

campaign



Nuclear risk increasing

CND General Secretary **Kate Hudson** assesses the nuclear implications of last week's NATO Summit.

LAST WEEK NATO heads of state met in Madrid for this year's summit meeting. As expected, a new Strategic Concept was unveiled, setting NATO's evolving global development in the context of the war in Ukraine. While the long-term orientation towards a military build-up in the Indo Pacific to counter China continues, there is an intensification of focus on Russia and eastern Europe in particular, including a substantial

increase in military forces in the latter. Significant stress is laid on Article 5 of the NATO treaty, which provides for collective defence – an attack on one is an attack on all. The Open Door policy has been reaffirmed, with the membership of Sweden and Finland endorsed, and others potentially welcomed further down the line. Taken together with an escalating militarisation across our societies, the

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summit outcomes indicate a deepening preparation for major war, in Europe or beyond. The great danger we all face is that this preparation for war actually increases the risk of war.

Nowhere is this more worryingly spelled out than in

against the threat or use of chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials and weapons of mass destruction.’

How can that possibly be the case? To revert to a slogan from previous times: No nukes is good nukes! And the global

Rather than ... recognising that nuclear weapons are so dangerous they must be outlawed, NATO has clearly decided that nukes are so dangerous that we must have a lot more.

NATO’s new Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Defence Policy, published alongside the new Strategic Concept. This underpins NATO’s ‘defence and deterrence’ posture and states that ‘Allies will have all the appropriate tools to ensure that potential adversaries do not perceive that they can gain a clear advantage against NATO by using, or threatening to use, CBRN materials.’

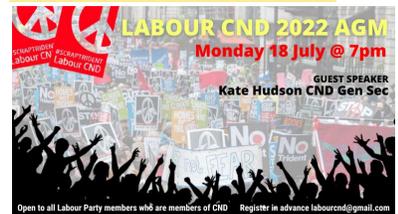
Rather than following the path pursued through the TPNW, of recognising that nuclear weapons are so dangerous they must be outlawed, NATO has clearly decided that nukes are so dangerous that we must have a lot more. The additional problem is that NATO suffers from the delusion that we can be made safe from them: ‘NATO’s populations, territories and forces will be defended and secure

majority agree with that. To counter NATO’s preparation for war, peace activists from around the world gathered in Madrid to discuss an alternative vision of global security – and to strategise for moving forward together. The message was clear:

‘The international peace movement calls on social movements such as trade unions, environmental movement, women’s, youth, anti-racism organisations to resist the militarisation of our societies that can only come at the expense of social welfare, public services, the environment, and human rights. Together we can work for a different security order based on dialogue, cooperation, disarmament, common and human security. This is not only desirable, but necessary if we want to preserve the planet from threats and challenges posed by nuclear weapons, climate change and poverty.’

Spotlight

This month Labour CND



The purpose of this section of CND is to build support for nuclear disarmament and a peaceful foreign policy within the Labour Party. This pressure is certainly needed right now. As well as individual members, support from constituency parties and other branches and affiliates of the party is also welcomed.

Labour CND is holding its 2022 AGM on 18th July. If you are a member of the Labour Party and of CND you can be a member of Labour CND and are eligible to participate in this meeting.

■ If you would like to attend the AGM or get more involved with Labour CND, please contact labourcnd@gmail.com.

Nuclear ban decisions

CND Vice-President **Rebecca Johnson** summarises the first meeting of the state parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

WHEN treaties enter into force, as the United Nations' TPNW did in January 2021, it's just the beginning. To be effective, treaties need to be embedded, built on and implemented. This was especially important for the TPNW, which mandates and embodies the long-sought global nuclear ban. The timing of this first meeting of TPNW states parties (1MSP) was inauspicious, with Covid-caused postponements and then the return of devastating war in Europe, accompanied by nuclear threats.

It is a remarkable testimony to the world's desire to be rid of nuclear weapons that in the face of threats by nuclear-armed governments that are ignoring and trashing international humanitarian laws, so many committed governments, campaigners and parliamentarians got together in Vienna to discuss and take forward several important decisions to implement and strengthen the growing nuclear abolition regime.

After years of careful diplomacy and consultations,

the Austrian Chair Alexander Kmentt (with organisational support from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs) guided 1MSP towards consensus on key decisions and an Action Plan comprising fifty forward-looking actions described as a 'framework to guide the implementation of the Treaty and set in motion processes to develop further areas of cooperation and implementation' across all the TPNW obligations and provisions.

'All Hibakusha support this... to make my city, Nagasaki, the last city ever to suffer from an atomic bombing.'

From prohibitions to victim assistance, environmental remediation, and increasing the participation of women, survivors, civil society and its scientific and verification specialists, the actions encompassed obligations and actions to accelerate 'universality' – that is, to bring many more governments into

the nuclear ban regime, including the currently nuclear-implicit and nuclear-armed states – to work together on stigmatising, prohibiting and eliminating all nuclear weapons.

The Action Plan was accompanied by a strong Declaration titled 'Our Commitment to a World Free of Nuclear Weapons', and a factual report that legally enshrined the decisions that were taken, including on deadlines for removing nuclear weapons (90 days) and destroying them irreversibly (10 years for nuclear possessor states, with the possibility of a five-year extension if needed). Mexico will chair the second meeting in November 2023 at UNHQ in New York, with Kazakhstan going next.

Nuclear bomb survivor and physician, Dr Masao Tomonaga, speaking at the end, called the meeting an important start, despite many difficulties: 'All Hibakusha support this... to make my city, Nagasaki, the last city ever to suffer from an atomic bombing.'

**Post-Vienna, where next for the peace movement?
Yorkshire CND meeting**

6 July 6pm, online.

■ To register contact info@yorkshirecnd.org.uk

West Midlands CND meeting

13 July, 7pm, online.

■ To register contact wmcndall@gmail.com

Common Security Report 2022: UK launch – CND webinar

14 July 7pm, online.

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

Labour CND AGM

18 July 7pm, online.

■ To register contact labourcnd@gmail.com

How to get our councils to support the TPNW – CND workshop

19 July 7pm, online.

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

UK nuclear policies: proliferation not disarmament – CND webinar

3 August 6:15pm-7:45pm, online.

■ To register contact information@cnduk.org

March from Trawsfynydd to Wylfa

4-10 September

North Wales

■ Contact heddwch@cndcymru.org for more information.

Stop US nukes coming to Lakenheath

Saturday, 17th September

RAF Lakenheath, Suffolk

Contact information@cnduk.org for info.

Join CND to protest against US nuclear weapons in the UK

Meet the staff

This month:

Jacqui Burke, Regional Development Worker for Greater Manchester & District CND

"I've been a member of CND for over 40 years and the Regional Development Worker at Greater Manchester & District CND for 20 years.

I've driven many minibuses filled with activists to Faslane, AWE, the DSEI Arms Fair and Elbit. GM&D CND was one of the groups who spent the most time blockading during the Faslane 365 campaign and I now know the route to Gare Loch like the back of my hand.

As a representative for CND on the national Stop the Arms Fair group I help to facilitate actions around the DSEI and, in the future, other arms fairs.

Obviously, it's also important to work in the regions and we have strong links with local groups - The People's Assembly, dED-UCATION, GMSTWC, Veterans for Peace, XR and Climate Action groups and faith groups. We also have close links with the Nuclear Free Local Authority Secretariat and UK Mayors for Peace based in Manchester."

