

Participants suggested that reporting also might be promoted through diplomatic efforts in other fora, such as the Non-Aligned Movement or the various regional nuclear-weapon-free zones. It might be possible to get the subject of NPT reporting on the agenda of an expected upcoming meeting of all nuclear-weapon-free zones.

Participants also wondered whether there might be a place for a New-Agenda-Coalition-like action on the part of Canada and other like-minded States parties to highlight the importance of reporting. A similar but less high profile action might see Canada working with other core states to push the boundaries of reporting and encourage greater participation.

NGOs might be able to contribute in a number of different ways.

For example, NGOs could organize a panel of academics, diplomats, and NGO representatives at the First Committee and/or the PrepCom to discuss the substance of the reports submitted by States parties. NGOs also could meet with delegations in New York to brief them on the reporting issue.

Another suggestion was that NGOs could organize panel discussions or seminars on broader topics like the value of reporting efforts to treaty compliance in general. It was noted that this approach might elicit more positive NWS participation; the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization enjoys very positive co-operation with the United States on technical matters, for example, despite US opposition to that treaty. Participants suggested that VERTIC<sup>22</sup> would be a good NGO to organize such a seminar (subject to availability of funding).

NGOs could also take advantage of the period between PrepCom sessions to work with local NGOs to encourage reporting by specific States parties. Most delegations have little latitude to make decisions. Decisions are made at home, and NGOs working in those countries might be able to encourage a greater commitment to reporting. In addition to encouraging reporting by NNWS, NGOs might be able to work with NGOs in the NWS to encourage their governments to submit formal reports and to provide more detailed information in those reports. Such efforts might be especially useful in France, the United Kingdom, and the United States, where civil society organizations are more highly developed than in the other NWS.

Participants noted that Reaching Critical Will has compiled an extensive database of 400 or so NGOs working on these issues in 75 countries around the world. Contact information for these organizations is on the RCW website. The Abolition 2000 group of NGOs also represent a large number of countries around the world. Information on the appropriate government contacts in many countries is also on the RCW website. RCW or some other group could

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<sup>22</sup> VERTIC (<http://www.vertic.org>) is a UK-based NGO. Its mission is to promote effective and efficient verification as a means of ensuring confidence in the implementation of international agreements and intra-national agreements with international involvement. VERTIC also concerns itself with the negotiation, monitoring, and implementation of such agreements and the establishment of confidence-building measures to bolster them.