



Aotearoa **New Zealand**

**From nuclear weapons-free
Aotearoa New Zealand to
a nuclear weapons-free world**

‘Nuclear weapons, NZ and Norway: Making disarmament progress in 2013’ Seminar, Wellington, 21 February 2013

Presentation outline

- Introduction to iCAN and iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand
- Five reasons why the New Zealand government should take a leading role in the elimination of nuclear weapons now
- Brief comment on the Open-Ended Working Group
- The Oslo conference and possibilities arising from it
- Next steps for the New Zealand government
- A word of warning about delaying support ...



Introduction: **i**CAN and **i**CAN Aotearoa New Zealand

- The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (**i**CAN) is an international campaign with the single goal of eliminating nuclear weapons through a global treaty to ban their possession, production, deployment, use and threat of use
- **i**CAN is the Norwegian government's civil society partner for the Oslo conference
- There are eight **i**CAN national campaigns around the world, and **i**CAN has more than 270 partner organisations in 60 countries

- iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand is one of iCAN's national campaigns
- Peace Movement Aotearoa provides national coordination for iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand, which has nineteen supporting organisations - fifteen national and four local NGOs
- iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand's focus is to persuade the New Zealand government to take a leading role in beginning, and achieving, a process for a global ban on nuclear weapons
- Petition to parliament in 2011, which resulted in a favourable Report from the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee in 2012

Five reasons why the New Zealand government should take a leading role in the elimination of nuclear weapons

1) Our place in the Pacific

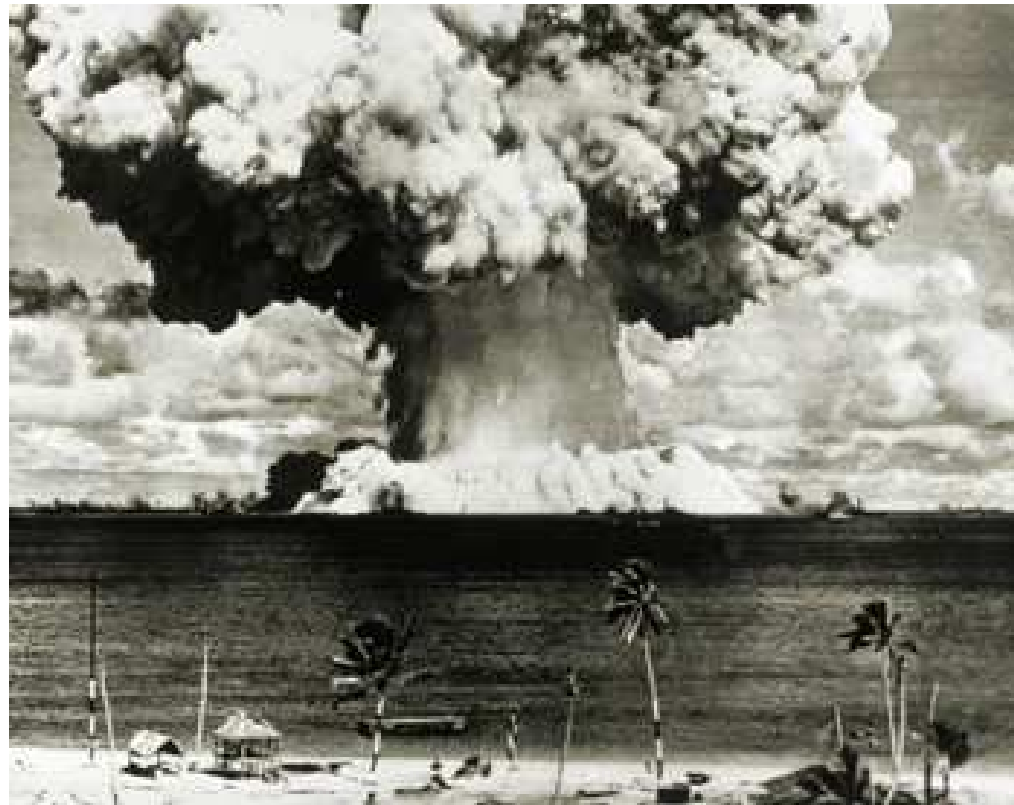
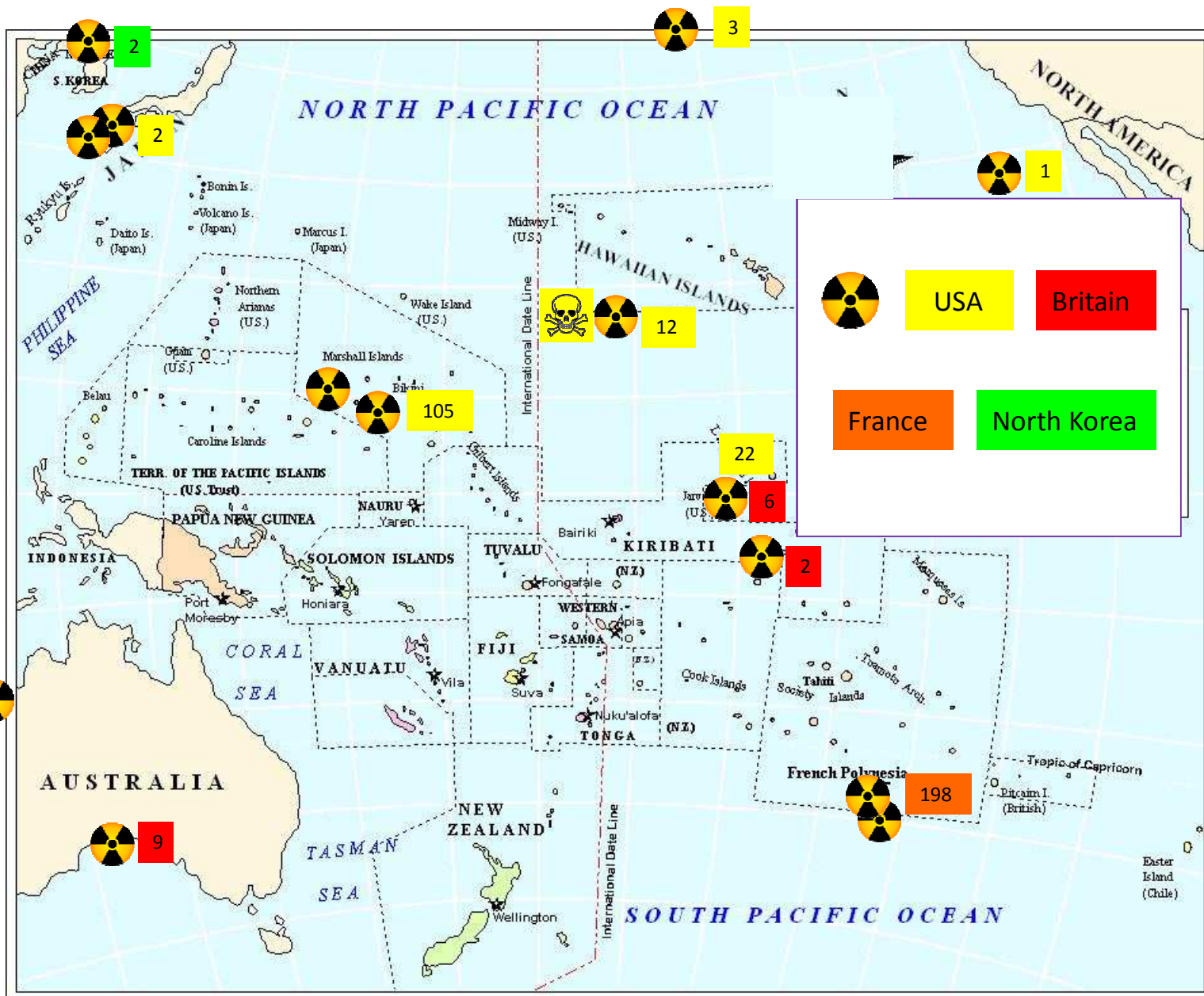


Photo credit: New York Times



'Mapping gender and militarisation in the Pacific' project, Dr Teresia Teaiwa, Va'aomanū Pasifika and Edwina Hughes, Peace Movement Aotearoa, 2011

2) Historic leadership in relation to nuclear weapons: eg, sending frigates to Moruroa, three appearances before the ICJ, the South Pacific Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and legislation



Photo credit: Moruroa Veterans



**New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone,
Disarmament, and Arms Control
Act 1987**

Public Act	1987 No 86
Date of assent	8 June 1987
Commencement	8 June 1987

3) Leading role in the Oslo diplomatic process that led to the Cluster Munitions Convention, including hosting the 2008 Wellington conference



Photo credit: <http://www.stopclusterbombs.org.nz>

4) 2012 Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee Report on iCAN Aotearoa New Zealand's petition to parliament:

“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.”

- 3 August 2012

5) Bid for a seat on the Security Council



Photo credit: UN Photo/DN

Open-Ended Working Group: Taking forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations

A/RES/67/56: General Assembly, 3 December 2012

- 1. Decides to establish an open-ended working group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons;*
- 2. Also decides that the working group will convene in Geneva in 2013 for up to three weeks, with the contribution of international organizations and civil society, in accordance with established practice, and will hold its organizational session as soon as possible;*
- 3. Further decides that the working group shall submit a report on its work, reflecting discussions held and proposals made, to the General Assembly at its sixty eighth session, which will assess its work, taking into account developments in other relevant forums ...*

Recorded vote of 147 in favour to 4 against, with 31 abstentions: Against: France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States. **Abstained:** Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Czech Republic, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Monaco, Nepal, Pakistan, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan. **Absent:** Bulgaria, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Seychelles, Turkmenistan.

The Oslo conference



Programme

Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons

International Conference

Oslo, 4–5 March 2013

The conference has five parts:

- **Opening**
- **Working session I:** Immediate humanitarian impact of a nuclear weapon detonation - Co-Chairs: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **Working session II:** Wider impact and longer-term consequences - Co-Chairs: Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **Working Session III:** Humanitarian preparedness and response - Co-Chairs: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Austria, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- **Concluding remarks and Chair's summary:** Gry Larsen, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Possibilities for the Oslo conference and beyond

- start of a series of diplomatic meetings to focus on the prevention of any use of nuclear weapons?
- start of a process to ban nuclear weapons?

Next steps for the New Zealand government

- to take the floor in the closing session and announce enthusiastic support for negotiations to begin on a global ban on nuclear weapons, and preparedness to take a leading role in this; and
- to announce a follow-up conference to be held in Wellington

A word of warning about delaying support ...

Compare this:

"The position of successive New Zealand Governments has been one of general support for such a convention when circumstances are such that it has a realistic chance of success, and in the meantime to focus on practical measures to reduce nuclear dangers. I am advised that the prospects of successfully negotiating such a treaty at the present time would be poor. For that reason, at Government level internationally, there are no serious moves afoot to get negotiations on a convention under way."

- Minister of Foreign Affairs, 31 May 2012

with this:

“We want to see landmines abolished but, realistically, this can only be achieved in series of steps”.

“Without question we are opposed to landmines. ... But a credible solution has to be a workable solution, and sometimes that only comes about by degrees and not by bold initiatives that fall on deaf ears”.

- Minister of Foreign Affairs, 2 March 1995

Yet the Mine Ban Treaty was signed only eighteen months later ...



Aotearoa New Zealand

“we believe New Zealand should move to the forefront of negotiations towards a global ban on nuclear weapons”

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