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Positive talks at the NPT PrepCon

A small NFLA delegation joined with our partner organisation, Mayors for Peace, to lobby delegations taking part in the Nuclear Non Proliferation NPT Treaty 'PrepCon' at the United Nations in New York from May 4 - 6.

The Conference is the final real chance to influence the agenda and the recommendations for

next year's formal Conference, which will determine the nuclear weapons proliferation regime.

The NFLA delegation met Ambassadors from France, Chile, Philippines, Mexico, Costa Rica and Egypt and took a full part in all organised events with the Mayors for Peace Secretariat.

The Conference had

some real positive outcomes in the agreeing to 2010 conference agenda.

The 'big five' nuclear powers issued a joint statement welcoming progress towards worldwide nuclear disarmament. There was greater goodwill due to positive talks between the USA and Russia. The NFLA and Mayors for Peace.



The NPT Preparatory Conference opening session, May 4th, United Nations building

NFLA Chair speaks at the Mayors for Peace in New York

NFLA Acting Chair Baillie George Regan was one of the speakers at the Mayors for Peace Forum in the NPT PrepCon NGO session.

The meeting had been hosted by the Government of Mexico and was opened by the UN Disarmament Commissioner, Sergio

Duarte.

Also speaking were the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Mayors from the US and from Italy, Croatia, Taiwan, Cameroon and Iraq.

Baillie George Regan's passionate address noted the NFLA's determination to see a nuclear weapon free world, and received a

warm ovation.

After the meeting, Costa Rica agreed to table the Hiroshima Nagasaki Protocol to the NPT to speed up disarmament by 2020.



Baillie George Regan speaking at the Mayors for Peace Forum as part of the NPT Prep Con NGO session

NFLA Policy Briefing – Japanese TV show interest!

NFLA Recent Press Releases:

A Nuclear Waste Repository in Cumbria?

http://www.nuclearpolicy.info/news/press_release_210409.pdf

Are you registered for the NFLA initiated 'Nuclear News' service?

For over 10 years the NFLA Scotland Policy Adviser have provided members and officers with a daily 'Nuclear News' service. This provides very useful snippets of key nuclear power, nuclear waste and nuclear proliferation stories in the world's media.

If you would like to sign up to this free service please go to Pete Roche's website: <http://www.no2nuclearpower.org.uk/maillist/> or via the link on the NFLA website.

NFLA councillors and officer contacts are encouraged to register as soon as possible for the NFLA Policy Briefing.

The Policy Briefing takes place on the 12th June in Manchester Town Hall and is on the importance of local authorities in tackling climate change and nuclear proliferation.

Keynote speakers are the Mayor of Ypres, who will explain the Mayors for Peace 2020 Vision on reducing stockpiles of nuclear weapons; and the climate change and nuclear power Dutch expert JW Storm van Leeuwen.

Case studies from the 4 NFLA Forums highlight how Councils can tackle

the challenge of climate change. An overview of nuclear proliferation and the threat of nuclear terrorism will also be provided.

Japanese State TV NHK is profiling the NFLA event as part of a documentary on nuclear waste.

All NFLA members have been sent full details. **REGISTER NOW!**

Nuclear New Build – firm NFLA response to the 11 sites

The NFLA Secretariat have sent a detailed, full response to the Government's comment period on 11 sites nominated as potential new nuclear power stations.

The NFLA response focused on concerns over flooding, emergency planning and reducing the positive alternatives of renewable energy

through costly and long-winded moves to nuclear.

The response also notes concerns over planning blight, concerns over waste storage and the financial cost of new nuclear, using the current problems with new build in Finland as an example.

A more detailed

consultation on the new sites will take place in the autumn.

This comment stage was only available online, restricted to England and Wales and was cumbersome in having to respond to each individual site.

The NFLA response has been sent to members and will be tabled on the NFLA website.



NFLA Chair George Regan and NFLA Scotland Vice Convenor Cllr Audrey Doig with Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba of Hiroshima in New York

NFLA response to CoRWM report on a waste repository

The NFLA have given a thorough response to the draft report of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) on a national radioactive waste repository.

CoRWM have recommended the development of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for intermediate and high level radioactive waste.

The NFLA response notes that the

Government have pre-empted this debate by seeking volunteers before the GDF concept has been proven.

The NFLA response has been sent to members and will be tabled on the NFLA website.



Mayor Akiba presents citizens petitions that 'Cities are not Targets to UN Disarmament Commissioner, Sergio Duarte, UN building.

Letters to the press

Recent published NFLA articles include:

NFLA at the NPT:
<http://www.thecourier.co.uk/output/2009/05/14/newsstory13135932t0.asp>

LATEST NEWS

Welsh farmers still affected by the Chernobyl disaster:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/may/12/wales-farmer-radioactive-restrictions>

All UK submarines to be stationed at Faslane in Scotland from 2017:
Financial Times and The Herald 7th May

Trident costs rise as US missiles don't fit UK submarine design:
The Herald, 10th May

HSE publish reactor design assessments:
http://www.hse.gov.uk/newreactors/new_s.htm?ebul=newreactor/7-Ma-2009=cr1

NFLA English Forum elects new chair

The NFLA English Forum has elected Councillor Ralph Pryke from Leeds City Council as its new chair.

Its meeting in Lancashire County Council also received passionate denunciations of the immorality of developing a new nuclear build programme when the huge problem of

radioactive waste has not been dealt with at present.

Opened by Lancashire councilor Don Yates, the seminar included presentations from Professor Andrew Blowers from the Nuclear Consultation Group, Professor Brian Clark of CoRWM and Jean McSorley of Greenpeace.

The seminar was well attended and very useful in developing the NFLA response to developing a national geological disposal facility, possibly in the Cumbria area noted above.

The election of Cllr Pryke means that all four NFLA Forums have chairs and vice chairs representing 6 different political parties.

NDA dialogues / SCCORS re-launch in COSLA HQ

The NFLA will be represented shortly in two important stakeholder dialogues being organised by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

On 21st May the NDA will be holding a stakeholder dialogue on how it deals with the huge stockpile of plutonium stored at a number of nuclear sites. The NFLA Secretary will

attend this important event.

On the 17th and 18th June the NDA will be holding their annual stakeholder dialogue in Manchester. This will look at all key NDA policies. The NFLA Chair, the NFLA Secretary and NFLA Shetland Island member Cllr Nickerson will be attending this event.

Meanwhile, the Scottish Councils' Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) was launched at COSLA HQ in Edinburgh on 1st May.

SCCORS includes all 32 Scottish Councils and will interact with the Scottish Government on decommissioning and waste issues. The NFLA was fully represented at it and will work with it and NuLEAF on these ongoing issues.

Forthcoming NFLA meetings

NFLA Steering Committee, memorial event for Councillor Bill Risby and Annual Conference - **Thursday 11th and Friday 12th June, Manchester Town Hall**

NFLA Scotland – **Friday 19th June, Lerwick Town Hall**

NFLA Wales / England joint meeting – **Friday 26th June, Liverpool Town Hall (tbc)**

NFLA All Ireland – **Friday 16th October, Bray Civic Offices, Republic of Ireland**