



AMPLIFY YOUTH SUMMIT 2017



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We have the pleasure to work with many engaged youth who see the potential for a world without nuclear weapons. These youth have the courage to turn words into concrete actions at important decision making processes. Together with them, we are challenging current security perceptions and convincing the ones deciding on our future that diplomacy, dialogue and trust is the best way forward.

We are proud to see how the network has grown since the first time we met in Hiroshima, Japan. August 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The testimonies of hibakusha have inspired youth to ensure that the future is free from nuclear weapons. Based on the needs and desire of the participants to continue working together for our shared goal of nuclear abolition, “Amplify” was created.

This summer, Amplify coordinated a Youth Summit in 2017 on the margins of the Nuclear Ban Treaty negotiations in New York. Together with the rest of the world, Amplify members witnessed the adoption of a new historical treaty. A report of this memorable summit lays in front of you.

In our journey, we have the honour to work with many individuals and organisations who stand by us. We would like to take this moment to whole heartedly congratulate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) for receiving the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. Many of Amplify’s current membership, steering committee members and all of our co-chairs are also members of ICAN. We could not be more proud of the work of ICAN.

We would also like to thank in particular the main sponsors of the Youth Summit 2017. With their supports we were able to lay the ground work for this important new youth network to thrive.

At the end of each phase, a new one begins. In the middle of the ongoing threat of nuclear weapons, we can now say: The majority has spoken, nuclear weapons have no place in this world. We hope that the Amplify Youth Summit report will show why youth should have an equal right to information and involvement at all levels of disarmament and peace building, and that they bring unique skills, expertise and innovations that are essential to disarmament processes. We also hope that the work that has been done by numerous nuclear disarmament campaigners will inspire the next generations, showing them that engaging in this issue is crucial, as it does bring us closer to a more secure, sustainable world.

Selma van Oostwaard, the Netherlands (PAX)

Rick Wayman, United States (Nuclear Age Peace Foundation)

Hayley Ramsay-Jones, Switzerland (Soka Gakkai International)



/amplifyyouthnetwork



@amplifynetwork



amplify.youthorg



www.amplifyyouth.org

Amplify is a **global network of young people working for nuclear abolition**. We, Amplify, see the potential for a world without nuclear weapons; we see the potential for security not based on fear but on diplomacy, cooperation and trust. We seek human security and sustainability, which are impossible to achieve fully in the presence of nuclear weapons.

The Amplify network is uniting youth from all over the world to create opportunities for future collaborations transcending strategic differences. Our common goal is to amplify and strengthen the call for complete nuclear abolition by taking action, raising our voices and pursuing nuclear abolition in our communities and countries.

Background

Amplify derived from the “International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition” held in Hiroshima, Japan, from 28-30 August 2015. August 2015 marked the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The International Youth Summit gave the next generation of nuclear disarmament leaders the opportunity to experience first-hand the atrocities that took place 70 years ago and to commit to abolishing these horrific weapons of mass destruction.

Additionally, **the event helped preserve the living memories of hibakusha**, and further inspired youth to ensure that the future is free from nuclear weapons. The final day of the Summit was a public forum, where participants deepened their understanding of the issue, discussed what actions they can take in their own communities and heard from the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth. The youth leaders also developed a Youth Pledge for Nuclear Abolition and a one-year action plan.

Based on the successful completion of the International Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition and seeing the needs and desire from the participants to continue working together for our shared goal of nuclear abolition, “Amplify-Generation of Change” the youth network was born.

Aim

Amplify supports and aims to unite young people from all across the globe and encourage young people’s involvement, activities and actions for nuclear abolition. The network also aims to help empower young people who are new to this cause by providing information and resources to learn about the issues and to connect with other youth taking action.

Co-Sponsors and Supporters

The Amplify Youth Summit would not have been possible without the generous support from our co-sponsors:



Buan-Ionad na hÉireann
chun na Náisiún Aontaithe
Permanent Mission of Ireland
to the United Nations



EUROPE
INTEGRATION
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FEDERAL MINISTRY
REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Soka Gakkai International

We would also like to express our thanks to the crowdfunding donor for their support!

Amplify Youth Summit 2017

Sixteen youth from 13 countries gathered for the Amplify Youth Summit for Nuclear Abolition that took place from the 17th– to the 21st of June. The United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination offered an opportunity for the international community to finally say that nuclear weapons are unacceptable. These weapons do not belong in our society now and they have no place in our future.

For these reasons, Amplify organised the Youth Summit in New York on the margins of the negotiating conference. Throughout the Summit our delegates were involved in a wide range of activities, which allowed us to provide a youthful perspective to the negotiations. Highlights of our five-day summit included co-organizing sign-making and pizza party along with the youth of Peace Action New York State and Gensuikyo; participating in the Women's March to Ban the



Bomb through the rain storm; meeting the hibakusha; and hosting a Youth Reception for Nuclear Abolition supported by 10 co-sponsor organizations. We also had briefing meetings with the President of the Conference Ambassador Elaine Whyte Gomez, the Under-Secretary-General of Disarmament Affairs, Austria, Ireland, and ICAN.

Our various discussions and briefings confirmed that **youth participation in disarmament discussions is critical in ensuring that such discussions reflect the voices of younger generations**, which are a key stakeholder for a world without nuclear weapons. It also ensures that important multilateral decisions such as the current ban treaty negotiations reach the wider youth and general public. In this sense, youth participation is not only our right; it is our contribution.



"I truly believe youth participating and embracing a role in nuclear disarmament will be the drive needed to eventually eliminate nuclear weapons. At this point, their voices are still not loud enough and Amplify is a necessary to bring that voice to the fore."

"I don't know where to start or end the greatness of those amazing two days. I appreciate each participant's energy and story in activism."

Saturday 17th June: Women's March

The Women's March to Ban the Bomb took place on Saturday the 17th of June. Organised by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Reaching Critical Will, the march was a huge success. At the rally prior to the march, Amplify delegates Josie Parkhouse, Maral Hassanshahi and Pinar Temocin warmed up the crowd at Bryant Park on W41st Street between Sixth Avenue and Broadway, with another Amplify delegate, Leah, invited to speak at the post-march rally at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

The Women's March to Ban the Bomb was a women-led initiative building on the momentum of movements at the forefront of the resistance, including the Women's March on Washington. It brought together people of all genders, sexual orientations, ages, races, abilities, nationalities, cultures, faiths, political affiliations, and backgrounds. The March presented a fantastic opportunity for the Amplify Youth Delegates to present the youth voice, and engage with key figures in nuclear disarmament.



Austrian Consulate General

Saturday 17th June: Austrian Consulate General

The Austrian Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs cordially invited the Amplify delegates to hold the Amplify weekend conference on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June, at the premises of the Austrian General Consulate in New York.

The Amplify Youth Delegates were welcomed by Deputy Consul General, Mr. Georg Woutsas, who highlighted the threat of nuclear weapons and the potential of the younger generation to work towards a world free of them.

As first guest speakers, Beatrice Fihn and Daniel Hoegsta from the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) introduced the participants in the campaign, the goals and the role of civil society in the negotiations.



Following the Women's March, the youth delegates gathered at the Consulate and had the honour to meet Ambassador Thomas Hajnoczi, permanent representative of Austria to the United Nations Office at Geneva and head of the delegation of Austria in the negotiations. Ambassador Hajnoczi gave a lecture on the humanitarian initiative that led to the negotiations, referred to Austria's role and position and on various other interesting aspects of the negotiations ahead. He stressed the role of youth in the negotiation process and expressed Austria's support and strong role in disarmament education. His talk was followed by a lively Q&A session.

Austria, looking back on a long history in disarmament affairs and a strong role in humanitarian disarmament, played a key role in the process leading to a treaty. Thanks to this meeting, the Youth Delegation was offered a first-hand account from a key stakeholder in the negotiations.

Hibakusha/Peace Boat

On the Occasion of the United Nations “Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination”, the Austrian Deputy Consul General Dr Georg Woutsas and Mrs. Svetlana Petrukhina-Woutsas invited Amplify and its guest speakers to a dinner on the premises of the Consulate General.

During this dinner reception, the members of Amplify had further interactions with Austrian delegates, as well as hibakusha representatives and were gifted with origami paper crafts by Mr. Kawasaki, of Peace Boat, and hibakusha.

Amplify would like to thank the Austrian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with special thanks to Ambassador Robert Gerschner and Deputy Consul General Georg Woutsas, for co-sponsoring the summit and providing us with such a wonderful venue for our meetings.



Sunday 18th: Hibakusha/Peace Boat

On June 18, Amplify hosted Mr. Akira Kawasaki, a member of the Executive Committee of the Tokyo-based nongovernmental organisation Peace Boat, and the 1st and 2nd generation of hibakusha (Mr. Mise Seiichiro, Ms. Sunahara Yukko, and Ms. Tanaka Toshiko) at the Austrian Consulate General in New York. The members of the Amplify Youth Network divided into two groups to discuss particular issues and raise questions accordingly. The questions directed towards the hibakusha were mainly based on their own experience and expectations about the ban treaty.

The session provided such a unique opportunity to listen to the powerful stories and testimonies from people who witnessed the devastating effects of the atomic bomb in August 1945, and reinforced the argument that humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist. It also provided an intrinsic inspiration and valuable connection of the future leaders with the survivors of the atomic bombings.

Sunday 18th

Since the official launch in May 2016, **Amplify has observed that there is a lot of potential for the network to grow and bring important contributions to nuclear disarmament discussions.** Amplify delegates have been present at many UN conferences, advocating for youth participation in nuclear disarmament. At the same time, there could be other opportunities the network is currently unaware of. Against this backdrop, the Summit participants spent the Sunday afternoon holding internal strategy sessions about Amplify's mission, governing structure, future activities, as well as priorities at the ban treaty negotiations. As a youth network, Amplify needs to ensure that it will continue to attract younger generations of participants who will take leadership. Simultaneously, ensuring continuity and sustainability will be the key for the success of the network.

Youth also formed three subgroups (social media, communications, and advocacy) to strategize its activities during the ban treaty negotiations and beyond. The subgroups worked on tangible action items within each area, including:

Lobbying talking points, especially around the importance of disarmament education

Writing articles on Amplify's activities, to be published via various channels

Social media content management (via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram)

Launch of Amplify Instagram page ([amplify.youthorg](https://www.instagram.com/amplify.youthorg/))



Working paper/statement

Monday 19th

Amplify were proud to submit a working paper, paper number 43, to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA). The paper highlighted the importance of youth participation in the negotiations, and strongly emphasised the need for disarmament education to be included as a positive obligation in the treaty text. Amplify delegates strongly advocated for rights based, age based and gender sensitive victim assistance along with impacting of risk education, especially in areas made highly dangerous by nuclear detonations.

The working paper was well received and considered by several diplomats and other members of civil society present at the conference.

Amplify was also given an opportunity to give a statement on the 20th June, with Tessa Toms delivering the statement on behalf of Amplify during the civil society statements. Amplify used this opportunity to further highlight the above mentioned points from the working paper. The statement was appreciated by the States present and was considered a valuable contribution, which accentuated the youth voice and brought bring their opinions to the negotiating table.



Amplify meet H.E. Ambassador Whyte

Monday 19th

Amplify delegates were honoured to meet with Ambassador Whyte during the negotiations. Our participant from, India, Tessa Toms, explained to her the goal, ideas, role and function of our Network. She explained how even though we were from 13 different countries, with very diverse cultures, we shared a common goal: to ban nuclear weapons. We were interested to learn more about how the United Nations treaty negotiations work, and what her opinions about the process were so far.

Ambassador Whyte demonstrated a lot of enthusiasm with respect to young generations being engaged in the negotiations, and explained that: **“There is this perception that, perhaps, is not the most accurate one, that the new generations are, maybe not as interested in public affairs. So it’s very good to see that, all over the world, you still find young people that are hopeful, those are engaged in shaping the future of the world.”**

She was satisfied with how the negotiations were developing and was certain that we would achieve a strong treaty by July 7th. She understood that it represents an important step towards nuclear elimination, even if nuclear weapon states and their allies were not participating. The sheer number of States involved demonstrated a democratisation of the world’s security by empowering all countries to participate, not only those few who have more power in the global system.



Ambassador Whyte’s enthusiasm and passion for her work apparent, and we were delighted that she engaged with members of civil society during and after the treaty negotiations.

The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations

Tuesday 20th

On June 20th, during the UN Nuclear Ban Negotiations, Amplify were invited to attend the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN. This meeting was organised prior to the commencement of the Youth Summit with Jenny Quinn, Third Secretary, in the Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Unit of the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Amplify Youth Delegates were welcomed by Deputy Ambassador Tim Mawe, who discussed various aspects of the negotiations, and answered questions from the Amplify group. Ireland, a country with a long standing history in disarmament affairs, proved to be a key State party during the negotiations, and this meeting offered Amplify an opportunity to learn from key figures in the Irish Delegation.

During the meeting H.E. Ambassador Donoghue joined the youth delegates, which was a true honour. Amplify would like to extend a thank you to the Irish Permanent Mission for their warm welcome at their office in New York, and for their co-sponsorship of the Amplify Summit.



Tuesday 20th

On June 20th, after a busy day at the United Nations, the Amplify delegates held a Youth Reception at the Unitarian Church of All Souls, with the aim to create an informal space for young people involved in nuclear disarmament to meet one another and connect with the nuclear disarmament movement. The well-attended event was hosted by Amplify, with Amplify Steering Committee member Matt De Vlieger taking responsibility for the organisation of the event.

This reception was co-sponsored by Abolition 2000, BANG, ICAN, United for Peace and Justice, Peace & Planet, PANYS, AFSC, IPB and PAX. These organisations were delighted to share some words of wisdom in a series of informal speeches, with the speeches delivered by youth (and the youthful at heart) representatives. Alongside the dozens of civil society representatives present, we were joined by some members of the public and country representatives, including representatives from the Irish, Austrian and Kenyan embassies.

We hope that those present were able to make valuable connections with others working in the field and that we can replicate this reception at future youth summits.



Wednesday 21st

On the 21st of June, Amplify was honoured to meet with the UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu. It was an inspiring and important opportunity for Amplify delegates to voice our opinions to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.

It was an opportunity to demonstrate that disarmament affairs are an issue that very much concerns the youth of today, from all corners of the world. Amplify consists of youth from nuclear weapon states, nuclear weapon umbrella states and states supportive of the ban. These different contexts give us a wide range of knowledge and perspective on the issues of disarmament and global security, which makes the voice of Amplify Youth Network an important one.

Ms. Nakamitsu was pleased to hear that the field of disarmament and global security is an issue that Amplify works so greatly on, and commended us for our efforts during the negotiations. **She also supported our efforts and our demand of disarmament education being included in the treaty.** At the end of the meeting we presented her with Amplify's working paper on the treaty. We also raised our concern for the lack of funding, especially for youth organisations and networks, that makes it difficult for youth to participate and take an active role on issues that concern us.

It was a very insightful meeting, where we had an opportunity to learn about how the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs functions, whilst also demonstrating our commitment, as youth delegates, to achieving a strong Nuclear Ban Treaty.



Follow

High Representative @INakamitsu meets delegation of young leaders from @amplifynetwork



The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Amplify welcomes the final text of the treaty, adopted on July 7th 2017 by 122 States, because it categorically prohibits the worst weapon of mass destruction. By the adoption of the text of the Treaty, two thirds of the world consider nuclear weapons states behaviour not only immoral, but also illegal. The Treaty, therefore, sets a new global norm against these weapons, and it is a clear signal to the countries who are choosing to retain these weapons of mass destruction, establishing a pathway to their elimination. Amplify is pleased to see that the Treaty prohibits States from developing, testing, producing, manufacturing, transferring, possessing, stockpiling, using or threatening to use nuclear weapons, or allowing nuclear weapons to be stationed on their territory, as well as prohibiting States from assisting, encouraging or inducing anyone to engage in any of these activities.

The Treaty also recognizes **“the importance of peace and disarmament education in all its aspects and of raising awareness of the risks and consequences of nuclear weapons for current and future generations.”** Amplify is willing to continue to following up on the Treaty and further efforts to achieve, and maintain, a nuclear weapons free world, and is in particularly looking forward to working together with organisations, experts and governments on further initiatives to educate young people on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and to engage more young people nuclear disarmament debates.

The Treaty offers an opportunity for the world to declare that nuclear weapons are unacceptable. By signing the Treaty, States are confirming their commitment to nuclear disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons at the highest level. Amplify urges all governments to sign the Treaty, which will be open for signature from September 20th, 2017.

The most enriching part of the Summit was...



“There have been so many moments, firstly, I think the fellowship among us was amazing. I felt like youth united against the world! Secondly, listening to experiences of Hibakusha.”

“Learning that many people genuinely want to see more youth involved. The possibility for engagement with other organisations is limitless.”

“Getting to know and work with such a diverse group. Even though our opinions were not always on the same page (which is normal in a big group), it gave us contrast and the opportunity to debate and find solutions.”

Amplify Youth Summit Participants

Alexandra Arce von Herold (Steering Committee member) | [Costa Rica](#)

Matt De Vlieger (Steering Committee member) | [United States](#)

Hrant Jaghinyan | [Armenia / Romania](#)

Maral Hassanshahi | [Iran / United States](#)

Anna Ikeda (Secretariat) | [Japan / United States](#)

Peter Mburu | [Kenya](#)

Thea Katrin Mjelstad | [Norway](#)

Leah Murphy | [Ireland](#)

Josie Parkhouse (Steering Committee member) | [United Kingdom](#)

Uday Pratap Singh (Steering Committee member) | [India](#)

Hayley Ramsay-Jones (Co-chair) | [United Kingdom / Switzerland](#)

Pinar Temocin | [Turkey / Japan](#)

Tessa Toms | [India / United Kingdom](#)

Nadja Schmidt (Steering Committee member) | [Austria](#)

Selma van Oostwaard (Co-chair) | [The Netherlands](#)

Rick Wayman (Co-chair) | [United States](#)

United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination

31 March 2017

English only

New York, 27-31 March 2017 and 15 June-7 July 2017

Youth and Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations: A Voice to be Heard

Submitted by Nuclear Age Peace Foundation¹

1. There are a record 1.8 billion young people in the world today. We make up 25% of the global population and that figure is growing.

2. Today's youth have never lived in a nuclear weapons-free world. We have inherited the burden of a heavily armed world where security is defined narrowly to the security of the state and not the security of humanity. The world spends resources to build, renew and maintain nuclear weapons that could be utilized to strengthen education, economic development, and social institutions towards the 2030 Agenda. Investing in the modernization of inhumane, indiscriminate and cruel weapons instead of in services to citizens limits opportunities for young people. In short, the maintenance and modernization of nuclear arsenals has a long-term impact on youth by diverting funding from activities that could make our future better to one that poses a real and concrete threat to humanity.

3. Amplify, a global network of young people working for nuclear abolition, believes that the United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination offers an opportunity for the world to say finally that nuclear weapons are unacceptable. These weapons do not belong in our society now and they have no place in our future.

4. This working paper will, based on input from members of our youth network, discuss necessity of involving youth in the negotiations and provide suggestions of elements to be included in a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Youth Involvement in the Negotiations

5. It is often said that youth are the future but it is easy to find youth who are currently leading in governments, international organizations and civil society if one looks. Youth not only have the right to be informed of this multilateral process, but also we are stakeholders who should play an active role in these critical negotiations. Above all, our future is at stake when nuclear disarmament negotiations stall. These negotiations will benefit from including the voices of youth from around the world. Youth are

¹ By Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (a founding member of Amplify), on behalf of Amplify.

innovators. We have the ability to envision what a world without nuclear weapons, and the threat of nuclear detonations by design or accident, will be like. The negotiations and the processes that lead us here are underpinned by concerns that current approaches to nuclear disarmament are at a standstill; therefore, it is important to bring in fresh ideas, new voices and innovative approaches.

6. Including youth in the negotiations should not be viewed as tokenism or a photo opportunity; young people have valuable expertise that can contribute to achieving our shared goal of the abolition of nuclear weapons. Youth should not be confused with inexperience or lack of expertise. Youth already involved in nuclear disarmament are often passionate and highly informed on the topic.

7. Furthermore, as digital natives, youth are not only up to date with the changing world, we are the ones building it. Young people are designing how we all interact and how information is shared through technology. In this rapidly changing and increasingly connected world, governments are working to become more open and to engage their citizens directly. Openness and direct engagement are two things that we expect from our leaders but so far has not been very evident in discussions on nuclear disarmament. Now that we have reached the negotiations stage, it is crucially important that openness and direct engagement are made into priorities. A treaty with real world consequences to the security of all humanity should not be negotiated quietly behind closed doors. Openness will lead to wider adherence as demonstrated by other humanitarian disarmament treaties.

8. Beyond the valuable contributions youth can make to the negotiations, there are a number of UN documents that encourage or call for youth engagement in disarmament, peace and security. The negotiations offer member states and the United Nations an opportunity to put these words into action.

9. In 2002, the United Nations Secretary-General released the “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education”. Its findings highlight the importance of empowering young individuals to contribute to achieving disarmament and non-proliferation measures and, ultimately, complete disarmament under effective international control. The report states that the need for more youth involvement in disarmament and non-proliferation discussions has never been greater, as “changing concepts and perceptions of security and threat magnify the urgency for new thinking to pursue disarmament and non-proliferation goals.”²

10. In December 2015, the Security Council adopted a historic resolution on youth, peace and security,³ which “for the first time in its history focuses entirely on the role of young men and women in peacebuilding and countering violent extremism.”⁴ The resolution urges Member States to provide youth with ways to express a greater voice in decision-making on peacemaking processes at the local, national, regional and

² “United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education” (A/57/124, 30 August 2002), see:

<http://www.un.org/disarmament/HomePage/ODAPublications/DisarmamentStudySeries/PDF/SS-30.pdf>

³ For the full text of the resolution, see:

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2250(2015)).

⁴ Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, “UN Security Council Adopts Historic Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security,” <http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/12/un-security-council-adopts-historic-resolution-on-youth-peace-and-security>.

international levels. It further calls on all relevant actors, to take into account the participation and views of youth in occasions such as negotiating and implementing peace agreements.

11. The resolution's operational paragraphs on Prevention highlights "the importance of creating policies for youth that would positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts" and calls on youth involvement in peace-related negotiations. The elimination of nuclear weapons is a global peacebuilding effort and for that reason, youth should be involved in all negotiations and international discussions on the issue. Youth involvement in peace and security does not mean youth involvement when others deem it is appropriate but instead youth involvement in peace and security issues that affect them and that matter to them. Nuclear disarmament fits into both categories.

12. Most recently, the report of the Open Ended Working Group on Taking Forward Multilateral Nuclear Disarmament Negotiations, which is the foundation of the resolution establishing these negotiations, notes that participating states "stressed the importance of engaging young people"⁵. The language in that paragraph of the report suggests that engaging young people could include youth ambassadors and communicators who would share messages with the next generation but it does not exclude substantive youth engagement in all measures taking forward nuclear disarmament.

13. Youth engagement is crucial to reaching our shared goal of nuclear disarmament but even when that decades-old goal is reached, the human knowledge of how to make such inhumane weapons cannot be erased. The results of these negotiations will only be successful and sustainable if we engage youth, who are now or will one day be decision makers and government leaders. It is necessary that youth are involved, so that the world would never repeat the mistake of producing or using nuclear weapons.

14. As part of our work to ensure that youth are involved meaningfully in the negotiations, the remainder of this working paper will be focused on suggested elements for inclusion in a ban treaty from a youth perspective.

Suggested Elements in a Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons

15. As a network of young people from every region of the globe, Amplify has collected a number of recommendations of elements for inclusion in the treaty text. These suggestions have been separated into those for the preamble and those for the operational paragraphs.

The Preamble

16. Amplify encourages participating states to ensure that the humanitarian basis of the treaty is strongly reflected in the Preamble. Including language around the long term and widespread humanitarian impacts of nuclear weapons and about the international community's inability to respond effectively in the event of a nuclear detonation will focus the treaty. It is important that the preamble frames the treaty and its future interpretation with a humanitarian lens.

⁵ OEWG report

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/371&referer=https://www.un.org/disarmament/ptnw/&Lang=E

17. The Preamble should also recall the existing treaty regimes pertaining to nuclear weapons including but not limited to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and the various nuclear weapons free zone treaties, as well as relevant international legal decisions. Amplify believes a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons builds on the work done under the NPT and other treaties and therefore supports the inclusion of these legal instruments in the Preamble of the new treaty.

18. Additionally, Amplify supports the inclusion of references to UN Security Council resolution 2250, discussed above, in the Preamble as well as Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Building on a reference to UNSC 1325, recognition of the differing impacts of nuclear weapons on women, men, girls and boys would strengthen the humanitarian basis of the Preamble and highlight the gendered nature of nuclear weapons.

19. Since indigenous communities have been disproportionately impacted by past nuclear weapon tests, Amplify encourages states to recognize the importance of indigenous rights in the Preamble to set a standard for the implementation of the treaty.

20. Finally, Amplify recognizes the important role that civil society has played in the process that led to these negotiations. We call on states to ensure that the Preamble of the treaty highlights the crucial role that civil society, including the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the survivors of nuclear detonations, have played.

Operational Paragraphs

21. Many civil society organizations have submitted working papers and published briefing documents on the elements of a nuclear weapons ban treaty. For the most part, Amplify echoes those suggestions however, there are a few items that we would like to highlight as particularly important to our youth members.

22. Amplify believes that this treaty should prohibit the use, possession, stockpiling, production and trade of nuclear weapons while also prohibiting assistance with any of those prohibited acts. These provisions would be the core of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons.

23. Amplify encourages states to recognize that prohibiting assistance means also prohibiting investment. The inclusion of financing in the text will reinforce the scope and effect of the treaty, as it not only effectively prohibits these weapons but also extends the logic of outlawing nuclear weapons to the financial sector. It will also reinforce the impact of efforts to reduce humanitarian harm through strengthened application of global norms and international law. It stands to reason that if assistance with the production of nuclear weapons is prohibited then so too should the investment in production.

24. In addition to the prohibitions, the treaty should contain operational paragraphs with positive obligations. As a youth network, Amplify places a high importance on disarmament education and risk education. All states parties to the future treaty should have an obligation to support disarmament education globally and to support any risk education that may be needed to ensure that persons living in and near areas made

dangerous by nuclear weapons or nuclear detonations have the tools they need to stay safe. Should the final treaty text include these obligations, Amplify pledges to work with states parties implementing these provisions.

25. Amplify recognizes that victims of nuclear weapons continue to face barriers to the full realization of their human rights due to their exposure to war-time detonations or testing detonations. For that reason, we call on states to include rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance provisions in the operational paragraphs of the treaty. Ensuring that nuclear weapons victims have full enjoyment of their human rights is in line with the humanitarian basis of this treaty and will help to alleviate some of the suffering caused by past detonations. Victim assistance provisions in the treaty will strengthen the existing norms surround the need to provide assistance to victims of indiscriminate weapons.

26. Finally, Amplify encourages states to include an obligation for states parties to draft national legislation and other measures for implementation. National implementation legislation will not only strengthen the treaty but it may also increase youth engagement in nuclear disarmament. Youth are active on the national level and will have more opportunity to participate in the process of passing national implementation legislation. Such legislation will also increase the implementation of the treaty's positive obligations and create clarity around how individual states interpret the treaty's provisions.

Conclusion

27. In August 2015, youth campaigners who formed Amplify released a Youth Pledge following an International Youth Summit in Hiroshima, Japan. That pledge read in part:

We, youth seek human security and sustainability, which are impossible to achieve fully in the presence of nuclear weapons. Youth see the potential for a world without nuclear weapons – we see the potential for security not to be based on fear and more militarism, but on diplomacy, cooperation and trust. Abolishing nuclear weapons is our responsibility; it is our right and we will no longer sit by while the opportunity of nuclear abolition is squandered.

28. These negotiations bring the opportunity of nuclear abolition closer than it has been in our lifetimes and true to our word, youth will no longer sit by while a definition of security based on fear is used to limit the potential for nuclear disarmament. Youth have the right and the responsibility to engage with the negotiation process. The inclusion of youth in the negotiations is necessary to achieve a strong treaty. The negotiations and all subsequent actions towards the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons need to hear from youth as well as from survivors and victims, women, indigenous persons and persons with disabilities. Nuclear weapons threaten us all so it is only through including all voices can we begin to eliminate these inhumane and indiscriminate weapons.

**Amplify Statement at the United Nations Conference to Negotiate
a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons,
Leading Towards their Total Elimination, June 2017**

Thank you Madame President for giving us the floor,

Amplify is an international network of younger leaders in the field of nuclear abolition. Our network is uniting youth from all over the world, representing different NGOs and individuals, to create opportunities for future collaboration transcending strategic differences. Our common goal is to amplify and strengthen the call for complete nuclear abolition.

Our delegation is comprised of 16 youth from 13 different countries. Amplify would like to take this opportunity to highlight not only the importance of youth participation in these negotiations, but the importance of youth involvement in future disarmament discussions.

Further, on the issue of disarmament education we strongly welcome the recommendations of Ireland, which were supported by Austria, Brazil, Fiji, Mexico, and Venezuela. All state parties to the treaty should have an obligation to support disarmament education globally. It is our belief that quality disarmament education can help foster action for complete disarmament. Risk education is also an important factor to consider, to ensure that people living in and near areas made dangerous by nuclear weapons or nuclear detonations, have the tools they need to stay safe.

The victims of nuclear weapons are still facing barriers to the full realization of their human rights, and we need to ensure that these barriers dissipate. We strongly support the rights-based, age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance, however, we believe the treaty text on this point could be strengthened by stipulating how victim assistance can be accessed.

We, Amplify, have submitted a working paper to the ODA, and we would strongly urge you to take our views into consideration as you move forward in these negotiations. We are in agreement with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons on many of the issues that we have highlighted today.

Finally, we the youth are placing our future in your hands, and we trust that you will remain conscious of this throughout the negotiation period. And we are looking forward to a successful treaty.

Thank you Madame President.

