Canadian Unitarians for Social Justice
A national faith-based organization founded in support of Unitarian values
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President, Rev. Frances Deverell president@cusj.org

On 3-Apr-12, at 9:01 AM, Frances Deverell wrote:
Dear Bev Delong,
Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (CNANW)

I would appreciate it if you would add the Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice to the list of organizations who are supporting the attached statement. Please let me know if you need our logo.

Thanks to the round table for preparing this statement.

In Faith,

Rev. Frances Deverell
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"Charity depends on the vicissitudes of whim and personal wealth; justice depends oncommitment instead of circumstance. Faith-based charity provides crumbs from the table; faith-based justice offers a place at the table." ~ Bill Moyers "

Canadian Action at the NPT

Statement following the March 26 Civil Society Roundtable on a Global Ban on Nuclear Weapons, in advance of the Preparatory Committee meeting for the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT PrepCom)

April 1, 2012

When the *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* last moved its Doomsday Clock closer to midnight it did so in part because of what it called a "failure of leadership" on the path toward a world without nuclear weapons. The failures are there for all to see, but we can also point to two recent examples of constructive leadership – one international and one Canadian.

Last fall the respected Red Cross/ Red Crescent Council of Delegates pointed to "the incalculable human suffering that can be expected to result from any use of nuclear weapons," adding that authorities would have no credible means of responding to the devastation. The Council concluded that it is "difficult to envisage how any use of nuclear weapons could be compatible with the rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the rules of distinction, precaution and proportionality." The Council has therefore called on all States "to pursue in good faith and conclude with urgency and determination negotiations to prohibit the use of and completely eliminate weapons through a legally binding international agreement, based on existing commitments and international obligations."

The Red Cross/Red Crescent action is commendable and timely. Chronic economic challenges are making nuclear weapons even more burdensome. Over $100 billion is being wasted annually on nuclear weapons. . Growing awareness of proliferation risks, including to non-state actors, are combining to create a political climate conducive to new action for nuclear weapons abolition. In addition, in 2010 all States parties to the NPT acknowledged the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences" of any use of nuclear weapons, intended or unintended. More than three-quarters of all countries have voted for a U.N. resolution calling for the commencement of negotiations leading to the conclusion of a Nuclear Weapons Convention. Nations representing 81% of the world's population support negotiations now toward a comprehensive and permanent ban.

Canada should join that majority. Indeed, an all-party Parliament of Canada motion "encourages the Government of Canada to engage in negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention" and "to deploy a major world-wide Canadian diplomatic initiative in support of preventing nuclear proliferation and increasing the rate of nuclear disarmament." This all-party motion was passed by the House

and Senate in 2010 and taken up again in December 2011 at the All-Party Parliamentary Forum commemorating the first anniversary of the unanimous motion.

These are two examples of the kind of leadership that we urged the Government of Canada to carry into the forthcoming session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT PrepCom). The following policy proposals, offered by a group of Canadian civil society organizations linked to the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, point to priorities for Canadian action in the current NPT review cycle.

1. The Government of Canada should use the opportunity of the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 NPT Review Conference to declare its support for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament. For a "major diplomatic initiative," as called for unanimously by Parliament, the government should host a meeting of like-minded States, under the auspices of the Middle Powers Initiative Framework Forum, to examine the legal, technical, political and institutional requisites for an international legal ban on nuclear weapons.

2. The Government of Canada should intensify efforts to find a suitable alternative venue or venues to take up the disarmament measures that remain deadlocked in the Conference on Disarmament (CD). As the Canadian Ambassador told the CD on May 7, 2010, "The CD no longer holds a monopoly on disarmament negotiations."

3. The Government of Canada should reflect the need for an agreed global prohibition on nuclear weapons by encouraging all states with nuclear weapons to begin talks and measures towards reducing their arsenals in pursuit of universal adherence to a global non-discriminatory ban on all nuclear weapons.

4. While continuing to raise deep concerns about the dangers of proliferation, the Government of Canada should re-emphasize and reiterate the inextricable link between non-proliferation and disarmament.

5. We encourage the Government of Canada to continue its efforts towards building a sound institutional infrastructure for the NPT, including through more effective and transparent reporting procedures. As part of that institutional reform, Canada should work with other states to strengthen engagement with civil society and to encourage more direct civil society involvement in the NPT review process. Civil society is an essential part of building the global political will needed for the full implementation of the NPT and for bringing all nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament commitments together into a global nuclear weapons convention.

6. While welcoming the important achievements of the US and Russia in reducing their deployed strategic weapons systems, the Government of Canada should encourage them to redouble their efforts toward further reductions in deployed strategic and non-strategic systems, and toward reducing their overall stockpiles, based on the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability. There should be a moratorium on the modernization of all nuclear weapons,

7. In pursuit of a peaceful resolution of the Iran nuclear question, the Government of Canada should work actively by supporting international diplomacy and the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) monitoring and inspection efforts towards that end. While Iran is clearly in the process of acquiring fuel-cycle technologies that have potential nuclear weapons applications (as have other non-nuclear weapon state signatories to the NPT) diplomacy should now focus on getting full cooperation between Iran and the IAEA and on providing full transparency, including adherence to the IAEA Additional Protocol, regarding all of its nuclear programs. The objective should move from efforts to block Iranian development of technologies not prohibited by the NPT, to preventing Iran from converting its acquired technologies into nuclear weapons. Canada should explicitly reject military action against Iran and its nuclear programs.

8. The Government of Canada should urge all states in the Middle East to participate in the 2012 conference on the establishment of the Middle East as a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. In line with that, the Government of Canada should call for all nuclear programs and facilities in the region (including Israel) to be brought fully under IAEA inspections.