pushing for the implementation of a strong set of indicators by the Security Council.

GAPW has decided to expand its WPS program to include Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)-focused advocacy aimed at member states, UN organizations and civil society organizations. GAPW, as a high level policy making and advocacy organization, is at a period when it wants to expand its WPS program. GAPW has chosen to focus on DDR as a vital security sector component of the WPS and security agenda due to the organization’s existing and growing expertise in the disarmament field and because there is a dearth of information on this issue at policy making levels of the UN system. As an active member of the NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security, it

was felt that there was a niche to be filled. GAPW will be able to contribute valuable time and expertise to help ensure that there are more women-centered DDR processes in conformity with Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889.

Civilian Protection Update

The first half of 2010 has seen quite a bit of discussion on civilian protection in various portions of the UN system. Civil society has been involved in an open Security Council debate on civilian protection as well as a General Assembly Informal and Interactive Dialogue on the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). GAPW has been enthusiastically involved in monitoring and commenting on these events in association with the International Coalition on the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P). Furthermore, GAPW has already begun planning a two-day conference in December entitled “UNEPS: Third Pillar Capacities Supporting First Pillar Responses” at the UN secretariat in New York. GAPW continues to advocate for its UN Emergency Peace Service Project (UNEPS) with the development of a draft UNEPS statute that will be disseminated to

delegations and eventually adopted by the UN.

UNEPS Draft Statute

A draft statute was compiled by Captain Stephen J. Bishop and Captain Edward L. Westfall with the participation and direction of Professor Saul H. Mendlovitz, Dag Hammarskjold, Professor at Rutgers Law School in Newark, NJ. Both Captain Bishop and Captain Westfall are graduates of West Point, served as command combat officers in Iraq and are presently enrolled at Rutgers Law School.

The Statute lays the legal foundation for a United Nations Emergency Peace Service to Prevent Genocide and Crimes against Humanity. Once reviewed by experts and put in a final form, the statute will be offered to the member states of the United Nations to be adopted as a treaty. The overall mission of UNEPS is to prevent and/or halt the commission of atrocity crimes and, where possible, apprehend individuals alleged to have engaged in such acts. There are six distinctive aspects to this service. First, it would be a standing, independent United Nations service permanently based at UN-designated sites in three areas of the globe, including mobile field headquarters.

Secondly, the service would be made up of individually recruited personnel from volunteers of all member states. Third, it would consist of 15,000 to 18,000 personnel carefully selected, expertly trained and coherently organized. Fourth, UNEPS would encompass civilian, police, judicial, and military capacities prepared to conduct multiple functions in diverse UN operations. Fifth, it would be a first-in, first-out service with a six-month deployment limit in any single situation. Sixth, the service would be authorized and invoked by an appropriate United Nations organ.

To download the full statute as well as commentary on the draft, please consult <http://www.globalactionpw.org/index.php?s=UNEPS+statute>

General Assembly Interactive Dialogue on Early Warning and the Responsibility to Protect, August 2010

On August 9th, the General Assembly convened for an informal interactive dialogue to discuss early warning and R2P. The morning session opened with a statement by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and presentations from five

featured panelists: Dr. Edward Luck, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General for R2P; Dr. Francis Deng, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide; Dr. Bertie Ramcharan of the Geneva Graduate Institute of Development Studies; Professor Andrea Bartoli of George Mason University; and Professor Muna Ndulo of Cornell University Law School. In July 2009, the General Assembly held a similar discussion regarding the Secretary-General's report on R2P. This year's dialogue focused on the substance of early warning and assessment as part of the UN's commitment to genocide prevention and responsibility to protect, with the discussion based on the Secretary-General's report on the subject issued on July 14, 2010.

For the full report on this event, please consult <http://www.globalactionpw.org/?p=2098>.

Security Council Open Debate on Civilian Protection, July 2010

On Wednesday July 7th, the Security Council held an open debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon opened the session; other speakers featured were John Holmes, Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The debate covered a variety of themes and issues surrounding civilian protection. Most notable were concerns for humanitarian access, accountability, protection for vulnerable groups, and strengthening civilian protection mandates in peacekeeping operations. The upcoming withdrawal of MINURCAT from Chad was also an important topic of discussion. The recent prevalence of attacks on humanitarian workers was strongly denounced, and urgent calls were made for all parties to conflict, including non-state actors, to adhere to international law obligations. Particular protection for the disabled, elderly, women and children was also emphasized.



Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) is a transnational network dedicated to practical measures for reducing global levels of conflict and to removing the institutional and ideological impediments to preventing armed violence and severe human rights violations.

Our Program Statement grounds the goal of conflict prevention in specific integrated phases over a three to four-decade period and demonstrates in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and multilateral institutions.

We highlight and promote integrated security policies in the international community: advances in early warning, the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, post-conflict peace-building, conventional and nuclear disarmament, the implementation of standing, rapid-response peacekeeping to combat genocide and crimes against humanity, and the full participation of women in all peace policies and processes.