

Awareness Raising Workshop on the status on Prohibition of Nuclear weapons

21 August 2018, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Brief Report on the workshop

The workshop was initiated by Survivors and Recovery and Rehabilitation Organization (SRaRO) in order to increase awareness of the government and the relevant civil society organization representatives and researchers. Ethiopia is amongst the countries that have supported the prohibition of nuclear weapons and signed the adoption. However has not yet signed nor ratified.

One of the objectives of the workshop was to encourage the Ethiopian government to support this movement and signing/ratifying the banning of cluster munitions convention as soon as possible.

Different topics were covered during the workshop with the following major agendas.

1. Disarmament efforts made so far in inhumane weapons
2. The background and current status of Nuclear proliferation Treaty (NPT)
3. The international civil society movement to ban the nuclear weapons
4. The UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons
5. Highlight of current threat of nuclear weapons in the world

During this workshop 21 participants had attended representing different relevant stakeholder. These include, The House of Peoples Representative (the Parliament), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defense, The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Confederation of Ethiopian Trade Union (Ethiopian Workers Associations), Addis Ababa University, religious sector, Federation of National Association of People with Disabilities, public and private sectors.

After listening to different presentations, the participants had positively contributed to the awareness raising. Besides contribution to and appreciation of the importance of the workshop, several questions were raised.

The major questions were:

- How could the campaign incorporate the federation of people with disabilities to be part of the movement?
- Whether or not any lobby group exist in order to encourage the African nations into signing and ratifying such a convention?

- Why the Ethiopia government had not signed the convention despite supporting the prohibition?
- Why different treaties /convention which are similar are have not been considered as one and the same?
- What could be the role of the trade or labor union in such kind of movement?

Proper responses were given by the facilitators and presenters to each of the above questions. The representative from the ministry of foreign affairs had given a response to the question that was directed to them concerning why Ethiopia still not signed the convention. The ministry had explained that the government still supports the ban but is consulting relevant stakeholders before deciding to sign.

The outcome of the workshop:

- The participants awareness increased on the status of Nuclear weapons in particular and the disarmaments of destructive weapons in general
- The whole purpose of the workshop was successfully met since the major relevant stakeholders had attended the workshop
- The representative of the ministry of foreign affairs confirmed that the government of Ethiopia is supporting the ban of the nuclear weapons and is ready to sign/ ratify the treaty after finishing the consultation with relevant bodies or stakeholders.
- The participants appreciated and applauded ICAN for the receipt of the 2017 Noble Peace Prize
- In recognition of ICAN the prize award the participants had taken picture in small cluster and in groups



