

11. Feakes & Mcleish (DISCUSSION PAPER)

Pugwash Meeting no. 324
52nd Pugwash CBW Workshop
10 Years of the OPCW: Taking Stock and Looking Forward
Noordwijk, The Netherlands, 17-18 March 2007

A proposal for a briefing book for the 2008 CWC Review Conference

Daniel Feakes and Caitríona McLeish

This is a proposal for a concrete and practical civil society contribution to preparations for the Second CWC Review Conference. The proposal draws on precedents from other international diplomatic conferences, principally the review conferences of the NPT and on the experience of producing the *Briefing Book: BWC Sixth Review Conference 2006* which was distributed in Geneva last year. The BWC briefing book was particularly well-received by delegates and others at the Sixth BWC Review Conference and we are therefore now keen to find out whether a similar product could be equally useful for the Second CWC Review Conference.

The primary idea behind the Briefing Book is to assist delegates to the Review Conference in their work and thus to contribute to a successful and constructive outcome to the Conference. By collecting together as many of the key relevant documents as possible, the authors hope to provide a convenient reference source for use during the Review Conference, and beyond. Having attended many previous CWC meetings, as well as other international diplomatic meetings, we felt it would be advantageous to have as many of the relevant documents as possible collected into one publication. In producing a briefing book, we also hope to demonstrate the constructive input which civil society can make to international meetings such as the Second Review Conference.

Precedents

In Autumn 2006, the British American Security Information Council (BASIC), the Harvard Sussex Program (HSP) and the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre (VERTIC), with financial support from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, produced a 580-page briefing book containing official documents and other texts relating to the biological weapons regime, such as: official BWC documents (such as the Final Documents from the previous five Review Conferences); documents from the United Nations, other international organisations and regional organisations; documents from informal instruments and arrangements; and supporting material from various non-governmental organisations (NGOs). An electronic copy of the briefing book can be downloaded from www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/spru/hsp/Briefing%20Book.htm

Before, during and after the Sixth BWC Review Conference we distributed 750 copies of the *Briefing Book: BWC Sixth Review Conference 2006*. Two launch events

were organised in Geneva, on 9 and 22 November, copies were distributed during the Review Conference itself and copies were subsequently mailed to delegations of states that had not attended the Review Conference, particularly to states not party to the BWC.

The concept of a briefing book or resource guide for a review conference is not a new one. Prior to the 7th NPT review conference in 2005, the Arms Control Association and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom published *Major Proposals to Strengthen the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty: A Resource Guide* (see <www.armscontrol.org/pdf/NPTRevConf2005_MajorProposals.pdf>). Another example is the briefing book which the Mountbatten Centre for International Studies and the Center for Nonproliferation Studies produces prior to NPT review conference meetings (see <www.mcis.soton.ac.uk/towards2005npt.html>).

Ways forward

BASIC, HSP and VERTIC have already begun preparatory discussions about the production of a CWC briefing book, based on our collaborative experience in 2006. As before, we are hopeful that states parties will see the benefit of such a book and offer financial support. Indeed, one or two have already expressed an interest.

We are keen to canvas opinions on the value of a briefing book for the Second CWC Review Conference modelled on that which we produced for the Sixth BWC Review Conference. Clearly there are major differences between the BWC and CWC, not least the existence of the OPCW. For this reason a CWC briefing book would likely need to include fewer official OPCW documents compared to the many official BWC documents that we included in the BWC briefing book. However, we believe that there is still much value in a briefing book that includes key CWC documents alongside documents from related organisations and arrangements that, for political reasons, the OPCW cannot include in its own publications but which may still be relevant during the Review Conference.

If anyone has comments please contact Daniel Feakes on d.feakes@sussex.ac.uk or Caitriona McLeish on c.a.mcleish@sussex.ac.uk.

Draft Outline

List of acronyms and abbreviations

Introduction

1. The treaties
 - a. Geneva Protocol
 - b. CWC
2. CWC documents
 - a. Key documents from First Review Conference
3. UN documents
 - a. UNGA – annual CWC resolutions
 - b. UNSC – UNSCR 1540, UNSCR 1673
 - c. UNSG – High-Level Panel, In Larger Freedom, Uniting Against Terrorism
4. Documents from other international organisations
 - a. ICRC
 - b. IMO
 - c. WHO
5. Documents from regional and other organisations/regions
 - a. ASEAN
 - b. AU
 - c. EU
 - d. NAM
 - e. OAS
6. Documents from other arrangements
 - a. Australia Group
 - b. G8
 - c. PSI
7. Other documents
 - a. IUPAC
8. Further reading