People Power – Civil Society Support for the Treaty

By mobilizing communities worldwide to lobby for the entry into force of the Treaty, civil society directly engages and supports the goals of the CTBT.

Since 1945, many organizations have actively protested against nuclear weapons use, development, and testing. Civil society has sought to establish direct contact with legislative representatives and influence government policy while keeping the public informed on issues of non-proliferation and disarmament. These peace groups have organized grassroots campaigns to increase public awareness on the dangers of nuclear weapons and worked to ensure that the CTBT has not fallen off the public agenda.

The CTBTO works with civil society. For this reason the organization initiated and continues to promote the Group of Eminent Persons (GEM) and the CTBTO Youth Group.

The GEM comprises of internationally recognized experts in nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament, and was launched in September 2013 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Through their expertise, experience, and political standing, GEM members support and complement efforts to promote the Treaty’s entry into force as well as reinvigorating international endeavours to achieve this goal. Current members include Nobuyasu Abe, Hans Blix, Des Browne, Jayantha Dhanapala, Cristian Diaconescu, Sérgio de Queiroz Duarte, Michel Duclos, Wolfgang Hoffmann, John Hutton, Igor Ivanov, Angela Kane, Dina Kawar, Susan le Jeune d’Allegeersheuec, Johannes Kype, Hu-Jin Lee, Susana Malcorra, Janos Martonyi, Federica Mogherini, Sipho George Nene, William Perry, Kevin Rudd, Ellen Tauscher, and Sha Zukang.

The CTBTO Youth Group, on the other hand, was launched in Vienna, Austria, in January 2016. The group is composed of students and young graduates interested in contributing to global peace and security, and who are actively engaged in promoting the CTBT and its verification regime.

Civil society support for the Treaty remains vital, as Rebecca Johnson, Director of the Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy, points out, “As we saw in the final, successful push for the CTBT, partnerships between governments and civil society are necessary.”

> I admire you for what you have accomplished and I implore you: don’t lose heart, don’t relax, and don’t allow the politicians and diplomats to get away with letting the de facto moratorium stand. We all have an obligation to work for ratification — and entry into force. For the victims of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and the legacy of 2,000 nuclear tests. For the safety and security of our individual countries. For the future of the planet. «

Des Browne
Vice Chairman, Nuclear Threat Initiative, and member of the CTBTO Group of Eminent Persons (2015)
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