



ICAN 2017
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ICAN – France
187, montée de Choulans, 69005 Lyon
coordination@icanfrance.org
Tél : +33 (0)4 78 36 93 03
<http://icanfrance.org>

REPORT NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT IN FRANCOPHONE REGIONS

MARCH – NOVEMBER 2019



ICAN FRANCE would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the Heinrich Böll Stiftung for their support

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
Die grüne politische Stiftung

PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG ACTIVISTS AT THE NPT PREPCOM



In 2018, ICAN France realized an **ICAN Francophone Academy**. It was an action-program of a three-day seminar in Paris (11-13 October) to engage youth francophone. After this project we continue to work, exchanges with participants notably two Tunisians students (Amel el Mejri and Mariam Oueslatti and Maxence Gallice as she lives in Lyon (where our office is). We had obviously other exchanges with others participants of this project.

Mariem, Amel and Maxence were the more motivated students to work on the organization of a side event at the NPT Prepcom; as for that 3 meeting (by skype) were organized.

ICAN France was at the third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) with three young students - Maxence Gallice (French) Mariem Oueslatti and Amel El Mejri (Tunisians) - for a full week (April 28 - May 4) of actions; to give to them an experience in the United Nations, the opportunity to meet diplomats, to highlight the French-speaking youth and to acquire knowledge on nuclear disarmament and arms control topics.

ICAN France Side Events the NPT PrepCom 2019

ICAN France organized an event, on May 4 “Youths: From North Africa to France, what about nuclear disarmament?”

We can note the presence of French diplomat (didn't signed it was Mr Lopinot), Tunisian diplomat (Mr Moezz Laouni) and Japanese (Mr Ishida and Mr Takamrawa) diplomats and a delegate of the United Nation-Department Policy, Evaluation and Training Division ». In total 23 signatures participants were in the room, plus we should add 5 others participants who enter in the room and didn't signed as they left before the end of the event.

The panel was composed with:

- Maxence Gallice, ICAN France. She spoke about her motivation to work on nuclear disarmament and how it's related with her action on climate change.
- Mariem Oueslatti, ICAN France. She focused her speech on how to explain in Tunisia a “big problem” as nuclear weapons, as Tunisian citizen are confronted to a lot of “small problems” (like unemployment, economic crisis).
- Amel El Mejri, ICAN France. She spoke about her experience and actions, as she is a researcher on “nuclear disarmament topic” for the Faculty of Political and Social Legal Sciences in Tunis.
- Aurelie Buytaert, member of the French association Abolition des armes nucléaires, affiliate to ICAN France, spoke about nuclear disarmament education and how in the French school, the nuclear deterrence concept is explained, as it's a positive for democracy.
- Jean-Marie Collin, ICAN France, was the moderator of the event and presented the Global francophone project.

It was a success, as the room was full and the Q/A period gave a good opportunity to go further on how to engage more francophone countries (notably by giving more information in French).



Jean-

Collin, Mariem Oueslati, Aurélie Buytaert, Maxence Gallice, Amel el Mejri

Marie

It's the first time that ICAN France organized his own side event, and the first time (base on Jean-Marie Collin experience since 2005) that a youth women francophone panel was realized during a PrepCom.

This event gave the opportunity to demonstrate that French-speaking youth are questioning and working on the subject of nuclear weapons and have the ambition to continue their actions.

Diplomatic Meeting

- April 28, ICAN International: This meeting is a “traditional” meeting of ICAN members from all over the world before a major UN conference. It was a good occasion for Mariem, Amel and Maxence to understand how the ICAN Campaign works, to meet others youth (from USA and Netherland notably) and to take the floor.
- May 1, we obtained a meeting with the Tunisian diplomat Moezz Laouni. It was extremely important to meet this diplomat, as Amel and Meriam wanted to challenge him with their arguments on « why Tunisia should as soon as possible sign and ratify the TPNW » and why they are concerned as youth Tunisian on the topic.
- May 1, we met the French diplomatic team. Maxence explained his interrogations about the French nuclear strategy. But what it should be noted, is Ambassador Hwang was surprised and impressed to meet a “young” delegation of ICAN France.
- May 2, after a meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross, I obtained that Mariem, Amel and Maxence participate to a meeting where two Hibakusha (Mr Hamasumi Jiro and Sueichi Kido) gave their testimonies. This unique experience allowed them to fully understand the drama of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombardments. Following this meeting Amel wrote an article to report this meeting on the ICAN France website



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ICAN France - Jean-Marie Collin - was invited to participate to two others side events during the Prepcom organized by International Peace Bureau:

- On the first week, April 30, on “Nuclear weapons in Europe”, chaired by Reiner Braun, IPB co-President with speakers from Pugwash, CND, Jean-Marie Collin from ICAN France and PAX.
- On the second week, May 8, on “Modernisations and New Nuclear Technologies” with US experts from Western States Legal Foundation, the Campaign for Peace, Disarmament and Common Security and Jean-Marie Collin from ICAN France

Publications

- By Amel El Mejri, [Les Hibakusha, un message pour les générations futures](#), ICAN France website, May 3,
- By Jean-Marie Collin, [À l'ONU la France continue d'ignorer le désarmement nucléaire, ICAN France website](#), May 6

After the PrepCom, we obtained two publications on:

- Newspaper Ouest France, [Le Jeu Troubles des puissances nucléaires](#), Mai 21
- Radio RFI, Emission Géopolitique, [Vers un retour à la course au nucléaire?](#), interview of Jean-Marie Collin, May 19

Social Network ICAN France - Facebook Page

During our action we published on the ICAN France Facebook different videos (see end of the report) and testimonial notes (such the one's from Maxence's on his discovery of the UN, describing the meetings with diplomats, advocacy work, etc.). These videos were greatly appreciated by the French public, because it allowed them to bring to life the "atmosphere" of our action at the UN, and we received a lot of positive feedback.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN TUNISIA

June actions



The objectives of the first travel (23-27) were triple:

- To reinforce and engage youth Tunisian students to be active on nuclear disarmament topic.
- To prepare the conference (in term of logistic) and to meet with Ms. Neila Chaabane, the Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Legal Sciences in Tunis
- To meet journalists, parliamentarians and civil society actors to explain them the process of The TPNW. We notably met
 - Mrs Meherzia Laabidi, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee,
 - Ms. Khansa Harrath of the Defence Committee
 - Mr Oussama Sghaier of the civil society Committee
 - Ms Mouna Kraiem, adviser of the Tunisian President of the National Assembly
 - The Mayor of Ariana
 - Mr Bilel Manai, president of the NGO name « Observatoire des Communes » who work to engage cities to be active on democracy and environment topic.



Mariem Oueslati, Jean-Marie Collin of ICAN France with MP Meherzia Laabidi President of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Amel el Mejri and Sirine Barbirou at the National assembly of Tunisia.

November actions

- We organize two meeting between ICAN France team and Tunisian youth Team before our Events
- The purposes of these meeting were to explain the advocacy methods and to see which parliamentarians we would meet in the following days. Tasks allocation and search for different parliamentarians (as the national assembly has been renewed October 6) and journalists contacts were then carried out

Screening and debate of the documentary “Bon baiser de Mururoa“, November 27



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This event was realized in cooperation with the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Tunis (IHET). We wanted to organize this screening, as it was a good way to explain a topic (nuclear tests consequences) to a public who wasn't really aware on these problematic. We choose to spoke about the French nuclear tests in Polynesia – and not in the Sahara – to also show that humanitarian consequences of nuclear tests are all over the world.

Conference, “Désarmement nucléaire : Le temps est à l'action”, November 29

This Conference aims to study the issue of nuclear disarmament and the role played by domestic and international civil society in the disarmament process. It was a huge opportunity to raise public and academic awareness in Tunisia on the issue of nuclear weapons, to inform and to answer questions related to this subject. It was the first conference on this topic since “at least 10 years” as said Ms Neila Chaabane, the Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Legal Sciences in Tunis.

4 sessions were realized

- The humanitarian and environmental consequences of nuclear weapons.
- The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Youth in action in Tunisia
- Diplomacy, parliamentarians and civil society: complementary role



This conference provided an opportunity for different person and our Youth Tunisian to meet for the first time (professors, ICRC



member, parliamentarians). It was a success in a State that does not possess nuclear weapons. As this subject is almost not discussed by parliamentarians, and in universities our conference aroused great interest from students.

Outcome for ICAN France

- 1 - We decided to establish a cooperation agreement between the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Tunis (IHET) and its law department (with Professor Zani) and ICAN France to initiate the creation of a research network in the Maghreb. This network is intended to work on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and more broadly on the subject of nuclear disarmament. It should allow the creation of a group composed of young researchers, academics and civil society actors to advance this subject throughout the Maghreb.
- 2 - Publication in the press (see at the end of the report)

Outcome for Tunisian partners

- 1 - The Tunisian Team is now fully engaged on the topic and has the knowledge on the TPNW and nuclear disarmament topics. As during our work meeting, we gave some lobby methods (how to talk with MP's, when, about what if he/she is member of the defence, Economic or Foreign Affairs Committee), they are also ready to lobby by themselves.
- 2 - The second very important points is that we have been encouraged to contact many parliamentarians (in meeting, or simply by phone calls). Now Amel, Mariem, Lobna and Sirine (who have invested the most - with Nour and Aziza in the background) are well known and have direct contact.
- 3 - The political evolution of Tunisia (new parliament and President in October 2019) requires to wait until the beginning of 2020 for a new action. This will consist to ask an appointment with the President of the Republic (he was a former professor at the faculty and was the professor of Amel) and drafting a file (in Arabic, as the President has a preference for expression in Arabic). To prepare this meeting, a conference by skype will be organized with Jean-Marie Collin and it will be a good way to pursue our cooperation.

Gender policy approach

- For us ICAN France, it was extremely important to arrive to have a gender balance during the conference at the Faculty of Political and Social Legal Sciences in Tunis, as in Tunisia this questions is well ignored. And we succeed, as they were 16 speakers and 10 were woman. Also we realized an all women panel (the third) were the speakers were also only youth (under 25)

Fact and figures of June and November actions

- The two conferences brought together a total of nearly an hundred people
- We had around 12 meeting with MP's, youth Tunisian, the Dean of the Faculty, NGO actors...
- We published 3 Oped in six months in the 3 majors newspapers (Leaders) and internet medias (Huffington post Maghreb) in Tunisia (see end of the document)

Press Publications

- Op-ed on the huffington post Maghreb, « [La Dénucléarisation du monde ? La Tunisie a aussi son mot à dire !](#) » by Par Amel El Mejri, Mariem Oueslati, Lobna Bachtta, Sirine Barbirou, Aziza hanafi, Nour El Imen Gharbi, Oumayma Jabnoui, étudiantes Tunisiennes, June 21



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- Op-ed on Beyond Nuclear International, "[The denuclearization of the world? Tunisia also has something to say!](#)", By Amel El Mejri, Mariem Oueslati, Lobna Bachta, Sirine Barbirou, Aziza hanafi, Nour El Imen Gharbi, Oumayma Jabnoui, August 4
- Op-ed on Leaders, « [Agir, pour être un acteur de l'Histoire !](#), by Amel El Mejri, Mariem Oueslati, Lobna Bachta, Sirine Barbirou, Aziza hanafi, Nour El Imen Gharbi, Darine Matmati, étudiantes tunisiennes et Jean-Marie Collin, July 19
- Interviewed by Ahlem Ghayeza of the RTCI radio with Jean-Marie Collin, Sirine Barbirou and Nour El Imen
- Newspaper L'Expert, 27 November
- The channel 9 - Tunisia TV, of Tunisia interviewed Jean-Marie Collin and Patrice Bouveret. The broadcast was on the TV, December 4 Wednesday,
- Campaigners with Ahlem Ghayeza of RCTI Radio.

Articles

- By Amel El Mejri, [Les Hibakusha, un message pour les générations futures](#), ICAN France website, May 3
- ICAN website, [Young Tunisians Take Action on the Nuclear Ban Treaty](#), July 12

REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ALGERIA

Due to the Algerian political situation, we were unable to hold the conference we wanted to realize despite our contacts, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and students (Abdelli Aouatif Narimem and Bouadre Bedrine who were integrated to the Francophone ICAN Academy 2018) and our efforts. Each time we chose a date (June as it was originally plan), then October, the announcement or the proximity of the presidential elections simply did not allow us to consider go further in our efforts, despite our attempts and ideas for action.

Academics and civil society organizations were complicated to approach, as they did not wish to express themselves on this subject - preferring to focus on purely political issues - and it was this audience that we wanted to reach.

It appears that we could do this in the first trimester, at a university in Alger, with direct support from the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We hope that it will be possible to use the unused sums (**if you are agree**) in this context, because we believe that the period will be less tense and more favourable to act; especially since the ratification process should take place in February, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of France's first nuclear test (13 February 1960)

Information's about the budget

We did not use the entire budget as we were not able to organize the event in Alger, despite our effort and works time.

FRENCH UNIVERSITIES TOURS

In total, these conferences provided an opportunity to meet and discuss with 120 students in three major French cities (Paris, Dijon and Lyon) through prestigious universities such



as Science Po Paris. It was in total about 20 hours of conferences realized (generally 2,3 hours by conference)

Université de l'Engagement, 29 June

- Workshop 1 - 16 students
- Workshop 2 - 19 students

Paris School of International Affairs (PSIA) Sciences Po, 26 September

- 24 students

Institut des Droits de l'Homme – IDHL, 25 October

It should be noted, at this conference we invited Nour Assaf, new youth member of ICAN France, who went to the ICAN Hiroshima Academy in August 2019. She gave her testimony on her experience of meeting hibakushas.

- 31 students

Hautes Études Internationales et Politiques - HEIP, 5 November

- 8 students

Science Po – Dijon, 13 November

- 22 students

In addition to these conferences within universities, we were able to set up what we called "ICAN New generations" meetings with students contacted in Lyon, then with new students from Lyon. Two working meetings were held

- June 13, 9 participants
- November 16, 8 participants

The objectives of these meetings were to train these students in specific topics (TIAN, Human right and TPNW,...) and to give them the means to work with us and organize actions. The first real action they will organize will be their participation in a large ecological fair - the Salon Primèvere on March 6-7-8. And of course we remain at their side.

It should be noted also, that 4 of them (Maxence, Nour, Lucie, Lisa) will be volunteers to help us to organize our ICAN Paris Forum organized with ICAN International in Paris 14 and 15 of February.

Outcomes

1 - Our conferences were intended each time to share our knowledge and expertise on the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. This is the first result for us: to allow students, to have a better understanding of the topic.

2 - The second result was a lot of exchange with students, following these conferences, who wanted more information on ICAN, research on the subject and advocacy, and internship possibilities.

3 - The contacts and exchanges with universities did not make it possible to hold further conferences during the 2019 period. The main reason was the impossibility for students and professors to deal with logistics and agenda issues. But, our efforts have nevertheless made it possible to obtain three new conferences that we will hold on 2020 and which are scheduled for the first quarter of 2020

- University of Law of Grenoble, January 27.



- Aix Marseille, with the Student association “Réseau d'étudiants spécialisés dans l'action humanitaire (Reesah)”, March 4
 - University of Evry (near Paris), organized with the professor Yann Jurovics
- 4 - In addition, by proposing to hold conferences, in different universities around France, we were able to introduce our campaign and its objectives.
- 5 - "ICAN New Generations": Nour Assaf and Maxence Gallice (who went to NY for the PrepCom) are in charge of this group, which shows that we have succeeded in transmitting to young people the will to act by themselves.

Information's about the budget

We did not use this entire budget because we were able to organize events in Lyon (so there were no transport costs and no hotel overnight costs).

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY APPROACH

- In France, we have always used means of transport that have the least possible impact on the environment, such as trains and public transport.
- We have limited documents printing to the minimum. The brochure that was produced was made with a printer who uses recycled paper.
- We never bought plastic bottles for our conference in France.
- We decided for the lunch of the conference in Tunisia to work with the caterer APES – for Association Patrimoine pour l'Economie Solidaire - because it's a solidarity association that works with women, to help them to reintegrate a professional environment.

