

ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PHASING OUT NUCLEAR ENERGY

Written by Joan Russow
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Statement by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace for distribution in New York at the meetings

of the CSD 17 and the NPT Prep Com, 4-15 May 2009.

RECOGNISING that these two crucial meetings coincide and provide the opportunity again to highlight the interdependence of the fundamental issues being addressed by them;

RECALLING the Nobel Laureate Declaration, signed by thirty-five Nobel Laureate Declaration and prepared for UNCED by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and the Whistler Foundation for Environmental Sustainability that calls for

the abolition of nuclear weapons and the phasing out of fossil fuels and nuclear energy;

CONSCIOUS of the inextricable link between nuclear energy and the development of nuclear weapons;

CONCERNED about the known and yet-to-be-known serious health, environmental, social

and psychological impacts of nuclear weapons and nuclear energy;

ALARMED about the continued failure to abolish nuclear weapons and the dire consequences of the threat or use of nuclear weapons;

RECOGNISING: that under article V1 of the NPT each of the parties to the NPT has

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undertaken to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation

of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control;

CONCURRING with the 1996 Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice that

article VI of the NPT contains a clear obligation to achieve comprehensive nuclear disarmament.

REAFFIRMING also the precautionary principle which means that where there is an irreversible threat of destruction to the environment, to biodiversity, or climate, the lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent the threat*

* paraphrase of the principles enunciated in the Rio Declaration, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change;

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RECOGNISING THAT the application of the precautionary principle is vital in all issues

facing both the CSD and the NPT;

CONCERNED that Article IV of the NPT enshrines the inalienable right of all parties to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes;

CONCERNED about the presentation of nuclear energy as a safe and clean alternative, and

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as a solution to climate change when it is neither safe nor clean because:

- It undermines climate protection by wasting time and taking resources away from more effective, clean and safe solutions
- It results in the dumping of this expensive and unsafe nuclear technology throughout the world
- It decreases global security as volumes of nuclear waste with no safe method of disposal increase massively and materials and technologies are spread;

ACKNOWLEDGING the long-term implications of the over-consumption model of development , and the failure to adequately conserve energy and resources;

AWARE of alternative safe sources of medical isotopes;

WE CALL FOR:

- **ABOLISHING NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND PHASING OUT FOSSIL FUELS AND NUCLEAR ENERGY;**
- **REMOVING THE PROVISION FOR “PEACEFUL” USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FROM ARTICLE IV OF THE NPT;**
- **REPLACING OF ARTICLE 1V OF THE NPT WITH PROVISIONS FOR SOCIALLY EQUITABLE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE AND SOUND RENEWABLE ENERGY;***
- **LIMITING THE ROLE OF THE IAEA TO THE INSPECTION OF THE NUCLEAR ARSENAL OF ALL STATES, AND TO THE FURTHERING OF THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;**
- **BANNING OF THE EXPLORATION, MINING AND EXPORT OF URANIUM;**
- **PHASING OUT OF THE USE OF NUCLEAR REACTORS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL ISOTOPES;**
- **INSITUTING A FAIR AND JUST TRANSITION PROGRAMME FOR WORKERS, INCLUDING SCIENTISTS, AFFECTED BY THE ABOLITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND BY THE PHASING OUT OF NUCLEAR ENERGY;**
- **GUARANTEEING OF THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.**

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* Excluding biofuels and large hydro projects