



## ICAN Update January 2008

**ICAN is everyone's campaign. Make sure your activities, events, and campaign success stories get included in this monthly update. Send your reports to [jloretz@ippnw.org](mailto:jloretz@ippnw.org).**

### ICAN and the MNWC Make Inroads at the UN

The **Model Nuclear Weapons Convention** was submitted to the United Nations General Assembly by Costa Rica and Malaysia in December, and is now an official UNGA working document (A/62/650). ICAN activists should urge their governments to learn about and discuss the MNWC as a first step toward supporting our call for the commencement of negotiations toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addressed the opening of the 2008 session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, calling on the CD to "rekindle the ambition and sense of common purpose that produced its past accomplishments, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty." Secretary-General Ban told the CD it was in danger of losing its relevance. A focus on the Model Nuclear Weapons Convention as a framework for the CD's deliberations and as the ultimate goal of its work might well restore that relevance.

## Other International News

IPPNW responded quickly to a January *Wall Street Journal* opinion piece by George Shultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger, and Sam Nunn, who reiterated their year-old call for the elimination of nuclear weapons from the world. IPPNW's Co-Presidents, Gunnar Westberg and Ime John said that "Eliminating the threat of nuclear war, like protecting the Earth's climate, can and should unite everyone in a common purpose, no matter what else we believe....Shultz, Perry, Kissinger, Nunn, and the dozens of influential people who have now endorsed their position have said something fundamentally different from other arms control advocates who support one or more of their concrete policy recommendations on its own merits. They have stated unequivocally that every one of these steps toward reducing the nuclear danger...must be seen as part of an overall commitment to the goal of zero nuclear weapons. Not a small number maintained by a few 'privileged' countries for extraordinary reasons -- but zero." Noting that their specific proposals echo the 13 Practical Steps endorsed by the NPT 2000 Review Conference, IPPNW went on to say that "only good faith negotiations on complete nuclear disarmament, resulting in a Nuclear Weapons Convention, will lead to the nuclear-weapons-free world these writers have had the courage to demand."

## Country and Regional Activities

**ICAN-UK** is looking at strategies for building on the positive levels of public support for abolition revealed in the latest opinion polls. CND —an ICAN-UK partner— is holding a Global Summit for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World on 16-17 February 2008, at London City Hall. CND and Medact have jointly launched an online petition in support of an NWC, which is open for signature at [www.ipetitions.com/petition/nuclearweaponsconvention/](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/nuclearweaponsconvention/).

**ICAN-Australia** is pushing the new government to make good on its campaign promises, including reactivation of the Canberra Commission, and is nurturing NGO collaborations and grassroots work across the country. A summary of the UNGA votes on

disarmament resolutions was printed in On-line Opinion — a reputable daily e-newspaper in Australia. ICAN-Australia is also putting the finishing touches on a new, international campaign brochure that will soon be available for downloading and printing at [www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org).

The major international Catholic youth event World Youth Day is coming up in June, with an estimated 200,000 participants. ICAN and Pax Christi will co-sponsor a forum on Peace Making—another great example of the growing network of relationships with ICAN partner organisations, including churches, unions, and environment groups.

A photo of Hiroshima survivor Setsuko Thurlow, speaking at the October ICAN launch on Parliament Hill in **Canada**, was published in the January issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*.



Over the past two months in **France**, national peace and disarmament organizations have held more than 20 meetings in major regional centers to promote their "Campagne pour le Desarmement Nucleaire." ICAN roving ambassador Bill Williams attended meetings in Paris with Senators, journalists, and representatives of the "Campagne," "hoping to cement ICAN partnerships and refine our focus on the NWC."

### **"Nuclear Dilemma" Exhibition Set for Geneva Launch**

"The Nuclear Dilemma" a comprehensive photographic exhibition on the history of nuclear technology, from the discovery of radioactivity to the present day, will be presented at the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Museum, Geneva from 27 February - 29 July, 2008. The exhibition, supported by IPPNW, ICAN, the International Peace Bureau, IALANA, Mayors For Peace, and other peace and disarmament organizations, will coincide with the 2008 NPT

PrepCom, which will also be in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May. Later this year, the exhibition will travel to the Guernica Peace Museum, in Spain. More information is available at [www.nucleardilemma.org](http://www.nucleardilemma.org).

### **ICAN on-line**

The ICAN website ([www.icanw.org](http://www.icanw.org)) now has **country-specific pages** awaiting input from ICAN activists around the world! Please send any stories, updates, current contact information, and events to [web@icanw.org](mailto:web@icanw.org).