

Friedenswerkstatt Mutlangen e.V.

Presentation to the NPT PrepCom 2018 Geneva

My name is Jessica Britsch.

I present this speech in the name of Stephanie Eßwein,
who is now since 2016 the Mayor of Mutlangen.
Mutlangen was a deployment site of the Pershing II.
Today it is Member of Mayors for Peace.

*My name is Wolfgang Schlupp-Hauck.
In 1983, I came to Mutlangen.
In our campaign "Civil Disobedience until Disarmament"
we blockaded the nuclear missiles base.
3000 of us were arrested and fined. 200 people went to jail.
In 1987, with the signing of the INF Treaty,
we ended our campaign.*

Through the INF-Treaty Mutlangen was able to build schools and
a new housing area.
Where once soldiers were trained to launch nuclear missiles,
today children play.
Mutlangen became a symbol of hope, that disarmament is possible.

*With the INF-Treaty it was for the first time
that a whole class of nuclear weapons was disarmed.
It was the first time that comprehensive verification mechanisms
were established including mutual on site inspections.
Thus the treaty was a central element in overcoming the Cold War.*

Last year we could not only celebrate its 30th anniversary
we were also worried about its future.
The number of nuclear weapons has been reduced
but nuclear weapon states plan to upgrade their arsenals.
Among them those deployed in Germany.
This is called vertical proliferation.

*We are concerned that this might initiate
a renewed global and uncontrollable arms race.
We are concerned, that the future existence of the INF Treaty
is in danger and the strive on »closing the missile gap«
might be renewed.*

We are concerned,
that the nuclear threshold might be crossed
by irresponsible leaders and impetuous military officials.
We believe that the existence of and the compliance with
disarmament treaties create security.

*50 years ago the NPT was opened for signature.
The NPT helped to limit the number of nuclear weapons states.
But it did not stop the nuclear arms race and cold war activities.*

Under Article VI all signatory states promised
“to pursue negotiations in good faith to reach general and complete disarmament”.
1996 the International Court of Justice confirmed this obligation.

*The INF-Treaty showed that disarmament treaties are possible.
Verification was further developed by the CTBT.
In each NPT review cycle there is the demand by the overwhelming number of
countries, to put the CTBT into force,
but still some states do not fulfill their disarmament obligations.*

The humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons
are so catastrophic, that their existence cannot be justified.
They must be banned and prohibited.

*We call on the United States and Russia
to solve their dispute about compliance
within the framework of the INF Treaty.
In order to maintain this central cornerstone of European security,
mutual technical briefings and inspections are the means
to resolve the INF crisis.
The INF Treaty should be globalized,
so that other states get rid of their INF systems.*

We call on all states
- as Germans especially our Government -
to accede to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
as soon as possible.

*We promise:
As long as US nuclear weapons are deployed in Germany
we will at least once a year demand to withdraw them
and demand
accession to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear weapons
through appeals and direct actions.*

We promise: As long as nuclear weapons are being upgraded and kept ready to use,
we will protest against such investments and
avoid any involvement as best as possible.

*Disarmament needs the commitments of Civil Society.
We promise to do our part.
And we demand the states to do their part:
keep up the existing treaties,
ratify the CTBT and
full fill Article VI of the NPT
join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
and in this way, create a more peaceful world without nuclear weapons.*