

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 website¹⁷ 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 PrepComs. Documents from earlier conferences are not available on the website and sometimes cannot even be found. Some of the formal documents of the 1985 NPTRC could not be located 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)¹⁸ 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 containing detailed model reports for 37 of the 41 Annex 2 NPT States parties.¹⁹ An earlier version was prepared for the 2002 PrepCom. These documents were enthusiastically received and widely used by delegations; a number of delegations also approached RCW to add or correct information.

As noted earlier, it also was suggested that the Roundtable background document (or excerpts from it) also would be useful for NGOs and delegations, and it would be valuable to make the document available more broadly. It might be distributed to delegations at the First Committee, for example, and/or used 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 Dialogue* was suggested as a good possibility.

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

¹⁷ <http://disarmament.un.org/dda.htm>

¹⁸ 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 UN First Committee to NGOs and the public.

¹⁹ See <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/npt/shadowreport/ngoshadrepindex.html>