

Introduction

This report is an overview of the discussions at the Roundtable on Reporting by States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), hosted by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) in Ottawa on 19-20 June 2003.

The purpose of the Roundtable was to examine how States party to the NPT have responded to the reporting requirement agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference and to consider how such reporting might be improved in the future. The Roundtable examined the reporting experience at the 2002 and 2003 NPT Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meetings, considered the content of reporting by both nuclear-weapon States (NWS) and non-nuclear-weapon States (NNWS), discussed use of the reports by states and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and attempted to identify strategies through which states and NGOs could increase momentum towards a "culture of reporting" prior to the 2005 NPT Review Conference.

The Roundtable built on the work of an earlier roundtable on NPT reporting, also organized by the Canadian Network to Abolish Nuclear Weapons with funding support from the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development, which took place 8-9 January 2002.¹ That roundtable was considered very useful in helping to develop NGO and Canadian government approaches to NPT reporting.

Participants in the 2003 roundtable included representatives of NGOs from Canada, Europe, and the United States, Canadian government officials, and a number of individuals with special expertise in the UN system and other areas relevant to NPT reporting (see Appendix I for the full list of participants).

Participants were not asked to formally agree on any specific conclusions or recommendations, but a number of areas of common opinion became apparent during the event, along with many areas where questions or differences remained.² As the Roundtable was conducted under the Chatham House Rule, no comments or views are attributed to specific individuals or organizations.³

Funding support for the Roundtable was provided by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development. This support does not, of course, imply endorsement of the contents of this report by either the Centre or the Government of Canada.

Background of NPT reporting

¹ *Reporting by States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons*, Report on the NPT Reporting Roundtable, Ottawa, 8-9 January 2002, Bill Robinson, Rapporteur, February 2002.

² Every attempt has been made to report fairly the range of opinions expressed during the Roundtable. It must be emphasized that the views recorded in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of CNANW member organizations, the individuals who participated in the event, or the organizations that they represented.

³ For further information on the Chatham House Rule, see <http://www.riia.org/>