

The Australian Government has espoused nuclear weapon non-proliferation. It is most important that the rhetoric is followed up with meaningful policy implementation. In this regard it would be useful to introduce the following steps

1. advocate for ratification of existing key treaties by as many nations as possible - particularly the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone treaty by countries with existing nuclear weapons. Leadership in this area from a non nuclear power (and as many other nation as we can get) would have greater credibility, and with enough nations on board create enough pressure to cause a shift in the position of the acknowledged nuclear states.
2. actively promote community education about disarmament and nuclear non proliferation (as per the UN Expert Group on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education). This needs to start in Australia, but a worldwide campaign would again increase pressure on the nuclear weapons states, and the use of the internet makes an Australian sourced worldwide education project more feasible
3. propose starting negotiations for a Nuclear Weapons Convention. The International Commission on Non Proliferation and Disarmament is a good place to begin this process.
4. review uranium export agreements to avoid the use of Australian uranium in Nuclear Arms. It is hypocritical to sell uranium to countries without clear agreements that uranium used is entirely for peaceful purposes, and have meaningful safeguards and realistic and accurate checks on processing.
5. Stop the use of Australian facilities for the US nuclear missile defence system. If Australia is interested in being a leader in this field, it has to be seen as independent and not influenced by its role in the US military system.

Please notify when the hearings are in Melbourne as I would like to attend.

Thankyou
Yours sincerely

Dr Margaret Beavis

2 January 2009