Initiatives by Forum for Nation Building Nepal on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (2022-2024) Funded by ICAN

From 2022 to 2024, the Forum for Nation Building Nepal (FNB Nepal) has undertaken several key initiatives aimed at nuclear disarmament. These initiatives reflect FNB Nepal's commitment to promoting global peace and security through nuclear disarmament and advocacy efforts. These efforts have successfully brought the issue of nuclear disarmament to the forefront of public and parliamentary discussions in Nepal.

Detailed Initiatives by Forum for Nation Building Nepal (2022-2024)

1. Interaction Programs with Parliamentarians, Officials and Stakeholders

Since 2022, FNB Nepal has organized significant interaction programs aimed at engaging high-level officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), parliamentarians, academicians, journalists, and representatives from political parties, including their youth and foreign affairs wings. These interactions were designed to ensure Nepal's active participation in international nuclear disarmament efforts, particularly focusing on the Vienna meeting. The primary goals were to advocate for Nepal's participation either as a member state or at least as an observer state and to push for the early ratification of the TPNW.

Among these initiatives, a notable interaction program was conducted with the International Relations Committee of Parliament. Additionally, there were four distinct interaction programs with parliamentarians, youth, and student wings of various political parties. Through these sessions, FNB Nepal engaged directly with more than 50 participants, providing them with in-depth briefings on the global and regional implications of nuclear weapons and current stance of Nepal.

Experts presented detailed analyses of the TPNW and its significance for international security. Parliamentarians and other officials were sensitized to the gravity of the nuclear threat and the urgent need for proactive engagement and ratification of the treaty. The discussions also emphasized the moral and ethical responsibilities of Nepal in contributing to global disarmament initiatives.

2. Journalist Fellowship Program

To enhance public awareness and stimulate informed public discourse, a fellowship program for journalists was established. Throughout the period, 4 journalists were selected who underwent orientation sessions to understand the complex issues surrounding nuclear weapons, the TPNW, and Nepal's potential role in the global disarmament framework. Each fellow journalist was tasked with writing at least two articles on these topics, contributing to a sustained media focus on nuclear disarmament.

The articles produced under this program were groundbreaking, as they were the first to address nuclear disarmament and the TPNW in Nepal's national newspapers. These publications played a critical role in educating the public and policymakers about the dire consequences of nuclear weapons and the importance of Nepal's ratification of the TPNW. The journalists' work helped to foster a broader societal dialogue on these crucial issues, influencing public opinion and policy discussions.

3. Regular Meetings and Discussions with Key Officials and Political Leaders
FNB Nepal organized more than 40 of both formal and informal meetings with MOFA officials, parliamentarians, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and political party leaders. These meetings were strategic in discussing the progress Nepal has made regarding the TPNW and the importance of the first Meeting of States Parties (MSP).

Key discussions included:

- Nepal's ongoing contributions to global peace and security initiatives.
- The strategic importance of ratifying the TPNW for Nepal.
- The significance of Nepal's attendance at the MSP meetings.
- The role of Nepal in the regional security framework and its contributions to the global disarmament movement.
- The potential for Nepal to secure international support and funding for its disarmament initiatives.

These engagements were instrumental in building a consensus among key stakeholders on the necessity of advancing Nepal's commitment to nuclear disarmament.

4. **YouTube Videos for Disarmament Capacity Building**

To further bolster public understanding and support for nuclear disarmament, FNB Nepal produced a series of YouTube videos. These videos featured prominent figures, including experts, officials, and activists, discussing various aspects of nuclear disarmament. The content focused on:

- The devastating impact of nuclear weapons on humanity and the environment.
- The ethical and humanitarian arguments for nuclear disarmament.
- Explanations of the TPNW and its global significance.
- Nepal's potential role and contributions to the disarmament movement.
- Interviews with parliamentarians and MOFA officials sharing their insights and commitments.

These videos served as an accessible educational resource, reaching a broad audience and further promoting the message of nuclear disarmament. The videos are available at FNB Nepal’s [YouTube Channel](#).

5. **Session at World Social Forum**

In 2024, FNB Nepal organized a session titled “Peace, Disarmament, and Denuclearization” during the International Youth Festival of the World Social Forum. This event was a significant effort to engage the international community and youth activists in raising awareness and fostering dialogue on nuclear disarmament. The session aimed to highlight the global and regional impacts of nuclear weapons, emphasize the importance of disarmament, and provide detailed information on the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The session also focused on the urgent need for Nepal's ratification of the TPNW. The event featured expert presentations that covered the humanitarian, environmental, and security implications of nuclear weapons. Interactive panel discussions allowed participants to engage deeply with the material, while youth engagement activities encouraged young attendees to take an active role in the disarmament movement. These activities equipped them with the knowledge and tools needed to advocate for nuclear disarmament within their own communities and countries. The session attracted a diverse audience, including international delegates, local activists,
students, and representatives from various non-governmental organizations. It served as a crucial platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration, reinforcing FNB Nepal’s role in the global movement for nuclear disarmament. This initiative, along with other strategic engagements, has successfully brought the issue of nuclear disarmament to the forefront of public and parliamentary discussions in Nepal, positioning the country as a proactive participant in the global disarmament movement and reinforcing its commitment to peace and security.

6. Placard Display Event

In 2023, FNB Nepal organized a placard display event aimed at pressuring parliamentarians to ratify the TPNW treaty. This public demonstration was part of a broader campaign to raise awareness and show public support for nuclear disarmament. The event featured participants holding placards with messages advocating for the ratification of the TPNW and highlighting the humanitarian and environmental threats posed by nuclear weapons. This visually impactful demonstration was designed to capture the attention of both policymakers and the general public, emphasizing the urgent need for Nepal to join the global effort in banning nuclear weapons. The placard display event was instrumental in generating media coverage and public discourse on the issue, thereby increasing pressure on parliamentarians to take concrete steps towards ratification. This initiative, alongside other strategic engagements, played a crucial role in bringing the issue of nuclear disarmament to the forefront of public and parliamentary discussions in Nepal, positioning the country as a proactive participant in the global disarmament movement and reinforcing its commitment to peace and security. Link to the gallery. 

Conclusion

The initiatives undertaken by FNB Nepal, funded by ICAN, demonstrate a robust commitment to advancing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Through strategic engagement with key stakeholders, fostering informed media coverage, and leveraging digital platforms for public education, the Forum has significantly contributed to raising awareness and advocating for policy changes in Nepal. These efforts have successfully brought the issue of nuclear disarmament to the forefront of public and parliamentary discussions in Nepal. Consequently, Nepal is now positioned as a proactive participant in the global disarmament movement, reinforcing its commitment to peace and security.