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NPT Working Paper and the New Zealand government's position on a treaty to ban nuclear weapons

11 April 2015

The 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Working Paper submitted by New Zealand on behalf of the New Agenda Coalition (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa) (NPT/CONF.2015/WP.9) on Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was publicly released by the government yesterday, is now available at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/NPT-conf-2015-wp-9.pdf>

This seems to be what the NZ government is pinning their hopes on to achieve a nuclear weapons ban - apparently their current position is that while it is government policy to support a ban treaty, they do not support it being done outside the NPT ... hence why they will not (at this point at least) join the states that have supported the Austrian pledge, or take a leading role in negotiating a ban treaty via a diplomatic process outside of the existing processes as they did with the Convention on Cluster Munitions, sigh.

This is despite the August 2012 Report of the Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee to parliament which supported iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand's call for the New Zealand government to actively engage with like-minded governments committed to abolishing nuclear weapons to launch, without delay, an initiative to start the process of negotiating a global ban on nuclear weapons - a treaty to prohibit the development, production, testing, deployment, stockpiling, transfer, threat of use, and use of nuclear weapons.

"On balance we believe that the time is right for the New Zealand Government to support a nuclear weapons convention. We see New Zealand's geopolitical role as one of pushing the boundaries towards peaceful resolutions. It has been traditionally ahead of the pack in matters of disarmament, and this is a good opportunity to take an active role regarding the abolition of nuclear weapons, as it did regarding cluster munitions. New Zealand has had a significant impact in this area and we look for this to continue. ... While we acknowledge the difficulty, complexity, and cost of negotiating a convention, we believe New Zealand should move beyond a position of general support to the forefront of negotiations towards a nuclear weapons convention." - Foreign Affairs Defence and Trade Select Committee, <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/icanz030812.pdf>

As it is now apparent that the government will not change its position before NPT Review Conference, once we see what transpires there, iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand will be launching a new campaign to push the government to implement the recommendations of the Select Committee.