

The lack of a permanent NPT Secretariat makes this difficult at present. Records from past conferences are scattered over a number of places at the United Nations. The UN Department of Disarmament Affairs (DDA) has a small library of documents, but it is incomplete and difficult to use. The DDA website¹¹ does have a pretty good collection of working papers and other official documents from the 2000 NPTRC, summary records (summaries of the oral proceedings) from the main sessions of the NPTRC, and official documents from recent PrepCom Documents from earlier conferences are not available on the website and some cannot even be found. Some of the formal documents of the 1995 NPTRC could not be found at the time of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, for example. Another problem is financial. Translation and distribution of documents is the most expensive part of the NPT review process. Thus, for example, records of oral proceedings are not even produced for many PrepCom sessions.

The lack of a permanent NPT Secretariat was one of the reasons the NGO Reaching Critical Will (RCW)¹² was created. At present, the RCW website is the best place to find PrepCom and Review Conference documents. Even Canadian officials often use it to find documents. RCW works closely with DDA to try to ensure that RCW gets a copy of everything distributed during the review proceedings. Participants commended RCW for its important contribution in maintaining this collection and making it available to all. It was recognized nonetheless that an official archive is needed.

Reaching Critical Will also prepared a "Shadow Report" for use during the 2003 PrepCom document-detailed model reports for 37 of the 41 Annex 2 NPT States parties.¹³ An earlier version was prepared for the 2002 PrepCom. These documents were enthusiastically received and widely used by delegates; a number of delegates also approached RCW to add or correct information.

As noted earlier, it also was suggested that the Reaching Critical Will background document (or excerpts from it) also would be useful for NGOs and delegates, and it would be valuable to make the document available more broadly. It might be distributed to delegates at the First Committee, for example, either such as the focus of a panel discussion at the UN. It would also be useful to get the report published in an academic journal. Security Studies was suggested as a good possibility.

A number of participants suggested that existing NGOs could do to make the reports more watched by the wider world would be extremely useful and would help build momentum for

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/disarmament>
¹² Reaching Critical Will (<http://reachingcriticalwill.org>) is a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, focused on nuclear disarmament. Its purpose is to provide primary resources and information related to the NPT, the Conference on Disarmament, and the First Committee to NGOs and the public.
¹³ See <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/pubs/shadowreport/summary.html>