

- irrespective of the fact that the threat of a nuclear war has diminished.
- Media at home and abroad undermine the credibility of Canadian initiatives in NATO. The government often faces hostile press and journalists who lack technical expertise.
- European Union issues and political manoeuvring play an important role. There is confusion and contradictions in some governments which reflect the tension between Trans-Atlantic and European dimensions.

IV. Initiatives and Tactics for December and Beyond

The recent NPT Conference Review and the commitment of NATO to continue to review its policies present an opportune time for Canada and others to act, especially on the language issue. However, some participants agreed that the window to effect NATO's policies is rapidly closing. A doubt was expressed about whether the public and the abolitionist NGO community could be catalysed by an initiative aimed at a change of language. Some said that tampering with NATO's discourse may not engage the public and will not mean anything unless supported by tangible actions. Others pointed out the NATO's language is actually slowly changing. Some participants expressed fear that such incrementalism may lead to disaster.

The participants raised the following recommendations for action:

1) Squaring NPT commitments with NATO's policies. There are practical measures which can be taken by NATO to further the implementation of Article VI of the NPT, agreed at the NPT Review Conference in New York last year. Those *highlighted* during the discussion can be found in the Appendix.

Track II efforts aimed at narrowing the NPT-NATO policy gap include the Middle Powers Initiative (MPI). MPI aims to assist middle power governments to encourage and educate the nuclear weapon states to commit to immediate practical steps to reduce nuclear dangers and commence negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons. It will send delegations to some non-nuclear NATO states (as well as other countries) in early October to promote the New Agenda Coalition's resolution at the UN and to advocate a non-nuclear NATO strategy. A report will be submitted to the Canadian Minister for Foreign Affairs.

2) Refusing to sign or endorse a treaty (re)stating the fundamental/essential nature of nuclear weapons. Participants discussed a refusal to sign any documents (re)stating the essential/fundamental role of nuclear weapons, on the grounds that Canada believes the use of nuclear weapons to be not only no longer viable, but also immoral. While the refusal to sign a collective NATO document would require extensive government deliberation, there could be instances warranting such a course. (For instance, Canada would not have signed a treaty sanctioning the use of nuclear weapons in response to a chemical weapons attack). Silence may also be an expression of disagreement. This tactic could be used especially by the non-nuclear weapons states. However, the unity of NATO is of key importance to the Alliance's survival. While some argue NATO's stand on nuclear weapons justifies a split from the Alliance, others