The meeting began with informal introductions and guidance from Flavia Tudoreanu on how to participate in the online process.

Isobel Lindsay then welcomed the first guest speaker, Alexander Kmentt, one of the architects of the initiative on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Speaking in a personal capacity Alexander addressed the significance of the TPNW and the arguments against it, and went on to outline how its progress might best be supported. A key feature is the focus on the humanitarian consequences and the recognition that these consequences are much more grave and complex than previously understood. The Treaty moves the discourse from the abstractions around the deterrence concept to the concrete – the real risks and impacts of the weapons and the emphasis on human security. It is an expression of the need for the non-nuclear states to take responsibility themselves for addressing the risks, rather than simply making demands on the nuclear-armed states. The Treaty has depended on working within the UN General Assembly, thus breaking free of the usual consensus model for disarmament negotiations which has hitherto given a de facto veto to the nuclear-armed states. The TPNW illuminates the impossibility of combining deterrence theory with human security and international humanitarian law. For example deterrence can make no provision for restitution and environmental repair in the case of an accidental detonation. The TPNW can transform the whole discourse.

The established nuclear think-tanks are fighting back against the Treaty but the fact and nature of this opposition is evidence of the sharp challenge it presents to the conventional discourse. It is notable that the nuclear establishment fight-back does not deal with the humanitarian dimension. It is argued that the TPNW must be ineffectual since the nuclear-armed states are not involved, yet it present a sharp challenge to the deterrence doctrine. It is claimed that the Treaty disregards the “security” environment, yet there is no attempt to elucidate whose security is at risk. The Treaty exposes the basic position of the nuclear-armed states – to postpone disarmament until the “security” environment allows it, so indefinitely. There is also the accusation that the TPNW undermines the NPT, despite it being precisely crafted to support Article V1, and despite the fact that Ireland, which was key in developing the NPT, and South Africa, which responded to the NPT by disarming, are strong supporters.

Civil society can support the Treaty by taking advantage of the broader and more inclusive discourse that focusses on humanitarian consequences, as with climate change high-lighting the links between the two threats. This is pertinent for Scotland as the location of nuclear weapons and the risks that brings in the case of accidental detonation or nuclear conflict. In the UK, a House of Lords committee at least acknowledges the Treaty, urging the government to take its existence seriously, to be more open and to adopt a less aggressive
There are two scenarios. The TPNW may be unsuccessful in challenging the nuclear status quo or it can lead to greater engagement with international humanitarian law. Maintaining its momentum is the key.

Bill Kidd MSP then conveyed a message from the First Minister to the meeting. It read:

"My commitment to a world without nuclear weapons has been unshakeable since I first joined CND as a teenager in the 1980s. The need for nations and governments to work together to secure a safer, more peaceful world is as great now as it was then, and the ratification on October 24th of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) by 50 states at the UN is an important step towards that goal, which I welcome.

"The Scottish Government, along with most Scottish MSPs and MPs, and large sections of Scottish civil society stand firmly against weapons of mass destruction, and I commend CND Scotland and their international colleagues for taking forward the work needed to secure a safer future for us all."

Janet Fenton introduced David Hutchison Edgar of Irish CND, pointing out that his organisation was not a pressure group but had an advisory role with the Irish government.

David said that the Irish preoccupation with peace and disarmament has grown from their relatively recent experience of the struggle for independence and a bitter civil war. As Foreign Secretary Simon Coveney put it, the TPNW is a credible, arguable and workable legal framework which complements the NPT and facilitates its progress. The NPT had always envisaged a further measure to fulfil it. The terms of the Treaty were adopted into Irish law by a unanimous parliamentary vote as it is seen as a basic humanitarian one rather than a party issue – an example for Scotland even within its devolutionary status. Ireland will now not permit state funds to be invested in nuclear weapons.

In the QandA which followed Alexander Kmentt said:

1. That in the history of nuclear weapons it is largely indigenous people who have suffered the effects of testing;
2. That the TPNW is not a transition from the NPT but aims to strengthen it;
3. Both Sweden and Finland have come under US pressure not to engage with the TPNW;
4. That the NATO question is now very fluid and that Europe is considering a more independent approach to its defence;
5. That it was not his business to suggest how Scotland should proceed but he was encouraged by the active membership of Scottish CND.

And David Hutchison Edgar said:

1. At present the Irish government is working at divestment within state funds such as pensions funds.
2. That while there is no specific provision for peace studies within formal education in Ireland the focus on peace threads through the whole culture.
AGM Business

Standing orders for the conduct of business were approved by the meeting.

The meeting endorsed the nomination of office-bearers, namely: Lynn Jamieson, Chair; Isobel Lindsay, Vice-Chair; Janet Fenton, Vice-Chair; Ann Ballinger, Treasurer; Mike Blackshaw, Secretary; David Mackenzie, Assistant Secretary.

The following were elected as members of the Executive Committee; Gail Lythgoe; Emma Cockburn; Gordon Dickson; Shona McAlpine; Valentina Clavell; Lesley Taylor.

The Chair’s Annual Report was approved.

Treasurer Ann Ballinger noted that a full statement of accounts is on the SCND website. She is happy to respond to questions after the meeting. The Report was approved.

Resolutions

1. Submitted by the Executive Committee was approved unanimously by the meeting.
2. Submitted by Aberdeen CND Re: HMS Queen Elizabeth maiden deployment. The resolution as amended by the Executive Committee was approved by 61 votes to nil.
3. Submitted by Glasgow CND Re: Marshall Islands. The resolution was approved by 57 votes to nil, with 4 abstentions.
4. Submitted by SNP CND Re: Representation in Scottish museums. The resolution was approved by 57 votes to nil with 4 abstentions.
5. Submitted by Michael McNeill re Scottish Independence. The resolution as amended by the Executive Committee was approved by 37 votes to 4, with 11 abstentions.

Constitutional amendments

1. The constitutional amendments submitted by the Executive to paras 6a, 6e and 8c was approved by 45 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.
2. The constitutional amendment submitted by Eric Chester to para 5. The amendment as amended by the Executive Committee was approved by 38 votes to 5, with 4 abstentions.
3. The constitutional amendment submitted by Eric Chester to para 8c. The amendment as amended by the Executive Committee was approved by 25 votes to 3, with 3 abstentions.

David Peutherer requested that the Executive Committee consider the appropriate interpretation of the phrase “general and complete disarmament”, as to whether, as he understood, the reference was exclusively to nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, or whether all weapons were included.

Remaining resolutions

The meeting ran past the agreed finish time. There was concern that there was no opportunity to discuss the remaining submitted resolutions and it was suggested that the meeting be continued or that it be adjourned. It was pointed out that for some members an extension of the meeting time was not possible or discriminatory, and that an adjournment would entail a problematic hiatus in the work of the campaign.

It was then moved by the Chair that the remaining resolutions be remitted to the Executive
Committee with the addendum that proposers of the resolutions would be able to attend a meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss their content. This proposal was approved by 26 votes to 19.

The Chair then offered congratulations to those elected to the Executive Committee and thanked everyone for their participation.

END

Appendix 1 – Resolutions approved

1. Executive Resolution

Recognising our constitutional aims, the Executive notes that

This Executive recognises particular opportunities in 2021, including awareness gained from the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and new evidence of how deeply the nuclear threat is embedded in wider environmental threats to the planet, requiring us to be active allies in the climate movement. We note that the military contribution to environmental damage is substantial and the risks of nuclear war or accident and of climate change are interlinked threats to human civilisation and to our world's animal and plant life. We have been reminded of the need to address the inherent racism attaching to nuclear weapons and to recognise and welcome diversity in our campaigning. As an ICAN Partner Organisation, we are aware of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons approaching the final ratification required for Entry Into Force in 2021.

We therefore resolve:

HOME
Advancing our aims
1. 1) SCND will continue to develop the nuclear disarmament campaign in Scotland and globally, building our membership and increasing our public profile, working with like-minded partner organisations in the wider peace movement where appropriate, through our local groups and affiliates and SCND Executive Working Groups, which are drawn from our members across Scotland, supported by our staff and accountable to the Executive.

Election of new Scottish government
2. 1) SCND will work to put global nuclear disarmament on the agenda, and seek commitments to a nuclear free Scotland and support for the Treaty On the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons from candidates, in manifestos and in our relations with new MSPs.
2. 2) SCND will continue to emphasise that in current circumstances the best opportunity for removing nuclear weapons is with an independent Scottish State.
Deadly Connections and Radiation Risk
3. 1) SCND will continue to work with others to cultivate an understanding of the inherent links and deadly connections between nuclear weapons and nuclear power technologies,
3. 2) and the collective dangers faced by the Scottish population from the nuclear industries, whether from nuclear power stations, nuclear discharges at Faslane, radioactive hulks at Rosyth or the nuclear weapons convoys on our roads.

TRANSNATIONAL/WORLD
Global awareness
4. We will continue to work in an ethical and environmentally responsible way with partners worldwide to develop our understanding and collaborative action, using virtual meetings and correspondence wherever possible.

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
5. SCND will highlight the ways in which the TPNW will undermine the normality of nuclear weapons, extend our messaging on diversification and apply pressure for a UK delegation as observers, with Scottish representatives, at any first meeting of State Parties

NPT Review
6. SCND will campaign on UK obligations for disarmament and recognition of the TPNW, when this meeting takes place (between January and December 21) and support civil society participation, including MSP members of the Scottish Parliament Nuclear Disarmament Cross Party Group.

NATO Summit in April
7. SCND will support the European No To Nato events through social media and support groups in taking non-violent direct action at appropriate sites at that time.

Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework on Climate Change in Glasgow
8. If this conference takes place in Glasgow in 2021 we will be active collaborators in the wider climate movement efforts to highlight the links between nuclear weapons and ecocide, habitat destruction and global overheating. In any case, SCND will support the environmental campaigns that are working to prevent climate change and shrinking biodiversity.

2. ABERDEEN CND  Re: HMS Queen Elizabeth maiden deployment
We note that the maiden deployment in 2021 of the UK’s new aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, is expected to be to the South China Sea. Prior to the deployment the carrier will be loaded with munitions in Loch Long at the Glen Mallan jetty which is currently undergoing a £64m redevelopment for this purpose.
The carrier is expected to operate more than 20 advanced Lockheed Martin F-35B Lightning, all
weather stealth multirole combat aircraft several of which will be piloted by and supplied from the United States Marine Corps (USMC) according to a 2016 agreement between the UK and US Governments. SCND calls for the demilitarisation of the South China Sea by all sides to the dispute.

3. GLASGOW CND Re: Marshall Islands

On the 1st of March 1954, the United States tested a bomb 1000 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.


Most of his recommendations have not been implemented, his final recommendation to the International community on page 19 is to “Stand in international solidarity with the Marshallese people as they face the challenge of overcoming the legacy of nuclear testing”. Clearly the Marshallese people have experienced great injustice. Theirs is a story of colonial racism which requires to be widely shared with the International Community.

Glasgow CND would like to manage the project to mark the Marshall Islanders Remembrance day.

SCND should stand in solidarity with the Marshall Islanders on their Day of Remembrance, 1st March.

3. SNP CND Re: Representation in Scottish museums

· This AGM resolves that Scottish CND will work for representation in Scottish museums of the history of the peace movement, and especially our campaign against weapons of mass destruction like the nuclear warhead armed Trident submarines.

· We recognise that the funding and curation of such exhibitions by Government, central or local, requires an adherence to rules of impartiality and that exhibitions must include the opposing perspectives of the peace movement and the military. War, particularly the glorification of war, is a common theme in museums. But rarely is this subjected to critical scrutiny. Such scrutiny should be an essential requirement in any exhibitions pertaining to nuclear weapons.
Consequently, this AGM instructs the Executive of SCND to develop this initiative in collaboration with Museums and Galleries Scotland.

Additional information

This work is needed because the peace movement is not properly represented in any of our museums while military history is thoroughly shown and indeed glorified in almost every museum and gallery in the country.

For nuclear weapons information we have only the dedicated Helensburgh Submarine Centre; the ant-nuclear organisations which have worked so hard for decades have a small caravan in Glasgow’s Museum of Transport.

A 2017 letter from Fiona Hyslop, the then Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, said that “it would be appropriate for museums and galleries to inform audiences by displaying the wider history of the Peace Movement” and the national development body, Museums and Galleries Scotland agreed that the subject is under-represented.

So, the Scottish Government agrees but does not intend to act and suggests that we contact the MGS and the Helensburgh Submarine Centre to make the case.

**4. MICHAEL MCNEILL** Re: Scottish Independence & nuclear disarmament

Conference:

recognises that it is longstanding SCND policy to support nuclear disarmament not just in Scotland but also in the rest of the UK and internationally;

recognises existing policy encourages support for Scottish independence as a means to get rid of Trident;

restates the position agreed in 2019 that SCND should welcome “all those who support our opposition to nuclear weapons whatever their other views”;

in campaigning in any future referendum or election, SCND will promote Scottish independence as our best current route to nuclear disarmament. We will encourage electors to use their votes to achieve this objective without specifying any one political party;

resolves to make clear in public campaigning that SCND supports universal nuclear disarmament, not limited to or satisfied by the closure of Faslane or the removal of nuclear weapons from Scotland alone.
Appendix 2 – Approved Constitutional Amendments

5. Following the sentence on the AGM setting dues, add the following sentence: SCND are extremely grateful to local branches for their support, including their financial support. Should any member or group need support to hold a relevant event they should contact the treasurer or the office.

6 (a) The Secretary shall call an Annual General Meeting in the Autumn of each year. At least 8 weeks notice of the date, time and, in the case of physical meeting, the location, must be given to all Individual Members, Affiliated Organisations, SCND Groups and Specialist Sections.

8. (b) The following officers shall be elected by ballot:
(1) Chair (2) 2 Vice Chairs (3) Secretary (4) Assistant Secretary (5) Treasurer

8(c) Officers shall be elected by a ballot. The ballot will be conducted by an appropriate means as determined by the Executive Committee. If the Committee determines that the ballot will be held by electronic means, it must provide no less than 8 weeks notice for members and delegates to give written notice that they wish to participate despite no electronic access. For those members and delegates the ballot will be postal. All individual members with 3 months membership will be entitled to one ballot. All local groups, specialist sections and affiliated organisations will be entitled to two. The election shall be carried out between the closing date for nominations and the Annual General Meeting. Where a position has not been contested, the appointment shall be subject to approval by the Annual General Meeting. Self-nomination and self-seconding are not permitted. Before the election process starts the current Executive Committee will circulate information to members encouraging them to seek nomination for the executive committee. In particular Executive members will be made available to speak to any prospective candidate or to any branch members who request this. Branches may request that a representative attend the monthly executive meeting, and agreement would not be unreasonably withheld.

Appendix 3 – Constitution as Revised November 2020

Scottish CND Constitution November 2020

SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT CONSTITUTION

1. NAME
The name shall be the “Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament” (hereinafter referred to as SCND).

2. AIMS
The aims of SCND shall be:-
(a) The unilateral abandonment by Britain of nuclear weapons, nuclear bases and nuclear alliances, as a prerequisite for a British foreign policy which has as its main objective the world-wide abolition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons leading to general and complete disarmament.

(b) Opposition to the manufacture, stockpiling, testing, use and threatened ruse of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons by any country and to policies of any or group of countries which make nuclear war more likely, or which hinder progress towards a world without weapons of mass destruction.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP
Persons eligible for membership of SCND shall be those who:
(a) endorse the aims of the SCND;
(b) accept the Constitution of SCND;
(c) pay the appropriate fee.

4. MEMBERSHIP
(a) Individual Members. An Individual Member of SCND shall be any person who has paid the correct membership fee to SCND within the previous fifteen months.
(b) Affiliated Organisations. An Affiliated Organisation shall be any organisation which endorses the aims of SCND, has paid the correct annual affiliation fee within the previous 15 months and has been endorsed by the SCND Executive Committee.
(c) SCND Groups. A SCND Group shall have endorsed the aims of SCND, paid the correct annual affiliation fee within the previous 15 months and been endorsed by the Scottish CND Executive Committee. A SCND Group shall have a minimum of 5 individual members of SCND. A SCND Group may have members who are not Individual Members of SCND. Such members are defined as SCND Group members and have no membership rights outwith the SCND Group.
(d) Specialist Sections. Specialist Sections shall operate in the same way as SCND Groups.

5. MEMBERSHIP FEES
The Annual General Meeting of SCND shall decide membership fees. SCND are extremely grateful to local branches for their support, including their financial support. Should any member or group need support to hold a relevant event they should contact the treasurer or the office.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
(a) The Secretary shall call an Annual General Meeting in the Autumn of each year. At least 8 weeks notice of the date, time and, in the case of physical meeting, the location, must be given to all Individual Members, Affiliated Organisations, SCND Groups and Specialist Sections.
(b) The Annual General Meeting shall be supreme governing body of SCND and its decisions binding on SCND, the Executive Committee, Individual Members, Affiliated Organisations, SCND Groups and Specialist Sections.
(c) Voting entitlement at the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:
(1) Individual Members of SCND with 3 months membership at the time of the Annual General Meeting are entitled to one vote each.
(2) Registered SCND Groups are entitled to 2 delegates who are individual members of SCND.
(3) Specialist Sections are entitled to 2 delegated who are Individual Members of SCND.
(4) Affiliated Organisations are entitled to 2 delegates.
(5) An individual may be a delegate from only one organisation.
(d) The Executive Committee shall agree the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting which shall include:
   (1) A report from the Executive Committee
   (2) The presentation of an audited statement of account
   (3) The election of an Executive Committee for the coming year
   (4) Competent motions from any individual member or organisation as detailed above
   (5) The appointment of an external auditor
(e) Nominations for the Executive Committee shall be notified to the Secretary of Scottish CND not later than 28 days before the AGM. Nominations for the Scottish CND Executive Committee should be made by a SCND Individual Member in good standing and seconded by another Individual Member in good standing. Two nominations for the same candidate will count as nomination and seconding.
(f) Resolutions to the AGM shall be notified to the Secretary of Scottish CND not later than 28 days before the AGM. Amendments to resolutions shall be notified to the Secretary of Scottish CND not later than 7 days before the AGM.

7. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS
A Special General Meeting may be called at the request of 50 Individual Members through a written request to the Secretary who must arrange a meeting for a date no later than 4 weeks from the date of the receipt of the request.

8. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
   (a) The Executive Committee shall be responsible for furthering the aims of SCND in terms of policy, strategy, organisation and financial management. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the SCND Office together with the employment of staff, the management of volunteers and associated matters.
   (b) The following officers shall be elected by ballot:
   (1) Chair (2) 2 Vice Chairs (3) Secretary (4) Assistant Secretary (5) Treasurer
   (c) Officers shall be elected by a ballot. The ballot will be conducted by an appropriate means as determined by the Executive Committee. If the Committee determines that the ballot will be held by electronic means, it must provide no less than 8 weeks notice for members and delegates to give written notice that they wish to participate despite no electronic access. For those members and delegates the ballot will be postal. All individual members with 3 months membership will be entitled to one ballot. All local groups, specialist sections and affiliated organisations will be entitled to two. The election shall be carried out between the closing date for nominations and the Annual General Meeting. Where a position has not been contested, the appointment shall be subject to approval by the Annual General Meeting. Self-nomination and self-seconding are not permitted.
   Before the election process starts the current Executive Committee will circulate information to members encouraging them to seek nomination for the executive committee. In particular
Executive members will be made available to speak to any prospective candidate or to any branch members who request this. Branches may request that a representative attend the monthly executive meeting, and agreement would not be unreasonably withheld.

(d) Six other Executive Committee members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee may co-opt up to 6 more members in order to achieve a balance of political representation, to promote equal opportunities and to recruit members with appropriate skills.

(e) The Executive Committee may appoint working committees. Committees so appointed shall report to the Executive Committee. Minutes of working Committee meetings shall be presented to the Executive Committee timeously.

(f) Salaried Staff do not have voting rights on the Executive Committee.

(g) Attendance records and the number of apologies for all candidates that stand for any position on the Executive Committee shall be made available at the AGM.

9. Finance

(a) All monies payable to the SCND shall be deemed payable to the Treasurer.

(b) The financial year of SCND shall be from 1st August to 31st July.

(c) The Treasurer, at every meeting of the Executive Committee, shall make a Finance Report. The Treasurer will prepare an audited statement of account to be presented to the Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Executive Committee, except in such cases as an Annual General Meeting may decide, shall have full control over all monies, funds, property, investments and securities of whatever kind and description belonging to SCND.

(e) The Executive Committee shall have power to invest the monies and funds of SCND as it thinks fit.

(f) The Executive Committee shall have power to utilise the funds and monies of SCND for the purpose of furthering the aims of SCND. All investments of whatever nature shall, where practicable, be taken in the name of the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer for the time being of SCND, or their successors in office as Trustees for SCND. No member of the Executive Committee shall be personally liable in respect of the depreciation of any investments made on behalf of SCND.

(g) The Executive Committee shall have full power to purchase, acquire, accept, whether by gift or legacy or otherwise, hold, sell, (whether by public roup or private bargain), excamb, feu, lease or otherwise intromit with heritable and moveable property and real and personal estate, including power to borrow on the security thereof and to grant and consent to all usual and necessary deeds in connection therewith, including dispositions and bonds, and dispositions in security leases and others as accord. The title to any heritable property or real estate belonging to SCND shall be taken in the name of the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer for the time being of SCND, or their successors in office as Trustees for SCND. The Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer aforesaid shall have power to grant in accordance with a resolution of the Executive Committee and to execute all and any deeds as above-mentioned, and any such deed purporting to be so granted and executed shall be valid, binding and effectual notwithstanding any alleged irregularity or proceedings or otherwise concerning same.

(h) For the purpose of the foregoing, excerpts from the Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee, certified by the Chair and the Secretary, shall be evidence of the proceedings of such meeting. A statement under the hand of the Secretary shall be sufficient evidence for all purposes as to the identity of the Chair: the Secretary and the Treasurer aforesaid for the time being.
(i) SCND shall not be liable for any debts contracted by SCND Groups, Specialist Sections or Affiliated Organisations or other bodies.

(j) All bank withdrawals and financial transactions shall require two out of three authorised signatures on the documentation. No claimant shall have the authority to sign cheques for their own expenses claim.

(k) If, and when SCND is deemed to have completed its objectives, any funds remaining shall be donated to an organisation agreeable to the membership.

10. BRITISH CND
The Executive shall appoint individuals, who are members of Scottish CND, to be Scottish CND’s delegates to British CND Conference and Council.

11. CHANGES TO THIS CONSTITUTION
Changes to this constitution can be made only at the Annual General Meeting, prior notice having been given at least 21 days in advance of the meeting.

12. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
SCND recognises its rights and responsibilities in terms of equality and shall endeavour to ensure it operates a comprehensive equal opportunities policy.

Scottish CND November 2020