



Middle Powers Initiative

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Towards 2010:

The MPI Presence at the NPT Preparatory Committee Vienna, Austria, April 30 –May 11

Since the inception of the Article VI Forum at the conclusion of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, the goal has been to stimulate and shape effective responses to ensure the viability of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime in general and the success of the 2010 NPT Review Conference in particular. During the course of four consultations (the United Nations in October 2005, The Hague in March 2006, Ottawa in September 2006 and Vienna in March 2007), like-minded middle power governments were engaged to determine the key issues that needed to be addressed to ensure a successful 2010 conference.

The fruit of that labor is the MPI position paper *Towards 2010: Priorities for NPT Consensus*, which was widely distributed before and during the first session of the NPT preparatory committee in Vienna, April 30 to May 11. More than 400 hard copy versions of the paper have been distributed. The electronic version was sent to all governments that attended any of the Article VI Forum consultations, key figures in the United Nations and other international agencies such as the IAEA, and a broad range of NGOs. The paper is also available on the MPI and GSI websites.

During the PrepCom, Senator Roche had the opportunity to present the paper in a variety of forums to a diverse series of audiences.

April 29: A private reception. On the eve of the PrepCom, Sen. Roche hosted a small reception in his hotel suite for diplomats, NGOs and other dignitaries, most notably Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima, during which he explained the history of the report and what MPI hoped to accomplish during the PrepCom.

May 2: The MPI panel. MPI ran the luncheon NGO briefing on Wednesday, focusing on *Towards 2010*. Sen. Roche chaired the session and initiative is designed to focus on two needs: first to ensure that the 2010 Review Conference ends with a substantive final document and, second, to help “set a course for the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world.” John Burroughs, the Executive Director of the Lawyers’

Committee on Nuclear Policy, explained the value of each of the seven priorities. Amb. Sergio De Queiroz Duarte, the President of the 2005 NPT Review Conference and the Head of the Brazilian delegation to this PrepCom, responded that the priorities will face difficulties based on the “false argument” over whether the priority should be disarmament or non-proliferation. “We need parallel progress,” he said.

May 3: The Canadian reception. The Ambassador of Canada to Austria, H.E. Ms. Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, hosted a reception for MPI at the official residence. The guest of honor was Amb. Yukiya Amano, the Chairman of the PrepCom. Sen. Roche presented Amb. Amano with a copy of the report. The reception was attended by a wide range of delegates – including from countries that have not participated in the Article VI Forum - UN staff and NGOs.

May 4: The Pugwash Conferences. In a side event to the PrepCom, the Pugwash Conferences held an informal meeting at the IAEA which coincided with the deadlock in the PrepCom over the agenda (for more details, see the forthcoming MPI report on the PrepCom). Members of Pugwash and ambassadors discussed the issues dividing the states parties and how the divides could be bridged. Sen. Roche used the occasion to argue for a focused approach by like-minded states – as advocated in *Towards 2010* – as a way to bring “collegiality” to the PrepCom, thus making a coordinated approach to the nuclear weapon states more effective.

May 4: The International Peace Bureau panel. The IPB, one of the co-sponsors of MPI, conducted a strategy session on “approaches to ensure a successful outcome of the 2010 Review Conference.” Sen. Roche elaborated on how the MPI position paper fitted into the broader strategies that need to be implemented between now and 2010.

We were gratified by the across-the-board reaction to the paper. It clearly reflects the thinking of the vast majority of governments which will be the driving force throughout the PrepCom and into the 2010 Review Conference.