

Global Action to Prevent War

Spring 2010 Newsletter

1 May 2010

Special points of interest:

- Disarmament
- Women, Peace and Security
- Civilian Protection
- United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS)

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Welcome to Global Action to Prevent War's Spring 2010 newsletter.

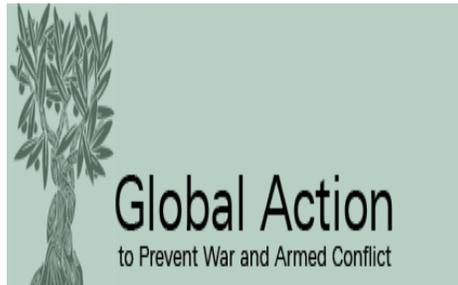
Over the past few months Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) has continued its involvement in the areas of civilian protection, UN Peacekeeping, Disarmament and Women, Peace and Security. In what has been a busy start to the year, GAPW, together with the LUKMEF (Cameroon) and International Coalition on the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) (New York), organized two workshops in Cameroon for the Central African Region on Civilian Protection and UN Peacekeeping. The outcomes of the workshops are discussed in greater detail below.

GAPW continued its disarmament work in partnership with the University for Peace (Costa Rica) and the International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), conducting a workshop for Costa Rican government officials, CSO's and students to help define regional and national priorities on human security. GAPW was one of the few NGO's privy to the Disarmament Commission meetings held here at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The information and country perspectives gathered are also discussed in detail below.

GAPW has been working closely with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security to press for the implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889. We have been advocating for states and UN agencies to involve women in peacemaking, peace building, and peacekeeping in accordance with their international obligations. GAPW conducted a successful session on Women, Peace and Security in our workshop in Costa Rica. GAPW staff also participated in a seminar in Spain organized by the

ing a book on women's "participation" in peacekeeping and peace building activities, to be released in time for the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325 in October. We are also preparing a publication on genocide ideology laws in Rwanda.

Finally in regards to office news; we would like to welcome Jenneth Macan Markar as the new International Coordinator for GAPW. Jenneth has received a Bachelor's degree in Law from the University of Colombo and a Master's in International Affairs from Columbia University here in New York. She has previously worked with several human rights and peace building organizations on legal projects focused on constitution-making and the need to protect and foster human rights.



Swiss Government and the Fundacion Cultura de Paz in Madrid on the Role of Women in Peacebuilding. We were active participants at the two week long 54th Session on the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) held at UNHQ, in New York and hosted an event with Soka Gakkai International to celebrate CSW.

GAPW, as the UNEPS Secretariat, presented a paper at the International Studies Annual Conference in New Orleans on "Trust and the Development of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service."

Upcoming newsletters will highlight our forthcoming publications with partner organizations. We are currently prepar-

We would also like to welcome our new Spring intern; Ryan Faello. Ryan is a graduate of Manhattan College in New York and has a Bachelor's degree in International Studies and has spent a year teaching in China. He has written a piece on the Disarmament Commission, which is included here.

Please e-mail the Secretariat with any comments or questions at coordinator@globalactionpw.org. Thank you for your support.

-Global Action Team

Civilian Protection, UN Peacekeeping and Human Security: Perspectives from the Central African Region (Cameroon)

February 2010

Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW), in partnership with the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Foundation (LUKMEF) in Limbe, Cameroon and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICR2P) in New York, sponsored two workshops for military, government and civil society leaders in Cameroon and neighboring countries on prospects for improving civilian protection and human security within Central Africa.

These workshops represent the latest in our commitment to bring into regional settings the strategies, tools and norms debated within the international community to prevent and address atrocity crimes and other major threats to human security. We remain committed to doing what we

US-Russia START II treaty —The Russian Federation saw it “as a major step forward and breakthrough in thinking”. The US delegation only gave a general overview of the new treaty. Stating that it “would require a 30% reduction in the US and Russian Nuclear arsenals,” and it would be strictly enforced and transparent.



Cristina Ayo, Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Ryan Faello

can to ensure that the security needs and aspirations of diverse communities and constituencies are available to help influence global policy.

Led by Christian Tanyi of LUKMEF, and addressed by a range of regional leaders, including Voke Ighorodje, a consultant to the ICR2P from Nigeria, and Anne Nkwain Nsang, director of the UN Information Centre in Yaounde, participants looked at a range of issues impacting good governance, civilian-military relations, the role of women in peace processes, and prospects for more robust preventive and diplomatic efforts to address in their earliest stages atrocity crimes and other threats to human security. Attention was also given to new peacekeeping tools being developed for community, regional and international use, including our proposal for a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS).

The second workshop was co-organized by Ben Oru at the

University of Buea and is the first of what will be several university briefings on the promotion of civilian protection, human security and Responsibility to Protect (R2P) in the coming year.

Central Africa represents a challenging environment in which to organize, but it is also a region of hopeful new civil society influences alongside government and military officials who have become weary of armed conflict and are interested in connecting skills across professional contexts to enhance community and national security.

It is also a region where security issues are engaged holistically, where development priorities require progress on arms transfers and where dialogue across issues and professional sectors is desired and engaged with increasing seriousness.

GAPW hopes to sustain a long-term relationship with LUKMEF



Elizabeth Bih and Anne Nkwain Nsang

government and military officials.

We will encourage development of LUKMEF's new regional center that will include advocacy on R2P and UNEPS, and we will also support efforts to create viable civil society-military collaborative training and discussion forums that can develop complementary skills and help overcome some of the mistrust across sectors.

The Disarmament Committee Debates 2010 (New York, USA)

April 2010 date

The 2010 Disarmament Commission is in the second year of its three year cycle. It had adopted three agenda items last year: 1) recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation; 2) elements of a draft declaration for the 2010s as the fourth disarmament decade; and 3) practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Last year's Disarmament Commission began work on the first two issues and this continued in through 2010. After a short general debate, the 2010 Commission was split into two working groups, with Working Group 1 focusing on recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and Working Group 2 focused on the Fourth Disarmament Decade. Representatives of civil society and other external experts are still generally discouraged from attending the Commis-

sion. This Swiss delegation called upon the Commission to “open up to ideas from the outside” in its opening statement.

Throughout the general debates in the Disarmament Commission it did not seem likely that any substantial resolutions or recommendations would be adopted. The two working groups did however manage to adopt working papers on issues related to the Fourth Disarmament Decade and nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In spite of what has been repeatedly called a ‘positive’ international environment for progress on disarmament issues, the lack of substance of the working group's documents was disappointing. Nuclear weapon states seemed willing but not able to commit to any major shifts due to what the Pakistani Ambassador referred to as the “genuine security concerns” of states that are “deeply rooted in historical legacy and geo-political factors.” Yet certain nuclear states seemed more willing to engage in constructive dialogue, accepting the need for

timelines within actual frameworks, as opposed to “open ended and unpredictable paths.” The United States, however, opposed the establishment of such a framework, stating it had a “strong dislike of specified time language,” although it did reiterate its desire to seek a world free of nuclear weapons.

The US-Russia START II treaty, signed on 8 April in Prague, seemed to overshadow the agenda of the Disarmament Commission. Many states offered congratulations, calling the new treaty “a very strong, positive signal.” The Russian Federation described it “as a major step forward and breakthrough in thinking,” and saw it helping the international community move towards a more “irreversible, verifiable, and transparent” nuclear security regime. The US delegation provided a general overview of the new treaty, stating that it “would require a 30% reduction in the US and Russian Nuclear arsenals,”

and would be strictly enforced and transparent. Some delegations seemed skeptical of these new developments in the US/Russian commitment to nuclear arms reduction.

The Iranian delegation, as expected, was not particularly complimentary about these recent developments, pointing out that the states that were reducing their nuclear arsenals, even significantly, were still maintaining capabilities that were threatening to other member states.

The US 2010 Nuclear Posture Review also was also a major focus during the Disarmament Commission. The US

call for 'undiminished security' was countered by other states, reminding the commission that such security must be attained with the lowest possible level of armaments.

Nuclear Weapons Free Zones were also discussed by the Commission, specifically their role as intermediate steps towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons. Establishing an NFZ zone for the Middle East is "essential to the peace and security of the region," as pointed out by the Moroccan delegation.

Many delegations noted that the

recent Washington Nuclear Security Summit and the new START II treaty were signs that a new energy and commitment to establishing a new more robust nuclear security regime was at hand.

However, the formulation of the final outcome document of the Commission left many questions unanswered as well as unclear prospects for how successful the Commission might be in the following (final) year of this cycle. The Russian Federation stated that "it hopes that this document would serve as a basis for the next year of the Commission."

The Belgian delegation referred to the Commission as "a great school," to increase understanding of the difficulties and complexities of these negotiations. Recognizing the failure of the Commission to fully enact its mandate, the Cuban delegation remained positive that next years meeting would produce meaningful results. The hopes for "equal security for all" that were echoed by many delegations seemed beyond the reach of the Commission this year, but there was hope that the stage has been set for a more "substantive session next year."

Clarifying Regional Human Security Policies (Costa Rica)

April 2010

Under the able direction of Dr. Carlos Vargas, Global Action completed the latest in a series of workshops to inspire regional governments and civil society organizations to weigh in on key UN security priorities, including important events taking place in 2010. Our Costa Rica workshop, "Clarifying Regional Human Security Priorities," solicited thoughtful guidance from regional experts and poli-

cymakers on the development of collaborative, integrated human security policies that can inform, enrich and inspire upcoming General Assembly and Security Council deliberations.

A group of 28 participants from the Foreign Ministry of Costa Rica, the UN-mandated University for Peace and other universities and civil society organizations gathered at the beautiful home of former First Lady Karen Figueres to comment on regional needs in reference to four major events: The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review, the Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms, the beginning of formal negotiations on an Arms Trade Treaty, and the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

A late afternoon session led by Dr. Robert Zuber and Dr. Carlos Vargas was devoted entirely to putting into words the security needs and aspirations of the regional participants to

share with UN officials and delegates.

The session on the BMS and the global arms trade was led by Dr. Robert Zuber of Global Action with commentary from Dr. Carlos Alberto Cordero, Disarmament Minister of the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry. The focus of this session was to clarify the Central



American stake in the elimination of illicit small arms and the international control

of the global arms trade. As Dr. Cordero noted, Costa Rica has been a consistent leader in promoting a global treaty to curb the illicit arms trade. Dr. Zuber remarked that the illicit trade in small arms is a regional problem

with implications more for criminality than for insurgency. He also noted that the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, while not a disarmament treaty per se, will provide regulatory coherence that civil society can use to highlight and address the illegal movement of arms, with a special focus on regulation of arms ('end use certification') that might be used to commit atrocity crimes or otherwise abuse human rights.

The session on Women, Peace and Security was led by Jenneth Macan Markar of GAPW with commentary from Professor Ameena Al Rasheed of the University for Peace. The focus of both presentations was on implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889. The Resolutions focus on "prevention, participation and protection" of women in all aspects of peacemaking, peace building and peacekeeping, and also clarify state obligations to promote women's rights and women's access.

This session clarified the obligations they establish and then examined possible next steps for implementation from a regional perspective. Professor Al Rasheed of Sudan reinforced the necessity to develop Resolution 1325 based National Action plans, both in the region and in Costa Rica. A lively discussion then followed among participants about ways to strengthen regional commitments to enhanced participation by women in peace processes.

Along the way, we were graced by special remarks delivered by our host, H.E. Karen Olsen de Figueres, former Member of Parliament and First Lady of Costa Rica; Director General of the Foreign Ministry Victor Monge, the new Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Roversi; and John J. Maresca, Rector of the UN-mandated University for Peace.

UNEPS Trust and Development

February 2010

Global Action's Kavitha Suthanthiraraj presented a paper on 'Trust and the Development of a United Nations Emergency Peace Service (UNEPS)' at the International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference in New Orleans. The paper, prepared jointly by Kavitha and our partner Annie Herro (Center for Peace and Conflict Stud-

ies, University of Sydney), explores the important role that trust and distrust play in attempts to win acceptance for some version of the UNEPS proposal at the United Nations. The themes and content of the paper were based largely on interviews and workshops conducted with key 'target actors' in diverse global regions between 2007 and 2009. Feedback from the audience



Kavitha Suthanthiraraj

will be incorporated into a future version of the paper which will then be circulated widely among academics, policymakers and diplomats.

Celebrating CSW : The 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women



Global Action to Prevent War

Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) is a transnational network dedicated to practical measures for reducing global levels of conflict and to removing the institutional and ideological impediments to preventing armed violence and severe human rights violations.

...

Our Program Statement grounds the goal of conflict prevention in specific integrated phases over a three to four-decade period and demonstrates in a concrete way how we can move from an international system based on conflict and power relations to one grounded in law and multilateral institutions.

...

We highlight and promote integrated security policies in the international community: advances in early warning, the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, post-conflict peace-building, conventional and nuclear disarmament, the implementation of standing, rapid-response peacekeeping to combat genocide and crimes against humanity, and the full participation of women in all peace policies and processes.

March 2010

This year's bustling CSW proved successful in bringing together civil society organizations, policy makers, and governments, helping each to learn from the other and bring "home" new knowledge to further progress a women's agenda that includes women's participation in peace processes, economic empowerment, health care, sexual violence and human trafficking. CSW also provided opportunities to review methods and strategies for helping men and women work together more effectively to implement resolutions such as Security Council Resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security.'

Seven resolutions were adopted during CSW on the following themes: A new United Nations gender entity; Assistance for Palestine women; The release of women and children taken hostage; Maternal mortality and morbidity; Economic empowerment; Women, girls and HIV/AIDS; and Ending female genital mutilation. Perhaps the most timely topics discussed were the National Action plans that are being developed and adopted globally which are bringing a new national focus on international standards (SC Resolution 1325) to boost women's participation in peace processes. A presentation focused on the National Action plan for Sierra Leone elicited great praise for being one of the six African nations and the 17th nation in the world to adopt a plan to practically support SCR 1325 and the

related SCR 1820.

In addition to policy work at the UN, CSW provided opportunities for us to forge new partnerships on gender-related issues. One such partnership is with the UN office of Soka Gakkai International with which we have worked on disarmament issues and outreach to the religious community, and which is now seeking a broader role in promoting greater women's policy participation in Japan and worldwide.

Thanks to the efforts of SGI's Emily Aoyama and GAPW's Jenneth Macan Markar, our two organizations recently collaborated on a lovely evening event to celebrate the opening of CSW and the 10 year assessment of Security Council Resolution 1325 underway both at the UN and in many other regions of the world.

Speakers for our evening event included: Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, former Undersecretary General for Least Developed States who originally introduced Resolution 1325 into the Security Council; Mama Koite, General Secretary of the Committee for Mali Women Workers; Doris Mpoumou, the new director of the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect. Speakers were unanimous that members states need to be pushed harder to adopt national action plans to

fulfill the promise of '1325.' And honor was given to the many women who had made great sacrifices of time and resources to come to New York – both to make their voices heard and to share insights and best practices across many cultures and contexts.



Mrs. Hiro Sakurai, Jenneth Macan Markar, Mr. Hiro Sakurai

Mostly there was a sense of hope in the air, hope that the extraordinary people who gathered for CSW could lead policymakers into a new era characterized by gender equity in policy and an end to impunity for sexual violence and other abuses sanctioned or committed by states.

Resolution 1325: The Role of Women in Peacebuilding

February 2010

GAPW was pleased and honored to be part of a seminar, organized by the Swiss Government and the Fundacion Cultura de Paz in Madrid, titled Resolution 1325: The Role of Women in Peacebuilding. Manuela Mesa, the director of CEIPAZ and a member of the GAPW executive committee, convened this important seminar.

Among the many extraordinary women presenters (pictured) were Sarah Masters, Women's Network Coordinator for IANSA and a representative on the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security; Carmela Buhler,

the new Gender Advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Switzerland; Gloria Guzman Orellana from the Instituto de Estudios sobre Desarrollo y Cooperacion Internacional in El Salvador; and Carmen Magallon from the Fundacion SIP de Zaragoza.

Among the many helpful resources made available to seminar participants was the extraordinary "1325 Mujeres Tejiendo La Paz" edited by Manuela Mesa.

This book will serve as a guide



Sarah Masters, Gloria Guzman Orellana, Carmen Magallon, Carmela Buhler

to our own collaborative publication on 'Women's Participation in Peace Processes' will be released later this year.