NFLA at the NPT PrepCom

The NFLA Secretary and the NFLA Chair were in Geneva to attend the UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Preparatory Conference, and Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision meetings.

The Chair and Secretary represented Manchester City Council, a Vice President of Mayors for Peace.

Over 60 international NGOs attended the NPT Prep Com, which saw considerable unanimity on speeding up the debate over nuclear disarmament.

The Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision General Meeting endorsed a number of reports for the reorganisation and financial underpinning of the 5,600 member group.

The NFLA Chair & Secretary also attended a very useful seminar on the UK – France Defence Treaty and met with the UK NPT Ambassador.

A full report on the proceedings of these meetings is being developed.

NFLA tribute to former Chair George Regan, who has died

The NFLA notes with regret the sad passing of its former Chair, Bailie George Regan, who died in early April, after a long battle against cancer.

George was a Dundee Councillor for over 20 years and its NFLA representative for 14 years. He was the NFLA Chair from 2004 – 2006 & 2009 – 2011. He had also been NFLA Vice Chair (Scotland).

As NFLA Chair, George was a passionate advocate of its policies of the phasing out of nuclear power and a nuclear weapons free world. He was also SCCORS Chair and influenced the Scottish Government’s policy on the management of highly radioactive waste.

Amongst his highlights as NFLA Chair was representing the NFLA at Mayors for Peace Conferences in Hiroshima & Nagasaki and the NPT Conference at the UN in New York.

George was a warm and engaging man and will be sorely missed. A minutes silence is being held at NFLA meetings in his memory.
NFLA media releases
April 2013: (On NFLA website.)

- NFLA Scotland joint seminar considers future trends in nuclear weapons policy
- NFLA Welsh Forum seminar considers key energy and other issues
- NFLA tribute to George Regan

NFLA Welsh Forum considers key energy & other issues

The NFLA Welsh Forum held its spring seminar in Pontypool and it looked at a number of important energy and proliferation matters. Opened by the Leader of Torfaen Council, Bob Wellington, it began with an analysis of how to develop a non-nuclear future in Wales by independent consultant Neil Crumpton.

Marine pollution expert Tim Deere-Jones talked about the NFLA’s submission to the Food Standards Agency and concern over a Welsh ‘Dalgety Bay’ type incident.

WANA representative Tim Richards outlined concerns over new build at Hinkley and Wylfa.

The four presentations will go on the NFLA website.

NFLA meets Irish Government, Forum meeting rescheduled

The NFLA Irish Forum Chairs & NFLA Secretary are meeting with officials from the Irish Environment Department on May 2nd to consider a wide range of nuclear policy issues.

Meanwhile, the NFLA All Ireland Forum has had to be rearranged for 7th June in Fingal.

The seminar will look at the RPII report on the risks to Ireland of a UK new nuclear reactor programme. It will also consider onshore wind and fuel poverty matters. Go to the NFLA website for a flyer & full registration details.
NFLA comments on MOD submarine dismantling decision

The NFLA Secretariat has published a detailed overview considering the Ministry of Defence (MOD) response to its public consultation on the dismantling of redundant nuclear-powered submarines. The submarines lay at the Royal Naval sites of Rosyth in Fife and at Plymouth Devonport.

The MOD has decided that it plans to remove and store the Reactor Pressure Vessels (PRV) in each submarine. They will then be stored in a theoretical deep-underground repository, if it is ever built.

The NFLA welcome the decision not to cut up the RPV as NFLA policy is always to concentrate and contain waste.

Sites to store interim intermediate level waste also need to be located.

The NFLA overview, as a radioactive waste briefing, is on the NFLA website.

HMS TIRELESS LEAK — NFLA BRIEFING

The NFLA have drafted a short briefing on the recent reported leak of the HMS Tireless nuclear submarine.

The briefing outlines the key concerns of this incident and how the NFLA is following up the matter with the UK and Irish Governments. The report is on the NFLA website.

Other news in brief

HINKLEY POINT NEW NUCLEAR IMPASSE?

A protracted discussion with the UK Government and EDF over financing new nuclear build at Hinkley Point remains. The blockage is over the ‘strike price’ for new nuclear. Any agreement would need EU approval. The NFLA will monitor this issue closely.

RADWASTE POLICY DEVELOPMENT: The future direction of UK radwaste management policy remains unclear following Cumbria’s decision not to go ahead with a deep-underground waste facility process. The NFLA’s June seminar will consider what direction it may take.

Forthcoming meetings of interest to NFLA members

NFLA Chair & Secretary meeting Vienna Environment Council, 17th May, London.

MOD SDP Advisory Group, 30th May, Edinburgh.

NFLA All Ireland Forum, 7th June, Fingal County Hall.

NuLeAF seminar on Magnox contract process, 19th June, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA Steering Committee, 28th June, Manchester Town Hall.

NFLA English Forum / SC seminar, 28th June, Manchester Town Hall.